

This month's editor
CATHERINE DESMOND

APRIL 2014 copy to
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by 15 MARCH 2014

Next advertising copy date:
10 MARCH 2014

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the Deddington news

US Senator Gaylord Nelson famously said, 'The environment is not a subset of the economy, the economy is a subset of the environment'. With record-breaking weather, from drought in Australia and California to flooding and coastal erosion in the UK as well as the potential for 'fracking' close by in north Oxfordshire, perhaps this is an idea whose time has come for a serious second look. **CD**

MARCH

- Sat 1 PFSU: Jumble Sale, Windmill Centre, 11.00am–1.00pm
Sat 1 RBL: Skittles, RBL Hall, 9.00pm
Mon 3 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Tue 4 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm
Tue 4 Guides: Pantomime, *Snowella*, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Wed 5 Photo Society: Chris Palmer, 'The Prints and the Paper', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Fri 7 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
Sat 8 RBL: Cash Prize Bingo, RBL Hall, Deddington, 8.00pm
Tue 11 WI: AGM followed by cheese & wine, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Wed 12 History Society: Shaun Morley, 'Oxfordshire Swing Riots', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu 13 Monday Morning Film Club: Film tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Fri 14 Concert: 'Rhythm is Life' (choral), Parish Church, 7.30pm
Sat 15 Friends of Daeda's Wood: Working Party, 10.00am–12noon
Wed 19 Parish Council Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Wed 19 Photo Society: Workshop, 'Exposure Modes', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Wed 19 Primary School: *Beauty and the Beast*, Parish Church, 7.00pm
Sat 22 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Sat 22 Concert: Geoffrey Hopkins (piano), Parish Church, 7.30pm
Sat 22 RBL: Live Music by 'Sapphire', RBL Hall, 9.00pm
Wed 26 DN Collating: Windmill Centre (upstairs), 10.00am
Wed 26 Deddington Players: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Thu 27 Book Club Meeting: Call 338094 for information, 7.30pm
Fri 28 Friends of Deddington Church: Valuation Day, Parish Church, 10.00am–4.00pm
Sat 29 PTA & PFSU: Pub Quiz & Curry Night, Barford Village Hall, time tba
Sat 9 RBL: Skittles Night, RBL Hall, Deddington, 8.00pm

APRIL

- Tue 1 Hempton Ladies: Church Hall, 2.00pm
Wed 2 Photo Society: AGM and John Credland, 'Audio Visuals', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.00pm
Fri 4 Hempton Social Night: Hempton Church Hall, 7.00pm
Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Wed 9 History Society: Martin Way, 'Roses and Castles', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 19 February at the Holly Tree Club

Present: Cllors Collins (Chair), Cox, Day, Finnegan, Flux, Oldfield, O'Neill, Rogers, Watts, Wood (Vice Chair), County Cllor Fatemian, District Cllor O'Sullivan and several members of the public.

Planning: The outline planning application 13/01941/ Out Land to the rear of Orchard View and Valley View St Thomas St was thoroughly discussed and the PC planning group supported a member of the public's objections for the following reasons:

Inappropriate back-fill development.

Negative impact on the setting of several listed buildings, including the Castle, with no archaeological survey.

There has been no ecology or bat survey (of special concern to some residents).

Narrowing St Thomas St at the entrance to the site would exacerbate an already difficult traffic situation and pose serious risks to pedestrians, as there is no viable footpath in this area.

There is no reference to an element of affordable housing.

Negative impact on amenities and quality of life of neighbouring properties.

An undesirable precedent for back-fill and loss of green spaces throughout the parish.

It was felt that this is an opportunistic application submitted in the wake of previous applications refused by local planning bodies but approved by central government. It was rejected by the PC nem con.

Emergency Planning: Yet another volunteer snow warden has come forward.

Finance and General Planning: It was agreed to go ahead with the Hempton noticeboard (gates still being chased.)

Environment and Recreation: Regulations for the cemetery have been drafted and will be discussed at the next meeting. A memorial column is also proposed.

A parishioner's request for a grit bin at Goose Green was approved.

Highways and Transport: County Cllor Fatemian confirmed that OCC has allocated a generous grant for restoring the village green and the PC will make up the shortfall, so work should start in the near future.

Unfortunately, the damage caused to grass verges by parked cars does not constitute an offence, but the PC reiterated its regret that the appearance of the village should be spoiled in this way.

The problem of the muddy verge by the bus stop in New St is being investigated. Approved plans to move the stop further north have not materialised and this is being looked into. (Reporter's note: Would it not be possible to provide some hard standing here if relocation plans have been shelved due to lack of funds?)

Neighbourhood Action Group: It was confirmed that there have been no cuts in the number of Police Officers allocated to the Parish.

Next meeting: Wed 19 March 7.30 Windmill Centre

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Firstly a huge Clifton welcome to Chris, Nicky and baby Lolly, short for Olivia, who are new arrivals to this corners of joy. Chris is a Preston lad, mourning the passing of the great Tom Finney and married to Nicky who harks from the same fair county as Maureen (if you've read this column closely who is celebrating a big birthday soon after you read this). They, back to Nicky and Chris, have both been press-ganged into the relevant clubs and are set to become useful members of the community, instead of some of the slackers we're stuck with. Lolly, however, will be the subject of many a competitive babysitting quote as I'm sure she'll continue to melt many hearts with her smiling and waving routine and fearless petting of a 'springador' far bigger than herself.

There have been a lot of home improvements going on this month. We've had an Historic Furniture sale, where every piece has a story to tell and DIY SOS has been in action with our very own 'Nick Knowles' getting serious with Aberdeen's foundations, dot and dabbing, as well as providing shag pile relief where it was needed.

We hosted the Oxfordshire windsurfing championship in Clifton sur Mer this month, where Vicar Hugo was one of the judges. Unfortunately the winner, no 27, was unable to receive his prize as he seemed to be in a rush to get to Kidlington and has not been seen since.

Cherwell District Council's trading standards officers and environmental health experts have finally confirmed what we have all known for a very long time and that is that 'Uncle George' is a 5 Star honey producer. Many of us get such a kick from buying his honey from Candleford's Farmers' Market, knowing that the bees that created it probably fed in our own gardens. Long may he continue.

Martin Bryce

Martindnbryce@aol.com

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DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from
the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Ris-
ley for the month of March 1864:

1st March – Called on
Scroggs, the Churchwarden,
about the Church having been
broken open on Sunday night,
and examined the Chancel win-
dow where they entered. Nothing
was stolen but they mutilated and
tore some leaves out of the Altar
Book, no clue at present against the culprits. Scroggs
promised to see that the two small gates in the Church-
yard were kept locked in future. Adderbury Church was
also broken into by the same parties.

4th March – I heard from Mrs. Brogden again
asking me to back a testimonial to the Royal Literary
Fund, being the third I had signed and got signed for
her within the week – the other two being to the Sons
of Clergy Charity and the Cholmeley.

9th March – A truly snowy day for several hours –
the only real downfall we have had of snow – it seemed
as if winter had only just commenced in earnest.

16th March – After prayers I baptised 3 infants,
boys, the sons of Thomas & Julia Clarke, labourer,
born yesterday afternoon, named Thomas, Shadrach
and John, the father came from Duns Tew. I ordered
Mrs. Wheeler, old William's wife, to look after them
for 3 weeks.

17th March – Called on the poor woman Clarke
and her infants who were going on favourably, also on
old Mrs. Wheeler to tell her again to be sure to attend
to her. I wrote to Sir Charles Phipps to represent the
poor woman Clarke's case to the Queen.

20th March – I heard from the Hon. Sir Charles
Phipps, Privy Purse to Her Majesty, enclosing a P.O.
Order for £3 for the poor woman Julia Clarke, confined
5 days ago with 3 boys.

21st March – Called on and gave the poor woman
Clarke the Queen's most gracious donation of 3 sov-
ereigns. I wrote to Sir Charles Phipps again enclos-
ing an acknowledgement that I had duly received the
money sent by the Queen and expressing the poor
woman's gratitude to the Queen.

