

THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
CATHERINE DESMOND

MARCH 2018 COPY TO
JILL CHEESEMAN
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

Alison Day
01869 337204
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS

Alison Day
01869 337204
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Jean Rudge
01869 338110
jeanrudge@gmail.com

PRINTING

Ruth Johnson
01869 337166
Pat Swash

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION

Pat Brittain
01869 338685
and teams

TREASURER

Jane Wilson
01869 337586
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER

Jane Wilson

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

The upside: snowdrops are out, daffodils and crocus are shooting and days are lengthening.

The downside: the roadworks licence at the crossroads has been granted until 9 April. I suppose now might be a good time to learn to meditate, so as to put the extra ten minutes getting in or out of the village to constructive use.

CD

WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Mon | 5 | Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree Club, 10.30am |
| Mon | 5 | Deddington Bookworms: ' <i>Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> ', Library, 6.30pm |
| Wed | 7 | Photographic Society: Jim Muller, 'Recent USA Images', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 8 | Holly Tree Club: Film Night, ' <i>Salmon Fishing in the Yemen</i> ', Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Tue | 13 | W1: Martin Edwards, 'Taoist Tai Chi Society', Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 14 | History Society: Bill King, 'Defences of the Thames and Cherwell Valleys in World War II', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 21 | Photographic Society: Workshop, Simon Lutter, 'Studio Photography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 21 | PC Meeting: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 22 | Book Group: please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information |
| Sat | 24 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 24 | Church Craft Market: Parish Church, 10.00am–1.00pm |

MARCH

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Mon | 5 | Holly Tree Club: Coffee Morning, Holly Tree Club, 10.30am |
| Mon | 5 | Deddington Bookworms: Title tba, Library, 6.30pm |
| Wed | 7 | Photographic Society: Mary MacIntyre, 'Astrophotography', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm |
| Thu | 8 | Holly Tree Club: Film Night, ' <i>No Reservation</i> ', Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Wed | 14 | History Society: Gary Lock, 'Becoming Roman in Oxfordshire', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 21 | Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm |
| Wed | 21 | PC Meeting: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 24 | Explorer Scouts: Edwyn Pym, Jones and Jacob Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers, Valuation evening, Windmill Centre, 7.00–9.30pm |

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Holly Tree Club, 20 December 2017

Windmill Redevelopment Group

The new MUGA will be located on the former BMX track.

Planning

Approved

Field End, Castle Street, Deddington: single storey front extension.

Fairview, St Thomas Street, Deddington: second storey rear extension and single storey rear porch extension.

Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton: conversion of snug to letting room.

No objection

Royal British Legion Club, High Street, Deddington: demolition of single storey rear extension and outbuildings, conversion into two 3-bedroomed houses, two storey rear extension and alterations to elevation. Old School House, Philcote Street, Deddington: erection of garden building.

Featherston House, Chapel Square, Deddington: replacement of existing timber lantern lights and screens with hardwood copies, upgrading to double-glazed units, and replacing front car park surface with resin-bonded aggregate.

Stoneyford, Main Street, Clifton: Single storey rear porch extension and conversion of garage.

Objection

Land to rear of The Chestnuts, Clifton: demolition of existing buildings and erection of one detached dwelling and garage. Objection supporting neighbour concerns. 16 The Paddocks, Deddington: conversion of outbuilding into single dwelling with associated internal and external works and formation of dropped kerb. Objection supporting neighbour concerns. It was agreed unanimously to investigate listing The Paddocks as a conservation area.

Highways and Transport

Thames Water has agreed that replacement manhole covers in Earls Lane are a trip hazard. Police have failed to locate the owner of abandoned, damaged red car in the Windmill Street car park.

Environment and Recreation

Forms have been completed for registration of the footpath behind the Methodist chapel in Hempton as a public right of way. Quotes of £16,000 from Streetscape for the Wimborn Close play area and for £25,000 from Proludic for Welford's Piece have been accepted.

Primary School, 17 January 2018

County Councillor's Report

OCC's only remaining contracts with Carillion are school cleaning and school meals, both due to be taken in-house in March. Work at the traffic lights to install drainage for David Wilson Homes has been chaotic and caused extra traffic elsewhere. The lights will now be operated manually at peak times. The PC

will request the developer to begin weekend working.

Windmill Redevelopment Group: Council voted £3,000 for the utilities and topography site survey.

Planning

No objection

High Bank, St Thomas Street, Deddington: single storey rear and side extension with attached garage, two storey addition to north elevation, and removal of hipped roof. Garage roof lights to be moved to north facing side.

Land adjacent to The Tchure, Deddington: new detached three bed dwelling with covered parking, widened gated access and raised boundary wall. Tchure access not to be obstructed.

Objection

Orchard End, St Thomas Street, Deddington: two storey rear extension and new window to front. Objection on advice of conservation on the grounds of harm caused to an historic building and character of the conservation area.

Approvals

Castle House, Bull Ring, Deddington: conversion of existing stables and outbuilding to single residential dwelling.

Wells Yard, Hudson Street, Deddington: partial demolition of existing barn and garages and erection of B1 office building.

Refusals:

Formerly 2 Chapman's Lane, Deddington: existing building plans approved as long as alterations are not made to the junction of Chapman's Lane with the main highway.

Highways and Transport

Speedwatch is postponed until spring. Cllr Fatemian will investigate the delay in installing a new streetlight in The Daedings.

Environment and Recreation

The annual fair will run from 14–17 November. Dog fouling of the Castle Grounds and the sports pitches at the Windmill continues to be a serious problem. Various measures, including a total ban of dogs on playing fields, were discussed.

Finance and General Purposes

The parish precept was fixed at 10%, a rise of about £3.50 per annum per household. Interest income from capital holdings has been greatly reduced and the precept may be capped in future, precluding any further significant rise. Funds have been raised to run the Deddington Day Centre for a further twelve months only. Cllr Oldham will explore the allocation of S106 money to Deddington, rather than to an organisation in Banbury.

Next meeting: Wednesday 21 February, 7.30pm in the Windmill Centre.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jean Rudge, not the official minutes, available at <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2017.html>.

IT'S PANTO SEASON - OH NO, IT ISN'T!



Oh yes it was and what a fabulous evening it was too! There's nothing better than the age-old English tradition of panto and listening to all ages yelling and screaming as if they're ten years old again.

Last night was no exception. A packed venue for *Cinderella* saw young and old joining in the fun right from the first, almost finale-style, number – *Fame* always gets people singing and bopping in their seats.

There's a massive amount of work in producing any show, be it school play, amateur dramatics or West End musical. The scenery in this production had clearly had many hours put into it – every scene without exception was beautifully painted and designed. The script was cleverly written to include many Deddington-related lines and a nice little dig at Adderbury – 'They don't even have a Co-op!'. It brought the panto into the 21st century with some clever changes: an iPhone for a glass slipper, a pantomime horse for a carriage, dating using the Tinder app, and Lady Gaga. The older element of the audience missed a lot of the jokes. Some of the old jokes are still goodies and would have included all ages in the audience.

The cast's main characters were strong-voiced and cleverly costumed to create character. The stand-out design was the Baroness D'Viper's amazing outfit which conjured up evil and nastiness. Together with a stunning voice, she encouraged a huge amount of booing and hissing at every entrance. She had some fabulous lines such as 'I'm the horn in the Unicorn and the wind in the Windmill'.

The lead actors carried their characters well and often sang beautifully to simple piano accompaniment – not an easy task in front of a large audience. The large cast included some lovely wee dancers who definitely carried the cute factor with them, especially when dancing as little animals around Cinders. Some

impressive dancing from the younger members of the cast also included some ballet pointe work. Seeing the vicar as the lead fairy, Fairy G, brought some great laughs with her trainee fairies, Fairy Nuff and Fairy Cake, and the FART crew, especially with the line 'I've been holding my FARTs in'.

