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# the Deddington news

Since the last *DN*, much has happened in the campaign to Save Deddington Library. We hear a lot these days about apathy and a lack of time or motivation to 'get involved', but the team fighting to save our Library are remarkable, with energy, commitment, enthusiasm, ideas and skills. Let's hope it pays off. The news that Oxfordshire County Council have postponed the start date of the consultation process until mid-May sounds good. Confronted with financial, legal and moral challenges, maybe they are having second thoughts? 'We've moved on, things have changed,' leader Keith Mitchell said. Or are they hoping campaigners will lose momentum? See p. 3 and the *DN* website ([www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/librarycampaign](http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/librarycampaign)) for a full update. And see p. 9 for a different take on the Library situation from the Vicar.

## DIARY APRIL

Mon	4	Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am–noon
Wed	6	British Legion: Club Meeting, 7.30pm
Wed	6	Photographic Society: AGM; Barry Singleton and Steve Sykes, 'Our Journey into Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Sat	9	Fascinator Craft Workshop: Town Hall, 2.00–4.00pm
Sat	9	British Legion: Skittles, from 7.00pm
Sun	10	Tennis Club: Adult Open Morning, Windmill Centre, 10.00am
Tue	12	WI: Dr Tony Maisey, 'Doctor Spare Parts', Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Wed	13	History Society: Tony Hadland, 'Introduction to the Museums of Oxfordshire', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu	14	Monday Morning Club: Film evening, <i>Nowhere Boy</i> , Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Sat	16	Concert by Chipping Norton Choral Society, Parish Church, 7.30pm
Sat	16	British Legion: Live music, '4Eyes', from 7.00pm
Sun	17	Tennis Club: Adult Open Morning, 10.00am; Junior Coaching, Windmill Centre, from 2.00pm
Wed	20	Parish Council Meeting, Holly Tree Club, 7.30pm
Wed	20	Photographic Society: Workshop Simon Lutter, 'Get the Most out of Your Camera', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Thu	21	Deddington Media Quarterly Meeting, Unicorn Snug, 6.45pm
Sat	23	Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Sat	23	British Legion Club: St George's Day Celebrations
Sun	24	British Legion Club: Easter Tombola, from noon

(May Diary dates on p. 4)

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

16 March 2011, Hempton Church Hall

The meeting was chaired by Jim Flux; there was a good turnout of Councillors plus one member of the public. The meeting took place in Hempton Church Hall where the fine new doors have been installed. The main issues of note are that two housing developments are being discussed within the Parish and are dealt with in the Planning Working Group report. The other issue is that solar panels are being erected on the roof of the Windmill Centre which will have considerable economic benefits.

**Co-option of Councillor:** Aaron Bliss, a lifelong Deddington resident, was the only candidate and was co-opted as a council member.

**Open Forum:** A question was asked about litter collection, particularly around Hempton; the Parish takes responsibility within the 30mph restriction signs but beyond that it is the responsibility of OCC Highways.

**Planning:** The following applications have been approved by DPC:

22 *The Daedings*, a side extension; *Old Farm House*, *New St*, internal works; *Charters Cottage*, *High St*, timber pergola over parking area; and finally the *land adjacent to Radwell Grounds*, *Duns Tew Road*, *Hempton*, erection of a corn store, conditional approval.

Cherwell DC have identified two potential sites for affordable housing in the Parish and have had a meeting with DPC. The two sites are: the strip of land to the west of Wimborne Close, towards the far end of the Close facing north and adjacent to the existing affordable housing development; Earl's Lane near the surgery. There are complications with both sites and a representative of Oxfordshire Rural Community Housing will attend a DPC meeting to discuss the proposals.

A housing development on land on the Banbury Road to the north of the Parish opposite the Fire Station is being discussed. This development is at a very early stage. No environmental or service impact study has been undertaken and a detailed plan has yet to be submitted. There will be a public consultation before any decision is reached.

**Finance & General Purposes:** Most of the discussion was procedural and administrative. The most interesting report was on the 50 solar panels being installed at the Windmill Centre. They will cost £30,960 of which £7,740 has already been paid. The payback is calculated to be nine years and DPC, it is estimated, will receive £3,125 per year for the next 25 years as electricity is fed back into the National Grid. This was recognised as a very satisfactory investment.

**Environment & Recreation:** The environmental work of this active group has been recognised by OCC. The new head teacher at the primary school, Clive Evans, is very keen for the school to be involved in community projects such as using the wildflower meadow in the cemetery as an artwork project; planting the Gaveston Gardens 'paddock' with wild flowers; and taking over the planter at the north entrance to the village. They will install two nesting boxes to encourage swifts back to the school. The school has a pond they would like to restore, and they will also take part in the Hedgerow Survey. As a separate development, an experimental planting of wildflowers on the south end of New Street will require grass cutting to be suspended on the east side by the junction with St Thomas Street.

**Highways:** This group has a frustrating time with OCC who are responsible for the county's roads. The police have been more co-operative and have supported local initiatives to inhibit speeding – always a problem in rural areas. A public meeting was held with the police to discuss speed control. A programme of speed monitoring with trained volunteers using police supplied equipment was agreed. The objective was to have a visible presence on the streets and to provide more accurate data.

**Library:** OCC is reconsidering its consultation proposals. These are not now expected to be issued until some time in April and this means that libraries under threat, including Deddington, will probably not face closure until the next financial year 2011–12.

**Invoices** agreed for payment £11,906 (this includes £7,740 for solar panels for the WCC).

**Investments** of £559,223 at Barclays, West Bromwich BS, Santander and Anglo Irish Bank.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 20 April 2011, 7.30pm at the Holly Tree Club**

### AARON BLISS – OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Aaron Bliss, 28, took a degree in Media, Photography and Video Production at Banbury College, and has recently completed with distinction a Masters in Creative Writing at Lincoln University. He has worked at the Co-op for six years and is our entertaining Football Team correspondent; roles, he believes, which give him many connections within the village, particularly the younger community. He is currently contributing pieces for Deddington OnAir, as well as working on his own creative writing projects. A believer in taking risks for the long-term good, Aaron wants to be a conduit for the thoughts of younger generations. He will doubtless bring a fresh perspective to some of the issues facing the PC today!

The notes are the view of our reporter Charles Barker and not the official minutes (see <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>).



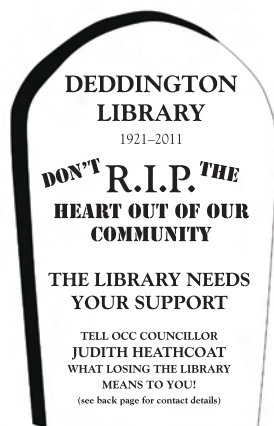
# SAVE DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

[www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/librarycampaign](http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/librarycampaign)



## What we've been doing:

The flyer (below) went out with the March *DN* (thanks to *DN* for supplying this). As the Library also acts as a hub for surrounding villages, copies have been sent to newsletters of neighbouring parishes.



Created by Alex (13) and Lucy (11) Williams

We have a logo (below): grateful thanks to Mark Newnham of Hempton for this.



And we have a banner (see top of page). By the time this *DN* appears it should be on the side of the Town Hall and will then move around the parish. (Thanks to Mike Homer of Multiflow, Bicester, for producing this free of charge.)

We had a stall at the Farmers' Market on 26 February, and at the King's Sutton Literary Festival, weekend of 12–13 March.

Keep up to date with Library news as it happens on the DoL Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/deddingtononline> and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/DeddiOnLine#>



The *Banbury Guardian* did an article in their 10 March issue:



## Tony Baldry visit

Our MP met members of the campaign group on Saturday 19 March.



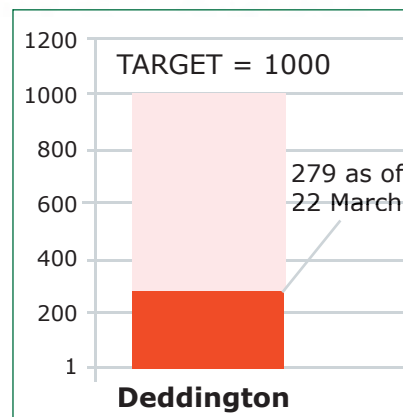
He assured them that he will study the consultation document and make sure that we have access to the right people at OCC. He feels that what makes Deddington Library unique is its direct link with the school.

