

the Deddington news

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JILL CHEESEMAM

March copy please to
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Particular thanks go this month to our annual adverts' editor, John Sampson, who is standing down after nearly 10 years. Our advertisers are the lifeblood of *DN* without which we would not survive and John has dealt with them in his own inimitable style, for which we are truly grateful. So now we're looking for a new recruit. Please contact John, Mary or me for more information if you're interested in joining us.

DIARY February

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Wed | 1 | Photographic Society: 'Digital adventure – gold medal images', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Mon | 6 | Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am–noon |
| Wed | 8 | Friends of Daeda's Wood: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 8 | History Society: 'Using censuses to study Victorian England', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 9 | Monday Morning Club: Film evening, Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Thu | 9 | 'History of Christianity in 15 Objects', Parish Church, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 11 | British Legion Club: Bingo, 8pm |
| Tue | 14 | WI: Graham Soden, 'Southern England wildlife', Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 15 | Parish Council meeting: Hempton Church Hall, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 15 | Photographic Society: 'Studio photography' workshop, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 18 | British Legion Club: 'Miss Vicky', 8.30pm |
| Thu | 23 | Dementia Awareness course: Living Room, Parish Church, 7–9.30pm |
| Thu | 23 | Book Group: contact 338094 for details |
| Sat | 25 | Farmers' Market: 9am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 25 | British Legion Club: Quiz night, 8.30pm |

March

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| Fri | 2 | PFSU and Village Nursery: Formula Fast go-karting, 6pm |
| Sat | 3 | PFSU and Village Nursery: Jumble sale, Parish Church, 11–1pm |
| Mon | 5 | Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30–noon |
| Tue | 6 | Dementia Awareness course: Living Room, Parish Church, 7–9.30pm |
| Wed | 7 | Photographic Society: 'South Island adventure: the Milford Track slides', Cartwright Hotel, 7.30pm |

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

Disclaimer: The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the committee. Inclusion of an advertisement or insert does not constitute any recommendation or endorsement of the organisations concerned on the part of the Deddington News. The DN takes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, warranties or representations, implied or otherwise, for the content or accuracy of these advertisements.

The DN always seeks copyright permission where appropriate. All material is proof read to check that it is not scurrilous, libellous or otherwise unacceptable to the public at large. The DN team reserves the right to refuse any material on this basis. The editor's decision is final. Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online, and therefore any personal contact details given are there for perpetuity. The DN is printed on recycled paper.

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Holly Tree Club 14 December 2011

It was a dark and stormy night with the threat of the first snow. The meeting was chaired by Jim Flux with a good turnout of councillors but no members of the public.

Max Pankhurst was invited to join the meeting and was presented with a suitable reward for his valuable stewardship. Max's contribution and hard work was recognised formally and he was thanked by everyone.

F&GP

Income this month includes £1,022 from the Windmill Centre, £250 from the Market Group and £50 from *Deddington News* for the Christmas Tree.

Expenses include work on the Castle Grounds and £1,500 donated to Deddington onAir.

£75,000 of Parish investments have been moved from the West Bromwich Building Society to the NatWest Bank.

Satin Lane Allotments – neighbouring properties have given permission for the trees to be trimmed.

Highways & Transport

It is now proposed to move the post box to the hard standing by the bus shelter.

A bollard on the green that was knocked over has been stolen and will have to be replaced at a cost of £50.

The idea of a pedestrian crossing by the Grove in New Street was being reconsidered.

The wheelie bins sited at the Town Hall are for DPC/village steward use only. Any private bins will be removed and returned to CDC.

Grit bins are to be located at the corner near Featherton

House, in front of May Fu II, at the south side of the Grove and by the Town Hall.

Environment & Recreation

The lights on the Christmas Tree are going to be disappointing this year. They will have to be powered by solar panels as power can no longer be taken from the Town Hall which has been leased privately.

Planning, New Applications

Only one new application, Cromwell House, Market Place, a rear ground floor extension and minor interior alterations, no objections.

The Unicorn Inn, Market Place, will have to apply for retrospective planning permission for the unauthorised exterior painting.

Red Lion Cottage, Market Place, the repainting and fascia signs were approved.

Library

The library is to remain open, with reduced professional librarian cover. The OCC estimate we would require about 20 volunteers to maintain existing hours. Discussions and consultation about organisational arrangements continue.

War Memorial

DPC voted not to support any further discussion concerning the movement of the War Memorial from the existing site.

Funds on Deposit

14 December, £536,551 with Barclays, West Bromwich BS, Santander, Anglo-Irish Bank and NatWest.

Invoices agreed for payment £6,995.

Windmill Centre 18 January 2012

A good turnout of councillors on a miserable wet night. The meeting was chaired by Jim Flux with one member of the public present.

F&GP:

Cash flow includes £240 from Hatwell for the funfair, £250 from the Farmers' Market and £25 from John Day for the Christmas tree.

Cemetery fees are being increased by £5 per burial, and children under 12 will still not be charged.

Satin Lane allotments: in the future the Association will be responsible for collecting fees.

DPC precept will be maintained at the same rate as last year

Environment & Recreation

Christmas Tree lights: it was regretted that in spite of great efforts to find a source of power for the lights it proved impossible. Although neighbouring businesses were prepared to co-operate, health and safety concerns associated with running cables across the car park made this impractical. The original understanding was that power would be available from the Town Hall but this proved to be impossible.

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

Planning, new applications:

St Peter & St Paul's Church, installation of PV solar power system, no objection.

45 Mill Close, new entrance porch, re-roof front gable and two storey rear extension, no objection.

Ilbury House, New Street, internal alterations to listed building, no objection.

Castle End House, Castle St, reduce crown of chestnut tree, no objection.

Florence House, Earls Lane, single storey extension, replacement windows, concern about reduced parking and so qualified objection.

Earl's Court, Earl's Lane, detached car port, garden store, rear porch, front porch, pergola and two storey rear extension, qualified approval.

Deddington funds on deposit: 18 January, £533,393 with Barclays, West Bromwich BS, Santander, Anglo-Irish Bank and NatWest.

Invoices agreed for payment £11,325, higher than usual because of the cost of resurfacing the all-weather court at the Windmill.

Next Meeting: 15 February at Church Hall, Hempton

PIERS GAVESTON AND THE NUN OF DEDDINGTON

This is the fourth instalment of a serial written in 1849 by Georgiana Bennet and published in the North Oxfordshire Monthly Times and Agricultural Advertiser. Loaned to us by Clive Sanders, it was given to him by the late Fred Deely. If you have missed previous instalments, they are available online at www.deddington.news.co.uk.

Strange! Although Sir Piers feared that his captors were resolved upon his death and he believed escape almost impossible, yet he could not bring himself to think of his last hour, nor of the account he should so soon have to render at the Throne of God, but he mused upon the Past - on the early death of his friend Robert de Lincourt and of the striking resemblance between that friend's sister and the Nun.

When the Earl and his companions had finished their repast, they aroused Gavestone from his reverie with coarse jests upon his want of appetite, and commanded him to rise and follow them. He was conducted up a winding staircase to a chamber in one of the turrets of the Castle, the only furniture in which was a table, a stool and a rude bedstead. To the latter the Earl pointed, and again spoke in his former sarcastic tone:

'I fear that the lodging I can offer you for tonight will ill accord with your luxurious habits, but there is no weak Edward here to interfere and you must submit. We shall carefully guard the entrance to your chamber, lest any rude churl should disturb your rest, and I would advise you to take to your devotions for,' he added more seriously, 'you may not have many more nights to spend on earth. We will not permit a Priest to come near you, for we will not risk any chance of your escape, and so, Sir Knight, we bid you Farewell.'

The nobles bowed with mock respect while a laugh was on their lips – a laugh of mingled triumph and derision, and then they left the captive, carefully securing the door after them.



When left alone, Sir Piers looked around the apartment; a small lamp hung from the ceiling and gave sufficient light to enable him to examine every corner and then he found that escape was indeed impossible. One small window placed high in the wall and strongly barred was the only outlet except the door; and the Knight sat down on the rude seat and, covering his face with his hands, wept long and bitterly. Blame him not! He was no coward but he had been taken prisoner by his most implacable enemies, borne to the stronghold of one of them, and now worn with fatigue and long fasting, helpless, hopeless and forlorn, his spirits failed him for a time. He rallied again and the colour rushed to his cheeks as he thought that his captors might have seen him weep. Then he remembered that he had not long to live and, kneeling down, he prayed fervently and arose somewhat calmer for his devotions.