29th March – I called on Mrs. Wheeler and paid
her for 2 weeks attendance on Mrs. Clarke.

31st March – I heard again from Mrs. Brogden
asking me for signatures to a petition to the Sons of
Clergy Charity on behalf of her son Arthur.

Buffy Heywood
338212

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

The AGM is to be held at the Unicorn Inn (upstairs
meeting room) on Thursday 20 March at 7.30pm.
Come and join us and have your say.

Carol Horlock, Secretary
carol.horlock@hotmail.co.uk

DEDDINGTON FARMERS' MARKET**Tools and Tack**

Deddington Farmers' Market is introducing a new regular attraction in March called 'At the Market', kicking off with Thames Valley Police. They'll be offering free advice on home and vehicle security and free security marking of your tack. I'm not sure if they'll go as far as to sew name tags on numnahs but you never know. The April 'At the Market' will feature veterinary advice and a pet first aid demonstration.

As the weather improves (he writes hopefully) the siren song of the garden will be luring us out to the garden shed and inspiring a bit of a spring clean and a clear out of old equipment. Don't throw those old tools away: Tools for Self Reliance will take them. They ship tens of thousands of high-quality refurbished tools and sewing-machines to their partners in Africa and pay for much-needed skills training. All old tools accepted. TFSR will refurbish them including electrical, carpentry, plumbing, building, and garden tools. The TFSR drop-off point will be at the March, April and May markets.

This month is also the time when the market starts growing back to its proper size as stallholders who've taken a bit of a break during the bleakest post Christ-

mas markets return to the fold. If you've been missing a particular favourite this might be the time to revisit.

Things to look out for particularly as Easter comes over the horizon (April 18 to save you looking in your diary) are hot-cross buns and lamb or that excellent and cheaper alternative, goat. The vegetable stalls will surprise you with what can be grown in polytunnels.

Finally, don't forget to check out the specials board at every market. There's always a selection of bargains to tempt you and it saves you having to carefully investigate each and every stall, though that may be part of the pleasure of market shopping.

For more up to date news about the coming market, apart from the specials board which really is last minute, you can listen to the market preview available one week ahead of market day on the parish radio station, Deddington On Air (www.deddingtononair.org) and on the market website (www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk). Radio Oxford now carries a regular market preview every market morning. Or you could just get yourself on the email list for a personal update and a chance to win a voucher to spend at the market by emailing a request to marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk.

The Market is on Saturday 22 March from 9am to 12.30pm. Good shopping!

Ian Willox 337940

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CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Sun 2 10.30am First Sunday
 6.30pm Sung Eucharist
 Wed 5 10.00am Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
 Thu 6 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 9 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 Wed 12 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 13 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 16 10.30am Eucharist
 Wed 19 10.00am Eucharist Joseph of Nazareth
 Thu 20 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 23 9.30am Eucharist followed by Interactive
 Cafe Church at 10.20am
 Tue 25 6.00pm Eucharist Annunciation of BVM
 Wed 26 10.00am Eucharist
 Thu 27 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels
 Sun 30 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service

St John's, Hempton

Sun 2 9.00am Eucharist
 Sun 16 9.00am Eucharist
 Sun 23 6.00pm Evensong
 Sun 30 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

The Barfords

Sun 2 10.30am Eucharist (BfdStM)
 Wed 5 7.30pm Eucharist with Imposition of
 Ashes (BfdStJ)
 Sun 9 10.30am Family Service (BfdStM)
 Sun 16 10.30am Morning Service (Bfd StM)
 Sun 23 4.00 pm Evensong (BfdStM)
 Sun 30 4.00 pm Mothering Sunday (BfdStM)

From the Parish Registers

Wedding

15 Feb Joanne Tompkins and Martin Bliss
 22 Feb Alice Wareing and David Benskin

Service of Thanksgiving

26 Feb José Stevens

Interment of Ashes

27 Feb José Stevens

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), or one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). For further information please go to www.deddingtonchurch.org.

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
 23 Mar Margery Richley
 30 Mar Songs of Praise

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Fr John Burns 277396

Parish Deacon Rev R Hughes 01295720869

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe: every weekday except Wed at 9.30am, Wed 7.00pm, Sun at 10.00am.
 Confessions at Hethe Sat 5.30–6.00pm.

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.

Wednesday 5 March, Ash Wednesday, Mass with Imposition of the Ashes will be said at 10.00am.

Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation but a day of Fasting and Abstinence, which means that all Catholics should abstain from meat and meat products and that adults under 60, in good health, should confine themselves to one main meal and two light refreshments.

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

DEDDINGTON ONLINE

Looking for Volunteers

With the sad death of Colin Robinson last year - co-founder of DoL - we are very shorthanded and urgently need some more hands. The website is now an intrinsic and important part of the parish media but does depend on voluntary help. Anyone who has average computer skills can quickly be taught how to edit our Content Management System (Squiz). The involvement can be as much or as little as you wish. For more information, preferably over a glass of something in one of our pubs, please contact Rob Forsyth on 338384 or email robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com.

MOORE RODIN EXHIBITION

Compton Verney is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a stunning exhibition that compares two giants of modern sculpture: Henry Moore and Auguste Rodin. The grounds of Compton Verney are beautiful, designed by Capability Brown, and you can see eleven large scale exhibits outside, in addition to a wide range of sculptures, maquettes, documentation and photographs that show the influences on the two.

The exhibition runs from now until 31 August and is well worth a visit. Further information is available on their website <https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/> or by calling 01926 645 500.

JC

AMERICAN POSTCARD

Patriotism and Healthcare

The whole of the US stopped. Yes, it was time for the Super Bowl. This huge event is hard to compare to a sporting event in the UK. The majority of the population here is discussing it. But no-one gets the irony of a 'world championship' which only involves teams from North America. We were very excited because our adopted team, the Denver Broncos, were through to the Super Bowl and were strong favourites. I know most of you will think that American Football is a dodgy game, with endless breaks in play. And most of you have a point: one hour of action can take over three hours, the main problem being the TV breaks. Yes, the TV company has a man on the touchline who can call a break in play so they can show yet more adverts.

We hosted a Super Bowl party, the TV led up to kick-off with hours of coverage, but sadly not like the old days before the Cup Final. I still miss the best bit, 'meet the players' wives'. Before kick-off at every American sporting event they have a fine and outstanding singer or, if we are lucky singers, who emote their way through the American anthem, the Star Spangled Banner. It does seem strange; I am happy to stand for the performance, but I draw the line at thumping my chest like the majority. The problem with the Super Bowl is that they also sang America the Brave, presented the flag, and even went all the way through the Declaration of Independence.

I know we Brits are a cynical lot – a trait I really quite like – but Americans are just so patriotic it can be painful. And believe me you can't discuss it with them, or say anything about their commitment to their military, the huge investment in 'defence' which is five times the level of us Europeans.

For many Americans the most important parts of Super Bowl TV broadcast are the adverts, and the half-time show. These are the most expensive TV slots in the world. The show this year was the Red Hot Chili Peppers with Bruno Mars, a very peculiar mix.

My news is I am obviously getting old; I had a sleep in the afternoon twice last week. I am still struggling with my shoulder injury, and am now having weekly physiotherapy (they call it physical therapy). I pay \$25 for each half-hour session and the insurance company pays \$245. I love America, but I do think they have their priorities confused. And the young physio is usually handling another patient at the same time as me.

The Broncos lost badly, but after 50 years supporting Leicester City, I am used to tragic failure.

Mike Ward mikew@qsoftware.com

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The African Children's Choir is hoping to perform in Deddington on Wednesday 30 April but needs accommodation. If anyone is interested in the possibility of hosting members of the Choir for two nights, 30 April and 1 May, please contact Hugh White: vicarhugo@gmail.com, 349869.

