

April 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



Delivered free to Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Is life beginning to get exciting? Quite apart from distinct signs that the pandemic is receding, there are signs of spring and we have some dates for your diaries:

The annual parish meeting will be held on 5 May via Skype using <https://join.skype.com/g2gZevamONcb> and the parish show committee is determined (obviously within the rules of the day) to go ahead with the show on 4 September, p8.

And, hot off the press, see p10, the Friends of Deddington Library report for more news.

On top of all that the church is holding services, in particular over the Easter weekend. Tickets only for Easter Sunday services in Deddington and Barford St Michael, see p5. Make the most of them – not everywhere has reopened their churches for services.

If anyone wishes to report local issues such as potholes, street lights not working, the most effective way of doing so is to go to Fix my Street, at <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

Perhaps next month we shall have a list of What's On filling this page?

JC

Peter and Paul's Pantry

Deddington Church is now a Food Bank referral agency. If you or someone you know needs access to the Food Bank in Banbury, then you can be referred via the church. You will need to call 01869 220720 (12.00pm–4.00pm every Wednesday) or email foodbank@deddingtonchurch.org anytime.

In addition, we have opened Peter and Paul's Pantry. Food that has reached its sell by date, but which is perfectly good to eat, is available *free* from the church from 5.30pm every Tuesday and Thursday. This is not about food necessarily going to people who need it most – although it would be lovely if that happened. This is about reducing food waste.

Everything that is available is simply unsold food which, if not taken and eaten, will literally be thrown away – and it is far too good to do that. Much of the food we have on offer can be frozen which extends its shelf life even further. So please help us to reduce the amount of food which has to be disposed of by taking it, free of charge, from the church.

Annie Goldthorp

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<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held via Skype 17 March by Skype

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Higham, Oldfield, O'Neill, Reeve, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, District Councillor Williams, County Councillor Fatemian, the parish clerk and four members of the public.

Open Forum: Mr Broadbent spoke in relation to the Windmill Community Centre roof. The contractor currently on site has indicated the roof problems arise because there is no ventilation space between insulation and roofing material.

Mr Burgess, landlord of the Unicorn Inn, addressed the PC regarding an application for tables and chairs in the parking area outside the pub. Although the PC has been advised that CDC have refused his application, Mr Burgess has had further discussions with licensing and planning at CDC. However, DPC has not been provided with the application details. Mr Burgess will send the application to them in order that they may properly consider it.

Windmill Community Centre: There was a very lengthy discussion regarding the long-standing problem of a leaky roof. The solar panels have been removed and are stored and insured and scaffolding is in use. These matters need to be resolved in order that the Windmill can be reopened on the expected date of 12 April when restrictions are eased. The contractor's advice is that in some places rainwater gets in but the main problem is lack of ventilation causing condensation. The current contractor should complete the job quoted for and WMC carry out further investigations with the assistance of Councillor Swadling.

District Councillor's report: Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue is running a Fire Kills campaign and urging householders to make checking their smoke alarms part of a regular household routine.

Oxfordshire's Director of Public Health reported on current Covid-19 infections locally, indicating that CDC is still at a higher level than the lowest level last summer although numbers are reducing.

County Councillor's report: the position of a street light on corner of The Daedings has been agreed.

Finance and General Purposes

The annual parish meeting will be held on 5 May via Skype using <https://join.skype.com/g2gZevamONcb>.

Extra grass cuts for verges surrounding footpaths between each village in the parish were agreed.

A £6,380 Containing Outbreak Management Fund grant available for use on such things as hand sanitiser, deep cleans of public venues, to help keep people in the community safe.

Planning

No objection

Southgate, Market Place: fell one thuja tree, excessively large and in ill-health, replace with native tree.

These parish council notes are the view of our reporter, Jill Cheeseman, and not the official minutes. For those, go to <https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2021.html>.

Objection

Manor Farm, Hempton Road: fell trees in conservation area, no reason for application given.

Refusal

Nellie & Dove: awning over public footpath.

Approval

Wesleyan Reform Chapel: change of use.

Large Scale Developments

Land north of Hempton Road and west of Wimborn Close: amended outline application for 14 two-storey dwellings. PC request for open space is not currently included. £13,000 S106 should be allocated to the Windmill, not Banbury Spiceball.

Community Orchard

Proposal from Deddington Environment Network for twelve trees to be planted in the autumn at Welford's Piece, Clifton. Mrs Welford and neighbours are all happy with the plans. Grant funding is to be sought. To be discussed on Councillor Eames' return.

Environment and Recreation

A light for the Lookout was requested by DTFC.

Gaps in hedges to be filled with non-prickly bushes.

Creative Play has finally carried out repair to the roundabout at adventure playground. It needs three monthly maintenance.

Planning permission will be required for building of the disabled access toilets because of changes to the appearance of the building.

The entrance gate to be installed on 12 April. A notice will be erected regarding periodic closure. There is an issue of access to EV recharging points which are sometimes used overnight.

WMC will consult with the wider community on gender neutral toilets through DN, p7 .

A new sign was agreed for the vehicle entrance at Windmill incorporating football and cricket clubs information.

Consideration will be given to installing a bin compound at the Windmill to tidy up the area.

Highways and Transport

OCC has agreed to 'Slow' road markings close to the entrance to The Grove.

It was requested that Fix my Street be given wider publicity. This has been posted on Facebook Deddington Community Noticeboard.

PC Representatives

Library – reopening date is likely soon.

School – parents are being urged to maintain more effective social distancing.

Covid-19 group – is keeping in touch locally. Co-op generously gave hand sanitiser.

Next meetings:

Wednesday 21 April at 7.30pm on Skype

Annual parish meeting on 5 May by Skype

IN A TALE SPIN

Earthquakes. War. Fatal and near-fatal crashes. Romance in the desert. Sultans and royals. In the clutches of Iranian police. A world championship. Those and much more, all heavily laced with humour, are in a funny little book by Deddington resident Nick Mylne.

Life In A Spin (The Conrad Press) is nothing to do with politics but all about Mylne's career piloting helicopters for the Army and commercially. In his prologue he says memories pop up at random and never in neat chronological order. So you have been warned: in 91 pages he dexterously jumps in time and place. Sandhurst, Aden, Stockholm, Middle Wallop, Germany, Oxford, Saudi Arabia, Tehran, Damascus, Redhill, Jamaica, Goose Bay in Canada and Oman pass at blistering speed as he matter-of-factly and tightly amuses or interests us in the high and low altitudes of his life in the cockpit.

He spent 30 years flying and followed that with 20 years teaching aviation law and human performance. But it is not the teaching that he writes about.

Instead we discover an Army general overly aware of his appearance but brought to earth in flames. A crewman who almost lands Mylne in a Middle Eastern

prison. A helicopter is downed in the North Sea.

He describes in spare but telling detail of when he was heading for a cliff-top landing only for the tail rotor of his machine to fail. The helicopter spun, hit the cliffside and fell halfway towards the sea before coming to rest upside down and burning with him trapped inside.