Scarcely had he resumed his seat when Fancy pictured the Nun before him. Who could she be? Was she related to the de Lincourt family? Or had his imagination deceived him as regards the likeness? As he thus pondered, a slight noise recalled his wandering thoughts, but ere he could turn his head in the direction of the sound, a hand was laid lightly on his shoulder and he sprang to his feet.

Did his imagination still deceive him or did the Nun really stand before him? She was there – her finger upon her lip, her other hand raised to caution him against making any exclamation.

The Tastebuddies Eat at the Black Boy Inn, Milton

We are the Tastebuddies. We lunch out every two months to assess local pubs and restaurants within a 20 mile radius of Deddington. We are an independent group with no connection to the *DN* or any of the establishments visited.



better ambiance than the conservatory which was rather lacking in character.

Was the cooking good? The meal choice was varied and had something to appeal to everyone, including vegetarians. The menu is changed every day but always includes old

Where? The Black Boy Inn, Milton, Oxon OX15 4HH, Tel: 01295 722111, www.blackboyinn.com.

Food served: Monday to Thursday 12–2.30pm and 6.30–9pm; Fridays and Saturdays 12–2.30pm and 6.30–9.30pm; Sunday lunch 12–3pm.

Cost: Average cost of starters £6; main course £14; desserts £5. There is also a good choice of sandwiches served at lunchtime, at an average cost of £7.

Are they pleased to see you? We were very warmly welcomed and shown to an attractive table by the window. The service was attentive and very friendly.

Is the restaurant attractive? The restaurant area is cosy and inviting with attractive seating. However, we thought that the main part of the restaurant had a

favourites, such as liver, bacon and mash, and fish and chips. The dessert menu was disappointing, however, and we were not able to find anything to tempt us there.

Our starters included a deli platter and a baked Camembert fondue; both were scrumptious and very generous. Our mains included a grilled Cajun sea bream, partridge with French beans and bacon, and classic fish and chips. All were very tasty and attractively presented. The wine list was varied with many choices also available by the glass.

Good value for money? While the food was good, we felt that it was a little overpriced in comparison to some of the other establishments we have been to.

Would we go again? Yes.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

During December our School Council decided to raise money for the Horton Hospital, Banbury. They came up with the idea of pupils and teachers paying to wear their pyjamas to school and have 'bad' hair – (the children of the council decided that patients spend a lot of their time in pyjamas and with bed head). The day was a great success with all entering into the spirit of the occasion, even Mr Evans! We managed to raise £252 which was presented to the Horton during the last week of term by our two Year 6 School Councillors, Natasha Milliken and Henry Durand.

As we come to the end of our first term of the new year we are really looking forward to our school production. Mrs Rumsby has been working extremely hard to prepare the 130 children who are in *Aladdin* – as usual everyone involved is committed to making sure we put on the best show we possibly can. All the children involved have shown great commitment and enthusiasm and I am sure they are going to be fabulous!

Also this term some classes have been getting out and about: Year 6 have taken part in Junior Citizens at Rewley Road fire station in Oxford. While there they were able to experience situations they may find themselves in as they get older and learnt how to cope with them; for example, how to make a 999 call and what to do if approached by a stranger. Year 2 visited St John's Museum in Warwick as part of their Victorians project; this included finding out what school life was like for a Victorian child. F1 have really been enjoying their Animals topic; they visited the vets in Deddington as well as the Natural History Museum in Oxford.

Jane Cross, Deputy Head
338430

World Expert on Byzantine Empire to Speak in Deddington

On Thursday 9 February at 7.30pm Dame Averil Cameron will present the seventh object in 'A History of Christianity in 15 Objects' in Deddington Church. Dame Averil was a contributor to the original radio series, 'A History of the World in One Hundred Objects', and is one of the world's leading experts on the Byzantine Empire. She was Warden of Keble College, Oxford until 2010, and previously taught at King's College London where she was the first Director of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, and we're incredibly fortunate to have her come to speak to us about the Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. The icon is one of the greatest treasures of the British Museum, and it depicts the annual Festival of Orthodoxy, celebrating the overthrow of Iconoclasm in AD 843. Professor Dame Averil Cameron will use this object to illustrate the politics and drama of the imperial Byzantine court. Admission is free, and all are very welcome. For more information go to www.historyofchristianity.org.uk or contact the curate, Dan, on curatedan@gmail.com.

The Warriner School, Bloxham

The theme for last term was charity fundraising, kicking off with a wonderful Christmas fair run by the Friends of the Warriner School. Children in Need day had staff performing quite beautifully to YMCA, Student Council ran a talent night in aid of the swimming pool and male staff used Movember as an excuse to grow some extraordinary facial hair.

Informal consultation around our hopes to extend our age range to include sixth form students has now closed and I am delighted with the positive support we have received. We now move to the second phase of a four-week statutory consultation before a final decision is made in May. I am also pleased that a growing number of our current Year 11 students are planning to take up our offer of A level teaching in partnership with Oxford and Cherwell Valley College, and plans are underway to provide them with their own common room, kitchen area and ICT suite.

My first parent forum involved a diverse range of topics around the theme of Grow (things we could do more of), Keep (things we do well) and Change (things that have either had their day or we do not do well). We reflected upon Behaviour for Learning, improvements to the school website (which are being implemented as I write), language options, consolidating group call, curriculum developments and homework club. The next parent forum takes place on 19 March at 6pm in the Hall. Please feel free to join us.

Every term my colleagues in the PE department run several sporting events for our Partner Primary School students under the leadership of Mr Halsall, our Schools Sport Co-ordinator, and this term was no exception. On 1 December we hosted the North Oxfordshire Cross Country Finals. This was a first combined Primary and Secondary event where the Partnership Primary Schools from all over the North run their races and then get through to our finals day. The event was supported by 25 of our brilliant Sports Leaders from Year 10, many of whom have given up time to plan and train before the event and acted as hares for each race.

The penultimate week of term saw the return of last year's students to collect their GCSE certificates. We are all very proud of them and every one of them is a reason why we should have a sixth form.

Dr A Kay, Headteacher
01295 720777

Market Place Christmas Carols

Heartfelt thanks to all those who supported and helped with the Christmas Eve Carols in the Market Square and especially grateful thanks to all who attended, joined in and were most generous in their donations for Katharine House, raising £900.95.

Michael Liebrecht
Liebrecht@1gc.com

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

February

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

| | | |
|--------|---------|---|
| Wed 1 | 10.00am | Candlemas Eucharist (with School) |
| Thu 2 | 2.00pm | Squeals and Wheels |
| Fri 3 | 6.30pm | Eucharist: St Anskar |
| Sun 5 | 10.30am | First Sunday |
| Sun 5 | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| Wed 8 | 10.00am | Eucharist |
| Thu 9 | 2.00pm | Squeals and Wheels |
| Sun 12 | 10.30am | Eucharist with Baptism |
| Wed 15 | 10.00am | Eucharist: St Sigfrid |
| Thu 16 | 2.00pm | Squeals and Wheels |
| Sun 19 | 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sun 19 | 10.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| Wed 22 | 10.00am | Eucharist |
| Thu 23 | 2.00pm | Squeals and Wheels |
| Sun 26 | 9.30am | Eucharist followed by Interactive Café Church at 10.15am |
| Wed 29 | 10.00am | Eucharist |

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Rev. Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), the curate, Revd Dr Dan Inman (338582) curatedan@gmail.com, 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

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe: every weekday except Wed at 9.30am, Sun at 10.00am.

St George's Church Adderbury: Mass Wed 7.00pm and Sun 8.30am.

Confessions at Hethe Sat 5.30–6.00pm and at Adderbury before Mass.

The Eve of Sunday 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.

22 Feb is Ash Wednesday, a day of Fasting and Abstinence. This means that all Catholics should abstain from flesh meat and all healthy adults (between the ages of 14 and 60) should have only one main meal and two light meals.

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

Fr John Burns 277396

DN TEAM IN CRISIS?

Firstly, our thanks to Mark Newnham of Hempton for this year's cover – something new and different and we hope you like it.

But with John Sampson leaving the team, it is a timely reminder that a significant number of us are getting 'long in the tooth' and a little creaky (not that I'm suggesting John is). If *DN* is to continue to thrive we need new young blood – makes us sound like a group of vampires! We are a genial bunch and would welcome some fresh views and ideas. Most of the roles within the team are not onerous.

The following is a brief description of John's duties.