## Where OCC stands now

Publication of the consultation document has now been delayed until May, and it will run until September. In effect they have 'torn up' the original list of libraries set to lose their funding. All 43 libraries in Oxfordshire will now be part of the consultation which will look, in particular, at the cost of library staffing.

## What you can do

1. Sign the e-petition against Deddington Library closure: <http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx?RPID=1255977&HPID=1255977&VM=2>. We're looking for 1000 signatures by June (279 at end March).



2. Register you and your family as library members. Even if your work or family commitments mean you don't use the library yourself, do it for the oldies (see stat below). And, more seriously, to ensure our children's and grandchildren's introduction to reading is not stymied by this ill-thought-out measure.
3. Keep writing and bombarding Cllr Judith Heathcoat at OCC. Contact details are on the website and at the Library.
4. Tell your friends and neighbours and get them on board.

The group comprises: Parish Councillors Alan Collins, Heather Ashworth, Helen Oldfield and Bryn Williams; Don Anderson, Susan Fuller, James Privett, Cath Rose; Geoff Todd and Kristin Thompson (Friends of Deddington Library) and the two *DN* editors.

## Did you know?

- The majority of library users are the elderly/retired in the village and the young.
- Classes from the primary school visit three times a week.
- The Parish of Deddington has the highest percentage of people over the age of 85 anywhere in the county. We have the second highest percentage of U-16s and the highest in a rural community. We also have the lowest percentage of working age people in the county.
- J.R.R. Tolkien (author of *The Lord of the Rings*) opened Deddington Library in 1956. Will it be OCC's legacy to close it in 2012?



## News from Clifton

A quiet month for us although the horses that featured last month have been leaving little messages expressing how much they continue to enjoy the odd day out in the village.

The Cycling Club has been concentrating on fettling rather than actually riding recently, but the bikes are looking good and the Lycra is a sight to behold. However, a spin-off walking club will sally forth on the Sunday of any market weekend: 10 miles last time and more to come.

I will give some space to Cllr Collins who has been doing some useful work (for once). He has asked me to thank Bob, Jonathan and Joanna who turned out for the first of many Thames Valley Police Speed Watch events. The exercise was in the 40mph zone on the Clifton Road coming into Deddington. In one hour nearly 100 vehicles were measured and 25 were found to be over the Thames Valley Police limit of plus 10% plus 2mph. Details of the vehicles were recorded by the team and letters will be sent to the registered keepers. Two more offences and the vehicle will be targeted for speed enforcement measures. TVP thought the result was very significant and came about as a result of tireless campaigning by many in the village. Fortunately no one we knew was caught – this time at least. If any more people are interested in taking part in monitoring, please let the PC office know.

*Martin DNBryce@aol.com*

## MAY DIARY DATES (Contd from p. 1)

Sun	1	Plant Sale, Duns Tew Village Hall, 12.00–4.00pm
Wed	4	Annual Parish Meeting, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Wed	4	Photographic Society: Chris Palmer, 'Order out of Chaos – How Great Photographers use their Skills', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Fri	6	Lyra Concert, Parish Church
Mon	9	Monday Morning Club: AGM and Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am–noon
Tue	10	WI: Resolutions, followed by PC Miller, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Wed	11	History Society, Juri Tredi, 'Romans', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu	12	Monday Morning Club: Film Evening, <i>The Good German</i> , Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Sun	15	PTA: Seventh Annual Deddington Walk, Windmill Centre, 10.30am
Wed	18	Parish Council meeting, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Wed	18	Photographic Society: Photoshoot in Banbury with Simon Lutter, 6.45pm (members only)
Sat	21	Warriner Choral Society Concert, Parish Church, 7.30pm

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## Down on the Farm

**H**o, sleep be my friend! The big push is well under way in the lambing shed, so long days and even longer nights for me. The 2011 campaign got under way on the due day (8 March), so for once the ram and the shepherd are in agreement. The fall of lambs so far has been good with a nice number of high birth weights and the ewes are milking well. So concerns over having to house the ewes early due to the bad weather and the shortage of winter feed stocks have gone away, at least for now, even if the sheep lorry is arriving with alarming regularity.

Although the warm spring sun and dry weather are very welcome, it will take more than a few nodding daffodils and the Candle-mas rhyme to convince me that spring has actually sprung.

As I sit and bash this out the day after copy date (so in trouble again), all but one of the girls (the Cotswolds) have dropped their lambs and the Apletree flock is under way. Big Fred the Cotswold ram has a little explaining to do as he has sired an almost jet black lamb, Apletree Midnight. She was born to a white ewe and has a white brother. Although black Cotswolds are not unknown, they are very rare but cannot be entered in the pedigree flock book as the rules say no black markings. But Midnight will stay on the farm and go into the commercial flock as her long black fleece will



be very much in demand by the local spinning and weaving fraternity.

Now that the clocks have changed and April is nearly here, I can safely say that the bees have survived the coldest winter for 30 years. All the hives that I put to bed in October have come through the winter and, judging by the amount of pollen that is being taken in through the entrance block, the queens are hard at work producing the new brood. So it will soon be time to light the smoker and get things under way for the 2011 honey season.

The crops are looking well and have had their first visit from the fertiliser spreader and the sprayer. I must find time to cultivate the pollen and nectar and birdseed strips ready for planting as soon as the weather warms up.

The curlew have returned to the valley and with any luck by the time the month is out the swallows will have returned to their nesting sites in the farmyard. Anyway, it is now time for another round of the lambing barn and then a walk round the floodlit turn-out paddocks, as the members of the local vulpine population have taken a liking to spring lamb. The present score is 1 to them and 3 to me. I hope that they will soon get the message that it is not a very healthy start to the spring to be seen in the lambing paddocks.

**George Fenemore 338203**

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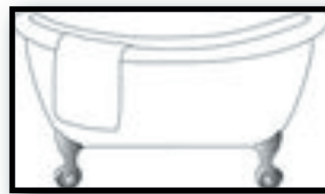
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## CHURCH AND CHAPEL

### Services for April

#### Parish Church SS Peter and Paul, Deddington

Sun	3	10.30am	First Sunday (Mothering Sunday)
		6.30pm	Evensong
Wed	6	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	7	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	10	10.30am	Eucharist with healing prayer
Wed	13	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	14	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	17	10.15am	Assemble at Town Hall (Palm Sunday) for procession
		10.30am	Eucharist
		3.30pm	Free Spirit (for 4.00pm)
Wed	20	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	21	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
(Maundy Thu)		7.00pm	Passover meal and Holy Communion at Wesleyan Church followed by stripping of the altars and vigil until midnight at SS P & P
Fri	22	9.30am	Hot Cross Bun service (Good Friday)

#### Ecumenical Walk of Witness: Stations of the Cross

11.00am	Meditation	Barford StJ
11.30am	Meditation	Barford StM
12.15pm	Meditation and Lunch	Hempton
1.45pm	Meditation	Wesleyan Church
2.00pm	Walk of Witness	Deddington
3.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy	Deddington

Sun	24	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
(Easter Day)		10.30am	Family Eucharist
Wed	27	10.00am	Eucharist with healing prayer
Thu	28	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels

#### St John's Hempton

Sun	3	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	17	9.00am	Eucharist
Sat	23	8.30pm	Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter

#### Barford St Michael

Sun	3	10.30am	Eucharist
Sun	10	10.30am	Family Service
Sun	17	10.30am	Family Service
Sun	24	9.00am	Family Service

For baptisms, weddings, funerals or home visits in case of illness, please contact the Vicar, the Revd Dr Hugh White, 28 Duns Tew (349869), or one of the churchwardens, Glynne Bianchi (337743) or George Fenemore (338203)

### From the Parish Registers

11 March	Funeral: Derrick Elsey
13 March	Interment of Ashes: Ray Sones

### Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

#### Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Sunday at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton

### RC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

#### Fr John Burns 277396

Lent and Easter 2011

Sun	17		Blessing and Distribution of Palms before Mass at both venues
Thur	21	7.30pm	Mass of the Installation of the Eucharist followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose
Fri	22	3.00pm	Liturgy of the Passion
		7.30pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	23	5.30– 6.00pm	Hethe: Confessions
		8.30pm	Easter Vigil and first Mass of Easter
Sun	24	8.30am	Adderbury Mass (Confessions before Mass)
		10.00am	Hethe Mass

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

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

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

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport

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

### New Security Lock at the Windmill Community Centre

The new security lock for the front door was installed on 14 March. All nominated keyholders should contact Joyce Minnear, Bookings Secretary (338529) to get a replacement key. The new security keys can only be obtained through Joyce.

