

This month's editor
CATHERINE DESMOND

JUNE 2015 copy to
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by 16 MAY 2015

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the Deddington news

Another development threat has arisen recently, this time to Deddington's footpaths. A notice has been posted on the path from the Grove, notifying the public that a developer has applied to take action which may 'prevent deemed dedication of public rights of way', potentially affecting three marked parcels of land. Hopefully, more information next issue – but keep on walking!

CD

WHAT'S ON – MAY

- Fri 1 DOGS: 18 Hole Stableford Competition, Oxford Golf Club
- Fri 1 Hempton Social Night: Old School Room, 7.00pm
- Tue 5 Community Cares Volunteers: Parish Church, 7.30pm
- Tue 5 Hempton Ladies: Old School Room, 2.00pm
- Wed 6 Photo Society: Randall Miles, 'The Maasai Mara – Landscape Prints', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Fri 8 VE Beacon: Hempton Road, Clifton, 9.15pm
- Sat 9 PC Village Spring Clean-up: Holly Tree, 10.00am
- Sun 10 RBL: VE Day 70th Anniversary, Parade of Standards 2.30pm, Church Service 3.00pm
- Sun 10 Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds, 11.00am
- Mon 11 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Tue 12 WI Resolutions: Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 13 History Society: Richard Radcliffe, 'Three Little Maids from School: School Education in Victorian Times', Windmill, 7.30pm
- Wed 13 Deddington Players: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Thu 14 Film: *The Theory of Everything*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sun 17 Oxford Conservation Volunteers: dry stone walling, Castle Grounds, 10.00am
- Wed 20 PC and Annual PC Meetings: Windmill, 7.30pm
- Wed 20 Photo Society: Workshop, 'Table-top photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Sat 23 Art Group: 'Mixed Fruits' Exhibition, Parish Church, 9.00am–4.30pm
- Sat 23 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Wed 27 DN collating: Windmill, 10.00am
- Thu 28 Book Club: Call Sally Lambert (338094) for next title
- Sat 30 Craft Fayre: Windmill, 2.00–5.00pm
- Sat 30 DT Football Club: Sponsored Bike Ride, Chepstow–Deddington

JUNE

- Fri 5 DOGS meeting: Hellidon Lakes
- Sun 7 Deddington Colts Presentation Day: Windmill, 2.00pm
- Tue 9 Windmill AGM: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

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Copies of the Deddington News are available at THE FLOWER SHOP with a box for donations.

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COMMEMORATING VE DAY

70TH ANNIVERSARY BONFIRE

The ending of WW2 in Europe on 8 May 1945- was marked across the land by the lighting of bonfires at 'the going down of the sun'. This year's 70th Anniversary will be marked in a similar manner across the country by lighting bonfires at 9.30pm after sounding the *Last Post*.

Thanks to swift action by the PC, there will be a Deddington bonfire in the field immediately to the south of the Hempton road, on the left (approaching from Deddington) just before the Hempton planter, by very kind permission of Mitch Cole. It will be visible from Duns Tew to the south and all the villages to Banbury to the north.

It is suggested that people assemble by 9.15pm. Remember to bring a torch or lantern.

There will be no refreshments but baking potatoes in the embers in the traditional manner will be permitted – bring your own butter and salt.

Limited parking on the roadside will be available for 'veterans'.

This may be the very last time to focus our thanks on those who took part in WW2. Very recently I lost two friends, George and Bill, who were two of the few remaining WW2 veterans.

Al Collins

Aynho History Society
with Adderbury and Deddington
History Societies present

WATERLOO 200

The crucial defence of Château d'Hougoumont

Wednesday 24th June at 19.30
at The Windmill Centre, Deddington

Speakers:
Rupert Clark and Dick Ferguson

Admission £3 Students £1

Afterwards, Waterloo themed
cheese and wine
(donations bar)

Event profits to SSAFA Charity No 210760

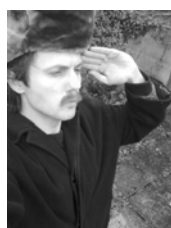
Any questions, please contact
Rupert Clark 01869 810603
or ru-clark@btinternet.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Services commemorating VE Day are taking place countrywide to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. The Vicar has kindly agreed to conduct a special service on Sunday 10 May at 3.00pm in the Parish Church, beginning with the Parading of Standards. Before the service there will be a short parade, assembling in the Bull Ring at 2.30pm, and we hope that as many people as possible, including village organisations, will join us either on the parade or in church.

Jean Morris 338143
mrs jean morris@gmail.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



Everyone loves ice cream, right? Well, I promise you ice cream, and lots of it. You'll have plenty for those febrile days when you're seeping like a suckling pig, and even more for when the tundra has buried all of civilisation for a few weeks. If that's not convenient, well, that's too bad. Sure, you could try brownies, but you'll put on far more pounds and smear chocolate around your gob and you'll certainly feel a lot thirstier. Trust me, ice cream would be better for everyone in the long run. In those testing times when the dairy sweats have reduced you to a gibbering derelict, humming the Mr Whippy van theme like a national anthem, just remember the bleak alternative of dry, chewy cocoa sticking to the roof of your mouth. Peanuts? Fruit salad?? Don't talk nonsense, this is the real world. Those snacks might seem preferable, but soon you'd be longing for the saccharine stability of ice cream again. What's E-407?

Would you want to live in a world of perennial ice cream, with only the odd brownie to temper your palate? The very suggestion merits bombastic repudiation. We can ask for fruit salad, nuts or seeds if we prefer. And even if you find yourself with yet more ice cream, don't just settle. Demand some candy sprinkles or honey for topping and don't rest until you get them! Want more natural ingredients? Recruit the like-minded to your cause and turn that damn icecream van over until they listen. Mind that child, and turn this into a land of hope and dairy.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

WHAT'S ON – JUNE

Continued from page 1

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Thu 11 | History Society: Apsley House and Admiralty Arch, 8.30am. |
| Fri 12– | Deddington Festival |
| Sat 20 | |
| Sun 14 | Oxford Conservation Volunteers: dry stone walling, Castle Grounds, 10.00am |

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Present: Cllrs Boulton, Collins (chair), Cox, East, Flux, Oldham, Rogers, Squires, Watts, Williams (CDC) and Wood.

Planning: Earthworm Energy, Hill Farm, Duns Tew. PC objected to an application for 11 hectares (30 acres) of solar panels in a farm field on grounds of visual intrusion on the landscape and loss of valuable agricultural land.

Highways and Transport: More complaints have been received about the phasing of the traffic lights on the Hempton and OCC has been informed.

Environment and Recreation: Businesses will be receiving letters to remind them that they may not deposit waste in PC bins.

