

The Festival is over - until next year. The support for this year's busy programme well rewarded the year-long planning and wider publicity lacking last year. The Festival Committee, enthusiastically led by Hugh O'Donnell and serviced by Eileen Anderson, will make sure it stays in the public mind. Fuller reports in September's **DN**, and pictures on Deddington OnLine. Might the Festival have a category of 'Vice-Patrons', who qualify for season tickets?

• Many thanks to Jane Plummer who has ably regulated the flow of our monthly adverts and inserts, and thanks now to Rosemary Clark for taking on that role - with a reminder that space needs to be booked EARLY with her (336267) such is the demand for it. The **DN** needs a new Correspondent to provide a succinct independent summary of the Parish Council monthly meetings - phone 338225. **CF**  
 • VOTE on line in the new Straw Poll - see page 7.



### July

- Fri 1 Babies & Toddlers Group: Outing to Hatton Country World. ➔ p.9  
 Sat 2 Pre-School: *A Night at The Oscars* Dance, Windmill Centre. ➔ p.3  
 Sun 3 **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** : Human white band around the Town Hall, 11.15 am. ➔ p.4  
 Mon 4 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10 am-noon. ➔ p.8  
 Wed 6 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8-10 pm.  
 Fri 8 "**Any Questions ?**" : BBC Radio 4 broadcast, Windmill Centre. Tickets from Clerk.  
 Sat 9 British Legion: VE & VJ Day 60th anniversary, *1940s evening*. ➔ p.10  
 Sun 10 British Legion: Barbecue and tombola. ➔ p.10  
 Tue 12 WI: Sir Andrew Green, *Asylum & Immigration*, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm. ➔ p.9  
 Sat 16 Tennis Club: first Under-10s match, Windmill, 2.00 pm. ➔ p.10  
 Sat 16 **SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR**, Parish Church, 7.30 pm. [www.africanchildrenschoir.com](http://www.africanchildrenschoir.com)  
 Mon 18 Youth Club: Barbecue and games, 7-9 pm. ➔ p.9  
 Wed 20 Monday Morning Club: *The Comedy of Errors* at Stratford; bus from Town Hall at 6 pm. ➔ p.8  
 Wed 20 Deddington Friendship Club: Windmill, 2.30 pm.  
 Wed 20 Parish Council Meeting: Town Hall, 7.45 pm. ➔ p.3  
 Sat 23 Deddington Farmers' Market: 9.0 am ~12.30 pm.  
 Sat 23 **LIVING ROOMS PROJECT**: Sponsored Sky Dive at Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Brackley. ➔ p.6  
 Sat 23 History Society: Historical walk around Great Tew, Car park 2 pm. ➔ p.10  
 Thu 28 Book Club: Call 338094 for details. ➔ p.8  
 Fri 29 Festival Fundraiser: *Just Dixie play Jazz*, The Unicorn, 7.30 pm. ➔ p.5

### August

- Mon 1 Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10 am - noon. ➔ p.8  
 Wed 3 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.  
 Fri 5 Babies and Toddlers Group: Teddy Bears' Picnic at Windmill Centre. ➔ p.9  
 Wed 16 Parish Council Meeting: (if needed) Town Hall, 7.45 pm. ➔ p.3  
 Sat 27 Deddington Farmers' Market: 9.0 am ~12.30 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.  
 Wed: Anchor Boys: Deddington School, 3.15 pm.  
 Wed: Boys' Brigade: Windmill Centre, 5.30 pm.

- Every other Wed: Friendship Club: Windmill, 2.30 pm.  
 Wed: Tennis Club: 6.15 pm till dark.  
 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: Katharine House Coffee Morning: Parish Church, 10~12.  
 Fri: Babies & Toddlers' Group: Windmill, 9.30~11 am.  
 Fri: Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm

Copies of the **DN** - and a donation box - are available at **Bluebells**.

### **THE DEDDINGTON NEWS** - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: **23 AUG**

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**Meeting in Town Hall - 15 June 2005**

Present: Cllrs. Flux (Chair), Alton, Cox, Ellis, Haslam, Putland, Rollason, Spencer, Squires, Swash, Todd, Wood, DC O'Sullivan, CC Jelf, Graham Pitts (Parish Clerk), Sue Gibbs (Minutes Sec)

School Governor: Jonathan Watts was proposed and approved to represent PC. PC will have no responsibility for financial involvement.

Deddington Festival: the Deddington coat of arms to be used in their advertising - with usual payment.

Environment & Recreation: November Fair - complaints received & some support. New proposal now for a 2-day fair to be set up on Thursday evening 17 Nov, ending Sunday by noon. Will close at 10.00pm each evening. Aimed at 5~12 year-olds. Will occupy same area as Farmers' Market. Support vehicles to park possibly at Windmill Centre or in Earls Lane, not Bullring. Market Place road to Town Hall from Hudson St. to be closed and buses diverted. Temporary bus stops along High Street. No decision taken at meeting - need to give longer for residents to give opinions. Depends on willingness of bus companies to re-route. £150 rental to be received. Discuss further in July, and decision by early Sept.

Stonepits allotment: Thames Water connection on 20 June.

Fire Service will undertake free household risk assessments, and will fit free smoke alarms in certain cases.

Hempton phone box: request by BT to remove cash pay facility - card only. [see News from Hempton on page 12]

Circular Walk: bull in field on N.E. section - alternate route blocked by electric fence.

Cemetery: concern over tree-planting at the side of graves encroaching on pathways. The main gravel path is being extended.

Vandalism: problems at Windmill Centre: windows smashed, troughs spoilt, but new lighting has been put up. Also temporary traffic lights at cross-roads put out of action, and problem of under-age drinking.

Cllrs were given draft copy of Parish Plan questionnaire to read and make comments.

Planning: PC no objection:

- 1) School - relocation of existing school car park within school grounds & provision of replacement hard play area.
- 2) The Old Butchery, St Thomas St.- conservatory to rear (unless neighbours make complaint).
- 3) Johnson & Co, Chapel Sq. - fell sycamore tree which is damaging boundary wall.
- 4) Paper Mill House, Oxford Rd. - division of one room into two on 1st floor.
- 5) Stoneleigh, Horse Fair - erection of wooden shed (unless neighbours make complaint).
- 6) Land adjoining & east of The Barnstead, Hempton - resubmission of amended plans, front porch and smaller windows to front of building.
- 7) 15 St John's Way, Hempton - conservatory to rear.
- 8) Clydesdales, Market Place - internal alterations to existing building &

replacement front door. PC object to latter: listed building, so, if new door is needed, it should be in the same style as the old door, not a more modern design.