So far not many new keys have been issued and the old keys will no longer work. A £10 deposit is required which will be refunded when the key is returned. If a second key is essential an additional deposit of £5 will be required.

**Jim Flux, Treasurer**  
[jimflux@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jimflux@tiscali.co.uk)



# Coppicing at the Windmill

**S**unday 9 January was sunny, bright and cold, ideal weather for the work carried out by Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers at the Windmill Centre copse. Those of you who know the copse may be shocked by the sudden disappearance of a patch of growth to your left as you enter from the playing fields. However, this is not wanton destruction, OCV have made a start on a plan to manage the area by coppicing over a period of eight years.

## What is coppicing?

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which takes advantage of the fact that many trees make new growth from the stump or roots if cut down. In a coppiced wood young tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level. In subsequent growth years, many new shoots will emerge, and, after a number of years the coppiced tree, or *stool*, is ready to be harvested, and the cycle begins again. (The noun coppice means a growth of small trees or a forest coming from shoots or suckers.)

Typically a coppiced woodland is harvested in sections (coups) on a rotation. In this way, a crop is available each year somewhere in the woodland. Although our copse is quite small, it might in the future provide wood suitable for chipping for use in wood-burning stoves. Coppicing has the effect of providing a rich variety of habitats, as the woodland always has a range of different aged coppice growing in it, which is beneficial for biodiversity.

## Wildlife benefits

Coppicing maintains trees at a juvenile stage, and a regularly coppiced tree will never die of old age. Coppice management favours a range of wildlife, often of species adapted to open woodland. After cutting, the increased light allows existing woodland-floor vegetation

such as bluebell, anemone and primrose to grow vigorously. Often brambles grow around the stools, encouraging insects, or various small mammals that can use the brambles as protection from larger



*Newly coppiced wood at the Windmill  
(Pic Colin Robinson)*

predators. The woodpile which has been left will encourage insects such as beetles. If we are lucky, the open area might then be colonised by animals such as nightingale, nightjar and fritillary butterflies. As the coup grows, the canopy closes and it becomes unsuitable for these animals again – but in an actively managed coppice there is always another recently cut coup

nearby, and the populations therefore move around, following the coppice management.

## Managing the Windmill copse

Our copse has not been managed in this way. The stems have grown tall (the coppice is said to be *overstood*), forming a heavily shaded woodland of many closely-spaced stems with little ground vegetation. Overstood coppice is a habitat of relatively low biodiversity. It is hoped that restarting coppice management will encourage plants, insects and butterflies (it's quite close to the wildflower patch in the cemetery which OCV helped us to plant, so will be useful in adding another link to the nectar chain) and eventually small woodland mammals (maybe even dormice?).

## Can you help?

OCV have already made a start to help the wildlife here by making and installing four batboxes and eight birdboxes.

They will be back in the autumn to continue their valuable work, which may include some tree planting in the new coup. If you would like to join them, they are always keen to recruit local volunteers and they are a nice bunch of people to work with!

**Jean Rudge 338110**

*(with some assistance from Wikipedia)*

## GOING FULL CIRCLE?

Are you over 50? Would you like the opportunity to bridge the generation gap by spending one hour a week on a Friday afternoon with a small friendly group of fellow volunteers and young people at the Warriner School? The school is working with Full Circle, an Oxfordshire-based charity that has set up 14 extremely successful and ongoing intergenerational groups in schools around the county, bringing older and younger people in local communities together for mutual benefit, friendship and lots of fun. Examples of what older

people have said about Full Circle are: 'It lifts my mood. I come in for an hour and go away feeling brighter.' 'I have gained confidence and new skills as well as friendship, enjoyment and a sense of satisfaction at making a difference to children's lives.'

The group will be run by a trained facilitator, and volunteers will be supported by Full Circle's Coordinator for Older Volunteers. More information can be found at [www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk](http://www.fullcircleoxon.org.uk).

**Ruth Stavris 01865 246456**  
[ruthfullcircle@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfullcircle@gmail.com)

## FARMERS' MARKET

The April Farmers' Market will be on Saturday 23 April. Easter is a moveable feast; how the dates are defined is a complex thing and better described in Wikipedia than I can do here. Suffice to say that this year it is just about as late as it can get, by one day!

Traditions have grown up around Easter and one of them is Easter eggs. The children's Easter egg competition with the theme of 'Characters from Books' will have been decided by the April market, and the eggs will be on display. There will probably be asparagus on sale, and there aren't many better combinations than soft boiled eggs and asparagus – a fantastic Easter breakfast!

Easter is also when many people take some time off. This means that we have a depleted crew to put up and take down the stalls. The market depends on this work; if you are able-bodied and willing to help with this important village enterprise, please do come and join in. Oh, and we still could do with a bright spark for the electrics – your village needs you!

**Paul Drawmer, [paul@drawmer.net](mailto:paul@drawmer.net)**

### We're in *The Good Produce Guide 2011*

Our Farmers' Market features in *Daily Telegraph* writer Rose Prince's *The Good Produce Guide 2011*, published on 1 February by Hardie Grant Books. The book

lists 1,000 places to buy the best food in the UK: food markets, farm shops, delis, butchers, dairies, bakers and confectioners, fish and seafood, vegetables and fruit, honey and drinks.



'This market in a delightful village spot is loved by its customers for the sheer range of produce on offer, including artisan bread, fresh vegetables and fruit, wet fish, meat, honey, locally made mustard and preserves and homemade soups. The market is held in the square, with some stalls inside the church.

Villagers report that its arrival has been a great boost to the economy and has spawned other community events such as the annual village show.

**Geoff Todd**

[geoff.deddingtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geoff.deddingtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.co.uk)

### Increased car parking charges

New parking charges, including those for blue badge holders, will be introduced in Cherwell on Monday 4 April. Blue badge holders are being offered a further 25 per cent season ticket discount, on top of a saving of up to 37 per cent already provided for regular car park users. A flat fee is being introduced for evening parking but this will remain free for those with blue badges. The hourly parking charge will rise by 10p across the district and evenings after 6pm will be charged at 80p in Banbury.

**Craig Forsyth, [craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:craig.forsyth@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)**

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

### FROM REVD DR HUGH WHITE

It is very good that people in Deddington should be so concerned about the proposed closure of our library. This concern is finding clear expression in the energetic action currently being taken to prepare the case for the library's retention by the County Council, a case that certainly can be powerfully made.

I haven't yet signed the petition going round, however, because I have a nagging worry that the pursuit of Plan A, in an attempt to have the County's judgement on *our* library rescinded, risks, if successful, the loss of a library elsewhere in Oxfordshire. So we may be involving ourselves in a morally questionable 'dog-eats-dog' process which will end up producing a consequence which, surely, nobody in Deddington actually desires, i.e. the closure of someone else's library. Or if it's not someone else's library that goes, it may be someone else's other service.

