

THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
JILL CHEESEMAN

APRIL 2017 COPY TO
CATHERINE DESMOND
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk
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EDITORS

Jill Cheeseman 01869 338609
Catherine Desmond 01869 336211
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS
Debbie Grimsley 01869 336110
grimsleyhome@live.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS
Sandie Goundrey
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON AND WEB
Mary Robinson
diary@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS
Alison Day 01869 337204
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL
Jean Rudge 01869 338110
jeanrudge@gmail.com

FEATURES
Hilary Smith
features@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PRINTING
Ruth Johnson 01869 337166
Pat Swash

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION
Pat Brittain 01869 338685
and teams

TREASURER
Jane Wilson
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER
Marten Sealby

the Deddington news

The catkins are out, snowdrops, crocuses and aconites are blooming, can spring be far behind? Well, after Storm Doris's high winds we're definitely looking forward to it. But what kind of people are the locals who choose to litter our lovely parish or put their dog's excrement in a bag then leave it by the footpath or hang it on a bush?

JC

What's On

March

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Wed | 1 | Photographic Society: Robert Harvey, 'By the Sea, the Wild Edge of Britain', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Fri | 3 | PTA: Bags to School, collection for charity |
| Sat | 4 | Satin Lane Allotments: allotment clean-up day, 9.00am |
| Mon | 6 | Monday Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am |
| Wed | 8 | History Society: Brian Lowe, 'The Stained Glass of Oxford', Windmill, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 9 | Monday Club: Film Evening, Holly Tree, 6.00pm |
| Tue | 14 | WI: AGM followed by cheese and wine supper |
| Wed | 15 | Photographic Society: Workshop, 'Tabletop Photography', led by Martyn Pearse, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 15 | Parish Council: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 18 | Concert: Banbury Symphony Orchestra, Parish Church, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 22 | Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Unicorn, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 25 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 25 | Friends of Deddington Church: Calypso Evening, Sofia's Steel Band, Parish Church, 7.30pm |
| Mon | 27 | Deddington Players: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm |
| Thu | 30 | Book Club: Please call Sally Lambert, 338094 for details |

April

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Mon | 3 | Monday Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am |
| Wed | 5 | Photographic Society: AGM followed by Members' Evening, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Tue | 11 | WI: 'Tudor Easter' with Martin Sirot-Smith, Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 12 | History Society: Dr Mark Curthoys, 'Famous Oxfordshire People from the Dictionary of National Biography', Windmill, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 6 | Deddington Library: 'Who do you Think your Ancestors Were?', 7.30pm |
| Thu | 13 | Monday Club: Film, tba, Holly Tree, 6.30pm |

Events in this listing, and also regular weekly events, also appear in the DN online calendar: <http://deddingtonnews.co.uk/whatson>

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

at the Windmill Centre – Wednesday 15 February

Present: Councillors Cox, Higham, Oldham, Reeve, Rogers (Chair), Watts and Wood. Also (for part of the meeting) Councillor Williams (CDC) and Councillor Fatemian (OCC)

District Councillor Bryn Williams reported that work on the Windmill Street and Windmill Close car parks was declared complete.

A letter of thanks is to be sent to CDC for their efficiency in dealing with extensive fly-tipping on the Milton gated road. This was reported on Sunday 5 February and cleared on Monday 6 February.

The issue of a single unitary authority in Oxfordshire to replace the present structure of county and district councils was raised and elicited various responses.

County Councillor Fatemian introduced a motion at the meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 February that the temporary removal of obstetrics-led maternity services at the Horton General Hospital should be referred to the Secretary of State. This motion was unanimously agreed.

Following a site visit by OCC to consider improvements to the traffic lights, it was concluded that there is sufficient time for pedestrians to cross.

Planning Applications

No Objection

Deddington Farmers' Market – Erection of one shed used to store stalls and equipment.

Castle End House, Castle Street – Removal of beech tree to ground level. The tree is deemed unsafe but requested that a replacement tree should be planted in line with DPC's policy.

Deddington Manor, New Street – Removal of fir tree. Replacement requested.

2 Chapmans Lane – Removal of condition concerning the junction of Chapman's Lane and the A4260, already approved.

Holly House, Earls Lane – single storey front and rear extension.

Egerton, Goose Green – External alterations to the garage and timber framed link between the house and garage (re-submission of previously approved application).

Objection

Land at Hempton Lodge, Snakehill Lane, Hempton – Development of a single storey dwelling (re-submission). Appeal against refusal. Request for relevant parties to be allowed access to the site to consider application more thoroughly.

Orchard House, Chapel Close, Clifton – Two storey side extension to existing dwelling on south-west elevation, a single storey extension to south-east elevation, new single storey link from existing dwelling to existing rear outbuilding and associated internal works. Over-development of present building.

2 Chapmans Lane – Removal of existing 2m hedge and planting of a new hedge. This is an ancient hedge-

row and is not in the ownership of the applicant. Concern about the loss of biodiversity and environmental impact of removing ancient hedgerows.

Approvals

The Cottage, Philcote St.

63 St John's Way, Hempton

Hilary's Hats, Deddington

Folly Cottage, The Lane, Hempton

District Councillor Williams has called in two previous applications likely to be refused by CDC, meaning they will have to be reviewed by a committee. The first is for the removal of the back wall of the fireplace at the Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton, to increase size of the bar. While conscious of the need to safeguard listed buildings, DPC felt the need to ensure the best possible chance of survival of a community asset was paramount.

The second application was at Home Farm, Clifton, for an Agricultural Tied Farmer's Cottage. The planning officer felt that this was not required as Mr George Fenemore is not retiring completely. DPC felt otherwise as Chris Fenemore is frequently called away on Fire Service duty and there are often tasks on the farm which require two individuals. Letters will be sent to CDC offering positive support for these applications.

Highways and Transport

Various issues regarding speeding and parking were discussed. Another letter has been sent by Thames Valley Police to parents of the primary school children regarding dangerous parking at the school.

Environment and Recreation

The parish spring clean will take place on Saturday 1 April.

Finance and General Purposes

Thames Water has moved out of the retail market so water to the allotments is supplied by Castle Water. Their excessive estimated bill is to be queried.

It was agreed to contribute £192 for the replacement of carol sheets used at the Christmas Eve service in the Market Place. These will also be available online.

There has been little uptake by local people for the affordable housing in the proposed new development. Anyone interested is urged to apply.

Windmill Centre Upgrade

Unfortunately the proposed new lighting is not compatible with the present wiring system. The situation is to be reviewed.

Deddington Charity Estates is to install new LED lighting in the undercroft of the Town Hall.

Next PC meeting: Wednesday 15 March at 7.30pm in The Old School Room, Hempton.

These Parish Council notes are not the official Minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2016.html>.

FARMERS' MARKET

New Season's Garlic

It is difficult to predict when the new season's produce will start appearing in the market so forgive me if this recipe is a little premature, but when freshly dug garlic is on sale this recipe makes a virtue of its newness. For some reason butter reveals the delicacy of new season garlic better than olive oil. You may be tempted to improve this dish with things like chilli flakes. Don't. The pleasure is in the simplicity. *Aglio Et Olio* is another dish entirely.

