

May 2019

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

THE TEAM

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COVER

Alison Day

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Not only do we have two Bank Holidays to look forward to, at the time of writing we will also have two elections: on 2 May for local councils and on 23 May for the European Parliament. Should we be interested in either? The first is for District Wards and is an opportunity to have someone whose face you know to whom you can address local concerns. I will leave you to your own conclusions on the latter.

JC

May

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 1 | Photographic Society: 'Stumbling Around in the Dark', Robert Harvey, Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 2 | Knit and Natter: Holly Tree, 7.00pm |
| Fri | 3 | DOGS: Studley Wood Golf Club |
| Thu | 9 | Holly Tree Club: Film Night, <i>To Catch a Thief</i> , Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Thu | 9 | Deddington Players: AGM, The Deddington Arms, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 10 | Friends of Hempton Church: Pub Night, Old School Room, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 11 | Warriner Choral Society: 7.30pm at Deddington Church |
| Sun | 12 | Four Farms Challenge: Register 9.30am, Start 10.30am, Castle Grounds |
| Sun | 12 | Deddington Day Centre: Car Treasure Hunt £6 per person, Windmill, 10.30am onwards |
| Mon | 13 | Friends of Hempton Church: AGM, Old School Room, Hempton, 7.15pm |
| Mon | 13 | Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am |
| Mon | 13 | Bookworms: Library 6.30pm |
| Tue | 14 | WI: Sasha the Guide Dog, Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 15 | PC Meeting: Hempton Lounge, Windmill, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 15 | Photographic Society: Workshop 'Bring WoW Factor to Your Image', Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 16 | Concert: Parish Church, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 16 | History Society: 'The Malayan Campaign', David Hood, Primary School, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 16 | 1st Deddington Guides: Quiz Night, Banbury Town Hall, £5 per person |
| Fri | 17 | Chances: Comedy Night, Windmill, 7.15pm Bar, 8.00pm Show Starts |

Continued on p9

This Month's Cover

This month's image is about halfway round the Hempton loop and looks across the lovely Swere valley. The signpost is on the Hempton Road (B4031), reached after walking away from the Swere via Snakehill Lane to Hempton.

You can download a map of the walk from Cherwell District Council's website at www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/7931/deddington-circular-walk.

AlisonDay

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Holly Tree Club, Wednesday 17 April

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Eames, Higham, Oldfield, O'Neill, Reeve, Robinson, Rogers (Chair), Swadling, Timms and Watts. Also Cllr Williams (CDC) and Cllr Fatemian (OCC)

Out of three applicants for the vacant place on the council, Anne Kent was co-opted and welcomed to the council.

Planning Applications

No objection

Red Lion, Market Place, Deddington: Provision of fish and chip Takeaway servery to rear. Responsibility for emissions and possible litter should be taken.

The Willows, Chapel Close, Clifton: Single storey rear extension and conversion of detached garage to ancillary accommodation.

9 Flux Drive, Deddington: Single storey rear extension.

Jaydee House, 3 Chapman's Lane, Deddington: Renovation and extension and construction of double garage.

Charters House, High St, Deddington: Internal alterations to renovate to a domestic standard.

Former 2 Chapman's Lane, Deddington: Revise Plot 2 to include first floor windows to south elevation, alterations to first floor windows on west elevation and eaves height raised over bedroom 3.

The Firs, St Thomas St, Deddington: Extension and

re-planning of dormer bungalow and construction of garage. DPC would support the need for construction traffic to be parked on site, not on the public highway. Also, replacement of any fruit trees which are removed, wherever possible.

Objection

Four Winds, Main St, Clifton: Resubmission of previously refused application. No vehicular access to allow work to be carried out safely.

CDC Approvals

Steps Cottage, St Thomas St, Deddington: Change of use to holiday let.

Dragon Cottage, Tay's Gateway, Deddington: Single storey side extension.

Tchure Cottage, 10 High St, Deddington: Replacement of existing garage with garage studio/office above.

Castle House Cottage, 1 Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: Internal works.

Manor Farm House, Clifton: Minor internal alterations.

Compton Cottage, Philcote St, Deddington: Single storey rear and side extension.

CDC Refusals

19 The Paddocks, Deddington: Development of land to the rear.

Withdrawn

Tennis Courts, Windmill Centre: Variation of condition preventing the floodlights from being used on more than three nights per week.

Environment and Recreation

More volunteers are needed for the speedwatch programme.

A request from the Cricket Club for patches on the playing field to be repaired was sympathetically received but CC and the Football Club need to present the PC with a plan for annual maintenance.

There have been continued sightings of dogs on the playing fields. Could clubs using the facilities remind their members and visiting teams of the new restrictions.

Finance and General Purposes

£5,000 was agreed to help fund the restoration of the footpath from the church to the war memorial. The remainder will be covered by the Parochial Church Council and the Royal British Legion.

Highways and Transport

Two sites have been identified for 'Elderly People Crossing' signs between Hudson St and The Grove.

Next PC meeting: 7.30pm Wed 15 May in Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, Deddington.

The annual parish meeting is on 8 May 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.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2019.html>.



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FARMERS' MARKET

ASPARAGUS TWO WAYS

The English asparagus season traditionally runs from St George's Day, 23 April, to the summer solstice, 21 June this year. You can, of course, buy imported asparagus all year round but you will pay a great deal more for a great deal less.

English asparagus is considered some of the best in the world. It grows well here. Every gardener should consider planting a bed of it. It needs very little maintenance and will crop year after year (my current asparagus bed is in its thirteenth year). More importantly, it will allow you to pick your spears minutes before you cook them. This is important because the sugars that provide the flavour start turning into starch the moment you cut them. Freshly picked local asparagus is an annual treat: airfreighted Peruvian asparagus, available all year round, is at best pretty tasteless and at its worst bitter and nasty.

The other advantage of having your own asparagus bed is that it makes you friends. At the height of the season you may have to cut your crop twice a day (uncut spears swiftly grow into fern which you don't want to happen until the end of the season). Even the most resolute asparagus lover will start to balk at eating it twice a day. The only solution is to give away bunches of the glut to neighbours and friends. So I urge you to enjoy the brief season of local asparagus.

Some people feel that asparagus is a luxury vegetable that needs luxurious treatment – quite the opposite. Simple cooking lets it shine.

First the preparation: the lower part of the asparagus stem can be woody. Some cooks will laboriously peel away the fibrous skin but there is a quicker and more economical way to deal with it. If you bend a fresh asparagus stem it will snap around the start of the woody stem. You can swiftly separate the tender stem for the woody stem but keep both parts.

