

the Deddington news

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Jill Cheeseman

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Jill Cheeseman

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2010 COVER:
Colin Robinson

Marianne Elsley not only increased people's understanding of the experiences of the Kindertransportees but she also made an invaluable contribution to community life including the survival of DN by taking over the editorship for two years (1985 – 87) and I'm sure she was involved a great deal whilst Ralph was editor. She used to recall the early days (fortunately long gone) of duplicating the DN by hand, endlessly turning the handle of a Roneo machine in a process that took forever, and always ending up covered in black ink.

This year's cover was designed by Colin Robinson using the Old English characters of our parish motto. The illustrations appeared in the 2000 publication, *Discovering Deddington*; those of Hempton and Deddington are by Maureen Dew, but we have been unable to trace the artist of the Clifton chapel drawing. If anyone can claim ownership, please let us know.

DIARY FEBRUARY

Mon	1	Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am – noon
Tue	2	Badminton Club: First meeting for Juniors, Windmill Centre
Wed	3	Photographic Society: Presentation by members, Valentino and Anatoli, 'Painting with Light', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm
Wed	3	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8.00 – 10pm
Fri	5	Bowls Club: Quiz Night at the Unicorn, 7.30pm
Sat	6	Jumble Sale in Parish Church, 10.00am – 1.00pm
Tue	9	WI: <i>At Home Abroad</i> , Sylvie Nickels, Holly Tree, 7.30pm
Wed	10	History Society: Ed Frost, 'Adderbury Morris Men's Memorial Trip', Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu	11	Monday Morning Club: Film evening, <i>The Reader</i> , Holly Tree, 6.30pm
Sat	13	Memorial Service Marianne Elsley, Carrdus School, Overthorpe, 11.30am
Sun	14	Deddington Church: St Valentine's service, 'Marriage and Love', 10.30am
Wed	17	Parish Council: Meeting: Town Hall, 7.30pm
Tue	23	Youth Club: AGM, Windmill Centre, 6.30pm
Thu	25	Book Club: Contact Sally Lambert for details 338094
Sat	27	Deddington Farmers' Market, 9.00am – 12.30pm
Sun	28	Deddington Church: Fairtrade service 10.30am

MARCH

Mon	1	Monday Morning Club: Coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am – noon
Wed	3	Deddington Ladies, Holly Tree, 8.00 – 10.00pm
Wed	3	Photographic Society: Peter Suthert, 'Better Holiday Photographs', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.30pm

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings in the Town Hall 16 December 2009 and 20 January 2010

Environment & Special Projects

Wildflower 'hotspots': The Hempton Rd cemetery will be the site of the first wildflower area. Plug plants are to be bought for autumn planting.

Environmental monitoring: A series of environmental initiatives are being proposed including a swift audit, hedgerow mapping, and parish pond survey, all of which will require funding from the 2010–11 budget.

Community Action Group: Anyone interested in volunteering for a community focused environmental group should contact Cllr Jean Rudge.

Christmas tree: This was sourced, decorated and removed at no cost to the PC; many thanks to all who contributed to this considerable community effort.

Dog bins: New bin installed at Castle Grounds.

War memorial & cemetery: Opposition is mounting to the relocation of the war memorial for sentimental, practical and mechanical reasons. The area is to be refurbished.

Planning (December)

PC no objection: (1) Mullions, Castle St, Deddington, felling one tree; (2) Caldicote, Main St, Clifton, demolition of existing house to be replaced by two new dwellings; (3) land adjacent to Mayfield, Earl's Lane, verge/wasteland to be converted to garden and hard standing; (4) Manor Flat, Deddington Manor, New St, internal improvements.

PC objection: (5) site adjacent to Ash Cottage, Chapel Close, Clifton, a new 4-bedroomed house, PWG were inclined to object to the application on the grounds of limited access and over-development of the site.

Approvals: (6) Lime Cottage, New St, hand rails on front steps; (7) Hempton House, Snakehill Lane, Hempton, replacement of old stables with new, approval with conditions; (8) The Knowle, Philcote St, felling one laurel; (9) Heathfield House, High St, felling one leylandii and trimming one laurel; (10) The Hermitage, Market Place, felling one yew and trimming one other yew.