We can choose to avoid undesirable and morally dubious consequences of this kind. They are not risked if we pursue Plan B. To be sure, running our library for ourselves would require of the community considerable effort and expenditure. It would, however, be a positive contribution to overall county-wide service provision, rather than potentially detrimental to that provision. It would also help to bind together our community and it would produce a huge sense of achievement without the danger of that gratification being qualified by the knowledge that we had been complicit in imposing pain



Please address all letters to:  
KRISTIN THOMPSON  
5 THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON  
[letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk](mailto:letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk)  
and include your name and address  
even if they are not for publication

elsewhere. Perhaps we should be prepared to bear the costs involved in Plan B to avoid the risk of others being injured and victory via Plan A tasting sour.

I'd love, though, to be reassured that Plan A isn't likely to have the consequences I fear and to be able to sign the petition with a clear conscience.

### FROM PAT BRITTAIN, DIANA & HUGH MARSHALL

Squeezed in between the many Bank Holidays next month is the annual Christian Aid Week (15–21 May) when an empty space in the form of a collecting envelope will be delivered to every home in the parish, followed shortly by an official collector hoping that the space will have been filled. There is a much bigger space to be filled in the lives of the poorest people in the world who will benefit from all those envelopes being filled throughout Britain. There are also some spaces in the list of collectors, so if you could help fill one of those spaces, please tell one of us as soon as you can: Pat Brittain (338685), Diana & Hugh Marshall (337761)

### FROM HELEN ANDERSON, WICKLEWOOD

I would like to offer my congratulations to Aaron Bliss as he is welcomed on to the Parish Council. I know Aaron as a family friend and am positive that he will make a valuable contribution as a Councillor. He will be an excellent representative of the young people of the Parish. All the best in your new role, Aaron!

## PTA

Our annual Quiz Night on 12 March was a fabulous evening with everyone testing their knowledge against our brilliant Quiz Masters, Mike and Heather Ward and Alan Collins. We raised a whopping £1,560, so many thanks to all those who so generously supported the event and helped make this such a success. The scores were all very close with three teams tying for 3rd place, but Mayo's Mates clambered to the top with 92 points, followed by the Inbetweeners on 85.5 points.

The 7th Annual Deddington Walk, 'The Deddington Challenge', is on Sunday 15 May and starts from 10.30am at the Windmill. Once again we have a new route with new trump cards to collect. Will you be able to rise to 'the challenge'? The walk is open to all, not just school children. Make sure you don't miss out and register early. Visit [www.deddington-walk.co.uk](http://www.deddington-walk.co.uk) to download an application form, or email [info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk](mailto:info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk) or phone Heather on 01869 338468. The usual sizzling hot bacon rolls will start the day and a delicious barbecue, bar and entertainment are laid on for your return. Heaps of fun, along with a bit of exercise on a sunny spring Sunday!

**Janet Watts 337135**

## OCC's Big Society Initiative and ORCC Help for Communities

OCC have officially launched its Big Society website pages and its Big Society Fund. The Council says it is keen to work with communities to create an environment locally in which it is as easy as possible for communities to do things for themselves. The authority has set up a £600,000 fund to which communities can make bids for start-up funding towards the costs of setting up community-based arrangements for service provision they may wish to undertake in their local area. This can include, but does not have to be restricted to, taking on responsibility for libraries and youth facilities that the Council can no longer afford to fund itself, having had substantial cuts to its budgets as a result of withdrawals from grant funding from central government. To view the Big Society webpages go to: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/portal/publicsite/councilservices/big society fund>.

ORCC want to support communities likely to be affected by the current County Council restructuring proposals. Their briefing paper can be downloaded from the Library section of the ORCC website (<http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/>).

## DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

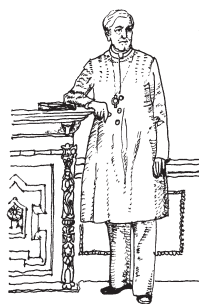
The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of April 1861:

**5th April** – A Magistrates Meeting at the Town Hall, new Overseers appointed and Road Surveyors' accounts examined and passed.

**6th April** – I walked down to Clifton with Mr. Turner [*the Doctor*] and examined as far as was necessary poor Ann Lardner, the Relieving Officer was also present. Was satisfied that she was and had been for some months past of unsound mind, signed the necessary certificate for her removal to Littlemore Lunatic Asylum on Thursday next.

**7th April** – This was the Census Sunday.

**12th April** – Holford went to London to order his Yeomanry clothes.



**15th April** – Our new brewer, Jakeman, came to prepare for brewing tomorrow.

**18th April** – Richard Gardner of Adderbury came for a summons against the Adderbury Tollgate keeper for improperly demanding Toll, which I granted.

**19th April** – A man came to consult about the proper situation for placing the electric telegraph posts in before carrying it through the Town.

**26th April** – Mr. H. Churchill and a Mr. Dalton came about getting up a Petition to the Lords of the Treasury to get the County Court business removed from Woodstock to this place. I promised to sign it on my own behalf and Holford's.

**27th April** – A deep fall of snow took place lasting from 7 – 8 hours, wind east, and cold as at Xmas.

**Buffy Heywood, 338212**

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's hard to believe the Easter break is almost upon us! The end of term has been very busy due to performances and trips. Year 2 have enjoyed a Singing Day at Bishop Carpenter. The children worked hard all day and then in the afternoon had the opportunity to perform in front of parents – it really was a fun day for them. Our Year 5 had a great day out at Banbury Museum, using census records to find out about a particularly interesting character who lived in Victorian Banbury. Years 5 and 6 also had a good day out at Oxford Story Museum. Our Foundation Class went to the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon to go with their topic 'Going on a Journey'. Year 1 are also looking forward to their trip to Banbury Museum to look at toys through the ages. Towards the end of April Year 6 will be going on their residential to Yenworthy Lodge which is situated next to Exmoor National Park. Having been several times I know they're going to love it.

Our annual performance this year is *The Wizard of Oz* which at the time of writing is in the very last stages of rehearsal. The children and staff have been fantastic, the children learning their lines and showing great commitment to the show. The staff have been making costumes, helping the children perfect their lines and singing and making props and scenery – all overseen by the amazing Alicia Rumsby whose enthusiasm is infectious! In next month's *Deddington News* I shall get one of our pupils to write a review of the show – hopefully it will be a glowing account.

**Jane Cross, Deputy Head**

## Deddington Babies and Toddlers Group

At our Annual General Meeting on 9 March we elected new members to the Committee, so thank you to those who volunteered to take part. We discussed ideas for the future running of the group and planned activities for the coming months. We also looked at ideas for improving our advertising and marketing so that we

can reach as many mums and dads as possible.

We have many activities planned for April. On Friday 1 April, our toddlers, mums, dads, grandparents and carers are planting up bulbs in pots and making hanging baskets for Mother's Day. We are looking forward very much to our Easter egg hunt on Friday 15th, and the children will also be making yummy chocolate nests to take home with them – messy but fun!

We cannot let the Royal Wedding go by without having a party and on Friday 29 April, there will be a Princes and Princesses party. Babies and toddlers can get dressed up for the occasion and will be making crowns to complete their outfits; please bring a plate of party food to share.

If you are a mum, dad, carer or grandparent living in Deddington or the surrounding villages and look after a child aged 0–5 years, then we would love you to come along and join us. We meet every Friday morning 9.30–11.30am at the Windmill Centre. If you would like to know more about the group or are nervous about turning up without knowing anyone, please give Rebecca a call on 01869 336298. We look forward to meeting you. Finally, a big hello and welcome to our new mums and toddlers – we are really pleased that you have joined us.

**Wendy Samways**

## More on Deddington's Transportees to the Colonies

We shall shortly be resuming Rob Forsyth's series on transportees from Deddington to the Colonies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These have been held over since 2009 due to pressure on space (there's always so much happening in Deddington!). With our two extra editorial pages we hope to catch up on our backlog very shortly.

**MR**

## From the Fire Station

This month has been slightly quieter with just nine fire calls, three of which were chimney fires, one in Fritwell, one in Hempton and one in Hinton-in-the-Hedges, where we were sent to support Brackley in dealing with a chimney fire in a thatch-roofed cottage.