There was some strong acting from the cast. Buttons and her dog, KitKat, were amazing. KitKat could have done with a microphone so that the audience didn't miss her little quips that were obviously funny to the first few rows, but her mannerisms and eye-rolling were exceptional. Buttons had a powerful voice and character and we'd like to have seen more of her. The funniest parts were other characters getting her name wrong.

The bumbling Husky and Starch were marvellously funny additions to the plot. More could have been done with Ant and Dec and little Ant and Dec whose mischievous characters shone through clearly and stood out in the dance and singing numbers.

All glory must go the two Ugly Sisters. These original characters always bring laughs but these two women/men were exceptional at ad-libbing and involving the audience. They really were stars, even hamming it up with the crowd during the interval while remaining in character. I particularly enjoyed their ogling of Frank in the straw boater. Well done boys – brilliant!

It was a tad too long on uncomfortable seats but, all in all, this was a jolly evening's entertainment. Listening to the children in the audience giggling was testament to their enjoyment. Many comments could be heard as we left and all of them involved the word 'fun'. I urge you to get involved and see next year's panto. Congratulations to cast and crew on all your hard work and effort.

Claire Cheeseman cheesynz@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Deddington has Spoken: the Results of the Consultation

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Neighbourhood Plan consultation that ended in November. More than a hundred people responded – some with comments so meaty and detailed that we are still sifting through them, digesting the points made and considering how our policies should be tweaked accordingly.

Stakeholders, particularly landowners, have had a great deal to say. They were the ones who were most critical of our criteria-based approach whereby we set out the kind of sites that would be acceptable for development (or distinctly unacceptable) but do not identify specific sites. The landowners suggest that unless we specify what kind of housing we want where, we might end up with something quite different and unwanted. Unsurprisingly all the landowners then go on to extol the qualities of their own pieces of land, explaining why they would be particularly suitable for development and some have clearly taken on board the kind of housing that the parish thinks we most urgently need – homes for elderly downsizers and starter homes for young people in the parish.

The most encouraging comments came from parishioners who filled in the pamphlet that was distributed to every house, or entered their thoughts on Survey Monkey. A majority of them supported all or most of the draft neighbourhood plan but there were plenty of suggestions for improvements.

Some were hugely ambitious: an out-of-village car park with a shuttle bus to take people to the centre was one idea; a bypass to siphon traffic out of Deddington was another. (Actually, while traffic backs up half way to Hempton and Banbury as the sewer-pipe-laying goes on at the traffic lights, a bypass does sound appealing.)

Speeding and parking problems preoccupy many, some notably doom-laden. One correspondent accused the steering group of living on a 'pink fluffy cloud' if we think we can preserve the beauty and rural charm of Deddington in the teeth of more development which will inevitably bring more cars, more congestion, more pollution and more damage to the local landscape.

Others took a more positive approach. Cycle routes around the parish and beyond, to Banbury and Oxford for commuters, were mentioned as a must by many. Good public health was a theme picked up by Oxfordshire County Council's highways department in their response. Aside from cycleways, they suggested that we focus – or encourage developers to focus – on persuading parents and children to walk to school, in the interests of avoiding childhood obesity and bad habits in later life. An excellent notion – but how on earth to achieve it?

Our Movement and Transport section demands plentiful, or at least realistic, parking space on any new estate. There is plenty of support for this in responses to the consultation but OCC wants us to stick to their

matrix of parking spaces per bedroom per house and a bit of a tussle is ensuing.

In the Business section, the prospect of encouraging tourism brought quite opposite reactions – some very hostile on the grounds it would bring more cars and congestion, others, or at least one other, queried whether any tourist would wish to visit Deddington. This was 'head in the clouds' stuff – 'Deddington isn't a destination'.

Poor mobile phone reception crops up in many responses and there are more moans about the Windmill Centre, though fewer than in previous consultations – perhaps because refurbishment has begun there. Voices were raised from Clifton and Hempton saying their villages should have their share of improvements to facilities – and in particular the paths into Deddington should be made safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Apart from the challenging views of developers and landowners, the housing policies proved mostly uncontroversial. Some thought there should be less new housing than specified, ideally none at all, others thought we were too stingy and there was plenty of room for more. A few thought we should not shun modern building materials if they harmonised with the predominant ironstone. Generally speaking the comments were favourable.

And from one quarter we received unalloyed praise: bird lovers. We may be struggling for starter homes for humans but we are doing a good job insisting on de luxe accommodation for swifts.

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

PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

This term the PFSU children have been finding out about animals and have enjoyed visits from a number of family pets. During February we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. The Nursery children will be out and about bird spotting and collecting sticks and discussing how to care for themselves and the birds during the winter months.

Christmas seems some time ago now, but we'd like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas activities, particularly the Christmas Fayre which raised £1,800 for the Nursery and PFSU. Forthcoming fund-raising events include a car boot sale on Sunday 18 March, another messy play morning on Saturday 28 April, and the popular Four Farms Challenge on Saturday 13 May. Watch this space for further details of all three.

Holiday Club will be running at Easter from 9–13 April and in the summer from 23–27 July and 30 July–3 August. Booking forms are available now from the PFSU and Nursery.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

February

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 Bumps and Bundles and tiny tots

Special Services for Ash Wednesday

Wed 14 10.00am Deddington, Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
 7.00pm Barford St Michael, Benefice Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Sun 4 10.30am Family Service
 6.00pm Choral Evensong
 Sun 11 8.00am BCP Communion
 10.30 Holy Communion
 Sun 18 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 25 10.30am Holy Communion (said service)

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203). We also have a curate, Revd Paula Smith, who can be contacted on curate@deddingtonchurch.org.

Hempton

Sun 4 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 18 9.00am Holy Communion
 Sun 25 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Barford St Michael

Sun 4 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 18 10.30am Family Service
 4.00pm Evening Prayer
 Sun 25 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 11 9.00am Holy Communion

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Dec 3 Georgina Margaret Murray-Hundley
 Dec 24 Elizabeth Jean Shaw
 Albert John Shaw

Funerals

Nov 27 David Keats
 Dec 6 Jim Milroy
 Dec 12 Harold Pratt
 Dec 20 Ted Johnson
 Dec 21 Mary Franklin

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton

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 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 PARISH SHOW 2018

The 2018 Parish Show will be held on Saturday 1 September. This is the usual very early information so you can get going planning what to grow, make, paint or construct and actually start creating non-perishable exhibits. The full programme can be found on Deddington OnLine, www.deddington.org.uk/community/parishshow.

Wendy Burrows, Hon. Secretary
wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com

DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

The Clifton Sea returned to its shores at the end of December, nothing unusual at this time of the year, except that it came as a flash flood with only half an inch of overnight rain collecting in the rain gauge. Yet it took only three hours for both the river and the Deddington brook to burst their banks, with the need to move both flocks to higher ground. So with the local flood defence schemes in operation, where did the tide come from so quickly? The answer is simply all the rainwater drainage infrastructure now in place for the many different building projects in the river valley pipe the surface water directly into the river and its feeder streams.

The meadows at Home Farm are some of the lowest in the river valley and have always flooded at some time during the winter making them an important overwintering site for many of our wading birds. It is a breeding site for an increasing number of curlew, lapwing and other small waders and farmland birds. The Clifton meadows are also home to our summer ewe flock and rather special traditional wildflower hay meadows which are cut for winter fodder in late summer, after the ground-nesting birds have fledged. The worry now is that if a small amount of winter rain can cause a flood, so can a heavy summer thunderstorm, which would wash out the ground nesting birds, our hay crop and the sheep grazing.