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THE GREEN MAN

A 'Fracking' Distraction

It is much in the news, this manic pendulum of enthusiasm and despair at the prospect of drilling deep into the UK's ancient underground shale rock and accessing vast amounts of natural gas. This includes places here in Oxfordshire. Some in the UK have looked, perhaps with envy, at the supposed benefits from fracking in my native land across the pond. The argument follows that if hydraulic fracturing of gas-rich shale in the US can create thousands of jobs, generate millions in new local revenues, ensure domestic energy security and, in the process, drive prices down two-thirds from what they were only a few years ago, why surely Britain can and should do likewise. Such is the impact of 'fracking' in America and elsewhere around the globe that it is even heralded as an energy renaissance. I am inclined to repurpose Victor Hugo's comment on that other Renaissance and say of fracking that 'It was the setting sun that all Europe mistook for dawn'.

Fracking uses directional drill bits plus a high pressure mix of liquid chemicals and sand to prop open gas bearing fissures in shale rock. Because the outside of the well pipe is encased in a wall of cement, proponents claim that neither natural gas nor fracking chemicals can seep into groundwater supplies or escape to the surface from the wellhead: except that 5% fail immediately.

However, the greatest problem with fracking and why it is different from conventional drilling is that we can't produce gas in commercial quantities with just a few wells. The reason for this lies in the nature of the gas reservoir created by opening up the seams in the shale. Conventional gas wells drilled in porous rock are fairly steady in output, losing only about 3% reservoir pressure per year. In shale wells, the available gas is confined to the cracks opened by fracking and may lose 50–70% of its pressure in the first year of operation. The rapid depletion of early wells drives a need for even more drilling to maintain adequate production levels (what the fracking industry calls 'the drilling treadmill'). Near exponential growth brings with it exponential risk.

Even at that, there is no guarantee that more wells will always produce more gas – or more revenue. For example, in 2008, Fort Worth, Texas, received \$50 million in revenues from 44 wells that had been drilled at the local airport. By 2012 revenues were down to \$23 million but they had 397 wells in operation.

As to all the other claims made for fracking in America, some scrutiny is in order. First, we heard there was enough to last 100 years. Then the US Geological Survey advised that those estimates would need to be revised downwards by 80%, but that 100 year number was so attractive it stuck in the public mind. Revenues from fracking were supposed to be an economic bonanza for state and local governments. Then it was revealed that in some regions, the cost to rebuild roads damaged by hauling all the fracking

water, sand, chemicals and waste was far in excess of the income generated from drilling. It is a growing problem in some regions because less than 10% of the fracturing water is recovered. It is drawn from surface and groundwater and then injected as frack fluid very deep underground. Thus, on average in the US, nearly four million gallons per well are lost permanently from the hydrologic cycle. Finally, one shouldn't be overly impressed by the current low price of gas in the US. In any commodity market, even a small but persistent surplus will put downward pressure on the futures contract price and gas is no exception. Don't expect these low prices to stay where they are. They can't if the drilling industry is to remain profitable. The next likely step will be to liquefy some of this gas then ship it abroad in tankers to more lucrative foreign markets and at perhaps triple the price.

Still, I believe that fracking is a distraction, not unlike one of those gestures used by any good magician to divert attention from the card up his sleeve. It distracts us from the most important and least appreciated energy issue of our time: the fate of the so-called supergiant gas and oil fields, fields with names like Ghawar in Saudi Arabia or Cantarell in the Gulf of Mexico. While comprising only 1% of the fields, these and other now declining supergiants account for over half of world production. New production from shale and other unconventional sources will not offset these losses for long, but, in the US and EU market, contraction brought on by the global recession has otherwise muffled that alarm.

Keeping this in mind, opponents of fracking should be concerned not only with where these wells might turn up, but should insist on knowing why. Why, for example, are we now making things so hard for ourselves, so expensive, so risky and so contentious by drilling for shale gas, using even more energy to cook bitumen out of tar sands or kerogen out of oil shale and exploring in the Arctic? Is it that once again science and technology have saved the day and that these are merely the new energy frontiers? Or is it that some in government and many in the industry are now quite aware of what has been used up and are in frantic pursuit of what is left?

The yet-to-be-answered question is whether we will finally give renewable energy, conservation and efficiency the attention they deserve. Not now and then schemes funded at the margins of national budgets, but the kind of strategic and permanent initiative that is warranted when the fate of nations is at stake. Before the meta-politics of unaffordable or unavailable energy take hold, we have to do more than simply protest against fracking or whatever subsequent and unsustainable solution may present itself. In this regard, what we stand for must ultimately take precedence over what we stand against.

Dan Desmond dessr@outlook.com

FROM THE FIRE STATION

Fire and floods! Being a firefighter at Deddington is starting to feel like a full-time job, as we are being called out day and night for long periods of time. We have had more than our normal share of chimney fires and the flooding has started to stretch our resources to the limit. We went to a chimney fire at a very large manor house that was three storeys high. We were faced with the downstairs of the house filling up with smoke and I had to deploy two of the crew in breathing apparatus to start extinguishing the fire. What made matters worse was that smoke was seeping through the chimney into other rooms in the house. I quickly realised that this incident was going to need more resources and called for another crew which came from Charlbury. We decided to tackle the chimney using a two pronged attack. My crew gained access to the roof and worked from the top down and Charlbury worked using chimney rods and a stirrup pump to extinguish it from the bottom up. Finally, after five long hours we managed to put it out. When we investigated hot spots in some of the rooms we found that there was charring on timber plugs that had been banged into the wall to fix the skirting boards. With an incident like this you have to be sure that the fire is completely out before you can send a message to conclude it. Even so you still have to leave it open to go back four hours later to re-inspect. We finally got back to the fire station at 1am but then had to go back at 5am to re-inspect. I can never sleep if we have a re-inspection. Please get your chimneys swept because chimney fires can quite easily turn into house fires. Your chimney should be swept at least once a year or twice if used extensively.

We have just come back after being out all night supporting the high volume pump at Abingdon Road, Oxford, pumping water to keep the area from flooding and at this moment we are succeeding. As the rain keeps falling, the main problem doesn't seem to be whether or not we can pump the water. It's where we can pump it to, so that we don't displace it to cause

a problem elsewhere. That's where the high volume pumps come into play, because we can pump water miles away. We have also spent time pumping water from properties in Adderbury and Deddington and again we would like to thank the public for their help and the community spirit which makes this such a great place to live and work.

We have now completed our fire behavioural training, honing our skills in real fires that we create in huge shipping containers. We build a fire in the container and get the temperature up to where it can flashover and then, using very limited water, we cool the gases to stop the flashover. As we are in the container we can't afford to use more than a few litres of water because at 500 degrees centigrade steam expands 3400 times in volume which can pressure-cook you. With our modern equipment and training methods we can drop the temperatures from 700 degrees down to 200 using very little water.

Congratulations to FF Lewis Mahoney who has just successfully completed his basic Breathing Apparatus training, meaning that we have now got twelve out of our thirteen crew who can wear BA, leaving just FF Colin Smith who is booked on his course in June. I would also like to congratulate Crew Manager Graham Harding for passing his Incident Command System assessment. All managers are tested every two years to make sure that they have kept up with training and are competent to manage incidents.

On a final note, I would like to tell you about the Four Farms Challenge which is a 5k and 10k run around Deddington parish farms. We are organising this event on Sunday 18 May in conjunction with the PFSU and the PTA. We would hope that everyone in our community will join us to either take part or to support this event. More info at <http://fourfarmschallenge.co.uk>.

Tim Parker, Crew Manager

PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we enter March the school is still thinking, rehearsing and talking about this year's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. The children are working extremely hard as always and many even gave up part of their half term holidays to rehearse in the church. The dates for the performances are 19, 20, and 21 March. Tickets will be available from our school office.

This term we are also looking forward to the annual Fairtrade fortnight. Our Fairtrade group has been busy organising a Traidcraft event and ensuring there are lots of activities for the children to take part in, including a raffle and an art competition. They will also be leading a Friday celebration assembly.