Planning (January)

PC no objection: (1) Southgate, Market Place, new hand rail to front steps; (2) Treholford, New St, repair of stone mullions; (3) Daeda Cottage, The Mews, Market Place, first floor extension over existing ground floor and new dormer window; (4) Stile Cottage, Goose Green, certificate of lawful use for the continued use of Stile Cottage (within the grounds of Castle View) as a dwelling; (5) 19 The Daedings, internal alterations to provide extra accommodation for aged parents. PC no objection provided that their concerns (parking, and that alterations are to be only for the benefit of current occupiers with no sub-letting), were met.

PC objection: (6) Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, 15 items, 8 of which are retrospective and 7 new, PWG concerns about suitability of materials and matching existing; (7)

Chatterley House, Main St, Clifton, erection of home office/gym, objection to siting.

Approvals: (8) Holcombe Hotel, High St, amendments to earlier approved application, with conditions as listed building; (9) Corner House, High St, work to front elevation; (10) Ivings House, Philcote St, 2-storey rear extension, with conditions; (11) Calder Cottage, Philcote St, internal work; (12) Manor Flat, Deddington Manor, New St, internal alterations.

Withdrawals: (13) site adjacent to Ash Cottage, Chapel Close, Clifton, additional detached 4-bedroom house with garage, revised application anticipated.

F&GP

Budget for 2010–11: A 5% increase in the precept for 2010–11 was agreed, taking the sum to just over £35,000. The increase was 10% last year and had been recommended by F&GP, but the PC decided that, in these straitened times, 5% was more appropriate.

Highways

Street parking: A letter is available from the Clerk's office confirming that parking outside one's own house (or anyone else's) is not a right.

New St pedestrian crossing: The road is too narrow to take a conventional centre refuge but a new smaller design has been installed in Oxford Road, Banbury, and this is to be investigated.

Post box: The original plan to move the post box to the corner of the road by the Church is not feasible due to technical reasons; a new possible location immediately outside the Post Office by the trolley stand is now being considered.

VAS: The signs on the approaches to Deddington and Hempton will be changed to trigger at 35mph instead of 30mph as at present (in line with ACPO and OCC recommendations).

Gritting: At the February meeting the PC will discuss a proposal that it should carry out salting/gritting of certain pavements in the parish, in the event of extreme weather such as has been experienced recently.

Recreation & Play Areas

Sports clubs: From 2010 through graduated steps it is proposed that the sports clubs should be responsible for buildings insurance (at the moment paid by DPC).

Youth Club: New committee now in place and PC expects another approach for financial help. YC looking for an additional slot at the Windmill Centre.

Castle Grounds: Quotations have been sought for the clearance of hogweed; the involvement of volunteer help was also discussed.

Parish Finances

Dec invoices £3,104.81; investments £546,550.71

Jan invoices £2,732.96; investments £544,829.56

CB/MR

Farmers' Market

February Farmers' Market will be on 27 February: by then we'll be looking forward to spring and I hope that the weather forecasts that I have seen, threatening us with ice and snow until April, really are wrong!

There's been much debate recently about misleading labels on food. How 'Lincolnshire sausages' may be made with pork from Eastern Europe, and how some ready meal producers have used the Union flag to give the impression of Englishness, when in reality the ingredients may not come from Britain at all.

Slowly though, things are changing: Birds Eye have dropped the 'Great British Menu' label from a dish that contained no British meat. There is a European Council working party on labelling – but UK members voted against mandatory origin labels on all non-processed food.

I heard also about a Scottish farmer producing carrots to be sold by local branches of a national supermarket. Pity then, that the same carrots had to be shipped to East Anglia for washing and packing before being sent back to Glasgow and Edinburgh as local carrots with added food miles.

Deddington farmers' market is a certified FARMA market. This means that you can be sure that produce sold there is local; it certainly hasn't been sent to the far end of the UK to be washed and packaged either! By the way; have you tried the Meat Joint's pork sausages with honey and ginger? The Meat Joint rear their own pork and the honey comes from Home Farm, Clifton. I don't know who's growing the ginger though! See you at the market, and roll on spring.