Put the woody stems into salted boiling water and cook until tender. Remove and reserve the stems and use the same boiling water to cook the tender stems –

a matter of a minute or two. Remove, drain and serve them with melted butter or a Hollandaise sauce (or dip them in a boiled egg – toast soldier style). Keep the water you cooked the asparagus in because now you can make Cream of Asparagus soup.

Cream Of Asparagus Soup

(from Jane Grigson's *Vegetable Book*)

Woody trimmings from a bundle of asparagus (cooked or uncooked)

100g chopped onion

1 clove of garlic, chopped

60g butter

1 tablespoon of flour

½ litre of asparagus cooking liquor

Salt, pepper, chopped parsley

6 tablespoons of whipping or double cream

Soften the onion and the garlic in the butter in a covered pan. Stir in the flour, then the asparagus liquor and the asparagus trimmings. Simmer until the maximum flavour is extracted (which will take longer if you are using fresh trimmings). Purée in a blender and pass through a sieve to remove any tough, stringy bits. Taste and season. If the flavour is thin a little white wine and a pinch of sugar can help.

Heat to just below boiling point then stir in the parsley and cream. You can garnish with a few asparagus tips if you have them or croutons – and perhaps a glass of white wine, an elegant dish for a summer's day.

The market is on Saturday 25 May from 9.00am to 12.30pm. The market webpage is www.deddington-farmersmarket.co.uk.

If you can't wait till then, there's always the Adderbury market on the second Thursday of each month at The Institute, The Green, Adderbury, 6.00–8.00pm. More details at www.market.adderbury.org. Good shopping!

Ian Willox

01869 337940

ian.willox@btconnect.com



History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

Doreen Stewart - Evacuee

I had the privilege of meeting Doreen Ashton (née Stewart) who was evacuated to Deddington in 1939 with her sister Joyce and the rest of Campbell Road School, Dagenham. Her class picture faces p.6 of the [Supplement to A Parish at War](#). Now aged 93, she still has very clear memories of this time and, like several of the girls in the school, married locally after the war and now lives near Oxford.

She has given permission for her story and some of her personal photos to be placed on DOL and in the Gallery. Of particular interest is the photo of her parents standing in front of the Home Guard's

tree trunk on wheels (not visible), which would have held up German tanks at Castle End corner while they were raked with fire from the Lewis machine gun hidden behind the wall. A photo of the intrepid Lewis gun team can be seen on [p.69 of A Parish at War](#).

Deddington Brass Band

A Harrogate brass band tuba player, Gavin Holman, who researches brass band history, sent us some information about our band's long history in the village.

Rob Forsyth

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Wine Time

Given the interesting times we are living in, what would it be like if we had to drink only wines made in the UK? Wine is made all over the country but the south and west of England and parts of Wales are where the stars tend to come from. I'm going to (almost) side-step English fizz, as its triumph is well known.

The challenge comes when looking at white, rosé and red wines. Are they any good? If good, are they worth it? Can they become more than a guilt purchase at the end of a day out at a vineyard? The last five years has seen them in supermarkets, wine merchants and on restaurant menus, so it's fair to say they have moved further into the mainstream. Prices are coming down and it is good to see a few UK wines dropping just below the £10 mark. If they are to get volume sales they need to compete head to head both on price and quality. There is still a way to go on price but what about quality? Should you bother with them yet?

My view at the moment is mixed. White and rosé wines are showing great quality and are well worth trying. The famous ones, such as Camel Valley, Three Choirs and Chapel Down, are widely available and all produce excellent white and rosé wines. Don't be put off by grape varieties you don't recognise – UK wine producers have had to experiment to find what grapes work best in our climate. However, I have yet to be given a big smile from a UK red wine. Despite using grapes that should work well here such as Pinot Noir I am yet to taste a red which is much above unexceptional and they are usually priced too high for even a 'support your local industry' purchase. By way of example, here are my views on two UK wine producers.

Ancre Hill, www.ancrehillestates.co.uk, has a glorious location in Wales not far from Monmouth. It produces a very good rosé. Crisp, clean, strawberries and cream flavours with matching aromas and a reasonable length of finish. At just below £20 it's not a bargain, but I bought several when I was there as it was really good. Their white (Chardonnay) was decent, but not something that made me sit up and say 'wow' and their red (Pinot Noir) was also not bad but quite average. Both of these were priced at over £25 which put them into the novelty purchase category in my book. It's not hard to find a reasonable white burgundy and a very decent Chilean pinot noir at less than half that price which are significantly more enjoyable. They will get there on the red, I am sure, but they were not there when I visited about a year ago.

It was great to see a winery I had not heard of before at our Farmers' Market so I thought I'd mention it here. My tasting was based on what I experienced at the market as I have yet to go to the vineyard. Little Oak Vineyard is a small, relatively new, vineyard in Chipping Campden. They were showing off a fizz, whites from different vintages and a brandy.

Little Oak use two grape varieties that are not com-

mon. For their fizz they use Seyval Blanc with a small addition of their other variety, Siegerrebe, which they use on its own for their white wine. What is interesting is neither of these grape varieties is famous for producing anything other than run of the mill wines in Europe. Outside the UK Siegerrebe is known to produce quite dull and flabby white wines without enough acid backbone. Not so for Little Oak, who have done really well with them. (Three Choirs also produce a decent Siegerrebe – showing it likes the UK climate.)

So, what were the wines like? They are very much 'of a style'. I like the style and the white wines are well made (in particular the more recent vintages). If you don't like quite floral, aromatic wines (think Viognier, Gewurztraminer or Muscat) you may not agree. The more recent vintages showed what is possible with the wines giving a good expression of floral and white fruit flavours. They are fresh, clean and very drinkable. I liked them. At £14/bottle I think they are at the edge of an acceptable price but a little high. (The fizz, by the way, was good but would have gained complexity from some more bottle age – £24/bottle.)

The star of the Little Oak selection for me was, however, their brandy (£24/half bottle). It was surprisingly smooth for only two years aging (same as a VS cognac) and the distillation had clearly been gentle, as they have kept the floral aspects from the wine used. The complexity of the flavours shone through. Another three or four years in the barrel would produce something really special. I liked their wines and loved their brandy. Next time you are at the farmers' market I hope they are there and you can give Little Oak Vineyard a try. They deserve every success.

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Charles.elvin@btopenworld.com

Friends of Hempton Church and Old School Room AGM

Everyone in Hempton is welcome to our upcoming AGM on Monday 13 May at 7.15pm in the Old School Room, behind the church, which will be accompanied by wine and nibbles.