A charismatic King Hussein of Jordan, the King of Spain, Qaboos bin Said (former Sultan of Oman) and Nelson Rockefeller slide through the pages. Read how Mylne met the woman who became his wife while he was under suspicion in Assad's Syria.

It is a testament to the tightness of his writing about these 'shared moments' that he manages to cover so much in so few pages, though the densely detailed news-in-brief approach sometimes leaves you hungering for context.

The book is light-heartedly illustrated by Peter Loyd, another former Army pilot and friend.

In these coronavirus days, reading this was like finding an unseen Morecambe and Wise show in the Christmas schedules. Clearly other people think so too — the book is going into a second edition.

John Price

DL History Corner

deddingtonhistory.uk

C19th Deddington 'Anti-Vaxxers' and 'Fake News'

John Plumb recently drew my attention to two old *Banbury Advertiser* articles which show that history has a habit of repeating itself. A regular topic of comment in the C19th, like today, was opposition to vaccination. Deddington also had its own anti-vaxxers. Joseph Malings, 1836-86, who described himself as 'Chemist, Druggist and Botanic Practitioner', strongly opposed the 1867 and 1871 Vaccination Acts which required children to be vaccinated within three months of birth. While making known his long held views on the infringement of parental rights, Joseph also expressed his doubts on the efficacy of vaccination and refused to have his three children vaccinated. On each occasion he was summonsed, fined and, on one occasion, sentenced to prison (suspended in the end) and had his goods confiscated. He was very voluble in print and at public meetings, particularly about the

vaccination officer's right to enter his house to examine his child while he was out.

In 1875 John Upton, manager of the Co-operative Stores, similarly refused vaccination for his child because he asserted that infant mortality had increased since smallpox vaccination was introduced. Mr Holford Risley, from the Bench, robustly responded 'Oh no. That is positively untrue. If you believe everything you read in print, you'll believe some very strange things.' Upton then cheekily demanded that he be given a full account of why his fine was so big. The Revd Corne, also on the Bench, responded that he could well afford to pay and to stop arguing, otherwise a distress warrant for recovery by the bailiffs would be issued. He paid.

It all sounds quite familiar. This, and more about both men – Joseph Malings was a prominent figure of the day – can be found on the History website at <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/plaguesandpestilence/anti-vaxxersinthe19thcentury> where there are references to various newspaper articles, a demonstration in the Market Place and 'Letters to the Editor'.

Rob Forsyth
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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Risk, Covid and Conspiracies

My first proper job was at Burtons, the largest men's clothing chain in the UK at the time. I had to do night shifts on occasions, working in the computer room. I can't reassure you that I hadn't had a couple of beers earlier in the evening, but something in my brain certainly wasn't totally switched on because I typed in the wrong thing at the operators' console. And deleted all the sales and financial data for the company. I nearly died of heart failure.

However, some smart person (his name was Pete) had evaluated the risks involved with giving a 21 year old idiot access to this extremely valuable data. So, after a panic phone call, I discovered the world of magnetic tape backups and by 7am Pete and I had recovered the data before the staff turned up to do their bean counting for the day and I wasn't sacked.

I am recounting this embarrassing tale to illustrate an important point for us all today. It's a great idea to plan for the worst catastrophes, but there are times when risks are viewed as highly unlikely and the costs involved mean we don't invest. Which is why the parish is in lockdown and Texas is fully open for business.

A month ago, I looked up the Covid infection rates and it was higher in Texas than in Deddington, but a couple of weeks later, with case rates declining, the Governor of the Lone Star state decided it was all over and everyone could throw away their masks and go back to the office. Americans are hugely committed to 'freedom'. In this case, freedom to give their grannie Covid.

There are now two other big factors in play: our new 'fact free' world and the huge political divide in the US right now. As the vaccine rolls out across America, conspiracy theories are exploding in an environment where some people will believe anything that confirms their world view. There is still a considerable minority that believes the election was stolen and, hence there are now 28 states introducing legislation to limit voting rights. Why on earth does a country that calls itself 'the greatest democracy on earth' want to stop people from voting?

In February Texas had a huge snowstorm. Many people were made homeless and many more were charged over \$1,000 a day for power, all because the state government had not planned for this eventuality. In their view, because there is no climate change, this wasn't going to happen and will certainly never happen again. This is why the Governor of Texas opened up the state. He is no longer the most unpopular man in town. He downplayed one risk to get over the failure to address another.

I have been in IT for 47 years but don't ask me to fix your PC. I will probably delete all your pictures. However, I do understand risk and, as far as I can see, the world is turning into a riskier place right now. How do you even evaluate risks when you can't agree on the facts?

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

FARMERS' MARKET

Meet the Stallholders – Greengrossers

Each month you see our stallholders and buy their produce but what do you know about them? This month we begin an occasional series of the stories behind the food you buy at the market, starting with one of the longest serving stallholders ...

If you were at the last farmers' market, you will no doubt have seen Carl and Ann Gross selling their vegetables and condiments. If you were at the very first farmers' market in 2001 you would have found them there as well. They were among the first stallholders and are one of the few remaining. It began with an over-abundance of produce from their one acre allotment. They were desperately trying to find good homes for it all when local radio came to their rescue. Carl heard an item announcing that stallholders were being sought for a new monthly farmers' market in Deddington. The opportunity seemed tailor-made for them so a phone call was made to Charles Newey, the first chairman, who duly quizzed them about their produce. On hearing that they had plenty of garlic, Charles welcomed them with open arms and the journey began.

The Gross's first outing to the market produced



revenue of £45 which, while it both surprised and delighted them, left them with something of a dilemma – what to do with the proceeds? They could, of course, have ploughed it back into the allotment but they had bigger plans than that. For some years, they had been sponsoring two children in an orphanage in Pattaya, Thailand, so Carl and Ann decided that every penny of the money they made from

selling their produce would be donated to the orphanage and that decision still holds good today. Over the last 20 years they have raised more than £46,000 from their Deddington market stall – apart from the last 12 months or so when the market has been closed, much of the time due to COVID-19 restrictions. The vegetables didn't stop growing, however, so Ann and Carl set up a stall outside their Middle Barton home and the selling continued, making 2020, somewhat ironically, their best year ever. The market has also been generous to their cause, contributing £2,000 to projects in Thailand, including a mushroom hut which bears a plaque recording the donation.

Jenny Snashall

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<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

April

The church is open for public worship once more. Services continue to be streamed live. Easter Sunday will be a ticketed service; please contact Heather Nason on 01869 338494 for a ticket. Regretfully the toilets will remain closed until further notice.

Please see the church website www.deddington-church.org or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch> for updates.

Weekday Services

Mon–Fri: 8.45am Morning Prayer

Wed: 10.00am Holy Communion

Fri 2 9.30am Easter Garden Service
12.00pm–3.00pm The Three Hours Vigil

Sat 3 7.30pm, Service of Light and
Renewal of Baptism Vows

Sun 4 10.30am Easter Celebration with Holy
Communion – *Ticketed*

Sun 11 9.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 18 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 25 10.30am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Sun 4 9.00am Easter Celebration with
Holy Communion–
Ticketed

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, Revd Annie Goldthorp at 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 Meriel Flux 01869 338901.