The job is to sell 18 1/2 pages of ads in three sizes. Most of the work is done between September and November, with a small amount of 'tweaking' done in July.

Regular and potential advertisers are contacted by letter in September to invite them to take space for the following year, with a follow-up by phone or email.

There is a wide client base of advertisers, and 80% or so of space is taken up by regular advertisers from previous years. Space is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Email is essential, other IT skills are preferable but not necessary. The job doesn't entail any production work on the ads but you will be liaising with Mary Robinson and John Price.

If you are interested, we'd be delighted to hear from you: contact Jill Cheeseman or Mary Robinson (editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk), or John Sampson (annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk), for more details.

JC

FARMERS' MARKET

Writing this on a bright sunny Saturday in mid January, it's hard to believe that the next market on 25 February could still be cold, as we won't quite have turned the corner into spring. However, if we are spared the worst of the winter weather there will be a great collection of fresh veggies as the mild weather so far is making for bounteous crops at the moment – so fingers crossed.

I was able to get a fresh produce 'fix' this morning, by going to North Aston Organics' stall under the Town Hall. They are there every Saturday, not just market days, and are sometimes joined by the College Loaf.

What makes a market special? Thinking specifically about the goods on sale, there need to be items that surprise and delight; those specialist cheeses, gorgeous puddings and cakes, and beautiful handmade items. There also needs to be a proper range of all that stuff that you just need, meat, vegetables, eggs, bread etc. I think that what makes our market so good isn't just the availability of the speciality produce, or the clever crafts; it's the fact that all that is there together with 'brilliant basics' – really high quality ordinary stuff that we need every day, like the vegetables I bought this morning from under the Town Hall.

Don't forget – Deddington market is run by volunteers, we do need your help. What can you do to keep the market going? Come to the information point or drop me an email if you'd like to join the team.

Paul Drawmer, paul@drawmer.net

Solar Planning Permission

Deddington Parish Church has received planning permission for the installation of solar panels on the south aisle roof and work will begin shortly. It is still possible to contribute financially to this work by sponsoring a panel or part thereof. Please contact the Church Treasurer, Iain Gillespie (iaingillespie@btinternet.com; 338367) if you are interested.

DEDDINGTON ONAIR

You might be interested to hear some work Jennifer has done for Deddington OnAir. Visit <http://www.deddingtononair.org/local.html>, then click on 'local artists' on the site and you will find her and four recordings she has made for us.

We are looking for more local musicians to do similar pages – please contact me by email if you are interested.

I hope you enjoy this and we would welcome your comments on this idea.

Eileen Anderson,
eileenandersonuk@yahoo.co.uk

More Villains About!

We have had a number of recent reports of all kinds of scams – if you didn't initiate the call, then beware. If someone wants any financial details or payment in advance, it's likely to be suspicious.

JC

Do you know someone that needs care?

Our Deddington team offers specialist Live-in Care.

Giving one-to-one support our Live-in Carers are able to balance independent living with bespoke care needs by assisting with:

- personal care
- companionship
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Our award-winning service is rated Excellent by the Care Quality Commission.

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A new venture in Middle Aston
Gift emporium, have-a-go craft workshops, and – in warmer weather – teas in the garden

Presently open on
Tuesdays 10am-3pm
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Saturdays 10am-3pm



If you have, or know of anyone who has, a craft skill to share please contact us

Our venue is available any time for small groups to get together for knitting, jewellery-making or an evening class perhaps?

We are also looking for people who make lovely things of good quality that they would like to sell

Corner Cottage, Middle Aston, OX25 5PZ

Tel: 01869 347437

thebumblingheart@yahoo.co.uk

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations Saturday 2 June 2012

Plans for Deddington's celebrations are going well and it just needs everyone to note the date in their diaries and come along, and, if possible, offer help before, during or afterwards. This is intended as a big community event to be enjoyed by all ages. The proposed programme at this stage is as follows, but it would be good to have other people's ideas as well.

- 4.00pm Church bells are rung
- 4.15pm Everyone in the Parade meet at the school
- 4.45pm Parade marches round the village, ending at Church Street
- 5.15pm Street party as in the form of a 1950s high tea in Church Street
- 6.15pm Children's Fancy Dress parade (Kings or Queens Fancy Dress plus homemade corgi, if possible, and prizes for the best homemade crowns)
- 7.00pm approx to 9.00pm Dancing and singing in the church to favourite songs and dances from the six

decades of the Queen's reign, ending with patriotic songs and the National Anthem

We need a Deddington Jubilee Queen and attendants to head the parade with the Boys' Brigade Band – any offers? Adults will be encouraged to wear 1950s-style clothing. All the clubs, societies and groups in the village are asked to send representatives to walk in the Parade, with a flag saying who they represent.

1950s-style food - yes, Coronation chicken, spam, jelly etc, etc will be available, but people may bring their own food as well if they wish.

Please let any member of the committee know if there are any more ideas ... or if you would like to be the 'Queen'!


Committee: Jim Flux, Anne Kent, Sarah Liebrecht, Diana Marshall, Stan Nelson, Holly Swadling, Mark Swadling, Althea Wood, Wendy Burrows 338082

Big Lottery Fund to Offer an Extra £50m to Voluntary Organisations

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) has announced an extra £50m available for voluntary organisations in the current financial year. BIG, which is the voluntary sector's largest grant-maker, is increasing the annual budgets for its Reaching Communities and Awards for All programmes by £12m and £5m respectively. It will

also provide more than 900 grants of up to £10,000 to existing grant holders before the end of the current financial year.

For more information, visit the Big Lottery website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk.




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www.ardingtonschoolofcrafts.com

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- Robust Data Backup/Protection & Security Solutions
- Functional, intelligent bespoke Website Design



Please call us on:

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Email: pcstuff@computer-pro.co.uk
www.COMPUTER-PRO.co.uk

LIBRARY UPDATE

The vigorous campaign to save Deddington Library drew to a close with a presentation of the returned JRR Tolkien letters. Remember JRR actually opened our library and wrote two letters, one of which lamented his poor performance! The letters have been returned to our Library by OCC. They have been beautifully mounted by Dragon Framing [paid for by Dragon Framing and DN] and presented to Thames Valley Police for safe keeping. The Police have also moved into the Library in the hope that they will see far more of you than they saw in the Market Place office. So next time you're in the Library say hello to our boys and girls in blue and feel free to share with them any questions or concerns you have.

The presentation was covered by the local media and preceded the final decision by OCC on the future of all of its libraries. If you recall OCC had planned to take away our professional librarian support for the majority of the opening hours and leave volunteers having to keep the library open for two-thirds of the time. This was considered untenable by the community and the 'Book A Future for Deddington Library' started to campaign for two-thirds library cover with a 50/50 split their minimum outcome. Well, after months of meetings with OCC and supporters and a final presentation to Judith Heathcote clearly showing how our community is different and more deserving than any other (well most of us know this to be true!)

OCC announced that all libraries will be staffed for at least half of their opening times by a professional Library Manager.

Success? – well maybe. Some of the group are disappointed that our place as one of the busiest libraries with such a vibrant community didn't seem to count but our minimum requirements were met.

So what next? The Friends of Deddington Library that was an important element of the action group needs to be re-constituted to manage the volunteer group and it is widely believed that this will be best achieved if the group is overseen by the Parish Council.

This will ensure that oversight and ultimate responsibility rests with a legally incorporated body. The relationship could be as a charitable trust or some other such arrangement, but when decided and set up the volunteers who have already come forward and others yet to be recruited can be most effectively trained and deployed to keep our fabulous library available to all.

Nothing concrete is expected from OCC until April but by then we should be



Librarian Stella O'Neill presents Sgt Richard Miller with a framed copy of the Tolkien letters to mark the police move into the Library building on 14 December

ready – yes?

If anyone else is interested in finding out more about volunteering please contact Alan Collins on AlanRCollins@aol.com.

Friends of Castle Grounds

The following is a summary of the last two meetings held by the Committee.

Suggestions and notes from the open meeting held in October 2011 were discussed.

A noticeboard is now at the entrance of the site providing updates and information regarding the Castle Grounds which will be of interest to visitors and locals.

The primary school and the pre-school have met with the Friends of Castle Grounds, and are keen to involve the children in establishing a nature trail and planting wild flowers.

Betty Hill's bench has now been set on top of the old look-out post, providing a nice opportunity to sit and view the surrounding countryside.

The grass at Castle Grounds had its last cut late in autumn 2011 and this, together with all the hard work over the last year, clearing dead wood, saplings and bracken has left the site looking quite stunning. Well worth a visit!