Would you like a say in the development of the Old School Room as a community hub for our village? If so, please come along. We are looking for others to join our small committee and we are particularly keen to hear your ideas, whether or not you decide to join the committee. In the meantime, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

We are also planning another pub night in the Old School Room on Friday 10 May from 7.30pm, always a convivial evening with friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome.

Janet Watts, Vice Chair

wattsfamily1997@gmail.com

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

May

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon–Fri 8.45am Morning Prayer (also on the first Saturday of the month)
 Wed 10.00am Holy Communion (with prayers for healing on the fourth Wednesday of the month)
 Thu 30 7.00am Ascension Day Service from the top of the Church Tower followed by Breakfast
 Sun 5 10.30am Family Service
 6.00pm Sung Evensong
 Sun 12 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 19 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion – Informal Said Service

Hempton

Sun 5 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 26 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Barford St Michael

Sun 5 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 19 10.30am Family Service
 Sun 26 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 12 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

24 March Joshua Ellis Woodfine-Jones
 Jude Oliver Woodfine-Jones

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at [vicar@ deddingtonchurch.org](mailto:vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (01869 338367) or Dave Hughes (01869 347294). We also have a Curate, Reverend Paula Smith who can be contacted on curate@deddingtonchurch.org.

RC Parish of Hethe

Revd Robert Hughes

01295 720869 or 07766 711969

There is no longer a resident or full-time incumbent at Hethe. A non-resident priest will say one Mass on Sundays at 10.00am.

Mass is said at 9.00am on Sunday at SS Peter and Paul's Anglican church in King's Sutton.

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. There are also Masses said at 8.45am and 10.45am on Sundays at St John's. Additional services at St Joseph's are on Sundays at 10.00am and 5.30pm.

PFSU and Village Nursery

During the last few weeks we have celebrated Mothers Day and Easter. The Nursery children invited their mums in for coffee and cake, and enjoyed involving them in various craft activities. It was lovely that so many mothers could join us for the morning.

The following week we held our Easter Parade where the children showed off their home-made Easter bonnets, sang some Easter songs and took part in an Easter egg hunt in the garden. We also enjoyed having our mums in at pre-school where they enjoyed a snack made and served by the children, as well as being given some craft work.

We have had lots of vehicles to visit us at both settings this term, including a motorbike, police car, fire engine and Morris pickup. We'd like to thank everyone who brought in vehicles to see us, and also everyone who supported our successful car boot sale.

Lucy Squires
01869 337484

SKITTLES EVENING

The first session of this new event is on

Thursday 23 May at 7.00pm

in the church

Come and have a go and help with suggestions for its development in the future

Drinks will be available
 at modest prices

Any enquiries to Wendy Burrows

01869 338082

Down on George's Farm



April showers (lambing storms) bring forth May flowers, but what happened to February 'Fill dyke' and the March winds? It seems as if the first named storm of the year came in like many of our politicians, full of wind but little content.

With the Clifton flock of ewes and lambs back in the river meadows and

the rooks nesting high in the Bowman's bridge rookery, something that was always reckoned to indicate a dry summer, the indications are not looking good for a good crop year. As I put finger to keypad before I get a gentle reminder from the editor, the spring crops have been planted and the North Aston flock has made a start, so once again it's all hands on deck.

By the time this hits the doormat it should all be over, the lambing, that is. But the rest of the nonsense is an ongoing matter. I have been involved with lambing sheep for over 60 years. With the extension of the extension, we may find an EU market for them this time around, but perhaps it's time for a rethink of the future of the last livestock enterprise in Clifton and put the river valley meadows under the plough, something that would break my heart but the landlord still demands his rent.

When I first arrived at Clifton the Deddington estate encompassed some 1,800 acres, from the river to well beyond Hempton and down into Barford. All the farms had livestock enterprises, but today we are one of the few that still farms the estate. Most of the land has been sold off, either for development or as farmland so the estate has been asset-stripped. We have a protected three generation tenancy, covering Home Farm, Manor Farm and Apletree Farm, with me being the first and the Farm Student being the third generation, so we could be around for a bit longer yet, ho hum.

The curlew are back although a bit later than anticipated. We also have a number of swallows taking up residence in the farm buildings, a welcome sight. After a open winter the farm is still very dry with little water in the river valley and dykes. With spring marching on, the hedgerows are coming into leaf and will soon be covered with May blossom. The farmyard birds are well on with the job with the blackbirds and song thrushes on their singing posts, so all we need now is the return of the swifts and house martins and then summer can really get started. The hay meadows will be shut up at the beginning of May, ready for cutting at the start of July and then it will be time to crank the Green Goddess for harvest, but there is a lot to do before then and the Old Man needs to get some fishing in.

As the weather warms up, just a gentle reminder that the river valley fields and the grass lands of North Aston will be home to many hundreds of ewes and lambs, as well as cows and their offspring, so please keep your dogs on leads and take a stick with you and don't be afraid to use it. The cows are after the dog, not you, to protect their young so let it go, it can run faster than you. Better still, don't walk your dog among livestock. It's worth mentioning that all of the farms in this neck of the woods are involved in some way in environmental protection schemes and that rather rough-looking headland strip is there for the wildlife. Many of our ground-nesting farmland birds and summer visitors use them, so a loose dog hunting out the strip can do a lot of damage. That deer fawn you may come across has not been abandoned, the doe will not be very far away, so don't touch it, just take a look or a photo. Leave your headphones attached to an iPlayer at home and you will hear the springtime birds and the call of the roe deer warning her fawn of your approach.

George Fenimore
01869 338203

Mbawemi Women's Project – Malawi

Since we told the story of our experience in Malawi in the February *DN*, a lot has happened in southern Malawi and its neighbouring countries, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. One of the worst tropical cyclones, 'Idai', caused catastrophic damage and huge loss of life when it ripped through the area. The long-lived storm left more than 1,000 people dead and thousands more missing.

We have been in regular contact with our friends in Malawi and they have confirmed the devastation that the cyclone has had on their crops, their houses and their health. Mzuzu in the north seems to have escaped the worst of the rains and our community farm was mainly unscathed, so we hope the crops will be ready for harvesting in May and June as planned, although maybe the yield will be less than originally expected.

We are happy to say that the Mbawemi website is now up and running and we would love the Deddington community to visit the site and catch up on the latest goings on, please visit: www.malawiwomensproject.org.

As part of the fundraising efforts for Mbawemi in 2019, Peter is setting off this month on a trek to Everest Base Camp in Nepal. He flies to Kathmandu, then to Lukla, from where he starts the trek where the altitude rises over six days from 3,000 to 6,000 metres on arrival at Base Camp. Peter will be sending us his photos and diary notes from Nepal which will be posted on the website. Thank you for reading.