PASTA WITH GARLIC

Spaghetti or linguine – allow 100g per head

New season's garlic – allow two cloves per head

Butter

Parmesan

Cook the pasta in a big pan of generously salted boiling water according to the packet instructions. You're aiming for *al dente* because the pasta will continue cooking.

Peel and finely chop the garlic. Reserving about half a cup of the cooking water, drain the pasta when it is ready.

Put the pan back on the hob and add a big lump



of butter, the finely chopped garlic and a generous amount of grated Parmesan. Toss the pasta in the mixture (adding a little of the reserved cooking water if it seems too dry). Grind plenty of black pepper into the pasta as you mix it.

Serve immediately with extra Parmesan on the side.

A glass of a reliable red wine might compliment this dish nicely.

For more up to date information about the market (and contact details for all the stallholders) you can visit the market webpage www.deddingtonfarmers-market.co.uk.

The market is on Saturday 25 March from 9.00am to 12.30pm.

If you can't wait till then, there's always the Adderbury market on the second Thursday of each month at The Institute, The Green, Adderbury, 6.00-8.00pm. More details at www.market.adderbury.org.

Good shopping!

Ian Willox
01869 337940

ian@deddingtononair.org

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2017

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GracewellAdderbury.co.uk

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



Game on! As I bash this out in the middle of February, the Cotswold lions have made a start with 'Aple-tree Snow Flake' arriving after a struggle at 11.00pm on the 10th during the first proper snow shower of winter and then 'Starlight' arrived the next evening, a big strong ram lamb from one of our show team.

The rites of spring are under way. The ewe flocks at both Home Farm and Park Farm are now inside so it's a never-ending round of Meals on Wheels. As I put finger to keyboard, the Home Farm main flock is in that pregnant pause between the diary due date and the arrival of the first lambs, so the old man is on night-time overlooking duties to give the youngsters a peaceful night, unless I have a problem I can't deal with and need to call them out. If Chris is on a night-time fire shout, which is a regular occurrence, young Ben (Shorty as he is taller than me) at the tender age of 15 is already a very competent shepherd and will come hot foot to my assistance from the other end of the village, a real family farm.

With the return of the Clifton sea, the farm has become very wet. The last of last year's lamb crop were out on root crops and looking very fed-up and miserable with the wet ground conditions. We took pity on them and brought them inside, something that doubled the number of mouths for the Meals on Wheels service so building space is rather tight. With any luck we will get some of them away to market before the main rush starts; but they will have to be belly clipped before they go, as the buyers will reduce the price if the wool has any mud on it; another learning curve for Shorty as I have a displaced kneecap and can only instruct. My knee problems stem from being bowled over by a disgruntled ram two years ago. He is now ram kebabs but at times I am left with some very painful memories of the attack – this getting old lark is no fun.

Apart from the wet, the winter to date has caused us and the wildlife very few problems. I am usually out and about by first light and met with a deputation

waiting for breakfast on the bird table. The Home Farm bird table is the top of a long brick wall covered with overgrown shrubbery which protects them from surprise attacks by the local sparrowhawk population. Breakfast consists of grain cleanings from our home saved seed corn, small broken wheat grain and weed seeds, but it is not just the farmyard birds that come for a feed, as we get long-tailed field mice, short-tailed voles and the common shrew arriving for a feed.

With any luck, by the time this has escaped the editor's red pencil, and providing the Clifton sea is not too deep, the curlew will have returned to the river valley and the blackbird will have spoken. I don't think I have ever seen so many blackbirds in and around the farm buildings before, so we could be in for a very tuneful spring and it is nice to hear so many song thrushes already letting drive. I think my favourite farmyard bird must be the house sparrow, with their garrulous squabbling chatter. We have a good number of them and, as the old stone buildings are done up, nest boxes are provided for them. We still lose a few to the sparrowhawk, but that's old Mother Nature for you.

On a Saturday in the middle of February I was assisting the local police in their enquiries, but the handcuffs stayed on their belts. Unfortunately a full grown fallow doe was involved in a car accident on the Clifton road, an ever-increasing occurrence. The badly injured animal took off into the local farmland. As one of the few local registered deerstalkers with local knowledge, I was asked by the police to track and dispatch the animal. It didn't take long but as it was a bright sunny afternoon and the area of the search was a popular dog walking and jogging area, I requested a police escort. This proved to be a wise move as two dog walkers became very abusive because I had shot Bambi, Dealing with a badly injured wild animal is never a very pleasant undertaking, but on welfare grounds needs to be done. The doe had sustained considerable injuries to her nearside and a broken jaw so she would have starved to death, as she would not have been able to feed. We have an increasing number of deer in the area, roe, muntjac and a small but growing number of fallow. They often cross the Clifton road, so perhaps it's time for some deer warning signs.

George Fenimore
01869 338203

Extra Time

A new features page on DN OnLine with supplementary stories and pictures

March highlights:

- 'Well Remembered' – Jim Flux, full tributes
- City of Oxford College Open Event
- North Aston Antiques Fair
- CDC Residential Design Guide

Make Time for Extra Time – visit www.deddington.uk/news/extratime

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

March

Special services for Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

Wed 1 10.00am Deddington
7.00pm Barford St Michael

Hempton

Sun 5 9.00am Holy Communion
Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion
Sun 26 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon–Fri 8.45am Morning Prayer (also on the first Saturday of the month)
Wed 10.00am Holy Communion (with prayers for healing on 4th Wednesday of the month)
Thu 2.00pm Squeals and Wheels

Sun 5 9.30am Little Saints (an informal service for babies, young children and parents)
10.30am Café Church (an informal gathering, preceded by breakfast at 10.00am with a talk and craft activities)
6.00pm Choral Evensong
Sun 12 8.00am BCP Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 19 10.30am Holy Communion
Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion (said service)

Barford St Michael

Sun 5 10.30am Family Service
Sun 12 9.00am Holy Communion
Sun 19 4.00pm Evening Prayer
Sun 26 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Funerals

2 February Jim Flux

For baptisms and for weddings, please speak to the Vicar, Rev'd Annie Goldthorp, after a service.

For funerals and for home visits in the case of illness, please contact the Vicar (01869 336880; vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) except on Fridays, her day off, or one of the church wardens: Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203).

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton
23 March John Neale

Pastor Isabel Walton

01869 337157

RC Parish of Hethe

Fr Paul Lester

01869 277630

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe, is said at 9.30am every weekday except Thursday. There are two Masses on Saturday, at 9.30am in the normal Ordinary Rite and 12 noon in the Latin Extraordinary Rite. There are two Masses on Sunday, at 10.00am in the Ordinary Rite and at 12.00 noon in the Extraordinary Rite. Confessions are heard at Hethe during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday between 5.00–6.00pm.

Mass is said at 9.00am on Sundays at SS Peter and Paul's Anglican Church, Kings Sutton. The Vigil 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>.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

I am organising a Flower Festival to take place in the parish church on 8–9 July. The theme will be Deddington in 2017. It is hoped that all clubs will do a display showing what they represent. Coffee and teas will be served on both days and there will also be a grand raffle to be drawn at the Festival. I am appealing to anyone who would be prepared to give practical help or financial sponsorship. Sponsors will be recognised at the event.

All proceeds will go to Deddington Church as the cost of maintaining and running this beautiful building for the use of the wider community is stretching us beyond our regular giving. Please contact me if you feel you would like to help in any way. It will be much appreciated.