Sandy Alton

sandyalton@btinternet.com

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THE ALLOTMENT

*To Dig or Not to Dig; That is the Question
Whether tis nobler in the body to suffer
The aches and blisters of gardening toils
Or take arms against a sea of clods
And by opposing end them*

But instead of sleeping for eternity, have time to enjoy your allotment. If your plot is becoming a handful, possibly the no-dig option is an idea, enabling you to still enjoy your garden and its produce but with slightly less initial effort. There are many people, such as Bob Flowerdew and Charles Dowding, using the no-dig concept very efficiently.

So instead of digging and double digging your allotment you don't. One crucial concept for the no-dig system is that you do not walk on the soil as it must never be compacted; the beds are therefore smaller so you can reach the allocated areas with a hoe and weed without walking on your bed. You can choose whether to have a raised bed or simply to allocate areas within your allotment that will be your no-dig area. You then need to mulch and cover the beds with 5–15cm of compost and allow the worms to pull the compost into the soil and aerate it. The compost will work as a mulch and suppress weeds and help maintain water within the soil.

Now I'm not saying that a no-dig system will make your life completely easy as you do have to add compost to your site but then you would have to do that anyway.

If you'd like to learn a little more about this idea, look up Charles Dowding who has used the no-dig system for a number of years. He also has results of trials on his website <http://www.charlesdowding.co.uk>.

Samantha Willis

samantha.willis@gmail.com

Dementia Awareness Project

A number of community learning groups have been set up in Oxfordshire in order to help carers, relatives or friends to better understand what is involved with someone suffering from dementia. A six-session course has been arranged in Deddington. The dates are: Thursday 23 February; Tuesday 6 March; Thursday 15 March; Tuesday 20 March; Thursday 29 March; Thursday 12 April. The sessions are from 7.00pm to 9.30pm, are free and will be held in the Living Room in Deddington Parish Church.

We hope people willing to be on a rota to relieve or support carers in or around Deddington will attend all or part of this course.

For further information and to enrol, please contact either Brian or Wendy.

Brian Bushell 338715

brian.bushell@homecall.co.uk

Wendy Burrows 338082

wendyburrows888@btinternet.com

Deddington OnAir

Firstly, thank you to everyone who listened to *A Contemporary Christmas Carol* written and directed by Aaron Bliss. We had tremendous fun making it and we hope you enjoyed listening. It is still available on the Listen Again page for those who haven't had a chance to catch it so far.

The *Deddington News* podcasts are always available from <http://www.deddingtononair.org> – thank you to Amanda Gray for voicing these. The *DN* programme is always available from the Listen Again page.

Deddington OnAir was invited to the 'Jubilee Fund for Oxfordshire' launch and were there to promote Deddington and meet the Earl of Wessex. We championed Deddington, Deddington On-Line, Church TV and the *DN* and



Pic Studio 8 Photography

offered insight into our goals, aims and efforts so far.

On the technical front, we have recently joined the TuneIn network (<http://tunein.com>) meaning that anyone with iPhone/iPad, Android, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, Palm and Samsung Bada can now load the free TuneIn app on to their device and find Deddington OnAir in the index. The app is free and complements our existing presence on Reciva Internet radio network.

We've also just completed our report to the governing authority for online music users and in the last quarter of 2011 people tuned into Deddington OnAir for a total of 2141 hours. Whoever you are, wherever you are, thank you for listening.

Deddington OnAir received another financial boost with a donation from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation in recognition of the efforts made to cater for and communicate with everyone in the community. Help the Aged in Banbury also approached us to see if we could form a partnership to increase communication with their target group in rural communities. We hope that with our strong links with *DN* and DoL we can help.

Our programme line-up has grown again, and the schedule has recently gained:

Frequency Cast – a weekly technology programme keeping us up-to-date with the latest news on digital TV, technology, media news and gadget reviews.

We are also carrying the Gary Jackson show which is an irreverent weekly 70s, 80s and 90s music show.

Finally, Deddington OnAir would like to ask you to come on-board. Would you like to be involved by contributing material, being a voice on the radio, being our roving reporter to cover local events or by joining the Friends of Deddington OnAir? Please contact studio@deddingtononair.org or Eileen Anderson on 338325.

David Rogers, Chair

david@deddingtononair.org

ON THE FARM



Ho Buzz, where do we go from here? A recent ruling by the European Court of Justice may well make the joy of starting the day with toast and honey from your local beekeeper a thing of the past. It seems that after a German beekeeper found small amounts of GM pollen in his honey he sued the state of Bavaria who owned the trial

GM maize plots for compensation as he had been obliged to destroy his honey crop. The case ended up in the European court, the court found in his favour but the fall-out from this case is set to put him and the rest of us small local beekeepers out of business.

For the purposes of food labelling and trading standards, honey has always been considered a pure product, but it seems that their lordships of the European Court have decided that pollen is now an added ingredient of honey, rather than an intrinsic natural component, a decision that will bring honey into the same category as jams and other manufactured preserves, with the requirement that all the various ingredients are listed on the label. As the bees of this

country collect the pollen and nectar from hundreds of different plant species each season, the job of identifying and listing just what pollen grains are in each batch of honey would be impossible and could only be done by specialist laboratory analysis.

Another twist to this rather sticky state of affairs is that the manufacturers of honey must also prove that their product contains less than 0.9 per cent GM material. Just how the powers that be intend to police these proposed regulations remains to be seen, as it is the bees that manufacture the honey not the beekeeper. If GM contamination was found in British honey it is more likely to have come from the latest must-have plants grown in the domestic garden rather than the few GM trial plots that are grown in this country, as they are usually experimental trials for GM cereal crops which are not 'worked' by honey bees. Just what the outcome of all this will be is anybody's guess, as the mandarins of DEFRA have not added their ten pennies worth yet. Ho hum, it seems that these GM paranoid European worthies have about as much credibility as their European currency.

George Fenemore
338203

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

A New Year and new faces – and it's a big Clifton welcome to Gilly and De De who, being true Banburyshire people born and bred, bolster our 'locals' count. There will be other greetings next month when proper introductions have been made, eh Steve? Gilly has already taken his rightful place in the book club – more of which later. Crowds have been gathering in the village lately to view the new noticeboard proudly erected by the Duck that has donated half its space to village matters. It currently shows some parish council and safety stuff, but it's there for the village to use – just pop into the pub and ask. The official noticeboard will have to stay in the bus stop, that busybody Alan Collins tells us, but maximum use will be made of this as space allows.

The traditional New Year's Day walk to Candleford this year was a little low on numbers as hangovers and recalcitrant guests took their toll, but 20 or so hardy souls made the trip to clear their heads and plan a new year ahead. It was only marred by the hostilities of Candleford (obviously drunk dry the night before) failing to open – the first time in many years! *C'est la vie*.

One of the plans made was by Iron Man Mayo who thought it a good idea to run a race from Wendover to London in a day – well, why wouldn't you? Seven hours 38 minutes was his time – that's 45 miles – so no signs of him slowing down even as his 50th looms ever closer.

Talking of the Book Club, their efforts for Movember helped raise \$74million worldwide and they have asked

me to thank all of you who donated. The Book Club as we know are continually expanding their activities, not only having read a book and now writing a book, are actually featured in a published book *Some Adventures in the Pub Trade*, widely available I'm sure. Now how many book clubs can boast that proud triumvirate? In fact the bunting has only just been taken down on the Book Club annual awards, an event Deddington OnAir narrowly missed broadcasting as the categories of Best Bitter, Best Dark Beer, Best Lager, Best Brewery, and a lifetime achievement award were decided and certificates are on their way to the winners. Bring Me Sunshine from the Tring brewery won best bitter and ... *(the rest of this fascinating article has been cut for reasons of space and reader sanity – Ed)*

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@aol.com

Lost in Clifton

A gold link bracelet with a distinctive design was lost on New Year's Eve. It was dropped in the Duke of Cumberland's head or in Chapel Close, Clifton.

The bracelet is of great sentimental value and a reward of £100 is offered for its return.

Please contact Julie at the Duke or ring Jan Walsh on 338093 with any information.

FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

The Postbag, or parts of it, now appears 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 ROB FORSYTH, NEW STREET
Michael and I are delighted by the reception of our book *A Parish at War* and we wish to say a big thank you to all those who joined us for its launch following the moving Armistice Day service.