A local gardener's kind offer to maintain the planter on the west side of the A4260 was declined on the grounds of safety and its removal is under active consideration.

The Cricket Club has requested permission to demolish the existing pavilion and replace it with a much larger one. No decision will be made until plans and financing for the proposed pavilion are agreed.

Two trees which are causing problems at the all-weather court and the MUGA playing area are to be felled. They will be replaced with trees in the gap created by the collapsing fence on the east side of Windmill Coppice.

A spring clean will be held on Saturday 9 May, convening at the Holly Tree at 10.00am.

Large Scale Developments and Neighbourhood Planning: Thames Water has determined that the existing wastewater infrastructure is inadequate to accommodate the needs of the proposed development north of Gaveston Gardens.

Trees on the northern boundary of this development are to be inventoried.

PC objected to proposed bus stops on the carriageway of the A4260.

Next PC meeting: Wednesday 20 May at 7.30pm in the Windmill Centre.

The annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 May at 7.30pm in the Lounge at the Windmill Centre.

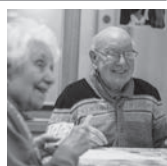
These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter Jean Rudge, and not the official Minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>.



Relax, unwind or make new friends! Why not take part in the many activities at Lake House...

Whether for a day or even a little while longer, come and join us at Lake House, The Green, Adderbury for one of our many activities taking place throughout the week:

Coffee mornings - 10.30am
every Wednesday



Tai Chi - 10:00am
first Wednesday of every month



Daily activities - from 10:00am
at the day centre



The Orders of St John Care Trust is consistently rated one of the UK's best care providers in terms of care quality and runs 17 care centres in Oxfordshire including Lake House. To find out more or to arrange an appointment to visit any of our homes, please contact **0800 988 8133** or enquiries@osjct.co.uk

Operated by not-for-profit charity The Orders of St John Care Trust – Registered Charity No. 1048355.

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Revd Cotton Risley for the month of May 1865:

8th May – A girl came begging money to buy clothes preparatory to her going into service in Oxford – I told her to call again. I attended the Penny Bank.

10th May – Jordan brewing for haymaking.

13th May – A. Hall (from Duns Tew) came again having found that his Butler had robbed him of a hat and pair of boots. I granted a warrant for his apprehension.

15th May – In London till the 27th when we returned home. Susan consulted Dr. F. Bird who confirmed Mr. Symonds's opinion of her case in all particulars and prescribed for us. Willy and John dined with us most days, Holford came up for the Levee but returned for his annual Yeomanry duty at Woodstock.

29th May – Franklin's estimate was accepted for completing the Church restoration work – total £1,900.

31st May – Scroggs came to collect a Church Rate, not a strictly legal one being retrospective and improper items having been introduced into it. Told him I should consider what I should do under the circumstances.



Buffy Heywood

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Two Easter Services were held recently with an Hour at the Cross on Good Friday and a Eucharist Service on Easter Day with a good congregation. There will be an extra Eucharist service on Ascension Day, Thursday 14 May, at 7.30pm.

The Old School Room will be open for the General Election on Thursday 7 May between 7.00am and 10.00pm so please go along and cast your vote.

The Friends' AGM will be held on Thursday 4 June at 7.00pm. In previous years it has taken place in late September, but has been brought forward as it is nearer the end of our financial year and will perhaps attract more people with the lighter nights. This meeting is open to everyone, members and non-members, so please come along to hear about what the organisation does and what has happened.

A recently-formed yoga group meets on Monday evenings in the Old School Room between 7.00pm–8.30pm and one or two places are available. If anyone is interested please ring Janet Watts on 337135 or myself.

I end with the sad news of the recent death of Betty Moore who lived on the Barford Road corner at the west end of the village. Despite being regular worshippers at Bodicote Church, she and her late husband, Alf, still supported St John's and its Friends. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Les Chappell 338054

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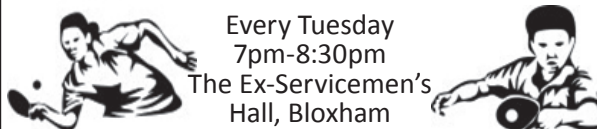
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Bloxham Table Tennis Club



Every Tuesday
7pm-8:30pm
The Ex-Servicemen's
Hall, Bloxham

Bloxham Table Tennis Club invites new and existing villagers to come and play table tennis.

We are particularly interested in juniors who wish to learn to play the sport and are offering a 6-week table tennis course for 11-16 year olds

If you are in this age group and wish to participate, please come along and introduce yourself at our Tuesday club night or contact Bob Dunkin for further information

Bloxham Table Tennis Club offers:

- A friendly and welcoming atmosphere
- Great facilities with three new table tennis tables
- An experienced ETTA coach
- Opportunities to play competitively in the local league

Our aim is to encourage a new generation of players to come and join us, and to improve our club standard

Contact us: Bob Dunkin 07779 734390
Andrew Wilson 07747 774707
Wayne Gubbins 07788 287245

CHURCH AND CHAPEL**May****Parish Church SS Peter and Paul**

Sun 3	10.30am	<i>First Sunday</i>
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 10	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Sung Eucharist with Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing
Sun 17	10.30am	Eucharist
Sun 24	9.30am	<i>Fourth Sunday:</i> Eucharist
	10.30am	Interactive Café Church
Sun 31	10.30am	Choral Mattins

Other services may be added, according to the Church calendar, and will be detailed in the weekly Pew Sheet. This is available in the Church and may be collected on a Friday.

St John's, Hempton

Sun 3	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun 17	9.00am	Eucharist and Sunday School
Sun 24	6.00pm	Evensong
Sun 31	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Barford St Michael

Sun 17	10.30am	Morning Prayer (Mattins)
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For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Annie Goldthorp, the Vicarage, 1 Earls Close, Deddington (336880), or one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to www.deddingtonchurch.org.

Friends of Deddington Church Floodlight Sponsor

20–26 April Anonymous donor, in memory of Rona Rogers

From the Parish Registers*Funerals*

Tue 21 April Sheila Brock

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
24 May John Neale

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Fr John Burns 277396

Patronal Feast: Trinity Sunday, 31 May, High Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 12 noon, *Missa Brevis in A Minor* by Antonio Lotto (1667–1740) with the singers of Cantus Magnus, led by Matthew Schellhorn. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Hall.

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe, is said at 9.30am every weekday except Thursday. There are two Masses on Saturday, at 9.30am in the normal Ordinary Rite and 12 noon in the Latin Extraordinary Rite. There are two Masses on Sunday, the first at 10.00am in the Ordinary Rite and the second at 12.00 noon in the Extraordinary Rite.

The Vigil Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport.

Mass is said at 9.00am on Sundays at SS Peter and Paul Anglican Church, Kings Sutton.