CDC Application approved: The Vicarage, Earls Lane. Cllr Wood said Cherwell DC have a guideline document for shop fronts which might have supported PC objection to Co-op front. However Deddington needed Co-op, who have 'Village Store' house-style.

Highways: Hempton Rd resurfacing - road to be closed for one day (17 July). There are spots along Hempton Rd where cars could be parked to slow traffic. Clifton footpath still not resolved. Requesting new meeting with OCC on Deddington's traffic problems. New higher curb at traffic lights installed as safety measure, but no progress on new High St pedestrian crossing at same time. Bus surveys on 159 & 259 'Connection' buses: waste of money - they are hardly used. Should be central white line in St Thomas St. at the junction with Hopcraft Lane to stop vehicles cutting corner. Dangerous pavement in Philcote St. Strutt & Parker, with *Country Life*, are organising a national competition, 'England's Favourite Market Town'. Their flyer features a picture of Deddington Market !

[To vote, go to [http://www.countrylife.co.uk/webforms/favourite\\_market\\_town.php](http://www.countrylife.co.uk/webforms/favourite_market_town.php). Eo]

Finance & GP: Deficit of £3,440-44 as budgetted. Bank balances total £565,260-03. Receipts for May £2,365-60; payments for May £8,837 -18. Thanks to Brian Wood for his valuable work for PC finances.

**Next MEETING: Wednesday 20 July**, Town Hall, 7.45pm. (No meeting planned for August unless there is urgent business.)

*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](http://www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes)*



The **PARISH PLAN** survey forms will now be delivered in September. Many thanks to all those **DN** distributors, who have volunteered to do an extra round to distribute them. Their unrivalled personal knowledge of their 'beats' should ensure that the forms reach every household.

***Deddington Parish Council  
Tertiary Educational Grants.***

Applications are invited from those entering tertiary education this autumn.

The aim of the grant (value £100) is to assist with the purchase of books or other equipment. In order to qualify applicants must be residents and have lived in the parish for three years.

Application forms are available from Graham Pitts, Clerk to the Council.

Grants will be awarded at the Parish Council meeting on 21 September and applicants will be invited to attend.

May was very busy with trips and preparations for the Sports Day and Fête. Just before the May holiday I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 4 to Hill End educational centre for 3 days. The weather was glorious and we had a wonderful time pond dipping and playing co-operation games. It was lovely to have Year 3 also visit us for a day. The children were a real credit to the school and I was very proud to be associated with them. A huge Thank You must go to the staff and parents who made it all possible. Their support was fantastic. The weather treated us kindly and it was a very successful visit.



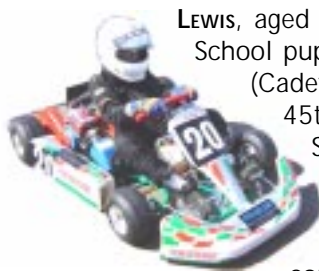
Key Stage 1 classes have also been out and about to Hatton Farm Park near Warwick. They had a lovely time looking at the animals and watching the Falconry display. Once again the weather was good and the children thoroughly enjoyed their day.

The School Fête was a huge success with takings up on last year - nearly £3,500. Many thanks to the fantastic PTA.

Plans for the Early Years Unit are currently with the Planning Department. We are awaiting the green light to plan for building to start in September. We still have a shortfall of around £9,000 - so we have a little bit of work to do.

At the end of this term we will be saying a few Farewells and Thank-yous to Mrs Rolfe (who has been covering for Mrs Knox), Miss Gillespie and Mrs Durham (two of our Special Needs Teaching Assistants) and Ms Jo Atkins our cook. We wish them every happiness in the future and thank them for the wonderful contributions they have made to our school community.

*Judith Tinsley 338430*



Lewis, aged 10, a Deddington Primary School pupil, won the Novice Trophy (Cadet category) at Shenington's 45th Anniversary Go-Karting SuperPrix Championships on 20 June. After being involved in a first lap collision, Lewis managed to come from last place to snatch

the top Novice award! His fastest lap time of the day was 53.71secs! He passed his karting licence in February and has won two out of five Novice races since then.

### **"ALL CHILDREN, READ THIS !"**

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is called 'The Reading Voyage'. To join, all you have to do is come into the Library and fill in a card with your name and address and borrow some books. When you have read 2 books you will be given some stickers. After 3 books you will receive a little prezzie, and after 6 books you will get a bag of goodies. That's it! There are some brand new books to go with the scheme suitable for all ages. It costs nothing to join - so what are you waiting for? See you in the Library.

*Rosemary Arnold*

### **DEDDINGTON PRE-SCHOOL**

Welcome back after half term. Our topic for this half of term is "Starting School". There are lots of important dates coming up:

Oscars Night: 2 July - Buy your ticket soon - before they sell out!

Sports Day: 14 July (1.15~2.15pm). We do need support for this event so please speak to one of the members of staff if you are able to help.

End of term picnic: 22 July. There will be a fancy dress competition. If it rains, it will be held in The Windmill Centre.

Many thanks to Foodies for supplying food for the recent wine tasting evening and to The Unicorn for hosting the event.

We are sad to report that the play house in our garden was broken in to and vandalised on 22 June. The children are all very disappointed to lose this facility, but we hope to have it repaired soon.

*Rowena Dickerson*

### **NATHANIEL DOES IT AGAIN**

In the early 1800s, a lithograph of Deddington Parish Church by Nathaniel Whittock was published to raise funds for the Deddington National Schools, established in 1814. [See DN Feb 05 on the website.] The print was rediscovered in 2004 and republished this year by John Vaughan and Jimmy Guthrie, of Clifton, as a fundraiser. Framed prints, in a limited edition of 50, cost £33 each, of which £10 goes to Deddington School and £5 to the Parish Church. So far, 25 prints have been sold, and to mark the halfway stage John and Jimmy presented the school with £250 and a specially framed print. The church's Living Room Project received £125. Enquiries to Norman Stone 338019.



### **Summer Fun Activities For Primary School Aged Children at Deddington Parish Church**

Four Thursdays during August, 10am start, ends 12.30pm

Children aged 5-11 years come along to  
Craft workshops, cooking, chess, tennis, singing and other games

Cost £1.50 per child per session

Thursday 4th August  
Thursday 11th August  
Thursday 18th August  
Thursday 25th August

Application forms & general enquiries to: Kate Petty 338425  
Sarah Liebrecht 337628  
Sally Haslam 338216

Additional application forms are available from Deddington Primary School Office and the Church. To guarantee a place please complete an application form and return it to the school office before Friday 22nd July, or no later than the Monday before each activity morning to: Jane Green, Weston House, Church Street (337637) for 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> August and Diane Marshall, 7 The Coedings (337761) for 11<sup>th</sup> August.