We are going to be celebrating World Book Day on 6 March by everyone, including teachers, dressing up as a favourite book character and doing lots of book-

related activities in class and culminating in a 'fashion show' at the end of the day. During that week we will have a visit from the Green Bus, where children will learn about aspects of the environment and the impact they can have on it.

Year 6 are working hard for their SATs in May but are going to be able to take a break from their books when they go on a week-long residential at Yenworthy Lodge in Exmoor. This will take place the week following our production, which most of them are involved in, so I'm not quite sure what state they will be in by the end of a very busy fortnight – exhausted but happy I should imagine.

Jane Cross, Deputy Headteacher
338430

MUSICAL NOTES

The 2014 series of concerts for your enjoyment in Deddington Church starts this month with 'Rhythm Is Life' on Friday 14 March at 7.30pm and a piano recital from Geoffrey Hopkins on Saturday 22 March at 7.30pm.

'Rhythm Is Life' is raising money for the charity Ataxia UK. This group of local musicians features a choir, directed by Robin Martin-Oliver, singing a selection of songs from gospel to classical, together with the Sunshine String Quartet, playing pieces by Pergolesi, Schubert and Dvorak. Please note that this is on a Friday, not the usual Saturday.

Geoffrey Hopkins has become a regular solo pianist performer in Deddington with his wide and carefully chosen repertoire of classical and romantic masterpieces. On this occasion you will be hearing Beethoven's Sonata in D minor, *The Tempest*, *Claire de Lune* and *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair* by Debussy, Chopin's *Ballade no. 1*, as well as preludes by Rachmaninoff and Skryabin and the latter's *Étude* in D sharp minor. What a feast is in store!

As well as attracting local musicians we are, increasingly, hosting well recognised professional ensembles to these concerts. So we are keen to swell the audiences. Check the flyer that came with the February *DN* and mark your diary. Come, enjoy and bring your friends.

Finally may I give a personal, non-Deddington, plug for a concert by the Radcliffe Orchestra on Saturday 8 March at 7.45pm in the Academic Centre at the John Radcliffe. Formed from members of the staff of Oxford's hospitals and their friends, we have been giving concerts in aid of medical charities for over 30 years. This one is in aid of Silver Star, the unit in the maternity hospital which many mothers will have reason to thank for its pioneering work and unsurpassable skills. The concert features Mahler's 4th Symphony and works by Rossini and Tchaikovsky. Contact me on 337199 or donald199@btinternet.com for more details and tickets.

Donald Lane donald199@btinternet.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

The second instalment of the joint PTA and PFSU pub quiz is on 29 March – a curry and quiz night at Barford Village Hall, a night not to be missed. Please contact Sue Brown, 338740, or sue@redhousecakecompany.co.uk, for further information or tickets. Information and registration forms can also be found on the school website. I would like to make a formal apology to the PFSU which has inadvertently been omitted from the posters that are around the village and to take this opportunity to reassure everyone that this is most definitely a joint fund raiser. The previous pub quiz in the Legion last month was a great success and we are looking forward to the next one.

The next events for the PTA seem to be fairly energetic ones. A group of more than 20 parents is going

to take part in a WOLF run on 27 April to raise funds for the Nursery, PFSU and PTA. Should you wish to sponsor these intrepid athletes, you can do so at www.justgiving.com/DeddingtonHowlers. If you are in any doubt that they deserve some sponsorship money, the 10k race involves a lot of mud, climbing, swimming, trees, lakes, assault course style obstacles and more mud, as well as running. Then in May we are delighted to be involved in another joint fund raiser. The Four Farms Challenge will take place on Sunday 18 May. With the start and finish at the historic Castle Grounds, there will be a 10k, 5k and children's fun run, along with barbecue, bar, tombola, cakes and popcorn. It is a joint venture with the PFSU and Deddington Fire Service and will raise funds for all three organisations. Please see the website at www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk or the school website for further details.

So far this year, we have supported the school with brass lessons, a First News newspaper subscription, a Pirate Day, sports, maths and music equipment. Our main fundraising goal is to help the school continue to develop the outdoor learning and play areas of the grounds, developing the nature area so that it can be used on a more regular basis when some fine weather finally graces us with its presence.

As always for any information about School and PTA activities please check out the new school website on www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk.

Lucie Sydenham, Chair
luciesydenham@aol.co.uk

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ON GEORGE'S FARM

They're off! The Cotswolds dropped their lambs in a tearing rush during the last three days of January – a pleasing crop of lambs. Sadly we lost two still born and two other lambs will not be of any use for breeding, one with a wry neck, a skeletal deformity, and the other a 'stargazer' which is a brain problem, but both are feeding and being looked after by their mothers and will be given as good a chance as they can get.



The mother of last year's show ram lamb, Apletree Blizzard, has again produced another storming good ram lamb, so with any luck Apletree Storm will join his brother in the show ring later on in the year. As I bash out this offering the first half of the commercial flock is on with the job but it is early days yet and it seems as if the old saying 'Start off bad, end up good' will be the theme of this year's lambing season as we seem to have picked up one of the abortion bugs. During the run up to the due date, we had four ewes 'slip' their lambs but things should pick up now the ewes have gone full time.

It never rains but it pours and that is the next problem for the sheep flock. At present they are tucked up nice and dry, enjoying a twice a day meals-on-wheels service. We have enough feed and space to keep the first flock of ewes and lambs under cover for a few more weeks but once the second flock start to drop their lambs they will have to go out into the grass paddocks. Although these paddocks are not flooded, they are very wet and will quickly become a mud pool and there is nothing worse than wet muddy lambs.

The real problem will be what to do with them once lambing is over as their summer grazing has been under several feet of water since the beginning of December with little prospect of the water going down any time soon. The question is that, given the length of time the grass has been under water, will the river valley pasture be of any use to the sheep once the water has drained away and will it be safe for them to eat, given the amount of pollutants that will have been washed out of Banbury's industrial sites? The last time we had a big wet I had the water and grass analysed and the list of heavy metals and other pollutants made a very gruesome cocktail, and that was before the flood defence scheme came into operation and allowed a vast new industrial complex to be built in the river's flood plain.

This month marks the fortieth anniversary of a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed young farmer taking his first farm and, as they say, the rest is history. My first spring at Home Farm was a steep learning curve as I had not encountered river flood-land before. One of the first birds I heard in the river valley was a curlew and the trill of its wild evocative call has stayed with me ever since. As the farm grew in size I was able to take on a lot more environmental work and the farm became one of the first to be awarded a higher level environmental

award with the meadows becoming a breeding wader project. This involved a great deal of work and planning together with the RSPB and Natural England to get the habitat right. During the first few years we had big increases in the number of curlew and lapwing coming to breed and the first ever recorded sightings of redshank in this part of the Cherwell valley.

Today, with the Banbury flood defence scheme in operation, we are faced with environmental wipe out because, as the river starts to fall around the town, the water is let down from the holding ponds that form part of the defence scheme. Some eight miles downstream at Clifton the river is still in full flood so the water that is let down just piles in on top and extends the length of time our meadows are under water. The problem is made worse by the building that is taking place below the flood alleviation scheme with the run off being piped straight into the river.

By the time this hits the door mat our wading birds will have returned from where they over-winter on the east coast but, with the tide in the Clifton sea well above its high tide mark, they will just move on and prospect for nesting sites elsewhere, never to return. But what of the sheep? Will they return to the river valley or go down the road to market if we have not got enough summer grazing for them? We will not be able to make any hay to feed them in the winter. But it's not just the wading birds that may be lost. Our traditional wildflower hay meadows are also under four feet of water so just how many of the different wild flowers will survive is anybody's guess. So no curlew, no sheep, and no bees buzzing in the hay meadows, but at least our local industrialized motorway junction stop off will be dry. After all it's only farmers and their modern food production methods that cause environmental devastation. Ho hum.

George Fenemore 338203



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FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Postbag, or parts of it, 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 CHRIS FARMAN

I'm part of a small campaign group which is helping to organise a memorial to the men and women of Oxfordshire who defended democracy and fought fascism in the Spanish Civil War of 1936 to 1939. Some were soldiers, others were doctors, nurses or ambulance drivers, but all were prepared to put their lives on the line for the sake of their principles.