Information on the meetings of other faith groups can be found at
<http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/church/otherfaithsandbeliefs>.

Picture Gallery on DoL

Nearly 2000 pictures of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton are now available on the Deddington OnLine Gallery. Explore the rich heritage on our doorstep by going to www.deddington.org.uk/gallery/main/php/

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

Well, that's it for another year! As I sit and bash this out we have just a few stragglers left in the ovine maternity ward, so it's time for me to exchange my shepherd's crook for a bee veil and smoker.

The lambing season has gone very well; all we need now is some grass and, dare I say it, some rain. Although we have had some warm days it is still very cold at night with early morning frosts. With the blackthorn only just coming into flower on the river meadows, we seem set for a late spring. I am hoping that is the reason why, for the first time in over 40 years, the curlew have not returned to our river valley meadows. In years past, late February or early March have always been heralded by the provocative wild call of the curlew, an early indicator that spring was on its way. I am sure that the 'beards and sandals' will be very quick to point the finger in the direction of modern farming methods, bringing about a change in, and loss of, habitat.

In fact, the farming methods used to manage these traditional grazing meadows have changed little in the last 500 years, but the habitat and ecology of the river valley have seen some considerable change since my boyhood days of adventure in the 'wild lands' that surrounded the site of the 1914–18 war munitions factory well south of Banbury. There was little change until the M40 was carved across the wild lands and Banbury became just another town with a motorway junction ripe for development into the flood plain. Today we have a flood defence scheme which has allowed even more flood plain development. All that this has done is to push the problem downstream, so the valley land some ten miles to the south of the town floods a lot faster than it did, to a much greater depth and for a longer period of time. That is what has changed the habitat and ecology of the river valley. Although we have had a dry winter with little flooding, the last two winters and springs have been wet and the curlew have returned to find their nesting sites under water or, as last year, been washed off their nests by a late flood, exacerbated by the design and management of the flood defence controls. But there is still time for the birds to show up. I do hope so as it was the call of the curlew that greeted me on my first day as a Deddington estate tenant farmer way back in the March of 1974.

I am pleased to report that the first of our summer visitors have returned to their nesting sites in the farm buildings. To date we have three pairs of swallows hawking the sky above the farm for early insects, so it won't be long before the house martins turn up, followed by the real harbingers of summer, the masters of aerial acrobatics, the swifts.

The over-winter ploughing has been worked down into a perfect seed bed and planted with spring barley. With the 'open' winter, our autumn-planted crops are



in fine form. The oil seed rape has put on a lot of growth and is coming well into flower, something that has given the bees a flying start to their season, so it's a race against time to get them sorted, before they start to swarm. With the ewes back on their summer grazing, I am off with the bees and, maybe, a little fly fishing, until I am recalled for duty, flying the Green Goddess (the combine).

Last month I made an appeal to our local dog owners to keep their pets on a lead when walking through or past the fields with the ewes and their lambs. Many thanks to you all for heeding my appeal, but sadly another equally catastrophic situation (for the sheep that is) has become a regular event; the bridge gates along the right-of-way from Clifton to Deddington and on to North Aston are being left open. It seems that the local 'running man' cannot spare the time to shut the gates as it may add a few seconds to his timed training run. So, if you find a bridge gate open when you go for a walk, please shut it, as grazing a lush crop of wheat or oil seed rape could give the sheep a lot of problems.

George Fenemore
338203



Deddington Parish Council

Deddington Parish Clean-up Morning

Saturday 9th May at 10am

Meet at Holly Tree Centre

Volunteers will be asked to cover a part of the parish for that morning picking up any debris and litter they find

If you can spare an hour please do come along. Bags are supplied and some gloves may be available but it is advisable to bring your own

We hope to see you

Thanks for your help

Lorraine Watling

Clerk to Deddington Parish Council

Tel: 01869 337447

Email: deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

The results of the Parish questionnaire have been collated and it has been reported that 81% of respondents consider the Castle Grounds essential or important and 88% want the grounds to stay as they are. This is very encouraging as the grounds are looking magnificent at the moment. The weeds are well under control and we have started sowing wild flowers.

The recent good weather has encouraged lots of visitors. One family was able to settle on the banks under the umbrella of the trees to shield the youngsters from the sunshine. Buzzards, badgers, bluebells and even a barn owl have been spotted there recently. It is a tranquil wildlife haven and a place that the residents of Deddington appreciate. It is gratifying to know that the Group's objective of improving the appearance and use of the Castle Grounds for the benefit of the Parish is a reflection of what is wanted.

Our fund raising efforts will continue this year and our first event is the Four Farms Fun Run on 10 May when we will have a cake and preserves stall and tombola. If you are able to make any cakes or preserves, please contact Jean Welford on 338539. If you have any bottles or items for the tombola, please contact Carol Horlock 338935 who would be happy to collect them.

Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers visited on 29 March and will visit again on Sunday 17 May and finally on 14 June. The re-build is on track to be completed this year. If you would like to learn how to build a dry stone wall, please come along and help. Make sure that you wear strong shoes. All volunteers are welcome. It is a fun day - please put the dates in your diary.

Friends of the Castle Grounds are listed under 'Clubs' on the Deddington OnLine website with links to some lovely old photos. You can also download a membership form and join like minded people who want to preserve and enjoy the heritage of this historic site.

George Gibbs, Chairman
340538

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

So it's off, up and running, the game is on, the fox is on the run ... Una Stubbs has started with a very friendly match between the Unicorn A team versus the Unicorn B team (those brave nomadic heroes lately of the Duck of Chumenly). It was keenly fought with the A team fielding some virgins alongside veterans like Turbo and Shep. However, we were all shown how it was done by the beautiful Amy – not that her flowing blonde hair or classical good looks are the definition of the person she is, but by scoring four on her first ever leg certainly set the tone and drew even more attention from the testosterone fuelled field.

Sadly, this magnificent effort counted for nought as her team mates failed to build upon this brilliance

and the A team went down 0–3 to our battling Lower Larkrise boys. Even Cllr Collins, attempting to kill Duncan of the Unicorn bar staff by hitting him on the head with his straightest throw of the night, could not put a damper on this fun evening.

The pub campaign is slowly moving forward with activities that must remain in the shadows at this point but progress of sorts is being made – perhaps. Lower Larkrise is bracing itself for lots of sweaty visitors on 10 May as the Four Farms Fun Run calls in on our midst. Good luck to all – especially the organisers who include our very own Lucy whose compelling call for support from the PC was passed at the last meeting.

Woody is back with her ladylike calling card being drummed out on the chimney crows of our community as she seeks another mate to provide the cohort of juvenile greater spotted woodpeckers to entertain us all through the approaching summer. Oh, we wish her luck in pursuing the love and companionship many of us have found in our dotage. The pair of reed warblers delighting us have perhaps shown her the way.