Jean Welford 01869 338539

Satin Lane Allotments

will be open for
the National Garden Scheme
on
24 June from 1.00pm–5.30pm

Admission £5,
proceeds to NGS charities

Light refreshments will be available
for purchase.

From the Fire Station

Deddington was called out 28 times in January. There was a 'persons reported' house fire in Banbury. 'Persons reported' means that there is a fire in a property and someone is still in the property. Luckily, they had managed to get out. There was also a fire in an industrial unit in Cropredy and more chimney fires, one of which could have quite easily turned into a house fire. The unusual circumstances were that the chimney had a metal liner in it. When the liner had been installed the flue was not cleaned. The heat radiating from the metal liner caught the chimney alight. Our problem was that the flue was sealed by the liner and it was impossible to gain access. Smoke was starting to seep through the tiles on the roof. The solution was to take the top of the chimney off and pull the liner out to be able to put water down the chimney and extinguish the fire. When having your chimney lined always make sure that this is done by a qualified person and that you have documentation for it because if you do not this can invalidate your insurance. The crew has also attended several road traffic collisions and been called to the M40 to a car fire.

Recently I have had an engineer out to make my tumble dryer safe. There has been a national recall on kitchen appliances with tumble dryers being the biggest danger. The seal on the front of the dryer is the

main problem, allowing lint to get into the motor which can then ignite. The engineer recommended that the filter be cleaned before every use. This was something that we were already doing and was confirmed when he opened it up and there was only a small amount of fluff in the tumble dryer. With the new larger seal my tumble dryer is now deemed safe but I would never leave it unattended whilst it is running. You should check with your manufacture to see if yours is safe.

This month's training is focused on breathing apparatus with half the crew going to Moreton-in-Marsh Training College for their annual refresher. The Brigade has brought out a new high rise technical training session and some would say that it would be unlikely to be used by us. However, only last year we had a fire at Mondelez (formally General Foods) in Banbury where high rise procedures were used. A new scrap car has been delivered to our compound for use in more road traffic collision training.

Remember that you should have a working smoke alarm on every floor of your property and they should be checked every week. I check mine when I put the bins out every week; it helps me remember to check them.

Crew manager Tim Parker



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JUNIOR GOLF



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CONTACT: 01608 730047 - John or Will

EASTER CAMP
10th - 12th April

HALF TERM CAMP
30th April - 1st May

SUMMER } 31st July - 2nd Aug
CAMPS } and 14th -16th Aug

PFSU and Village Nursery

The PFSU children have been busy finding out about Chinese New Year. We made lanterns, listened to Chinese music, made up our own lion and dragon dances and sampled Chinese food. Thanks once again to the May Fu 2 restaurant who welcomed us in to see their New Year decorations and cooked us some delicious food. We have been finding out about pets and have welcomed dogs, cats, rabbits, and even a horse, in to pre-school. Thank you to everyone who bravely brought their pets in to meet us. We wrote to the vet to invite her to come in and tell us all about her job, and Juliet visited us to tell us all about her work. Thanks Juliet. Next term we will be thinking about new topics including transport and Mother's Day.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

Petition on the Future of Cherwell

Cherwell District Council has launched a petition against plans to replace it with a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire. The proposals have also been opposed by Oxford City and West Oxfordshire District Councils, concerned a centralised authority would ignore local issues and impact upon service provision.

The information will be used to demonstrate public backing in retaining CDC rather than adopting the untested £16 million unitary model. To sign the petition, visit <https://tinyurl.com/gsz2py>.

Deddington Art Exhibition

Do you like Art? Are you feeling creative?

The Deddington Art Exhibition is back on 10 and 11 June at the Holly Tree and we need your work to make it a success. Even if you've never entered a piece in a show or even shown anyone else your work, we would like to include it in the June exhibition.

So, enthusiastic beginner, talented professional or somewhere in between, get creating.

Work can include sculpture, pottery and any form of 2D media. You can enter up to three pieces, and the maximum size of each piece should be no larger than approximately 1m square.

Entry fees are £5 per piece (£3 if you are under 18) and include an invitation for you and up to two guests to the private view on Friday 9 June.

You can also submit any signed, unframed, cellophane-wrapped work to go in the 'Browser Bar' - which will not incur an entry fee. Fifteen per cent of all sales will be go to the Deddington Festival.

All entries need to be handed in by 1 June to me at Holcombe House, High Street, Deddington, OX15 7TJ 07906 771038.

Fiona Smith

art@deddingtonfestival.org.uk

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WELL REMEMBERED

Jim Flux 1934–2017

Jim Flux was one of the foundation stones of this community. He died suddenly, surrounded by friends, doing something he loved, almost exactly four years after Jean passed away.

Jim will be an impossible act to follow and his death is a great loss to the parish as he filled his retirement, serving this community in many ways, both seen and unseen.

He was chairman of the Parish Council three times for a total of twelve years and sat as a councillor for twenty-three. If ever there was a parish project, you could be sure that Jim would be the first to volunteer for it.

He was a trustee of the Holly Tree Club, the treasurer of the Windmill Centre, trustee and treasurer of the Thursday Club and treasurer of the Friends of Deddington Library. With the recent changes to the library service, Jim's contribution helped to form the current Community Library Model and led to the formation of a robust and secure arrangement that earned him great praise from Oxfordshire County Council's Community Library team. He was involved in the production of the 1994 parish appraisal, the 2007 parish plan and was an important contributor to the emerging Deddington Neighbourhood Plan.

Jim sat as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Cherwell District Council for a number of years and helped to forge strong links between the parish council and our district and county colleagues.

He helped in securing super-fast broadband for this community and always turned out for speed watch events with Thames Valley Police.

He contributed to numerous teams, clubs and societies within the parish. His support, advice and fundraising abilities were well received and well regarded especially by the Cricket Club.

As a member of Deddington Players Jim was a familiar figure and he thoroughly enjoyed his time entertaining us. Jim had several strong guiding aims for the Players – that it should be as professional as possible, that ticket and membership prices should be set low and that all members, whatever their age or ability, should be encouraged to take part and have an active role. This year would have been his twenty-fifth appearance as a dame but he would have been first to insist that the show must go on.

He was also active further afield. Jim helped to set up the first care centre in the country for the Princess Royal's Trust for Carers. He invested a lot of time with the Cherwell Community and Voluntary Service and helped to run a furniture recycling store in Banbury.

His efforts were justly recognised in 2007 when he was awarded an MBE and he was also a recipient of the High Sheriff's award.

He was a scout, a bell ringer, a military man and a business manager. He loved his family dearly and spoke caringly of them often.

Jim's door was always open, no task was too small, no hour of the day too early or too late. His memory was both sharp and prodigious, his wit was rapier and he held true to his values.

He was dogged, fought for what was right, supported those who needed it, stood by his principles and was a true and honourable man.

We were stronger with him and we are weaker without him. Both a polymath and a polyglot he was our champion and our servant.

On behalf of the parish council and all in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, thank you Jim for your enormous contribution to all our lives.