We also attended a house fire in Warwick Road, Banbury, with both appliances from Banbury and one from Hook Norton, where a fire had started in one house and spread via the lean-to outside to the neighbouring property. The hydraulic platform and incident support unit also attended to help in the damping down operation.

At Fine Lady Bakeries in Banbury, we were part of a six-pump response to reports of a fire which had started in the ovens and spread through a stack on to the roof. Again, the hydraulic platform, incident support and command units also attended along with senior officers. As it happened, the fire was dealt with relatively quickly and staff were able to return to work the same evening.

At the station, we recently held a couple of drop-in sessions for potential recruits to come to the station and find out more about us. We're pleased to report that we have three serious candidates who may now go through the selection process, but if you think you may still be interested it's not too late to make yourself known to us. Just come up to the station on a Tuesday night at 7pm, or call 01869 338281 and leave us a message, and we will get back to you.

We have recently been busy installing a new notice board at Deddington Town Hall, which will enable us to deliver the latest fire safety information and contact details of relevant people here at the station and within Oxfordshire County Council. A big thank you to Deddington Charity Estates for letting us use this space. We hope that you will take a look when you are waiting for a bus or sitting under the arches on one of the benches.

**A/CM Harding, Deddington Fire Station**

## The Allotment in March

Spring Solstice has happened and we have been lucky enough to shed a few layers in the heat of the day but there are still morning frosts. So with spring definitely here we can get sowing: early and main crop potatoes, carrots, runner beans, peas, spinach, spring cabbage can be sown outside, but consider the weather conditions and do not plant too early if you think it is too wet or cold.

You have until the end of March to prune your currants and raspberries and mulch round the base to prevent weed growth and maintain water. Your blackcurrants will also appreciate a nitrogen feed, and so will your fruit trees. Aim for a lovely goblet shape when pruning currant bushes and hard fruit trees, get rid of crossed, diseased or dead stems and then after that 2–3 year old stems. The dead stems are prone to coral spot, little orange dots on the branches. Prune these, don't compost them, but destroy them instead, and whilst tidying up remember not to compost any diseased items.

This is the month for planting outdoor tomatoes; choose your seeds carefully if you're planning to grow them outdoors as not all varieties will do well. I planted Alicante a while ago and they were spectacular. Start them off in pots and plant them out at the end of May, when the frosts have stopped.

If you are feeling adventurous this month here are some ideas for different plants such as Jerusalem artichokes and kohlrabi. If you are planning to plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers, a word of warning: they are thugs, and in some countries the plants are used for hedges. Once in the ground they are quite hard to get rid of so choose carefully where you want to plant

them – they are delicious. Last year I planted salsify but won't be doing that again as they didn't really develop well; kohlrabi is my bid for adventure this summer.

**Samantha Willis**  
[samanthawillis@gmail.com](mailto:samanthawillis@gmail.com)



## PFSU and Village Nursery

This term the PFSU children are finding out about transport and have hosted visits from a parent with her bike and another parent who told us about her job as a flight attendant. We are looking forward to seeing a rally car later this term. We also took our own journeys around the village, finding out about some of the places on our route and taking photographs.

The Nursery children are learning about mini-beasts and numbers, and are watching frogspawn and caterpillars as they develop. Both sites will be thinking about Mother's Day and Easter before the end of term. Our Holiday Club will run in the Easter Holidays from Monday 11 to Friday 15 April, and Monday 18 to Thursday 21 April at the Nursery, open to children from both settings.

There will be an informal parents' evening for PFSU parents on Wednesday 11 May from 7 to 9pm. The Formula Fast fund-raising evening was a huge success and raised over £2,000 for the Nursery and PFSU, in part due to generous matched funding. Thank you to Neil Skinner for organising the event, and to all the parents who have supported our activities and fund-raising events so far this term.

**Lucy Squires 337484**





## NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The new doors between the Church and hall are being installed as I write and should be of great benefit to the building, giving more space for social events and large services. Many thanks to everyone who has helped make this possible. The Easter services this year will be: Good Friday Meditation at 12.15pm on 22 April, followed by lunch, and Easter Saturday 23 April Vigil and Service of Light at 8.30pm. Whilst on Church affairs, would anyone in the village like to join the monthly flower roster? If so, please ring Maureen Anne Temple Smith on 01869 338429.



Once again, speeding is a problem on the main road. PCSO Angela Alford and a helper monitored the area twice during one week in March and booked several vehicles, including an HGV. Letters will be sent to the drivers and a third offence will result in prosecution. They intend to come every week for some time but volunteers are needed to help. If anyone can give some time, please email Yngve Granne on [onyngve.granne@btinternet.com](mailto:onyngve.granne@btinternet.com) or Jonathan Watts on [janet@janetwatts.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:janet@janetwatts.wanadoo.co.uk). The new speed check signs are helping, but regular monitoring is necessary.

Swifts nest in this village, particularly in the barn at the back of Stone Lea, the home of Mr and Mrs Golder

which is the house next to the one with the Off Licence sign. Could people look out for these birds when they arrive in April/May and, if they nest elsewhere, email Jean Rudge on [jeanrudge@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanrudge@hotmail.com) as she is keen to map all sites in the area? If anyone would like a nesting box, they cost £13 and need to be fitted to a north-facing wall.

Residents are concerned about litter and dog fouling in and around the village, so please take litter home and clean up after dogs.

**Les Chappell 338054**

## Friends of Deddington Festival Lunch 2011

In response to popular demand, the Friends are hosting another progressive fundraising lunch on Friday 27 May. This year we will start in Church Street at Donald Lane's, move to Lynda Lake-Stewart's at the corner of Clifton Road and Earl's Lane and finish in Pound Court, Earl's Lane, at Althea Wood's home. Transport will be available for anyone who does not want to walk.

For the cost of £25 you will get a superb three-course meal, including wine, good company and a gentle walk. Tickets are on a first-come first-served basis and we can seat only 16 people. To book your place, please contact Elspeth Cox at King's Cottage High Street, tel: 337635, or [elspethcox@waitrose.com](mailto:elspethcox@waitrose.com).

**Elspeth Cox 337635**



### Children's Easter Activities

for Primary School children aged 5–11  
Deddington Parish Church, 10am–12.30pm

**Thursday 14 April 2011**

Crafts, Cooking, Chess and  
Other Games

**Cost £1.50**

Application forms and enquiries to:

Caroline Tindale 337962

Janet Watts 337135

Sarah Boss 338536

Additional forms at School Office & Church

Applications in by Monday 4 April please

## The 7th annual Deddington Walk

A challenging 12 mile walk  
Oxfordshire countryside, or  
or simply take the toddlers



around the beautiful  
a family ramble over 6 miles,  
on a stroll

**The Deddington Challenge**  
**Can you rise to it?**

**Sunday May 15th**

Enjoy the kids  
"collectables" hunt,  
BBQ, bouncy castle, &  
bar. Tickets - adult £7,  
family - £17.50. Book  
early to secure free food

**Great  
new  
route!**

**For further details, contact Heather on 01869  
338468, email [info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk](mailto:info@deddingtonchallenge.co.uk)  
or visit [www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonwalk.co.uk)**

Organised by Deddington PTA (reg charity number 1052715).  
All proceeds to local Deddington Youth Projects.

## TIME ONLY AMBLES IN ENCHANTING DEDDINGTON

### Haven of serene and bright but busy nonagenarians

*Deddington in a post-war time warp in this piece written by S.P.B. Mais in the Oxford Mail of 9 September 1955. So much has changed – and are we still a ‘haven of stability in a world of constant flux’?*

‘Does no one ever die at Deddington?’ I am by no means the first visitor to this astonishing village to have posed this question, but I must confess that it was uppermost in my mind as the result of spending a very profitable but extremely energetic morning in the company of Mr W.J. French who was Clerk to the Parish Council from its start and held the office for 50 years. Mr French whose ninetieth birthday falls any day now had been chosen to represent Oxfordshire against South Africa at bowls the following day. As he had already played against other Commonwealth countries, he wasn’t over-excited by that.