As you can tell by my reversion to Jack Hargreaves, copy is still light from my neighbours – so come on, share your news with me!

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com



Sunday 10th May 2015

The Deddington Four Farms Challenge is a 5km and 10km run around the picturesque parish of Deddington. The event is open to all, and has something to offer experienced runners, fun runners and families alike.

Registration is now open

visit www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk
email: info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk



Raising funds for Registered Charities: Deddington Primary School PTA (1052715), Deddington Village Nursery and PFSU (1100275) and The Firefighters Charity (1093387)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid Week, 10–16 May, is approaching, and we look forward to making it even more successful than last year when our total for the parish was the magnificent harvest of £2,006, £120 more than 2013's £1,886. We think this is a Deddington record. To this can be added a further £216 in tax reclaimed as 100 people were able to sign the Gift Aid form attached to their red envelope, 20 more than last year.

This year Christian Aid celebrates its 70th birthday – 70 years of work dedicated to the relief of suffering. In 1945 many British people, who had lost not just their loved ones and homes but their hopes and dreams too, were horrified when they saw the suffering and devastation that Hitler had brought upon his own people in Germany.

In May 1945 the leaders of all the main churches asked that Christians should resist celebrating a victory on the Sunday after VE Day and instead donate what they could to help reconstruct Europe. More than £3 million in today's money was raised that weekend.

When the red envelope drops through your letter-box, please think of putting the cost of one meal into it, and, if you can, please sign the Gift Aid declaration, ready for the volunteer collector to call for it.

Christopher Hall
achall@globalnet.co.uk

DAEDA'S WOOD

Daeda's Wood is a sight to behold: a hazy shimmer of soft leaf green at eye level with bursts of sun-reflecting white blackthorn blossoms lining the open areas. Lush verdure underfoot, occasionally punctuated by bright yellow dandelions and wood anemones, provides good habitat for the unseen wildlife which races for cover at the approach of human footfall.

The youngsters who constructed the shelters might well see and hear more from spending time in these 'hides' than the visitors who, like myself, sometimes walk a bit briskly. I have tried ... and it is possible to just about fit in, to sit beneath the roots of the riverside willow in the hope of seeing the otters just before the sun sets.

The Friends of Daeda's Wood hope to have an information table at one of the summer Farmers' Market days. Contact me if you would like to join the Friends to help support and spread the enjoyment of this community wood which is virtually on our door step.

Annette Murphy
annette-orchard@live.co.uk
336195








YOUR PARISH WEBSITES TO MERGE

the
Deddington
news

Why are there two websites – Deddington OnLine and Deddington News?
No reason, apart from history so, as from 1 June, DoL and DN will merge with one new shorter address . . . **www.deddington.uk**

Previous addresses will be redirected to the new address

The restructured website will be slimmed down, simpler to access and easier to maintain
DoL Home Page has full details but briefly:

-  Forum and Business Directory will be archived
-  Out-of-date Community, Clubs & Organisations pages will be archived
-  The rest of the Community section will be made more editor-friendly
-  DN will be on a tab on the DoL Home Page and the content streamlined
-  The Clubs Directory will become Contacts and take in present DN Contacts

If DoL is valued by the community then it needs community support
If you would like to help in some way please contact **editor@deddington.uk**

www.deddington.uk

FROM THE FIRE STATION

Our station has had fifty call-outs since the beginning of the year which is definitely down on last year but still quite busy for a small station. The cause of this is not clear but with the ongoing safety message we deliver, safer equipment in people's homes, and the smoke alarms that are fitted, all help to keep our community safer. Deddington was also covering more stations last year which meant more call-outs, but now other stations have started to get more crew.

Deddington has attended some quite large incidents this month. For example, a restaurant in Bicester Village required five fire engines and the closing of the road into the Village. When we arrived the roof was well alight and we had to get ladders up to try and get directly onto the fire. However this proved really difficult as it had burned through the tile battens and slates were sliding off the roof. It took some time to get the blaze under control and quite a bit longer before the shoppers could be let in or out of Bicester Village. There was also a call to a farm near Sibford which was another roof fire, but this one was considerably smaller. It was caused by an electric water pump overheating and, not only did the farmer have no roof on his house, he lost the water supply for his 500 head of cattle. The Fire Brigade will always try to help to get these issues sorted and we had the water and electricity board on site almost immediately and sheeted his roof with tarpaulins to keep the weather out.

Other calls have been to a couple of road traffic collisions, but nothing on our patch. Some alarms and the usual number of standbys to other stations. I can report that there were no chimney fires last month so hopefully that will be the end of those till the end of the year.

Training is always ongoing at Deddington and we have been doing some breathing apparatus training at Horton Hospital. They have a large derelict building which they have kindly let us use for training. This is really important for us because after a while you get to know the layout of our usual venues and then it is not so realistic. With a large venue like the hospital, other stations can get involved which helps crews work together. The drill at the hospital involved three fire engines and lots of casualties with many entry points into the building. The feedback we got was all very positive and we will be using it again.

There has been a big push at Deddington to get the development Fire Fighters fully trained. This is very time consuming and they have spent many hours attending lectures to get learning needs signed off. It is hoped that by the end of the year at least half of the six still in development will be fully competent.

The car wash was a great success. There was a steady flow of people and we managed to raise £350 for the Fire Fighters' Charity. I would like to thank Tom Hall and Lewis Mahony for organising the event and the crew who gave up their spare time to help on the day and a really big thank you to everyone who brought their car down to get it washed.

Our next big event will be the Four Farms Challenge on 10 May. This was a huge success last year. Registration is from 10am at Castle Grounds and there will be a barbecue, bouncy castle, licensed bar and a cake stall. You can get more details from the Deddington Four Farms Challenge website at www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk.

Tim Parker, Crew Manager

NEWS FROM THE WINDMILL

The Windmill Community Centre AGM will be held at the Windmill on Tuesday 9 June at 7.30pm. Every club and organisation using the Centre is urged to send a representative to be part of planning the upcoming improvements.

The Windmill offers sports and social facilities for all ages and is run by a committee of volunteers. It is in urgent need of help as the age of current members creeps upward. We need younger people to step up to the plate if the Windmill is to continue: two or three interested people will spread the load. It is the small day-to-day items that need to be covered, currently amounting to 3–4 hours per week maximum.

We also need a third trustee to replace Mary Robinson who is retiring. This is an exciting time for the Windmill with plans under way to modernise out-of-date aspects of the building which has served the community well for 30 years.

Wi-fi has recently been installed; the repeaters are at the all-weather court, in the lounge, main and

upstairs halls. We are grateful to Deddington OnAir for donating the kit.