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.

Friends of Daeda's Wood

I hope that you enjoyed last month's article written by a frequent visitor to the Wood. It is refreshing to have different perspectives.

Here's another:

'I leap out of the car and instantly feel a burst of energy coursing through my body. Can it be the sight of the frosted seed heads of cow parsley, sparkling like miniature fairy tiaras ... or perhaps the sharpened swords of marram grass barring my way? I am on a mission to explore, discover and make sense of this place. I stand stock-still and look skyward, vigorously shaking my fringe from my eyes, to see where the joyful thrush is. Then with a bound I hurl towards a muddy quagmire leaving satisfying impressions in the oozing mess ... I was here.

Fifteen minutes later I am completely exhausted and contentedly climb back into the car and settle in the boot on my muddy blanket. A wonderful walk.'

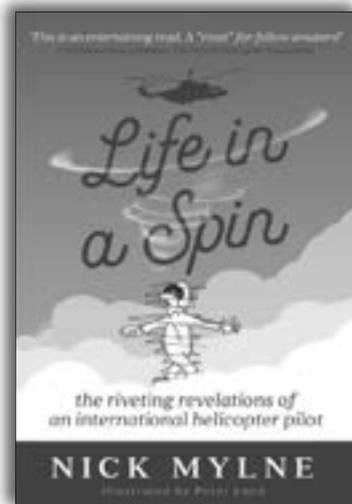
For information about the Friends of Daeda's Wood and maybe to submit your own article, please contact me.

Annette Murphy, Chair
murphyannette74@gmail.com

LIFE IN A SPIN

the funny and riveting revelations of an ex-Army and international helicopter pilot now living in Deddington

by Nick Mylne



'This is an entertaining read. A "must" for fellow aviators!'

Lord Glenarthur,
president,
The British
Helicopter
Association

Nick Mylne spent 30 years flying in the commercial and the military worlds, followed by 20 years teaching Aviation Law and Human Performance and Limitations at Oxford Aviation and L3 Harris Aviation Academies.

ISBN 978-1-913567-59-0

On sale now as a paperback or ebook from www.theconradpress.com, Amazon and other outlets

TALES FROM THE PUMP

I brought Fred his pint of Hooky as he sat outside the pub in the April sunshine. He eyed my card-reader suspiciously and handed me a £20 note. 'So now I have to go back to the bar and get your change and then come back out here,' I moaned. 'Good exercise for you,' he said with a grin as he supped his pint. 'Not my fault I can't go in the pub.'

When I returned with his change, he decided to take me on another trip – down memory lane. 'Do you remember when a lot of guys would drink light and bitter – a half of cask ale topped up with a bottle of light ale?' I waited for more but he stayed quiet so I said, 'I guess you know why that was? Firstly it was expected pubs would be over generous with the half of bitter so the guys got well over a pint. Woe betide the barman who put the bottle in the glass first. And secondly, the cask ale wasn't as good as it is today; it tended to be a bit flat so the light ale livened it up a bit.' Fred handed me his empty glass for a refill and I held my hand out for the cash.



When I came back with his foaming pint, he'd been thinking about the drinks that seem to have disappeared since we were lads. 'When did you last serve a lager and lime, a Snakebite (lager and cider), a Guinness and blackcurrant?' he asked, 'and the ladies are all fizz mad today – no more vodka and lime, port and lemon, rum and black, or Dubonnet and lemonade. Apparently the Queen once had a penchant for a Dubonnet and lemonade but she's probably moved on to a nice prosecco these days.' 'More like a Moët,' I replied.

Fred hadn't finished. 'Another thing about pubs in the old days was that the toilets were nearly always outside in the backyard. So we drank inside and went outside to relieve ourselves. Seems strange that right now we have to drink outside and go inside for the loo.'

Grumpy Landlord

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

Ed's note: What about Babycham and Cherry B?

Thinking of selling your painting?



Mallams
1788

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Home Visits also available

Adrian Allinson (1890-1959)

The Stone Breakers
oil on canvas
recently sold for £7,600

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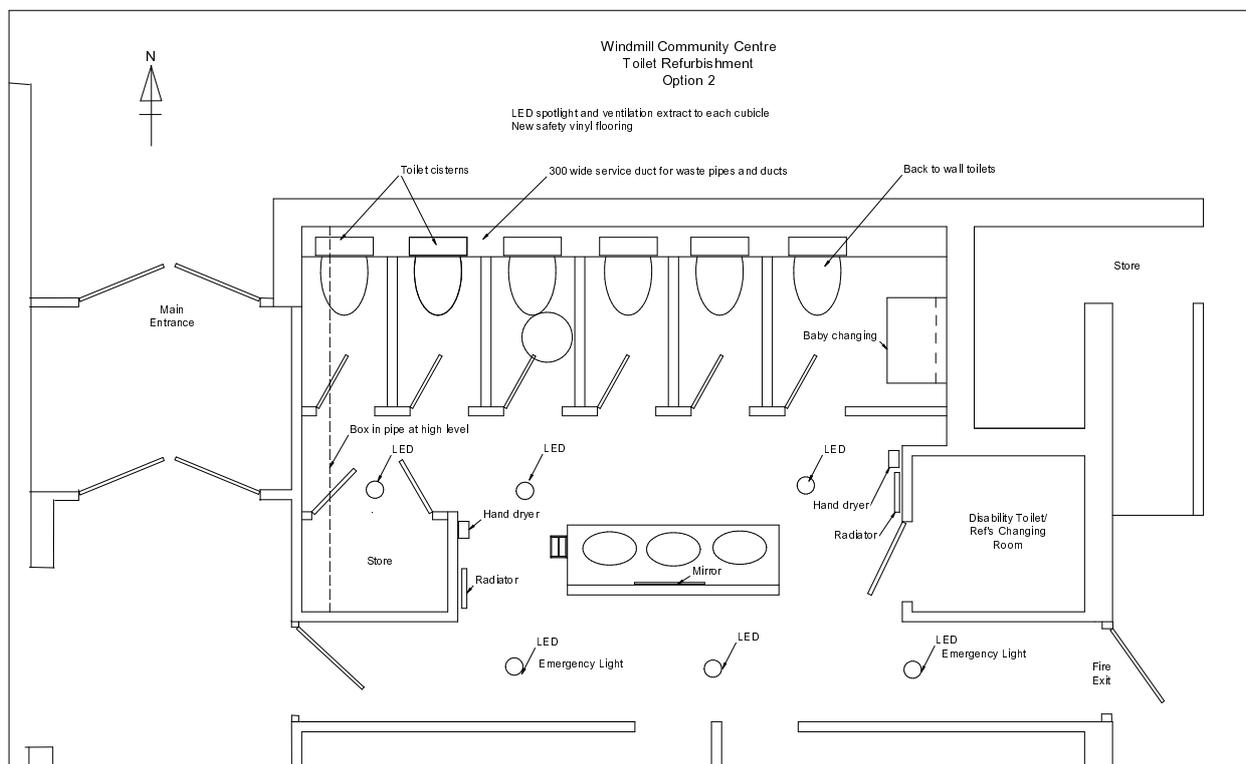
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This month, we are going to talk toilets. In particular, I want to update you on the planned refurbishment of the main ground floor toilet facilities. This capital project, financed by the parish council, has long been on our to-do list and we have talked to several contractors

In addition, a full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, in line with the Windmill Equality and Diversity Policy, to ensure that any proposed plans do not intentionally discriminate against protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. It is worth noting that the new toilets planned on the west side of the building – a disabled loo to serve the Hempton lounge as well as a much-needed outside toilet – will also be Equality Act compliant and gender neutral. The loos upstairs will remain single sex.