Oxford City Council is backing the idea of a memorial and we already have the names of over 20 volunteers to inscribe on it. But we're sure that there are many we don't know about – and some of them could be from our parish. If anyone knows of volunteers from this area, perhaps a relative or a family friend, please contact Chris Farman at thefarmans@waitrose.com.



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

FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT, HIGH STREET

I'd like to offer my thanks for all the support and help towards the Market Place carols last Christmas Eve. In particular to the Unicorn, the Deddington Arms, the Crown and Tuns, Peach Pubs, the Co-op and the British Legion for their support, and to Deddington Brass for turning out. Also thanks to the

number of individuals who help time and again – there are more than a dozen of them, and most of all to everyone who attended. Altogether it allows me to relay the thanks received from Katharine House Hospice for the £940-odd raised on the night.

starred. And let us not forget Charlie and Nick at the Deddington Arms. Not only did they serve an excellent meal, but proved to be open to suggestions for streamlining the event next time round. We are confident that the inevitable organisational glitches that are part and parcel of a new enterprise can be ironed out next year.

So far, FODC has planned two more events for this year, both in the Parish Church. On 28 March Holloway's Auctioneers will be repeating our Antiques Roadshow style Valuation Day, which many of you will remember from last year. On 26 April an excellent Caribbean steel band will provide a Calypso Evening featuring dancing, music and even a bit of instrumental practice for those who feel so inclined. Something nice for people of all ages here and we will be laying on a light supper and drinks with a Caribbean theme.

And now for something completely different. Those who attended our first AGM in October may remember a proposal to set up a Floodlighting Sponsorship Scheme as part of FODC's fundraising effort. We needed a volunteer to do some research and to manage the scheme, and Julie Goodman kindly agreed to do the honours. So we are now ready to go. Anyone can now celebrate or commemorate a special occasion or loved one's anniversary by sponsoring our beautiful and spectacular Church floodlighting. The cost is £25.00 per whole week's illumination and the donor's details will be acknowledged on Church noticeboards, Deddington OnLine and in parish publications – including *DN*. Or you may wish to remain anonymous. For further details please contact Julie Goodman on 338829 or email jgood1865@aol.com. Sponsorship forms are available in the Church porch or can be downloaded from our website www.fodc.org.uk.

The sponsor for the week of 3 March is Maureen Dew, in memory of Alan Dew, 'an architect who brought light to many through intelligent design'.

Lesley Milroy, Chair, FODC
337614, amilroy@umich.edu

FROM GEOFF TODD, HOPCRAFT LANE

Fix My Street

A lot of potholes have appeared around our villages once again this winter. They can be dangerous to pedestrians as well as cars and bikes. Don't just assume Oxfordshire County Council will just come and fix them. They won't unless someone reports them first. All you have to do is to go the website www.fix-mystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk and a map is shown for the road name or post code. You insert an arrow to show where the defect is and answer a few questions. It works well and OCC usually responds quickly and even advises you when the defect is remedied. The system can also be used to report other road defects and matters, including flooding, blocked drains, road signs and lighting defects.

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON CHURCH

Quite a few *DN* readers, with others from further afield, turned up on 26 January to FODC's first event of 2014 – a colourful and tuneful Burns Night celebration at the Deddington Arms. This was a new departure for us, and very popular it turned out to be, with all seats taken and some disappointed would-be diners. If advance bookings for 2015 are anything to go by, we can conclude that pretty well everyone had a most enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Our piper was magnificent, and has already agreed to play on Burns Night 2015 (25 January). Thanks are due to all the Friends involved in organising this event, particularly Steve Miller for his MC duties and Herman and Ros Gilligan for their work in securing Steve Duffy's services as piper and their contribution to the evening's programme. Thanks also to Iain Gillespie and apologies for having had to omit two popular poems and songs in which Iain was to have

RECIPES FROM THE PAST

Revealing Some Family History and a Connection to Deddington

Part I

This is the story of an early nineteenth century 're-ceipts' or recipe book which inspired a search for a family. Some twenty years ago this wonderful book turned up in a car boot sale in Brighton. Its owner, Bob

Watson, recently decided to find descendants of the family and reunite the recipe book with them. The name 'Lampet' on the cover, and other names inside, linked it to

Oxfordshire and, in a small way, to Deddington. Bob contacted Deddington OnLine and I began work on the project. I knew that Lampet was a local name from Hook Norton in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and that the Lampets had lived in Steeple Aston. As their family tree was researched and the layers of their history uncovered we found no living male descendants but did discover living descendants through the female lines of the Lampets and they have responded positively. At just over two hundred years old, the pages of the leather-bound book are in a poor state but the recipes are reasonably easy to read and I will reproduce some of those that link to Oxfordshire and, more particularly, Deddington, through the members of the family who gave the recipes.

The story begins in Hook Norton where the Rev Lionel Lampet was born in 1710. He had three children: Catarina, Mary and Lionel. Catherina married Thomas Rolls of Weston-on-the-Green, and also had three children. Recipes from both Mrs and Miss Rolls feature in the book. Lionel's next daughter, Mary Weston, came to live in Deddington, possibly in Weston House, Church Lane and there are a number of recipes which have Mrs Weston's name attached to them. Bob and I believe that the owner of the recipe book was Harriet Hazlewood, the second wife of the Rev Lionel's son, Lionel. Harriet appears to be the only Mrs Lampet around when we think the book was begun, containing contributions from her sisters-in-law, Catherina Rolls and Mary Weston, and step-daughter, Elizabeth Key. Harriet died in 1848 in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Towards

the end, the handwriting changes, suggesting that someone else may have kept it. Or it could have been passed down the family by Harriet to her stepson's wife, Mrs William Lionel Lampet whose son, Lionel, married in Brighton. Eventually, it was discarded, perhaps when there were no male descendants. We simply do not know for sure.

Catherina Rolls, née Lampet, married Thomas Rolls,

Gentleman of Weston-on-the-Green, but had strong links to the Bicester area and, along with two unmarried girls, probably remained there all her life. Her middle daughter, Rebecca Roblyn, does not appear under her married name in the recipe book but, as she married late in life, I am assuming that one of the recipes coming from the Misses Rolls could have been hers. At any rate, I include a recipe from one of the Misses Rolls.

Apart from the loaf sugar widely used then, this recipe is similar to ones we could use today. Sugar then was highly refined but formed into loaves or cones. Although called white sugar, it was a pale tan and a family size loaf would have been between eleven and thirteen pounds (approximately five kilos). The cones and loaves were broken up into more convenient pieces using sugar nips. The pieces then needed to be ground or powdered, hard work for the person who had to powder it using a pestle and mortar. For the recipe above, the sugar had to be clarified which involves another process of boiling up loaf sugar, water and egg white, and stirring until the sugar dissolves. Over a gentle fire the scum is removed, then, after the process is repeated a few times, the sugar will rise to the top when it is skimmed and strained. So using sugar was very labour intensive at the time when Miss Rolls gave her recipe to Mrs Lampet. Of course cooks and kitchen maids provided the hard work behind the pots of currant jellies to be enjoyed upstairs.

Next month Part 2 will cover more family history and include recipes from Mary Weston of Deddington.

Jill Adams jillmadams@hotmail.com

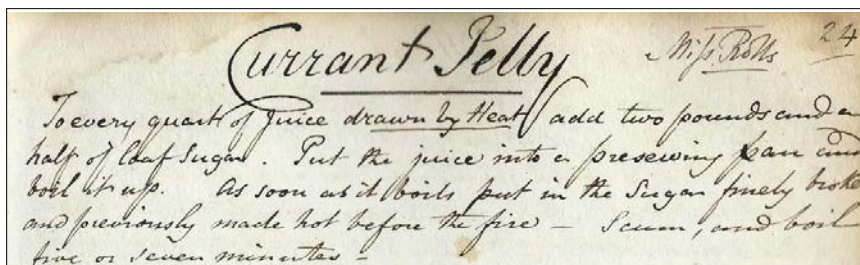
BLISSFUL THINKING

Forty days and forty nights? More like sixty, without respite.