In the Preface we say how impossible it is to thank everyone who has helped us, but we would like to acknowledge publicly the financial support we have received from: the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and Governors of the Primary School, Deddington Map Group and Deddington Market Group, all of whom subsidised overhead costs, leaving only printing costs to be funded by sales. We would also like to thank the many people who pre-ordered the book and thereby enabled us to negotiate a favourable price with the printer.

Several people have asked if there is any significance to the colours in the book's jacket design. The bands above and below the photograph reflect two of the three colours in the Ox & Bucks' regimental tie and the front is printed in the third colour.

This is almost certainly not the last you will hear from us. As anticipated, there are some errors and omissions to which the book's exposure to the parish at large has drawn our attention. One of the omissions (thank you, Bill Drake) is Major Lloyd DSO, MC and Bar, Croix de Guerre – all gained in WWI – who died in Deddington in 1965, having been resident here for 20 years and who definitely deserved the sobriquet 'the Galloping Major'. If you know anything about him, or any others who are missing, please say so. Additions and corrections will be placed on Deddington OnLine and in these pages from time to time.

Some 500 books have been sold to date and it can still be purchased at the Library, in Banbury from the Museum Shop and at Books and Ink bookshop in White Lion Walk – or from ourselves – for the original price of £10. This means we have been able to donate £1,000 to the Deddington Branch of the RBL (towards commemorating the missing names on the War Memorial), with more to come.

Once again, Michael and I would like to express our deep appreciation to everyone who has helped with this truly Parish-wide project.

FROM ANDREW LEFEVER, CASTLE END HOUSE
Last year, very regrettably, I was forced to chop down the large ash tree in my front garden due to honey fungus attacking the roots. This made the tree unstable and a potential danger to vehicles in Castle Street. I now have a severe problem with the horse chestnut leaf miner which has attacked the large chestnut tree



in my front garden. I am most anxious to save this tree and it seems that the best way is to take out the crown and prune the branches right back, in the same way as was done recently to the chestnut tree on the other side of Castle Street. An application is being made to Cherwell Council. The object of this email is to assure Deddington that I will not be cutting the tree down,

merely cutting it back in order to try to save it. Nearly all the chestnut trees in and around Deddington are suffering from the same problem – it is the new 'Dutch Elm Disease' but for horse chestnuts.

FROM JAMES GREENWOOD, CYCLOLOGICAL, HUDSON STREET

James Greenwood would like to express a huge thanks to all his customers and friends who sponsored his moustache throughout the month of November. He was able to raise £259, to which £65 gift aid was added. This will be split between Prostate and Testicular Cancer Research.

EMAIL FROM CLAIRE CHEESEMAM, NEW ZEALAND

Traditionally our family goes to the carol singing on Christmas Eve in the Market Place and this year was no exception. I just want to express my delight at the improved carols, with the marvellous Boys' Brigade Band accompaniment which gave a really festive feel to the proceedings and made it thoroughly enjoyable. I loved the improved Christmas tree lights – a fabulous job and my thanks to all the organisers of the event. It was just a shame that the lights were not there for longer. I love the feeling of our whole village turning out whatever the weather to sing and celebrate Christmas and family. The only improvement I would suggest is to limit car parking, as is done for the Farmers' Market. On Farmers' Market days there are many visitors and they still find places to park. This would also prevent people from using the parked cars as tables for their mulled wine or as leaning posts for themselves.

Is it now time to upgrade/refurbish the noticeboard outside the Primary School in Deddington? It looks shabby and unkempt for children and parents coming to and from school. Is there a handy person in Deddington who could refurbish with perspex or similar to protect it from the weather? It is the perfect place for a noticeboard, if it were kept in order.

On the subject of signs, I am so proud of our community that rallied to save our precious Library. I wrote from New Zealand in support of keeping it.

(Continued on p12)

POSTBAG (Contd)

Now what about a lovely new sign or plaque outside to encourage newer members of our community or visitors to come in? Should we not be utilising the fact that Tolkien opened it and his letters are there? How about some publicity via the social networks as well as locally – perhaps on the revamped sign outside the school?

FROM ELEANOR GREEN, THAMES VALLEY AND CHILTERN AIR AMBULANCE

As the Oxfordshire Fundraising Manager for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance, I am recruiting new volunteers for our busy events calendar in 2012. With no central government or National Lottery funding, we rely on local communities to keep this emergency service operational all year. We are looking for individuals who like meeting new people, trying new things and want to join a fantastic social network – by volunteering a few hours a week. We provide training and pay reasonable expenses, and with 200 events attended in Oxfordshire throughout 2011, there will be an event to suit everyone. For more information please visit www.tvcaa.org or contact me on 0300 999 0135, 07717 290325, eleanor@tvcaa.org.

FROM SARAH BRENNAN, KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

We would like to thank the community of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton for their wonderful support of Katharine House Hospice throughout 2011. This culminated in the carols in the Market Place on Christmas Eve and we were thrilled to receive £900.95 from this – the most ever raised from this event. We are grateful to the many individuals, groups and businesses who contributed over the year towards the cost of providing specialist nursing care.

We're delighted to announce that Collegium Regale are returning, by popular demand, and will be performing on Saturday 31 March at St Mary's Church, Adderbury. Tickets £16 are available from our office in Adderbury (01295 812161).

FROM HUGH MARSHALL, THE DAEDINGS

Coffee grown by women is better ... but doesn't have to be drunk by just women. In the developing world women in some situations have a desperate struggle and for that reason Fairtrade standards have a special place for women's empowerment and to show that women can have the same choices as men. Smallholders, not big estates, produce most of the world's coffee – and some of the best too. Often it is the women who do the hard work and where they control the family's income there is evidence that health, nutrition and education improve. Deddington Fair Traders will stock 'Women's Coffee' during the Farmers' Market in Fairtrade Fortnight (25 Feb – 11 March) and in March, to support women coffee growers and hope you will tell us whether you enjoy it.

News from Hempton

What a great day for the Christmas Bazaar – good weather with many families coming to enjoy what was on offer. Many thanks to everyone: organisers, stall holders and customers. Around £1,300 was raised, which goes to the Friends of the Church, who are responsible for the upkeep of St John's.

Extra services during December included a magnificent carol service with a record congregation of 100, including the Deddington Church choir and many children. The service was followed by mulled wine and snacks. There was also a good turnout for Christmas Day Eucharist. Many thanks to everyone who decorated the Church for the Christmas celebrations. There was also a village Christmas party on 28 December in the Church and hall. What a difference the new doors made for all the events during December.

The Parish Council will be holding their monthly meeting in the hall on Wednesday 15 February at 7.30pm. If you have any concerns, please go along.

The salt bins have been filled but will only be filled once. Extra salt is available at the allotments and is for use on the highway, not for people's own driveways etc.

The table tennis team is again having a difficult season. Their record to date is P7, W1, D2, L4. They were knocked out of the cup by Bloxham in the 1st round.

Please remember this year in June the Queen celebrates 60 years on the throne. I think there are ideas in the pipeline for this village to hold something. Please give me a call. A warm welcome to all new people who have recently moved into the village.

Les Chappell 338054

FROM THE FIRE STATION

A happy and safe New Year from all of us at the Fire Station. Last month we received 18 calls, two property fires, four RTC, one chimney, and 10 calls to stand by at other stations; these calls took us to 175 calls for the year.

We hope you had a good Christmas and New Year, and your children received the presents they wanted. Most games these days are high tech and need to plug into the mains electrical supply so please don't overload a socket by plugging in an extension lead and loading it up. This can cause plugs to over-heat, especially if left in all night unnecessarily, and in these hard times it is costing you money as well.

We have welcomed a 'new to us' whole time support officer, Matt Smith, who will be helping with things such as the day-to-day running of the station, fire safety, training, and if necessary riding on the pump, so we are keeping him busy.

George Williamson, our new recruit, is going through his induction and we hope he will be on the run with us by mid-March. We hope you won't need us this year but we will be ready if you do.

CM Pete Taylor

firededdington.retained@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CALLING ALL CLUBS

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

We finished off the year by making sparkly (and jingly) reindeer antlers and having a Christmas party organised for us by Tilly and Sophie, two Deddington Guides who are working for their Baden Powell Trefoil Award. The Rainbows especially enjoyed the pinata!

We're looking forward to lots of activities this term, including Burns Night where we'll try haggis, bashed neeps and tatties. It's usually quite a hit. Later on we celebrate Thinking Day. We'll make food, crafts and play games from around the world and think about the Rainbows who live in those countries.