The Centre can accommodate up to 200 people and is a great venue for parties, weddings, christenings, school or charity events. The main hall can also be lined to look like a marquee inside.

Kevin Behan and Sam King will be taking over the Designated Premises Supervisor licence. If you run a club or would like to hold an event that requires a bar, they will be very happy to discuss what you need. They would like to open the bar on a more regular basis, for home football and cricket matches for example, and welcome suggestions. Please contact them via the Booking Secretary, Caroline Tindale (07720 834006) to ensure hall availability.

The Windmill is *your* Community Centre, *you* now have the chance to shape its future! If you're interested, please contact Mark Tyler (338056) or Jim Flux (338153).

AMERICAN POSTCARD

March Madness

The last few weeks in America have been dominated by March Madness. No, it isn't some kind of spring religious fervour, it is kids' basketball. Well actually, fervour is a good word for it, and it is followed with as much religious intensity as they can muster right across the US.

I still don't understand the appeal. What on earth is it about college students playing basketball that leads to a multi-billion dollar business, watched by the entire country? The TV rights cost \$800,000 this year, and everyone does their 'brackets', forecasts sort of like the pools in the UK. They estimate that over \$3 billion is wagered every year on the tournament, and it's the talk in every bar. Some of the coaches earn over a million a year, but the kids playing aren't paid a bean. Strange.

In theory, the kids do get a free college education, but, like all American sports, you have to ask why sport is centred around the universities and colleges. Before I moved to the land of the free, I naively thought that you were supposed to go to university to gain an education, or to drink beer, but they can't even drink – in theory.

Yet thousands of athletes get to avoid the \$60,000 annual college fees. As usual I get a kick out of explaining to Americans how strange this system really is. When I went to Leeds University many years ago,

I did go to see a first team rugby game. I seem to remember there was some kind of rumour that a bunch of girls that we had some interest in would be there, but they weren't. The whole crowd of us got soaked, and went in to the club house bar at half time. I don't think the teams missed us; I guess we numbered 25.

The largest sports stadium in the US is at the University of Michigan, and they regularly fill all 110,000 seats. Only two of the largest 20 national stadiums actually host a professional team. I really don't understand.

The madness this month in Colorado is the weather. April is the wildest month in these parts. Heather and I flew in from a conference in Las Vegas last night in a blizzard, a bit of a shock after 20 degrees in Nevada. But the weather stayed in Vegas. I shook the pilots' hands for getting us down in one piece. The real problem was that we hadn't planned ahead, and we got totally drenched walking across the car park in open toed sandals and shorts. This morning when I got up the snow was three inches deep; at 3.00pm I took the dog out for a walk in 15 degrees under beautiful blue skies.

Leo the Lion seemed quite happy, but I was just embarrassed, he has been clipped and now looks like a prancing poodle. Not my style at all.

Some of you will be aware that I was back in lovely Deddington earlier in the month preparing our house for sale. We just discovered that the US tax system is really crazy. If we don't sell now we are likely to end up paying capital gains tax out here. Don't let anyone ever tell you this is a low tax economy.

It must be me that is mad, living in this strange land. But to be honest Denver is fantastic, the weather is lovely, it's the people that drive me crazy. We will be back.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com



GENTLE DANCE TO MUSIC
exercise, feel energised and socialise!

Day: Monday (from 1st June)

Time: 2-3pm

Place: Deddington Windmill Centre

Please contact us for further information on cost

Tel: 01235 849403

Email: info@generationgames.org.uk

www.generationgames.org.uk



Oxford University Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Trust

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

The children had lots of fun preparing for Easter with cooking, egg crafts and Easter egg hunts, all being much enjoyed. Our Easter holiday club ran for four days during the break and the children had a great time cooking and taking part in creative activities. This term children at both settings are finding out about the world around them, feeding the birds and hunting for mini-beasts.

On 19 and 20 May Ian Taylor will be visiting us to take photographs of the children at play. These will be available to buy and are always very popular. There will be an informal parents' evening for PFSU parents on Wednesday 6 May between 7.00 and 9.00pm. Don't forget the Four Farms Challenge on May 10 and good luck to those taking part.

Our jumble sale raised £950 – thank you to everyone for your support.

Lucy Squires

337484

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters now appear on the website Forum (<http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/forum/>). This enables readers to comment without having to wait until DN appears the following month. If you would prefer your letters not to appear online, please tell us when you write. Thank you.

FROM DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Each year, Deddington Festival entertains around 1,000 people through a range of events designed to cater for all ages and interests.

Organised entirely by volunteers with a passion for the arts and supported financially by local businesses and individuals it is, and has been throughout its 14 year history, an event run by the community for the community.

Each year, the Festival attracts visitors from a wide area and generates significant income for local businesses.

Yet, surprisingly, this popular annual event with a remit to 'enhance the community spirit of the parish of Deddington and surrounding villages through an annual Festival of music, performing arts, visual arts and community events which entertain and inspire' will not this year enjoy the support of the local Parish Council.

A request for financial assistance to meet the not inconsiderable cost of staging the week long celebration has been turned down by the Council on the basis that it contributed £500 to the Festival last year and therefore should not be expected to do so again. Last year was the first time that the Parish Council has ever contributed to the costs of the Festival in its 14 year



Please address all letters to:
JILL CHEESEMAN
37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON
letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

history. This from an organisation that boasts it has £500,000 in the parish coffers!

As the Deddington Festival Committee, we believe that Deddington Parish Council should actively support an event on an annual basis that is enjoyed each year by so many of its parishioners. If you share our views, please take a moment to sign our online petition at

<http://tinyurl.com/p37epzz> or visit us at our stand at the May Farmers' Market to show your support.

Thank you!

FROM JOY DRAKE, HUDSON STREET

I was really disappointed to read some of the letters sent to the Cherwell Planning website opposing Brian Fuller's application to place a barn and farm storage building in a corner of his field. It is clear that many accusations were incorrect and some potentially libellous. It is sad that the village has come to this.

The fact is the proposed farm barn is intended to keep Brian's tractor and farm equipment safe from vandals, and would be in the far corner of the field away from the ridge and furrows which would be safe and untouched, and the sheep and cattle will continue to graze for the children to enjoy.

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

It was another busy month again in the Library.

Cash for Trash is up and running. This is our ongoing fundraising initiative to collect used inkjet and laserjet cartridges for recycling. We are also now able to accept old mobile phones and will be pleased to receive any that you have tucked away at the back of the drawer. We have collection points in the Library itself, Hamptons in the Market Place and at the Farmers' Market, next to customer information.