As I put finger to keyboard, we are still a few weeks away from the start of the rites of spring, but by the time this hits the doormat, the ewes will be inside, in that pregnant pause between the due date and the appearance of the first lambs. So here we go again. The remainder of last year's lamb crop (50) are still out on the root crops and should be away to market very soon. The green manure cover crops of mustard have done very well this year and before lambing will be 'mulched off' ready for planting spring crops. The fields put into root crops for the sheep after last harvest will also be cultivated and go into spring cropping, so we are in for a busy few weeks.

After the electronic dementia problems during last harvest, the Green Goddess is stripped down in the barn undergoing investigation, a slow process of elimination, with each part being sent off for testing. I just hope we remember which part goes where, when it comes to putting her back together.

We are just over a year away from Armageddon, still with no real information as to just how our masters see the agricultural future, the mandarins of Defra and their green advisors seem to have a vision that our green and pleasant utopia will become an environmental and recreational theme park, in which we farmers will double food production, put 500,000 hectares of cropland into environmental projects, plant millions of trees and build tens of thousands of new homes. This is all conjecture at the moment and only time will reveal the practicalities of the brave new world.



The Assistant Shepherd will leave school this summer and head off to agricultural college, just as I did some 50 years ago, but he will return to a very different farming world from the one I grew up in. Long before I arrived at Home Farm, I worked for my father and, to earn a little extra cash, would spend a few weeks before hay-making contract shearing sheep.

During one very difficult wet season I arrived at a local farm on a Sunday morning to clip a flock of 120 ewes. It was normal to have some help from the farm to pen the ewes and roll the wool, but on this occasion the farmer, being a well-known cricket umpire, appeared in his whites to say that I was on my own. Just before he left he commented that he could not understand why I was working so hard or why I wanted to farm, as, before I had fallen off my perch, the farmers of this country would have been given a park keeper's uniform, a pointed stick and a plastic bag to pick up the rubbish left behind by the weekend day trippers. After he had gone to his match I dismissed his comments, calling him a silly old fool, but was he? After I had finished the work I added a bit extra to his bill and went home to milk the cows.

'February fill dyke, black or white' (rain or snow). Judging by the number of early spring flowers out in the garden and the farmyard birds staking out their territories, you could be forgiven for thinking that spring is on its way. But we still have a lot of winter to come if the US of A's big freeze is anything to go by, since a lot of our weather comes across the big pond. So the fill dyke could be white, just in time for lambing.

With the bees it's a case of so far so good, but March is the month to watch as their winter feed stocks are at their lowest. We have had a few sunny days of late when the bees have ventured out, something the old boys would call a 'bee pee' day as the bees fly to clean the hive and collect water. A few hives have blown over during storms but with no real damage. Although it was cold they still caught out the old man when he stood them back up without a bee suit on. Ouch!

George Fenemore 01869 338203

PART-TIME JOB

with

Deddington Parish Council

£8.72 per hour

to make regular inspections of facilities and perform general maintenance around the parish.

If interested please contact the Clerk,
Lorraine Watling, on 337447 or

deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Once again it was a great bazaar, a really happy family occasion, raising £1,764 towards the operating costs of St John's Church and the Old School Room. Many thanks to everyone who organised, helped and visited it. Santa's Grotto was again a big attraction.

On Friday 16 December everything was ready for the carol service and the Deddington church choir was rehearsing when there was a power failure which resulted in the service being transferred to Deddington. Everyone drove there, with the mulled wine and mince pies, and enjoyed the service, for which we thank Deddington church. Scottish and Southern Electricity came out the next day and found that a tree and the overhead cables were down. They restored power by 4.30pm that day, so well done them. The tree was finally cleared in January.

A belated welcome to new neighbours in Bethany Haven in The Lane. James and Gemma with their two girls, Ellie and Phoebe, and cat, Marley, have finally settled in the UK after a long time in Western Australia.

Please note: I need news for this column. I know what happens at the church and in the Old School Room but there must be other news I do not hear about, so please ring me, drop a note in to no 4 The Lane or email me at ljchappell39@gmail.com.

Les Chappell
01869 338054

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Christmas productions proved most successful in the last full week before the Christmas holidays. The F1, KS1 and KS2 productions were enjoyed by their audiences and, most importantly, the children loved taking part in their plays and evenings of singing. We would like to thank our audiences for helping us to raise £645 for the new charity, Space2Learn, which has been set up to raise money for educational facilities in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton. Thank you all so very much.

On Wednesday 13 December, we had our school Christmas dinner, cooked by our wonderful kitchen staff. The children enjoyed turkey and all the trimmings, pulled Christmas crackers and listened to or sang along with Christmas music in the background. On the last Friday of term, the children supported Save the Children by wearing their Christmas jumpers for the day and donating £1 each for the privilege to raise £180. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success. On Friday afternoon, 15 December, children took part in the Christmas Fun Run in the school grounds, to increase our fitness as well as for fun.

Finally we would like to thank the Red Lion pub for organising the very special raffle drawn on Christmas Eve which raised £265 for more books for our school. Thank you all very much.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

WYCHWOOD ART GALLERY



Visit us in our art gallery in Deddington or buy original art online from £20 – £4,000.

Open Monday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm.

Wychwood Art, Market Place, Deddington OX15 0SE, 01869 338 155

Email: Deborah@wychwoodart.com

WWW.WYCHWOODART.COM

FARMERS' MARKET

National Geographic Says

We are the Tops

The launch edition of National Geographic Food magazine listed their top 10 farmers' markets in the UK for seasonal, local and traceable produce. Deddington's farmers' market came third (after Stroud and Abingdon, if you are interested). Go to www.natgeofood.co.uk for details.

In February the range of seasonal, local and traceable produce can be limited. It can be a long dark month with not much to look forward to beyond another month of winter (he says optimistically). So a dish that is both spicy and consoling is to be treasured. It makes a lovely breakfast.

Kedgeriee from *Perfect* by Felicity Cloake – serves 4
500g smoked haddock

120g butter

1 large onion, finely chopped

2 cardamom pods, lightly crushed

1 green chilli, deseeded and cut into thin rings

1 tablespoon medium curry powder

2 large free range eggs, soft boiled, peeled and halved
200g basmati rice, cooked

chives, finely chopped and/or coriander leaves

½ lemon, cut into wedges

Put the fish, skin side up, in a shallow pan over a low heat, and cover with boiling water (I prefer half water, half milk, with a good knob of butter). Poach for 10 minutes. Remove from the water and, when cool enough to handle, pull the skin off, remove any bones



and break into large flakes. Melt the butter in a large frying-pan over a lowish heat, and add the onion. Cook gently for 20 minutes until softened. Do not skimp on this stage. The aim is to produce tiny nuggets of sweet onion that are essential to the dish. Stir in the chilli, cardamom pods and curry powder. Cook for a further five minutes, then tip in the rice and heat through for two to three minutes, stirring

to coat the rice in the buttery spices. Add the flaked fish and heat through. Check seasoning. Put the eggs on top, scatter with chives and/or coriander. Serve with wedges of lemon to squeeze over.

Personally I find a glass of frozen vodka (perhaps I should have said weekend breakfast) opens out the spices rather nicely. I also recommend that you cook the rice specifically for this dish. Rice that has been hanging around for a day or two can be dodgy.

For more up to date information about the market and contact details for all the stallholders see www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk.

The market is on Saturday 24 February from 9.00am–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 01869337 940
ian.willox@btconnect.com

SPACE2LEARN

I wrote in November about Space2Learn, a new local fundraising endeavour. Our big project is a music, drama and dance studio sited on the primary school grounds. We have planning permission and need to raise the money to get it built.

We have started 2018 with lots of fundraising plans. In July a group of local cyclists is planning to cycle up Mont Ventoux three times in 24 hours. This is an extremely challenging feat for which they will be asking for sponsorship. Are you planning any sporting feats this year? Would you consider us as your charity? On 2 February we are holding our launch event, a quiz in the primary school hall, with a bar to help you think straight and prizes to be won. The cost is £5 per person for teams of six – to enter please email info@S2Ldeddington.uk.

