

## THE TEAM

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### JUNE 2017 COPY TO

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by **20 May**

**ADVERTISING COPY**  
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# the Deddington news

It is sad to reflect on the passing of some of our oldest established local institutions: the Royal British Legion Club and the Bowls Club, but encouraging to be reminded of some relative newcomers: the Thursday Club, the Toddler and Baby group and the farmers' market. There is a tendency for it to be the 'blow-ins' who start these groups rather than those who have lived here most of their lives. This was how the *DN* became after all. **JC**

## What's On May

- Tue 2 Oxfordshire Water Blitz day: email [hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk) for more details
- Wed 3 Photographic Society: Mary Spicer on 'Astrophotography', Cartwright Arms, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Thu 4 Local government elections: polling 7.00am–10.00pm
- Sun 7 Teas and Homemade Cakes, Parish Church, 3.00–5.00pm
- Mon 8 DOGS: Ladbroke Park Golf Club, 1.30pm tee-off
- Mon 8 Monday Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
- Tue 9 WI: Resolutions, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
- Wed 10 History Society: David Hood on 'The Malayan Campaign', Windmill, 7.30pm
- Wed 10 Annual Parish Meeting: Windmill Lounge, 7.30pm
- Thur 11 Monday Club: Film Evening, *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, Holly Tree, 6.30pm
- Sun 14 Four Farms Challenge: Castle Grounds, 11.00am
- Sun 14 Teas and Homemade Cakes: Parish Church, 3.00–5.00pm
- Wed 17 Photographic Society: Photo Shoot Workshop, Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
- Sun 21 Teas and Homemade Cakes: Parish Church, 3.00–5.00pm
- Mon 22 Friends of Hempton Church and Old School Room: AGM, 7.00pm
- Sat 27 Farmers' Market: Market Place and Parish Church, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 27 Church Craft Market: Parish Church, 9am–12.30pm
- Sun 28 Teas and Homemade Cakes: Parish Church, 3.00–5.00pm

## June

- Sat 10 Deddington Festival: Kids café
- Sun 11 Deddington Town FC: Youth Presentation, Windmill, 2.00pm
- Sat 24 Satin Lane Allotments: NGS Open Day, 1.00–5.00pm

## July

- Sat 15 Village fête

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 with a box for donations.

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## DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### at the Holly Tree Club, Deddington, 19 April 2017

There was a good turnout of Parish Councillors and our County and District Councillors.

#### Planning

All of the planning applications were passed with the exception of two:

Stonewall, Castle Street, Deddington: it was agreed that the planting of a replacement Leylandii hedge with another Leylandii was unfortunate and a beech or a more sympathetic substitute was suggested.

*Buco Del Muro*, The Tchure Deddington: the enlargement of the gate on to the Tchure was questioned because it would enable greater vehicular access and cause more congestion on what is little more than a walkway.

The Banbury Road development opposite the Fire Station was discussed. The access driveways will not be formally adopted by the County Council. The fear was that this would mean that waste and recycling bins would not be collected from the individual residences. It seems that none of the access driveways to any of the new developments in the surrounding area have been adopted but CDC will nevertheless collect the bins providing the roads are wide enough and there is free access.

The British Legion Club was discussed and it was agreed that DPC had little enthusiasm for taking on responsibility for the building.

#### Environment, Recreation & Highways

The springer on the Wimborne Close playground is to be replaced. The surface of the all-weather court is to be repaired.

A dog poo bin is to be installed in Cosy Lane and a litter bin at Daeda's Wood.

The mixed block and brick wall at the lower end of Satin Lane, which is the only access to the allotments, is in danger of collapsing. The status of the road is unclear but it is assumed that the responsibility for the wall is the householder's. There is a health and safety issue and the DPC insurers will be informed.

As part of Deddington Festival on Sunday 11 June a Deddy-Car-Fest is planned. This will involve the closing of the Market Place access to Hudson Street and the Market Place parking on a similar footprint to the farmers' market. A collection of exotic cars will be on display and there will be an opportunity to buy a

ride. Details to be published closer to the time, all for the benefit of a children's cancer charity.

Various complaints have been directed at DPC regarding parking in the Market Place, High Street and New street. DPC has no powers to do anything about roads and parking which are entirely the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.

Funds have become available for repairing the backlog of potholes reported to OCC.

#### Finance and General Purposes

The parish accounts have been prepared and are ready for audit on 3 May.

A new Allotment Tenancy Agreement for Satin Lane has been drafted and is being discussed.

A series of strategy papers and risk assessments covering investment strategy, financial regulation, and parish activities were discussed and approved with some technical amendments.

#### DPC funds at 31 March

Barclays	£248,060
Nationwide BS	£212,964
Hampshire BS	£76,429
Total	£537,453

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 May in the Windmill Centre.**

**The next DPC meeting and also the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 17 May in the Windmill Centre.**

**Charles Barker**

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter Charles Barker and not the official minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2017.html>.

#### KROK ALERT: DATE CHANGE

Due to unforeseen circumstances the date for the Harvard Krokodiloes concert in Deddington has changed. It will now be on the evening of Tuesday 8 August. Apologies for any confusion. More details in the June edition of *DN*.

### Extra Time

**DN OnLine features page with supplementary stories and pictures**

#### May highlights:

- 'Well Remembered': Alan Rampley, full tribute
- New in DOL History: profiles of Deddington people [www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people)
- Primary School winning hockey team pic

**Make Time for Extra Time** – visit [www.deddington.uk/news/extratime](http://www.deddington.uk/news/extratime)

## FARMERS' MARKET

### YOU HAVE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD

The monthly farmers' market is a Deddington regular. It's easy to take it for granted but there aren't many village markets that offer a carefully curated array of produce from within a 30-mile radius sold by the producers themselves. Estate agents boast of a property's proximity to Soho Farm House but proximity to the market is perhaps a greater asset.

One of the things the market does supremely well whichever stall you get it from is spinach. Spinach that is far away from the supermarket pillow pack that turns into a sullen, smelly, green mulch as soon it hits the salad drawer. Market spinach is robust and packed with flavour – which is really a plea not to try to make this dish with anything but decent spinach.

**Creamed Spinach** (from *The River Cottage Year* by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall), serves 2–4

500g fresh spinach	1 bay leaf
black pepper	small onion, grated
nutmeg	½ carrot, grated
50g butter	300ml milk
25g plain flour	

Wash and trim the spinach. The better the quality the more important this stage is. Real spinach has real mud on it. Some people like to remove the central stalk of the spinach leaf. I think the stalk adds flavour and keep it in.

Blanch the spinach in batches, putting a good

handful into rapidly boiling water and stirring them in. Boil for just a minute then removed with a slotted spoon and refresh in cold water. Squeeze with your hands to extract as much water as possible before chopping roughly.

Grate a small onion and half a carrot into a pan with 300ml milk, a bay leaf, a couple of twists of black pepper and a few gratings of nutmeg. Bring almost to the boil then leave to infuse for ten minutes. Strain the milk into a jug discarding the vegetables.

Melt 50g butter in the pan and stir in 25g flour to get a loose roux. Cook gently for a few minutes, then add half the warm milk. Stir until the sauce is thick and smooth, then add the rest of the milk. Bring to the boil and simmer gently. Stir in the chopped spinach. Heat through but don't overcook. Check the seasoning. You may need to add salt or some grated Parmesan, Gruyere or Cheddar.