We urgently need more subscribers to the Library. We now have 90 members, but need 200 to ensure the current opening hours and level of service are maintained. So come and join us so that this fabulous community resource remains fully functioning, providing a vital service to our village. Subscription forms can be collected from the library or found on our website. Please drop off completed forms at the Library.

We have been fortunate enough to have had four Duke of Edinburgh volunteers helping at the Library since October last year. They have now all completed the 'volunteering' aspect of their Bronze award. It has been a valuable experience for the participants, helping them learn how the Library service works, learning

new personal skills, most especially gaining confidence dealing with the public and having fun doing it.

Thank you for your continued support and please keep up to date by visiting www.friendsofdeddington-library.org.

Bryn Williams 361940

THANKS EVERYONE!

The DN happily ended this last fiscal year in the black. As a non-profit entity, we donate any surplus funds to local organisations – this year, £480 to the Library, £400 to the Windmill Thursday Club, £373 each to Boys Brigade, Scouts and Guides. Since these are one-off gifts, they are a bonus to the organisations but do not replace ongoing operational funds – so please do not take this as a signal to reduce your regular financial support.

Our ability to make these donations rests on our advertising capacity so we would like to thank our faithful advertisers. However, they would not find it worth their while to advertise with us if it were not for the business that the community generates with them. So thank you, Clifton, Deddington and Hempton.

CD

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A double dose of democracy

By the time you see this, the second drop-in sessions will already have taken place and the Neighbourhood Plan steering group will, with luck, have a lot more feedback on what you think of our progress so far. In the coming month we'll be analysing the results, and, if necessary, the topic groups will be rethinking their goals and objectives. After that, we begin forming policies and the real work of composing a neighbourhood plan gets under way.

As it happens, there'll be another chance to air your views soon after the drop-ins – at the annual parish meeting which this year falls on Wednesday 6 May at 7.30pm at Windmill Centre – the day before the General Election. How much democracy can you take? Lots, we hope.

The parish meeting will, of course, focus on local issues. Alan Collins, chair of Deddington Parish Council, will give his report on the Council's activities over the past year, and then the meeting will be turned over to the public for comments and suggestions. If you'd like to make a more lengthy contribution, let Lorraine

Watling, the parish clerk, know as soon as possible and she will include it on the agenda (deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com or drop her a line at the Windmill Centre office).

One of the strong messages to emerge from the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey was that, although Deddington parishioners place a high value on the parish's play areas – the sports fields and the Windmill Centre— there is also a high level of criticism of them, which took some by surprise.

We now know that a fair number of residents would like better playground equipment and more space – more pitches and more courts – for sport. So the PC and the neighbourhood planners would be pleased to hear what your priorities are, or, indeed, if you think there's too much emphasis on sport and play.

Nobody wants to raise false expectations. Croquet lawns and swimming pools might be some parishioners' heart's desire, but new loos at the Windmill may be more doable. Realistic or not, let's hear it.

Helen Oldfield

helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

FARMERS' MARKET

Rhubarb, rhubarb

The market specialises in local seasonal produce and there's a lot of produce about at this point in the season. It is the season of gluts. Some things, like asparagus, you just have to enjoy while they last – though in previous years attempts have been made at the Market to sell asparagus bread. Some things are just persistently productive and usually end up as chutney.

Take rhubarb. There's a lot of it about. More than you could possibly consume or preserve in conventional ways. And, being a lot cheaper than the likes of asparagus, there isn't the incentive to be reverential about it. I spent a good portion of my schooldays consuming stolen sticks of rhubarb dipped in sugar, to the point I can barely look at the stuff now. I'll tolerate it in chutney but there are so many nicer chutneys it seems pointless to lay down one that is less good.

My recently discovered preference is for a jam. This is no ordinary jam. The recipe comes originally from Pamela Westland's *A Taste of the Country*. It's virtue can be judged from the fact that Jane Grigson (who disliked rhubarb intensely) included it in her classic, *Jane Grigson's Fruit Book*. The recipe produces a jam that is halfway to marmalade. It is as fantastic on hot buttered toast as it is with a pan-fried pigeon breast on a bed of warm puy lentils, which is how I ate it most recently. I think it is a very clever way of preventing a



rhubarb glut ending up on the compost heap although, as Jane Grigson rather tartly observes, 'I put it in the rhubarb section although I feel that virtue comes from the grapefruit'.

Rhubarb and grapefruit jam

$\frac{3}{4}$ kg trimmed, washed rhubarb

2 grapefruit

$\frac{3}{4}$ kg sugar

Put the rhubarb in a bowl, and grate the grapefruit rind over it or you can use a zester. Peel the fruit and cut it in half.

Press it through a sieve with your hands

or a pestle into the bowl. Pour the sugar on top, cover and leave overnight. Next day, bring slowly to the boil in a heavy pan, stirring often. When the sugar has completely disappeared, raise the heat and boil hard for 15 minutes. Test to see if setting point has been reached. Pot as usual. Enough for four $\frac{1}{2}$ kg jars.

Once you've tried this you will look at the stacks of rhubarb on sale through different eyes.

For more up to date information about the Market you can visit the webpage www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk, listen to Deddington OnAir www.deddingtononair.org or BBC Radio Oxford.

The Market is on Saturday 23 May from 9.00am-12.30pm.

Good shopping!

Ian Willox 337940

ian@deddingtononair.org

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Original Golf Society

Following our first event of the year at the Oxford Golf Club on 1 May, our next venue is Hellidon Lakes on Friday 5 June: 27 holes with the option to play 18 only in the afternoon. Format: 9-hole team event in the morning and individual afternoon competition. There are prizes for the overall winner, runners-up in tiers 1 and 2, a team prize plus ones for nearest the pin and longest drive. This venue is a first for DOGS so please do your best to support the event.

Information on the course is available via the clubs link via the Deddington OnLine website.

Tony Lowe, Chairman
337108

Deddington Tennis Club

The Tennis Club is a friendly club with a great mixture of social and competitive tennis. New members will be able to join club nights and mornings to enjoy a mixture of play. There are many teams both in the summer and winter leagues for the more competitive players. Alongside this there is coaching available, especially for juniors but also a Rusty Racquets beginners course for adults. With planning for floodlights accepted we are hoping to extend all activities by the end of the year. We have regular social events such as an annual dinner and round-robin competitions. If you are interested, the best place to go is the website www.deddingtontennis.com or come along with a racquet on a Wednesday evening at 6.00pm.