A full report will be presented at the next parish council meeting. Whether you are a regular or occasional user of the Windmill, we'd love to know what you think. Please email me directly by 15 April if you would



over the past months. Two options are currently being considered:

Option One: a like-for-like refurbishment of the existing facility;

Option Two: a reconfiguration to form a large gender neutral facility, with floor to ceiling cubicles, a baby-changing facility and a fit-for-purpose disabled toilet and referee's changing room.

We have kept in touch with our regular user groups, informing them along the way and, so far, the responses have been overwhelmingly in favour of Option Two. The Windmill management committee, as well as the Windmill trustees, are in favour of the second option.

like to express your views. There is a more detailed briefing document on our website at www.thewindmill-deddington.org and posted on the noticeboard outside the Windmill Centre. We can send you a paper copy if you call the Windmill number, 07720 834006, and let us know your name and address.

Our website and Facebook page are also where you will find information about the groups that operate out of the Windmill and the latest news concerning our post-Covid reopening. It can't be long now ...

Vaughan Jones
Chair, Windmill Management Committee
vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

It is touching to observe the concern expressed by passers-by for the wellbeing of Hempton residents. Eager to help relieve the effects of confinement in Covid lockdown and isolation in these remote parts, they thoughtfully leave any spare litter strewn about the village and roadsides. Their intentions are obviously to encourage the inhabitants to venture forth (in Covid compliant pairs) to retrieve the litter, providing companionship, exercise and a sense of purpose. The Hempton anti-garbage crew has been taking advantage of the opportunity and spruced up our road signage into the bargain. Good job.

I had assumed that the early history of Hempton was intrinsic to that of Deddington, including the manorial lordship of Bishop Odo of Bayeux, half brother of William I, after the Norman Conquest in 1066. It transpires that in 1066 King William I, having assumed the title to all England, bestowed Lordship of the Manor of Hempton on his cousin and Norman Baron, Walter Giffard, Lord of Longueville as Tenant in Chief. Walter's main reward was the feudal barony of Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire.

As a Christian knight, Wandering Walter fought against the Moors in Spain and was present at the Siege of Barbastro in Aragon 1064-5. The siege is noted for the barbarity and looting perpetrated by the victorious European army following surrender of the city. The undertaking has been claimed as the first crusade and to have been sanctioned by Pope Alexander II, but this has been disputed and is not recognised as such. Ironically Walt managed to fit in a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, possibly the first in England to do so. After the siege, Walt hot-footed it back to Normandy bearing a gift of a magnificent war horse from the king of Spain for Duke William who is alleged to have ridden the mount into battle at Hastings – the original 'Stormin Norman'.

Walt and Odo were at the Council of Lillebonne where they supported William's plan to invade England, depose King Harold and take the Crown for himself. Others thought it a barmy idea saying their oath of loyalty did not extend to personal vendettas; apparently it did extend more persuasively to the promise of large estates in England. William was miffed because he claimed King Edward (the Confessor) had

promised him succession and Harold had acknowledged as much. They chipped in and financed ships for the invasion and were amongst only 15 individuals positively identified as accompanying William at the Battle of Hastings. Walt was offered the privilege of taking William's standard into battle, but declined as he was too long in the tooth and did not fancy waving a flag pole about on horseback whilst fending off unfriendly Britons.

Not all of Hempton was given to Walt. Edward of Salisbury, the richest English tenant-in-chief in the Domesday Book, held a manor of 'one Ploughland c120 acres', about 10% of total acreage. Ed was probably of Anglo Saxon descent and served as High Sheriff of Wiltshire. He appears to have held this manor before and after the Norman Conquest.

I imagine Walt never actually set foot or hoof in the manor. Hempton was just one of 156 under his fiefdom. Walt sub-let the manor to Ralph of Lanquetot who would pay tax to Walt in return. Ralph's daughter, Alice, married Roger de Chesney and it is believed that Hempton became part of Deddington manor through this family connection. The de Chesneys held Deddington at some point following Odo's fall from grace. He was accused of defrauding the Crown and the Diocese of Canterbury and eventually forfeited his English estates and enjoyed five years' porridge for an unauthorised attempted military expedition in Italy. It has been suggested he had designs on becoming Pope.

Before the conquest, the Manor of Hempton was held by Edith of Wessex who was crowned Queen of England and wife of Edward the Confessor. Harold Godwinson (King Harold) was her brother. She is buried in Westminster Abbey together with her husband, King Edward.

The above is based around a Hull University interpretation of the Domesday Book. As with much early history it could be subject to revision.

Hempton Common Lands Charity

Hempton residents may find support for a range of domestic needs is at hand. Details can be found at www.hemptoncharity.org.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

DEDDINGTON PARISH SHOW

Revd Annie and the Parish Show committee are very keen to run the show again this year. It seems likely, at present, that we shall be able to do this.

This popular one-day event showcases gardening, cookery, craft, art and photographic skills from local people, as well as children's classes and fundraising stalls. We hope it will once again be a great community gathering.

The date is Saturday 4 September. Please support by entering or by coming to view and admire exhibits and have tea.

Paper show programmes will be available in June.

Wendy Burrows
Hon Secretary
wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

'April showers bring forth May flowers.' In the days of my far distanced youth April showers were known as lambing storms and in the absence of modern day wax clothing, it was a hessian Hudson bag tied across our shoulders to keep the rain off. The sheep were lambed outside with a few hurdle pens set up in the corner of the lambing field and I spent many a long day and night with my sheep in the company of two sheepdogs, Pan and Fly. Mother always made sure that the three of us were well cared for and it was always a very welcome sight to see her little Austin seven come bombing down the farm track to the lambing field.

After many abortive attempts I was offered the tenancy of Home Farm and I arrived with a wife and two children in March 1974, a few sheep and forty cows with calves at foot. Today there are no cattle. BSE regulations put paid to them but the sheep flock is considerably larger and the land which now covers three farms is managed by my son and grandson.

As I sit at the keyboard the Clifton flock is all but done with only a few stragglers left and most out to grass. The organic flock at North Aston is being 'steamed' up with extra feed and will be on the go by the time this hits the doormat, so spring has sprung. It's a timely reminder in these days of enforced lockdown to please keep your dogs under control or risk losing them. Seventy-two spring lambs were killed locally and many more needed treatment for bite wounds. The



owners must know what their dogs have been up to.

As I reported last month the rooks are nesting high, said to indicate a good summer but we shall just have to wait and see.