You can serve the creamed spinach on its own but it comes into its own as an accompaniment to a juicy grilled steak or a good piece of fish.

For more up to date information about the market and contact details for all the stallholders you can visit the market webpage, [www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk). The market is on Saturday 27 May from 9.00am to 12.30pm.

**Ian Willox 01869 337940**  
[ian@deddingtononair.org](mailto:ian@deddingtononair.org)

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## WELL REMEMBERED

### ALAN RAMPLEY 1947–2017

Alan Rampley was a man much admired and a loyal friend. He was increasingly unwell over the last few months and the family would like to express grateful thanks to Deddington Health Centre, the Horton General Hospital's A&E department, the Rowan Day Centre and critical care unit. Their help, care and support during these recent times is much appreciated.

Alan's family were East Enders although he was born in Loughborough because there was a post-war lack of hospital beds in London.

In his first few years he grew up in a large house with a grandmother, aunts and uncles before moving to their family flat in Finchley, where he remained all through his childhood.

Alan was a member of the Red Cross during his school years, sparking the beginning of his lifetime commitment to serving the community and public in the UK and overseas.

After initially working in a builders' merchants, Alan joined the Metropolitan Police and, during his training in the mid-60s, met Maggie. It was a familiar story of a policeman and nurse falling in love. Their first date was at Battersea Funfair with a host of policemen and nursing friends. They became engaged in a lift at the jewellers before celebrating with a tin of stew from Woollies before night shifts beckoned.

In the heady sixties, there were many scrapes when Alan would cram nurses in the police mini-van to take them to work to save the bus fare, and making headlines when he chased a motorbike on Clapham Common. The motorbike fitted between two trees, Alan's panda car did not.

Alan and Maggie married in 1970 and settled in their flat in Balham where daughter Hazel was born. This was followed by a move to Croydon for a couple of years during which time son Greg arrived. Alan loved his community work in Balham and Tooting with a kaleidoscope of people, gaining respect from all races and factions.

Times were changing in London with increasing violence and bombings. Alan was present at the infamous siege of the American embassy and a safer environment for the family was sought. Joining Thames Valley Police and moving to the police house in Deddington was a success from the start.

Alan took to village life, son Paul arrived and life was a happy round of involvement in playgroup, schools, church, Scouting, Guiding and all manner of village events.

Alan did gain a family reputation for things happening, when they were out. For example, getting involved with lost cows, people having seizures, heath fires, an abandoned woman with baby, shop-lifters, fights and people collapsing on planes.

Alan launched himself fully into his role as Rural

Beat Officer, having many adventures. He dealt with every conceivable emergency including road accidents, rounding up sheep, burglaries and even a murder or two. At the police house there was a steady stream of callers reporting thefts, accidents, missing people, pets, arrivals of drunks, injured animals and people. Alan dealt with them all calmly and with good humour.

Alan worked a lot in schools with children of all ages, as well as being a governor of Warriner School and helping on school trips. Many people still remember the talks he gave in schools.

Alan was one of the last of the old village bobbies and many a young person has been given a few chosen words which kept them from straying. The family has received many tributes from people who have said how grateful they were for his support.

In Deddington, Alan was a committed Scout leader, taking them on hikes, camps, training them and Guides and leaders in first aid.

As a Police Officer he was in the force first aid team, travelling to competitions around the UK.

After 31 years as a Police Officer on active service and a spell in crime prevention, he was asked to write a job description and list the qualifications for someone to set up a Police First Aid department. He was rewarded as being the only person qualified for the job. So began the last phase of his career as a civilian in charge of a growing first aid department, responsible for training the whole of TVP.

As a trainer with St John's, he helped write material guidelines for training members in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Trinidad.

He was a key person in the Tour de Trigs and played a major part on committees and on the activity weekend itself. He was a roving marshal solving problems and encouraging participants to complete the 30 or 50 miles. When all the equipment was lost last year Alan was at the forefront of getting it replaced by sponsors.

After retiring, his commitment to helping others with his First Aid and volunteer hospital driving continued. Retirement allowed Alan's passion for steam trains to come to the fore with the Gloucester and Warwick railway.

The family moved to Adderbury in 1985. Alan was hugely proud of his children and grandchildren and their achievements, showing them love and support in everything. Alan was always a loving and protective husband and showed great support to Maggie in all she did, especially in Guiding and her work at the nursing home. As many people have said he was a big character. He loved being with people and will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by so many.

**Ron Sangster**

## CHURCH AND CHAPEL

### May

#### 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 the fourth Wednesday of the month)
Thu	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	2.30pm	onwards, Teas in Church

Sun 7	9.30am	Little Saints (an informal service for babies, toddlers, young children and parents)
	10.30am	Café Church (an informal gathering, preceded by breakfast at 10.00am with a talk, craft activities for the children and singing)
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 14	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 21	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 28	10.30am	Holy Communion (said service)

#### Hempton

Sun 7	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 21	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 28	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

#### Barford St Michael

Sun 7	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 14	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 21	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 28	9.00am	Holy Communion

#### From the Parish Register

##### Funeral

31 March David Blakey

##### Memorial

4 April Alan Rampley

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

Sun 7	George Pearce
Sun 21	Wendy Manley
Sun 28	Maurice Nicholls

**Pastor Isabel Walton 01869 337157**

#### RC Parish of Hethe

**Father 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 Ordinary Rite and at noon in the Latin Extraordinary Rite. There are two Masses on Sunday, at 10.00am in the Ordinary Rite and at 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 Sunday at SS Peter and Paul's Anglican church in King's 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>.

## DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

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

**3rd May** – Our cook, Mary Bates, left preparatory to being married. I heard from Mary Parry at Cheltenham who was a Baptist and so I could not engage her.

**7th May** – I visited Westminster Hall and went into all the Courts. I saw the M.P.s enter the House.

**8th May** – I started for Eastbourne and stayed there until the 11th.

**13th May** – A man from Clifton came and stated that Dr. Wise from Banbury would get him into one of the

London hospitals (as a cripple) if I would pay his fare to London – I gave him the necessary sum.

**17th May** – Heard a vagrancy case against John Gardner of this place for leaving his wife and family chargeable to the Union – adjourned the case.

**23rd May** – A very cold day – it snowed about 7am.

**27th May** – Holford went into Yeomanry Quarters at Woodstock.

**Buffy Heywood**  
[bd.heywood@btinternet.com](mailto:bd.heywood@btinternet.com)

## Blissful Thinking

The familiar is always comforting. It's why we light up at spotting allies across a crowded Red Lion or long for mother in times of vulnerability. We prefer to sleep in our own beds at home and eat our own food abroad. It's always slightly disconcerted me that there is no way for us to describe something which is outside of our current paradigms of comprehension; if I were to witness something with no discernable existing reference points, how could I describe it? If it didn't resemble man or beast in any feature or characteristic, if it showed as a shade unlike any on the known colour spectrum, I would not have the linguistic tools at my disposal to evoke its composition in another.