We run a waiting list, so please contact me in good time if your daughter would be interested in joining us.

Hazel Neal
337822

1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Cubs

We have one new member at the start of the year, Joe, and we hope he will enjoy his time with us.

It seems a long time since we broke up for Christmas by which time the Cubs had gained their Home Safety badge, made decorations and worry dolls as part of their fitness award.

Jo Churchyard CSL
338071 jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Sierra-Charlie-Oscar-Uniform-Tango-Sierra

Yes, we're tackling the communicator badge, with morse code, walkie talkies and mobile phones.

Before the holidays the Scouts made bath bombs, took part in an inter-patrol quiz night and went Scuba diving. The Banbury Scuba Club gave them an unforgettable experience, for which they also gained the water-sports badge.

The Christmas post raised £201.53. Many thanks to Eagles, Barford Post Office and Deddington Library for hosting the boxes and to all the Scouts, Cubs and Guides who delivered the cards, and of course everyone who used our service.

Pete Churchyard SL 338071
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Photographic Society

At the December meeting, Tonya Fitz-Johnson of the Thames Valley Police gave a presentation on 'Police photography'. She explained her responsibility was the Forensic Investigation Unit which covers DNA, fingerprints and firearms through to X-rays, infra red, CCTV and imaging. After showing examples in each category, she demonstrated a typical scene of crime camera set-up. This made a 360° photograph in both the horizontal and vertical planes using stitching software, to produce a completely spherical image of the crime scene. Tonya concluded by discussing 'image mannequin' techniques, where an image is prepared

of a corpse on which injuries are electronically superimposed - to avoid showing unpleasant photographs in Court. It was a fascinating presentation.

At last month's meeting, Roger Crocombe LRPS gave an interactive presentation entitled 'From brief to image'. Explaining that taking exhibition photographs was the end result of significant preparation, he discussed his approach for achieving quality photographs and outlined a typical workflow – starting from conceptual image to final photograph. He then divided his audience into small working groups, encouraging each group through the work cycle to arrive at a finished photograph. Although theoretical, this approach revealed the practical aspects to be considered, giving members an appreciation of what is involved in producing quality photographs.

The next meeting will be on 1 February when Terry Pollard FRPS MPAGB will give a presentation: 'Digital adventure – gold medal images'. On 15 February, member Simon Lutter will hold another in his series of interactive workshops, the subject being 'Studio photography'. Both meetings are at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Everyone is welcome to attend, just come along and you will find us there.

John Branton
www.adandd.co.uk

Deddington Royal British Legion

The Annual General Meeting was held as planned but the attendance was a little disappointing.

Subscriptions have been coming in nicely and it is encouraging to note that we are managing to raise more funds for the Branch than in previous years.

This is a quiet time for the Branch but we are planning a comprehensive programme for the year.

Jean Morris, Hon Secretary 338143
DeddingtonRBL@aol.com

Deddington and District History Society

We closed the year with our usual Christmas party, accompanied this time by a fascinating talk by Tim Porter on the original Santa Claus, St Nicholas. We learned that the original Nicholas might have been a composite character rather than a single individual but that in sanctified form he was enormously popular throughout Medieval Europe, his very impressive miracles triggering a lucrative traffic in pilgrims to his shrine in southern Italy.

At our first meeting of 2012, on 11 January, we enjoyed what has become something of a tradition, which is a talk on a subject outside our common range. Alan Ashmole told us about his life as a banker from the 1950s in the Middle East, beginning before oil wealth had transformed the region utterly. The contrast that he showed us between the region 40–50 years ago and today was staggering. At one point, managing the sole bank in Oman and therefore in charge of the

... AND MORE CLUBS ...

only foreign currency reserves in the country, he found himself effectively running the country's economy.

In February we shall return to local matters when on 8 February Gareth Richard will talk about using census returns to reconstruct Victorian Deddington. As always, everyone is welcome to join us at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm.

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

WI

On 10 January our speaker was Professor Ronald Spiers (now retired) who gave an amusing and fascinating talk about his work, both here and in many other parts of the world as an examiner of postgraduates studying for the medical and dental professions. The strict written and oral tests undertaken were fully explained, and it was made clear that not all applicants passed their final test for one reason or another. Members were kept interested and amused throughout. A vote of thanks was given to Mr Spiers for an enjoyable talk.

Our next meeting on 14 February is on Southern England wildlife with Graham Soden.

Rene Mahony
338438

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results

- 19.11.11 Bishops Itchington (h) (Cup) W 2–1 Thornton L (2)
- 26.11.11 Steeple Aston (a) L 1–2 Thornton L
- 03.12.11 Sinclair United (h) (Cup) L 2–3
- 17.12.11 Highfield Old Boys (h) D 2–2 Thornton L, Hall
- 31.12.11 Woodford United (h) W 3–1 Kaye (2), Spencer
- 07.01.12 KEA (a) W 4–1 Hall, Thornton L (2), Gibbs M

Reserve Team results

- 19.11.11 Sams United (a) L 1–2 Gibbs L
- 26.11.11 Hardwick Old Boys (a) L 1–4 Gibbs L
- 03.12.11 Highfield Old Boys Res (a) L 1–2 McPhee
- 10.12.11 Wroxton Sports (h) W 5–0 Gibbs L, Kaye, Moore (3)
- 17.12.11 Chesterton (a) W 3–2 Gibbs L, Gray, Rouse
- 07.01.12 Banbury Town (h) W 3–1 Carter, Gibbs L, Lynes

Like an iron giant, Deddington Town bestride their dominion imposingly. Sometimes they may come under heavy fire, sometimes harsh weathers and terrains may rust their joints and even cause a limb to become detached, but their sturdy management team will soon apply the requisite repairs and a spot of WD40 to get the beast grinding into full gear once more.

The First Team played through their festive period with moderate success. Unfortunately knocked

out of the Junior Shield, they recovered to notch a couple of crucial victories as the year turned, which puts them clear of the relegation zone, though perspiration cannot be mopped from brows just yet. They will need Luc Thornton to maintain his commendable scoring run to give them a fighting chance of a good finish to the campaign. The Reserves season seemed to have come unstuck as they missed home comforts, going from just one defeat to four in a month, a most unwanted hat-trick. But, being of Deddington stock, the boys dusted themselves down to rebound with a triumvirate of wins, leaving them tied for top spot, though the yield is from two more games. Acclaim must go to Luke Gibbs, who scored in five out of six games over the festive period, while Iain Moore claimed a hat-trick in the destruction of Wroxton. All to play for as we approach the home straight, so lend your support. We don't recognise iron ladies, just iron giants.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Mini Football

The Under-7s plan to play a few friendly matches in the coming weeks against local teams. Just before the Christmas break the U8s had their five game unbeaten run ended by the best team in the league, however they are still smiling, and a great team spirit is building. The U9 Sharks continue to make progress and currently sit in a comfortable third place in the league half-way through their fixtures.

A stunning 5–1 victory at Banbury United Youth was followed by a stuttering end to the year with frosty postponements and a disappointing defeat by Bloxham. Thankfully, they emerged from the Christmas break to defeat Brackley Athletic 5–1 and get 2012 off to a flying start.

The Under-9s Cobras, while not winning any games, have had a number of narrow defeats. They are showing massive signs of improvement and enjoying every game. The children show fantastic enthusiasm, and a turn of fortune is just around the corner. The Under-10s have put in good performances with two draws and a narrow 2–1 defeat to Yarnton Blues.

Junior Football

The Under-11 Cobras have lost their last three games, but continue to work hard in a tough league. The Under-11 Sharks have had a tough couple of months leading up to Christmas with the team drawing one and losing four league games, although we fared better in the Knockout Cup with a convincing 7–2 win over Bicester Stars. They had a good start to the New Year with a 1–0 win over Banbury Utd, which leaves the team sitting mid table in the A League.

The Under-12s have had mixed performances in December – narrow defeats 2–1 to Kingham and 1–0 to Tower Hill, and a couple of heavy defeats. In January, the Tigers were unlucky to go down 2–0 to Garden City with the opposition goalkeeper making a series

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS ...

of fine saves. The Under-13s are playing friendlies against local teams, and hope to add to the squad to compete in the Under-14 league next season.

The Under-14s had a narrow 2–1 defeat to Hook Norton in the Knockout Cup (after extra time), followed by two league wins, and a narrow defeat to Banbury Town Youth to stand mid table in the A League. The Under 16s have had a fantastic run including a 5–2 victory in the Knockout Cup, and four consecutive league wins to stand in third place in the B League. The Under-17s have had a long winter break and are raring to get back into action. The team currently sit second in the league with half the season played.