Whether the water is cascading through your roof, or washing through your front room, it's fair to say that, if variety is the spice of life, these relentless tempests are getting a little tedious. What about emergency reservoirs, channelling the excess water to generate power, or manipulating more permeable surfaces to soak up the drink? There's never a sinkhole around when you need one. Remember when we used to

solve collective problems with public money, instead of waiting for the 'market' fairies to decide there was money in it? I've noticed a surprising dearth of hovercraft and jet-ski sales; a glaring opportunity missed in our cut-throat environment. Without cocking a snook at the poor denizens of the Somerset Levels, we can afford a slight smug smirk from atop our impenetrable hill, though Clifton may need more than our empathy if the deluge continues. Stay safe and dry people.

Aaron Bliss aaronjbliss@hotmail.com



CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

At February's club night, Peter Sheasby gave a presentation on 'Wildflower Photography'. An amateur botanist, Peter explained that his expertise is primarily in wildflowers, which has taken him to many parts of the world. This led to the development of an interest in photography as a means of recording the different wildflower species he found on his international travels. He is also the author/photographer of several publications on a variety of botanical subjects. Peter has accumulated a collection of some 70,000 photographs, from which he selected 140 slides to show members.

Working exclusively with film media and a Canon EOS 100 camera, Peter believes the use of film rather than digital is the only way to bring out the subtlety of the colours found in wildflowers. He illustrated this by showing some stunning photographs of wild plants, taken both with and against the light, with many plants being only a few inches high. In these situations, Peter frequently worked in awkward positions, sometimes completely prone, where it was impracticable to use a tripod. This, in turn, meant using a fast shutter speed and high-speed film, normally with a 100mm macro lens, in order to overcome handshake and compensate for the effects of wind. This was a most interesting and articulate presentation, delivered by a widely experienced botanist and photographer, and much appreciated by his audience.

The next Society club night is at 7.30pm on 5 March, when Chris Palmer ARPS will give a presentation on 'The Prints and the Paper'. Looking further ahead our AGM is at 7.00pm on 2 April, which will be followed by a presentation from John Credland APAGB on 'Audio Visuals'. Both events are in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, and everyone is welcome to attend. Just come along and you will find us there.

Richard Broadbent
338173
www.adandd.co.uk

1st Deddington Guides

We welcomed Milly, Connie, Hannah, Sasha, Yasmin and Amy this term. They have been very enterprising and founded their very own Penguin Patrol and have been working together very well as a group.

We have been enjoying rehearsing our pantomime, *Snowella*, written and directed by Senior Guides Ellie C and Lorna. They held auditions and conducted rehearsals like professionals. Well done girls. The performance, open to all, is on 4 March at 7.30pm. We hope you will come along and support us and our chosen charities. The girls have been putting in a great deal of effort.

The Guides have still found time to work on badges – traditions of guiding and world issues – and patrol projects.

All girls of ten and over are welcome to come along and join us. Do let us know, if interested, as places go quickly.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069
Marion Trinder 340806
Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

The weather has kept us firmly indoors so far this term, so we have recycled plastic bottles and Tetra Paks into bird-feeders. We hoped they would encourage some birds into our gardens for the RSPB Big Bird Watch; the Rainbows had vain hopes of eagles and exotic species but I think it was mostly sparrows and finches that they attracted.

We celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Horse by making lucky red envelopes, filled with chocolate coins by the Young Leaders, and felt pencil toppers in the shape of horse heads.

We've spent a meeting learning how to tie knots. Some of the parents admitted they could do with some practice, so quite a large group learnt a simple overhand knot, a reef knot, and a clove hitch. The hitch was the trickiest but some of the girls mastered it (impressive for five-year olds) and everybody got the hang of the reef knot, which they practised by putting slings on each other.

Learning how to weave Swedish paper heart baskets marked St Valentine's Day. The baskets proved a bit fiddly but look very effective.

Hazel Neal
337822
hmkn@sky.com

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs spent three weeks working towards their Chef's badge. They learnt the correct way to wash their hands and store food before successfully cooking a range of meals and puddings. The two late cakes by Owyn and Sam were very well received, right down to the last crumb.

We have moved on to Emergency Aid (a coincidence) and are planning a junk modelling evening before competing in the District Scrap Challenge.

Jo Churchyard CSL
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

Scouts have also been tackling Emergency Aid with a visit from our district trainer and local first responder for an evening of CPR. They are now all experts and will wrestle you into the recovery position at the first sign of weakness – you have been warned.

We spent an evening swimming at the Spiceball. Wednesday evenings are free for local youth groups; how good is that?

Pete Churchyard
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

CALLING MORE CLUBS

Explorers

For their first outing as a unit the Explorers went for a knock-about at the driving range in Bloxham; brilliant fun plus chips afterwards.

Pete Churchyard
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

The group is organising a children's competition (19 – 26 April) to coincide with St George's Day; a treasure hunt involving dragons. Entry forms will be available from the Primary School and the Library.

Deddington Players

Our AGM is at the Holly Tree Club on Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm. Please join us to review the past year and plan the next. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Both existing and prospective members are very welcome.

Lucy Squires
338442

Deddington Town Colts

Mini football

The U6 and U7s are progressing well, developing their passing and dribbling skills as well as trying out some throw-in and corner exercises. We had our first away fixture at local rivals, Hook Norton. Our U6 team won an end-to-end thrilling encounter 4–3 with notable performances from Freddie Wheeler and James Edmonds. Our two U7 sides put in full-hearted performances, but unfortunately lost both of their games, with fine performances from Noah Charman, Jonty Duffy and Matthew Edmonds. All the boys showed good character and determination. The U10s had just one game last month, which was a defeat to Chesterton.

Junior football

The U11 Sharks lost at home to Ducklington and had two draws against Combe and Bloxham. The U11 Cobras had a handsome 8–1 victory over Bloxham. The U12s had just one game — a 3–1 defeat at Cirencester. The U13 Cobras have consolidated their run of form up to Christmas by going top of the C league in mid-January and staying there ever since. Only two games have been played in the last few weeks due to the weather, one win and one loss, but the team is in a good position as we head into the second half of the season. A good win against Witney Viking Warriors saw seven different goal scorers, two hat-tricks and another clean sheet for Joe Wilson in goal. The U14s put in two great performances after not having a match for two months because of the wet weather. They visited runaway leaders Charlton and District, and, after trailing 3–0 at half-time, fought back with a hat-trick from Jack Davis, only to lose 4–3 in the dying minutes. They also had a fine 2–2 draw with Witney Vikings Youth. The performance and confidence of the team is improving after those two games. The

U16s have continued their winning run with an away win against Cholsey that has taken them to the top of their league.

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, <http://www.deddingtontownfc.com/>

**Roger Sykes, Club Welfare Officer
 and U14 Coach**
337034

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

18.01.14 Heyford Utd (a) (CUP) L 4–5 Hall,
 Thornton L, own goal (2)

With the biblical tempests has come a sparse schedule of playable matches. Just one fixture, a defeat in a barnstorming cup match at Heyford for the Firsts, survived the bank-busting downpours. Unless the teams switch to water polo, it doesn't take a soothsayer to see that a calamitous fixture pile-up looms large. Gulp!

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

February has been so wet that it forced us indoors for the whole of the month, with the Company Section practising their drill. The practice paid off though and a very well done to Ed, Lewis, Tom and Kieran who brought home the Company Section Drill trophy. This was the first taste of competition in this section for Kieran and he was definitely the youngest there, so extra well done Kieran. We didn't fare quite so well in the first aid competitions, so more practice will be required before next year's event.

March sees the Juniors in action with their own figure marching and team games competitions on 29 March. So, much practice will be put into both of those activities over the next few weeks. Deddington is hosting the battalion five-a-side football competition for the Anchors on Saturday 8 March and we hope the budding footballers in that section will be out in force.