This triggers something of a whimsical melancholy in me: imagining that everything I ever come into contact with is just a part-imitation of everything else, with no true originality or hope of something unimaginable cracking the veneer of viscous verisimilitude. Then again, sometimes the familiar can become completely alien, as when one gazes into one's own iris deeply enough to start seeing strange corals, stars and kaleidoscope shapes unlike anything ... ah. And what's with the momentous Droste effect as you examine your full reflection in your own pupil? You go from being meaningless to infinite in the LITERAL blink of an eye! I knew I should have paid attention in fractal geometry.

**Aaron Bliss**

[aaronjbliss@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronjbliss@hotmail.com)

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It is with great regret that the RBL Branch and Club committees have recognised that the cost of maintaining the building we have occupied since 1925 is now beyond our means. Club membership has fallen to a level which cannot generate the surplus income needed to pay for what are now substantial repairs to the exterior of the building. The Club will therefore cease trading on a date to be decided but by the end of September.

Under the terms of the deed by which we have occupied the building the Trustees have offered it to the Parish Council. The PC, as is their right, have asked the Trustees to sell it and offer its sale value in lieu. The building will therefore be sold.

I must stress that the Branch is not closing and we will continue to raise funds via the Poppy Day Appeal and to parade our standard on Remembrance Day and other occasions.

This will require some rethinking of where we meet and how we maintain our activities and I will have more to say on this in due course. I can say now that we urgently require some volunteers to help with Poppy Day collecting. There is no need to be on the committee - although you are very welcome to join it - but if you would like to help us with this annual event I would be very pleased to hear from you.

**Rob Forsyth, Chair Deddington Branch RBL**

01869 338384 [robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com)



**DEDDINGTON FOUR FARMS  
CHALLENGE**

**Sunday 14th May 2017**

The Deddington Four Farms Challenge is a 5km and 10km run around the picturesque parish of Deddington. The event is open to all, and has something to offer experienced runners, fun runners and families alike.

**Registration is now open**

visit [www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk)

email: [info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk](mailto:info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk)



Raising funds for Registered Charities: Deddington Primary School PTA (1052715), Deddington Village Nursery and PFSU (1100275) and The Firefighters Charity (1093387)



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## DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

The ancestry and family history event, 'Who Do You Think Your Ancestors Were?' held at the library on 6 April was a great success. Huge thanks to Dan and Gail for presenting such an informative and interesting session, ranging from what research websites are available, how to access them, how to further your research and get the most out of the library facilities as well as your own memberships to ancestry sites, to Dan's experiences with DNA genealogy too. Gail produced packs full of useful information, leaflets and website details for everyone. This was supplemented by all sorts of leaflets on research in Ireland and Scotland amongst others that she'd picked up at the 'Who Do You Think You Are?' exhibition at the NEC the same day.

Thanks also to Dan and Catherine Desmond for providing such lovely refreshments for the evening. It was incredibly generous of you both and much appreciated, thank you. The attendees' feedback on the session was excellent too (and on the black olive tapenade) and an enjoyable evening was had by us all. Many signed up for one-to-one sessions with Dan and Gail to take their research forward, as well as borrowing books on Family History research, while some also made a start exploring their ancestry on our PCs to see who they could find towards the end of the session too.

Rhyme-time for under 5s and families took a break

over the Easter holidays and recommenced on Monday 24 April at 2.30pm; these sessions will continue (with the exception of Bank Holidays) every Monday at 2.30pm until (and including) 17 July, when we will take a break over the summer. Our sessions are hosted by an excellent team of volunteers who put lots of effort into making the sessions interesting and varied. So please do come along and join us.

By the time July comes around, we will be promoting our Summer Reading Challenge for this year, 'Animal Agents'. More clues will be released soon.

**Stella O'Neill, Library Manager**

**01869 338391**

**[Deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

## Teas in Church on Sundays in May

Please come and enjoy tea and coffee with home-made cake on each Sunday in May from 3.00–5.00pm. All proceeds will go to the Fabric Fund of our lovely church. As an extra treat, the Gospel Bell Band have kindly agreed to play for us on Sunday 21 May throughout the afternoon so please come and support them. Gospel Bell is a group of people who are carrying on a rich tradition of blues, folk and country music. We look forward to seeing you.

**Heather Nason**

**01869 338494**

## Ashcroft THERAPY CENTRE

Hudson Street, Deddington OX15 0SW  
**[www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk](http://www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk)**



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## FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

[www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org](http://www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org)



We met on 4 April to review progress to date and plan future fundraising projects.

Unfortunately, the company used for recycling empty ink cartridges in our 'Trash for Cash' fundraising no longer takes them. We have looked at many other recycling companies but can't find one to take our cartridges so have an increasing number of cartridges we can't recycle and will be returning them to their manufacturers rather than landfill. Reluctantly, we have decided to stop collecting them. Thank you to everyone who donated spent cartridges but we are now working on other fundraising initiatives for this year that we hope will be more productive.

We are full steam ahead on the 2018 Deddington parish calendar and photo competition so please get your cameras out and start shooting in and around our wonderful parish. Send in your entries as soon as you've taken them. Don't wait until the deadline which is 18 August. Files should ideally be 5Mb or larger and saved as high resolution JPEGs but we'll review all images presented to us.

Our subscriber base is holding up well but we are still some way below our goal of 200 subscribers, so

please spread the word and encourage friends, family and neighbours to support a very worthy community asset by becoming a Friend of Deddington Library.

On Sunday 2 July we will be holding our first annual Parish Garage Sale, so look out for posters and more information on this. In the meantime, sort out your garages and plan what to get rid of. For the uninitiated, this is like a car boot sale, but you don't leave home. You register your garage sale with us for a fee and we produce a map of all the sellers which we give to customers on the day of the sale. A great way for the library to make some money ... and you, so get sorting!

Finally, we're looking to increase our FoDL committee with at least a couple of new members, so if you have some skills that would prove useful to us such as fundraising, marketing or web or social media, then we'd love to have you on board. Likewise, if you're just keen, have some time to spare and want to join us to contribute in any way you can, we would love to hear from you too.

**Bryn Williams**

[abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com)

## WYCHWOOD ART GALLERY



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available to buy in the gallery and online

Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm Town Hall, Market Place, Deddington, OX15 0SE

**[WWW.WYCHWOODART.COM](http://WWW.WYCHWOODART.COM) (01869 338 155)**

# We all check the Clock



**Many use the Church for more**, concerts, farmers market, weddings, funerals, Christmas, Easter and a place to think.

The Church is the heart of Deddington.

It was built by the people of Deddington, it needs our support.

This winter the heating failed, the kitchen has to be overhauled, the family room needs to be rebuilt and the Parish has the responsibility to train a new curate.

The target is to raise £100,000

There are more than 2,000 residents in the parish. If everyone contributed £1 per week we could raise the money in a year.

£10 per month is within reach of most households.

Go to our **JustGiving** link on  

Consider a legacy in your will

Or set up a standing order – Deddington Church Fund

Sort Code 20-03-84 Account No. 40338206

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## THE TASTE BUDDIES

*We are the Taste Buddies. We lunch out every few months to assess local pubs and restaurants. We hope you will find our observations useful.*

### WHERE?

Mill House Hotel, Station Road, Kingham OX7 6UH.