David Rogers
Chairman
Deddington Parish Council

We Will Remember Jim

He is gone but not forgotten,
A father, a grandfather, a friend,
We will remember him.
The forthright voice, a busy man
A heart full: to do what was right
He lived life varied, so full
A stair to climb, a bell to ring
A stage to tread, with words read
A cause to help, some way, some how
Birds to watch, dogs to walk
With time to give, a life to live
A wife to mourn, a family to love
Friends to lunch with, wine to drink
A village to grow, a church to believe
He did so much, touched all he met
No angel but a man with faults and all
he laughed, he cried, he argued and he cared
a man who filled the hours of the day
he had travelled far, experienced much
created memories in all he touched.
He believed in home, community and country
we all have thoughts of him
each memory to be cherished and some to share
we say goodbye to a man much loved.
He will be missed by all,
He is gone but not forgotten:
We will remember Jim,
a father, a grandfather, a friend.

Meriel Flux

Further tributes are available on Deddington Online Extra Time at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/news/extratime>.

The Joys of Allotmenteeing

They probably don't know it, but the Satin Lane allotmenters are the trendiest of people. Across the UK, an increasing number of people want to grow their own food. Be it for reasons of food security, health and wellbeing, the environment, financial benefit or even community involvement, all are fuelling the ever-growing grow-your-own trend. It's hardly surprising, therefore, that in the UK it is estimated that over 90,000 people are on extensive waiting lists.

We are not only incredibly fortunate in Deddington to have access to beautiful allotment plots, but also uniquely enjoy a non-existent waiting list. There are, in fact, even a couple of plots available which the committee would like to see occupied.

Delightfully located on the edge of the village, overlooking the fields and countryside beyond, the Satin Lane allotments are a true community treasure. Endearingly, these village plots have been worked over generations, where third generation allotmenters are still diligently working the plots today.

First established in 1925 on then Christ Church, Oxford, owned land, with just a handful of plots, the allotments have grown to accommodate the current 47 plot maximum. Under the diligent management of the chair, Lynda Lake-Stewart, an allotment society was established in 2008 to act as the liaison between the

parish council and plot holders. Since then, the site has been developed to accommodate the current plot maximum, provide water troughs, ensure the site and plots are well maintained and, of course, unite new plot holders and expectant plots.

Admittedly, allotmenteeing is not for the faint-hearted. Breaking through the largely un-dug ground can be tough, but with a little perseverance one can reap the benefits in relatively little time. With help, patience and shortcut tips from fellow allotmenters, even the toughest of weeds can be tamed. There is truly no greater reward than serving up one's own produce or filling the house with one's own cut flowers.

The social connectedness that comes with an allotment is refreshingly inspiring. Especially so, for those who, like myself two years ago, have just moved to the village and community. Fellow allotment holders are always keen to impart some advice and offer a guiding hand.

We are keen to see the vacant plots occupied and beaming with new produce. If you'd be interested to take on a plot, please contact the allotment committee.

Allotments are after all the new black ...

Petra Hoyer Millar

Allotment Committee Member

petra@oxoniangardener.co.uk

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LETTERS

FROM DAVID GEBBELS, CLIFTON
*Email sent to Cherwell District
 Council Environmental Services*

I took the opportunity this morning on my daily cycle trip to Deddington to congratulate a member of your team who was patiently picking up and bagging an incredible volume of debris littering the verges of Clifton road. The sheer variety of discarded rubbish dumped from vehicles beggars belief but my guess is that supportive responses to you are few and far between so I should like to say thank you to your team, not only in this respect but also for the routine household bin collections which in this neck of the woods is done very efficiently.

FROM BRYN WILLIAMS, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
 I know for sure that I'll not be the first or the last to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Jim Flux who tragically passed away on Sunday 8 January, almost exactly four years after his soulmate and wife, Jean, died.

To call Jim a pillar of our community would do him a great disservice. He transcended that and some more. He was ever present in anything and everything that benefited not only the parish of Deddington, which he dearly loved, but the wider community and district too,



Please address all letters to:
 JILL CHEESEMAN
 37 THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON
 letters@deddingtonnews.co.uk
 and include your name and address
 even if they are not for publication

being active in many of Cherwell and Oxfordshire's charity projects. His often unseen and unheralded work was always to the benefit of others. He was an ever present force for good on the parish council, the chairman for many years and continued unabated since stepping down. The impact of his death and contribution in so many things that happen within our community will be felt for months,

even years, to come, and we shall miss him more than we shall ever know. Whether you knew him directly or not, you'll certainly have benefited from his love and devotion to Deddington.

FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT, HIGH STREET
 I'd very much like to express my thanks to everyone who came to the Christmas Eve carols, for coming and singing and for raising over £1,000 for Katharine House. I am extremely grateful to the many people who unfailingly give their time and effort or equipment to help organising and running it. Many thanks also to a number of businesses from the community who continue to support by contributions: the Crown and Tuns, the British Legion, Deddington Arms, Peach Pubs, Eagles, the Mid-Counties Co-op, May Fu 2, Bengal Spice, the Unicorn and the Calcutts.

FROM MERIEL FLUX, ROWENA, OSCAR
 AND CONNIE PULLAN

We want to thank everyone for all the cards, letters and emails that we have received since Jim's passing. It has been amazing and heart warming to see how much he meant to the village and have a window on all he did and all he touched. We have been sustained and comforted by all the kind thoughts and support expressed by so many people.

Friends of the Castle Grounds

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 22 March at the Unicorn at 7.30pm. Please come along and hear about the work that has been carried out this year and our plans for 2017. Become a member or join the committee, we would be delighted to see you.

Some plans for this year include moving the piles of dead wood, shredding and spreading it over the banks, repairing and painting the benches and the maintenance of the flower mats to encourage growth for this year.

The Friends are listed under Clubs on Deddington OnLine at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory/category/clubs-and-societies> with a link to some lovely old photos. A membership form can also be downloaded.

Come and join like-minded people who want to preserve and enjoy the heritage of this wonderful historic site.

Carol Garrett carolgarrett8@gmail.com

CALYPSO EVENING WITH SOFIA'S STEEL BAND



**SATURDAY 25TH March
 7-30pm IN THE
 PARISH CHURCH**

**Join in at our Caribbean event
 Wear your brightest clothes!
 Bar available
 Limbo competition for families**

**PLEASE BUY TICKETS BY 19TH MARCH
 £15 PER ADULT, £5 PER CHILD under 15**

**£35 FOR FAMILY
 OF 2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN
 (a drink and light supper included)**

**Tickets from Flower Shop,
 Steve Miller Salon, Market Place,
 or phone 01869 338082**

Sponsored by Friends of Deddington Church

Friends of Deddington Church: A Very Short History

As I type this notice, the view from my window is positively spring-like, certainly pretty good for mid-February. I imagine many of us are beginning to feel more optimistic as the days lengthen and we begin to look forward to stretching our legs a bit. So this seems a good time to note our plans for this year and also to present a short retrospective.

FODC was set up tentatively almost five years ago at the request of the then vicar, Hugh White, as an organisation to mobilise the support of the many Deddingtonians who valued our church and its central role in village life, but were not necessarily regular churchgoers. Our governing document was produced at a meeting attended by Hugh, Iain Gillespie, Kristin Thompson and myself, on 28 February 2012. Work began immediately on enrolling members and appointing a committee. Since then our goal has been to organise attractive events designed to appeal to a good cross-section of our village community. We believe we have had some success in this and certainly are fortunate in the assistance we have received, not only from FODC members but others who share our goal of contributing to the costs of supporting our beautiful church. We have also tried to learn from our organisational experiences.

