

November diary

- Wed 2 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8-10 pm.
 Thu 3 PTA: Fireworks Night: 6.30 pm in the school field - gates open at 6pm for barbecue. ➡ insert
 Fri 4 Family History Day, Deddington Library, 10 am ~ 4 pm. ➡ p.11
 Sat 5 Church Bazaar: Parish Church, 11 am-3 pm. ➡ p.5
 Sat 5 British Legion Club: Guy Fawkes evening, 8pm, non-members welcome. ➡ p.8
 Mon 7 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30 am-noon.
 Tue 8 WI: Dr R Bell, *Changes in Childrens' Illnesses and treatment over 40 years*, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm
 Wed 9 History Society: Malcolm Graham *'Photographs at the Centre for Oxon Studies'*, Windmill, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.5
 Fri 11 Babies & Toddlers Group: Autumn Fair. ➡ p.8
 Sat 12 Babies & Toddlers Group: Mums' Christmas shopping trip to Birmingham. ➡ p.8
 Sat 12 Warriner Choir: Concert, Parish Church, 7.30 pm. ➡ insert
 Sun 13 Remembrance Day Parade: Act of Remembrance at War Memorial 11 am, then service in church. ➡ p.8
 Sun 13 LIVING ROOMS PROJECT: *A Journey to Mmabatho*, videos & photographs, Parish Church, 7.30 pm ➡ p.8
 Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.45 pm ➡ p.2
 Fri 18 November Fair: Market Place ➡ p.2
 Sat 19 November Fair: Market Place ➡ p.2
 Thu 24 Daeda's Wood: clear-up day from 2.00 pm ➡ p.6
 Thu 24 Book Club: call Sally Lambert for venue (338094) ➡ p.8
 Fri 25 Babies & Toddlers Group: Christmas meal for parents at the Deddington Arms. ➡ p.8
 Sat 26 Deddington Farmers' Market, 9.00 am~12.30 pm. ➡ p.11
 Tue 29 Charter Housing: meeting to discuss local projects, Windmill Centre, 6.30 pm ➡ p.7

December diary

- Thu 1 Monday Morning Club: *Gosford Park*, film evening, Holly Tree, 6.30 pm.
 Sat 3 1st Deddington Scout Group: Bring & Buy sale, Windmill Centre, 10am- noon. ➡ p.8
 Sat 3 Friends of Hempton Church: Bazaar, 10 am-1.30 pm. ➡ p.10
 Sun 4 CHOROS Advent concert: Parish Church, 6.30 pm.
 Mon 5 Monday Morning Club: Christmas Lunch at Oxford & Cherwell Valley College, leave at noon.
 Wed 7 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8-10 pm.
 Tue 13 WI: Eightieth Anniversary celebrations.
 Wed 14 History Society: Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm. ➡ p.9
 Sat 17 Deddington Farmers' Market, 9.00 am ~ 12.30 pm ➡ p.11
 Wed 21 Parish Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.45 pm. ➡ p.2
 Sat 24 Carol Singing, Market Place, 6.00 pm

Weekly Meetings

- Mon: Brownies: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm.
 Mon: Youth Club: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm
 Mon: Bellringing Practice: Parish Church, 7.30-9 pm.
 Tues: Craft Group: Holly Tree, 2.15-4.30 pm.
 Tues: Deddington Guides: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm.
 Wed: Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill, 9.30-11 am.
 Every other Wed: Friendship Club: Windmill, 2.30 pm.
 Wed: Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys: Windmill Centre, 5 pm.
 Wed: Boys' Brigade Juniors: Windmill Centre, 5.45 pm.
 Wed: Boys' Brigade Company: Parish Church, 7 pm
 Thurs: Life & Portrait Art Group: Town Hall, 10~4 pm.
 Thurs: 1st Deddington Cubs: Windmill, 6-7.30 pm.
 Thurs: 1st Deddington Scouts: Windmill, 7.30-9 pm.
 Fri: Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill, 9.30~11 am.
 Fri: Katharine House Coffee Morning: Parish Church, 10~12.
 Fri: Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm

**THE DEDDINGTON NEWS** - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: **22 NOV**

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Meeting in Town Hall, 19 October 2005

PRESENT: Cllrs Flux (chair), Alton, Haslam, Putland, Rollason, Spencer, Squires, Swash, Todd, Watts, the Minutes Secretary and 4 members of the public. Best wishes to Cllr Wood following operation. Student Grant: Howard White awarded £100 to buy books.

NOVEMBER 18 & 19 FAIR

Dates and times of Fair confirmed: set-up 6pm Thursday, 17 November, closing 10pm each evening, and departing by noon Sunday 20 November. Only road from Police Office to Town Hall to be closed. Warning notices on parked cars. Explanatory letter to be sent to occupiers of affected properties. No extra toilet provision. If a success, tradition of annual event may be restored.

PARISH PLAN SURVEY

Ready for printing; thanks to DN volunteers, distribution early in November; return by 16 December.

HIGHWAYS

PC dissatisfied with lack of progress on long outstanding issues - pedestrian crossings, footpaths, road markings, and yet Earls Lane closure for repair with minimal notice, and trench to be repaired in Hempton in response to an individual's letter. Chair & Cllr Jelf to take issues to Cllr Robertson, OCC chair and MP as necessary.

South Newington diversion has ended. No action now expected on HGV weight restriction through Hempton.

PLANNING

PC no objection: (1) Tays Cottage, Tays Gateway, Deddington: conservatory at rear. (2) Early Years Unit: prefabricated classroom building for 5 years, removing a tree. (3) Heritage House, St Thomas St, Deddington: change workshop use to vet surgery for small animals; some concern re. vehicle exit onto road. (4) Eagles, Market Place, Deddington: awning over frontage. (5) Featherton House: pollard or reduce 5 trees; fell acer - replacement suggested. (6) Sedge Hill, Clifton: tidy birch and ash subject to tree preservation order. (7) Stable Cottage, Hempton Road, Deddington: fell diseased chestnut, but not cypress. *[Fait accompli ! Ed]*

THE REMOVAL WITHOUT PERMISSION OF A TREE SUBJECT TO A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER WHICH IS NOT DISEASED, DYING OR DANGEROUS IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF £20,000.

PC objection: (8) No 2, Philcote Street, Deddington: resubmitted plans appear misleading. (9) Bengal Spice, New Street, Deddington: have previous stipulations been met satisfactorily? - recommend referral to CDC Planning Committee. (10) Vicarage, Earls Lane, Deddington: change from timber to uPVC windows and doors - by majority.