Paul Drawmer

338450, paul@drawmer.net

GREEN PIECE

Icicles hanging by the wall are an almost forgotten phenomenon. They may well however be a sign of a loft which needs more insulation. Heat escaping through the roof space is melting the snow while it is still freezing outside. All home owner/occupiers and private tenants are eligible for grant funding of 50 – 100% towards loft insulation. If householders

need to make a contribution, it will soon be recovered with lower heating bills and with the added benefit of increasing savings as energy costs escalate. If the big freeze makes you think global warming is a myth, the Kew website shows snowdrops flowering on 8 January.

Christopher Hall

338225

A grade II listed cottage in Hook Norton held an open day recently. To read of their experiences in turning it into an ecohouse, go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/forum/index.php?topic=248.msg503;topicseen#new>.

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CHURCH AND CHAPEL

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

February

Wed	3	10.00am	Eucharist
Thu	4	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	7	10.30am	First Sunday (with Year 4 of the Primary School)
		6.30pm	Evensong
Wed	10	10.00am	Eucharist
Sun	14	10.30am	Sung Eucharist: Valentine's Day Celebration
Mon	15	6.30pm	Eucharist: St Sigfrid
Wed	17	10.00am	(Ash Wednesday) Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
Thur	18	2.00pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	21	10.30am	Eucharist with healing prayer
		3.30pm	(for 4.00pm) Free Spirit
Wed	24	10.00am	Eucharist
Sun	28	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Morning Worship: Service for Fairtrade Fortnight

St John's Hempton

February

Sun	7	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	21	9.00am	Eucharist
Sun	28	6.00pm	Evensong

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

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

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Sunday mornings at 10.30am: Pastor Isabel Walton except 28 February Faith Sharp

Congregational Chapel, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338529

Sunday morning services are held at the Wesleyan Reform Church together with their congregation. Sunday afternoon services are suspended for February

PC Parish of Hethe with Adderbury

Fr John Burns 277396

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

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

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

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

Wed 17 Mass Distribution of the ashes for Ash Wednesday

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Deddington Library has supported an essential service to our local housebound residents and for many years Pauline Drake and Margery Hawes have provided a regular delivery and collection service of books and audio books (on tape and cd) throughout our villages to those who are unable to get to the library themselves.

Margery has now decided to retire after countless years of turning out in all weathers to make her deliveries. She will be greatly missed by all who benefited from her visits and everyone who met Margery will wish her all the very best in her well-earned retirement. Time to sit down and read your books now Margery!

We are so very fortunate to have such a valuable volunteer service within our community and I am very pleased that Maureen Dew is now going to join Pauline in continuing to run this excellent service from Deddington Library.

Whilst writing, I would remind you that if you are house-bound, either permanently or just for a few weeks while convalescing for example, and would like to find out more about this service, please contact me at the Library (338391), Pauline (338477) or Maureen (338951) to find out how this service could assist you.

Stella O'Neill
Library Manager

A New Conservation District

One day, I asked my friend and colleague Peter Sheasby, premier field botanist in Oxfordshire: Where do you suppose the Swere comes from? Do you think we could find its fount and follow the river downstream to the Cherwell, examining all the habitats on the way and inventory the plant life? Peter was in the mood for adventure, and so we agreed on our project. That a book – *Portrait of a River: The River Swere in Oxfordshire* – would be born, was not then a consideration; but it was of some consequence, as you will see.

From start to finish, the River Swere passes under nine roads, skirts the settlement of six ancient villages (settlement in the Swere Valley, and on the nearby hills, has been continuous for over 2,000 years) and is divided into upper, middle and lower courses. In the upper course, the river is narrow and shallow; steep hills on both sides are near the river channel; the valleys are narrow; grey willow and hazel are common. In the middle course, the land on either side of the river is less wooded; intermittently the valley widens, usually on one side only; limestone grasslands and lowland marshes support a generous herbaceous flora. We expected the lower course, where the landscape broadens and flattens, to be wider, but it was not. It has been kept free of obstructions by the erstwhile River Authority. The river arises in Kiteney Copse from two small, tufa-rich springs. At first, a trickle of water, a gush in some seasons, spreads like a fan and flows

unconfined for the first hours of its life. The air is moist and the ground is mossy; lichens cover branches, bark and stones.