We would be grateful to hear from anyone ready to help.

**SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON** [www.deddingtonchurch.org](http://www.deddingtonchurch.org)

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

**Parish Church in July**

Sun 3 10.30 am MPH Morning Praise; 6.30 pm Evensong  
 Wed 6 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Thur 7 2.00 pm Squeals & Wheels  
 Sun 10 10.30 am WWII Eucharist & Children's Church  
 Wed 13 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Sat 16 7.30 pm South African Children's Choir  
 Sun 17 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (African Choir)  
 Wed 20 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Thu 21 2.00 pm Squeals & Wheels  
 Fri 22 6.30 pm ST MARY MAGDALENE Eucharist  
 Sun 24 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP); 10.30 am Eucharist & Children's Church  
 Mon 25 6.30 pm ST JAMES Eucharist  
 Wed 27 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Sun 31 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP); 10.30 am Mattins



**August**

Wed 3 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Thur 4 2.00 pm Squeals & Wheels  
 Sat 6 10.00 am TRANSFIGURATION Eucharist  
 Sun 7 10.30 am Morning Praise; 6.30 pm Evensong  
 Wed 10 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Sun 14 10.30 am Sung Eucharist & Children's Church  
 Mon 15 6.30 pm BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Eucharist  
 Wed 17 10.00 am Eucharist  
 Thur 18 2.00 pm Squeals & Wheels  
 Sun 21 10.30 am Sung Eucharist  
 Wed 24 10.00 am ST BARTHOLOMEW Eucharist  
 Sun 28 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30 am Morning Service & Children's Church  
 Wed 31 10.00 am Eucharist

*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**

9.00 am Eucharist Sundays 3 & 17 July, 7 & 21 August

6.30 pm Evensong 24 July & 28 August

From the Parish Registers - FUNERAL : 30 May Vivien Edmonds

WEDDINGS : 28 May John Hardie & Nicola Swash; 2 June Andrew Bird & Janet Malcolmson

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Aberford, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington [Jean Welford 338539] Weds 13 & 27 July, 7.30pm

2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Weds 13 & 27 July, 7.30pm

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

**July** - Family Holiday Association

**August** - BibleLands Society

**WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square**

*Pastor Isabel Walton 337157*

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am Preacher - Pastor Isabel Walton; 31 July - John Goulder,

28 August - Mike Graveny

Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street**

*Joyce Minnear 338 529*

Sunday *morning* services are held together with the Wesleyan Reform Church. Sunday evening services are held at the Chapel at 6.00 pm with Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

The speakers will be in July: 3 Pastor Isobel Walton; 10 Jane Manley (FISHERMEN'S MISSION)

17 Rev. Norman Bonnet (from Christchurch); 24 John Neal

in August: 7 Pastor Isobel Walton [others to be advised]

**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. The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falling on Monday 15 August, the Solemnity has been transferred to the Sunday.

The 15th will therefore not be a Holiday of Obligation.

### Writing Competition

Authors from all over Oxfordshire submitted entries for the first-ever Deddington Writing Competition, part of the Deddington Festival and organised by Deddington Writers Group. Entries were invited on the theme of "Festival". Unfortunately, not all the authors had written on the given subject but the judge enjoyed reading a wide range of pieces in the Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry classes.

Judith Paskin of BBC Radio Oxford judged the entries but was unable to be present at the Prize-Giving during Deddington Festival's "Poetry Please" evening. However, her comments were read for her by one of the judges Mary Robinson, the *DN's* founding editor, who also presented the prizes.

Sadie Densham of Duns Tew won the Fiction class with *Mission Festival*: "This was very well written. Its tone and pace draw you into a world of intrigue while the clever twist at the end was a marvellous surprise."

Non-Fiction: "I chose the entry called *Festival of Eid* written by Jenny Selby-Green of Chipping Norton as the winning entry. It transported the reader to a most colourful and, at times, gruesome Moroccan festival. The writer informed and entertained the reader by re-creating a vibrant picture of events."

The winner of the Poetry category is Jo Barton, another Duns Tew resident, with *Festival*: "This was fun to read with good simple rhymes that worked well. I am always impressed with anyone who can write poetry that both rhymes and makes sense. I thought this was a lovely cheerful piece."

There were also two classes for Junior Authors, but as so few under-16s entered it was decided, without selecting any 'winners', to award book tokens to all four, which were presented by Canon Hugh Marshall at the beginning of the Oxford Sinfonia Concert on the last day of the Festival.

The successful entries may be read in the Library or on Deddington web-site, [www.deddington.org.uk](http://www.deddington.org.uk) <<http://www.deddington.org.uk/>>. We hope that this first



### FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

I've lived in Deddington for ten years now and should no longer be surprised by the generosity, good will and willingness to become involved that characterise this community.

A recent example of all three was the Friends Reception in Deddington Church on 8 June. Friends arranged flowers, took care of the catering. Tables groaned under the weight of donated food and we had more offers of help than there were jobs to go round.

The Festival's Patron, Brian Kay, and its Artistic Director, Janet Lincé, both came to the Reception. Brian Kay spoke eloquently of the value of festivals such as this and commended our programme and the palpable buzz it was creating.

By the time you read this, the 2005 Festival will be over. Impossible to thank all the Friends who have been involved but not impossible to imagine their energy and enthusiasm being harnessed to further developments in 2006.

The Festival Committee really appreciates the support and encouragement given by the Friends of the Festival, by people taking part in the many and varied events that made up the Festival programme, and by everybody who helped in so many ways. As Woody Allen said, 80 percent of success is showing up, so above all we thank you, the public, for showing up.

There's an opportunity on Friday 29 July, to show up at a kind of coda, or P.S. to the Festival. Well-known local band *Just Dixie* will be playing at the Unicorn Inn, in Deddington Market Place: £7 including snacks, for a summer evening of good-time jazz, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets from the Unicorn, Deddington Market Place, and Eileen Anderson 01869 338325. See you there.

*Norman Stone*



*Kristin Thompson*

competition will lead to greater things next year when perhaps more entries may come from within Deddington itself, whose writers have seemed unduly modest in 2005.

*Hugh Marshall* Deddington Writers Group

### Festive Cricket

Banbury Select IX beat Deddington by just 14 runs in a 25-over contest, closer than seemed at first likely - a perfect summer Sunday afternoon's entertainment for players and supporters.

Banbury 178 for 7 (Hawkes 79, Proctor 79, Oddy 4 for 21). Deddington 164 (Ranson 55, White B 39, Trehy 4 for 11).