Alison Stevens
www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results:

14.03.15	Finmere (h) (CUP)	W 3-0 Smith (Craig) (2), Kaye
25.03.15	Steeple Aston (a) (CUP)	L 0-6
28.03.15	Hornton (h)	W 6-2 Kaye (Jordan)(2), Charles, Smith (Craig) (2), Lewis
04.04.15	Cropley (h)	L 0-1
08.04.15	Heyford Ath (h) (CUP)	L 1-2
11.04.15	Woodford United (a)	L 0-1

Reserves Results:

28.03.15	Diverse (a)	L 0-10
04.04.15	KEA (a)	L 0-9

As the season reaches its bombastic culmination, the First Team has overstretched and been refused any more drinks at the victory saloon, while the Reserves have had their heads flushed down the malodorous latrine, with no Toilet Duck in sight. Despite slinging the proverbial cow's carcass over the citadel walls, the First Team has failed to break the fortress, and been eliminated in the latter stages of all competitions. They

now have three league games to play out, which affect only pride and final placing. Jordan Kaye and Craig Smith contributed heavily to the goals for, and will hope to snaffle more, in the final dead rubbers. Meanwhile we wave our hankies at the gallant but futile efforts of the Reserves, who went down in style, conceding nineteen goals and scoring none in their final two matches. Perhaps a spell in a less demanding league will be the making of this new breed. In other news, Joe Davies has organised the kind of charity bike ride that must have been dreamt up in the wheelbarrow home after a session for the ages. Something about cycling from Wales to England in a few hours – check out the DTFC website www.deddingtontownfc.com for more details, if anyone can be bothered to update it after the season's exertions.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town Colts

As the season draws to a close, there are fewer matches to report on. The Under 14s, playing in the Midland Junior League, lost 0-4 at home to Mickleover Sports, followed by a 3-1 defeat at Stourbridge and a 4-2 defeat to Hednesford Town. In the Witney and District Youth League the Under 14s lost 1-3 at home to Chipping Norton, lost 2-1 away at Garden City but had a 1-0 victory at Yarnton Blues to sit third in the B League with one match to play. The Under 13s, playing in a tough A league, had defeats to Eynsham, Launton Boys and Ducklington over the past month. The Under 12s drew their last game of the season 1-1 with Launton Boys Leopards. Launton won the league, so this was a great result to end the season.

Deddington Town Colts presentation day is on Sunday 7 June at the Windmill Centre starting at 2.00pm. There will be a barbecue and licensed bar.

If you want to get involved with the Club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the Club is on our website with contact numbers for team managers – www.deddingtontownfc.com.

Roger Sykes, Club Welfare Officer
337034

Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

At the AGM in April, Chairman Richard Broadbent reviewed the Society's progress over the last 12 months, noting that the twice-monthly meetings (club nights and workshops) had attracted 54 full members in the current year. Other activities included the annual photographic exhibitions in Adderbury and Deddington, photographic support of communal activities in both villages, photography for West Bar Surgery, a number of informal photo-shoots, the development of a new website, the annual Club dinner and a summer barbecue. The Treasurer, Martyn Pearse,

CALLING MORE CLUBS

summarised the Society's finances, commenting on a generally satisfactory position, but noting the rising cost of experienced speakers and the wish to purchase a replacement projector. The existing Committee was re-elected with a vote of appreciation for their work during the year.

The meeting continued with member Cliff May providing an overview of the new website (www.ad-dphoto.co.uk), which is more dynamic and responsive to members' needs. It also reduces the administrative burden associated with its upkeep and the annual cost. The result is that new menus make for ease of use, essential information is retained and readily available, and members can now upload and control their own images using dedicated web pages.

There followed a members' presentation entitled 'My attempt at abstract photography'. Some 20 members participated, entering three images each and describing their approach to the subject, while demonstrating both their successes and occasional failures. Finally, the evening concluded with the monthly photographic topic, which was 'Weather'.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 6 May in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, when member Randall Miles, ARPS, AFIAP, will give a presentation entitled 'The Maasai Mara – Animal and Landscape Prints'. Just come along – you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Richard Broadbent
338173

Deddington Players

AGM – Wednesday 13 May, 7.30pm in the Holly Tree. We've just about recovered now, so on to the next one! If you'd like to attend the AGM, please come to the Holly Tree at 7.30 pm on 13 May. We'll be discussing how *Scrooge* went and any suggested changes as to how things are done so that we keep bringing a great show to the village. If you're a non-member but would like to attend, please email suzieupson@mac.com.

Suzie Upson

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

Four of our Cubs have gained the Silver Award: this is achieved by earning all the challenge badges, working hard and attending regularly. Well done Ben, Owyn, Sam and Tom, who are all invited to the County Awards ceremony at Youlbury.

As part of their animal carer badge, the Cubs visited Crocodiles of the World at Brize Norton. It was great fun with much more than crocodiles on display. Best bit – feeding time!

As we have lighter evenings now we shall be out and about, hiking, shelter building and fire lighting.

Jo Churchyard CSL 338071
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

Five of the Scouts have also gained their top award, Gold, and will be invited to the County Awards day. Well done Toby, Richard, Patrick, Tom and Rhys.

Topics for this term have been ecology and fundraising with an evening of tracking using flour.

Now the lighter nights will tempt us outside but hopefully it'll still be dark enough for 'glow in the dark' cricket.

Pete Churchyard SL
07793 013046
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Explorers

Two of our Explorers attended the county Explorer weekend and enjoyed loads of frantic entertainments.

Unit meetings are concentrating on disability awareness, with a survey of the village facilities with regard to wheelchair users and the visually impaired.

During the holidays we held a sponsored six-hour gaming evening to raise money for Special Effects, a local charity. The boys held up well, sustained by chips and Chinese takeaway.

Pete Churchyard SL
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

1st Deddington Guides

The last few meetings of the spring term were spent rehearsing and preparing for our grand production of *Frozen*. The final production was great fun and raised over £200 for our chosen charities, which are BARKS, the Rhino Trust and a children's charity. Well done Guides, we saw some super performances. Thank you for all your support.

Now we have exciting activities to look forward to in the summer term.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069
Marion Trinder 340806
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

A really big well done to Ashton, Max and Benjamin from the Junior section who took part in the Junior Team Games competition towards the end of March. They joined forces with 1st Bloxham and won as a joint team.

The improved weather has seen the Juniors have their first outing to Daeda's Wood last month. The Company section is waiting for the lighter evenings but we've managed to get out for the first part of our meetings. The Company also has a favourite new game, Flour Jenga. Good fun for all.

The Company's ten-pin bowling took place last month but we will have to post the results in the next edition. The Anchors five-a-side football competition is on Saturday 16 May at the Windmill Centre. We are

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

the holders of the trophy so need to defend our title. Lots going on for Boys' Brigade at the moment. We have space within the whole Company so ring me if you have a young person who is interested in joining us on Wednesdays during term time.