Appeal: (11) No 11 The Beeches, Deddington: PC support CDC refusal.

CDC approvals: Castle Farm, Clifton Road,

Deddington; The Manse, Bullring, Deddington; Castle End, Castle Street, Deddington.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Charter Trust Housing Association: has taken over public housing from CDC with pledge of monies available for local projects. Public meeting to be held at Windmill Centre on Tuesday 29 November at 6.30 pm to discuss options.
- Windmill Centre Toddlers' Play area - replace broken see-saw with Octopus spring see-saw (£600); swings have been repaired.
- Clerk to chase with OCC [issue of] bull in field on Circular Walk.
- Castle Grounds: Dangerous dead trees removed. PC to explore improving amenity - e.g. 'nature reserve' with full access for dog walking. See question in Parish Plan Survey.
- Future of Town Hall: PC reps to meet Deddington Charity Estates trustees.
- War Memorial Trust offers up to £250 for suitable projects.

PARISH FINANCES

No invoices passed for payment in Clerk's absence. Urgent payments will be made by officers.

Investments totalled £559749.47, of which £9990.41 Barclays @ 0.1% imprest and current account; £252,537.67 Alliance & Leicester @ 4.2% on 30 days; £297,221.39 West Bromwich @ 4.45% overnight.

NEXT MEETING Wed 16 November, Town Hall, 7.45pm.

Official minutes of PC meetings may be seen at the Clerk's office and the Library, on parish noticeboards and the village website: www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes

Deddington Parish Plan Questionnaire

Two questionnaires are to be delivered in November to every dwelling within the parish of Deddington, Clifton & Hempton. A 7-page survey for every individual aged 18-years-old or over to complete, and a 4-page Youth survey for every under 18-year old.

**Deadline for completion:
Friday 16th December 2005.**

to qualify for a FREE PRIZE DRAW

- **Meal for Two, plus bottle of house wine – Bengal Spice**
- **Meal for Two, plus bottle of house wine – Peppers Pizza & Pasta**
- **Meal for Two, plus bottle of house wine – The Unicorn**
- **£15 voucher – Eagles Fresh Foods**

As we come to the end of our first term back after the summer holidays, it is time to reflect on all that has happened at school, and to what we have to look forward.

During this term we celebrated Harvest at church; all the year groups made a special contribution, including songs, poetry, and even distributing bread they had baked in school! The Harvest celebration was well received by the many parents who attended. The children revelled in showing their talents.

The new playground is finished and in use. The children have enjoyed thinking about new playground markings. Our School Council are busy going through all the suggestions and will be making a decision soon - we look forward to the results. The new car park is also in use, bordered by very attractive red fencing.

Year 6 and four Year 5's have enjoyed an extremely successful residential visit to Yenworthy in Devon. The children joined enthusiastically in all activities, including climbing and canoeing. The children and staff who went returned to school exhausted but with a sense of achievement!

Our Open Afternoon was on 18 October, and our choir have been practising hard for the 'Children for Children Concert' at St. Mary's Church, Banbury on 19 October.

Thoughts in school are now turned towards Christmas and how we are going to celebrate. This is always an exciting time in school and the staff and children have lots of ideas which will be expanded on more in the next DN.

Judith Tinsley 338430



DEDDINGTON PRE SCHOOL

This is an exciting time year for the children, we will be looking at various 'religious' occasions, including 'Hannukah', 'Divali', 'Bonfire Night', and of course 'Christmas'.

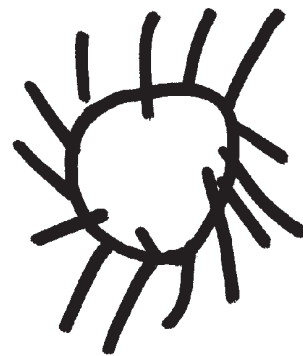
Our annual 'Christmas Festivities' include the 'Pre-school Christmas Party' to be held on the last day of term, 9 December, at the 'Windmill Centre' and our 'Carol Concert' to be held in conjunction with the school on Wednesday 14 December in the church.

In the new year we will have a couple of new job opportunities at 'Village Nursery'. Please contact Anna Justice on 337383 if you are interested in either of the following positions: Nursery Assistant (up to 9 sessions per week) & Lunchtime Assistant (approx 1 hour per day). If you are able to cover only 1-2 lunch sessions per week, then I'm sure between us we can make up a rota to provide cover, thus giving the staff their well earned lunch break.

Sarah Payne

DEDDINGTON VILLAGE NURSERY

OPENING JANUARY 2006



- Stimulating environment for 2-3 year olds
- Large outdoor play area
- Early drop-off and lunch club available
- Opening hours:

9.15 - 11.45am and 12.30 ~ 3.00pm

For more details, please contact Anna Justice

on 01869 337383

PTA

We had a brilliant start to the fundraising year! The PTA were fortunate to have a professional Magic, Mystery and Illusion Show entertain us in a packed Windmill Centre earlier this month. I do believe the adults had as much fun as the children !! Thank you all for supporting this event.

We are currently planning our annual fireworks night on Thursday 3 November, at the Primary School as usual. Yet again we have invested in a bigger firework display, I have been assured by the pyrotechnists that the fireworks have a bigger spread of colour and brighter hue, but are not louder, as they are sympathetic to wildlife and domestic pets. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Farmers' Market Committee for lending us their market stalls for this event, as they do every year - it is appreciated.

As you will see on the enclosed flyer, the gates open for our BBQ from 6pm. There will be some children's entertainment, and lots of fun "glow in the dark" products! We have toffee apples (thanks to the Co-op), licensed bar selling mulled wine and beer. For a special treat we also have hot chocolate with whippy cream too! This is an "all weather" event, we will not be rained off!!

We look forward to seeing you all there and hope you will support this annual village event.

The children have designed another range of fantastic Christmas Cards this year. You will have received an order form through your door in the last couple of weeks so don't forget to order yours! However, if you do, they will be on sale in the library from the 28 November. The PTA will also have a stall at the Farmers Market in the Church on Saturday 26 November too - so don't forget!!