This will also be the first opportunity to buy tickets for our big fundraiser, the Masquerade Ball, to be held at the Great Barn in Aynho on Saturday 28 April. Tickets will be £50 per person for cocktails, dinner, live music and a charity auction and raffle. Not to be missed – how long is it since we had a black tie event in Deddington? In order to put together this event, we

are asking for some help with the following if anyone can be of any assistance.

Auction prizes – Do you have a skill you could auction? A holiday house? Contacts for tickets for sporting events or theatre? Links with F1? Private jet or ski chalet?

Match funding – Do you work for a company that offers match funding? If so, would you consider joining the organising team? Jobs can be tailored to suit all levels of availability.

Sponsorship – Do you work for a company which might be interested in sponsoring the event? Why not have a cocktail named after you, pay for a barrel of Hooky, sponsor a table, sponsor the band.

Babysitting – We are hoping to set up a pool of babysitters for the night. Do you have a teenager in the house who would be willing to donate their babysitting money for the evening to support their local school?

If you would like to get involved in any way, please get in touch by emailing info@S2Ldeddington.uk.

Becky Jones
becky@englishlanguagematters.com

BLISSFUL THINKING

It's upsetting when a skill you've only recently honed is made obsolete, but we're getting to the stage now where seamlessly altering sevens to look like eights has segued to writing the correct date without thinking. As we ponder how far into January is appropriate to wish friends we haven't seen since December, 'Happy New Year', we may also pick over the fresh carcass of 2017 like carrion birds on the road and analyse just what the hell happened. What joy, what suffering, what trivial gripes and ideas came to us, which events affected us, and which actions did we affect others with? I recall small revelations, like realising statistically the same kind of people who will clandestinely search the internet on their phone under the table to cheat in a pub quiz are the same kinds who will post a breathtakingly ignorant comment beneath a social media status, as if Google had never existed, happy to shortcut wisdom to potentially win kudos and money, yet apparently oblivious to technological aid when looking hopelessly dumb to their social circle. On second thoughts, perhaps these are types unfortunately influenced by a certain very powerful leader of dubious repute.

On a local level, we were blessed with a new luxury housing showroom and begin this year with infra-



structure works carried out quickly, in a non-essential section of the village, with minimum inconvenience to anyone. I hear the children on their way to Deddington Primary particularly enjoy the exotically-flavoured plumes provided by the convoys of mindlessly idling engines with nowhere to go.

But I digress. Make this year a year of triumph as well as disaster, seek positive changes and reciprocate kindnesses. Aspire to mental, physical and spiritual growth while you can: we don't get long. For as the old axiom goes, you don't study history; you are history.

Aaron Bliss

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We start the New Year by welcoming Paul and Andrew to the team as our Digital Helpers. They are offering one-to-one support to get people online, in particular, using Word, Excel, email, Outlook, internet banking and smart devices. I'm sure you have noticed more and more banks and services are making us go online to get what we want by no longer offering services in the traditional manner, so don't get left behind, let us help you keep up with the world around us. If you're struggling with setting up an email account, can't find your way around setting up a spreadsheet or simply want to learn how to do your supermarket shopping or banking online, get in touch and we will arrange sessions at the library, either on our free to use public network PCs or your own device using our free WiFi.

All our volunteers and I are able to show you how to access your own online library account where you can order books, renew the ones you have and access the wealth of information the service has to offer. If you want to have a look at <https://libcat.oxfordshire.gov.uk/web/arena/my-account> you just need to have your borrower number and PIN number to hand. I can issue your PIN number at the counter if you don't have it yet.

Our lively and fun Rhyme-times for under 5s and families have started again after the Christmas break. Don't forget to come along and join us on Mondays 2.30–3pm, during term time.

I'm very pleased to notice we are starting to see new members joining the library from the Swere. I'd like to wish them all a very warm welcome to Deddington and hope they will be very happy in our lovely parish. It would be great to see our new neighbours fully involving themselves within the clubs and groups in the community, bringing with them new energy and ideas which in turn will help keep Deddington the lively and vibrant community we know and love.

Stella O'Neill, Library Manager
01869 338391

deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

YOGA ॐ

AT THE HOLLY TREE
All abilities

In the Holly Tree meeting room,
near the traffic lights, Deddington

WEDNESDAYS

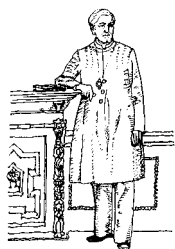
9.30am, 2pm & 7.30pm

Contact Annette Murphy

Phone 07842 086809
or email
annette-orchard@live.co.uk

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO



The following are extracts from the diaries of the Revd Cotton Risley for the month of February 1868:

7 February – I and Holford attended a Justices Meeting at the Town Hall as usual.

10 February – I went up to Mr. Churchill's office and heard a tramp case – sent him to House of Correc-

tion for twenty one days.

12 February – The Darkies Concert went off well last night – all the Town there.

15 February – Arranged with Mary Ann Cox to continue on as Cook after a month's trial at £20 per annum wages. A month's notice or a month's wages to be given previous to leaving her service.

22 February – I went to Oxford to vote for University Coronership – for Mr. Davenport. Heard later that he had lost his election by nine votes.

25 February – I signed a warrant of commitment for two Steeple Aston men to House of Correction for not paying a fine and costs.

27 February – I went to Buckingham to stay with my sister Hearn till Saturday.

Buffey Heywood

bd.heywood@btinternet.com



FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

www.FriendsofDeddingtonLibrary.org



FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Happy New Year and a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports the library, be it through volunteering, being a subscriber/sponsor, buying books, or our calendar.

Last year was busy with numerous events, book sales, our photo competition and, of course, the library calendar. Sales were up on 2016 due to attending more local events and spreading the word about our calendar. We plan to run the photo competition again this year and produce a 2019 calendar for which no doubt there will be plenty of snow pictures after December's heavy snowfall. We were also alerted to another opportunity while at the market in November by visitors who couldn't find postcards of the village. So, with the agreement of our talented calendar photographers we've chosen a small selection from the 2017 calendar to produce both postcards and note cards, available in the library and hopefully through other village outlets in future. Please keep taking pictures of our wonderful parish, especially when the clear winter sun shines: it's often better for photography than during the summer.

Bryn Williams

abw@brynwilliams.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Clifton coped with the recent snow quietly but competently. Sadly, the village salt spreader didn't get an outing as Cllr Collins' request for help before the snow was restricted to Book Club and there were no takers. Remember 10 grams of salt per cubic metre is the desired coverage and the spreader does this well. Anyone fancy being asked next time please let me or Cllr Collins know. He thought he was alright showing off with his snow tyres.

Clifton did have a night to remember on the last day of 2017 with the Duck hosting a magnificent bash. Great ale, wine and company set the evening off very well. The curries filled a hole in a satisfying way and Olivia's fantastic playlist DJ'd by Rebecca led to a lot of dancing belying ages, drinking habits or the hour as Madness face-offs gave way to classic disco and great 80s anthems. Oh, we slept well on the first.

A big shout out to the poo-flagger who on the east leg of the Clifton Loop has created some eight or ten flags to show the path of a frankly shocking dog owner who is not taking responsibility for a dog I presume they elected to own. People obviously love their dogs. I love my children, but with investment, planning and training I manage to stop them crapping where my friends and neighbours tread. So why can't you? If you are identified you will be named, I promise.

There was tell of Candleford residents who set off to Lower Larkrise for a New Year's Day ramble seeking sustenance but were denied as the pub enjoyed a well-deserved break after the night before. This echoed the demise of the traditional Candleford hike that was a New Year feature for some years until no Candleford hostelry opened and promptly quashed future expeditions. Some of my neighbours are a little irritated no-one popped in to say hello – but, hey ho!