With spring well under way, the farm wildlife is on the job. We have hedges around every field on the farm with a large amount of black-thorn (sloes). It is the first of the hedgerow plants to flower producing a white flower, hence the term 'black-thorn winter'. It's always a welcome sight and a good source of pollen and nectar for the bees at the start

of the year. For the first time in many years there is no oil seed rape on the farm – a considerable downer for the bees and other insects but what with the ever-increasing regulatory burden and the loss of much of the crop-growing chemicals, the small acreage that we grew has become uneconomical, so we have gone back to cash cropping fodder rape and stubble turnips grazed off with feeding sheep, followed by spring malting barley.

It will soon be time to shut up the haymaking meadows. With the purchase of a round baler, my little old conventional baler will stay in the barn. The fodder will be encased in black plastic and loaded into large feeders by a telescopic loader, with the removed plastic put into a skip ready for recycling, so farmyard string, much sought after by local gardeners, will become a thing of the past, ho hum.

George Fenemore 01869 338203

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Normality is slowly being restored here at school. Every child was in school on 8 March, the first day we reopened to all pupils. It was truly fantastic and something which we celebrated in each class. This seems a perfect opportunity for us to say thank you to our parents and carers who have supported us throughout the periods of home learning and learning at school.

Fairtrade fortnight was a focus for us at the end of February. A range of activities were carried out at school and home during lockdown to increase our pupils' awareness of the importance of supporting Fairtrade.

'Safer Internet' day was also important for us all. The children were given an opportunity to produce a poster regarding e-safety and enter them in to a competition, if they wanted to.

World Book Day is always a special day and we celebrated on 9 March when children were back in school.



A large proportion of them dressed up as different book characters. It was lovely to see them in their costumes. Exciting reading related activities took place throughout the day to celebrate books and authors. Our own parent author, Sarah Mahfoudh, kindly recorded two of her stories for the children to listen to. Pupils from F1 to Year 6 enjoyed them and we would like to say thank you to Sarah for taking the time to do this. We also

distributed World Book Day £1 book tokens.

As you can probably tell, we are very happy now that we have our whole school community back together once more. Long may this continue.

Easter will soon be upon us and, with longer days ahead, we hope plenty of sunshine and warmth to enjoy.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

HOLLY TREE

As you might imagine, lots of work has been carried out since the last *DN* was published.

The parquet flooring was re-laid once the floor had been damp-proofed and it has been sanded ready for its polyurethane sealer later this month. Insulated panelling around the walls has been installed and the skirting is going down this week. It's starting to come together and look really good.

The building has been rewired and new LED lighting installed. The plumbing work is complete, so we now have a gas boiler providing heating to radiators in the hall, the kitchen and cloakroom where we have installed hot water as well. (Oh the luxury!)

The hearing loop and cinema system have been installed to first fix, which was sensible while the work is ongoing. However, we are unable to purchase the cinema screen and projector until we have either gifts from the community to fund these or grants to do so. The monthly film nights have always been popular and we hope they can restart once we are allowed to reopen the hall and have the appropriate equipment.

If you would like to make a donation to the Holly Tree Film Night fund or any other funding gifts, please contact the secretary on 07986 141291 or secretary@thehollytreeclub.org for details on how to donate. Anything you are able to give would be most welcome to support our restoration project.

The grass bank behind the north wall has been excavated and a retaining wall will be built to help eradicate the damp by keeping the wet earth away from the wall on that side of the building. Unfortunately this

wasn't without its surprises as we found there were no foundations to a large part of the north wall. Not that it's unusual to have a building this old without foundations, to be fair, but it was a bit odd that the hall floor inside is much lower than the external wall ... by about three feet ... so it looks like a lot of soil and good luck has held that wall up for very many years. However, it will be remedied by underpinning, an expense we hadn't anticipated, but that's what a contingency fund is for. The contractor has started to install the ramps from Horse Fair to the hall which will make access much easier for those with limited mobility.

The mains gas has yet to be installed which we hope will be in early May. Meanwhile, the driveway will be dug out and hard-cored or gravelled and a passing-place created on the right side inside the gate to meet planning conditions. The treatment to the driveway and parking area will ensure it is not a mud bath as it has in the past, which should tidy up the outside considerably.

There is still much work to do and I wouldn't want to suggest a completion date just yet, but watch this space in May when I hope to be able to bring you that news.

In the meantime, we hope you are all staying safe and well and are on your way to your second vaccinations if you've not already had them.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Easter season.

**Revd Annie Goldthorp, Chair
Holly Tree Management Committee**

From the Fire Station

One of us commented on a shout that the general public is adhering to lockdown and being prudent and cautious – 15 shouts this month, nine of which have been standbys. Deddington's expertise has been required at a petrol station fire in Croughton and dispersing smoke in a small kitchen fire in the village.

Corrie King is now on the run and brings the crew up to nine, Adam and Sarah Franklin are proud parents and Adam Perry is out of development and a fully fledged competent firefighter.

The Scouts have been training for their fire safety badge and, rather than a station visit, have had to make do with Zoom meetings led by me explaining combustion and smoke alarms. National on-call recruitment week is in full swing with numerous online campaigns around the county. Deddington Fire Station's Facebook page is busy with lots of interesting details about on-call firefighting from Ben Fenemore and the equipment and protective clothing we use – check out the factsheets and pictures.

James Greenwood, FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

Friends of Deddington Library

Good news! OCC has announced it will begin to reopen some libraries from 12 April, subject to government guidance, with Deddington library scheduled to reopen on 19 April. Covid safety measures are being installed, new carpet has been fitted and we look forward to meeting the new library manager. Initially, opening hours will be reduced to Monday 2.00–5.00pm, Wednesday 10.00–1.00pm and Thursday 2.00–5.00pm only, and there will be no group activities such as Rhymetime although we hope this will soon change.

I'm pleased we've already received more than 20 entries to our 2021 photo competition, these being mainly winter scenes. We're asking entrants this year to shoot more village scenes and recognisable buildings in the parish if possible.

In the past we've had some wonderful landscapes, sunrises and sunsets but please look for that undiscovered angle of our beautiful buildings and village scenes. As usual send your high res entries to me and ensure they are 300dpi, landscape format and identifiable with your name and contact details.

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com

LETTERS

FROM CAROL GARRETT
DEDDINGTON

Re the piece about George Dancer who was living in Marble Arch, New Street in 1911. Opposite the old May Fu II is an archway. There is Archway Cottage at the back overlooking the fields and also Arch House. It was a row of four farm cottages which were converted into two houses in the 1970s. In 1911 the archway was called Marble Arch.

FROM RODNEY HAYWARD, DEDDINGTON

I read with interest your piece on George Dancer, enquiring if anyone knew him and I hope I can help.

George and Rhoda Dancer were my great grandparents who I believe lived in the cottage on the left of the archway opposite Hudson Street and later moved to a cottage in Hudson Street where George remained for the rest of his life.

George and Rhoda had three daughters, Lillian Jane, May and Lucy. Lillian married James Levi Hayward from Bodicote. They had three children Doreen, Walter George and Peggy. I'm grateful to Doreen's daughter, my cousin Susan, who has helped me by providing photographs from her family albums.