Particularly successful was the calypso evening of a couple of years ago, featuring an excellent steel

band. On the initiative of Wendy Burrows, we are set to repeat this event on 25 March. Given the quality and vitality of the music we expect it to be every bit as enjoyable as last time. By the end of March we might already be tasting some spring weather, and so will be ready for a celebratory event. Later in the year we are also planning to repeat last year's highly successful Harvest Ceilidh (aka Barn Dance) and supper. This will be organised in conjunction with both Deddington Primary School PTA and a team from the church who are expert at planning the provision of food for social events.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Charles Barker as the fourth member of our small committee. Charles is committed generally to raising funds to support improvements in the church and so is working also with organisers of the Flower Festival, a delightful event due to take place in July. In the coming months you will be hearing more of this. Meantime we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our March event and, of course, new members of FODC are always welcome. Information leaflets are in the church, or look at our website (www.fodc.org.uk), or contact me directly.

Lesley Milroy, Chair
01869 337614
amilroy@umich.edu





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BOOKING ESSENTIAL

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

The church of St Peter and St Paul (other religious worship venues are available) is arranging a Flower Festival on 8–9 July to brighten our lives and to raise money to keep this essential centre of community activity in tip-top condition – a centre even an atheist finds valuable. To this end Clifton is preparing an entry to celebrate life in Lower Larkrise and these efforts are being co-ordinated by our very own Fauna Tsar who has raised a team of fellow enthusiasts including Jill and Terri to show Candleford what we are made of. Any other volunteers please get in touch.

Do you remember those days of exams and the sick empty feeling waiting for the results to come through? Have you ever experienced an examination where the results are offered shortly after your best efforts (your driving test is something of a simile – if you're one of the three readers that doesn't understand simile look it up). Well, Lower Larkrise has recently been the beneficiary of this type of verdict when Bryn Williams and David Rogers (two 'Head Men of Candleford', for those of you old enough to remember this term from our history) weighed in with Tim and Rebecca to guide

the planning permission through CDC to allow the final part of the changes to the Duck to go through. I could tell you a story of hard work on this but I don't want to get the hard worker into trouble. These changes won't be done before opening, however, but we are all glad to see the sign back. Watch this space and social media for news of the opening where I for one will stand Bryn and David a pint.

There is also the plan to re-register a Una Stubbs team for this season, so you've all got that nonsense to look forward to. Some of us really can't wait as Book Club members have been kicking their heels and their intellect has been declining due to the lack of regular stimulation.

And finally this correspondent is aware of newcomers who have failed to make it onto my radar screen – so please get in touch so we can manage a proper welcome.

Any news, please keep it coming,

Martin Bryce
martinbryce@gmail.com

Home-hunters – Alert!

The new estate on School Ground is springing up before our eyes. Now is the time to be thinking about 'affordable' housing. Of the 85 homes being built on the site, 30 will be what is called 'affordable' and, of these, 21 will be for rent to people on Cherwell District Council's housing register.

Deddington people will have priority for at least half of these 21 homes but currently there are only *three* Deddington people on the housing register. So waste no time to check whether you're eligible. Until recently it was difficult to get on the register unless you were vulnerable or lived in seriously overcrowded or unsuitable conditions, but the criteria have been relaxed since new developments have been cropping up all over the district, each containing at least 30% affordable housing.

For example, it used to be the case that if you were living with your parents you were not eligible – after all, you weren't homeless. Now you can join the register. Likewise, if you're in financial hardship and have problems paying the rent for your current accommodation, you might now be included. Key workers, that is paramedics, nurses, teachers, firemen and so on, get a look in too.

The housing register has three bands in order of need and priority plus a reserve section. But for this estate, in this parish, a strong Deddington connection should put you at the top of the list. Go to the council's website <http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1838> or ring them on 01295 227001 for more information.

By the way, affordable in the rental context means 80% (or 75% if we're lucky) of the average market rent

of similar accommodation across Cherwell district.

The remaining nine affordable houses on the site will be offered for shared ownership. You do not have to be on the house register to qualify for these. You simply have to be a first-time buyer with a household income of less than £80,000 a year. The way it works, you buy a share, between 25% and 75%, of the value of the house with a mortgage and pay rent on the rest. As time passes and you have more money to spare you can increase your share. If you're interested and want to find out more the government Help to Buy website is the place to look, www.helptobuy.gov.uk/shared-ownership/, or ring 0800 456 1188.

The affordable rental properties, to be owned and managed by Stonewater Homes, will include six one-bedroom maisonettes, one one-bedroom bungalow, 12 two-bed houses and three three-bed houses. For shared ownership there'll be eight two-bedroom houses, and one three-bedroom house available. Once you're on the housing register, you need to keep a close eye on the CDC housing website. Properties for rent are listed six weeks before they're ready for tenants to move in.

Turning to matters that are more the concern of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, the two questions we'd like you to answer are now on Survey Monkey, www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DYZDT6F, and a leaflet should be dropping through your letterbox any day now. It should only take a few minutes to fill in, and we'd really like to know what you think.

Helen Oldfield
helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk
www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Book Group

January's book, *I am Pilgrim*, by Terry Hayes is an inventive and complex tale of espionage and world terrorism written in almost the combined style of Ian Fleming and John le Carré. It is thought-provoking and pertinent to current global politics and society. Although fluently written and a page turner it is a very long book which requires reading in detail and some felt it would have been better in two or even three successive novels.

March's choice is *Exposure* by Helen Dunmore. The meeting is on 30 March. Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for further details.

John Sampson

Deddington and District History Society

Unfortunately, our February speaker was unable to attend through illness. We sent our best wishes for a speedy recovery and he has promised to come later in the year. We were left, as our chairman would say, 'to his tender mercies' as a stand-in speaker. The talk was entitled 'Oxfordshire Places' but could also have been called 'Things aren't always what they seem'.

Basing his talk on his experiences whilst working for the Victoria County History, he led us through a very interesting time, exploring some of the mysteries he encountered such as, why is Combe, a village whose name means valley, sited on a hill? And how did a window in a house that overlooks the 17th century lock-up which once belonged to the jailor come to be? In village folk lore the window was there so that the jailor could look over the lock-up to monitor the prisoners' behaviour. Enquiring of the owner of the house, Chris established that the window had been put in, in 1947, to give more light into the attic: the village remained convinced that their version was true. People are very reluctant to give up stories which have become part of their history.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and we would all like to thank Chris Day for stepping into the breach. Whilst not the published talk, it was entertaining, informative and delivered in Chris's usual genial manner; well worth listening to.

We have a treat in store on Wednesday 8 March when Brian Lowe will give an illustrated talk on the stained glass of Oxford. As usual, we will meet at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Moira Byast, Secretary
01869 338637

Photographic Society

In February, member Paul Brewerton gave a presentation on 'Alaska and the Yukon'. Starting with a boat trip and sunrise at 4.30am up Prince William Sound, he showed fascinating photographs of orca killer whales, sea otter, humpbacked whale, sea lions, seals, horned puffin, and beautiful blue-hued ice floes. Fur-

ther along was the Drunken Forest, with trees – black spruce, larch, willow and aspen – growing despite the permafrost. Then he travelled via the Alcan Highway, Carcross Town, White Pass Railway, the railway terminus at Skagway with its impressive black and red engines, Klondike Gold Fields Mine, Chilkoot Pass and on to the Yukon River.