Mr. W. J. French.

Mr French showed me a directory of Oxfordshire dated 1852 in which there were then in Deddington members of the French family whose occupations included those of carrier, baker, butcher, mealman and shoemaker, as well as that of farmer. There were at that time no fewer than 31 farmers in Deddington.

#### RENT 3 SHILLINGS STILL

‘Today,’ said Mr French, ‘we have all too few farmers left and they find it increasingly difficult to get labour. The majority of the workers prefer to work in Banbury at the Northern Aluminium Company’s factory or in Oxford for the Pressed Steel Company. Who can blame them? Whereas in the old days they were able to live on a wage of 30s. a week, today some of them are getting as much as £20 a week, and the rents of some of our cottages remain at 3s. and 3s. 6d. a week.’

I then went to the Mount to call on his daughter, the wife of Mr H.D. Hopcraft, just retired from the building firm which has been in his family for generations.

#### DELIGHTFUL STABILITY

A hundred years ago there was a Hopcraft stonemason, another Hopcraft a brickmaker, a third an ironmonger and of course a Hopcraft, a builder. There is a stability about Deddington that in this world of constant flux gives me great delight. ‘I’d like you to meet my mother,’ said Mr Hopcraft, ‘but she’s upstairs at the moment. She’s 95’. At any moment, I thought I should see Mrs Hopcraft senior come sliding down the bannisters. Mrs Hopcraft junior is one of the leading lights of the very flourishing Lawn Tennis Club.

#### ‘HOLE IN THE WALL’

‘This used to be an inn,’ went on Mr Hopcraft, ‘called “The Hole in the Wall”’. He took me off to see the blocked-up hole at the top of the cellar stairs where the beer used to be passed through to customers. ‘It later became the home of a succession of doctors, among them Dr Hodges, whose wife, under the pseudonym of Elizabeth Cambridge, wrote a first novel, *Hostages to Fortune*, which was selected as a Book Society choice. It is all about life in Deddington.’

From the Mount I went to Park Farm to call on Mr J.G. Bletsoe, just home from judging at the Dublin Horse Show. I was slightly disappointed to find that he had not yet reached his 90th birthday.

#### PRINCE CAME TO TEA

But he, too, had seen the Victorian era, and entertained at tea more than once Queen Victoria’s great-grandson, the Prince of Wales, to whom he used to sell horses. ‘He was a great gentleman,’ said Mr Bletsoe. ‘I remember my aunt, who was having tea with us, rising to leave the room. The Prince was across the room like a flash, long before anyone else could get up, holding the door open for my aunt to go out.’

#### SPARKLING WELL WATER

‘There were two water courses running parallel on each side of the street. We all had wells about 30ft. deep and the water we drew was crystal clear and sparkling, very different from the water that comes to us now from the volite [*what is this? – Ed.*] at Duns Tew. And now they tell me that we are about to be joined up with the main at Banbury, a very expensive job.’

#### IMPRESSIVE GIANT

Mr Bletsoe, in his sporting bowler hat and thumb-stick, is a most impressive giant of a man, possessed with the same alertness of mind and quick, genial humour.

I should have liked a day rather than an hour in the company of each of them. Both are grand old English gentlemen, strongly individual in outlook and opinion, friendly and staunch. But while Mr French at 90 cunningly bowls for his county, Mr Bletsoe rides to hounds over this wall country with its flying fences with the Heythrop which meets twice every season in Deddington village opposite Mr Bletsoe’s farm.

*The second extract will follow shortly. To see the full article, go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/history/articles/1955oxfordmail>*





## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Photographic Society

At our March meeting our speaker was the noted local photographer, Jane Ryman, who gave a presentation on 'Taking portrait photographs of family and children'. Jane emphasised that successful portraiture involves developing skills in a number of areas: lighting, composition and empathy with the subject. Her preference is for natural light and a composition that does not distract from the subject. Examples of her work, including a few of her failures as well as her many achievements, illustrated her approach. Jane also discussed the practical use of the camera and various portrait lenses. She concluded with a review of some images taken by distinguished portrait photographers including Mario Testino, David Bailey, Annie Leibovitz and Anne Geddes. A most interesting and lively presentation, given by a photographer who was willing to speak openly about her own personal experiences, that was very much appreciated by her audience.

Coming events include the AGM on 6 April, followed by a presentation by two members Barry Singleton and Steve Sykes, 'Our Journeys into Photography.' On 20 April, member Simon Lutter will give another workshop, this time on 'Getting the Most out of your Camera'. On 4 May there is a presentation by Chris Palmer on 'Order out of Chaos – How Great Photographers Use their Skills', and on 18 May a photo-shoot led by Simon Lutter in Banbury at 6.45pm (members only). Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, just come along at 7.30pm to the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho.

**John Branton 01295 811079**  
[www.adandd.co.uk](http://www.adandd.co.uk)

### Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Our Social Secretary, Mike O'Brien, has announced the dates and venue for our annual weekend away, Sunday 17 and Monday 18 July 2011. The venue is Tracy Park Hotel and Country Club, four miles north of Bath. It is set in stunning countryside and has two excellent 18-hole courses. An event not to be missed and, as in previous years, we will be raising funds for our local charity – the Katharine House Hospice.

**David Darst 338589**

### 1st Deddington Brownies

Many of the Brownies were lucky enough to attend the District Thinking Day Celebration, held in Deddington during March. During the afternoon they took part in a wide range of activities including planting seeds, glass painting, singing, games, and a quiz on food from various countries. This event was a chance to meet Brownies, Guides and Rainbows from across the District. At meetings they have begun rehearsals for their part in the Deddington Festival Community Concert, and have been busy designing dolls' outfits for their Designer Badges.

**Lucy Squires 338442**

### WI

The March meeting of Deddington WI was our AGM. The Committee was unanimously re-elected for the next year. Amongst other matter discussed were a trip to Oxford Operatic Society's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* in May and a plant and cake sale in Deddington in June. The business was followed by a glass of wine and some excellent cheeses. The next meeting is on Tuesday 12 April, at 7.30pm in the Holly Tree Club as usual when Dr Tony Maisey will speak on 'Doctor Spare Parts'.

**Moiria Byast 338637**

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

The group is actively working towards the formation of a Beaver group (6–8yrs). If you would like to help, please contact Jo. St George's Day Parade will be early this year due to Easter: 10 April in Banbury.

### Cubs

This month the Cubs have tackled subjects as diverse as mountaineering and ironing. These were not combined and they are not in training for 'extreme ironing'. The boys spent an evening dressed as mountaineers and had to take part in climbing fitness, passing a weighted bag up the stairs, running circuits, beanbag relay and traversing a table. They 'climbed' the youth room floor and enjoyed a wild snowball fight.

We have also made clothes hangers for their uniforms and have shown them how to iron and fold their neckerchiefs to keep them smart. Let's hope they carry on the good work at home.

Coming next: Saints, St. George's Day Parade and Easter mosaics.

Many thanks to the parent who donated the laptop; it will be a great help. We could still do with a couple more if anyone else has a spare.

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

### Scouts

Scouts have been carrying on with some basic map work leading up to a night hike to Clifton. They learned how to calculate the time a hike would take by measuring the distance on a map and studying the route. How steep is the terrain? Do we cross muddy fields? They made route cards and used them on the walk to Clifton. Although their calculations were a little optimistic (magic boots would be needed), we managed to arrive at exactly the right time. Next hike will be to Barford.

We have decided it would be good for the group to have a designated badge and the scouts have been thinking about possible designs, although I'm not sure a skull really represents the group favourably!

**Pete Churchyard SL 338071,**  
[pete.churchyard@btinternet.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@btinternet.com)



## CALLING MORE CLUBS...

### 1st Deddington Guides

The Scout and Guide Show in Oxford was a brilliant show. Two of our Guides – Emma B and Natalie T – were in it, as well as two older Guides who have now moved on to Rangers. We went on the coach with other local Guides – very exciting evening – especially not getting back until 11pm.