Walter married Joan Taylor from Aynho and they had two sons, my elder brother Martin and me. Lucy married Bert Clark and lived in the same cottage as her parents, Rose Dene Cottage in the High Street, until she passed away many years ago. May married George Unsworth and lived on Hempton Road.

George Dancer was a shepherd and I remember Mike Boyd fitting a nut shaft on to George's shepherd's crook which had been handed down to my late father and is still in my possession to this day. It's also worth noting that the Christian name of George has passed down the family, being my father's middle name and now the name of one of my grandsons. I am the fourth generation to live here, and married Anne, my wife of almost 48 years in Deddington Church and now, with our two children, Karen and her husband Neil, Christopher with his wife Linda and their children, our grandchildren amount to six generations to reside in Deddington. I trust this throws some light on George and Rhoda and their descendants.

Ed: Rodney has sent in a number of photographs of his ancestors. See p12 for one of them.



FROM JANET MACEY (née Berry),
DEDDINGTON

Following on from *Local Knowledge Anyone?* DN March 2021, George Dancer was born in Kings Sutton in 1873 to William and Jane, née Page. He had a sister, Sarah, who was seven when he was born. In 1880 the Dancer family moved from Wales Street, Kings Sutton, to Hazel Hedge Farm, Clifton.

In June 1889 Sarah Dancer married James Berry (who had a twin, George) and they had a son William (my grandfather). Sarah Berry was my great grandmother and George Dancer my great grand-uncle.

FROM JOHN SAMPSON
DEDDINGTON

The primary school requested local help in order to purchase a number of laptops for pupils without satisfactory facilities for online tuition. The parish council, parochial church council, Deddington Charity Estates and private donors enabled the school to purchase eighteen laptops which was of great benefit to those children of families unable to fully participate. This is another fine example of the disposition and generosity of our community.

FROM SAM WARD, PACT, 0782 409164,
sam.ward@pactcharity.org

Adoption charity, Parents And Children Together (PACT), is appealing for people from key worker professions to consider adopting.

The agency would like to hear from key workers such as nurses, teachers, police officers, social workers, doctors, ambulance staff, childminders and those in the care sector, as their professional experience and skills they typically make strong adopters and they are particularly valued by local authorities looking to place a child.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, children have continued to come into care and the need for adoptive families is increasing.

PACT is a welcoming and professional agency open to a wide range of people including couples or single people, people from the Black and Minority Ethnic community and LGBT+, who can consider adopting children over four years old, sibling groups of two or more children, children with a black or minority ethnic background and children who may have physical or learning disabilities.

PFSU and Village Nursery

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to Nursery and Preschool from 8 March and they have seemed happy to be back.

In the weeks before the Easter break we have been busy thinking about Mother's Day, St David's and St

Patrick's Day, World Book Day, Easter and dinosaurs, as well as planting flower seeds in the garden. Holiday Club will run for a week in the Easter holidays.

Lucy Squires
01869 337484

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

We may not be out of lockdown yet but the first signs of spring are unmistakable and a long-awaited hint of brighter times to come. Our thoughts have been turning to all things green and we are delighted to announce that a suitable site for a community orchard, Welford's Piece, has been approved by the parish council with the blessings of the family who donated the land. The site is just off Tithe Lane in Clifton and already hosts a children's play area but there is space for at least 12 trees towards the back of the site. If anyone would like to see the full results of the orchard survey, as summarised in the March *DN*, you can see them at our website www.deddingtonenvironment.net. A funding application is soon to be submitted by the parish council to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and, if successful, planting should go ahead in the autumn.

Nature charity, Plantlife, has released results that demonstrate the spectacular benefits to garden wildlife that come as a result of less rigorous lawn mowing, especially during early summer months. They are promoting 'No Mow May' which gives low-growing plants like bugle and clover, loved by bees, butterflies, moths and other insects and pollinators, a chance to flourish – our traditional bowling green-like lawns, while looking impressive, can be wildlife deserts, especially if weedkiller is applied. However, islands or corners where grasses are left to grow can look beautiful too. Several councils and organisations like the National

Trust are supporting this initiative. Why not give your lawn a Mowhican this May and see which flowers thrive when left to grow? If enough people take part we could also be providing bees with valuable nectar corridors which may help to reverse the recent decline in bee numbers.

Alongside No Mow May, Plantlife is running a survey, Every Flower Counts, from 22–31 May. If you can help with this citizen science project, you can visit the Plantlife website, <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk> or follow #NoMowMay and #Every FlowerCounts on social media for more information.

DEN is continuing to work with Project LEO (Local Energy Oxfordshire) as one of the pilot villages. We are in initial planning stages with project lead Low Carbon Hub, but we will be looking to invite people in the community later to participate in this groundbreaking project later in the summer. Project LEO's aim is to cut energy bills and carbon emission by creating a smarter energy network for our community.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like some more information about the above initiatives and if you would like to help us here at DEN in any way. Even if it's only for an hour a month, we would love to hear from you.

Nick Smith and the DEN team
info@deddingtonenvironment.net
www.deddingtonenvironment.net

BLISSFUL THINKING

Well, lockdown and its variants are now officially one year old, so we all deserve a big emancipation cake with vaccination syringes instead of candles, am I right? The kids are mainly back in school, which is essential for their understanding of the world, though you have to wonder how much school some of their parents attended when you are subjected to grown adults questioning the efficacy of face coverings to prevent airborne disease spread, as well as others seemingly not comprehending that the nostrils are also part of the respiratory system.

This is not a new phenomenon sadly: there are apparently photographs from the Spanish flu epidemic a century ago showing desperate, masked citizens holding up placards imploring incarceration for those who refused to cover their faces in that particular era of pestilence. Still, happily, there will come a time when references to shielding and vectors of transmission will be but obscure questions in a sleepy pub quiz which we lose heavily but don't really mind, because we are among our favourite people again, sharing stories and pheromones, blissfully under the influence of love (and alcohol).

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com



George Dancer and his wife, Rhoda, ancestors of Rodney Hayward [Letters p11]

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

March saw a return of Nathan Barry to speak to us about achieving a natural result with Lightroom. Nathan is primarily a landscape photographer who aims to achieve a natural effect when in post-production with an image. During the interactive evening Nathan explained his process, by demonstrating with Lightroom the variety of changes he might make to a photograph, whether it was making the sky brighter in a reflection, using a graduated filter to make the sky darker or a crop to focus the eye to move through the image. It was interesting how a little movement of the sliders made a difference to the results. Nathan emphasised the importance of the tone curve and how effective tweaking the curve could be.

Members bravely submitted a selection of their images for a makeover by Nathan with subtle changes improving the photograph. Regardless of the members' expertise everyone found the evening interesting including the use of the lens correction button for a subtle vignette. Nathan Barry's images can be seen at www.theimageproject. Clever software can enhance an image; everyone was encouraged to build on the skills workshops previously delivered, pre-pandemic, by Jim Muller. So, more tweaking of the sliders will be the order of the day from now on.