Stella O'Neill PTA Chair

SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON www.deddingtonchurch.org

You will always be very welcome at any service in Church or Chapel

Parish Church in November

| | | | |
|------|----|----------|--|
| Tues | 1 | 6.30 pm | ALL SAINTS Eucharist |
| Wed | 2 | 10.00 am | Eucharist |
| Thur | 3 | 2.00 pm | Squeals & Wheels |
| Sun | 6 | 10.30 am | Morning Praise |
| | | 6.30 pm | Eucharist with Fauré Requiem |
| Wed | 9 | 10.00 am | Eucharist |
| Sun | 13 | 8.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | | 10.45 am | Remembrance Service & Children's Church |
| | | 7.30 pm | <i>A Journey to Mmabatho</i> : videos and photographs (with refreshments). |
| Wed | 16 | 10.00 am | Eucharist |
| Thur | 17 | 2.00 pm | Squeals & Wheels |
| Sun | 20 | 10.30 am | CHRIST THE KING Sung Eucharist and Baptism - with healing prayer |
| Wed | 23 | 10.00 am | Eucharist |
| Sun | 27 | 8.00 am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | | 10.30 am | Morning Service: theme - 'Prisons Sunday' |
| | | 6.30 pm | Advent Sequence of Choral Music & Readings |



For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, hospital or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Rev Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), John Dane (07903 478206), or one of the Churchwardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or Judy Ward (337187).

St John Hempton

Suns 6 & 20 9.00 am Eucharist [27 No Evensong]

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS BAPTISMS:

17 July - Maximilian Finlay Arthur & Francesca Evelyn Lee Berger

2 October - Elize Ruby Anderson.

9 October - George Peter Louis Durand & Emily Irene Tyrrell

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Aberford, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington [Jean Welford 338539] Wed 9 & 23 November, 7.30pm

2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Wed 9 & 23 November, 7.30pm

Charity of the Month - November : **CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY** - please use the special envelope to put donations [if a taxpayer, in a pink **GiftAid** envelope] into the Parish Church chest.

WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am Preacher - Pastor Isabel Walton;

Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338 529

Sunday morning services are held at the Wesleyan Reform Church together with their congregation. Sunday evening services will now be held at The Chapel at **3.00 p.m.** Please note change in time of evening service. The speakers are ...

| | | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| Nov | 6 | Mr John Hine; | 13 | Pastor Derek Walker; |
| | 20 | Mrs Hilary Walker; | 27 | Dr Tahira Saleem (from Pakistan) |

R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY

The Revd A J Burns 277396

Hethe : Mass is said every day [except Wednesday] at 10.00 am. Confessions: Sats - 5.30~6.00 pm.

Adderbury : Mass is said Sundays at 8.30 am; Wednesdays at 7.00 pm; Confessions before Mass.

The Saturday evening Mass at St John's Banbury is said at 4.00 pm to allow Catholics from the villages to attend before the last bus leaves town.

Tuesday 1 Nov is the Feast of All Saints. Fr John will say an Eve of the Feast Mass at Adderbury on Monday 31 Oct at 7.00 pm, and Mass at Hethe on the Tuesday itself at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm

Wednesday is the Commemoration of the Dead and Fr John will say the usual evening Mass at Adderbury at 7.00 pm.

Do not pass Go.....

With over 77,000 men and women 'banged up' in English jails, prisons have made many recent headlines. Yet what happens 'inside' and what society expects from the penal system is one of the great unknowns of our time. Is it to punish? or to keep offenders out of sight and off the streets? Do we hope to turn out better citizens after a spell in Her Majesty's Prison? On Sunday 27 November there will an opportunity to find out more about what is done in our name at Bullingdon Community Prison, near Bicester, when a senior member of its staff takes part in the Prisons Sunday service at 10.30am. in Deddington Church.

.... Do not collect £200.

VISIT TO MMABATHO

At the end of September the Revd Hugh White, Jenny & Judy Ward, Annette Murphy, and Fiona Gillespie accepted the invitation from Fr Herman Ndlovu of the Church of the Resurrection, Mmabatho and his congregation to attend their annual Diocesan "Family Weekend". It is through the Church of the Resurrection that many people in the village have been enabled to support the Living Room project caring for AIDS orphans. Those who travelled out to Mmabatho were privileged to meet the very children being cared for, the "mothers" who care for them night and day and the people involved in organising, administering and raising funds for the project.

Clothes donated by children at Deddington School were given to the toddlers who obliged by modelling some of the items.

At present the centre provides 24-hour care for five children, but is unable to run day-care as there is now no transport to bring in the children who had been attending. The plans to build a new centre, using their old church building, to provide care for a greater number of children can be seen in Deddington church. This will be secured for the future, unlike the present government-owned building,

Deddington School hopes to have a link with Thelesho primary school in the rural area outside Mmabatho. A long straight dirt road lined with small fenced plots,



Fiona with
Bukanie

each containing a corrugated iron shack, homes to the school children and their families, brought us to a large shady tree outside the school gates. Before stepping out of the vehicle the sound of children's voices singing could be heard. The blue-uniformed girls and boys with their teachers and helpers came out into the hot sun and greet Fr Ndlovu with a song in Setswana. All the children present were orphans who had come in on the first day of their holiday and, having waited patiently for our arrival, were a credit to their families and teachers in the welcome they gave us. They showed their appreciation for the gifts of clothes from Deddington children with smiles and songs.

This was another step forward for those involved in forming and sustaining real connections with the people of our link parish. Those who went learnt about the people, their way of life and a little of how we can assist them more effectively. Having physically delivered over 50 kg of clothes and stationery between the five of us, it became apparent that these things were available locally and might have been better purchased there.

Our attempts at greeting our hosts in their native Setswana were appreciated and also the cause of some amusement throughout our visit.

Fiona Gillespie

A Journey to Mmabatho: Videos and photographs - Sunday 13 November 7.30 pm Parish Church.

Deddington Church Bazaar Saturday 5 November 11 am - 3 pm

* * * * *

Come to ...

- have light lunches
- * browse among the many stalls :
cakes, bric a brac, gifts &c
- enjoy competitions & games
- * buy raffle tickets
- HAVE FUN
- * Admission Free



Preparing For Christmas Activities For Primary School Aged Children 5-11 years Deddington Parish Church

Saturday 3rd December, 10am until 12.30pm

Cooking, making presents & decorations, chess and other games

Application forms & general enquiries to: Kate Petty 335425

Sarah Liebrecht 337625

Cost - £1.50 per child

Sally - fax on 338215

Add to application form and mail to: Deddington Primary School Office and the Church. To guarantee a place please complete an application form and return it to Jane Green, Wootton House, Church Street, 122/8871 or the School Office by Monday 28th November.

We would be grateful to hear from anyone ready to help. Please contact Jane Green on 337837.



Brass Bits Concert – A Living Rooms Project

Deddington's glitterati braved the bad weather on Saturday 8 October to enjoy an entertaining and varied programme of music performed by "Brass Bits". The early opening of the bar was another encouragement. There were truffles too.