Situated on the outskirts of Kingham, this converted flour mill, nestled in acres of lawned garden, was an unexpected delight. We visited on a chilly day so were unable to take advantage of the large terrace with views of the garden and trout stream, but the Mill Bar is cosy and inviting with large windows overlooking the garden.

### FOOD SERVED

Two and three course lunches are served Monday to Friday 12pm–2pm. 2 courses for £12 and 3 courses for £16.

You can also order from the main menu which has a good selection of starters ranging from £5–£7 and mains from £12–£16.

Light snacks and cream teas are served in the Cotswold lounge throughout the day.

### WERE THEY PLEASED TO SEE YOU?

We were warmly welcomed by the staff and served quickly.

### WAS THE COOKING GOOD?

The food was homely and comforting, fresh from the



oven and piping hot. Among our starters were smoked duck breast with celeriac and beetroot, and a delicious tempura prawn salad. Mains included Old Spot belly pork with creamed mash, black pudding, curly kale and red wine jus; Mill House cottage pie with Cheddar cheese mash and mixed

vegetables.

A delicious chocolate panna cotta with berry compote and a beautiful crème brûlée completed a wonderful meal.

### VALUE FOR MONEY

This was excellent value for money. The good food and comfort of our surroundings meant that we were in no hurry to leave.

## DEDDINGTON NEWS DONATIONS

*Deddington News* has made donations towards the end of our financial year to the Friends of Daeda's Wood towards the cost of a replacement bench, to the Archive Group towards their ongoing expenses, and to the Thursday Club (Deddington Day Care) to help with their valuable provision for elderly and less able people at the Windmill.

These donations are taken from the relatively small surplus that we have each year after expenses from our advertising income.

JC

## North Aston Dairy

**we also deliver ice cream**

**email josh & graham for further details...**

**northastondairyoffice@gmail.com**

**FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY**

Sign up and support us at  
[www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org](http://www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org)

## PHOTO COMPETITION

FoDL invite entries of photos of Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and the surrounding countryside

The winning entries will be included in a new and exciting 2018 Parish Calendar

There are no age restrictions

We will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes and all published entries will receive complimentary calendars and a photo credit in the calendar

Image files min of 5Mb, 300dpi saved as high quality JPGs

Deadline for entries 18 August 2017

Submit your entries by email to [abw@brynwilliams.com](mailto:abw@brynwilliams.com), or on a CD/DVD to Stella at the library

For more details, visit [www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org](http://www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org)

**GOOD LUCK!**

## LETTERS

FROM WILLIAM HIORNS, CROMWELL ROAD, BANBURY  
I used to live in Deddington and I'm trying to trace people who knew my parents, or anyone who knew the people who lived at 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 New Street, Deddington, between 1920 and 1960.

No 3 New Street was where Jack Hiorns and his wife, Florrie, lived with their sons, Edward John Hiorns, known as John. Also at no 3 were my uncle and aunt, George William and Mary Elizabeth Hiorns, until my Granny Florrie died.

I would like to find out if anyone knows the name of the family who was at no 1; no 2 was the Smith family. I was told that those at 1, 4 and 5 were related to me.

I have some photos that my Mum left me. Her name was Wendy Hiorns, wife of Edward John.

We lived at The Paddocks when I was young, close to Mrs Harper. I think we may have been related. I have also found a connection with a family called Cato from North Aston.

If anyone can help I would love to hear from you. My email is [hiorns@live.co.uk](mailto:hiorns@live.co.uk).

FROM GEORGE FENEMORE, CLIFTON

I am not sure just why I have been singled out (April parish council notes) to receive the brickbats over the condition of the grass verge outside the church. True, I am, along with all members of the parochial church council, a trustee of the church, as a warden and lay chair, a position I have held for 38 years. I am also a legal owner of the church and its churchyards. The truth of the matter is that the churchyard wall is the boundary and the pavement and grass verge belong to Oxfordshire County Council and therefore the parish council, not the church. The sad and sorry state of the verge is due to large vehicles delivering goods to our only food shop and refuse collection vehicles having to navigate their way around residents' parked cars, not church traffic. It is a matter for the parish council to address, not the wardens or the church council.

FROM JACKIE HUMPHRIES, HEMPTON

I was deeply upset by the news that the British Legion Club will be closing at the end of September. It was a large part of my childhood as my father, Alan, was steward there for many years whilst I was growing up. We lived in the cottage next door until we moved to a pub in Hook Norton in the early 1980s. The Christmas parties were well attended by many children from the village. On the day of the annual dinner our kitchen would be taken over by Bet Walton to create a fabulous meal. Group nights were always busy and on occasions people were turned away as the place was full. Remembrance Sunday was another day when you couldn't move due to sheer volume of customers.



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

Sadly the cottage and much of the extremely large garden, where we had many happy times playing and my parents grew vegetables, were sold off some time after we left due to dwindling funds which is down to reasons best not mentioned.

When I was growing up everyone looked out for each other. The club was an important part of village life and many villagers played in either a

football, darts, snooker, Aunt Sally or domino team based there.

Unfortunately as the village has grown and many new people have come into the community there has been very little support for the club. Perhaps it wasn't trendy enough and was unable to attract yuppie types who preferred a 'wine bar' setting. Children of families who had been connected to the village were unable to afford the ridiculous house prices and moved away.

It will not be the first to close due to lack of support. The Bowls Club which has been part of village life for many years has also recently gone. I feel Deddington is on its way to becoming a village with no community spirit where people don't know their neighbours, let alone offer to help them if they need it. Regrettably it seems that neighbours are in competition now to see who has the most expensive car on the drive or has the better holiday.

Ultimately the decision that the club must close has been taken by people who were not a part of that glorious era and do not appreciate how much it is valued by those who do. I find it particularly disheartening that the proceeds from the sale will go into Parish Council funds and will benefit the people who never once set foot inside the club. Perhaps it would be better being used to keep the Thursday Club running which is a lifeline to many of the people who attend.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, PHILCOTE STREET  
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

It will soon be Christian Aid Week, 14–20 May.

Seventy years ago Christian Aid sent a care package to Theodor Davidovic in a European refugee camp: 'It was Christian Aid who fed us. I feel I owe my life to the cause.' In gratitude Theodor, now 91, is a house-to-house collector in Scotland.

Today, tens of millions belonging to our human family still flee their homes because of conflict, disaster and famine. To keep up our help, Christian Aid's income needs to increase by 15% because the pound this year buys less overseas than it did last year. Last year in this parish 33 people delivered and collected the familiar red envelopes to every home. Thanks to them and to you the very encouraging result was £2,113.21 (£129.72 more than in 2015). To this could be added £249 reclaimable in tax because 112 people

*(Continued on p12)*

## DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM



**I**t's not water, water everywhere, in fact at the moment the farm is very dry for this time of the year, but sheep, sheep everywhere. No sooner had we almost finished with the Clifton flock than the North Aston flock came into full flood, and by the time this has escaped the editor's red pen, most of this year's ewes

and lambs will be out at grass and the old man can reach for his fishing rod. The 2017 lambing season has been a mixed bag, a bit like the curate's egg, good in parts, so a case of too many sheep and not enough sleep for us all.