Our next meeting will be the AGM on 7 April at 7.30pm followed by the 'What is it?' slideshow. You are welcome to join us by Zoom; go to the website to find the links. Who knows it might not be too long before we can meet in person?

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington and District History Society

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you that Chris Day died early this month.

Chris joined the Department for Continuing Education in 1994 as University Lecturer in Local History, becoming Director of Studies with responsibility for the MSc programme. He also became a Senior Fellow of Kellogg College, an institution focusing on postgraduate research.

In 1998, a group of people decided to form the Deddington and District History Society and Chris became chairman. His energy and enthusiasm, plus his numerous contacts, meant that the Society quickly established a good membership as a result of the quality of the speakers he attracted. His warm manner and detailed introductions put all speakers at ease. In addition, Chris would willingly step in to fill gaps with lively talks of his own, peppered with wry anecdotes and asides.

What made Chris special was that he was quite happy to set up all the paraphernalia necessary for our meetings and was always willing to have a go at unusual events. For one Christmas meeting he helped to

organise a medieval banquet which drew 50 members. His Christmas quizzes were fun and very competitive and we will all miss the expertly blended mulled wine with secret spices. He was a lovely person to work with and full of infectious laughter.

Gareth Richard

Local Vocals – Community Choir

With restrictions easing we are hoping to re-establish Local Vocals in September but, and it's an important but, we need to have a choir leader in place for this to happen. I have missed the friendship and laughter Monday evenings used to bring so if you know of anyone who may be able to lead us, please contact me. To all Local Vocal members, your committee will be 'meeting' in April to start planning and we will let you know how we get on.

To find out more about our choir and contact us please go to our website.

Alison Grieve
www.localvocalscc.co.uk

Bookworms

Our latest read was *The Mirror World of Melody Black* by Gavin Extence. The story begins with the main character, Abby, finding her neighbour, Simon, dead in his flat. He wasn't someone Abby knew well but finding a body when she only went over to borrow a tin of tomatoes comes as a shock. At least it should to most people but Abby is surprisingly calm under the circumstances.

Her demeanour is an instant warning sign to those around her, though to the reader it just seems as if they are overreacting, until Abby's mental stability spirals abruptly and completely out of control into a full-blown mania in which her emotions rapidly escalate from a feeling of optimism to one of utter invincibility.

We felt this book portrays a moving and realistic picture of mental illness. Seeing the world through Abby's sometimes depressed and sometimes manic eyes made for an immensely compelling read.

At the next meeting we will be discussing *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

Bookworms, Deddington Library

Women's Institute

Well, what a strange year it has been for us all and, of course, we have been unable to hold any meetings, but we did manage to hold our Annual Meeting last March just prior to lockdown. Our speakers were cancelled and rescheduled for this year.

We have kept in contact with members through regular newsletters and remembering them on their birthdays.

In December we should have been celebrating our 95th birthday but, instead, each member was given a

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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p13

potted floral arrangement, sourced from a local provider. At Christmas each member was given a goodie bag, thoughtfully put together by a couple of members of the committee.

The committee has held some Skype or Zoom meetings over the last few months, trying to come up with plans for the best way forward. The Holly Tree, as you know is under refurbishment.

Our treasurer has resigned and we cannot operate without a treasurer. One of our programme secretaries resigned last year and our other programme secretary is also leaving. A few members have decided not to rejoin and, as things are currently, for another year members would again not really be getting any value out of their subscription.

After consultation with the membership advisor and our group convenor, it is with a heavy heart that we have decided to suspend Deddington WI for a year. As of 16 March 2021, we are officially suspended.

We shall continue to keep in touch with our existing members and hope to start again in April 2022.

Jenny Cross, Secretary

Book Group

Barbara Kingsolver's latest novel, *Unsheltered*, follows the lives of two families who inhabit the same house in New Jersey, 150 years apart.

The house, built on unsound foundations in the past and further damaged by a hurricane in the present,

serves as a metaphor for the experiences of the two families in times of turmoil. Conflict between faith and Darwinian science in the 19th century and the ascendancy of a Trump-like politician in the 21st set the scene for many personal, social and political issues, with parallels and echoes in both periods.

Our response to the book was mixed. The issues raised are thought-provoking and Barbara Kingsolver's passionate feelings are evident in the writing. However this resulted in long conversations which often felt more like lectures. While some of us enjoyed the unfolding of the family dramas, we felt the alternating chapters between the centuries was disruptive to the flow of the narrative. Perhaps two novellas in the same volume would have been more effective.

Our next choice is *The Summer Book* by Tove Jansen. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Deddington Players

If you've missed your annual panto 'fix', take a look at our online version of *Aladdin*, now live on our YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/PH6wxHWxQ-g>. We had lots of fun making it. Special thanks to Steve Moss for editing individual home performances into one piece and to Carrick Cameron and Steve for another great script. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Suzie Upson suzieupson@mac.com

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Golf resumes in England on 29 March and DOGS are straining at the leash to get back on the course and enjoy their sociable golf days out once again. Leamington Spa Golf Club hosts our first event on 4 June, followed by supper and prize-giving in Deddington. On 22 June we visit Kirtlington for the annual match against the DOGS of Dorchester-on-Thames. The DOGS jolly, staying overnight on Sunday 18 July is at Belton Woods and our final event is at the Robin Hood Golf Club in Birmingham on 20 September. Please email me if you want to join DOGS, only a tanner a year, or if you would like to come as a guest to one of these events where having a good time matters more than the golf.

Nigel Oddy, Secretary
nigeloddy@yahoo.com

Deddington Cricket Club

The great news is that, with restrictions on outdoor sport lifting on 29 March, it looks as if we have a good chance of a full season this year. We are looking forward to getting going and preparations are underway. Our roller and mowers are being serviced and some repairs being made on the pavilion and score box. The square has had its first cut and has had fertiliser added

to set it up for the hard use to come. We plan to get the outdoor nets in use after Easter, on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 5.30pm, starting on 7 April, with our Women and Girls section netting on Fridays. If you want to join a session please contact me for details.

Our first ever games in the Cherwell League are on 8 May, while the Women have a Super 8s match in their Home Counties competition on Sunday 2 May. A full fixture list through to early September is in the diary and, as ever, we would love to welcome any new players, young or old, experienced or novice, to the Club. If you're interested in playing, scoring, coaching or umpiring, please contact me.

Finally, a word of thanks to our Vice-Presidents, sponsors and friends for their continued goodwill and support of the Club. It is never taken for granted and we look forward to welcoming you at the Windmill on a warm Saturday afternoon quite soon.

Joe Roberts 07720 089804
Joe.roberts@btinternet.com

Deddington Tennis Club

Finally, some good news! From 29 March, the Tennis Club will be open again in line with the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions. According to the LTA guide-

Continued on p15

SPORT*Continued from p14*

lines 'This will mean recreational tennis will be able to resume, including singles and doubles social play, 1:1 coaching and formally organised activity for groups, including group coaching.'