Jen Childs, Leader

07774 608715

Jen.childs@btinternet.com

Art Club

For one day only – Saturday 23 May – all are invited to see and buy the work of our amazing group of artists. It is called *Mixed Fruits* and is open in St Peter and St Paul's Church, Deddington at the same time as the Farmers' Market. It will be open early, approximately 9.00am to 12.30pm and to 4.30 pm. Our artists are very good. Browse bar, carded pictures, screen to make the most of the oils, acrylic and pastels. There will be bigger pictures on easels supported separately – all will have prices on stickers. At least two curators on all day. Commissions will be accepted. Roger has been to Australia and back. You can see all my prize-winning paintings. Coffee and tea available.

Ken Wilkinson

337256

Women's Institute

We had a hugely amusing talk by Christopher Compston entitled 'His Honour'. He took us through his experiences from a law degree at Oxford through his times as a junior barrister until his appointment as a judge. It was a very lively evening, despite having to clear the room of ladders to start off with.

Our next meeting is on 12 May when the resolutions will be discussed. We will also have a raffle with the proceeds going towards the WI centenary party being held in July. For information, contact Beryl Suckling on 337385.

Julia Hobbs

Deddington and District History Society

Our April speaker was Carol Anderson, Director of the Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock, who told us of the glovemaking industry that at one time involved pretty much the whole of west Oxfordshire and centred on Woodstock. The industry relied upon the good supply of leather to be had from the deer of Woodstock (later Blenheim) Park and Wychwood Forest. First recorded in 1241, the industry seems to have flourished from the 16th century onwards: Henry VIII and Elizabeth I were but two of the notable figures for whom Oxfordshire gloves were considered appropriate gifts. The industry provided much employment for women, many of them out-workers, who sewed skins prepared and cut by men. In 1851, for instance, there were 888 gloveresses

in Charlbury alone. The pay was small but crucially it gave women and girls an income of their own to spend as they wished – often to the disapproval of their, usually male, betters. Woodstock glovers continued to make high-quality products into the 20th century, such as the white gloves of the Household Cavalry, but the industry declined after 1945, unable to compete with cheap, stylish imports. The last Woodstock factory closed in 1981. There are still a few (only a handful probably) stitchers left, sewing gloves for firms elsewhere, but the industry is effectively dead.

Our final speaker of the season, on Wednesday 13 May, is Richard Radcliffe, on school education in Victorian times. We meet at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

To mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo we are hoping to arrange a private tour of the Duke of Wellington's London residence, Apsley House, plus a tour of Admiralty Arch, on 11 June. If you are interested – and why wouldn't you be – please contact Moira Byast. Non-members are welcome, numbers permitting.

Chris Day, Chairman 337204

Moira Byast, Secretary 338637

Book Club

At our last meeting we discussed *This Boy* by Alan Johnson. Set in the 1950s and 1960s, this is a wonderful social history of life in Notting Hill, now with houses worth millions, but then an area of appalling poverty and slums. He gives a very truthful account of his upbringing without sentimentality or bitterness, paying tribute to two extraordinary women in this life, his mother and his sister. The discussion led to many reminiscences of our own personal experiences. We all agreed that it was well written, easy to read and enjoyable.

The next meeting is on 28 May. Please call me for the title of the next book.

Sally Lambert

338094

LOOKING FOR FUNDS?

Deddington Farmers' Market Management Group donates any surplus funds to local groups and organisations each year. It is currently seeking applications for amounts between £200–£400 towards specific equipment or events. The application deadline is 31 May and forms can be obtained by contacting either Gemma Webber on 07734 864574, gemma_nick@yahoo.com, or Doug Rose at dougstarose@gmail.com. Further information can be obtained from the Market website <http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk/contact-us.html>.

CD

WELL REMEMBERED

Irene Clarke 1918–1915

Irene, or Rene as she was always known, was born in Culworth in 1918. She was one of a family of 12 children, with Kit, Edna and Billy as her only surviving siblings. When she was old enough, she went into service as many girls did back then. It was during this time that she met Henry, better known as Joffa. They were married when she was just 16 years of age and they remained faithful and happy for many, many years until Joffa died.

Life was not easy for Rene. She had to bring up three of her children on her own while Joffa was away at war. They had only a tiny cottage with no kitchen and barely any living space. She managed, however, and despite being strict with her children which, under the circumstances, was probably necessary, they agreed that she was loving, kind and as generous as she could be.

Eventually, in 1947, the family moved to The Paddocks where they had more space and a better environment to grow. Christmas it seems, was a particularly happy time at The Paddocks, when the family enjoyed

many Christmas parties that were especially joyful and happy occasions.

Rene also knew how to enjoy herself. During the war when she was able to let her hair down, she loved to dance and have a social life. She was a pretty good card player and enjoyed going to whist drives. Her special talent though was playing Scrabble – a game she enjoyed right up to the end.

Rene has also left the remarkable legacy of her family. She had four children, eight grandchildren, a staggering 18 great-grandchildren and more recently, two great-great-grandchildren, all of whom she loved dearly.

Rene moved to Holly Cottages about 20 years ago, and it is there that she ended her days on 2 March, quietly, with some of her family around her. She brought such love to her family. When I met with them they agreed that they were truly fortunate to have had her for their Mum.

Revd Annie

CONGRATULATIONS JOYCE!



Photo courtesy Jim Flux

As we noted in the March issue, Joyce Minnear was to receive an award from the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire for exceptional service to the community at a ceremony in Oxford at the beginning of that month. Unfortunately Joyce was ill and not able to attend. However, the High Sheriff, Tony Stratton, came to Deddington on 7 April to present Joyce with her award at her home.

She earned this honour through her 30 years' service on the Management Committee of the Windmill Centre and her 20 years running the recently disbanded Friendship Club, as well as her active participation in the now closed Congregational Church. Thank you, Joyce.

CD

PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Those of us crazy enough to complete the Monster Race at Cornbury Park on Saturday 18 April are just recovering from the event with a fair few bumps and bruises to show for our efforts. We all had a great laugh and raised almost £1,500 for the Primary School PTA, and the PFSU and Nursery so thanks to those who supported us.

We are now preparing for our next race at the Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 10 May at Castle Grounds. The entry deadline, 1 May, is fast approaching, so please register if you want to join us running 5k or 10k. The PTA will be running a barbecue, a bar and a popcorn and tuck shop stall in Castle Grounds. To register or for more information visit www.fourfarm-challenge.co.uk.

Finally we are already busy planning the School Fête, which will be on Saturday 4 July. We would be very interested to hear from anyone with suggestions for the main attraction or sponsorship for the event. Please contact me if you can help.

We continue to use the funds we raise to support the school and have recently given the annual £500 to each class to spend on equipment of their choice. Most classes this year have used the money to buy books to support the new reading scheme while some has been used to buy a camera and help fund the Year 6 leavers' book.

Thank you for your continued support.

Julia Jackman
Co-chair

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