A wooden gate at the eastern end of Little Bridge Marsh was slightly ajar. It was the entrance to a long meadow shaped like the hull of a ship, dominated by meadowsweet and abundantly flowered by wild angelica. Along the eastern edge of the meadow, the river had broken free from a managed course; its meandering was more handsome than ever before, but it was merely a foretaste of the elaborate beauty of The Meanders (from Maiandros, a winding river on the Anatolian plateau, once the kingdom of Phrygia) in the valley of Wigginton.

In all, we inventoried 29 wetlands. None were identical in species composition. Unbeknown to Peter and me, a team of botanists checked our descriptions, with the result that the Thames Valley Environmental Record Centre (TVERC) has produced a map outlining the Swere Valley Conservation Target Area. The river valley and adjoining marshes and woodland, from Barford St Michael to the source of the river in Kiteney Copse, will be protected. Within this area, the following sites have been designated County Wildlife Sites: Church Marsh where healthy native crayfish were observed, the Wigginton Meanders, Peat Marsh and Horse Pond Marsh. This same status is soon to be conferred on Island Marsh and, one of our favourite sites, Little Bridge Marsh.

Walter L Meagher, wmeagher@gmail.com

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and wear comfortable clothing
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FROM THE EDITOR'S POSTBAG

FROM LANA AND MARC HOLMAN, MILL CLOSE

We would like to thank everyone in Deddington and the surrounding villages who helped us to find our lovely collie/springer dog, Jess, who went missing during a walk on 15 December. Following offers of help and extensive searching, she was found in a copse behind Castle Farm Barns. Her Halti had become entangled in barbed wire.

We would especially like to thank Carla Nieuwenhuizen from Aynho and her friend Pat who advised us and helped in our search. We would also like to thank John Burden and his dog, Buster, Mark and Craig Doggett and their dog, Amber, and last but by no means least, the heroes of the day, Jill Cheeseman and Scott, her trainee Dogs for the Disabled black labrador. Jill and Scott found Jess after she had been missing for four and a half days in sub-zero temperatures. Jess was none the worse for wear, just a bit skinnier than usual! We expressed our gratitude by donating the reward money to Dogs for the Disabled. We have been moved by everyone's support and practical help. The team spirit was amazing.

E-MAIL FROM ALEX DOUGLAS, WIMBORN CLOSE

Having graduated with a BSc in Environmental Science 15 years ago and now working in the refrigeration/air-conditioning industry, I was interested in Mr Hall's Green Piece column in the December DN. We work with refrigerants and other gases and are tightly controlled by environmental legislation in order that the government can meet targets agreed at Kyoto and other political strategies. Quite rightly, we are required to protect the atmosphere from ozone depleting substances. However, ozone depletion and global warming are not the same thing.

Mr Hall directs readers to the Met Office website which reads: 'human activities like burning coal, oil and gas have led to an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, causing an enhanced greenhouse effect and extra warming'. There is simply no direct evidence that human activities are involved in the current period of warming. It is not enough to say that elevated CO₂ levels are responsible. Even if they are the highest for two million years, this is nothing in geological terms. (The Wikipedia entries for Global Warming and Ozone Depletion give a much better summary of these issues.)

Mr Hall states that 'Ostriches' don't want to be confused with the facts and that 'only two in five people in Britain accept as scientific fact that global warming is largely man-made'. Scientists will never agree because climate modelling is not a precise science. No computer or human is currently able to grasp the complexity of the planet. There is no basis in fact either for or against. The issue just gets manipulated

by those with a political agenda. However, if only as a precaution we must move away from fossil fuels. I see a future in which homes are heated by energy efficient inverter driven heat pump technology. The technology is already available, we just need political impetus of a different nature. CO₂ is an excellent refrigerant. It can be cheaply reclaimed from the air and is often used in heat pumps as well as industrial refrigeration such as cold storage.