Martin Bryce

martinbryce@gmail.com

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LETTERS

FROM FRANKIE COX, CORNWALL
Remembering Ted Johnson: when I first came to Deddington in 1976, not knowing anyone apart from Jean Goddard, I went to the pub and to church. I was made very welcome to the church by Ruth and Ted Johnson. I soon became friends with these two lovely people. Having a lot in common with Ted as we were both reps and loved dogs, I was soon to become a member of the PCC of which Ted was secretary, having the large leather-bound book in which he took the minutes. I became church warden along with Ted, serving the Revd Richard Hannah. We used to have to go to the churchwardens visitation, after which refreshments were served. Ted did not like the small talk which always happened at these events so we always escaped to the nearest pub.

Another fond memory of Ted was doing the Othmoor Challenge with our two dogs at the time, Snowy (Ted's) and Chipper (mine). We got lost but got back on track, the only setback being that to get back on track we had to jump a ditch. Ted, having had two hip replacements, jumped fine, the dogs followed and yours truly fell in. Thank you for your friendship. I treasure the memories. Rest in peace dear Ted.

FROM MICHAEL LIEBRECHT, NEW STREET

An enormous thank you to everyone for their generosity at the carols on Christmas Eve in the Market Place; your donations raised some £882 for Katharine House Hospice. Also so many thanks to the numerous people who contribute time, assistance, equipment, facilities, and mulled wine to make the event happen – I am very grateful yet again this year, as I am to Deddington Brass for their dedication to this occasion.

The Parish Council very kindly paid for a whole new set of carol books for this year so they are borrowed from the PC. A very large number were not returned. Any found can be (anonymously) put through the letterbox at Bowler House, New Street, or on the table just inside the Church, from where I'll collect them.



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

FROM COLIN CLARK AND
HILARY PALMER

We thought that parishioners would be interested to know that the donations in Celia Clark's name at her memorial service at Deddington Church on 8 November or given to me beforehand or to the undertakers amounted to £608.25p. These have been passed to Katharine House Hospice. A number of folk also promised further donations through the KHH website.

We are sure that Celia would have been so surprised at this generosity from friends and neighbours in the Parish and beyond. We also offer our grateful thanks for the donations and the Revd Annie Goldthorp and her team for their support to us over the past few months. This has made things easier.

FROM THE REVD ANNIE GOLDTHORP

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us as we opened the church on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Twelve of us sat down to a beautiful Christmas lunch, every part of which had been generously donated by members of our village community, and we even had the turkey cooked for us.

Being open and providing meant that no-one there had to be on their own for Christmas and I know from the comments made that they really enjoyed the day. We will definitely do it again next year.

Once again, many thanks to all who supported us.

FROM RUTH JOHNSON, DEDDINGTON

I would like to thank all those who supported me in so many different ways following the death of my dear husband, Ted. It was heartening to read all your kind messages and to hear so many good words spoken of him. I would also like to thank those who shared a friendly word with him and helped him during the last few, fragile months of his life, as well as all our friends who attended his Service of Thanksgiving in Deddington Church on 20 December.

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

The AGM is planned for Wednesday 21 March at the Holly Tree Club at 7.30pm. Please come along and hear about the work which was carried out last year and our plans for Castle Grounds for 2018. Become a member or join the committee – we will be delighted to see you.

When you visit Castle Grounds in the next few weeks, please be careful of the lower track round the rampart which is very muddy and slippy, there is also a fallen railing which could cause a trip hazard. The large branches and excess fallen wood will be cleared before spring.

Just another polite reminder for all dog walkers to clean up after their dogs and help us keep this wonderful site a safe and clean environment for all visitors.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Happy Christmas and What Makes Merika Great

It's all over for another year and the crazy Brit has insulted dozens of people simply by wishing them Merry Christmas. Americans feel that they can't use the usual greeting, it has to be Happy Holidays, despite the fact that this is by far a more Christian country than the UK. This is one of the differences about everyday life in the Land of the Free.

But religion doesn't wind me up on a daily basis, unlike gun control, healthcare, racism, and a political system that is hugely driven by the ultra-rich. And then there are the really important issues, petrol pump hoses have the colours inverted, and light switches are the wrong way round.

Our house is big, every room is twice the size of Cotswold House in Deddington. We have a huge seven foot bed and a walk-in wardrobe bigger than the first flat I lived in. It is semi-detached, which all our local friends find very disturbing, Americans like their own space. It is dark at night; they don't like paying for street lights and this can be a bit difficult when performing that most un-American activity, the walk home from the pub.

And Middle American families want a perfect life. They spend enormous sums on their teeth. Ben just had his wisdom teeth out, none of my UK kids ever had

that done. They helicopter over their kids, push them very hard, and, of course, believe they never drink or take drugs. They all do of course.

This is a very healthy state, with lots of cycling and hiking but they don't know how to drive. The roads are all wide, with many ridiculous four-way stops. But the population has not been taught to drive properly, lane control is appalling, and 50% of people never use their indicators. No surprise then that the death rates on the roads, as in most areas of life here, are three times higher than in the UK.

Apart from the weather, we stay here because of our work and because we have made good friends. There are some really great people here and almost none of them support Trump anymore. I was very sorry to read that he has called off his UK trip, I was looking forward to his tweets about Her Majesty and patting her on the bottom (or fanny as he would put it). You all ought to get a close up look at a catastrophe in motion, it truly is unreal.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas or a lovely Hanukkah. It will soon be Groundhog Day. I hope to wake up and find Trump has finally been impeached.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

Creative Piano Lessons

I'm a piano teacher and composer with many years' experience of offering piano lessons focusing on developing musicianship, creativity and most of all enjoyment.

While I do coach for exams (Grades 1–8 and GCSE and A-level performance), in an increasingly high-pressured, exam-oriented culture I'm also pleased to offer an environment for creativity to blossom.

Whether you're contemplating piano lessons for your child or yourself, feel free to get in touch.

Rosemary

Rosemary.Jefford@gmail.com

Tel: 07542 086 038



History Corner www.deddingtonhistory.uk

New items to be found on the History home page, <http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/>, include the Rifle Club's history and the story of Frederick Treebie Reid, Deddington clockmaker.

Rob Forsyth 01869 338384

robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

More stories have been added to Deddington History's 'People and Profiles' series (<http://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/people>): a further 30 or so friends who are no longer with us – Roger Callow, Rob Huntingdon, Alan Rampley, Sue Parkinson, John Temple Smith, John Vaughan and many, many others.

I would like to update this at the end of each year, adding Brian Carter's memorable portfolio of pictures of Deddington people taken between 2000 and 2010. DOL would like to include as many lives of Deddington residents as possible in its record of parish life at the start of the 21st century. Please send me any tributes given at burials, cremations or memorial services of friends or relatives who have recently died.

Mary Robinson

01869 338272

robmary@gmail.com

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

DOGS AGM was held on Thursday 11 January, courtesy of the Deddington Arms. Depending on who you ask the attendance was in the order of 37–40, still a record for a DOGS AGM.

Sadly, we had two resignations; that of Ron Colley, captain for several years. and Keith Spengler, secretary for three years, who is heading for pastures new as vice-captain of Tadmarton Heath Golf Club Seniors section. DOGS members are very grateful for the work and effort put in by these committee members and a token of our gratitude was presented at the end of the meeting.

The new committee comprises:

Chairman	Tony Lowe
Secretary	Barry Pawley
Treasurer	Ralph Stewart
Captain	Mike Housley
Vice-Captain	David White
Handicap Secretary	John Dauphin
Social Secretary	Nigel Oddy

Venues selected are:

14 May	Ladbrook Park Golf Club
22 June	Badgemore Park Golf Club
17 August	Wychwood Golf Club*
21 September	Olton Golf Club

* Barbecue to be held at the Forsyth's for whose generosity DOGS are, once more, most grateful.