The concert got off to a rousing start with the "Olympic Fanfare and Theme" (written by John Williams for the 1984 games) to remind us all of London's successful bid for 2012. We then caught our breath as we listened to the classic "Cheek to Cheek" by Irving Berlin. "Beyond the Sea", a 60's hit for Bobby Darin, with more recent cover versions by Robbie Williams and Will Young, maintained the mellow mood. The conductor encouraged the audience to sing along and the words were generously, if foolishly, (as far as my singing goes), printed within the programme. "Tuba Smarties" provided us with an excellent solo from Keith Bailey and this prompted widespread foot tapping throughout the church. "Antonin's New World" (Dvorak), gave us the chance to welcome budding musician/comedian Lewis on lead triangle. Lewis was picked randomly from the audience for this performance by his dad who, curiously enough, was the conductor, Graham Wallington.

"Lovely Les Taylor", on euphonium, gave a memorable performance of "Nessun Dorma", as arranged by Howard Snell. The pace and volume increased as we listened attentively to the impressive playing of "Trumpets Wild" by the Cornet Trio. A very enjoyable

arrangement of "And All That Jazz", from the musical Chicago, brought the first half of the programme to a close with the audience eagerly looking forward to the second half.

The 1st Deddington Boys Brigade Band opened the second half with "Is This the Way to Amarillo" and then gave a delightful and accomplished performance of "Battle Hymn Showpiece". Brass Bits Showband attempted to join at this point but the Boys Brigade Band showed no signs of surrendering the audience they had just won over. Drum Major Josie led the Band out to the strains of "When the Saints Go Marching In", competing with rapturous applause and much wolf-whistling from the audience. The energetic "Everybody Needs Somebody" was followed by solo horn played by Des Stimpson. His rendition of "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother" was hauntingly beautiful.

During "Let's Twist Again" and "See You Later Alligator", the churchwarden, Judy, led the dancing in the aisles. There were polished performances here too from Ruth, Josie, Wendy, Pat, Molly and many more, and the children were not about to be outdone. It appeared that nothing could persuade the vicar to join in the dancing, but after "Light as Air" and "Let's Face the Music and Dance", the vicar requested "YMCA" as an encore. It was soon obvious why this was his choice – he knew ALL the arm movements!

Tony Elvidge thanked everyone for their support and compared the high standard of the Band, formed in this rural community, favourably to any Colliery Brass Band. Let's not end without mentioning the sartorial elegance of the conductor who, during the short interval, changed effortlessly from white dinner jacket and bow tie, to nifty black shirt and emblazoned waistcoat.

A great night from the Brass Bits Showband and the 1st Deddington Boys Brigade Band. *Eileen Anderson*

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Friends of Daeda's Wood

A welcome visitor to our recent meeting of FoDW was David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodland Project from whom we learned a great deal about Daeda's potential over the coming years. A half-day Woodland Workshop under his tutelage is planned for end February/early March; more in due course. Another probable date for your diary is Sunday 11 June (to be confirmed) when we plan a Family Picnic to celebrate Daeda's 10 birthday. More immediately is a clear-up day for the lay-by at the wood's entrance. Thursday 24 November at 2 p.m. Extra hands would be very welcome - we recommend rubber gloves, and please bring a dustbin bag.

Sylvie Spenceley 338995

E-MAIL FROM ANTHONY PRICE

Re: the banning of HGVs from the A361. See *October Postbag*.

I have received a reply from Tony Baldry MP to my recent e-mail on this subject (the only reply so far). On reading his reply, it would seem that *Focus* is incorrect in stating that he strongly supports a public petition banning lorries from the A361 in South Newington.* He says that he has responded to a petition expressing concern about the weight and volume of traffic that travels through the village. He also points out that accepting, or being present at the presentation of a petition, clearly does not mean agreement with the totality of the wording. (cc to the PC, Ray Jelf and relevant Oxfordshire agencies.) [*as quoted in BANBURY CAKE. ED*]

Please address all letters to:

Kristin Thompson,
5 The Leyes, Deddington
E-mail:
op@kristin.demon.co.uk

FROM RALPH ELSLEY, PHILCOTE STREET, DEDDINGTON

I had never rung 999 before – but when I did so a week or two ago, the response was virtually instantaneous. In no time our wonderful Deddington Fire Service people were at my doorstep and the burning mattress that I had managed to drag downstairs and throw out into the garden was dealt with skilfully and effectively, though it resisted their efforts for half an hour or so. It made me realise what could happen if you have the whole house going up in flames.

It was very comforting and a real pleasure to meet such kind, friendly and thoughtful people coming to the rescue. You stand a very good chance of meeting them yourselves if you don't have smoke-alarms installed and make sure they are in working order. The Fire Service number is 999. And though they are the nicest people, I sincerely hope they will not feel hurt when I say I would rather not see them again.

Charter Community Housing (CCH) Seeks the Views of the Community

Charter Community Housing (CCH) would like to invite the residents of Deddington to a meeting on Tuesday 29 November at 6.30pm at the Windmill Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington.

The object of the meeting is to discuss a number of projects that have been put forward by the Charter Tenants, Parish Council/Cherwell Councillors and Voluntary Groups to attract funding from CCH's Environmental Improvement Fund. The final decision will be made by CCH's tenants.

The evening will include refreshments and entertainment from that well-known duo Maddy + Mo.

CCH hopes you will be able to come along to this very important meeting.

FROM CHRISTINE GILLESPIE, MILL CLOSE, DEDDINGTON

To prepare the churchyard for Remembrance Sunday and to leave it tidy for the winter, a working party will meet at 9.30am. on Saturday, 12 November for a morning's work. Anyone with a past, present or future interest in the churchyard will be very welcome to help mow, rake, strim, prune or clear downspouts. Please, just turn up on the morning.

FROM WENDY BURROWS, MARKET PLACE, DEDDINGTON

Those who brought you the Edwardian Music Hall this year are putting on an Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan on 4 March and 22 June next year – a programme of favourites from most of the operas. Any singers who would like to join in will be welcome at the first sing-through on Wednesday 7 December at 7pm. in the Parish Church.

FROM ANDREA BARNETT, CLIFTON

A short note to thank all those who either generously donated to, or attended, the Macmillan Coffee Morning I hosted on 3 October. The raffle, cakes and drinks raised nearly £200. Many thanks to all involved.

FROM RAY AND HAZEL HALL, GAVESTON GARDENS, DEDDINGTON

Ray and Hazel Hall would like to thank everyone who helped and supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised £326.