Donald Lane won the Elmer Cotton bat - to give his 12-year-old grandson, a budding Leicestershire cricketer. *CH*



## Saturday 23 July at Hinton-in-the Hedges

Five intrepid Sky  
Divers are putting  
their lives into the  
hands of others  
and NEED Sponsors ...



Please phone your pledges to

**Tony Elvidge - 338214**

**Catherine Elvidge - 338214**

**Jonathan Elvidge - 338214**

**Sally Haslam - 338216**

**Glynnis Eastwood - 331021**

The Team are *NOT* doing this just  
for fun!

They aim to raise loads'o'money  
for the **LIVING ROOMS** here and for  
AIDS-infected and -affected children  
in South Africa

*Please sponsor generously*

### More for Christian Aid.

Deddington people gave generously for relief of the tsunami victims after the Boxing Day disaster, but that did not stop them from digging deep into their wallets for **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of people and the hard work of the collectors, a record figure of £1,696 was given. A further £200 will be added to this when tax is recovered on all those gifts where a GiftAid declaration was included. This is £60 more than the total in the 2004 Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid supports the relief and development work of British Churches in many parts of the world. Our thanks to all who took part, and especially to Liz Handley who is retiring from the organising group after 10 years service. We would be very glad to hear from anyone who is willing to give a few hours in May and June as collectors or as part of the organising group for next year's Christian Aid Week. *Pat Brittain* 338685



### Poetry, Praise and Prayer

Saturday 17 September

Join us in Deddington  
Church over a glass of wine  
for a light hearted  
anthology of readings to

**Amuse, to Brighten, to Captivate, to Delight,  
to Entertain.** Book this date in your diary  
~~ more details to come.

## Ride or Stride

Sat 10th Sept 2005

A sponsored event  
to raise money for:

- The church of your choice and
- The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

Your contribution  
will be divided  
equally  
between  
the two



Sponsorship forms available from:

Dorothy White, 20 Gaveston Gdns - 337530

County Organiser: John Hewitt (01865)735180 Registered Charity 235644

## Barfords Bikers' Bash

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Programme commencing 3pm

### Treasure Hunt Ride-Out

for motorcycles and cars around our beautiful countryside.

Map and details from car park on the day.

### Village Quiz with prizes

On foot around St. Michael & St. John.

### Custom Bike Competition for under 16s.

Decorate or customise your bicycle or tricycle and bring it to the Bash for judging. Win an Orange County Black Widow Chopper + Timechart Histories of Harley-Davidson.

**Raffle** to win an all new 'Ball' Dyson Vacuum Cleaner plus other fab prizes.

### Face & Body Painting

**Display of Vintage & Interesting Motorcycles**  
Tea and Cakes + Barbecue

## 7pm The Silverfish + Support & Bar

Evening tickets £5.00 from Post Office and The George. Under 14's free

In aid of Church Restoration

FROM PEGGY BAKER, BULLRING COTTAGE, DEDDINGTON

Please would the P.C. tell us why the Windmill playing fields cannot be used for the proposed Fun Fair in November. There used to be a Charter for holding the Pudding'n'Pie Fair in the Market Place, but this was stopped twenty years ago. Since then Deddington has expanded and the Windmill Centre has been built, with its playing fields and parking facilities. The fields are only used for the Colts football in winter, and a small area at that, so there is heaps of time for grass to regrow before the summer cricket season. We are told the Fair will be for children aged 3-10 years. Does anyone really believe older youngsters will not want rides? The only excuse for not using the playing fields (that I have heard) is that children might fall over in the mud if it should rain. What about tarmac being wet or icy in the Market Place? Is it that the P.C. would be responsible for accidents at the playing fields but if the Fair is held in the Market Place accidents would be the responsibility of Highways or CDC?

Please address all letters to: KRISTIN THOMPSON, 5 THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON e-mail: op@kristin.demon.co.uk and include your name and address, even if they are not for publication.

FROM DOROTHY WHITE, GAVESTON GARDENS DEDDINGTON

Do you remember TICOS? It stands for TEAS IN CHURCH ON SUNDAYS. Last year every Sunday throughout July and August tea, coffee and squash with delicious home-made cakes were served in church from 2.30 to 5.30 to all-comers - villagers and visitors alike. The experiment was a great success: villagers were able to meet visitors from as far afield as Lincolnshire and the visitors were grateful to break their journeys and slake their thirst in such pleasant surroundings. In addition over £500.00 was raised for church funds - so do come and join us this year.

FROM NORMAN STONE, MARKET PLACE, DEDDINGTON

May I say a big 'Thank You' to all the local businesses co-operating with the Parish Council in the 3-month experiment of keeping their long-stay

vehicles out of the Market Place and parking them elsewhere? The whole central area looks better and life is far more agreeable for short-term parkers. The question is - what happens when the experiment is over? I'm sure I'm not alone in hoping that a way will be found of providing long-term parking away from the centre of the village, but not too remote. Surely it can be done. But will it? [See next item. Ed]

WELL REMEMBERED

ELEANOR VIVIEN EDMONDS (1912 - 2005). A childhood spent in Ireland, her teens in India shaped Vivien's many interests in later years. Married to an officer who flew with distinction in Bomber Command she needed all her mental resources to get through 5 years of war and just when she began to look forward to life in farming after his retirement he died very suddenly in 1959. With bravery and self reliance learned in her youth she bought a cottage in Philcote Street, named it Cat's Cottage a base for herself, her daughter Amanda, her cats, dogs and the focal point for all her village activities: secretary and founder member of the 'Over Sixties' Holly Tree Club, distributor of Meals-on-Wheels, supporter of SS Peter & Paul Church, club entertainer, member of Deddington Players and Play Reading Group, fund raiser for many local activities, unstinting giver of her time and efforts. A domestic goddess she was not, but as a life long lover of equestrian sport, riding her horse Nelly, she looked impressive and gained many rosettes at shows. A deeply ingrained love of country life and mystic remembrance of India made her a sensitive writer of poetry. Her charming eccentricity will be missed. RJ

MARGARET PLANT came to Deddington late in life from Stratford to which she and her husband retired following his career as a teacher and then manager of London County Council green field sports facilities in outer London for inner city children. Given her husband's job, it was as well that Margaret was herself interested in sport, but she had a capacity for being generally interested in what went on around her. This and her outgoing personality made her a valued member of the Thursday Windmill Club, where Margaret was a generator of benign energy. Her thoughtful and supportive concern was greatly appreciated by both friends and family. JW

Straw Poll ...