Jenny Soddy
jennysoddy@gmail.com

LETTERS

FROM SUZANNE ALLAN

As someone who enjoys the serenity of Deddington churchyard, I was disappointed to see that some changes had taken place. Trees and shrubs had been chopped down at all but two of the gateways, including two variegated hollies by the gate that leads to the cemetery; and the once beautiful Arbutus (strawberry tree near the east end of the church) which flowered so magnificently last year has been made to look ridiculous by the injudicious pruning it received.

I understand from a reliable authority that the intention for this felling was: to open up the churchyard, allowing a better view of the church and letting more light into the churchyard; to bring uniformity to the trees to comply with the yews; that it was not the intention to let the Arbutus get such a hacking – just that the tree operatives were left to do the work unsupervised; discussions are taking place as to how to alter the height of the row of limes at the far end of the churchyard. There are more trees to be felled next year.

While maintenance work on the trees in the churchyard is clearly necessary, what is due to take place strikes me as a fundamental re-structuring of the area which will totally alter its atmosphere. I take an op-



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letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
and include your name and address
even if they are not for publication

posing view to the removal of trees to allow a better view of the church. The churchyard was (and at the moment still is) a peaceful and secluded place where the trees seemed to give shelter to the long departed with their wonderfully crooked gravestones.

In my view the variety of trees in the churchyard contributes to the interest. Uniformity is often dull and in this case complicity with the dark, gloomy yews is a disappoint-

ing policy. If it is light that is sought, why not remove a self-seeded yew sapling or two, and leave some Irish yews and the laburnum?

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL

'All mums should live', says Jebbeh Konneh in Sierra Leone on the red Christian Aid Week envelope to be delivered from 12 May. Jebbeh's own sister lost her life giving birth; Jebbeh, with a month to go, feared the same fate. Saving lives is what Christian Aid does 24/7, and also responds when disasters strike such as Cyclone Idai - the worst ever in the Southern hemisphere.

Please fill the red envelope when it arrives and the GiftAid form too, if possible, ready for collection – or give online at caweek.org. Together let's beat last year's grand total from our villages of £2,426.93.



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01608 489000

High Street
Bloxford OX15 4LU
01295 404040

Deddington Open Gardens National Garden Scheme 2019

Hoping to beat last year's success, the pressure is on again for the three Deddington gardens opening for the National Garden Scheme (NGS). On 25 May from 2.00–5.00pm, whilst hopefully basking in the summer sun, visitors will be able to peruse the charming plots of the Satin Lane Allotments, as well as the lovely gardens of Rushall House (Earls Lane/Castle Street) and Castle End House, Castle Street. Combined admission £5, children free.

In addition to beautiful gardens and allotment plots, the team at Rushall House, led by the superb duo, Lynda and David Lake-Stewart, will be working to provide visitors with hot tea and a selection of home-made cakes. Similarly, the team on Satin Lane allotments, managed by Angie Lane and fellow allotment holders, will be present to chat all things GYO, as well as manage a booming grow-your-own plant stall. And if that's not enough to tempt you, an extensive plant sale of quality perennials will be held at Castle End House.

Founded in 1927 in England, the NGS opens gardens in England and Wales for charity. Since its foundation total donations to nursing charities will exceed

£55 million. Remarkably, the funds are all raised by generous gardeners voluntarily opening their gardens or allotments. In 2018 the NGS will donated a record £3.1 million to the beneficiary charities which include the Queen's Nursing Institute, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Perennial, Parkinson's UK and MS Society. The funds raised are not only vital to the beneficiaries but in the case of Hospice UK, Marie Curie and Macmillan, the NGS is their largest single donor. By visiting an NGS listed garden and indulging in some of the sweet wares or plants on offer, you are supporting some of Britain's most vital nursing and caring charities.

For more information on the NGS, please visit <https://www.ngs.org.uk/>. Deddington gardens are listed with further details and photographs. For more information on open gardens in the area, the new 2019 NGS Oxfordshire booklets are available free of charge in the library, Nicholsons Nurseries and Cotefield Nursery.

Petra Hoyer Millar

petra@oxoniangardener.co.uk

Tales from the Pump



'So what is MUP?' asked John, one of my more inquisitive customers. Being the fountain of all knowledge, I could tell him. 'It stands for Minimum Unit Pricing for alcoholic drinks. They introduced it in Scotland last May, following predictions made by researchers at Sheffield University whose modelling underpins political support for this policy. They projected MUP would cut unit consumption per head by 3.5% and by 7% for harmful drinkers.' 'So

did prices go up?' asked a worried John.

'At 50p a unit it really only affected cheap own-label products, special cut-price promotions and strong white ciders and lagers in supermarkets. So the lower income Scots who could only afford the cheaper own label products were being priced out of reach. Of course pubs were all pricing their drinks above the 50p a unit (even Wetherspoons) so didn't need to increase their prices. This is why CAMRA [Campaign for Real Ale] is supporting MUP for England. I think it's wrong for CAMRA, a leading light in the business of quality beers, to be supporting any unproven measure for knocking back alcohol consumption.'

'OK, you would', said John, as he passed his glass over for another pint of Hooky, 'but I guess the case for MUP is proven now in Scotland?'

'Not really', I explained. 'Stats from IRI for the first six months of MUP versus the same period a year ago show value of alcohol sales up 10.5%, volume up 3.8% and units have increased by 16.8 million. MUP supporters say the increases are down to the Scottish drinkers keen to cheer on England in the World Cup.'

Even the Grumpy Landlord (and John) laughed at that one!

grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

Lies, damned lies and statistics? Ed



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Friends of Deddington Library

We'd like to thank Mr Choudhry and his team at Bengal Spice for their incredible generosity in hosting our FoDL curry night. The evening was a great success with 40 people attending in aid of the library, so a very big thank you to our loyal supporters. We are fortunate to have people and businesses within our parish who support the library and other worthy causes in our community. Our evening raised an impressive £884, for which we are extremely grateful, thank you.

As May approaches and the weather continues to improve, the leaves are out and the blooms are adding colour to our gardens and landscapes, the perfect combination to inspire all the aspiring photographers in and around the parish. So get your cameras and mobile phones out to capture spring at its best.

We've already received a quite a number of entries to our photo competition but the improving weather and the spread of colour will provide us all with more opportunities to capture a potentially winning photograph. Please send them in for consideration.