Ecological Footprinting

'Can the Earth keep up with current levels of human consumption?

How many planets would we need if everyone had a similar lifestyle to yours ?'

Speaker -

Craig Simmons

from **BEST FOOT FORWARD**

Wednesday 9 November 2005

The Council Chamber, Bodicote House
6.30-9.00 pm

Refreshments available 6.30- 7.00pm

This is a free event - everyone welcome!

For further details or to book a place
please contact Alison McHugh on

01295 221637

or e-mail

alison.mchugh@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Alison is trying to arrange for some freebies such as energy saving lightbulbs to assist attenders in reducing their personal footprint!

Don't miss out -

Book your place today!

1st Deddington Scout Group - Cubs

We have two new members this term, Marcus and Sam, and we hope they will enjoy their time with us. We bade farewell to Adam as he went to join the Scouts. We have carried on the topic of outdoor camping, making a knot board with examples of several different knots. Preparations have been well in hand for our Trafalgar re-enactment, the cubs have painted large ships and made masts, sails and costumes. We have looked at life on board the Victory, the battle, signals and cannon, which culminated in an evening of mayhem with rolled-up newspapers.

Our three Sixers are attending a District Sixers' Day near Abingdon, helping to plant a Trafalgar Wood with the types of trees used to build the Victory. The day includes adventure trails and woodland walks and ties in with our programme.

We are planning a bring and buy sale on 3 December at the Windmill Centre 10am-noon, to raise enough money to donate a goat to Farm Africa.

Scouts

We have 14 Scouts and have welcomed Adam, Gareth and Lewis to the troop. This summer we camped at Horley where the Scouts learned to chop wood, cook on an open fire (even bread and pizza) and attempted a 20k hike. Although they didn't finish the hike they learned an invaluable lesson in map reading and getting lost! Everyone went home smelling of bonfires, it was a great weekend. Two teams have also camped at Youlbury, taking part in the County Camping Weekend competition; they did very well coming 17th and 23rd out of 50 teams.

We competed in the Farmers' Market 'Ready Deddy Cook' competition and came equal second.

The boys have gained their mechanics badge, many thanks to Rob Taylor for his help.

We are organising our Christmas card deliveries again this year, keep a look out for the posters and boxes.

Jo & Peter Churchyard, 338071 jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Deddington Babies & Toddlers Group

We held a committee meeting recently to plan events for the next six months. The group needs new committee members to come forward soon to ensure the future of the group, as many of the existing committee have children who will be moving on to Pre-school and School. Talk to any of the existing committee if you feel you can help or wish to find out more - the job is not onerous! Our autumn fair is on Friday 11 November when there will be a variety of stalls. On Saturday 12 November there is a Mums' Christmas shopping outing to Birmingham and on Saturday 26 November a Christmas meal for parents at the Deddington Arms. Make sure you sign up on the lists at Toddlers if you wish to join either outing. *Lucy Squires 338442*

Deddington Players

Many thanks to everyone who supported our recent production of 'Many Hands Make Light Work'. Your next chance to see the Deddington Players in action is in the pantomime 'Robin Hood' on 19, 20 & 21 January

2006. Put the date in your diaries now. Auditions have been held, but you may not be too late if you want to get involved (particularly backstage, costume, front of house etc). Phone Jim Flux on Deddington 338153.

Lucy Squires 338442

Book Club

Our choice for September was 'The Sunday Philosophy Club' by Alexander McCall Smith and we are now looking forward to starting 'Waiting for the Barbarians' by Nobel Prize winning author J.M. Coetzee. Here is an overview of our thoughts on Alan Hollinghurst's 'The Line of Beauty', which we discussed at our last meeting: 'A difficult book to complete. Cardboard, artificial, two-dimensional characters highlighted the sometimes borderline morality of politicians in the '80s. We felt that the descriptions of gay sex were unnecessarily explicit and depressed an otherwise quite good story line. The book stimulated vigorous conversation, but little of it positive. One redeeming feature was the title, which has various different connotations and we thought that this was perhaps the best part of the book.'

Next meeting 24 November. Call for venue.

Sally Lambert 338094

1st Deddington Boys Brigade

On 8 October the Boys Brigade Brass Band featured as a part of the Brass Bits concert held in aid of The Living Rooms project. The Band should be leading the parade on Remembrance Sunday.

In October we welcomed William, Tom and Alfie into the Anchors. We still have a few spaces in Anchors for boys aged 5 and over. *Brian Bushell 338715*

Deddington Royal British Legion

Remembrance Sunday is 13 November. Contrary to last month's report the parade will assemble in the Bull Ring, Deddington at 10.30 am and move off towards the War Memorial in the churchyard at 10.45 am. The traditional Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial is at 11.00 am followed by the Memorial Service in the church. All are welcome to join us on this very special occasion.

Poppy Appeal time is with us again: there will be a house-to-house collection and poppies will be available from most local businesses. Please give as generously as possible. Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due.

Raymond R Morris 338143 DeddingtonRBL@aol.com

Deddington Youth Club

The committee is very pleased that we are continuing to enrol new members, although our maximum number of 40 is getting rather close. With these numbers our Youth Leader is very grateful to accept the help of Clare Newcome and she now comes regularly to our weekly meetings.

The Club is also very appreciative of Nikki Kirk's voluntary help. She can turn her hand to most activities and so helps with many aspects of running the club.

We do, however, still need someone who can organise football for the older boys. There must be somebody

who can do this - even just once a month for an hour on Mondays! *Maureen Forsyth, Chairman 338384*

Deddington and District History Society

Peter Sheasby's talk on the River Swere Project will be remembered for some considerable time. The inherent interest of the project, which produced a detailed record of the entire river, was greatly enhanced by Peter's wonderful photographs. The Society has bought a copy of Peter's and Walter Meagher's book *Portrait of a River* to donate to the branch library.

There will be more fascinating images to see on Wednesday 9 November, when Malcolm Graham will speak on the historic photographic collections at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies in Oxford. We shall end the year on 14 December with our usual Christmas Social. As always, anyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings. *Chris Day 337204*

1st Deddington Guides

We are pleased to welcome Freya, Georgia and Jasmine - they have made their Guide promise and are full members of the unit.

We have concentrated lately on working, playing and sharing together. Two new patrols have been formed: The Pink Panthers and the Kangaroos. Patrol boxes have been painted and patrol leaders elected and patrol projects are already under way. *Maggie Rampley 01295 810069*

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results

Wroxton (h) Drew 2-2 B.Durrant, K.Laird.
Bishops Itching ton(a) Lost 0-4
Steeple Aston (a) (Charity Cup) Lost 1-2 B.Durrant.
Arncott (h) Won 3-0 B.Durrant, K.Laird, T.Alexander.