With Lent beginning this month, the Company Section will be flipping a few pancakes the first week of March and I wait to see who can come up with the most unusual **and** edible filling. If anyone can make a pancake stick to the church ceiling, there will be a very special prize.

Jen Childs, Leader, 337481
Jen.childs@btinternet.com

History Society

On 12 February, after yet another soaking in this wettest of winters, we were greatly cheered by Anthony Houghton Brown, who gave us a most entertaining talk on the subject of Justly Hill. What we all assumed was a place turned out to be a person, the Revd Justly Hill (died 1852), rector of Tingewick and Archdeacon of

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

Bucks. The querulous, snobbish, somewhat grasping Hill was one of the last old-style pluralists, residing on his other living at Shanklin on the Isle of Wight while employing a poorly paid curate to serve Tingewick. He appeared in Buckinghamshire once a year, for the Archdeacon's visitation. Mr Houghton Brown knew so much about him because he has acquired a treasure trove of letters and related papers, which he brought with him and which reveal a world that was pure Trollope. Mr Houghton Brown's presentation was greatly enhanced by rapid changes of costume that accompanied his readings. It was a most enjoyable evening.

On Wednesday 12 March Shaun Morley, who last year gave a very impressive talk on the history of Deddington's friendly societies, will return to speak on 'Oxfordshire's Swing Riots: Rural Unrest in 1830'.

As this is the year to remember World War 1 and the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Society is organising a trip to the National Arboretum, which commemorates all service personnel who have lost their lives fighting in wars from WW1 to the present day. The coach will leave Deddington Market Place at 8.00am on 6 June to arrive at the Arboretum in time for those who wish to attend the daily service. There is a restaurant, tea-room and an outdoor café. The coach will return at 4.00pm, arriving back between 6.00 and 7.00pm.

The cost is £15 for Society members or £18 for non-members, who are very welcome. The Arboretum does not charge, but relies on donations. If you want to book a place, please contact Moira Byast. You can ring her at 338637, or drop her a line at 5 The Lane, Hempton, Deddington, giving your phone number, the number of seats you require, and a £5 deposit per seat. Alternatively, you can see her at the next meeting of the Deddington and District History Society on Wednesday 12 March at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm.

Chris Day (Chairman) 337204
Moira Byast (Secretary) 338637

Book Group

In November we read *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins. This mystery, which hinges on the theft of an enormous gemstone, is often described as the first English detective novel. The author uses a variety of narrators, male and female and from different social backgrounds, to convey the story. The parts told by the house-steward, Betteredge, we considered the most entertaining. The style of writing is chatty and humorous and we found it easy to read once we had adjusted to the Victorian style. The majority of us enjoyed reading it and we got the sense that the author had thoroughly enjoyed writing it.

We have just finished reading *The Glass House* by Simon Mawer. The house in the title is based on The Villa Tugendhat in the now Czech Republic, a pioneering piece of architecture designed in the 1930s, which still exists as a museum today. This is a fictional account of the fortunes of those who lived

in or had connections with the house through the war years and on to the present day. It is well written and evokes a vivid picture of life in Europe and especially Czechoslovakia in the aftermath of the war. A majority of us thought that the sexual content of the book was overdone and detracted from the story as a whole.

The next book is *Stoner* by John Williams and the next meeting 27 March.

Sally Lambert
338094

HOME ENERGY OPTIONS

Should we be burning wood, gas or coal? Fracking has support in government and here's a possible reason. According to the government's statistics, North Sea gas production is in rapid decline, falling by nearly two-thirds since 2000. In 2012 we imported about four times more gas than we exported, mostly from Norway and Qatar. Of the electricity we used in 2012, 39% started life as coal, 28% as gas, 19% as nuclear and 11% renewables. A rise in wholesale gas prices saw energy suppliers switching back to coal. Yet the government wants CO₂ down 80% by 2050.

What to do? 27% of UK CO₂ emissions come from our homes. We all need electricity and winter warmth. Fracking could be an answer, although the film, *Gasland 2*, points to potential downsides. What options do homeowners have? Some are switching to a 100% renewable electricity tariff. Others are generating their own electricity and hot water with solar panels. Some are even using waste wood for space heating. The most determined are reducing their home's space heating requirement, so insulating themselves from future energy price hikes. To find out more about these low carbon trailblazers, visit www.superhomes.org.uk.

Gordon Glass 01908 256922
gordon@superhomes.org.uk

WINDMILL THURSDAY CLUB

We are looking for a coordinator to run this local club. It is a paid position for eight hours a week. Please contact Jim Flux on 338153 for further information.

SCAM ALERT

Greater Manchester Police have issued a warning not to dial area codes 0809, 0284, and 0876 from the UK. The 0809 is located in the Dominican Republic and apparently charges are £1,500 per minute. The scammers call with 'information' about family crises or wonderful prizes and ask to be called back. Your local phone company and long distance carrier are likely to tell you that they have simply provided the billing for a foreign company and leave you to deal with a foreign company that argues it has done nothing wrong. **CD**

DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL 2014

The 12th annual Deddington Festival will take place between Thursday 12 June and Sunday 22 June 2014. It will be a fun-packed ten days with many new additions to the programme. The summer festival offers a range of innovative music, performing and visual arts events and, for the first time, three new talent competitions, appealing to all ages and interests. Highlights of this year's programme and three competition opportunities to appear at the festival include:

World Scary Film Premiere and Budding Film Maker Competition

Friday 13 June in Deddington Church

Deddington was the location for the filming of a comedy horror film in 2013 and the director, Tony Joppia, is a village resident. The film will receive its world premiere at 9pm on Friday 13 June at Deddington Church, certificate 15. An open air family film will be screened in the Market Place at 5pm that afternoon.

For the first time the Deddington Festival is launching a film competition for budding film directors for two age categories – under 12 and under 18. Entries need to follow the theme of 'scary' with a maximum length of two minutes. For information on entering this competition go to www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk. The deadline for entries is Friday 16 May 2014. The winning entries to the film competition will be shown and awards presented to winners after the 5pm family film showing.

Deddington Rocks and Deddington Music Talent Show

Saturday 14 June from 2pm in the Market Place

One of the Festival's major events returns with a line-up of bands playing outside in the Market Place in front of audiences of 300 people, with barbecue, beers and bands from 6pm onwards. This year Deddington Rocks starts from 2pm with supporting bands and acts in the lead up to the main concert at 6pm. In addition, this year Deddington Rocks is launching a music talent show for 11–18 year olds from the local area. Entrants can be bands, a singer or a choir. For information on entering this competition go to www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk.

The deadline for entries is Wednesday 30 April 2014. All short-listed finalists will play on the big stage



in the Market Place from 2pm on Saturday 14 June to a panel of judges who will decide on the winning finalist. The winner will then have the excitement of opening the main event on the Saturday night on the big stage.

Deddington Writing Competition.

This year the festival is offering both adults and children the chance to put pen to paper and create some fiction or prose.

Open Writing Competition (adult)

The competition is open to everyone with a £3 fee per entry. There are two categories:

Flash Fiction: a concise story of up to 1,000 words on a subject of your choice.

A poem in any form of up to 100 words on a subject of your choice.

These must be the author's original work and not previously published. Entry deadline is Monday 14 April 2014.

Junior Writing Competition

The competition is free and open to children and young people in Oxfordshire in the following age groups: School Years 1–3, Years 4–6, Years 7–11. Entrants of primary school age should write a story of up to 300 words or a poem of up to 50 words based on a theme 'The door opened...'. Young people of secondary school age may use the same theme or can use a theme of their own choice.

Entry deadline is Monday 7 April 2014. All entries will be read by members or associates of the Deddington Writers Group who will draw up shortlists for independent external judges to select the winners. This year's prestigious judging panel includes published authors and prize-winning poets. The winning texts will be read out during an Award Ceremony on Sunday 22 June at 2.30pm in Deddington Parish Church. Entry forms for both categories can be downloaded from <http://www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk/what-s-on/writing-competition/>. Email enquiries to writerscompetition@deddingtonfestival.org.uk.