Entries need to be high resolution JPGs saved at 300dpi and ideally no less than 5Mb. You can submit your images on a CD/DVD to Stella in the library or send them to me. Thank you.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

WHAT'S ON

Continued from p1

Thu	23	Skittles: Parish Church, 7.00pm
Sat	25	Farmer's Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Sat	25	NGS: Deddington Open Gardens, Satin Lane Allotments, Rushall House, Castle End House, 2.00–5.00pm
Mon	27	RBL: Social, Red Lion, 6.30pm–8.00pm
Thu	30	Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details

June

Mon	3	Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Mon	3	Bookworms: Library, 6.30pm
Wed	5	Thames Valley Police Community Forum: Deddington Fire Station, 6.30pm
Wed	5	Photographic Society: Verity Milligan, Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm
Thu	6	Knit and Natter, Holly Tree, 7.00pm
Thu	6–	Deddington Festival
Sun	9	
Sun	9	Deddy-Car-Fest: Market Place, 10.30am–4.30pm
Sun	9	Deddington Town FC Youth: Presentation Day, Windmill, from 2.00pm
Mon	10	DOGS: Olton Golf Club



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Nearly there ...

The children's play park is nearly finished. The main contractors, Creative Play, have finished the snagging list and Trevor Stewart's robinia timber multi-activity piece is looking terrific with its windmill-themed climbing wall. The woodland trail pieces are already being tried out (by adults as well as the kids), and the copse will look even better when more bark chippings are spread around the base of the equipment and on the path. Huge thanks to the bark-spreading team for their heroic efforts so far.

But – and there's always a big 'but' – the ground is still looking pretty grim and it needs another round of effort to get it looking presentable. The grass areas must be thoroughly raked to remove stones and fill in the pits and ruts; fine topsoil worked in to the roughest parts and more grass seed applied to bare areas; and weeds need to be tackled across the site. We need another month at the very least, preferably longer, until there is noticeable grass growth and maybe it's



had the first mow. The slide mound will be fenced off for a while longer to let the grass seed take. So, as long as the fencing is there, please keep out. I know it's tempting but please give it a chance, otherwise there will be issues with muddy ground forever.

The buffer zone has been planted – again please respect this and give the trees and shrubs a fighting chance to survive and grow. This and the newly seeded areas are being intensively watered in this dry weather.

In the building, new heaters have been installed in the main hall. They're efficient, quieter, easy to operate and should make a huge difference. Previously you either froze or couldn't hear yourself speak. And we have new safety compliant fire doors and a much more substantial rear door near the Parish Council office. More refurbishments are on the way.

Mary Robinson

Chair, Windmill Development Group
development@windmillcentre.org

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA**Immigrants, Farming and Free Dining**

Trump's America is a funny place. People are inured to the unrelenting nature of the President's daily outbursts and things that would have been huge issues in past years with more dignified Presidents pass without mention. Last week five people asked me what was going to happen with Brexit. It's as if they would rather dwell on the mess in the UK, rather than the one on their doorsteps.

One of the oddest things is America's relationship with their immigrant population. I read with great interest in last months *DN* the obituary to a unique and really wonderful human being. Frank Steiner was an immigrant who contributed so much to Deddington. Last week we were in San Antonio, Texas, and all the restaurant and hotel staff were of Latino origin. I chatted to a number and everyone seemed very nice, apart from the gardener at the Alamo, who didn't understand my enquiry as to what she was looking for in the bushes. I felt like an idiot. Texas is also largely Trump country.

In the prairie states of Iowa and Kansas, farmers rely on workers from south of the border, and the really strange thing is that around 50% of them are illegally staying in the US. But the same farmers voted overwhelmingly for Trump, who wants to remove all these folk and build a wall to keep them out. If this happened their businesses would fold in weeks.

Farming is undoubtedly quite different in the US. The average farm is ten times the size of a UK farm. There are obviously a large number of cows but no

sheep. For some strange reason Americans don't eat lamb. Ninety-seven per cent of American farms are family owned, but many are close to the poverty line, and the families are supported by several government programmes. Some have been badly hit by the trade war with China, with the Administration bailing out farmers with a \$12bn aid programme.

A steak in America is so much bigger and better than in Europe, not only because of the gluttony. It is also down to the growth hormones that are fed to the cattle. Organic farming is still small, only 1% of land is certified organic but, despite some progress, many Americans are wary of paying the extra cost for healthy food. There are fewer controls over some basic foods. Washing chickens with chlorine is common and 'up to 4% of a can of cherries can be maggots', see <https://www.businessinsider.com/food-maggots-fda-2017-9>.

Our last neighborhood dinner was in a nice restaurant a couple of miles away to celebrate a birthday. The service in the US is normally excellent but it took 25 minutes to get us all a drink and, when we hadn't even managed to order food after one-and-a-half hours, I told the manager we were leaving. The result was a free dinner including free alcohol for all of us. When we got up to leave the men insisted on leaving a \$100 tip. Strange folks these Americans: they are unrelentingly polite and want to tip poor service, but not to thank the immigrants who built their country. As you will no doubt realise, I told them exactly what I think. It appears I have no drinking mates. Again.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

Holly Tree Club

Phone calls for bookings and enquiries should use our new number, 07907 020486, so that any one of us can manage the bookings if Hugh Blythe is away. If you usually use Hugh's personal number for bookings, would you please update your records to use the new number instead?

Our next film on 9 May in association with Age UK is that great 1955 classic, *To Catch a Thief* with Cary Grant and Grace Kelly. Notorious and handsome cat burglar, John (Cary Grant), has retired to tend vineyards on the French Riviera. When a series of robberies is committed in his style, John must clear his name. Armed with a list of people who own the most expensive jewels in the area, John begins following the first owner, young and beautiful Francie (Grace Kelly). When her jewels are stolen, Francie suspects John, destroying their tentative romance. John goes on the run to catch the thief and clear his own name.

There's no need to be a member or to book to see the film, just come along. All over 55s will be made welcome. The cost is £2 for refreshments on the night.

Our Monday morning coffee club for the over 55s is held on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am. However, the May meeting will be on Monday 13 May as the first Monday is a Bank Holiday. This is our AGM and will start at 10.15am with coffee and cakes, before the AGM, starting promptly at 10.30am.

For Club enquiries, please contact Diana Marshall on 01869 337761 or info@TheHollyTreeClub.org. For booking enquiries, please contact Hugh Blythe on 07907 020486 or Bookings@TheHollyTreeClub.org.

Rev Annie Goldthorp, Interim Chair

Friends of the Castle Grounds

The AGM was held on 27 March and we now have a new treasurer, Mike Robinson, and a new secretary, Susie Carrdus. Welcome.

We discussed plans for Castle Grounds next year. The committee has commissioned a survey through Garden Organic, which will inform us what needs to be done now and offer ideas for the future.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Jean Welford on 01869 338539 or download a membership form at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/clubs/friendsofcastlegrounds>. Come and join like-minded people to look after and enjoy this historic site.