One very good part is that a local vet student from the Royal College, Gemma Pretty, has given up her Easter holiday to work with the organic flock, a very competent young lady, who has been with us for the last three lambing seasons. As part of their training, vet students spend time working with all the various sections of the livestock industry. A few years ago another student with local connections did her sheep module with us. Georgina Hall (George) spent six weeks at the farm. It is good to think that both George and Gemma became ovine midwives at Home Farm, with George delivering the biggest lamb I have ever seen with a birth weight of 23lbs. It was a ram lamb and became known as Big George.

I lambed my first ewe at the tender age of ten and benefited from the advice of a local vet, Mr Jack Walker, the founder of what is now the Hook Norton

and Deddington veterinary practice. His advice was 'You know what a lamb or calf looks like and how it should be presented, so get stuck in boy and let your fingers be your eyes and tell me what the problem is.' He taught me many tricks of the trade. Over the years I birthed many different animals but only ever one goat. This nanny was in difficulties. The village was snowed in and Mr Walker could not get through, so he phoned me and asked me to do what I could do to help. I took all my lambing kit and set off on foot through the snow drifts. After a struggle Billy the Kid was born and I returned home well warmed by a good malt; happy days.

They're back, although one swallow doesn't make a summer. The first pair returned on 6 April to reclaim their nesting site in the loft above the honey room, so before long we shall see more and then the house martins and swifts will return and I can sit in the garden with my pint of Hooky and a chunk of Cheddar and crusty loaf to watch their evening aerial display before we both go to bed.

Being a mixed farm with both arable and livestock we have a constant battle with rodents and I have, over the years, been in charge of the bait stations but it now seems our EU masters have decreed that I must undergo training and be certified before I can obtain Rodicide. Over the last few years we have had a helping hand as a family of stoats has taken up residence in the buildings during the winter and sent the rats packing but this year we have had an altogether much larger helping hand in the form of a polecat (*mustela putorius anglais*). The polecat family, including stoats, weasels and badgers, are known as 'fitch' in old local Oxfordshire terminology. I wonder if our EU masters would demand that he or she needs a certificate before being allowed to catch rats.

The crops look well and, now that the lambing is in hand, we must slot in some fieldwork and get the spring crops planted by the middle of April, but it all depends, not on the calendar date, but soil temperature. The old adage was that if you could sit comfortably on the soil with your trousers down, it was time to plant the spring barley, so it was planting by the seat of your pants.

The wildlife has got off to a good start, with many of the farmyard birds already on with the job sorting out their nest sites by the first week of April and I am serenaded night and morning by any number of song-birds. One old blackbird that sings from the top of a cherry tree in the yard needs some singing lessons, as he is rather flat in his upper voice, but perhaps the church choir director could say the same about me. Another signal that spring has sprung is the number of butterflies that are on the wing with tortoiseshell, brimstone, peacock, red admiral, orange-tip and large white already visiting the garden flowers, to say nothing of the number of species of bee, so things are all abuzz and flutter, ho hum.

**George Fenemore 01869 338203**

### LETTERS (Continued from p11)

were able to sign the GiftAid form attached to their envelope. The extra boosted the total to £2,362. When the envelope drops through your letterbox, please consider putting the cost of one meal into it and, if you can, please sign the GiftAid declaration, ready for the volunteer collector to call for it. A Theodor, whom you will never meet, will be grateful for the rest of his life.

FROM NICK ALLEN, KEYTE'S CLOSE, ADDERBURY  
Congratulations on Marten Sealby's stunning April cover. Such elegant artwork – very stylish; I do like the sepia(ish) colour. I have a professional interest, having trained as a commercial artist, albeit seventy-two years ago; also I did the advertising and artwork for *Adderbury Contact* for thirty-two years. Pat Brittain, bless the good-hearted lady, still delivers the *DN* each month when she comes on duty at Katharine House Hospice.

I do marvel at the variety of differences of format and content in thirty-plus local village newsletters of North Oxfordshire, yet they all seem to work for their communities. Keep up the good work!

## CALLING ALL CLUBS

### Deddington Bookworms

The Bookworms last read, *A Kind of Loving* by Stan Barstow, was another great read.

The story is about love and loneliness and introduces Vic Brown, a young working-class Yorkshireman. Vic is attracted to the beautiful but demanding Ingrid and, as their relationship develops, Vic finds himself trapped by the frightening reality of his girlfriend's pregnancy and is forced into marrying her and moving in with his mother-in-law. Vic ultimately comes to terms with his life and what it really means to love.

The group highly recommended this book as it was easy to read and a great insight into working life in the 60s.

We meet on the first Monday of the month. New members are welcome. Contact the library for more information.

**Deddington Library**  
01869 338391

### Book Group

Last month we read *Exposure* by Helen Dunmore, a spy story allied to E Nesbit's *The Railway Children* but set in the tense atmosphere of the Cold War of the early 1960s rather than Edwardian England. We all agreed it was a compelling read although many of the brilliantly depicted characters were unlikeable. The culture of the time is evocatively drawn out including the male dominated society and, at the time, illegal homosexuality. Overall a great page-turner.

Our choice for next month is *My House in Damascus* by Diana Darke.

Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094.

**Jill Cheeseman**

### Photographic Society

Our club night on 5 April started with the all-important AGM at the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. The chairman, Richard Broadbent, opened the meeting and stated that the club has had a successful year, with the total membership at a steady 51, five new members replacing the five who have left the district. Our exhibitions in 2016 were well received and have helped establish the society as a recognised part of the local community. The treasurer, Martin Pearse, presented the audited annual accounts to March 2017, declaring the club was in a sound financial position and the annual subscription would remain at £30. A vote of thanks to the Cartwright Hotel was passed for allowing the club regular use of the Apricot Room. Retiring committee members this year are Wendy Meagher, secretary; Richard Broadbent, chairman; Brenda Difford, social events; Gail Girvan, workshops. Gail will continue as Facebook administrator. The meeting elected John Prentice as new chairman, the position of secretary being vacant.

The club's monthly programme has been further extended during the past year by establishing a special interest group. The new critique circle is proving to be successful and rewarding. The critique circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month at the Holly Tree Club in Deddington. Members bring along a print for their colleagues to criticise, comment or advise on, thereby improving photographic knowledge and skills.

Normal club night continued with a friendly 'What is it?' competition composed from ingenious photographs submitted by members, often taken from strange angles. The usual monthly challenge followed. April's topic was 'Cemeteries and Monuments' and produced many well composed pictures and amusing interpretations of the subject. Our next meeting is on 3 May with a presentation titled 'Astrophotography' by Mary Spicer and promises to be an interesting evening. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Paul Brewerton**  
[www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

### Women's Institute

Our speaker in April was Martin Sirot-Smith in his role as Lawrence Washington, Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stuchbury. We were entertainingly instructed on the customs of Tudor Eastertide. Pagan Easter and springtime customs were incorporated into Christianity and further developed. The hardship of one meal a day – avoiding meat and dairy products during Lent – certainly deserved the following festivities. Then, despite recalling that in Tudor times towards the end of Lent folk were down to soaking and cooking dried peas and beans, we appreciated and enjoyed our refreshments.