Courts will be available for booking from Monday 29 March – instructions on how to book are on our website, www.deddingtontennis.com. You can also find up-to-date information about the drop-in sessions we run, the coaching programmes for adults and juniors, the friendly club competitions and the team news.

If you would like to become a member, please visit the membership page – we offer a selection of membership packages for juniors, adults and families. Court bookings can be made by non-members but whether you're a keen tennis player, someone who'd like to get back to tennis after a break, or someone who'd like to try something new, we'd encourage you to consider joining the club for all of the benefits that membership has to offer.

We're delighted to be able to welcome players back to the courts again. However, we ask everyone to please bear in mind the guidelines for playing tennis safely – respecting any restrictions that are in place about group sizes, observing social distance before, during and after playing and using hand sanitiser.

For further information about adult and junior coaching, please contact Paul Taylor, paultaylor@hotmail.co.uk.

We are all looking forward to getting back on court after such a long break.

Becky Jones**Deddington Town Youth Football**

Youth football finally returns after a three month lockdown. We are pleased that the season will be extended into early June so that fixtures can be completed. We are grateful to Deddington School, Fritwell School, Christopher Rawlins School in Adderbury and the Windmill Centre Management Committee for working with us to extend the use of their pitches. We have also worked closely with Deddington Cricket Club so that football and cricket can take place alongside each other in May. This shows the benefits of a collaborative approach to make sure we can provide football for children and young people in the weeks ahead. When we return to training in March, our priority will be to apply our Covid-19 plans for the safety of players, parents and coaches as we continue to be vigilant.

Under 7s – kit sponsor for 2021/22 season

As the Under 7s plan for playing in the league in the 2021/22 season, we are looking for a kit sponsor for the season ahead. If you are a local business who would like to support the club, please contact me for further information.

Get involved

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is

on our website, <http://www.deddingtontownfc/> or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc>.

Roger Sykes**YOUTH****1st DEDDINGTON SCOUT GROUP****Cubs**

At last, our Zoom meetings have taken off and we're working through some outstanding parts of our programme. We are meeting fortnightly, alternating with the Scouts and will continue until we can meet properly. We still begin our sessions with flag break, albeit a tiny home-made one, and play games such as Play Your Cards Right and Virtual Scavenger Hunt.

Our first meeting centred on birds and the RSPB Big Bird Count and included feeders, a quiz and an eye-boggling twirly bird.

Next, we invented a new sport: be amazed at frug-by, a cross between rugby and frisbee using pillows and a telescope for the referee.

Next was a look at the Countryside Code, reworked in pictures and a 'journey' round their villages.

Jo Churchyarddeddingtoncubs@gmail.com*Continued on p16***The Ladies Academy @ Taddy**

Ladies, if you have ever wanted to give golf a go or you are thinking of starting again, then the Ladies Academy @ Taddy is for you...

Following on from the success of last year we will be running ladies coaching lessons starting from Tuesday, May 18.

The coaching will be in groups on either a Tuesday or Thursday, morning or afternoon.

The lessons will be provided by our PGA Professional John Stubbs and his team with the aim of building your confidence and delivering coaching that is both effective for you but most importantly ENJOYABLE

'A warm welcome and continued encouragement has made our introduction to golf very pleasant' — Brenda

golfopsmanager@tadmartongolf.com
or telephone 01608 737278

Tadmarton Heath Golf Club,
Wiggington, Banbury, OX15 5HL.
www.tadmartongolf.com

YOUTH*Continued from p15***Scouts**

It was great to see so many Scouts on Zoom and we performed our first online investiture, which was also our first cross border one as the Scout concerned is in France.

Our first meeting was all about wellbeing (well, we worry about them); they made chatterboxes – origami fortune tellers – to aid discussions on the subject with members of their families.

We then threw caution to the wind and made chocolate puddings with a mug and a microwave, harder than you think when everyone is in a different kitchen. They turned out well and we will do some more cooking in the future. Our Fire Awareness badge was expertly run by James Greenwood. We will all sleep safer in our beds now.

More silly games, collecting things in a hat, Guess Who? and What's in the Bag? – always a surprise.

Peter Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

Our term has started with the Unit arranging the programme. Concentration is on the international part of the award work combined with the Chef's badge, Hikes Away, fundraising and creative arts.

It's been a mouth-watering start with German biscuits and Indian curry. This was followed by Japanese origami which was fascinating and frustrating in equal measure. We all managed to produce a penguin. We've followed this with an escape room. Everyone managed to get out just in time. We had a talk by one of the leaders on how he got into cricket and an evening where the UK Chief Commissioner joined in, making delicious crêpes Suzette.

The charity we are supporting, Street Child United, is still planning to get young people to participate in the SCU World Cup in Qatar immediately after the Football World Cup. So our aim is to cumulatively virtually walk, cycle, run, or circuit train our way to the start. It's a distance of over 3,000 miles so plenty of fitness to be gained. So far our virtual walking has got us as far as Munich. Everyone is busy adding miles, getting fit and having their families join in as well, see <http://www.streetchildunited.org> for more information.

If you are interested in joining the Unit, please contact any of the leaders at spartanexplorers@gmail.com. Visit <http://www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk/explorers.html>.

Janet Duxbury

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Well, that's Q1 done – if you're an accountant, or Quarter 1 if you know an accountant or a quarter of the year gone if you don't. Where is it all going – our lives ...?

Anyway, it's a big Lower Larkrise hello to Jane Watson and her labrador. She moved into the village a couple of weeks ago and I'm sure she's met the many dog lovers in the village. This also means a sad adieu to Tei, Ian and Kane (the gorgeous chocolate labrador) who have been a large part of our community over the years with Covid volunteering, snow warden duties and Tei keeping the school governors in order and effective as the clerk. This role, along with other involvements, will continue but we say thanks to Sharon in County View who has taken over Tei and Ian's Covid role.

Our resident architect and preserver of old buildings (this really is his job for Oxford University), Aric has just released the results of his CDC traffic survey to his neighbours and sobering reading it is too. Of the 17,872 vehicles tracked in a single week more than 40% were speeding and 8% would have been 'banged up' by Assistant Police Chief Constables if the government allowed. Even more troubling for the life of County Bridge is the nearly 200 lorries over the weight limit.

This encouraged one of our elderly residents to show their long term memory allowed them to recall that a certain business not a million miles away had a planning condition to NOT allow their HGV service

vehicles to use County Bridge. This could well mean a parade of woolly hats and blankets on knees as the retirees in Lower Larkrise spend these sunnier days sitting outside with a speed gun and video camera collecting evidence for the authorities. Don't say you weren't warned.

Any news – you know what to do – this is a bit thin.

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THAMES VALLEY POLICE**Thanks to a Local Resident**

One day last year an HGV was reported on Hopcraft Lane. In February at Oxford Magistrates' Court, the driver of the vehicle pleaded guilty to breaching the weight restriction that applies to this road (and others locally). He was fined £660, ordered to pay prosecution costs of £175 and a £66 victim surcharge.

Without the initial report and witness statement it would not have been possible to secure this conviction and thanks were expressed for assisting with the case. Should you see any other vehicles of this type using this road or others, please report them to TVP on <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/> or call 101.