- ... YOUR chance to vote and comment on current local issues on the DOL website. Go to www.deddington.org.uk/dnpolls. Remember anyone can use the computers in the Library to do so. 1. Should the Parish Council find ways of providing permanent facilities for long-stay parking so that the Market Place and Bullring are kept free for resident and short-term parking? 2. Does the present policy of partial mowing of the Castle Grounds meet the needs of the community? The results of this poll will be in the September DN.



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**Windmill Thursday Club**

Fifteen people attended the AGM on 16 June in the Windmill Centre. The Chairman reported a successful year for the people who attend on both Tuesdays and Thursdays and the good financial position of the club. There are 1 or 2 places for both days, and anybody who would like to join the club should contact Jennie Fairbank on 01295 250083 or call by on a Tuesday or Thursday. The Unicorn does an excellent meal and we are grateful for their support. We have an opening for a paid assistant on Tuesday (9.30 to 3.00), and we welcome volunteers who can help on either day during the hours of 9.30am to 3.00pm. Please call by or contact Jennie or ...

*Jim Flux* Chairman 338153

**Monday Morning Club**

For *The Comedy of Errors* on Wednesday 20 July, the bus leaves the Market Square at 6pm as usual. From the September meeting, we have decided to run the coffee morning from 10.30 am to noon. Very few people have been arriving for the 10 am start.

*Jean Flux* 338153

**Deddington Friendship Club**

The club is going along very well and we have increased our membership and look forward to welcoming more people. We have purchased further equipment and in addition to indoor bowling we can offer outdoor croquet, boules and, for the more energetic, table tennis. Scrabble is still the most popular sedentary activity, but various other board and card games are available and we still enjoy beetle drives and

quizzes. We have also had some interesting and helpful speakers. Our last meeting before the summer break is on 20 July for a party outside (weather permitting). Plans for various trips have been proposed for early September and October. The next meeting of the Friendship Club is 14 September, but indoor bowls will continue through August each week on a Wednesday.

*Joyce Minnear* 338529

**1st Deddington Scout Group - Cubs**

We welcome Martin, Harriet, James and Georgina to the pack and Chloe and Lewis were invested, keeping our numbers at 17. We do not like to have more than 18 Cubs at a time, so please contact us if you would like to put your child on our waiting list; Cubs must be 8 years old.

We celebrated St George's Day with a Catalonian evening (St George is also the patron saint of Catalonia). We ate tapas, tried a spot of bull-running and learned about the region. As the custom is to give books, each of the Cubs received a bookmark.

A group of Cubs joined the Deddington Walk; we enjoyed a hike around the Hempton loop, thanks to the parents who walked with us.

The Cubs attended the Banbury District Cub Camp at Horley where the theme was 'nautical'. The boys dressed as lifeguards and were triumphant in the gun carriage race after spending the day walking the plank, playing battleships and making paper boats.

At the District Football Tournament the Deddington team were runners up, being narrowly beaten 1-0 in the final - very well done lads!

Still to come, a Wild West fun day, fire-lighting and an evening of athletics.

*Jo Churchyard* 338071 [jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

**Scouts**

We welcome Matthew and Jordan to Scouts from Cubs, swelling the numbers to 13. For the first time for many years we have nearly as many Scouts as Cubs.

Scouts also joined in the Deddington Walk covering the 5.5 miles of the Hempton loop a lot faster than the Cubs. It was good practice for the hike to Great Tew and back as part of the Hikers Badge, which six of the scouts completed in 3.5 hours.

We went on a county camp to Stanton Harcourt for a weekend of canoeing, sailing, rowing and windsurfing along with 250 scouts from the area, and plans are in hand for a camp at Horley in the summer holidays.

The scouts have been researching information for their campaign to encourage the use of re-usable shopping bags called 'Bin The Bag'; you may have seen the posters or seen them at the market. Please apply for the free bags; scout and cub parents have tested them and report that they are brilliant.

*Peter Churchyard* 338071

**Book Club**

During June we read *'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'* by Mark Haddon and we are about to start *'Brick Lane'* by Monica Ali, which is our choice for July. At our last meeting we discussed *'The Reader'* by Bernhard Schlink. For those of you who missed the

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meeting, the following is a summary of our discussions: "Very thought provoking, short, spare and easy to read. The layers condensed in the love affair are some elements that were national issues at the time. We spent some time discussing the often devastating effects of illiteracy." Next meeting 28 July. Call Sally for details.

*Sally Lambert* 338094

### WI

Wesley Morgan gave an impressive demonstration of his methods of 'Holistic Therapy Treatment' to combat stresses and tensions and to promote general well being. Two members took advantage of Wesley's fascinating hand and arm massage, which caused members to watch and remain interested throughout. All agreed it was a different and enjoyable evening. After much discussion it was agreed, with regret, to cancel the August outing to Bournemouth due to a lack of response, but to give consideration to an alternative venue later in the year. On 12 July Sir Andrew Green will speak about 'Asylum and Immigration'. There is no meeting in August.

*Rene Mahony* 338438

### 1st Deddington Boys Brigade Company

The winners of our annual awards were announced recently: Jake is 'Best Anchor Boy' and Max is 'Bandsman of the Year' as well as receiving the 'Endeavour Cup' for being our most outstanding Junior.

In June Samuel, William and Max were appointed leading boys in the Juniors. Each will take on the responsibility for leading a team.

On 10 July our Brass Band opens Duns Tew village

fete and at the end of the month 7 boys travel to East Runton in Norfolk for our annual camp.

With nearly 40 boys in three sections (Anchors, Juniors and Company) and a successful brass band the BB in Deddington is keen to recruit new leaders and helpers for this autumn. If you are interested please do not hesitate to contact us even if you can help us on a very occasional basis. Brian Bushell 338715

### Deddington Youth Club

We continue to have a steady attendance by our regular young people as well as welcoming quite a few new ones. Although we take advantage of long, warm evenings to go outside in the grounds, many of the girls are really enjoying art and crafts that is being well planned and organised by Saskia Knights, an assistant Youth Leader.

Unfortunately John O'Connell, our Youth Leader, is moving from the area to take up a new appointment and is leaving us. John has been with us 18 months and we thank him for all he has done for the club. We are actively advertising for a new Leader and hope to have the position filled well before we start again in September. [See advert on this page. ED]

As we are coming to the end of term, I would like to thank the committee who have worked extremely hard supporting the Youth Leaders and me and also to give a big thank you to Ken Wilkinson and Nicky Kirk who have voluntarily helped each Monday at Youth Club.

As is traditional there is a barbecue and organised games on the last day of term - Monday 18 July - from 7-9 pm. We hope that all members will come and join in the fun!