Roger Sykes, 337034

Club Welfare Officer and U12 Manager

British Legion Club

After a busy festive season the Legion moves into the new year with a packed programme of events and entertainment to tickle your fancy.

On Saturday 11 February it's eyes down and we hope we have a full house for our popular bingo night from 8pm.

Saturday 18 February sees the outstanding talent that is female vocalist 'Miss Vicky' take to the Legion stage (from about 8.30pm). She comes highly recommended and this promises to be a night to remember so I urge you all to make a date in your diary so as not to miss this one.

The following Saturday 25th, from 8.30pm, we host something a little different in the shape of a quiz night. Always good fun with a competitive edge thrown in. Why not rise to the challenge, enter a team and pit your wits against some of Deddington's greatest brains?

Also, before I go, a few things for your forward diary. On 10 and 31 March it's bingo, 17 March is, of course, St Patrick's Day so expect the usual merrymaking and Guinness quaffing to abound. On Saturday 24th it's runners and riders at the ready for a video race night. More details in the next *DN*.

**Gareth Smith
337307**

Deddington Baby and Toddler Group

We had a great time in the run-up to Christmas, making crafts and decorations. Our Christmas party was a great success with a festive feast. We had a bouncy castle which the children loved, as did the mums. We also had a special visitor – Father Christmas! The children were very excited to see Santa arrive with a big sack of presents for all the babies and toddlers. We are very grateful to Father Christmas and his helper for taking the time to visit us. To see some of the photos from our party, visit us on Facebook.

We also thought that our Mums and Dads deserved a treat and so we had a night out on 8 December. We went to the Duke of Cumberland's Head in Clifton and

had a great time. The food and service were fantastic – thank you to all of the staff at the Duke who looked after us that night.

After a short rest over Christmas, we re-opened at the beginning of January. We are now planning our crafts and events for the next few months. If you would like to get in involved in the running of the group or with helping to organise events then please speak to Rebecca, Wendy or Anna H.

Deddington Baby and Toddler Group is a voluntary run group for children aged 0–5 years and their mums, dads, carers or grandparents. We meet every Friday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Windmill Centre, Deddington and would love it if you joined us. If you would like to know more about the group or are thinking of coming along but are nervous about turning up without knowing anyone then please give us a call on the number below or find us on Facebook. We look forward to meeting you.

**Rebecca Moss
336298**

1st Deddington Guides

A quick trip through the latter part of 2011 – which now seems an age away. We planted hyacinth bulbs in pots to give to others to brighten the winter months. We had a super film night – three age groups – each in a different venue – we turned it into a pyjama party and ate lots of chips and popcorn.

The Bumblebee patrol organised our Christmas party this year and we made 'pass the parcels' for other children's groups in the village to enjoy at their parties.

Other Christmas good deeds involved helping deliver cards for the Scout/Guide postal service – and our thanks to Jo Churchyard, Scout Leader, for all the work she and the family put in. Thanks also to you for using our service and thereby helping our fundraising.

Guides Lucy and Ella Ward, Yolanda Martin and Tilly Neal (with Brownie Connie, Scout Phillip and Ranger Natalie) helped the party at Waddington House Nursing Home go with a swing. They helped with games and tea and sang and played carols. The Panda patrol organised and ran the Brownie Christmas party – no mean feat – they did a marvellous job.

Two Guides, Sophie Preston and Tilly Neal, organised and ran the Rainbows Christmas party. Both Guides are nearing completion of their Baden Powell Award and as part of this, together with Natalie Trinder (now moved to Rangers) they attended an adventure weekend in the New Forest. The large country house, Foxlease, surrounded by forest accommodation, is very smart – en suite shower, great food, especially puddings. Thirty-one Guides came from all over southern England, including some who had flown in from Guernsey. Many activities were on offer: climbing, archery, obstacle courses, crafts, and an American night. A great experience and challenge!

... AND FINALLY ...

So we launch ourselves into 2012 – we have a promise ceremony soon and will all sign our new Guide lines that the girls have come up with as a focus for how we conduct ourselves at meetings.

Many exciting projects are coming up – each patrol has started on their own plans. Happy New Year to all.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 340806

Catherine Blackburn (Banbury)

Book Group

In November we read *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell, an account of an extremely eccentric expatriate family living in Greece, told from the point of view and memory of a 10-year-old child. Some thought it quite dated and did not enjoy the exaggerated situations and larger-than-life characters, while others found it charming, warm-hearted and amusing. Most of us were reading the book for a second time and were glad to revisit it after a long absence. This is an easy read, broken down into small vignettes, with beautiful descriptions of Greek island life and evocative of carefree childhood summers.

The next book is *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and the next meeting 23 February.

Sally Lambert 338094

Deddington Vets football

With regular fixtures, our annual DUST Awards Dinner and our Christmas charity game, December was a busy time. A fine 5–2 away win against Illmington saw us remain unbeaten this term. This was helped in no small part by Keith Tong's man-of-the-match display which saw him score his first and second goals of the season. A lack of space, and a sense of decency, prevents me from going through all of the awards dished out, but special mention must go to Mick Hewitt who picked up the player of year gong and Andy Shepherd who collected the annual resurgence in sporting excellence award.

This year's Christmas charity match, between a manager's XI and a president's XI, was an 11-goal thriller that had a touch of 'Billy's boots' about it. Turning up for the game without appropriate footwear, Rory O'Connell was about to play in a pair of training shoes until Mick Hewitt delved deep into his sports bag and produced a pair of old boots. Somewhat ill-fitting, at least they would enable young Rory to get some grip on the field of dreams that is the Deddington Town pitch. In true comic strip style Rory went on to score a first-half hat-trick which laid the foundation of a 7–4 victory for the manager's (Milner's) XI. Thank you to Deddington Town FC for letting us use their pitch and to the RBL for allowing us to socialise there afterwards. The game raised £240 which was split between RBL/Help for Heroes and Katharine House Hospice.

Barry O'Connell 338988

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

This term the Nursery children are learning about numbers and talking about the story *Each Peach Pear Plum*. The PFSU children are finding out about all kinds of animals and celebrating Chinese New Year. We hope to have visits from lots of friendly pets. Our fund-raising team have arranged a packed programme.

By popular demand the Formula Fast go-karting evening is back. We are holding a 12 kart two hour 'Le Mans rules' endurance race at Formula Fast in Banbury on Friday 2 March at 6pm. The cost per four-person team will be £210 including a buffet on the night. Please contact Neil on neilskinner2011@gmail.com if you are interested. We will be holding another jumble sale in Deddington Church on Saturday 3 March from 11am to 1pm. Donations of good quality bric-a-brac, children's clothes, adults' clothes, and toys would be welcome.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas events and our activities over recent months. You are too many to list but know who you are. Our Christmas hamper raffle raised just over £700 and our Pamper Night was also a huge success with around £1,500 being raised. We were delighted to receive donations from the George Michael event and Portuguese wine tasting, both held during November. Thank you also to Gus and Karen Watt for your ongoing support.

Lucy Squires 337484

PTA

December was a fantastic month for PTA fundraising. The school hall was transformed into a dazzling disco for the night, with flashing lights and glitter balls. The children danced their socks off and we raised £470 and are planning a sequel for next year. Huge thanks goes to Kelly Scott for putting on a tremendous show.

The children's Christmas cards were stunning this year and you must have thought so too as we almost sold out, raising £360. Our thanks to all who helped us produce (especially Mike Homer at Multiflow) and sell the cards.

Santa had a very busy weekend on 10 and 11 December travelling around the villages on his float. We were determined not to let the weather dampen our spirits and made a fantastic £870. Thank you to all Santa's helpers for their tireless efforts. Santa was out again at the Christmas Farmers' Market and had a great time chatting to all the children. His elves had sacks of lucky dip presents for the children and we raised £100. We sang carols in the church, with harmonies so fantastic you would almost think we had rehearsed! Thanks to Sarah, Edward and Lewis Liebrecht and all those who sang, helping us raise £120.

Dates for your diary include our Quiz Night on Saturday 24 March (please note this is a new date), the Deddington Walk on Sunday 13 May (also a new date), and the School Fête on Saturday 16 June.