**Beryl Suckling 01869 337385**

### Deddington Town Football Club

#### First Team results:

11.03.17	Diverse (a)	Deddington walkover
18.03.17	AFC Banbury (a) (CUP)	0–0
	aet Deddington win 5–4 on penalties	
25.03.17	Sinclair Utd (a) (CUP)	W 1–0
01.04.17	Bloxham (h) (CUP)	W 2–0

#### Reserve Team results:

No results this month

An excellent month of cup progression from the First Team, as they managed to win by hook or by crook, a penalty shoot-out and Diverse forfeit complementing the two standard victories. As for the Reserves, they've had a month to sit and think about what they've done. Certain relegation and the wooden spoon beckons with a couple of matches left, but I suspect this is a mere prelude to another generation's story of glory. The Reserve phoenix may have self-immolated, but you can't kill the DTFC winning DNA,

*(Continued on next page)*

## CALLING MORE CLUBS

even with fire. In the season of resurrection, their stone will be rolled back sooner rather than later, with a little help from their entourage: you.

Don't forget to check out [www.deddingtontownfc.com](http://www.deddingtontownfc.com) for more match reports and stats.

**Aaron Bliss 07909 642882**

### 1st Deddington Scout Group

#### Cubs

We have finished the Skills Challenge with several evenings covering emergency aid which is also one of the activity badges. The first stage covers getting help and calling the emergency services followed by dealing with bleeding and putting a casualty in the recovery position. The Cubs embraced this with a vengeance and when Barney pretended to collapse they descended on him like vultures on a wildebeest. I think they may need to curb their enthusiasm.

Coming up – all things outdoors.

**Jo Churchyard**

[jochurchyard@hotmail.com](mailto:jochurchyard@hotmail.com)

#### Scouts

As part of the Our World Challenge the Scouts took on some up-cycling. Using a mixture of yogurt pots and old pram frames they concocted a chess set, skittles, a trolley and a trike complete with steerable front wheel. A group has also constructed a 'bug hotel' from found junk and this can now be seen in the Windmill Centre grounds. They used a great deal of ingenuity and gaffer tape to build their projects. All I'll say is, if you're looking for an investment opportunity then try gaffer tape, there must be a world shortage.

**Pete Churchyard**

[pete.churchyard@gmail.com](mailto:pete.churchyard@gmail.com)

#### Spartans Explorer Scout Unit

In the last few weeks we've been doing a hunt around Deddington, looking at things like the war memorial and the Town Hall.

We've had visitors from Iceland, one of whom was the only Scout in her troop.

Plans are in place for our competition at the next market, with the proceeds going to the International Otter Survival Fund.

**Contact Janet Duxbury 01608 737959**

[spartansexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:spartansexplorers@gmail.com)

### 1st Deddington Guides

During a busy spring term, we have been occupied in a great variety of ways, culminating in rehearsals and performance of our pantomime, *Girl Trouble*. Our backstage team responded brilliantly to the challenge of finding props and costumes for a huge cast of characters, and our actors did us proud. Thank you to everyone who supported us and helped us raise £150 towards Save the Children and Dogs for Good.

We attended church for Mothering Sunday and helped with the service and took part in the annual St George's Day parade in Banbury.

We will then be set for our favourite term of outdoor summer activities.

**Maggie Rampley 01295 810069**

**Marian Trinder 01869 340806**

**Catherine Blackburn**

### 1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

At the end of March we took part in the Junior Figure Marching competition in Witney. We were joint winners with 1st Bloxham, so very well done to all the team who took part. Matthew, Fraser and Charlie also took part in the Top Team competition that day and came a very creditable fourth out of seven teams. As promised on the run up to Easter, the Company section got creative with chocolate and we made our favourite creme egg chickens. I hope they made it home.

There are a lot of events taking place within the Battalion over the next few months with unihoc, swimming for all sections, 10-pin bowling for the Company section and a regional BB event hosted at Bloxham on 15 July. So there's a lot for us to get our teeth into. All are detailed on the latest news sheet sent to parents and carers and which is also available on our church noticeboard.

We are at this month's farmers' market with our bookstall – hope to see you there.

**Jen Childs, Leader**

[Jen.childs@btinternet.com](mailto:Jen.childs@btinternet.com)

### Deddington and District History Society

On 12 April Mark Curthoys, Research Editor of the Dictionary of National Biography (DNB), came to talk about people from our area who have made it into that monumental record of British worthies. The DNB, founded in 1885, is one of the great products of a self-confident age. It is no coincidence that the DNB is contemporary with the Oxford English Dictionary. There were giants around in those days. Mark's talk was far from being a recital of names, though we did learn a great deal about local people of national importance. We were especially interested to hear about Mary Ann Horton (d 1869), the Middleton Cheney heiress who founded the hospital that bears her name, and Doreen Warriner (d 1972), who is remembered for her work in helping rescue anti-Nazis from Sudeten Czechoslovakia and who is now commemorated in the Warriner School.

There was a deal of note-taking in the audience as Mark explained how the 60,000 people recorded in the DNB can now be searched swiftly electronically. One can key in a place-name (or a personal name) and find all references instantly, something that was previously time-consuming and error-strewn. Basically,  
(Continued on next page)

## ... AND FINALLY

all one needs is a library card (you do have one, don't you?) in order to access not just the DNB but a whole range of online resources. I know that some of our members went home and began searching straight away. I hope that we shall learn in due course what they have discovered.

In May we shall have one of our excursions into international affairs. On Wednesday 10 May David Hood will speak on 'The Malayan Campaign', the counter-insurgency struggle in which he played a part. As usual, we shall meet at the Windmill Centre at 7.30pm and as always all are welcome.

**Chris Day, Chairman 01869 337204**  
**Moira Byast, Secretary 01869 338637**

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## PEOPLE AND PROFILES

Since its start in 1976 *DN* has provided a unique record of life in our parish. Now a new collection of profiles of well-remembered Deddington people drawn from its pages has been added to a revised and extended 'People and Profiles' section in Deddington OnLine History ([www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people](http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people)) where you will find an alphabetical list of surnames. Many are accompanied by photographs from Brian Carter's unique record of residents between about 2000 and 2010, and we are extremely grateful to him for making these pictures available.

In 1982 Bill Marshall wrote a series of portraits of old Deddingtonians who were then in their 80s and 90s, so born around the turn of the century. They paint a picture of rural life we can hardly imagine today. Ruth Johnson has brought her inimitable warmth and humour to a series of profiles, again published by *DN* over the years.

The collection is by no means complete – this first posting has 70 profiles and a second will follow later this year. If you think I have missed anyone and you would like to see them included, please let me know.

**Mary Robinson 01869 338272**

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## Bloxham Bowls Club

We are starting our new and 60th anniversary season in May. The anniversary is being celebrated with some special fixtures including a mixed Bowls England match and one against our oldest opponent, Adderbury. Other events are also being arranged. Throughout the season the Club will be competing in the Oxfordshire Men's League and the West Oxfordshire Mixed Triple League as well as many friendlies with local sides.

Anyone who is interested in joining can come to the club on a Monday night when club evenings are held for practise or just meet outside of matches.

For further information see the Club's website, [www.bloxhambowls.org.uk](http://www.bloxhambowls.org.uk) or contact Rod Ostler on 01295 720531.

## Satin Lane Allotments

### Open for the 2017 National Garden Scheme

Listed amongst the 3,700 garden entries in the 2017 National Garden Scheme Visitor's Handbook is Deddington's own Satin Lane Allotments. Considering the heritage, social value, delightful topography and enchantment of the plots on Satin Lane, it comes as no surprise that the Deddington allotments were considered a very worthy entry for the scheme.