*Maureen Forsyth* Chairman

### Deddington Babies and Toddlers Group

The group meets throughout the summer holidays - well-behaved older siblings are welcome to come along. We have our summer outing to Hatton Country World on 1 July (no session at the Windmill that day) and a teddy bears' picnic at our session on Friday 5 August. We meet every Wednesday and Friday, 9.30-11.30 am at the Windmill. If you have a baby or toddler why not join us?

*Lucy Squires*

## DEDDINGTON YOUTH CLUB

### WANTED

### A YOUTH CLUB LEADER

The Club meets on Monday evenings at the Windmill Community Centre, Hempton Road, Deddington

There are around 40 members - ages range from 10 to 15 years

Club activities are mainly sporting - football on the all-weather area, table-tennis, badminton, volleyball, indoor football and hockey in the hall

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Maureen Forsyth on 01869 338384

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**Deddington Players**

Just a reminder to members about the garden party at Ron and Pet's in Aynho, on Sunday 10 July at 12 noon. See you there!

*Lucy Squires*

**Deddington and District History Society**

Thirty-odd members enjoyed a superb summer social at Heythrop Park on 1 June. Lauder Smith, the general manager, gave us an introductory talk before taking us on a tour of the house, following which we enjoyed refreshments (provided by Sue Shattock, to her usual impeccable standard) in the magnificent Wedgwood Room.

On 7 June, in weather as glorious as that of 1 June had been miserable, we visited South Newington, where we were given a most enjoyable and instructive tour of the village. The fitter among us even climbed to the top of the church tower, to be rewarded with spectacular views. A delicious supper in the village hall rounded off a perfect evening.

Our last summer event will be a circular walk around Great Tew on Saturday 23 July. We shall start from the car park at 2.00. For instructions and a map, please contact Moira Byst on 338637.

Our new season will start on Wednesday 14 September, 7.30 at the Windmill Centre, with an illustrated talk by Dr Kate Tiller on *Chapels, Buildings and People: Dissent in North Oxfordshire*.

*Chris Day* 337204

**Deddington Royal British Legion**

We have been busy planning for the national celebration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The government has decided that the celebration of both VE and VJ Days is on the weekend of 9/10 July. The Deddington Royal British Legion is holding a 1940s evening at the Club on Saturday 9 July - fancy dress is optional. This is open to all.

There is a service of commemoration on Sunday 10 July at Deddington Parish church. Following the service and into the afternoon there is a barbecue at the Club. Again all are welcome, including children. Details of all the above are posted on the village notice boards. We hope as many as possible will join us for these happy occasions.


*Raymond Morris* Chairman 338143

**Tennis Club**

There is tennis going on every day at the moment, either coaching, matches or club sessions. The Sunday club session has moved from the morning to the afternoon now for a trial of 6 weeks. All 3 Deddington teams in the summer league have had mixed results. The weekend ladies team is doing well, winning almost every Saturday. On 16 July Steve Ashby has organized our first junior match (under 10), so good luck for that. Eight pairs of Wimbledon tickets were allocated in a draw and we hope they get to watch great tennis and come back inspired!

*Katie McGovern* 338771

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## THE FLOWER GARDEN

Some years the plants sit up prettily like trained cats, side by side and with a nice bit of soil showing between them. Other years they hustle each other for space and you can't distinguish one clump from the next. That's me this year, and I tell myself it makes a nice change and looks good to have the perennials in amongst the geraniums and the ground elder (I know I'm kidding myself and I heard a visitor mutter to a friend something about letting things get out of hand).

So, what to do? The comforting thing is that it is too late to do anything now, short of taking the whole lot out. The plants are now too deeply embedded to rescue and make a show if they are moved. A bit of First Aid won't do any harm, though. Pick out a bucket full of big leaves and lighten the whole thing a bit. Is that better? But of course the action needed is a complete radical treatment. Everything has to come out, be put to dry on a plastic sheet and then divided, cleaned of weeds and replanted. Your flower garden will look really super after this first rather brutal treatment. But that's to come. It takes time and effort, so for this year just look at the master plan for the late autumn and enjoy the lush green of this summer's growth.

In spite of the extremes of temperature, everything in the garden is huge. I have never seen taller *Digitalis* and the *Hosta* leaves are giant-sized. To my surprise they are slug free, which means that the little dears are feeding on something else. I have just made up the hanging baskets, rather late, but it has been so cold and windy. The bedding stuff will catch up now the air is warmer. After that, feet up for a while and have a good summer.

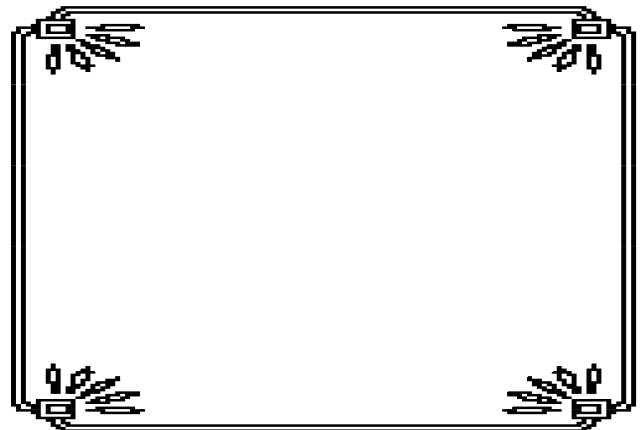
*Marianne Elsley*

I am told that it is more than thirty years since Deddington's last annual Flower and Produce show was held on the Castle grounds. For much of the twentieth century and earlier, the village show was a regular feature of local life in the countryside. Flowers in their prime jostled for pride of place with vegetables, fruit, cakes and preserves and were judged on their size, perfection of shape, colour and sometimes their scent. It was a competitive affair which no doubt spurred on growers in their gardens and allotments to ever greater achievements. The Show has also been the setting for endless stories and dramas featuring the lengths that some might go to become the champion grower. Today, the coming of all-year-round variety and quality in supermarkets, as well as our impatience for instant perfection, have contributed to the demise of many such shows, though some continue to flourish. Increasingly we look for the more natural, often organic, produce with taste and nutrition scoring higher marks than shape or size, and a distrust of too many artificial fertilizers and growth-enhancing chemicals. Internal quality has become more important than external appearance. Would I like to see the Deddington Show revived? Probably not, in its traditional style. Perhaps, if it could encourage good quality produce in gardens and allotments.