Tony Lowe 01869 337108
tonylowe077@gmail.com

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team results:

18.11.17	AFC Bicester (Cup)	L 3–4
25.11.17	Woodford Utd 3rd (h)	W 4–1
13.01.18	Bloxham (a)	W 3–1

Reserve team results:

18.11.17	B Itchington Res (a) (Cup)	L 1–4
25.11.17	Ashton Folly (a)	L 0–2
02.12.17	Wroxton Sports (a)	L 1–4
13.01.18	Banbury Sports Men's (h)	W 5–2

With the snow putting paid to most of December's fixtures, there has not been an awful lot to get excited about for followers of the (Bah) Humbugs or Reserves over Christmas. In fact, it looks as if Santa left a sackful of coal in the teams' stockings, with the Reserves still flailing at the foot of Division Two, and the First Team being eliminated from the Lord Jersey Cup by AFC Bicester. Let's hope 2018 brings some more optimism as a titanic surge of form will surely be needed to salvage the season for both sides.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Youth section

In the Witney and District Youth Football League, the U14s playing in the U14 B League had a dramatic win in the Cup. After the game ended 6–6 with William Mansfield scoring five goals and the team 6–3 down at half time, the U14s won 6–5 on penalties but were back down to earth the following week with a heavy defeat to Freeland. The U13 Sharks playing in the B League, lost 1–2 at home to Yarnton in the Cup, but made up for this with a 8–0 win over Carterton Town with a hat-trick for Freddie Murfitt, and a 5–3 win over Charlbury Town Youth. The U13 Cobras playing in the C League had their first win of the season beating Bloxham 10–0 with four goals from Oliver Brooks and hat-tricks for Harley Finch and Lewis Harding. The following week they had a heavy home defeat to Chadlington. The U12s had a 3–1 victory over Middleton Cheney in the league but lost 2–5 in the Cup to Kingston Colts despite leading 2–1 at half time.

The U7s move up to competitive football for the 2018/19 season. They are looking for a local business to sponsor their kit for the next three seasons. If you are interested, please contact Roger Sykes by email at carsykes@btinternet.com

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please get in touch. Further information about the club is on our website -www.deddingtontownfc/ or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc

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

Deddington Tennis Club

Open to all regardless of standard. For more information visit our website www.deddingtontennis.com.

Ed Toll

Deddington Ladies Netball

Deddy Ladies Netball is taking a break for a while. We hope that it will return at some point. If you can rejuvenate the club or have any suggestions, please contact Suzie Upson on 07717 205051.

Deddington Cricket Club

We run 1st and 2nd XI teams participating in the OCA League. For more information visit our website www.deddingtoncricket.co.uk.

Derek Cheeseman

Deddington Badminton Club

Meets every Tuesday from 7.00pm from September to April at the Windmill Centre.

Caroline Tindale
deddingtonbc@hotmail.co.uk

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Association

Over thirty members and three guests were present at our first meeting of the year on 3 January in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. The theme of the meeting was our 'Best Three of 2017'. Martyn Pearse presented each three-image submission and invited the author to explain where, when and how they were taken, or explain what made the image one of their favourites. Members contributed helpful constructive critique from the floor on each image, including plenty of friendly banter. It provided a very full evening of enjoyable and instructive photographs on a wide variety of subjects from portraits to architecture, landscapes, macro and abstracts, with no shortage of imagination and creativity from the authors.

Our next meeting is on 7 February at 7.30pm in the Cartwright Hotel, when Jim Muller will present a portfolio of images from a recent USA visit. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Next month's topic is 'Anything Indoors' – open to your interpretation.

Paul Brewerton

Paul.brewerton@btinternet.com

Deddington Bookworms

Our latest read was *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn. If you enjoy the whole guessing game thing then this could be a book for you. It is a real page turner. From the moment we began reading the book, we were all looking for the twist. Early on the reader learns about the disappearance of Amy, Nick's wife of five years. The author presents the story of how they met, married and then ended up living in the run-down town of North Carthage in Missouri and Amy's disappearance, alternating chapter by chapter between Nick's narration of the present or Amy's past tense diary. Most of the Bookworms liked this style of presentation but a couple found it slightly off-putting.

That aside, it becomes clear very quickly that the relationship has turned rocky and there is deceit on at least one side. Initially, Nick tells the reader that he is telling lies as we hear about his adulterous relationship. Amy's diary, on the other hand, tells of her attempts to mend the failing marriage but, as the story unfolds, it becomes clear that Amy's diary is also a lie and it is questionable which character is the more dislikeable.

We think that's enough for you to know if you haven't seen the film as we don't want to spoil the plot if you are enticed to read it. We all thought it was worth it.

New members are welcome on the first Monday of the month and all books are provided, free of charge, by the library. If you would like to know more, contact the library or email James (james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk) or Janet (jss@talktalk.net) for more information.

Deddington Library
01869 338391

Women's Institute

December was given over to celebrating our birthday and Christmas lunch at Otters. The original meeting was postponed due to snow and ice and we met a week later with the committee very generously providing our drinks.

At our January meeting we voted on which of five resolutions, on topics such as mental health, should be selected by the National Institute in London for future consideration: several seemed to have made an appearance before. One of our members, Moira Byast, gave a talk on Oxfordshire ghosts, including two seen and heard in Deddington. It was very interesting whatever beliefs members held and we closed the evening with a very pleasant picnic supper.

Our next meeting is on 13 February when Martin Edwards will give a talk on the Taoist Tai Chi Society. If that interests you, please come along, visitors are always welcome. Ring either Beryl Suckling on 01869 337385 or Jenny Cross on 01869 337613.

Julia Hobbs

Book Group

November's book was Thomas Harding's *The House by the Lake*, the intriguing history of a holiday cottage on the outskirts of Berlin. The house was built in the 1920s by the author's German-Jewish great-grandfather but relinquished when the family fled Germany during Nazi persecution. It then became home to a succession of other residents whose stories, ranging from the colourful to the mundane, provide a perspective on a century of turbulent political and social history. The book has been meticulously researched by Harding, a journalist, and is written in a neutral tone, despite his personal link to painful family memories. It also documents his quest for permission to restore his family's house and create a place of education and reconciliation. More information about this can be found on www.AlexanderHaus.org (contains a few spoilers).

The next meeting is on 22 February, when we will be discussing *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for more information.

Sian Waterman

Holly Tree Club

Our members enjoyed Christmas lunch at the Deddington Arms on 5 December. The food was excellent. Our thanks to everyone at the Deddington Arms for making the event so enjoyable.

We had to cancel our December film night because of the snow but the safety of the attendees was paramount. Our January film had to be changed, due to scheduling issues, to *The Incredible Journey* which everyone enjoyed. Our next film night, in association with Age UK, will be 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'.

CALLING ALL CLUBS Continued from p14

starring Ewan McGregor as a fisheries scientist, Dr Alfred Jones, who receives an unusual request to bring sport fishing to Yemen. No need to be a member or to book to see the film, just come along. All over 60s will be made very welcome. The only cost is £2.00 for refreshments on the night.

The Holly Tree clubroom and grounds are available for hire at a very reasonable cost. Many clubs and groups regularly meet at the Holly Tree. The building is available for small parties, meetings, and other activities. We have free WiFi, a kitchenette for refreshments, some on-site parking, and comfortable and flexible seating and tables to enable the room to be configured to your requirements. The grounds can be hired to accommodate small marquees for parties and an alcohol and entertainment licence can be arranged should the need arise. We welcome new business.

Don't forget our Monday morning coffee club for the over 60s. We meet on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am in the Holly Tree Club. All over 60s are welcome so please do come and join us.

For Club enquiries, please contact Liz Dickinson 01869 337050 or Diana Marshall on 01869 337761. For Holly Tree booking enquiries, please contact Hugh Blythe on 01869 338126.