Friends of the Castle Grounds will be a holding a tombola stall at the Four Farms Challenge on 12 May. Donations are welcome. If you have any bottles or any other items, please contact Carol Horlock on 07740 983453. She will be happy to collect them or you can leave items at 24 Gaveston gardens.

Castle Grounds is bursting into life, so come and enjoy the lighter evenings and have a stroll around this around this wonderful peaceful site.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

We held our 12th AGM during the April meeting at the Cartwright Hotel. With about 35 members present, the chairman reported that we have had a successful year with the membership now at 56 including twelve new members. The committee presented reports on the previous year's activities and Martyn Pearce stated that the club is financially sound, and that the annual subscription would be held at £30. Workshops have been well attended, particularly those run by experienced members. Gail Girvan, Paul Brewerton and Khatia Bardy-Wood have stepped down from committee and four new members, Diana Saville, Maureen Robinson, Lindsey Smith and Meriel Flux, were elected to the committee.

Activities continued with a 'What Is It?' quiz. Members submitted close-up photographs or pictures at confusingly odd angles for the audience to identify. Fifty-three imaginative pictures were displayed, ranging from domestic kitchen equipment and car parts to the massive anchor on an aircraft carrier. This enjoyable quiz provided lots of amusement, puzzlement and comment. The next meeting is on 1 May at 7.30pm in the Apricot Room, the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. All are welcome, come along and see what we do.

Paul Brewerton

www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington Bookworms

The Bookworms latest read was *A Woman's Work* by Harriet Harman. As the longest-serving female MP, Harriet charts her career from the 70s to present day. Her feminism and fight for equality are evident throughout the book; she has worked for equal pay, employment rights for women and better representation of women in parliament.

She is critical of the early Labour movement she became a part of, highlighting misogyny and sexism in the Westminster of the late 70s, but goes on to chart the changes experienced during the Blair/Brown years. There are some interesting descriptions of the machinations of a party in government and she doesn't hold back from criticising Peter Mandelson, David Miliband, John Prescott and the current Labour leadership.

We felt this was an interesting but long read, about politics from a woman's point of view; it certainly wasn't a party-political broadcast on behalf of the Labour party. We would recommend the book but be aware she was a lawyer first (so there are a lot of facts). Whilst wordy, with perhaps too many acronyms, she portrays the tenacity and strength required to exist in Westminster and reminds everyone that equality, on many levels, is still a work in progress.

Our next book is *All the Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan.

Deddington Library 01869 338391

Women's Institute

At our April meeting the speaker was Julia Miles, a retired diplomat's wife, who gave an interesting and informative talk which was also highly amusing, about her husband's diplomatic postings and her ragbag of clothing, not knowing quite what to take with her. The postings were often in uncomfortable trouble spots: Aden, rebelling against the British; Cyprus in EOKA (the Greek Cypriot nationalist guerrilla organisation) times, and Saudi Arabia where she endured two weeks' house arrest with two children after Yvonne Fletcher's death in London. In Luxembourg she was threatened by the Italian Red Brigade, she was in Ireland during the IRA attacks and Libya under Colonel Gaddafi. The last posting was Greece, which was the most enjoyable.

Ceremonies were important. On taking up a posting you 'kissed hands' with the Queen before leaving – not an actual kiss but a private and confidential talk. On arriving on station, you 'presented your credentials' to the ruler. There was usually full diplomatic rig for the diplomat and smart afternoon dress for the wife. However, Luxembourg insisted on wives in full evening dress plus a hat at 11.00am.

At our meeting on 14 May, Sasha, the Guide Dog, will visit us, accompanied by her fosterers. We meet every second Tuesday in the Holly Tree Club at 7.30pm and welcome new members. Please ring Jenny Cox on 01869 337015 or Jenny Cross on 01869 337613 if you would like to join us.

Moira Byast

Local Vocals Community Choir

Our first term has been a rip-roaring success and ended with a special performance to friends and family. Our renditions of *Cecilia*, *Mingulay Boat Song* and *Sloop John B* were enthusiastically applauded and were followed by audience participation. Thank you to everyone who came and made the evening so special.

If you have thought about joining a choir but are not sure, we'd love to see you. There's no obligation to join – just pop in one Monday to see if it's for you. Each 90 minute session starts with a warm-up. You can sing in which ever part you like, tops, middles or bottoms. There is no audition or need to be able to read music as we learn by ear. We end with refreshments, the chance to get to know other in the choir and leave with big smiles. All adults wishing to spend time in a relaxed group singing away the cares of the day are welcome. Mondays at 7.30pm during term time at Deddington Primary School. Next term starts again on 29 April. For more details, contact me.

Alison Grieve

alisongrmail@gmail.com

RBL Branch Report

We are pleased to welcome recent new members

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p12

David Bird, Norman Drake, Peter Farley, Roy Hart, Hugh O'Donnell and Mike Smail.

At our first social evening we enjoyed an hour-and-a-half of chat and agreed it was worth continuing but invite everyone to put £5 in a roll-over kitty. The meeting on Monday 27 May will be at 6.30pm in the Red Lion.

Barrie Clifford is now our Branch Community Support Officer, 01869 337575. If you know of any ex-service or RBL members or their families who need help in the community, please contact Barrie or any Branch Officer and we will take it from there.

Wendy Burrows is resurrecting the former Club skittles evenings in the church. The first session is on Thursday 23 May at 7.00pm. Liquid refreshments will be available for cash. If it proves popular Wendy would like to see teams competing in a league.

Rob Forsyth, Chairman, 01869 338384
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Deddington Players

Our AGM will be on Thursday 9 May at 7.30pm at the Deddington Arms. We'll be discussing the recent pantomime and plans for forthcoming performances such as our autumn production and next season's panto. Please join us if you are a member, non-member who wants to get involved, or would like to put yourself forward for a committee role. Let me know if you would like to attend.

Suzie Upson
suzieupson@mac.com

Book Group

The Devil's Advocate by Morris West is set in southern Italy in the years after WW2. The inhabitants of a remote and impoverished village believe that their local hero, Giacomo Nerone, should be canonised. He was a charismatic stranger who sought shelter in the village during the war. He provided enormous practical and moral support to the villagers but was executed by Communist partisans. That he fathered an illegitimate child is controversial but there are rumours of a miracle. Blaise Meredith, an austere English priest, whose career has been spent working in the Vatican, is sent to sort out the facts from the fiction.

Although written in the fifties, the novel still feels relevant today, when issues of faith, celibacy and homosexuality continue to occupy the Catholic Church. Meredith's obligation to engage with a variety of characters brings into focus other themes, such as loneliness, friendship, conflict, guilt and compassion. That Meredith is himself suffering from terminal cancer adds an extra dimension.