Founded in 1927 in England, the NGS opens gardens in England and Wales for charity. Total donations by the scheme to nursing charities will pass £50 million since its foundation. Remarkably, the funds are all raised by generous gardeners voluntarily opening their gardens or, as is the case here, their local allotments. This year the NGS is donating a record £3 million to the beneficiary charities, which include the Queen's Nursing Institute, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Perennial, Parkinson's UK and MS Society. The funds raised are not only vital to the beneficiaries but, in the case of Hospice UK, Marie Curie and Macmillan, the NGS is their largest single donor. By supporting the NGS, we can ensure that the donations are not only matched, but surpassed year on year. Simply visiting a lovely NGS-listed garden and indulging in some of the sweet wares on offer, you are supporting some of Britain's most vital nursing and caring charities.

There's a real buzz on the allotment these days. That's not just down to gardeners' spring fever but also because of true community spirit amongst the allotmenters who are rallying around to ensure the open day will be a success. Delicious cakes and refreshments will be on offer and several plot holders will be on hand to answer any grow-your-own queries. We do hope to see you there on the day in support of the NGS and its vital beneficiaries.

The Satin Lane Allotments will be open on Saturday 24 June from 1.00pm to 5.30pm. For more information on the NGS, please do visit the website. Satin Lane Allotments are fully listed with further details and photographs.

**Petra Hoyer Millar**  
**NGS Assistant County Organiser Oxfordshire**  
[petra@castleendhouse.co.uk](mailto:petra@castleendhouse.co.uk)

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## Safe and Well Visits

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offers visits to help you reduce the risk of fire. They provide a Home Safety Check, including checking and fitting smoke alarms, and help you make a fire escape plan. The firefighters are also able to provide advice and support to reduce immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts as well as advice on health and crime prevention.

You can request a visit online at [www.365alive.co.uk/safewell](http://www.365alive.co.uk/safewell) or call the Community Safety Helpline on 0800 0325 999.

## POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

### Caring About Nice Days, Shopping and Trumpism

It's funny how the things that originally wound me up about the United States have dimmed and five years later have no meaning at all. Most of the time.

In the doctor's surgery last week, the nurse greets me with 'How are you doing today?' and looks very strangely at me when I say 'sick'. It is true that Americans generally are very polite on the surface but of course this doesn't necessarily mean that they actually care. As usual Heather got me out of this hole by apologising for the grumpy old man.

When out at the mall it is impossible to browse without being interrupted in every shop by an insistence on help. The staff are always affronted when I refuse but, as we all know, shopping is an American institution. There is five times as much shopping space per capita in the US as in the UK, but that is changing. The largest capitalist nation in the world is rapidly falling out of love with shopping malls.

Like several other industries, the great American mall is being attacked by the rise of the internet, but habits are also changing. The younger generation is spending a larger percentage of its disposable income on eating and drinking out. The range of restaurants and fast food outlets around us is vast, from Mexican to burger joints. A new taco restaurant down the road has queues out of the door during peak hours, for \$5 tacos.

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## News from Hempton

The Old School Room will be open for polling for the District Elections on Thursday 4 May between 7.00am and 10.00pm so please go along and cast your vote.

The AGM of the Friends of Hempton Church and Old School Room will be on Monday 22 May at 7.00pm. Please note that this date is one week later than previously advertised. Do come along to this meeting if you can. New committee members are needed as at least one present member is standing down this time. You do not have to be a member to attend so please feel free to come along and see what everything is about.

I know some residents helped with the parish clean up, especially cleaning road signs, so well done to anyone involved.

Plans are still ongoing for improvements to the church but progress is slow at the moment. We have to get permission from the diocese as several plans are required, so our architect has to be involved which all takes time and money.

The Old School Room is being used quite regularly by different people and groups. It is a good community area for small events. There is a nice kitchen with everything needed in it, plus toilet facilities, so should anyone wish to use it, please give me a call.

**Les Chappell**  
**01869 338054**

My travels took me to Denmark last month and, in many ways they have the opposite character from the average American. My daughter is living there and is trying to learn the language, which is difficult. She tells me that they are very nice caring people but there is no Danish word for 'please'. Perhaps this is the opposite from the American who asks the caring question but really doesn't want to know the answer.

Which brings me to Trumpism which, I can't help feeling, reflects the same psyche. The Donald promised everything that the disenchanted wanted to hear but now is heading towards the Republican norm, and has reversed direction on three big issues just this week. This included bombing Syria, despite earlier in the week shouting out Obama for getting too involved in this terrible civil war. He has no ethos, no beliefs, and he can change his mind while watching a Fox News breakfast broadcast. But the key is his character, he cares about no-one apart from his family and all he wants is to win.

Sadly I get more American by the day. I even spoke to a stranger in a bar last month. But please let me know if I stop caring about the answer. Are you well?

**Mike Ward**

[mikew@qsoftware.com](mailto:mikew@qsoftware.com)

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## Friends of the Castle Grounds

A warm welcome to our new chairman, James Reeve. The new season of grass-cutting has begun at Castle Grounds and regular cuts will be made between March and October.

The Four Farms Challenge starts from Castle Grounds at 11.00am on 14 May. We will be holding a cake stall which always proves very popular. If you would like to donate cakes or biscuits, please drop them off to Carol Horlock at 24 Gaveston Gardens (01869 338935) or Jean Welford at Aberford, Hopcraft Lane (01869 338539) or deliver them on the day of the race. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the Grounds.

Just a polite reminder to dog walkers to please clean up after your dogs. Free poo bags are available from the Parish Council office at the Windmill. Help us to keep Castle Grounds a clean and safe place for people to visit and enjoy.

**Carol Garrett**, [cgarrett@btinternet.com](mailto:cgarrett@btinternet.com)

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## Barford Village Market

The market is held in the Village Hall on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Artisan breads, cheeses and olives, homemade scones, preserves, food and craft stalls. Farmhouse ice cream and Fairtrade items, decorative glass by Hespera Ltd, Phoenix cards, not forgetting tea and coffee and bacon and egg butties.

All profits go to maintaining the village hall.

## DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Easter holidays have been and gone but before we finished for the break we all had a visit to church to reflect on the 'Stations of the Cross' installation. All the classes made a contribution and sought to represent the Easter story in a variety of artistic and interactive ways.



As reported last month our hockey team went on to earn a place to represent North Oxfordshire in the Oxfordshire School Games Years 5 and 6 Mixed Finals. As in the two previous qualifying rounds, Deddington did not concede any games or any goals. In the final they faced Fir Tree School which ended in 0-0, therefore the final result came down to penalties. Deddington kept their cool and their goalkeeper, Riven Smith, managed a spectacular save which secured the championship. Everyone is extremely proud of the level of skill the children have demonstrated and their positive attitude towards each game. They also thanked Bloxham School who provide them with equipment, coaching and use of their facilities. As county champions we have a super trophy and lots of amazing memories of a great sporting achievement. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Our focus this month is on all things academic with a little escapism thrown in. Before Year 6 have to complete their end of school assessments they will have spent an exciting week at Yenworthy Lodge in Devon on their residential, trying lots of fantastic activities such as surfing, orienteering and abseiling.