We celebrated our special Thinking Day with 100 plus Rainbows, Guides, Brownies, young leaders and adult leaders from surrounding villages. We celebrated the history of guiding and all things English, gardening, crafts, seaside sandcastles, puppets, St George and the Dragon, rainy day relays, flags and fashion. We had everyone country dancing and revived them with jam tarts, cream and jam scones and lemonade.

In our own meeting we held a candle ceremony thinking of Guides and Brownies across the world and learning how others may live. We enjoyed trying some Indian and Chinese food and tasting various fruits from around the world.

Everyone loved the yoga session, thank you to Sian Westbury, followed by umpteen pancakes – we felt it was better in this order!

We also loved the manic map session with Martin Squires. We learnt a lot, thank you. We also had fun practising for our charity show. Lastly, our thoughts are with our sister Guides in Christchurch, New Zealand, and more recently in Japan.

**Maggie Rampley 01295 810069**

**Marian Trinder 01869 340806**

### Monday Morning Club

Our usual meeting date on the first Monday of the month clashes with a Bank Holiday, so we shall meet on Monday, 9 May, 10.30 am–noon. This meeting is our AGM, so please make an effort to attend.

**Jean Flux 338153**

### Deddington Royal British Legion

On Sunday 22 May we are commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion in a parade at 10.15am from the War Memorial to the church for morning prayer. We hope that as many parishioners as possible will join us. Further details in the May edition of *DN*.

The Royal British Legion are dedicating 10–12 June as a party weekend to celebrate the 90th birthday. We are planning a barbecue at the RBL Club in the High Street – details later.

The Branch annual day trip is on Wednesday 14 September and is open to all. The choice is between the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and the National Army Museum in Chelsea. If you wish to participate and have a preference, please contact me by telephone or email at the address below. The final decision will be announced in the June *DN*.

Membership is continuing to rise and is open to all

over the age of 18. Past service experience is not a qualification. Fees £16 per annum (pensioners £11).

**Jean Morris 338143, [DeddingtonRBL@aol.com](mailto:DeddingtonRBL@aol.com)**

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### 1st team results:

19.02.11 Hornton (h) W 8–0 Hall (2), Thornton, L. (2), Thornton, J., Paroussis (2), Flemming, J.

05.03.11 Cropredy (a) W 4–2 Hall, Thornton, L. (2), Paroussis

12.03.11 Woodford United (a) L 1–2 Hall

#### Reserve team results:

05.03.11 FC Langford (h) L 2–4 Smith, P., Tustain, J.

12.03.11 Wroxton (h) L 0–2

Time tests the measure of men, and time tells us that Deddington Town are a club rooted in strength with humility; armoured with wit amid warrior spirit; nourished on the golden teat of glory. By the time you read this, the First Team will have played one of the biggest matches in their history. Win or lose, they write history just competing in the Junior Shield semi-final, and deserve every ounce of your acclaim. Mikey Large has stood on the shoulders of giants and pushed the team to still greater accomplishments. A spectacular demolition of Hornton and win over Cropredy was unfortunately followed by a narrow loss to fellow title challengers Woodford, leaving Deddington now six points behind leaders Sinclair United.

The Reserves, however, have suffered a traumatic month, gleaning no points. Only two goals were notched, one by veteran favourite Paul Smith, to lift the gloom a little, but the Reserves must put together a run of unbeaten games to be certain of avoiding the dreaded drop. Local beefcake Joe Davies has been drafted in to add muscle to an attack which seems over-reliant on the normally prolific finishing of Jordan Kaye. Now the Goddess of Spring has exposed her tender tendrils there is no excuse not to get up to the Windmill on a Saturday afternoon to bellow from the depths of your diaphragm in rapturous support of your staggering heroes. United we stand.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

### Book Club

At our February meeting we discussed *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. This is cleverly written, modern science fiction about a group of students looking back at their seemingly idyllic school days. It soon becomes clear that there is something abnormal lurking beneath the surface and gradually their chilling destiny is revealed. The book stimulated a very lively discussion with a spread of differing opinions. The content was too disturbing for some, others were put off by the dubious science and a banal storyline, while a few found it to be an emotional page-turner, which continues to bounce back to haunt them.

**Sally Lambert 338094**

## ... AND YET MORE CLUBS

### Deddington and District History Society

Our March speaker was Gillian White, who discussed portraits of Elizabeth I. As a young girl Elizabeth was a minor cog in the machinery of the Tudor dynasty but, following the early deaths of her brother Edward and her sister Mary, she came unexpectedly to the throne at a time of national uncertainty. She and her ministers struggled to find a suitable visual image at first. Abandoning the real woman, they decided to establish a royal identity based on the virtues of Protestant government.

As she neared her 40s Elizabeth embraced a form of portraiture that 'froze' her features in an unchanging mask of youth. It became more and more important to pretend that the unmarried and childless queen would last forever and Elizabeth, her courtiers and their artists entered into a pretence that created some of the most famous and enduring images of the monarch. With passing years the Queen's image grew in confidence until the realm of England became too small a canvas and Elizabeth triumphed as Queen, Empress and Goddess. The problem of how to portray her had been solved with the victory of propaganda over reality. An early triumph for 'spin'!

On 13 April Tony Hadland will give an overview of Oxfordshire's remarkable number of museums, highlighting some leading examples such as the Ashmolean, Didcot Railway Centre, Bloxham Village Museum and Cogges Manor Farm. Our meetings take place at the Windmill Centre on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm; all are welcome.

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

### Bridge Club

The club began ten years ago and in November 2000 the leader in *The Times* read as follows: 'Life, they say, can sometimes deal you a bad hand, but according to the latest medical research from the University of California, if life deals you a bad hand at all, good or bad, you are likely to live longer and look younger than those who hold no cards. Contract bridge, it appears, is the secret of healthy living. Even as the hand is dealt, your immune system swings into action. The very sight of cards affects the frontal lobe of the brain, the thymus gland stimulates the T lymphocytes and after several long rubbers the dorsolateral cortex is so excited that your body can fend off almost any disease.' The club meets on Friday afternoons (2–5pm) and anyone interested will be very welcome to join us. Please call.

**Winifred and Kenneth Holt 338154**  
**Dorothy White 337530**

### Deddington Royal British Legion Club

Hopefully April will see the conclusion of the work being paid for by the Big Lottery Fund. This comprises installing the third replacement window, re-routing the

mains electrical supply and undertaking substantial re-roofing work. We extend our sincere thanks to the Big Lottery Fund for their grant of £10,000.

On 5 March our Race Night, ably compered by Andy Shepherd, was a resounding success. Over £400 was raised which will go towards the construction of a new smoking shelter.

Forthcoming events include the ever-popular skittles evening from 7pm on Saturday 9 April whilst on Saturday 16th we have great live music with the duo '4 Eyes'.

Plans are afoot for the Easter weekend with a St George's Day event on Saturday 23 and a tombola stall from midday on Easter Sunday.

The following weekend, that of the Royal wedding, we will host our first barbecue of the year. Let's hope the weather is kind to the happy couple and us. For more details why not pop in for a pint or, alternatively, keep an eye on our noticeboard.

**Gareth Smith 337307**

### Cricket Club

We are all looking forward to the new season which starts on 1 May. We are still looking for umpires – any volunteers? The Club has purchased a bowling machine which we hope will improve the quality of our batting. Our Summer Ball will be held on Saturday 18 June – all enquiries to Clare Stevens, 337431 (see our website: [www.deddingtoncc.co.uk](http://www.deddingtoncc.co.uk)).