Although West did not complete the training, he had intended to become a priest and retained his faith throughout his life. The knowledge gained is evident in the dialogue between Meredith and clerical colleagues.

West describes vividly the harshness of life for poverty-stricken peasants. There are some complex and memorable characterisations, in particular of Meredith and of Aldo Meyer, a Jewish doctor who befriends him. We all found this an intriguing and compelling book.

On Thursday 30 May we will be discussing *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* by Kate Atkinson. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details.

Sian Waterman

Deddington and District History Society

On 21 March Tom Fort, journalist and author of ten books, spoke to us about the background to his most recent book, *The Village News*. First impressions suggest that this might be another cosy and superficial account of rural life, but Tom has taken an interestingly different and revealing approach: he chose to examine villages that have previously been written about, making cold-eyed comparisons with how they are today. He has tried to establish why it is that some villages thrive while others are moribund. His talk was illuminating, not least because his journalistic training enabled him to establish a rapport with interviewees who were prepared to unburden themselves to him in a way that they would to few others. It also helped that his chosen method of transport was a bicycle rather than a car. A highlight was his entertaining account of the struggle (happily successful) with rapacious developers, those modern pantomime villains, in his own village of Sonning Common. He was preaching to the converted on that one.

On Thursday 16 May David Hood, a well-known Deddington figure, will speak on 'The Malayan Campaign', fought between 1948 and 1960, and about his personal involvement. We meet in Deddington Primary School at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Enquiries to Barrie Smith, Chairman, 01869 337813.

Chris Day

SPORT

Deddington Tennis Club

As the sun and warmer weather start to put in an appearance, things are really hotting up at the Tennis Club. Spring through to summer is our busiest time, with league matches, coaching programmes and club sessions galore available to players of all standards.

We've now also added two new Cardio Tennis sessions to our programme on Wednesdays at 9.30–10.30am and Saturday mornings at 10.15–11.15am. Cardio Tennis is a high energy workout and both sessions are open to members and non-members. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact me. Your level of tennis doesn't matter at all – a good workout is the name of the game, with a bit of simple tennis thrown in to help facilitate it.

Our junior and adult coaching programme is also going great guns, including a regular beginners group

SPORT*Continued from p13*

session on Friday evenings. If you'd like to find out more or sign up to one of the coaching programmes, please contact our head coach, Paul Taylor, at paultaylor@hotmial.co.uk.

You don't have to be a member to play at the club. Our courts are available to book for just £5/hr via the Cyclogical Shop on Hudson Street (thank you James for your continued support).

And finally, a date for your diary: our Open Day will be on on Sunday 21 July this year where coaching, cardio and free play taster sessions will be run free of charge throughout the afternoon.

I hope to see you over the coming months.

Ed Toll, Chair

chairman@deddingtontennis.com
www.deddingtontennis.com

Deddington Town Football Club**First Team Results:**

16.03.19	Bodicote Sports (h)	W 6–0
23.03.19	Bishops Itchington (a)	L 1–4
30.03.19	Charlton & District (h)	D 2–2
06.04.19	Chasewell Park (a)	D 1–1
09.04.19	Bishops Itchington (h) (CUP)	L 0–5

Reserve Team Results:

23.03.19	Bloxbury Athletic First (h)	D 1–1
30.03.19	Banbury Galaxy First (a)	L 0–2

Alas, the runes were right. All the promise of the season has evaporated, with the First Team falling foul of runaway division leaders, Bishops Itchington, in both league and cup. This is a side undefeated at the time of writing and leading the Premier Division by 14 points. A good run to the season's end could see Deddington finish runners-up though. The Reserves battled away to gain a point against Bloxbury which, although it was only Bloxbury's second point in total, represents a great improvement on the Reserves' previous two consecutive forfeits. In fact, a positive couple of results in their last two fixtures should see them safe from relegation which, given their traumatic season, would be a shot in the arm for next season, where DTFC will be expecting some new young prospects to step up to the challenge of returning the mighty Reserves to the glory of a decade past.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

All our teams play in the Witney and District Youth Football League. The Under 15s have suffered a few heavy defeats in recent weeks but managed a hard-earned 2–2 draw with Chesterton, both goals coming from Xavier-Rhys Petrasidis. The Under 14s have been without games the past few weeks and have two games left for the season. The Under 12s had a 2–1 win over Easington Sports followed by a narrow 3–4 home defeat to Witney Vikings despite leading 2–0 at half time, with two goals for Jack Kimber.

Get into coaching

Ever thought about getting into youth football coaching? We are looking for volunteers to help coach the Under 7s and Under 6s for the 2019/20 season starting in September. We train at the Windmill on Saturday mornings. The club will help you with your FA Level 1 in Coaching to give you the skills to succeed. For more information call me on the number below.

Deddington Town Youth presentation day

We are planning our Youth Presentation Day which will take place at the Windmill Centre on Sunday 9 June from 2.00pm. We are looking for local companies to sponsor the event – trophies, event programme, or the event overall. If you are interested, email me for further information. Thank you again to those businesses which supported us last year.

Roger Sykes, Development Officer

01869 337034

carsykes@btinternet.com

Deddington Original Golf Society – DOGS

DOGS first event of the year at Studley Wood Golf Club, followed by dinner and prize-giving at the Deddington Arms, will have happened as you receive this DN. Our next event is at Olton Golf Club on Monday 10 June. Only a mile from the centre of Solihull and minutes from the M42, Olton is regarded as one of the finest private clubs in the West Midlands. DOGS played Olton last year, so it is back by popular demand. New members are welcome, only a tenner a year, and if you would like to try us out as a guest at Olton please contact me.

Nigel Oddy, Secretary
nigeloddy@yahoo.com

YOUTH**1st Deddington Scout Group****Cubs**

We have spent the last month working for and completing the Communicator Badge. After a discussion about the general meaning of communication and some examples of past technologies, the Cubs made tiny Morse flashers with LED bulbs and button batteries with which they sent messages. We looked briefly at semaphore and ships signalling, signing – I can sign the Cub Promise now – Braille, codes and secret writing. We then combined all this information in a 'code trail'.

We have places available at Cubs for any child between 8 and 10 years old – please contact me if you are interested.

Jo Churchyard deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts have also gained the Communicator Badge with Morse code messages sent across the Windmill playing fields and fiendish codes invented

YOUTH

Continued from p14

and de-coded. The phonetic alphabet was learnt, and walkie-talkies used. We hope all this will be useful to them in the future, if only for sending 'pupil only' messages around the classroom.