With the better weather on its way all our sporting activities will move outdoors with clubs beginning for athletics and cricket. We are also redesigning our quiet area so that we can have a place to reflect and relax when we don't want to be so busy. So we will keep our fingers crossed that the sun is on its way.

**Anne Hunsley 01869 338340**

*A photo of the championship team has been posted on the Deddington website.*

## Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

It has been great to get out and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. The PFSU children have visited Castle Grounds to look for signs of spring and welcomed a new-born lamb into pre-school. We planted flower and vegetable seeds in the garden and have done several 'forest school' sessions. We celebrated Mothers Day by making cards and gifts for our Mums and enjoyed looking for Easter eggs in the gardens. The messy play morning was a huge success and we hope you all enjoyed the fun.

Have you booked your place on the Four Farms Challenge on 14 May, [www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk](http://www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk)?

**Lucy Squires  
01869 337484**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### You had your say – and how

Thank you very much to everybody who responded to our mini-questionnaire either online or with hand-written replies on the leaflets. The Neighbourhood Plan steering group has now collated the results.

In all there were 250 responses – a little over 14% of the eligible voters in the parish – which is not at all bad considering the questions primarily concerned the wellbeing of future residents rather than the people already living here.

Overall, of those who voted, 89% were in favour of the infrastructure on new estates – the roads, the children's play areas, public open space and balancing ponds – being maintained by the relevant local authority rather than by a private management company financed by the estate residents. And 84% were in favour of the houses being sold freehold rather than on 999-year leases.

The most indignant responses concerned leaseholds, especially if sold on to finance companies. Some felt that leasehold flouted the long-held principle that an Englishman's (or Englishwoman's) home is his or her castle. 'How can people spend hundreds of thousands on a house and not own it?'

On the question of who should maintain the estates, the prevalent opinion was that unadopted estates run by management companies were divisive. Many took a practical view: 'From experience, chasing money for a residents management company leads to neighbours falling out when residents don't or can't afford to pay.' Besides, resident management companies could go bankrupt and what then?

A theme among responses was horror at the thought of up to 170 wheelie bins lined up along the Banbury Road, if Cherwell District Council adheres to its policy of not collecting refuse from private roads.

Among the antis, a few felt a management company might make a better job of maintaining new estates. One or two admitted they would prefer unadopted estates because it might reduce their own council tax. But the most common view was – caveat emptor. While unwilling to buy properties leasehold or on unadopted estates themselves, they felt it was not our business to interfere with the market. You can read the full results on the website at [www.deddington-neighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.deddington-neighbourhoodplan.org).

Now it is the steering group's task to incorporate these preferences, at least the ones that attracted more than an 80% consensus, into the Neighbourhood Plan. We're at last within striking distance of completing the plan and then it will go to public consultation in the parish – and ultimately, with the modifications you propose, to a referendum. So stand by for more leaflets dropping through your letter-box. I think we can be proud that this Neighbourhood Plan really will be a communal effort so thanks again for your patience and diligence.

**Helen Oldfield [helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk)**

## From The Fire Station

Deddington was called out 17 times in March. The crew has attended a mixed bag of incidents in the past month. There was one where a BMW had lost control and crashed through the wall of a warehouse, just opposite Morrison's supermarket in Banbury. The cause of this is not known at this point but the driver of the car was lucky not to be seriously injured. A couple of days later our crew was called to a warehouse fire very close to the car crash incident. How the fire started is unclear but the quick action by our fire crews managed to stop the fire developing and losing the building. It's believed that these two incidents are not related but just a coincidence happening so close to each other within a couple of days.

Deddington continues to attend chimney fires. One that is worth a mention happened in Clifton. When we arrived, I checked the heat of the flue with the thermal imaging camera and found that there was very little heat. The occupier had assured us that there were flames and thick black smoke billowing out of the chimney. On closer inspection, I noticed that the chimney had no cowl on it. This seems to happen every year at this time, when people have had their chimney swept and then have a bird decide to build a nest in it. You would be amazed to see how many sticks a jackdaw can put down a chimney. Our advice is that all chimneys should be lined and have a cowl on the top.

There was also a fire in the open in Steeple Aston. This was started when someone discarded their barbecue coals on their compost heap before they had cooled. This caught fire but unfortunately was just behind their garden shed and summerhouse. The fire quickly spread to the buildings which could have been lost if not for our quick action. Our advice is not to have compost heaps close to any structure because

they can catch fire for many reasons and not just due to thoughtlessness.

Our crew was also called to a builder with a suspected heart attack. He was working on a roof on the building site opposite our fire station. These sorts of incidents are difficult to deal with because the actions that you take sometimes have to be unconventional and are always determined by the condition of the casualty. With the ambulance and our specialist rescue unit in attendance, it was decided that the casualty needed to be brought down as quickly as possible. We had the hydraulic platform en route but decided that it would take too long to arrive and get set up. The quickest way was to attach the stretcher to the crane already on site and lower them that way. This is operating outside our guidelines, but for some time now Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue has implemented operational discretion. There have been events in other parts of the country which hit the headlines because fire crews have not been able to rescue someone due to health and safety and operational guidelines. Operational discretion allows us to work outside these guidelines for a specific task.

The main training event this month was a water rescue exercise that was held in Banbury. It was a simulation of three people who had capsized their boat on the river Cherwell. The exercise was a great success and involved crews from Banbury, Hook Norton and Deddington.

The annual car wash was a huge success, raising nearly £400 for the Fire Fighters Charity. Our next big event will be the Four Farms Challenge on Sunday 14 May. This is always a fantastic day out and we hope to see everyone there.

**Crew manager Tim Parker**

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## NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Oh, we're all so smug down here ... 7 April saw many of the village all together as the Duke came back to life and it's magnificent, with a more airy and brighter interior, more tables and more beer. Tim and Rebecca have done a great job and have withstood the pressure admirably in the face of a grand opening. Sadly, not all withstood this pressure well with a bar manager quitting the day before opening and a chef wilting the day after, when Tim made it clear what his and the village's expectations were. However in the spirit of all hands to the pump and some old hands dragged back in, another chef was brought on board and it's all systems go.

The inevitable glitches of keen but inexperienced staff give way to cheerful and capable hosts and my family and I have dined there fairly simply but very well and Book Club enjoyed its first full night with extended membership. The campsite is up and running, bringing new people and money in to the community and putting the community centre on a more secure footing.

However, we will of course remember what life without a pub was like and many of us have vowed to ensure we use it even more than previously, a message that cannot be taken on too widely.

The Una team is looking forward to their first match on Star Wars Day (*Not a reference to May the fourth be with you, is it? Ed*) where Iron Man Mayo is determined to take the field, having not thrown a practice since our last effort some 19 months ago. Let's hope the new policy of £5 per 'blob' (a non-scoring set of six sticks) for the first match doesn't cost him too dear. Ron Colley has taken up the mantle of captaincy and we all hope his blend of organisation, fairness and basic good nature prevent some of the more legendary stories this year.

The village had a bit of a false start but at the time of going to press even more volunteers are in place to make the parish spring clean as big a success as last year.

**Martin Bryce** [martinbryce@gmail.com](mailto:martinbryce@gmail.com)