Melissa Chadderton, Chair, 349936

melissa@rhubarbcreative.demon.co.uk



From the paradise of utero are we wrenched: birthed of woman, spawned of chaos. The breathing planet which

sustains us spins about a star burning at unfathomable temperatures, at a comfortable distance to warm us without reducing us to ashes. An invisible hand drags us incessantly toward the boiling core beneath the cold crust we stand on, just waiting for the occasion our hubris accords us passage to stray too far from the firm barrier that divides, that it can dash our fragile flesh shells against it. What now do we pursue, now that we need no longer pursue prey or shelter? We may term it 'happiness'. But 'happiness' is ephemeral, transient and fleeting. It is dependent upon a chance collision of pleasant circumstance and reflection, rarely tempered by the ill health or fortune that dogs many of us throughout existence. Perhaps odd moments could be termed as

BLISSFUL THINKING

such, but maybe 'contentment' is a better depiction of our ultimate pursuit.

But does not 'contentment' evoke sloth and apathy; a waning in vigour and ambition leading to a steady intellectual and spiritual decline? In this case maybe we should describe the ideal state of body or mind as simply 'motivation'. Motivation to go on, motivation to chase dreams, motivation to help ourselves and others, motivation to progress as a person. The exclusive knowledge of our own impending expirations provokes acts of stupendous accomplishment but also atrocity to this end. To be remembered and revered post-cessation versus dominion in life is but one conflict in the heart of man. That terminus that gestates within us both terrifies and consoles, for that without an end has no immediacy to cling to and savour; no finite sensation to thrill the senses. Dreams of whimsy may enchant the soul but only fortify the chains of subservience. But action without contemplation can render irrevocable ramifications, thus we must deploy patience,

an anathema to those with their inevitable decline firmly fixed in the context of their existences.

Among mankind's greatest successes would be the eradication of several most deadly diseases, and the easing of tortuous labour for a majority of developed peoples, though too often this is tempered with the persecution of fellows of the species and shameless abuse of power. If immortality was ever attained, our kind would most likely destroy several planets and species along the road to eventual self-extinction. We know this because history has told us it time and again. Without a clear universal agenda bar the expansion of our ilk, the species blessed with unheralded capacity for knowledge and comprehension will inevitably lean towards self-gratification time and again. And when confines such as the finite resources of a planet present themselves, we search for a method to progress from these limitations, lamentably with scarcely a modicum of forethought. Was it hunger for knowledge or lust for power that did for Adam?

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from Jackson's Oxford Journal of January 1862:

3rd January – Before J. Lechmere Esq., C.C. Dormer Esq., H. Hall Esq., Rev. W.C. Risley & Rev. T. Curme:

Rev. J. Brogden, Vicar of Deddington, was charged by Henry Dean, the younger, with assaulting him on the 11th December. Mr. Kilby appeared for the complainant and called Henry Dean who said that, having heard Mr. Brogden had called at his father's and made an accusation against him, which was false, he made up his mind to ask him for an explanation. On the day in question he met Mr. Brogden in the street, and directly he spoke to him about it, Mr. Brogden struck him across his ear with his walking stick, which caused it to swell;

Mr. Brogden had also threatened his life, and to set as bull dog on him. In defence Mr. Brogden said that the provocation he received was in consequence of the young man coming to his house to attract his young daughter, only 15 years of age, who, he was happy to say, was now removed from the town in consequence, through the kindness of friends. Unfortunately she was a poor giddy creature, and he regretted what had taken place through her, as he had since understood that she gave him encouragement. The Bench said that they must convict him in a fine of 10s., and costs 10s. He was also bound over to keep the peace.

James Taylor, late of Clifton, was summoned by the overseers of Deddington for the amount of poor rates amounting to £1.19.3d.

It appeared that some of the rates charged to him belonged to his father, which being the case he paid the money without any costs.

The Rev. J. Brogden was also summoned for non payment of poor rates amounting to upwards of £3; defendant did not appear, adjourned for a month.

Buffy Heywood 338212

**FRIENDS OF
DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL**
Sale of nearly new
children's clothes

in the church
**at the Farmers' Market
on 24 March**

WELL REMEMBERED

SUZANNE RICHARDSON 1945–2011

Sue was born in Deddington in 1945, joining brother Tony as the second child of Ivy and Sam Rainbow. She went to school in the village and from an early age was involved with her parents' milk round. She worked for a while at Banbury Buildings at Adderbury, packing greenhouses for despatch. She met Paul in the British Legion Club in Deddington and they married in the Parish Church in 1975. They began married life in Middleton Cheney where Mark was born, but soon moved back to Deddington, to Tawny Cottage in the High Street, and Rachel and Linda joined the family.

Sue became a dinner lady and general helper-out at Deddington Primary School, a job she did for 18 years and which she greatly enjoyed. Later on she helped look after the offices of Philip Allan Updates. Sue was house-proud, and following a strict and strenuous routine of housework gave her much satisfaction. Her brasses, particularly the kettles, were her pride and joy and the collection took a lot of cleaning and polishing. Enjoying company, Sue offered open house to Paul's workmates and was an important part of the British Legion community. She enjoyed seaside holidays but was always pleased to get back to Deddington. Deeply rooted in the village, born in it, working for it, knowing its long-standing families across several generations, Sue was of the essence of Deddington and will be greatly missed in her community.

HW

ANGELA MACKENZIE 1923–2011

Angela Speed was born in 1923 and educated at St Philomena's, Charshalton, a Catholic Convent School. Having worked for some years as a secretary, in 1956 she achieved her ambition of becoming a stewardess with BOAC. She flew in Britannias, Comet IVs and Boeing 707s and served on two royal flights, with Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra.

After BOAC Angela returned to secretarial work and eventually became executive secretary to Alastair Mackenzie at Commercial Union in the City. Angela and Alastair married in 1974 and acquired the Old Well House in Deddington as their country home.

Marriage to Alastair was a fast-moving whirl of travel, entertaining and regular visits to Covent Garden and the theatre. Angela, without children herself, and Alastair enjoyed the company of Jonathan and Andrew, sons of Angela's brother Anthony, taking them to the theatre and ballet and even on a canal holiday; her nephews' progress was an abiding interest.

Alastair died in 1989 after a long illness and then in the mid-90s Angela was diagnosed with tongue cancer. Treatment was successful, but left her having to learn to speak again. Her characteristic strong-mindedness enabled her to do this and, though her self-confidence and vivaciousness were somewhat diminished, she was nevertheless able to take several cruises, go on a cycling holiday in the Jura and to visit Antarctica.

Anthony Speed and HW

IRENE TUSTAIN 1920–2011

Irene Shrewsbury was born in Hornton in 1920. At the age of four she came to Deddington where she attended school. After school she worked as a domestic in Oxford Colleges along with her elder brother Eldon's wife, Daisy. Dancing was one of her early pleasures. She married Cyril Tustain at the age of 18, a marriage that was to last 60 years until Cyril's death in 2008, and which produced three children, Brian, Peter and Pat. After a move from the Hempton Road, the family lived at the newly-built Paddocks and much enjoyed the support and friendship of the close community there. Tragically, Brian and Peter were killed in a car crash on the Oxford road in 1961, a blow from which it was difficult for Irene fully to recover. She found some comfort in walks with her great friend Rene Clark. She took pleasure in her dogs and her cooking – her cakes were particularly good. She did crosswords and liked to watch the soaps and the football on TV. She looked after her mother who became invalid towards the end of her life and was herself devotedly cared for in her last days by Pat and partner Ted.

HW

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1832 72 residents of Deddington emigrated from Liverpool in the good ship *Brutus* bound for Quebec. Eight days after setting sail cholera broke out on board; things got so bad that eventually Captain Neilson turned the boat round and headed back to port. Eighty-one (almost 25%) of the passengers died on board.

Sir Henry Samman (1849–1928), born in Deddington (his father Alban was a draper in the Market Place) was founder and managing director of the Deddington Steamship Company registered in Hull. He even named one of his ships *SS Deddington* (1903–1918).

Watch DoL and DN for further articles as research continues.

Jon Malings
jon_malings@hotmail.com

Story Writers and Poets Wake Up!

Nearly everyone has a story to tell. Whether it is true or make-believe, serious, humorous, historical or futuristic, prose or poetry, the 2012 Deddington Writing Competition could be the place to try it out and possibly to get an expert opinion on it. Details will shortly be available on www.deddingtonfestival.org and in local libraries. The Open Competition is for anyone to enter whilst the Junior Competition is for children and young people living in North Oxfordshire and is divided into three age groups. Once again, entries will be judged by local professional authors who are keen to recognise your undiscovered talent. Wake up, write and enter!

Hugh Marshall
337761