Did you know that you can make a really good whistle from a drinks can? We managed it with only one small nick to a finger.

Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

We've been doing a variety of activities over the last month, having decided we'd like to get out as the evenings are getting lighter. We have done the Adderbury Circular Walk which wasn't one we knew but with some good navigation it only took an hour-and-a-half even though it was dark. Before we broke up for Easter, we had a challenge to find the answers to various questions about Deddington.

We had to say goodbye to the latest Explorer to reach eighteen but it was a good evening as Ben did a presentation and challenge to us all on the Holocaust. It provoked a lot of thought about how we would have reacted in trying to assist any Jews whilst keeping our own family safe.

If you are interested in joining the Unit, please contact any of the leaders at spartanexplorers@gmail.com.

Janet Duxbury 01608 737959

Blissful Thinking

I marked the Vernal Equinox by taking a trip to the Rollright Stones on a day off. The Whispering Knights stones looked suitably weather-worn. People had thrown many coins onto them, presumably for luck. One person had thrown a jellybean.

I got mildly admonished for meandering across the field. Apparently there was no public right of way. We'll see about that, I shouted, or at least thought to myself. There was a right of way via stile to the adjacent field, filled with wood-weaved structures of wonderment. I gloried in these triumphs of rustic craftsmanship before heading over to see the King's Men. Two middle-aged men were standing plumb in the centre of the circle, spoiling my chances of a good photograph. They didn't appear to be meditating; just chatting casually. My Instagram account silently wailed at the money-shot being filled by some godless heathens I can only assume were not there on the orders of the Crown. I had a good mind to run them through, but I had left my duelling glove in the car and my rapier in my other jeans, so I turned my back on them and tried to imagine life as a Neolithic druid, failing miserably before leaving these mystic ruins to more spiritually disciplined souls. Spooooiiiiinnnggg! (That's onomatopoeic – Spring springing).

Aaron Bliss aronjbliss@hotmail.com

1st Deddington Guides

Pancakes took our attention: eating them was easy, cooking was not as easy as it seems, but we will have a go next term when we can cook outside. We spent the last few weeks rehearsing our spring entertainment – a modern take on *Cinderella* – which we hope will raise money for two local charities.

We also made good use of the lighter evenings with a quiz and challenge around the village, graded according to age group. We all enjoyed this activity, although it was cold and we had to keep moving to stay warm.

Some of the Guides and leaders are travelling to Switzerland in July to visit the World Guide Centre. Thank you to everyone who supported the Guides who had a fundraising stall at the last farmers' market.

We have a big quiz coming up on Thursday 16 May at Banbury Town Hall: teams of four, £5 per person entry fee, email Deddingtoncrossswitzerland@gmail.com for tickets.

We look forward to next term when we can be out and about every evening, cooking, hiking and camping.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Tilly Neal

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Deddington Library

The health visitor-led baby clinic is becoming busy, which is great to see. It's held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9.30am.

Grateful thanks to the two new Rhymetime volunteers who will shortly be running their first sessions. Rhymetimes for under 5s and families are held every Monday during term-time from 2.30–3.00pm, so come and join the fun – lots of singing, rattle shaking and bopping up and down for all.

Our library-led reading group, Deddington Bookworms, is going from strength to strength and has now reached their maximum of twelve. They have formed a friendly cohesive group which enjoys the books as well as each other's company.

There is always room for more reading groups in the parish though, so if you've ever thought of starting your own with your friends, pop in and see me. I can help set it up with the library service. All the books are free to borrow and we have multiple copies of hundreds of titles to choose from within the county.

Reluctantly, we say goodbye to one of our community volunteers this month as Maureen retires from helping us in the library on a regular basis. She will be greatly missed, although she will still be around as she is one of our Home Library Service volunteers too and intends to carry on with that role. Thank you so much for all your hard work over the last few years, Maureen; you've been a huge asset to the community team and a great support to me personally – your tea-making skills are second to none.

We welcome Helen and Jill who have been in the wings for some time. Both have joined the Friends committee and are training to be community volunteers. I'm sure they will settle in well over the coming months and you'll all join with me in welcoming them to our great team of volunteers.

Stella O'Neill, Library Manager

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DEDDINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the last month, we've raised just over £600 with our Book Fair sales and the new books are now in school and the children are enjoying reading them.

We have all contributed to creating some work in church for the Stations of the Cross. All children have been to church to have a look at the displays and deepen their knowledge and understanding of the meaning of Easter.

Year 6 participated in a day organised by the Oxford Diocese with several schools, when they joined with other pupils to produce a service together. This took place in Dorchester and was entitled 'Quests and Questions'. At the end of the day they took part in an act of worship involving singing, sharing prayers and readings, celebrating children's artwork and more.

Year 2 went on a trip to St John's House Museum in Warwick where they took part in a Victorian school and dressed in clothes from the time. This involved some drill (marching) and using a writing slate. They found out about washing in Victorian times and used a water pump and mangle. The Year 2s had a great day out which brought to life their topic on the Victorians.

Some Year 5 and 6 children travelled to Abingdon to take part in a cross-country county final. The weather was unpleasant but despite the rain they all ran with positive mind and spirit, representing our school admirably.

Denise Welch

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Molegate has taken a turn for the worse according to our 'ham shank' naturalist quiz master, Dave, as power to the home of one of our neighbours has been 'taken out' by a serious case of burrowing. A flying lead from next door has reinstated electron flow but whether it's up meter or down meter of the donor has not been made clear and some of us fear a repeat of Hosegate from yesteryear.

Speaking of quizzes, some of us were delighted that the Major finally won a quiz at the Duck. We hope his feeling of superiority was not dampened in the absence of the local quiz heroes, the Thompson Twins (doctor, doctor – geddit?) who were unable to support the quiz due to personal circumstances that lead us all to send our thoughts and best wishes, but we were delighted to hear reports of record crowds. Also the Duck has seen the appearance of chef's whites behind the bar as two new team members have joined our

throng and were heartily greeted by the book club.

Lower Larkrise continues in its earnest support of parish-wide fundraising activity, as some of our number (all from one house I'm told) are gearing up for the upcoming Four Farms Challenge and Deddy-Car-Fest. Well done and keep up the good work Trina and David. More to come and your support is needed.

And finally, the fairies have been active by not only registering the local heroes but collecting and distributing the fixtures for the upcoming Una Stubbs season. They note with interest a Candleford team in their division and we hope they take it as seriously as we do or there may be tears. Big thanks to the Pie Pub for the forthcoming friendly which is a repeat of last year where a display of what talent can achieve versus drunken enthusiasm is very politely delivered.

Martin Bryce

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