*Hugh Marshall*

## Deddington man wins medal at the Chelsea Flower Show

Charles Barker, who has lived in New Street Deddington since 2001, won a Silver Gilt award at Chelsea for a stand celebrating the achievements of his grandfather: Amos Perry. Between 1900 and 1945 Amos Perry won 163 Awards of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Today fewer than 70 of these once famous plants can be found. The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens with Capel Manor College sponsored the stand, which was designed by Charles Barker and the Perry Family. The stand featured many of the surviving plants and was designed to evoke the atmosphere of the early 20th Century nursery, Perry's Hardy Plant Farm, Enfield. See the stand at [www.deddington.org.uk/chelseawinner](http://www.deddington.org.uk/chelseawinner). *Robert Forsyth*



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**ON THE FARM**

As I sit to pen this column the longest day is fast approaching: depending on your point of view the year is either half gone or we still have half to come. The second half of last year was very wet which made life down on the farm very difficult. For many, last year's harvest was a 'wash-out'. What should have been a busy time in the bee hive came to nothing, with the bees preparing for winter by late August. This year the first half has been a 'dry-out' with rainfall well below average and temperatures struggling to rise above last winter's best levels, so up until now there has been a dearth of honey. We have only been able to gather about a third of what we had extracted by this time last year. But it is not all doom and gloom, as we have been able to breed up a number of new colonies to help make up for the hives which died out in the spring, so with luck we may yet get some late honey and go into the winter with a high number of very strong stocks headed by young queens.



I am pleased that Hugh Marshall enjoys reading my monthly diatribe but saddened that he considers that I set out to provoke, but we shall have to agree to differ on this one. I may have 'over-egged' the case with the import of African sheep meat, but there is a considerable amount of (*non-sheep*) meat both legal and illegal being imported from the African continent, with large amounts coming from Namibia and Botswana. This was the most likely source of the recent foot and mouth outbreak, as both those countries are endemic with the Asian strain of the virus which had never been seen before in this country and which devastated our livestock industry. Although Hugh mentions my concerns about British food security, in some ways he missed the point, because it is he and his fellow consumers who should be concerned about their food supply. The new CAP arrangements and the most recent mutterings from on high will reduce, if not destroy, primary food production in this country. In this country there are just under 200,000 farmers. This figure includes many who have bought farms to pursue a particular life-style, but are not dependent on farming their land for a living. A recent government report expects up to a quarter of farms in this country to close or merge by 2007 with 50,000 farmers leaving the land. A lot of these farms will be the small family-run tenanted farms much like Home Farm Clifton, giving the landlords the opportunity to asset strip and then sell the remaining land to the large farming companies.

*George Fenemore 338203*

**NEWS FROM CLIFTON**

We extend a very warm welcome to the families of Rachel & Clayton Berger and Garin & Sinead Willy, who have recently become part of our community.

*Carol Draumer, Eleonore Bruyere*

**NEWS FROM HEMPTON**

Everyone, I am sure, has seen the scaffolding that has been put up to repair the bellcote at St. John's Church. At the same time it was decided to inspect the bell. This was found to be in a very unsafe condition, so bad that it has to be put right immediately. The Friends of the Church, who pay for repairs, only have sufficient money to pay for the stonework. So an appeal has been launched, with a letter and envelope going to every household. The cost is quoted at £2,500, which is a lot to raise, but let's hope it can be done with help. If you fill in the Gift Aid form, 28p can be gained for every £1 donated. Donations can be sent to the Treasurer, Mavis Barton, 23 St. John's Way, Hempton, or to any member of the Committee. Thanks to everyone who has sent a donation so far.

British Telecom proposes to make the village phone box a 'phone card only' call box. If any one has any thoughts or objections, would they let the Clerk of the Parish Council or Jonathan Watts (337135) know by the end of July.

The Harvest Supper will be on 24 September in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets will be £7.50 per head with food and soft drinks provided. Please bring your own wine and glasses if you prefer to drink something stronger. Let me know if you wish to come, as tickets are limited to 40.

The Table Tennis team finished bottom but one in the League. They will have to wait until September to see whether they are relegated. *Les Chappell 338054*

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**Dr George M Hodges**

Coincidences? If Frank had not given Joy my telephone number hoping that I would be able to solve the mystery of 'The Blocks' (the name of the house now known as Featherton House), and Joy had not recommended I read 'Hostages to Fortune' by Elizabeth Cambridge, pseudonym for Barbara Hodges, wife of George, country doctor in Deddington between WW I and WWII, I would not have double checked Deddington Deanery Magazines for information on Dr Hodges. Sadly I only found mention of him in the April 1955 edition where Dr Frost, Vicar of SS Peter & Paul Deddington writes:

"... I had a phone call from Mrs Procter to tell me the sad news that Dr Hodges had just died after two heart attacks. A true Deddingtonian who always had the welfare of the town and church at heart., we missed him grievously when he left and now we will no longer have the pleasure of his long and interesting letters. Personally I can but say what Antony said of Caesar: "He was my friend, faithful and just to me". I am sure there are very many who would say the same. Churchwarden, Secretary of the PCC, Manager of the School, Parish Councillor, member of the RDC, writer and stage manager of local plays and pantomimes, and a keen and successful gardener - such were some of his many activities when living among us." Those whose memory is hazy about what life was like here during WWI and later might well read Mrs Hodges' novel, 'Hostages to Fortune'.



*Ruth Johnson*

**A Novel set in Deddington**

A story of family life in the years between 1915 and the early 1930s, *Hostages to Fortune*, by Elizabeth Cambridge (published in 1933) is a must for anyone interested in bygone Deddington.

The author's real name was Barbara Hodges, and she was the wife of a Deddington doctor, whose surgery was in his house, The Blocks (now Featherton House). Though in her book the house is shifted to the Market Square, and The Tchure becomes the 'jitty', in essence this is the village we know, taken back to a time when the streets were full of children playing (their cottages were cramped, and where else could they go?), and most children never went to Banbury until they were out in service.

Among the author's favourite villagers were Old Tom, with his uncanny understanding of fruit trees, Eb, their jobbing gardener, Irene, her little maid-of-all-work, with her happy flair for cooking - all are said to be drawn from the life, and they certainly ring true. *Hostages to Fortune* is a strikingly honest and perceptive study of family life with all its joys and stresses. Deddington Library holds a copy (by Elizabeth Cambridge, remember!); and it can be ordered (at £12.00, including postage) from Persephone Books, 59 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3NB.