John Finnigan
Chair, Holly Tree Management Committee

Deddington Players

Our panto is over for another year. Cinders and Barry have skipped off together to university, the dames have packed away their wigs and glamorous dresses and our versatile panto horse is back in his stable. Thank you to everyone who took part behind the scenes and on the stage in this year's production of *Cinderella*. Well done. Thanks also to everyone who came to our performances. We appreciate your support and hope you'll agree that Deddington Players' productions are going from strength to strength. The panto will be back next year but, in the meantime, look out for other Deddington Players shows on our Facebook page. We welcome new members, just contact suzieupson@mac.com.

Suzie Upson

RBL Branch

The future of the Branch looks assured with three new committee members joining us: Ralph Stewart, who will take over as treasurer from Norman West (who has held that office for over 40 years – for 25 of which he was also club treasurer), Tony Lowe as secretary, and Sid Mallett. We can now plan social and fundraising events to support RBL's prime objective of providing community support to veterans and their families, where needed. Bear in mind that you do not need to be in the military to join the RBL and that the

annual subscription is only £17. If you are interested in joining the Branch please contact me, pending Nina Fairns resuming her role as membership secretary. We will be contacting the existing 70 or so members in February or March with ideas for activities for the revived Branch.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. Ideas on how best to mark it in Deddington are being considered but meanwhile the Deddington men who died in the war are being remembered in prayer during Sunday morning service in the week in which each gave his life.

Rob Forsyth, Chairman
01869 338384 robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Deddington and District History Society

Our January speaker, Tim Healey, gave us a rumbustiously entertaining talk on ceremonies associated with May Morning, taking as his starting point the annual May Day ceremony on Magdalen College tower in Oxford. The ceremony was first mentioned in 1695, when it was already 'an ancient custom'. Possibly it dates from the tower's completion in 1509 (singing from the top of church towers was common). May Day festivities, of course, are a pretty much universal celebration of the rebirth of nature. Tim explained how all sorts of revels, including maypole dancing, Morris dancing, and depictions of Robin Hood, all became attached to May Day. Interestingly, the word 'revel' has the same root as 'rebel', having distinctly subversive connotations. Popular revels were banned in Oxford as early as 1250, though little notice seems to have been taken.

Presbyterians, who loathed May Day ceremonies, banned them. As everyone knows, they returned by popular demand at the Restoration and have featured to a greater or lesser extent ever since. The Victorians tamed May Day, turning it into something charming, benign and genteel: think May Queen parades. It was the Victorians who added decorative ribbons to the maypole, which previously had been just a tall pole topped with a garland. Only the Morris dancers remained relatively untamed. The Oxford ceremony came to national attention because of William Holman Hunt's celebrated painting 'May Morning on Magdalen Tower', but it remained small-scale until the 1980s when crowds grew ever larger. In 2017, 27,000 people attended.

On Wednesday 14 February Bill King will tell us about 'The Defences of the Thames and Cherwell Valleys in World War II'. The meeting will be at the Windmill Centre and refreshments will be available from 7.00pm for anyone who would like to come along.

Chris Day, Chairman 01869 337204
Moiria Byast, Secretary 01869 338637

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p15

Craft Group

Holly Tree, Tuesdays, 2.00– 4.30pm

Mums and Tots

Windmill Centre, Fridays, 9.30am–12.30pm

Friendly Bridge Club

Holly Tree, Fridays, 2.00–5.00pm,

Thursday Club

Windmill Centre, Thursdays, 10.00am–3.00pm.

Deddington Brass

Parish church, Mondays, 7.00–9.00pm

Life and Portrait Art Group

Holly Tree, Thursdays, 10.00am–12.30pm and 1.30–4.00pm.

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Offers scouting for girls and boys from six to 18, covering the villages of Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and the Barfords. The Explorer Scouts cover a much wider area. More information is available on

www.deddingtonscouts.org.uk

Beavers

Beavers are for children between six and eight. We meet at the Windmill Centre from 5.30–6.30pm on Mondays.

Laura Kiff

deddingtonbeavers@gmail.com

Cubs

At the end of last term some of the Cubs, having visited Hook Norton Vets, continued to work towards their animal carer badge while others concentrated on home safety. We also made snow globes which contained Lego Christmas trees and enjoyed an evening of snow-related games, including turning Cubs into snowmen with loo rolls. They followed this by making racing chariots with chocolate bear drivers, who, having survived the race, did not survive the trip home. We welcome Flynn and Finlay to the pack this term and hope they enjoy their time with us.

The charity collection at the market, where we displayed our wonderful guys, raised £110 for Clic Sargent.

Jo Churchyard

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

The Scouts have continued working on the go-kart which they inherited needing a bit of TLC (and brakes) and they turned their talented hands to making 'milk-man's' or magic wallets from duct tape. This meant most of them were glued down to the table for a good part of the session and has inspired us to do it again when we fancy a peaceful evening. The film night was a great success, formal dress and mocktails at the Old School Room, Hempton. So far this term – Emergency Aid.

At the October farmers' market Finn raised £30 for Downs Syndrome Association, selling his Deddington Photo Quiz. Very well done.

Peter Churchyard

deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Explorers

With activities that spanned hiking to raising money for Children in Need last term, this term sees us covering everything from Guide Dogs to Fairtrade, including dancing and fundraising in between. Have you ever wondered how much that odd item Auntie Gertie left you is worth? Well, we have a valuation evening on Saturday 24 March at the Windmill Centre between 7.00–9.30pm with auctioneer, Edwyn Pym, from Jones and Jacob Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers, Watlington. A fish and chip supper will be included for £10 and monies raised will be divided between the International Otter Survival Fund and a charity working to assist vulnerable young adults. Bring one item per person and look forward to an evening of stories about the antique industry and a valuation.

Contact Janet Duxbury 01608 737959

spartansexplorers@gmail.com

Girl Guide Association

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

Rainbows are the youngest section of the Girl Guide Association aged between five and seven. We meet at Barford St Michael village hall on Friday, 4.15–5.15pm.

Hazel Neal 01869 337822

1st Deddington Brownies

Brownies are girls aged seven to ten. We meet on Mondays from 6.00–7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

Regine Parsons

deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com

1st Deddington Guides

We are in full go mode for the new year. Many plans are afoot for a winter camp night at half term, and for an exciting spring entertainment in aid of charity. In the meantime, by way of relaxation, we made ourselves wonderful hats just in case that invitation to Harry's wedding should come through the letterbox.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn 01295 258008

WELL REMEMBERED

Jim Milroy 1933–2017

Jim Milroy died peacefully at home on 12 November surrounded by his family.

He was born in Portpatrick in south-west Scotland and moved around a good deal as the son of a farm manager, living on several farms in Scotland, moving to St Asaph in North Wales and Cobham in Surrey as a teenager. In Cobham, he proclaimed his Scottishness to his new classmates in a broad Welsh accent. This experience with the local accents of his childhood kindled the interest in language and dialects on which he later built his career. Jim was a successful and highly respected academic linguist. As a graduate student, he went on a Fulbright scholarship to Washington University, St Louis, and spent his early career teaching at the University of Colorado at Boulder, enjoying the skiing offered by the Rockies. He loved the USA and was happy to return there many years later.

He came back to the UK in the early 1960s to teach at Leeds University and then Manchester, where he met his wife, Lesley. They married in 1965 and three sons arrived in quick succession. Jim moved to Queens University Belfast where he and Lesley carried out pioneering work in the field of sociolinguistics – studying how language use is affected by social factors. The tight-knit communities of Belfast in the 1970s provided excellent laboratories for this research.