Meanwhile I say to Mr Hall, the Met Office and non-ostriches everywhere: prove your 'facts' please.

FROM MIKE RAMSDALE, THE LEYES

One more article on climate change, in Green Piece (Dec issue) and I feel we are having overload on the subject from the media. The Copenhagen shindig is over and the participants scurried back home in their private jets and limousines. As I write this we have had below zero temperatures for nearly a week but we all know that the only reliable thing about the weather is its unreliability. We move from hosepipe bans to snow-bound motorways, to whatever else nature throws at us. Ice Ages come and go and so we adapt. Thousands of older people in the northern hemisphere suffering from cold-related diseases will be delighted if their winters become warmer. And our farmers could grow crops that at the moment are flown in from warmer climes.

Please stop trying to make us feel guilty about an issue over which we have so little control. If our leaders feel so passionate about this, they should set an example in everything they do instead of pontificating to us and the rest of the world.

FROM CAROL GARRETT, NEW STREET

Thank you to everyone who donated to and supported my trip to Machu Picchu, Peru to raise funds for Dogs for the Disabled. The trip raised a massive £80,000. An especially big thank you to: the Crown and Tuns, Deddington Arms, Unicorn Inn, the Flower Shop and the Co-op who all donated raffle prizes for my June fundraising evening. A huge thank you to Jo Churchyard and Linda Putt for their help and support, and to Kate, my special daughter. My next planned fundraising trip is in March 2011 to Nepal.

FROM ROB FORSYTH, NEW STREET

Judging from the excellent response that we have had, DN readers are now well aware of the project to document our parish involvement in wartime. As a consequence it is taking a long time to assimilate and edit all the information and place it on DOL, the parish website, but it is progressing and is well worth a look for new material from time to time which we also

Postbag continues on p7



promulgate via the DOL entry in this magazine. The next step will be the production of a book which may take as much as a year to come to fruition.

We would like to thank those who have responded to our appeals for information – particularly those whose personal stories can be found on the site and with more to come. If you have information which may be of interest please contact us. Lastly, we acknowledge with thanks the valuable and continuing help that Josie Stevens, Joan Haywood and Joyce Minnear are giving by identifying faces in old photographs and obtaining and clarifying information.

FROM REVD DR HUGH WHITE

St Valentine's Day (14 Feb) this year falls on the Sunday before Lent. To mark the day the 10.30am Eucharist in Deddington Church will have 'Marriage and Love' as its theme. The service will include an opportunity to reflect on how marriage has affected our lives and the community in which we live. Whether you are or have been married, are content not to have been or simply recognise marriage as a fact of Christian culture and perhaps give thanks for it, you will be most welcome. If you are concerned about trade justice, you might like to attend the service for Fairtrade Fortnight at 10.30am on 28 Feb.

FROM HUGH MARSHALL, THE DAEDINGS

Thanks to everyone who continues to use the Fair Trade stall during Farmers' Markets each month and especially in the run-up to Christmas. Deddington Fair Traders had another good year in 2009. In addition to every purchase giving positive help to smallscale producers and craftspeople in many parts of the world, we have been able to send £600 to Traidcraft Exchange, a charity that works directly with producers to build up design, production and business skills so that they can compete fairly in world markets. This month will see Fair Trade Fortnight (21 Feb – 6 March) so watch

out for special events and even some special offers on 27 Feb, and also a Fair Trade themed service in Church on 28 Feb.


FROM ANNABELLE CLITHEROW, HEMPTON LODGE, HEMPTON

Jason's 40th birthday party was held at the Red Lion and we would like particularly to thank Michelle, Eddy, Darren F and all the team at the Red who worked so hard to make sure the party was perfect - a night to remember. I would like to also thank: Ingrid for her amazing organisational skills and for the great job she and Emma T did as glamorous hostesses and who with Sharyn did such a fab job of decorating the venue; Julian, Martin and Lena for the best ever pig roast; Sue who made the most fabulous guitar birthday cake; Lucie for preparing Jaws, the massive salmon; Kelly for his fabulous disco along with live support from Becky; JK for his speech and of course my parents, John and Shirls, for helping so much. Everyone was so generous in their good wishes and thoughtful presents. Jason was really pleased to see everyone there.