Wonderful autumn colours were seen in the Alaska Rift Valley. From Midnight Dome, the boat moved to Dawson City, the former capital city of Yukon, then to Bonanza Creek where the great Gold Rush started. Diamond Tooth Gertie's Saloon with colourfully dressed can-can dancers, was interesting, as was the river crossing on the Yukon Ferry. We saw the oil pipeline from Prudoe Bay to Valdez, which is resistant to seismic shock due to its zigzag design, some Iditarod dogs, a chum salmon smokehouse, and a stunning chief's mink, beaver and ermine coat (valued at US\$80,000!), going by train from Fairbanks to Anchorage and snow-dusted Denali National Park (Mt Denali – 20,368 ft), with moose, ptarmigan, eagles and bears.

This was a well-recorded trip with photographs showing the breath-taking beauty and vastness of the Alaskan landscape and wildlife, all of which delighted Paul's audience.

The next club night is 1 March when Robert Harvey will give a presentation on 'By the Sea: The Wild Edge of Britain'. The workshop on 'Table-top Photography' is on 15 March led by member, Martyn Pearse. All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Wendy Meagher
www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington Original Golf Society

The DOGS Corporate Hospitality Manager, Nigel Oddy, has now finalised plans for our annual weekend golf tour on Sunday 9 and Monday 10 July. Accommodation is at the Cumberland Hotel, Bournemouth, www.cumberlandbournemouth.co.uk, and the weekend consists of one night dinner, bed and breakfast, golf on Sunday at Didsbury Golf Club, Ferndown, and golf on Monday at the Dorset Golf and Country Club, near Wareham. The cost is £179pp for golfers and £99pp for non-golfers. Additional accommodation on Saturday 8 July is £75pp bed and breakfast (single supplement charge of £33). If you would like to attend, please contact Nigel Oddy at nigeloddy@yahoo.com.

Tony Lowe, Chairman
Tonylowe0772gmail.com

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results:

14.01.17	Banbury Utd Youth 1st (h)	(CUP) D 2–2
21.01.17	Woodford Utd Res (a)	L 1–3
28.01.17	Sinclair Utd (h)	W 2–0
11.02.17	Broughton & N N (h)	D 1–1

CALLING MORE CLUBS

Reserve Team results:

14.01.17 Chesterton (a) L 1–5
 28.01.17 Bloxham (a) L 2–4
 04.02.17 Banbury Utd Youth 1st W 3–1

Not a month to write home about in the depths of winter, as both teams flailed in a swamp of inferiority. Just one win for the First Team has left them too far adrift of the top to make a real push for the title, while the Reserves continue to sink. Their win over Banbury Youth was crucial though, as this is the team directly above them, and it keeps them in touch with survival. If anyone knows a witch-doctor, please call them as we need some black (and white) magic to get us out of this mess.

Don't forget to check out www.deddingtontownfc.com for more match reports and stats.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Youth Section

The Under 16s playing in the Midland Junior Premier League had a 5–0 defeat at Tipton Town, followed by an 8–0 victory of Gresley and 3–0 home win over Central Ajax Colts. This was followed by a 4–3 defeat on penalties after the game ended 2–2 in normal time to Tamworth in the MJPL Trophy Cup. In the Witney and District Youth Football League, the Under 15s had just one match – a 5–0 win over Croughton Colts in the Under 15 Knockout Cup. The Under 13s playing in the C League had a 7–0 defeat away at Freeland, followed by a 6–1 win over Launton Boys with Sam Godfrey scoring four goals, and a narrow 4–5 home defeat to Bicester Town Colts Stars, with Sam Godfrey scoring a hat-trick. The Under 12 Sharks playing in the B League have had a good month with three wins – an 8–3 win over Witney Vikings Youth with Freddie Murfitt scoring four goals, a 3–2 win over Banbury United Youth with a Felix Norman hat-trick, and a 3–2 away win at Charlbury Town Youth. The Under 12 Cobras playing in the C League had three defeats this month – a 5–0 home defeat to Carterton, a 4–1 defeat away at Chadlington, and a 3–1 home defeat to Witney Vikings Warriors.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website www.deddingtontownfc.com or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

Assistant Club Secretary

We are seeking an Assistant Club Secretary to help the Club Secretary with the week to week running of the Youth Section. Duties would involve supporting the Club Secretary by liaising with the league, club managers and coaches, and supporting administration tasks to enable the successful running of the club. Full training would be provided. If you are interested in the role or require more information please email martin.hovard@btinternet.com or deddingtontownfootball-club@gmail.com.

club@gmail.com.

Club web shop

We now have a dedicated online club web shop. If you want to purchase any branded Nike kit then go to www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/deddingtontownfc/.

Roger Sykes,
Development Officer and U7/U6 Coach
01869 337034

Deddington Guides

We're getting well into our stride after the New Year break, fit and full of enthusiasm for another busy term.

Our Patrol activities are in full swing, with the Guides having lots of exciting activities preparing for various badges and awards. In the middle of this they have started rehearsals for our grand production later this term in aid of charities which the Guides will choose. More news next month.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marion Trinder 01869340806

Catherine Blackburn

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

We welcomed a new Cub at the start of the term, Tristan, we hope he enjoys his time with us.

After practising our catapult building, five Cubs, Jonathan, Sam, Jack, Bailey and Dominic, went to represent us at the district Scrapheap Challenge and Bailey and Dominic came second out of thirty-five teams – brilliant! Since then the Cubs have finished their World Challenge and gained the International Activity Badge by looking at aspects of Maori life. They made totem poles, learnt Maori words and tried to understand their beliefs culminating in an evening of dressing up (including tattoos), feasting and some of the scariest Haka's ever seen. We have also contacted a group from Hamilton, NZ.

We finished half-term with a trip to the bowling alley.

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts spent the first half of the term learning about the history of the village. We started by looking at the derivation of local street names and studying some old maps of the area, trying to spot the differences between 1812 and 1899 (never knew there was a race track in Banbury). The Scouts then divided into groups and after finding information about interesting buildings, they led a tour around the village.

We also went bowling – not a lot of style but good scores all the same. A small but dedicated group of Scouts spent a morning cleaning play equipment and the bus shelter in Hempton, nice job.

Pete Churchyard
pete.churchyard@gmail.com

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

Spartans Explorer Scout Unit

The new Explorer committee has been organising the recent meetings. So far, we've been ten pin bowling as part of the International Jambowleree, made music and had a martial arts evening. Nothing if not varied.

Well done to everyone in the panto this year – the boys all enjoyed it very much.

Contact Janet Duxbury
01608 737959

spartansexplorers@gmail.com

Women's Institute

We had a very good attendance for our February meeting. After the business side was taken care of, Mary Gregory gave an excellent talk. She had been to Uganda to see the gorillas in the national park. It was fascinating to hear of the rules that tourist groups must abide by. Gorillas are extremely susceptible to diseases from humans. Nobody is allowed to approach nearer than seven metres but, as Mary pointed out, gorillas aren't very good at measuring. She had some wonderful photographs. We also saw some bird life and a troupe of chimpanzees. After the talk a collection was taken for the ACWW which helps some of the poor worldwide to become self-sufficient. It is almost self-financing over the years.