He was very much at home in Belfast, not far geographically or culturally from Portpatrick, and particularly loved the beauty of the west of Ireland. The family bought a holiday cottage in Donegal with a small legacy from Jim's father and spent weekends and holidays there for decades. In 1981, he moved to take the Chair of Linguistics at Sheffield University and later continued linguistic research with Lesley at Newcastle and then for another decade in the USA at the University of Michigan before retiring to Deddington in 2005.

He loved life in Deddington and sang briefly in the Warriner Choir. He also had a starring role at several Burns Night suppers organised as fundraisers for the church. More recently he wrote a popular series of columns for the *Deddington News* about the origins of surnames. He was an authority on the origin of names and of place names; family car journeys usually included an entertaining and educational running commentary on the names of the places we passed through, not to mention the odd location-relevant song.

Jim had two further defining characteristics: he valued and was supportive of young people, having little time for those who were overly critical of them, recognising that each generation confronts different issues; secondly, he loved animals. He grew up with dogs and was very fond of them. Latterly he discovered the joy of cats and spoke to his beloved succession of Ginger, Hamish, BP, Hamish 2, Sophie and Bella as if they were slightly naughty but lovable children. He was a gentle and humorous man with many friends in

the village and beyond. Most of all, he was proud to have made a family with Lesley and brought up three happy and confident sons. He was delighted to see the next generation appearing from 2003 and, despite one son living in Singapore and another in Sydney, was able to see all his grandchildren often, racking up the air miles in his old age.

David Milroy

David Keats 1940–2017

David Alfred Keats was born a war baby in Exeter on 26 August 1940, the oldest of Alfred and Doreen Keats' seven children and did not meet his father until he was five. The family moved to Bodmin, and then Didcot where he received his schooling, leaving at 15 to become a trainee mechanic and then becoming a tiler and bricklayer. In the happy days before Health and Safety he was able to carry a load of tiles on his head up and down a ladder, known as 'bumping out the roof'. While in his late teens Dave joined the Territorial Army. After the building jobs, Dave worked on the Morris Mini production line at Cowley, until he discovered his real passion and joined the police force.

Dave started his police career as a special constable in Abingdon and joined Thames Valley Police on general duties in 1970, followed by the Cowley CID, the Thames Valley police support group, and firearm and public order training. He also worked undercover for the drugs squad. At a Reading Festival he stepped out from his tent and couldn't work out why the ravers were giving him strange looks. To his horror his tent had 'Thames Valley Police' on the side leaving Dave to ask his colleagues to arrest him as if he had stolen it. Dave met his wife, Dianne, in 1980 at the Punchbowl in Abingdon. Their first date, proposed as 'getting dolled up and going for a meal', ended up at the Oxford United football ground, sitting on a bench for 90 minutes, with a hot dog. In 1983 Dave and Di moved to Deddington with daughters, Michelle and Nikki, where Dave became a rural beat officer, starting off at Deddington primary school teaching cycling proficiency and about stranger danger. He also always made sure the elderly were all right, especially those with homemade cakes. Besides his passion for practical jokes Dave was an Elvis fanatic. He spent two weeks at the Heartbreak Hotel, visiting Graceland, Elvis' home and gravesite, every day, as well as recording his own version of *Blue Suede Shoes* at Sun Studios.

In 1995 Dave was awarded his 25 years' service medal and retired from the police force, taking on security jobs, first at the Upper Heyford base and then at job centres in Witney and Banbury. Eventually his illness got the better of him and he retired in August 2017, much to his annoyance, for his spirit was unbroken and his fight and determination, undiminished. He eventually went out on 9 November with Elvis' music playing in the house he'd lived in for 17 years, in the

WELL REMEMBERED continued

community where he spent half his life, having earned that community's respect and affection, and with family around him. A good ending to the good life of a very good man.

The Keats Family

Ted Johnson 1922–2017

Ted was born in Dublin on 11 February 1922. His mother and father farmed in County Westmeath, Eire, where he spent his early childhood. At the age of ten, he went away to boarding school at Wesley College, Dublin. Around this time, his mother moved to Malahide, a little seaside town north of Dublin. At the age of fourteen, he entered St Colomba's College, at the foot of the Dublin mountains. He enjoyed his four years there, particularly hockey, athletics, tennis and golf. He always said that he did not excel in the classroom but that he did reasonably well. His best subject seems to have been the Irish language in which he was given a credit. He was also a useful member of the school choir which he greatly enjoyed.

When he left St Colomba's in July 1940, Europe was at war, and he joined the Royal Ulster Rifles. After a year of training, he was commissioned into the Royal Ulster Rifles as Second Lieutenant, and posted to Second London Irish Rifles at Littlehampton which was helping to defend the beaches on the south coast of England. He obviously wasn't very impressed with the defences, later recalling lots of barbed wire and one gun per platoon. In July 1942 he was posted to the Middle East and, being of Irish nationality, was selected to join the Second Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers in Malta. After warfare training in Syria and Egypt, he was sent to Palestine to prepare for the occupation of Leros in the Dodecanese. He was on Leros for roughly three months during which time he and his fellow soldiers were heavily bombed by the Germans. Without British air and sea support, they were forced to surrender and he was taken prisoner of war in November 1943 and was only liberated in April 1945.

After the war, he served with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Egypt, Israel and Palestine, before returning to the United Kingdom. In 1948, he became Adjutant at the Army Apprentices School at Arborfield where he met his future wife, Ruth. They were married in Basel, Switzerland, in 1951. He was then posted to the Third Battalion Gold Coast Regiment, accompanied by his wife. It was here in Ghana, that his first two daughters were born. From there he brought his young family to Belfast where he served as Adjutant at Queen's University Officers' Training Corps for three years. In 1957, he rejoined the Irish Fusiliers in Wuppertal, West Germany, where his third daughter was born.

In 1958, he retired from the army and joined Schweppes and became a sales representative. The family moved to the White House, Duns Tew, where they lived for the next fifty-seven years, during which

time he gave his service to the church in Deddington. He was a church warden for many years, sang in the choir for more than fifty years, was a member of the PCC, and was often to be seen keeping the churchyard in order. He was also a member of the local branch of the RSPCA and volunteered for many tasks within the organisation, latterly homing dogs. He loved animals and was passionate about their welfare. In his civilian life, dogs were his constant and well beloved companions.

The best word that sums up Ted, my husband and our father, is 'loyal' – he was loyal to everything and everyone he held dear.

**Ruth Johnson, Suzanne Chappell,
Ronnie Timmer and Marianne Vakalis**

WINDMILL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Play area: Feedback indicates our equipment plans match the site and the budget. The project is quite ambitious so we're looking for a landscaped design which will take in the new children's play area on the old bowling green and in the copse, the new MUGA and the refurbished all-weather court, making an integrated sport and leisure area. When we've fine-tuned what we want, we will prepare a public tender document.

New MUGA: The new multi-use games area will be built on the old BMX track, subject to the site undergoing a satisfactory ecological survey which is being carried out now. First indications are that there are no problems in the area. The copse on the west will be opened up and the site will have an access path to bring it into the integrated area. Planning permission is not required as it falls within the Parish Council's powers and the S106 funding which will pay for it does not impose any such conditions.

Surveys: We will need planning permission for the children's play area and part of CDC's statutory requirements is a full site survey (utilities and topography). We've had quotes, and SurveyHub will be doing the surveys within the next couple of weeks.

Centre building: In conjunction with the Management Committee, we're talking to architects. They have the wishlist for our 'dream scheme' and we'll ask for a fall-back scheme and possibly phased plans. In the absence of guidance from the PC on what funds might be made available we're a bit in the dark and we're looking at grant aid from outside bodies.

The new MUGA and an improved AWC will be a good start to a much better Windmill Centre and there's a real possibility the play area might be ready this year. The parish has given us the mandate to do the work, and the PC has so far given the plans their backing.

If you have any comments on the plans, please email us on development@windmillcentre.org.

Mary Robinson, Chair