The 1st team have had mixed results so far this season, but the team seem to be running into better form following an excellent victory over Arncott. Leading scorer Ben Durrant was on target, as was Keith Laird and there was a first ever goal for the club from Tom Alexander. Durrant and Laird were also on target in the 2-2 draw with Wroxton. Currently the team are mid-table in the Premier Division.

Reserve Team Results

Souldern (a) Lost 1-4 M.Walker.
Ruscott (h) Lost 0-3
Heyford Ath Res (h) Lost 2-3 A.Kite (2)
Cropredy 'A' (a) Won 4-1 M.Walker, P.Kirsopp (2), D.Walker.

The Reserve team have had a poor start to the season, but a run of 3 straight defeats came to an end with an excellent performance against Cropredy 'A'. The goal scorers in the 4-1 victory were Marc Walker, Dan Walker and a brace from Phil Kirsopp. Currently the team are in the lower reaches of Division 2, but a couple of wins will soon move the team up the league.

75 Club Winners - All Winning £50: 23/9/05 D.Keats; 30/9/05 Bill Smith; 7/10/05 D.Keats; 14/10/05 M.Walker

A big 'thank you' to everyone who attended the recent race night, which was a great success. Many thanks to Martin Freeman and Richard Bolton for their help in organising the event and to our hosts for the evening, the British Legion. *Steve Plumble 01295 278258*

Deddington Badminton Club

A good start for our Juniors - Alistair Worrell, Liam Arthurs and Jordon Kaye - who have won 2 matches out of 3. Our Mens A had a welcome return to Division 1 with a 9-0 defeat of Bicester A. Our Ladies are yet to play their first match in the new 4 Player format. All news from the league can be found at www.btbl.org.uk. Club nights are Tuesdays 7-9:30pm.

Janine Beckwith 347539 Mark Tyler 338056

Deddington Map Group

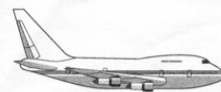


Come to the Market on Saturday 26 November. Meet us

on our stall and see what we offer - full-colour illustrated maps of Deddington,

Clifton and Hempton; Ken Langstaff's prints *Deddington* and *The Old Inns of Banbury*; Farms and Fields map, with every field named; *The Ages of Buildings* in Deddington; the oldest known photograph of Deddington's church and Market Place; and the definitive modern book of local history, *Discovering Deddington*. Also for sale are the last few limited edition prints of Nathaniel Whittock's lithograph of the parish church, first published in the early 1800s as a school fundraiser and rediscovered and republished in the early 2000s. Framed prints are £33 each, £10 of which goes to the school and £5 to the Church.

Norman Stone 338019



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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

At the Harvest Supper on Saturday 25 September 40 people sat down to a most enjoyable meal. This was followed by two people talking about their past careers in industry, engineering and films.

The following evening, September 26 was the Harvest Festival with a congregation of 30. Refreshments and the sale of produce followed. The money raised was donated to Cheshire Homes. The service and auction were conducted by the Curate, John Dane.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Hempton Church was held on 27 September, with a slightly improved attendance. The present Committee was elected with two extra members co-opted : Janet Watts and Alicia Rumsby.

The upper interior of the Church has now been cleaned and looks much better without the cobwebs. The next stage will be re- decorating.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held in the Church and Church Hall on Saturday 3 December, starting at 10.00 am and continuing until lunch time. There will be the usual stalls, i.e. gifts, tombola, cakes, Christmas draw, something for children, refreshments, pew of coins. Prizes and gifts suitable for the bazaar will be most welcome and can be left with any Committee member or brought to the Church.

The amount of money raised from the Historic Churches cycle ride will be known next month.

There will be no evensong in November, as a special Advent Service will be held in Deddington.

Les Chappell 338054

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Where?
ST. JOHN'S HEMPTON**

**When?
Saturday 3 December.
10.00 am to lunchtime**

**Why?
Fund raising for the church
(we rescued the bell !)**

**What?
Christmas Gift Stall - Raffle - Tombola
- Books - Children's Games - Christmas
Cards - Cake Stall - Win a Date ! -
Convert a few of pennies into a seat of
silver
AND MUCH MORE !
PL+S : Coffee, cookies,
and YUMMY BACON BUTTIES !!**

Many Hands Make Light Work

The title of the Deddington Players' theatrical evening last month was a misnomer, in the sense that more was on offer than a play. Normally such an evening means a stage play, or something like a pantomime, or even a revue. On this occasion we were spoilt by having live music from a group while we were being well fed, a couple of cabaret turns and then the play, the title of which appears to be a pun. Is it that many hands make the lighthouse work ?

The standard of these diverse performers was almost universally high. As far as wRants are concerned, it is



always a pleasure to find that among the much maligned teenagers there is a large number of young people who do positive things like playing real musical instruments, and who clearly spend hours practising. My only

criticism, and this is one of the whole genre rather than of this group, is the noise level. Instruments, which in most rooms need no amplification, are apparently never used without loudspeakers, and we were told that what seemed excessive sound was, for our benefit, only half the band's usual level of amplification.

Of the cabaret one can only marvel at the many-sidedness of people's talents. I am sure this is not a subject taught at theological college! The full-length play made it, for some old people, rather a long evening, but that is no reflection on the performance. It would be invidious to single out individuals, except that Jim Flux is a versatile actor of near professional standard - something we already knew. The whole evening was a credit to a community of this size. *J.S.*

Gifts for Life.

Don't worry! There are still seven shopping weeks to Christmas. That means just two Deddington Markets - on 26 November and 17 December. On both days there will still be a wide range of good ideas for gifts and stocking fillers, cards and foods on the Fair Trade stall in the Church.

Stuck for what to give to the person who has everything? Why not look at Traidcraft's "Gifts for Life" catalogue - a small booklet with some BIG ideas. For each gift you will receive a beautiful hand-made card to send which will bring joy to a friend or relative and make a lasting difference to the lives of producers in developing countries. It might be a gift of tools and equipment, seed or livestock; perhaps you prefer training in a new skill; or help to create a fair-trading co-operative. Another bonus is that a "Gift for Life" can be bought for almost any value from a few pounds to a few hundred. Worth every penny!

"Gifts for Life" and other Fair Trade catalogues from the stall or from ...