In March we are going to have a lunch. The annual meeting for the election of officers takes place on 14 March followed by a cheese and wine supper.

Julia Hobbs

Deddington Players

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 27 March at 7.00pm at the Deddington Arms. Contact me for further information.

Suzie Upson
07717 205051

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

Juniors and Company sections have been celebrating Chinese New Year and good fun was had. The Juniors have been practising their figure marching and are getting rather good at it. The Company section got outdoors on the last meeting of the half-term and we went out on a night hike in near perfect walking conditions.

The football competition at the end of January was well attended and we came second in the Company section competition. At that event, our very own Heidi was awarded the winner's prize from the Battalion Secretary for her entry in the Christmas colouring competition. Well done, Heidi.

March sees us looking at lots of good stuff to do with Fairtrade Fortnight, Mothering Sunday and Easter. No doubt there will be lots of crafting going on for Mothering Sunday and Easter gifts and I suspect chocolate will be featuring quite a bit.

We are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers so if you have any to spare please pop them into the collecting-box in the church.

Jen Childs, Leader
jen.childs@btinternet.com

Deddington Ladies Netball Club

We meet on Wednesdays 6.30–7.30pm at the Windmill Centre All Weather Pitch, £3 per session. Pull on your trainers and join us. Contact me for further information.

Suzie Upson
07717 205051

Deddington Cricket Club

The 2017 season is approaching fast. Our first fixture is on 29 April. Our thoughts are now focusing on pitch preparation and checking the health of our equipment, such as mowers and roller. Help will be needed from members. Those available please contact Simon Oldfield, simon.oldfield0@gmail.com.

New members will be made very welcome, male and female. Come and join this very friendly club. Contact Sam Shadbolt, sam.shadbolt@googlemail.com. We put out two teams every Saturday.

We are very grateful for the support of our Vice Presidents and advertisers in our fixture card.

We would like to resurrect our junior section, ages 10-15. To do this we need some enthusiastic person to organise it. We are hoping to cooperate with the Football Club who have many junior members.

Let's hope it's a good summer to look forward to.

Derek Cheeseman, President
derekfcheeseman@gmail.com
01869 338609

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Once again I sit at the computer and wonder what I should write about this month as no-one has sent me any news.

Plans are in the pipeline for some re-ordering of things at the church which would make it more accessible for different events and services but we have to wait for approval from the diocese which takes time.

The Old School Room is being used quite often by different organisations which is nice. It is a good community space for small events. It's good to see all the spring flowers coming up in the grass verges and it always reminds me of the late Mr Dennis Washington who, along with residents on the Duns Tew Road, had them planted many years ago.

The parish council will once again be holding their monthly meeting in the Old School Room on Wednesday 15 March at 7.30pm. Please go along if you have anything to say to them.

Les Chappell 01869 338054

Concerts in Deddington Church

On Saturday 18 March at 7.30pm the Banbury Symphony Orchestra invites you to come and hear Mahler's magnificent, ground-breaking but rarely performed, first symphony, *The Titan*.

The programme will also include:

Neilsen – Overture from *Maskarade*

Tchaikovsky – *Francesca da Rimini*

The organisation's publicity information says 'Please be aware that the huge orchestral resources required for this work means that space for audience members will be more limited than normal. You are advised to buy tickets early.' These are available by going online at <https://tinyurl.com/hfnjimmy>.

On a personal note, I have been supporting music in Deddington Church ever since I arrived here 20 years ago. At 82 my own musical skills are on the decline and even the preparation of Musical Notes for the *Deddington News* is an increasingly difficult task. You will be reading this in March. I will send in notes for the April edition of *DN* but that will be my last. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in picking up the baton, do please contact me.

Donald Lane

donald199@btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF DAEDA'S WOOD

The bat boxes constructed by Boys Brigade are in fact bird nesting-boxes, not that the wildlife will be confused since they are decorated in pearlescent acrylic paints and colourful feathers of which any Mardi Gras carnival would be proud. You might wrongly assume that the not-neat joints and misaligned sides denote poor workmanship, but the reality is that the children purposely allowed the entry of light so that the nestlings would not fear the dark. Apparently birds will enlarge the entry hole to ensure good access and various species might well take turns to use the same box, so keep watching and let me know what you see.

Our wood is going to feature in the Woodland Trust's magazine, *Broad oak* soon, which all Woodland Trust members and registered Friends volunteers receive.

Do take a walk down to the wood and also look at the Woodland Trust website which shows a number of stunning photos as well as giving detailed information about the species of trees and management plan.

If you would like to become a Friend of Daeda's Wood and be entitled to come to our AGM in April (date tbc), it costs £5 per year. If you join as a new member this month you need pay nothing more until April 2018.

Annette Murphy, Chair

annette-orchard@live.co.uk

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



What a busy term we have had so far; our Foundation class has celebrated the Chinese New Year with a trip to the May Fu 2 to try Chinese food whilst Year 4 has visited Harry Potter World to fire their imagination for some fantastic writing opportunities.

Year 1 children have become palaeontologists, digging for dinosaur bones and finding fossils fascinating. Year 6 visited Junior Citizens to help them understand how to be safe in every day life.

Years 3 and 4 had a Stone Age Day where they made arrowheads and built an Iron Age roundhouse in the hall. When asked what his favourite part of the day was, a Year 3 pupil said 'Stone Age day was the best; my favourite bit was ... everything!'

Year 5 has been enjoying their brass lessons and are persevering to improve, just like Year 2 children who are making great progress learning the ukulele; they have graduated to playing C and F chords to enable them to learn *Sur Le Pont d'Avignon*, learning French at the same time. The whole school has visited church for the Candle Mass community communion, which proved to be a very thought-provoking but calm time with beautiful singing.

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 2 March and, as reading is one of our focus areas this year, the School Council has planned an entertaining day. Friday 3 March is Fairtrade Day in school. Our Fairtrade Group has organised a non-uniform day where we can wear the Fairtrade colours and a Fairtrade raffle and cake sale will take place. After school you are welcome to visit the stall between 2.45pm and 3.45pm in the Year 3 classroom. We are proud to be a Fairtrade school so do support us if you can.

Finally, we have been given a baby – a baby grand piano. It now sits proudly in the corner of our hall so thank you for a very kind donation.

Anne Hunsley

01869 338430

DEDDINGTON POLICE OFFICE

Please note that there has been a change in the hours. The Police Office is no longer open on Saturday mornings.

'Who Do You Think Your Ancestors Were'?

I'm very excited to announce that Dan Desmond has kindly agreed to give a talk on ancestry research, including DNA genealogy, in the library on Thursday 6 April at 7.30pm.

This is a free ticket-only event. Tickets must be obtained in advance before 30 March from the library. There is a strictly limited number of tickets available on a first come, first served basis.

Dan will include many different areas of ancestry research from getting started, what to look out for and what sort of resources are out there to further your research.

Ongoing we will arrange one-to-one sessions in the library with Dan to get you started in your research. If you've already started, Dan can help to further your research or try to help you unlock doors if you have reached a roadblock.