For further programme information please visit www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk. Follow on Facebook and twitter @DeddyFest.

Amalie Craig

amalie@amaliecraigpr.co.uk

DEDDINGTON PFSU AND NURSERY

During the first term of 2014 the PFSU children have been finding out about animals. We welcomed lots of pets into pre-school, found out all about them and asked their owners lots of questions. Thank you to all the pets and their owners who came to visit us. We also wrote to the vet and were pleased to welcome Juliet Owens into the setting to tell us all about her work. Thank you Juliet! We enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year at the end of January when we made lanterns and lucky money envelopes, created our own

dragon dances, and walked to the May Fu II Restaurant to see their New Year decorations and purchase a delicious Chinese meal. Thank you to the May Fu II for making us so welcome again. Our next fund-raising event will be a jumble sale at the Windmill Centre on Saturday 1 March between 11am and 1pm. Entry is free. Donations of jumble would be welcome and can be dropped off on the previous day between 9am and 2pm. We appreciate your support.

Lucy Squires 337484

HOW AFFORDABLE IS AFFORDABLE?

Over the past month the Neighbourhood Plan steering group has been investigating the vexed question of whether the 85 houses approved for the site north of Gaveston Gardens fulfil Deddington's share of Cherwell's target five-year supply of new housing.

Cherwell's planning panjandrums are bullish about this. Yes, the 'Pegasus 85' do count to the total. Yes, Cherwell is very close to the required five-year supply, and yes, they'll be judging new applications on planning considerations rather than the 'numbers game'.

This suggests Cherwell are reasonably confident they could make their planning decisions stick at appeal. A somewhat different picture emerges from the report by the inspector in the Pegasus appeal. He implies that he would have approved the appeal even if CDC's housing supply had not fallen short. 'I do not consider the proposal would have the adverse effect that has been suggested,' he writes. So there.

The inspector also adjudicated on the contributions – S106 they're called – that the developers will have to provide for the village, the district and the county, including, for example, £400,000-plus for local primary school and special educational needs, and £21,000 for improvements to the Windmill Centre. Crucially the inspector did not bow to the developer's wish to dilute their commitment to providing affordable housing. The site for affordable housing is still to be sold to the relevant housing association for £1.

There should be 29 'affordable' dwellings on the Pegasus site, 50% of them earmarked for Deddington people and most of them to rent. To be eligible for one of these homes, aside from having a proven connection to the parish, you must be on Cherwell's housing register, a hurdle in itself. To qualify you have to prove you are in pretty acute housing need: for instance, because of a medical state, or because you're currently living in substandard or overcrowded conditions.

Market rents in Deddington are notably higher than in, say, Banbury, so the NP's housing sub-group was concerned that 'affordable' might actually turn out to be unaffordable, given that affordable rents are generally defined as 80% of local market rents. It turns out these rents are set on a district-wide basis and should not exceed the 'local housing allowance'. In Cherwell this currently stands at £505.87 for a two-bedroomed house and £775 for three bedrooms.

There is now another planning application under consideration for Deddington – for seven houses on a plot of land behind the cottages on the east side of St Thomas Street. Several considerations that were not central to the Pegasus application come into play here – traffic, the conservation area, the proximity of listed buildings, the aspect to the Castle Grounds, and archeological possibilities. So far, by the way, there's no mention in the outline application of affordable housing. It will be interesting to see how this plays out – and perhaps indicative for the future.

Helen Oldfield helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW 2014

Our Parish Show is on Saturday 6 September this year. The programme, with a list of classes and entry forms, has been put on Deddington OnLine. There will also be flyers with just the Show classes in the church porch and some will be delivered this month to those faithful exhibitors who do not own computers.

The Show Committee has made changes this year, the main one being separating the Art from the Crafts section. The Deddington Craft Group has kindly donated a new cup which they have called the 'Stella Marmion Crafts Cup' after the lady who started the Group 20 years ago.

There have been wonderful exhibits in both sections and people love looking at them and admiring the work and time involved in creating them. So, there are quite a few additional classes to choose from. Hopefully lots of people will get going with pencils, paints, needles and fabric, wood, etc to create more lovely exhibits for this year's Show, as well as planning seed-planting for the produce and flower sections.

We have also changed some of the children's classes to foster new creativity and challenge them to achieve different skills.

Please support this big community event this year and let's make it even better than last year's success.

Wendy Burrows, Honorary Secretary
wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com




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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

A quiet month in the village. I did notice in February's Parish Council report that all the Parish's notice boards have been repaired and stained except, as I write, for the one in this village. The Fire Brigade was called out to one chimney fire recently. The Social Night on March 7, from 7.00pm, will include an open darts competition, so get your arrows sharpened and have a go. The table tennis team played three more games recently, winning two but losing heavily to a strong Bodicote team.

Despite the wet and windy weather, it's nice to see all the snowdrops coming up in the grass verges. They make a pretty sight.

In my last column I promised some information about our old school. The church was built in 1850-51 and the north aisle, now the Church Hall, served as a school for 60 children. On the site there was also a teacher's bungalow which was no more than a shack which fell into disrepair and was demolished in the 1960s.

The first teacher was Elizabeth French, a widow aged 48, who came from Bourton-on-the-Water. She had three children, Phillip aged 15, Elizabeth aged 9, and Clara aged 7. By 1861 her eldest daughter, Elizabeth, now 19, appears to have taken over as teacher from her mother, who had moved out to re-marry. In 1881 Clara, now 37, was also a school mistress and living on her own. By 1901, she was what was known as a National School Mistress and had a servant living with her. I could not find any record of Clara after this but I do know that the school closed in 1915, except for Sundays, and the children went to Deddington or Barford. Apparently, all the teachers at the village school were from the same family.

Les Chappell
338054

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WELL REMEMBERED

David Andrew Pearce 1962-2014

'Dave' Pearce lived in Deddington for the last 12 years of his life. He was born in Banbury as the fifth child in a very close family of six siblings. After leaving Drayton School he worked for some years for Industrial Hangars Ltd and then for some 19 years for the luxury car makers, Aston Martin. During that time he rose from entry as a production worker to quality control engineer; in his own words, 'from boiler suit to lounge suit and tie'. He also acquired a management qualification of degree standard. In the last few years he worked abroad frequently, vetting overseas suppliers and imported supplies, as well as setting up and closing down overseas manufacturing facilities. In 1994 he married Claire Steiner whose family has lived in Chapmans Lane for some eighty years. Even before he went to Aston Martin he had acquired a great interest in and knowledge of four- and two-wheeled vehicles and it was said of him that what he did not know about cars and motor cycles was not worth knowing. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Frank Steiner

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLOCATION

Deddington Parish Council asked Cherwell District Council how many of the Prudential's affordable houses will be for people with a Deddington connection and how that connection will be determined or will they simply be allocated to anyone in the CDC area on the basis of their need, with Deddington residents given no priority. Gary Owens, the Strategic Housing Officer replied as follows.

'In rural locations where the Council have secured affordable housing through planning gain we endeavour to allocate 50% of the affordable rented housing to those with a local connection to the immediate parish. This connection will be as detailed within the Council's Allocation Scheme:

Have lived in the parish for a period of at least six out of the last 12 months continuously prior to acceptance on to the Housing Register;

Previously lived in the parish for three out of the past five years;

Permanent employment within the parish;

Immediate family members who have lived in the parish for at least five years where there has been frequent contact, commitment and dependency, immediately prior to the date of application;

Have a special reason for needing to live in the area;

As you may appreciate we operate a Choice Based Lettings system and ultimately it will depend who bids on the properties at the time of them being advertised so, although we have a target of 50%, this is not always achievable.

Any residual housing will be allocated to anyone who has bid and is eligible for the properties on the general housing register.'

David Rogers David@blueskyday.biz