Hugh Marshall 337761

Five teams, of three young people each, took part in the Farmers' Market competition held in the grounds of the Unicorn on 22 October. The cooks had £10 to spend to buy ingredients in the Market, with which to prepare a two-course meal for three people. In a closely-battered fight the Boys Brigade and Scouts came equal second, only five points behind the winners the older girl team, 'The Clifton Crew' - Alex & Rebecca Jardine and Anna McGivern. The uniformed boys gained points for their better organised teamwork.



This month we have received 15 call outs. One serious house fire in Northants, one recycling bin on fire, several wheelie bins on fire in Banbury, a hedge fire, a bedroom fire, several false alarms with good intent and a few calls to stand-by in Banbury and Bicester.



At the end of October we are saying goodbye to Richard Bolton. "Chud" has been with us for over 6 years now and is going to be sadly missed by all the crew and we'd like to wish him best of luck for the future.

Have you ever wondered who your grandfathers were ? or where your family originated ? The Local History Society has kindly agreed to help organise a Family History Day at the Library on Friday 4 November. There will be books, internet access, photos, and dedicated volunteers to help you begin your search. Come along between 10 am and 4 pm. If there is sufficient interest, we might stay open longer. Look for posters or ask in the Library.

Rosemary Arnold

Rosemary Arnold



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DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of November 1855:

From the 22nd October to the 16th November we remained at Brighton - where the weather was more than usually unfavourable, wind, rain, storm and fog having prevailed frequently. On the latter day above we left Brighton by the 10 o'clock train and reached home at or about half past 5 o'clock, having come and gone through London. We found all things (thank God) well and as they ought to be.

18th November - Holford in London, returning after 4 months absence abroad in Italy and Germany.

19th November - A young man came to offer himself for our place as Footman, agreed with him to come on Friday next on trial provided his character was satisfactory; 30 guineas per annum for wages and clothes inclusive - he finding his own, we to find a greatcoat when necessary.

20th November - Hemmings the carrier came begging towards buying himself a new horse - I gave him £1. I had a long talk with Mr. Field (*the Solicitor*) about Mr. Brogden.

22nd November - Our annual Fair took place, and was but poorly attended.

25th November - Whilst the bells were going for Church and I was leaving for Clifton (*where he took the service every week*) I received a note from Mrs. Brogden asking me to take a funeral for Mr. Brogden at 1/2 past 4 o'clock as he was very unwell. I replied I could not do so - especially after the way in which I had been treated by Mr. Brogden on 3 or 4 previous occasions when asked to take an occasional duty for him of a like kind - as well as of other kinds - and that I hoped he would not apply to me in future for a like purpose, and that as he was able to take the two Duties I conceived him capable of taking the funeral.

27th November - I gave Mr. H. Churchill £10 to aid in buying coal for the poor.

DUST TO DUST...

Am I the only one who shed a sudden, very unexpected, tear while watching two tractors digging trenches in the flat earth where once our Vicarage had stood? So many memories lay there where now not one old stone was to be seen.

Not one old stone of the house where the first issue of the *Deddington News* was laboriously printed on an ancient Gestetner machine by Mary Robinson and the Revd George Palmer, working deep into the night to fulfil the distribution schedule.

I couldn't see a single little keep-sake left over from the Vicarage where George's wife Nora, founder of the "revived" SS Peter & Paul Church Choir, spent much time on her piano bringing music and song back into Deddington.

Not one old stone left of the Vicarage from where the Revd Richard Hannah and his wife Pat had cared so lovingly for ailing villagers.

Not a speck left of the Vicarage, from which the Revd Ken Reeves, nursing a very sore heart, had been hurried on to his new parish.

And for why all that haste? The Vicarage and garden, where those gorgeous plums ripened in profusion every autumn, were left empty, unloved, allowed to decay for many years! A blot on the Deddington landscape!

I now grieve, seeing the old Vicarage no more, but I live in the hope that its lively spirit will enter the NEW, and again bless all that dwell in it! *Ruth Johnson*

28th November - I started to Kemeys in Monmouthshire by the first train to be present at the re-opening of the interesting little Church there, being Patron of the Living. Travelled Aynho to Oxford, Oxford to Didcot, Didcot to Swindon, arrived at the Kings Head, Newport about 3 o'clock. (*I wonder if you could do any better today?*) *Buffy Heywood*

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APOLOGIES are due to readers in Deddington last month who were deprived of News from Hempton and from Clifton - also to Dragon Framing. Struggling to get a grip on the sophistications of new software against the deadline for printing, the Editor lost a page of copy. Fortunately the howl of protest from Hempton reached him in time to run off a special insert for distribution with copies of the DN to readers in Hempton and Clifton. The new software is delivering improvements in the quality of the masters used by the Risograph, particularly for photographs. Though the end result is not equivalent to commercial printing, the DN is indebted to Ruth Johnson and Pat Swash for the cost-saving hours they so willingly devote to slaving over a hot machine. At least it is less time-consuming than it was for the original printers toiling in the old vicarage - see above. The graphics can be seen in colour by accessing the versions on the DN website, found each month by dozens of visitors no-one knows where in the world <http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/downloads.html>

ON THE FARM

Since I last wrote, the harvest has been gathered in, next year's crops planted and the bees put to bed for the winter. The harvest went very smoothly, with the last of the wheat going into the storage bins on 14 August with yields well up on last year. The beans came in during the first few days of September and also did very well, but the oil seed rape, which was cut at the beginning of August, was very disappointing - mainly due to the wet planting time last year when the ground got very compacted and there was a combination of slug and pigeon damage. This year we planted the oil seed rape at the end of August into very good conditions and the crop is well established and looks promising. The autumn sown crops were all in the ground by 1 October and have got away to a good start although we did get some slug damage on them. However, we have so far been able to keep the grey hounds at bay. As the weather gets colder the problem should disappear.

The farm office has been a hive of activity all summer, as we have attempted to struggle with the complexity of DEFRA's new environmental scheme. This was not helped when the Ministry's new computer system proved inadequate for the job and gave up the ghost on a number of occasions. But despite the teething problems we were able to get the entry-level scheme up and running by 1 August. This involves hedgerow management, 6 metre buffer headlands around some

of the fields, which have been planted with pollen and nectar flowers and plants to provide cover and seed for farmland birds. There are now bare patches out in the middle of the cereal crops - skylark plots - not, as has been suggested, the drill man sleeping on the job.