**Derek Cheeseman 338609, [dfc201@lineone.net](mailto:dfc201@lineone.net)**

### DUST – Deddington Vets Football

No match report this month as our February fixture was postponed. However, a number of vets have been in action. You may remember from last month's 'Editor's Postbag' a letter detailing 'Ronnie's journey' and the efforts to raise £50,000 to enable Ronnie to travel to the US for an operation which will hopefully allow him to walk. As part of the fund-raising events a charity football match was arranged between a Sky Sports Superstars team and Ronnie's team, made up of local players. The game was organised by our very own Mick Hewitt. Mick was joined by fellow vets Andy Shepherd and Barry O'Connell on Ronnie's team. The game was watched by several hundred spectators at Banbury United's Spencer Stadium on 11 March and raised over £7,000 towards Ronnie's operation. Well done Mick, a fantastic effort. Also thanks to all those from Deddington who attended the game, especially Jim Turburfield for his very generous contribution to the auction.

Finally, we'd like to wish Deddington Town all the best in the semi-final of the County Cup on 23 March. The last time Deddington got this far in the tournament was the 1920s, apparently Andy Shepherd played a blinder.

**Barry O'Connell 338988**

## WELL REMEMBERED

### Ray Sones 1926–2011

Ray was born in Adwell, Oxfordshire, on St Valentine's Day, the third of four children. His father was a butler and his job moved him from house to house before settling in Banbury when Ray was ten years old, where he spent the rest of his childhood. He went to Dashwood Road School before moving on to the then Banbury County School (later to become the Grammar School). He sang in the choir at Christ Church in Banbury. He left school at 16 and joined the GPO as 'Youth in Training' at Banbury Radio Station. He was also a member of the ATC and during the war years he volunteered for the RAF and trained as a radar fitter, serving in Blackpool, Egypt and Malta.

Ray was demobbed in 1948 and rejoined the GPO before moving to the General Electric Company in 1951, where he stayed for the rest of his working career before retiring in 1990. Ray married Angela in 1954 in Christ Church in Banbury before moving to Coventry in 1956. They had three children, Carolyn, Elizabeth and Peter, but sadness was to follow when Carolyn died in 1960 and Elizabeth in 2006. Much of

Ray's working life took him abroad, sometimes for days and weeks at a time to places such as Nigeria and several countries in South America.

Ray and Angela moved to Hempton in 1991 and immediately became involved in village life. He served on the Parochial Church Council for many years and twice served as church warden. He became a member of the Friends of Hempton Church and later a committee member. He was very much involved with projects at both Hempton and Deddington Churches, mainly the new kitchen extension at St John's, and the Living Room and other projects at the Parish Church. Over the years he was a keen vegetable gardener and I know he liked the occasional drink, having used the Red Lion in Banbury (a pub long since gone) which was, by coincidence, a pub that an uncle of mine first took me to in about 1957. I remember Ray as a well-respected member of the community and a person dedicated to getting things done. He will long be remembered, and a fitting tribute was his thanksgiving service in Deddington Church.

**Les Chappell 338054**

### New DN website

Since the last issue of *DN* our new website has gone live. As before, go to <http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/> to see it. You'll find it looks very similar in style to Deddington OnLine. And note the embedded Twitter feed – thanks to David Rogers.

If you're confused as to who does what, *DN* covers all matters topical in our parish community, while DoL covers the history, geography and facilities, etc. So, for instance, up-to-date news of the campaign to save the library will be found on the *DN* site. But never fear, there is a link to the relevant page from the DoL site so there is no excuse not to know what is going on!

Our new Diary is proving very popular; if there is a village event you want to publicise, please contact Jean Flux, 338153, [diary@deddingtonnews.co.uk](mailto:diary@deddingtonnews.co.uk) or Alison Day, 337204, [clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk](mailto:clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk).



### Weekly Meetings

Mondays: Brownies, Windmill Centre, 6.00–7.30pm

Mondays: Youth Club, Windmill Centre, 7.00–9.00pm

Mondays: Bellringing Practice, Parish Church, 7.30–9.00pm

Tuesday: Internet cafe, Parish Church 2.00–5.00pm

Tuesdays: Craft Group, Holly Tree, 2.00–4.30pm

Tuesdays: Tennis Club, Windmill Centre, 10.00am

Tuesdays: Deddington Guides, Windmill Centre, 7.00–9.00pm

Tuesdays: Badminton Club, Seniors, Windmill Centre, 7.00–10.00pm

Tuesdays: Deddington Youth Group, Parish Church, 7.00–8.30pm

Alternate Tuesdays: Hempton Ladies, St John's Hall, 2.00–4.00pm

Wednesdays in term time: Caterpillar Music for babies and toddlers, Windmill Centre, 10.00am

Alternate Wed: Friendship Club, Windmill Centre, 2.30pm

Wednesdays: Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys, Windmill Centre, 5.00pm

Wednesdays: Boys' Brigade Juniors, Windmill Centre, 5.45pm

Wednesdays: Boys' Brigade Company, Parish Church, 7.00pm

Thursdays: Life and Portrait Art Group, Town Hall, 10.00–1.00pm, 2.30–4.00pm

Thursdays: 1st Deddington Cubs, Windmill Centre, 6.00–7.30pm

Thursdays: 1st Deddington Scouts, Windmill Centre, 7.30–9.00pm

Fridays: Coffee Morning in aid of Katharine House, Parish Church, 10am–noon

Fridays: Babies and Toddlers Group, Windmill Centre, 9.30–11.30am

Fridays: Deddington Friendly Bridge Club, Holly Tree, 2.00–5.00pm

Fridays: Deddington Church Choir Practice, 7.45pm



## POLICE NEWS

It has been another busy month for the team who have been continuing with speeding operations and anti-social behaviour patrols within the villages.

### Speeding in Hempton

The team is concentrating its efforts on assessing vehicle speed in Hempton. A survey we conducted produced a response from the residents, and it is perceived they do indeed have a speeding problem.

### Community Speed Watch in Clifton

PCSO Nikki Dale has had a meeting with the residents of Clifton to discuss the Community Speedwatch scheme and to encourage volunteers to help with this.

### Crime News

The team has seen an increase in the theft of domestic oil. Offenders are targeting the same victims and we have had reports of repeat offences. We encourage people to be vigilant for themselves and their neighbours, and to contact police if they see anything suspicious. Items are available to make oil tanks more secure; please contact Jayne Taylor, Crime Prevention Officer, on 08458 505 505 for further information. If you are a victim of fuel theft it is important to tell the police; although there may be little that we can do to recover the loss, it does provide us with important information on the extent of the problem.

Two offenders were brought to justice: a 58-year old man charged with two offences of shoplifting and an assault in Deddington. Three further offences were admitted, one of which was another shoplifting in Deddington; the court has been asked to take these into consideration when sentencing. PC Miller has also issued a Fixed Penalty Notice to a 64-year old male for wasting police time after it had been proved that he had made a false claim that his vehicle had been damaged whilst parked outside his home in Deddington.

### Have Your Say Online

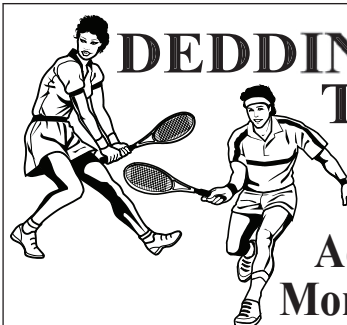
You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form on the Thames Valley Police website: <https://reportonline.thamesvalley.police.uk>. Do allow some time for us to get back to you as we check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

Should you have any problems or concerns please phone the Thames Valley Police non-emergency number on 08458 505 505 or email [banburyrural-neighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:banburyrural-neighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). In an emergency please dial 999.

**Banbury Rural Neighbourhood Team**

### Contact List

The bi-annual *DN* list of Good Neighbours, Helplines and Club Contacts will now be printed as a loose-leaf insert to accompany the May issue of *DN*.



**DEDDINGTON  
TENNIS  
CLUB**

**Adult Open  
Mornings (16+)**

**Sundays 10 and 17 April 2011  
10am to 12 noon**

at

**Windmill Centre, Hempton Road  
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**For further  
details contact  
Trevor Stevens  
Tel 01295 669135**

**Website: [www.deddingtontennis.com](http://www.deddingtontennis.com)**



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