Ancestry.com and Find My Past are free to use on any of our five library public network computers.

Dan has a wealth of knowledge with these popular global websites as well as many others. He brings extensive knowledge to share with us during the evening which will close with a Q&A session.

Also, available via our library public network PCs are the following research resources: British Library Newspapers Collection, British Newspaper Archive, Newsquest Digital Newspaper Archive – titles include many local newspapers. We also have Newsstand which is an online gateway to full text articles in over 170 national and regional newspaper titles as well as The London Gazette and The Times Digital Archive 1785 to 2010 – a wealth of research material at your fingertips and in your village library. How fabulous is that?

So, if you want to 'Find your Past', contact the library for a ticket to this exclusive event. Notwithstanding, if you can't attend but still want to get involved with Ancestry research or need some help continuing with it, get in touch and we'll aim to arrange a one-to-one session in the library with Dan to help you too.

I'm sure we're looking forward to a very lively and interesting evening – why don't you join us?

Stella O'Neill

Deddington Library Manager

01869 338391

Deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Evil Geniuses and Controlling the News

I had this great idea. I have always fancied that I could write a film script someday. A TV star takes over the White House. Why not, they have already had a movie star. But the twist is the evil genius who sits behind him pulling all the strings. Very James Bond.

Then I woke up and it is all true. While Trump sends out bullying Tweets complaining about his daughter's fight with a department store, the figure of Stephen Bannon is looming large. This is a man who believes in white supremacy, has said that there needs to be an ultimate battle against Islam, and wants to bring down civilisation as we know it.

I thought it would all settle down and I could stop ranting in the pub, in the office, and in postcards to my friends back home. It could all be very funny, bearing in mind the continuous mistakes and daily leaks from the White House. But this is not a movie, this is very dangerous.

The most disturbing issue for me is the rise of 'alternative facts' and the very interesting way in which Trump is fighting with most of the old media outlets. He fought his campaign via Twitter and he is running the country the same way, calling the main news outlets liars, apart of course from Murdoch's Fox. The *New York Times* responds by fact checking his speeches. The bottom line is he makes things up. His spokesperson invented a fictitious incident in Kentucky; the people of Bowling Green were not impressed.

The real problem is that a large section of the

population just laps it up. A recent survey showed 40% of Americans believe things that are simply untrue. Trump's dismissal of the media means that everything is devalued and declining income means the older news outlets become less reliable and the downward spiral continues.

The upside of all this chaos is that the satirists are having a field day. Look on YouTube for Sean Spicer as performed by Melissa McCarthy on SNL on 11 February, it is comedy genius.

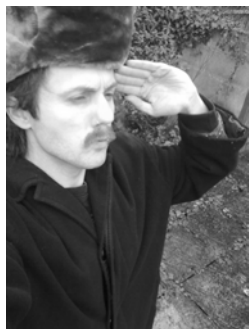
My education of US culture continues as I try to understand this mayhem. I am trying to understand why otherwise sane people still think that this lunatic is a good idea. Hence, I was introduced to the phrase 'GSD', meaning get stuff done or something like that. They think he will solve problems. Some are real problems like the absurd tax structure, and some imagined, like immigration and crime. But most of all they want to feel good about being an American, to be 'great' again. What does it matter if this results in more carnage in the Middle East and a trade war which brings us into recession again? Yes, I am just plain angry now.

At least I have found the answer to why one of the two roundabouts in our area has stop signs on it. The man on the TV said it wasn't a roundabout, it was a 'traffic circle'. Sorry to send such a histrionic postcard. Amerika!

Mike Ward

Mikew@qsoftware.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



If you're anything like me, you give a running commentary, or rather diatribe, on the calamitous driving materialising around you on your commute, shop or school run. It might look ridiculous to outsiders to see you bellowing irately like Murray Walker's evil twin, but it serves a vital social function in relieving inner tension safely. No matter how scarlet

your hue, or how many vulgar words cascade from your maw like frothing bilge water, it is far better than the alternative of a personal meltdown preceding an explosive confrontation.

An erstwhile colleague and rather avuncular raconteur relayed a cautionary tale to me some time back, of a gentleman he had known who had fallen foul of this crucial tenet of social decorum. This fellow had taken umbrage at a rascal who had clearly cut him up at a junction and, rather than rant and rave in the isolation of his driver's cabin, he proceeded to aggressively tailgate the offending vehicle for some way, before dangerously manoeuvring in order to force it to pull over. The hyped-up rebel clearly smelt retribution, as he marched uncompromisingly towards the door of the rogue auto to give him a piece of his mind, but his bravado soon evaporated, as a hulking figure north of six and a half feet unfolded himself from the chassis, wielding a length of steel chain. By the time the rueful aggressor had come around in hospital, he was bewildered to discover that his assailant's poor driving may have been caused by the driver's mental state: he had apparently committed a murder only minutes previous to their encounter.

So, you never can tell what to expect in fraught emotional situations and you don't need to be a professional hostage negotiator to know the value of keeping your cool to avoid a skirmish that will almost certainly never end well, whether it's on the road, at work, or queuing for a newspaper at you-know-where. Stay safe people.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.co

WINDMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

is looking for
a Treasurer

Can you help?

Please contact **Mark Tyler**
on **07836 615887** or
mark4709@gmail.com

BBC TWO

Do you own something broken that you'd love to see restored?

Nestled deep in the British countryside is The Repair Shop, a place where broken and battered beloved artefacts, antiques, and curios come back to life.

In a new Ricochet TV series for BBC Two, a team of Britain's most passionate and skilled crafts people will rescue broken objects and restore them to their former glory.

If you have a damaged heirloom, a prized antique, a loved one's treasured possession, or anything else that needs restoring get in touch now on:

01273 224829 or repair@ricochet.co.uk

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of March 1867:

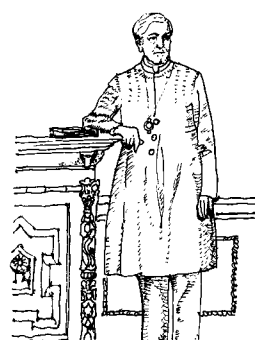
11th March – Snow fell but soon disappeared. Heard from the Archdeacon offering Willy the Curacy at Milton, near Abingdon. Answered his letter with thanks and wrote to Willy enclosing the letter.

12th March – Poor Mr. Stilgoe died this morning aged 73 years. A good and rare specimen of the old English yeomanry, I always respected him.

22nd March – A great quantity of snow fell – I never remember so much snow to have fallen during the month of March – so late in the month.

24th March – A most rapid and complete thaw took place causing a larger flood than had occurred in the oldest man's recollection. Water over the turnpike road at Aynho – running through the ground floor of the Turnpike House many inches deep.

30th March – Went to Town Hall and heard a case of concealment of birth at North Aston – remanded prisoner as the body of any child had not been found. She declared she had never been confined though two medical men both deposed on oath that she had been. Thought we must eventually dismiss the case under the peculiar circumstances unless more positive evidence was produced.



Buffy Heywood

bd.heywood@btinternet.com

Calling all Allotment Holders

Please Remember our Tidy Up
on Sat 4 March, 9.00am–12.00pm
Any time you can give would be
much appreciated