Finally, I would like to say a personal thanks to everyone for coming and for all their kind offers of help – all much appreciated, as was the support in keeping it such a big secret! What more can I say: fabulous venue and food and everyone just seemed to be having such a good time – couldn't have gone better.

FROM JENNY CROSS, STAFF NURSE, KHH, THE PADDOCKS

My thanks to all friends and neighbours who kindly supported my coffee morning in November. It has become somewhat of an annual event and this year raised a total of £142 through the sale of Katharine House cards and goodies. It is good to see so many people continuing their support, which, in turn, helps us to provide ongoing care and facilities at the Hospice.



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UP THE ALLOTMENT

As we're recovering from Christmas and planning our vegetable plots I thought you might enjoy this old Chinese proverb:

'To be happy for an hour, get drunk;
To be happy for a year, fall in love;
To be happy for life, take up gardening.'

And so to the garden.

Fruit

February is the last month to prune your apples, pears, currants and raspberries. Don't worry about the cold. 'Fruit trees and other woody plants can be pruned in weather down to -5°C' (RHS). Give your fruit a good feed with sulphate of potash to promote flowering and fruiting.

Reduce pests by giving your dormant fruit trees and bushes a winter wash. Winter wash is based on natural plant oils which 'dissolve' the eggs of pests such as greenfly, red spider mite, etc.

Vegetables

Your spring cabbages have been standing like emperor

penguins through all weathers and will appreciate a high nitrogen feed such as Growmore or pelleted poultry manure. When they are ready to harvest cut them off at the stem and make a cross at the top of the cut stem. Sometimes mini-cabbages or spring greens will grow from the cut stems.



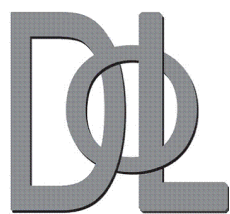
Peas can be sown in the greenhouse (if you have one): try planting them in clean old guttering that has drainage holes in the bottom; then when they are ready for planting out the whole row can be gently pushed out into a prepared drill in the vegetable garden. I didn't do this last year but I definitely will this year.

Just in case this cold weather continues, pots in the cold greenhouse will be kept a few degrees warmer if you stand them on a sheet of polystyrene.

There isn't much food available for pigeons at the moment so if you don't feel like sharing your brassicas, protect them with netting.

Samantha Willis

samantha.willis@gmail.com



I was surprised recently to see just how many airfields there were around us here in Deddington. During the Second World War, as we struggled to increase our air capability to protect ourselves against the might of the Luft-

waffe, a massive amount of work was done to make new airfields and train aircrew. If you go to Deddington OnLine and select the 'History' tab, then follow the links to 'A parish at war' and from the menu on that page select the item under 'The Second World War' that links to: 'Military Presence around Deddington', you will see the link to the list of airfields.

<http://www.deddington.org.uk/history/worldwars/thesecondworldwar1939-1945/militarypresence/airfieldsneardeddington>

Most of these local airfields were used for training. The pressure to produce aircrew was immense and it is sobering that records show that some 500 aircrew died whilst training at these locations.

A new section is being prepared on evacuees. If you know the names of any evacuees please give Rob Forsyth a call (338384) as he is compiling the records.

Personal stories of WW2 feature in the General section. A recent addition is about Len Plumbe's time in India and Burma, sometimes inadvertently behind enemy lines. Soon there will be some from the Garrett family who were in both world wars.

<http://www.deddington.org.uk/history/worldwars/personalstories/1939-1945personalstories/lacienplumbe>

Paul Drawmer

338450, paul@drawmer.net

News from Hempton

Once again a great Christmas Bazaar with lots of families coming along to enjoy a wide range of stalls and children's games, plus hot snacks at lunchtime. Record profits were made with the sum total being around £1,100. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event. Money raised goes to the friends of the Church who support and maintain St John's. Later that month was the ever popular Carol Service which was well attended with lots of families with small children taking part. Most of the readings were by children, so well done to them and to Esme Calcutt who sang a solo. The evening finished with refreshments comprising mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. Thanks also to Elsa Williams and the Deddington Church Choir.