We have also made an application to join the higher-level scheme, but this is a many-headed beast and, once again due to computer problems, the start date for this has been put back from November '05 to February '06. It will be centred around a wading bird project on the flood meadows and will involve quite a lot of drastic work over the next 2 years. The hedge which runs from Bowmans Bridge back towards the village will be coppiced off back to ground level and allowed to grow back up to 2 metres high and the willows cut back. This is to reduce the number of perches that predators can use from which to launch an attack. The old system of "sheep drains" will be reinstated to provide soft ground for the birds to feed in, and the ditches that run across the meadows will have sluices fitted at the river end to keep some water on the meadows until early summer. All in all a complete change from how we have tried to run the farm for the last 30 years, but needs must as the devil drives. Food crop production in this country has become economically unviable so we must find alternative sources of income - or just walk away.

George Fenemore 338203

RUMINATIONS

I remember being told of how West Country farmers used to place a vertical stone or post in the middle of any field where cattle were put to graze. It was, they said, for the comfort of the cows, and indeed one farmer had scratched or carved the following on one face of such a stone:

FORAS
SESTOR
UBON

so that passers-by and the more educated cattle would understand.

I haven't seen one for many years, presumably because nowadays they would obstruct the large agricultural machinery that farmers have to use, and for which many of our local hedges have been foreshortened to provide wider access. That and mechanical hedge-cutting have gradually eroded perching-places for birds and probably reduced their usefulness for plant protection and growth.

Recently I heard of a gardener who had left some stakes standing amongst his brassicas and was surprised to see how a family of wrens had begun to use them as good vantage points from which to swoop onto the caterpillars and other bugs attacking the crop. In much the same way, farmers in rice-growing countries sometimes leave poles in the paddy fields so that hawks and eagles can sit there to spot the small animals which ferret around in the rice.

Almost every gardening writer extols the value of

leaving some land as a 'natural plot' and the virtue of not clearing away all the old logs and leaves which inevitably gather at this time of year, so that there can be good places for the wild-life to snuggle into during the winter. It has been so re-assuring that the pile of bits and pieces behind the tool-shed, instead of being an eyesore, have suddenly become a habitat, or that the ivy that I had intended to trim off the garden wall is really an invaluable home for a multitude of essential insects. Isn't it wonderful to have a sustainable reason for not being too tidy in the garden!

Hugh Marshall



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Oak Trees in Deddington Parish - Part Two

Oak trees are visible in all parts of the parish - singly and in rows - on high and low ground, and many are conspicuously sited in hedges adjoining the busy roads. Oaks do not guarantee the beauty or condition of a hedge: for example, a hedge on the Duns Tew Road is in poor condition, but it has great oak trees. English oak trees occur abundantly in hedges with four species of woody plants (for example, with hawthorn, elder, ash and oak), and constantly in hedges with 5-12 species of woody plants. The trend to richness is clear; the more kinds of woody plants in a hedge the more likely it is that you will find a *Quercus robur* among them.

Some oaks are wide-spreading, like the Selborne oak. One splendid example is in the field adjoining the junction of the River Swere with the River Cherwell; another is in the churchyard of SS Peter & Paul, Deddington, where the tree has branches extending from the main trunk north 13 m, south 14 m, east 11 m, west 11 m. An attractive oak tree with upcurving, wide-spreading limbs, stands on the verge by the Fire Station.

Unlike poplar, sycamore, ash, and many other trees, our oak trees do not rise straight into the sky. Low on the main trunk a heavy lateral branch extends away from it, and achieves a length as well as a girth to rival the main trunk. The 'horizontals' are often sinuous, contorted,

snakelike, a tendency visible in the Fire Station oak. A common feature of *Quercus robur* is that the branches of one side extend farther from the trunk than those of the other side, an asymmetry which distinguishes the species. The oak in Sands Paddock field on Home Farm, for example, has snake-like limbs and an asymmetrical profile.

When English oak trees lose 'apical' dominance, a condition common to them and visible in the Fire Station oak, the young trunk divides into two ascending

trunks, generating a double, or, in one case a triple. Some, but not many, *Quercus robur* trees in Deddington parish are shaped like a flat-topped field mushroom: the canopy is balanced and the trunk is undivided.

Oak trees in good health give an 'irresistible impression of robustness'. Afflicted by disease, limbs lose their leaves, and look stark and skeletal.

Among the Deddington oaks die-back is common. Drought may be a decisive factor in causing die-back but there is no agreement on the issue. The Journal of Pest Science reported that the larvae of the oak Jewel Beetle (*Agrilus biguttatus*) excavate galleries under the bark of weakened trees, which are then killed through girdling, suggesting that one disease opens the door to others, and that deformed oaks in some of our hedgerows are afflicted by a complex of infestations, not one.

Walter Meagher

[This article is a sequel to that printed in July, abridged from a forthcoming book on Deddington Flora. Ed]



This year's Festival was a success. No doubt about it. We had terrific support from local businesses, individual

donors and the indispensable Friends. Local artists and actors, craftworkers and cricketers, musicians, poets, singers, children and older people – all took part alongside professionals and semi pros. Truly something for everybody, and, just possibly, everything for somebody. Many of Deddington's meeting places did Festival duty – Windmill Centre, Town Hall, Holly Tree, Parish Church, pubs – and perhaps this list could be added to in future years. The books balanced, and the financial outcome was healthy.

Now that we are a Registered Charity, No 1111495, should we do even better? Do we want a Festival every year? Every other year? What do you think?

Meanwhile, planning for 2006 is under way. The provisional outline programme starts with a Family Day Out at the Windmill, on Sunday 18 June, and ends with Midsummer Jazz in the parish church on Sunday 25 June. During the Festival week there will be a balance between local talent – art, craft, cricket, dance, drama, music, poetry, writing – and high quality professional

performances – choral, classical, jazz, opera. Children will be encouraged to write, sing, paint, bat, bowl. Adults, too. Go on, try something you've always wanted to, but never dared, or had the opportunity. Taking part is half the fun of the Festival, but you don't have to, because being there is just as important.

The target budget is £15,000. We aim for free admission to as many events as practicable, and minimum possible prices where charges have to be made.

Charity Commission Rules and Guidelines will apply throughout. Any surplus funds, when everything is done and dusted, will go to local good causes.

Norman Stone 338019

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

Those of us who joined FDF last year experienced the satisfaction of being part of something genuinely innovative and worthwhile, something that could, and should, involve the whole community. Current members will need little persuading to renew their membership. Others who hesitated to join, should hesitate no longer. Deddington's Festival is up and running. For information on becoming a Friend telephone: Sue Goddard (338122), Kristin Thompson (337052), Pamela Ward (336269).

K.T.