*Joy Grant*

**DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO**

*There are very few entries in the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of July when he was unwell (and put on 'steel' medicine) and away on holiday, and, as there is no DN in August, I am giving the entries now for August 1855:*

- 8<sup>th</sup> August - Returned home from Ryde, Isle of Wight.  
 18<sup>th</sup> August - Young C. Faulkener called to ask for the use of the Parks (the fields behind the Manor) to hold the Flower Show in, which I agreed to allow.  
 21<sup>st</sup> August - Willy and Robert joined a Cricket Match at Mr. Turner's between the married and single Deddingtonians. The Bachelors were amazingly victorious over the Benedicts.  
 23<sup>rd</sup> August - I called at Calcutt's and talked to him about the coffin contractor at Steeple Aston and his abominable coffins sent here lately in two pauper cases, and requested him as Guardian to mention the matter at the Board at Woodstock.  
 26<sup>th</sup> August - Sunday - Three christenings at Clifton - I never had such crying children to baptise before, they did so from first to last - the 3<sup>rd</sup> only when I sprinkled the water upon it.  
 28<sup>th</sup> August - We heard from Holford again - he being now at Vienna. Mr. Lamb came with a bastardy case from Middle Barton, I signed a summons for the appearance of the imputed father - a second scrape on the part of the woman and as she stated with the same party.

*Buffy Heywood*

**Portrait of a River: The River Swere in Oxfordshire**, by Walter L. Meagher & Peter Sheasby. Peter, who took the photos, was selling their book fast at the Deddington Farmers' Market in June. It's available from English Landscapes, 71 Courtington Lane, Bloxham, OX15 4HS @ £10.95 + £4.95 p&p; cheques payable to: *River Swere Project*. *Portrait of a River*, on the natural and man-made features of the riverside, is a community project sponsored by LOCAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE.

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## OAK TREES IN DEDDINGTON PARISH

When oak trees were vital to the king's navy, John Evelyn wrote that they were 'the only support of that navigation, which makes us feared abroad, and flourish at home'. (*Dendrologica*, John Mitchell, p. 182.) Harvesting oaks for the construction of ships accelerated during the reign of Henry VIII, who favoured the development of England as a seagoing power.

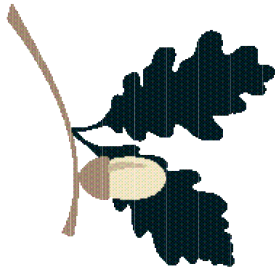
Some uses of oak are entirely without cash value. Dr Plot, in his *Natural History*, tells of an oak on Kidlington Green 'being frequently used for the imprisoning of Vagabonds and other inferior Malefactors ... till they ... might be had to the Gaol at Oxford'. In the centre of Selborne, Gilbert White records that there was 'a vast oak, with a short squat body, and huge horizontal arms extending almost to the extremity of the area. This venerable tree ... was the delight of old and young, and a place of much resort in summer evenings, where the former sat in grave debate, while the latter frolicked and danced before them'. (*The Natural History of Selborne, Letter II, 1789*).

The largest oak near Deddington parish, with a girth of 9.30m (2001), is the King Oak at Blenheim Palace, estimated to be 700-800 years old. Some of the largest oaks of the British Isles are found in the New Forest and in the Forest of Dean. The tallest living oak is 43m high, the oldest are 800 to 1,000 years of age. On the other hand, *Quercus robur*, which we sometimes call English oak in keeping with local practice, is not rare in Deddington.

The oldest of Deddington oaks date from the mid-19th century. In the early years following the 1808 Parliamentary Act of Enclosure, the parish was criss-crossed with treeless hedgerows almost uniformly planted with common hawthorn. The prosperity of the mid-Victorian years may have induced a measure of pride and contentment in those who then planted rows of oaks, evidence of their long view of time. In various parts of the parish oak trees are to be seen in rows, usually at regular intervals, on the summit of slopes and running down toward a stream, giving a pictorial value to our parish landscapes.

Solitary very large oaks, like the one at the head of Tithe Lane [*running north from Clifton*], are prominent in a few parish green lanes. The largest of all the oaks in Jerusalem Lane [*leading down to Leadenporch Farm from Clifton road*], standing apart from the oaks of the paved road, is at the head of the grassy track that leads to Sor (South) Brook. The record diameter breast-high of a Deddington oak (this on private land) is 1.73m, a tree probably not older than 150 years.

Oak trees in good health give an irresistible impression of robustness. Afflicted by disease, limbs lose their leaves, look stark and skeletal. Die-back is common in our parish - among the oak trees in Jerusalem Lane, for

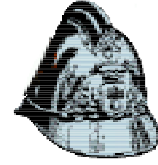


## From The Fire Station

It has been a quiet month, only 8 calls received, 4 standbys, 1 false alarm malicious, 2 car fires, and 1 road traffic collision. Very sadly the accident claimed the lives of two 15 year old girls. It is tragic to see young lives taken away in this manner, so unnecessarily.

Our extended community safety role now encompasses road safety. Our first real project started last week with our Sitting Tight campaign. This involves checking the fitting of child car seats. Nationally it has been found that 4 out of 5 seats are fitted incorrectly. We ran a safety check session at the Windmill recently and of the 20 we checked, only 6 were correctly fitted. We will repeat the session again in September. Drive safely.

*Anne Waters* 338281



In the April *DN*, Acting Sergeant Clive Middleton explained the measures to provide cover during his temporary absence. Clive has now been given an extended post as Acting Sergeant in Banbury and so he will not be returning to the Deddington office. Clive enjoyed working in the village and sends his thanks all for your support. We wish Clive every success in his new role.

Unfortunately, Clive is not to be replaced, reducing the Rural Team to one sergeant and three constables. To maintain cover at community level in Deddington and the surrounding villages and to provide an identifiable community officer the beat covered by PC John Weaver is extended. John previously covered the villages of Adderbury and Bodicote. His area will now be extended south to cover Deddington, Steeple Aston and the surrounding villages. John is an experienced officer, keen to take on the challenge of a bigger geographical area. He will be based at the Deddington office and can be contacted there on 338 444. This number is for non-urgent contact. To report crime or other incidents requiring a more urgent response please ring 0845 8 505 505 or of course in an emergency 999.

Crime in the village during the months of April/May has fallen compared to last year. In total 22 crimes were recorded in 2004 compared to only 8 this year. This is good news but we should not be complacent. On hot summer days we are all more likely to leave doors and windows open - an invitation to the opportunist thief. When you go out always lock your door and close your windows - even if only for a short outing. Crime prevention leaflets full of useful tips are available at the office.

*Neville Clayton* Rural Beat Team Sergeant

example. While oaks cope well with a large variety of insect herbivores, they do less well in drier conditions; many think drought is an underlying factor in the disease. Like so many plants and animals of our world, oaks require care and attention to be healthy and long-lasting.

*Walter L Meagher*