Speaking about children, a mothers' and toddlers' group has started, using the Church hall once a month on a Thursday afternoon, so it is good to see different groups using the facilities.

With the recent snow, which was the heaviest fall we have seen for many years, the village was virtually cut off for two days, but neighbours helped each other with digging out paths and driveways. In The Lane we were grateful to a neighbour in Batchelors Row who dug out the road with a snow plough, allowing people to get out in their cars by Friday.

The table tennis team starts the second half of the season top of Division Three, so good luck to them as they strive for promotion. Much of my column centres round activities at the Church but please, if you have any news about anything else, give me a call or drop a note into 4 The Lane by around the 16th of any month.

Les Chappell 338054

'Be Happy, Be Good' – from Donald Welford's Memoir of his Great-Grandfather

Donald writes: 'On 17th April 1967 my father, William John, died suddenly. He had for many years left the poultry farm and the general farm for me to look after and had been very busy in his work helping the National Farmer's Union and latterly the Egg Marketing Board to improve welfare and profitability of the industry as a whole. I shall never forget attending the investiture at Buckingham Palace when he received his CBE. The poultry and farming press paid many tributes to his work and life.'

But what he had achieved over the years had certainly not fallen effortlessly into his lap. We read: 'When William John, promising pupil at a Methodist school in Trowbridge, finished his schooling in the early 20th century, he wanted to enter the Methodist ministry, but his father, John Henry, was adamant that he should enter the family's well-established, successful coal and hay business. Although deeply disappointed he obeyed his elders. It was his mother Nellie who recognised his frustration and suggested that he develop an interest outside the business – something to live for and enjoy! He was to find pleasure in gardening but Nellie, realising that her son was looking for a challenge, encouraged him to set up a small flock of breeding poultry. He used the cottage to breed the chicks and, once grown, they were settled in an orchard owned by the family.'

Just as his grandfather had seen new opportunities in the coal and forage business, William John began

to see in his hobby the possibility of a successful business venture. What was sure though was that expansion required big money and he knew that he had to convince his father and his uncle, William the Younger who jointly held the purse strings of Welford & Sons, that his proposal for a poultry farm made sense. Not surprisingly, before they would agree to advance any money, his father wanted to know what the new venture would cost, how big it would be, how much money it would earn and how many people it would employ! They also wanted to know how William John, who had suffered from ill health most of his life and was still recovering from an horrific motor-cycle accident, would cope with taking charge of such a venture.

These were tough questions but, given the enthusiasm and will to overcome problems coupled with some business drive probably inherited from his ancestors, he did succeed. His poultry farm expanded in leaps and bounds and would in due course carry again the proud name of Welford & Sons. Already waiting in the wings was his son Donald who from boyhood loved to lend a hand on the poultry farm and learn the trade, not only from his father, but also from many a loyal Welford worker taken into employment by his father when his uncle's coal and hay business was wound down.

(With many thanks to Jean for letting us take a glance into Donald's family history which he wrote in memory of his great-grandfather William Welford, whose motto was 'Be happy, be good').

Ruth Johnson 338355



Fred Drinkwater at Lower Farm, Clifton with a flock of Rhode Island Reds, c1940

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WELL REMEMBERED

Marianne Elsley 1923 – 2009

Marianne was born in Rostock, Germany in 1923. Her Jewish parents were a judge and a doctor. When Hitler's brutality escalated, realising that their child's life was in danger, they sent her aged 15 to England by the Kindertransport. A complete stranger, she was lovingly cared for by a Quaker family who enabled her to complete her schooling. She never saw her parents again; they were murdered in Auschwitz.

Having trained as a nurse, she met Ralph at a hospital in Salisbury. They had two children, Judy now in the United States and Nicky in London. For ten years she assisted Ralph, who was a Housemaster at Bedford Modern School. When they moved to Banbury in 1970, she was secretary at Overthorpe Hall School for 20 years.

After moving to Deddington, Marianne was President of the Women's Institute, editor of the Deddington News, and member of the Craft Group and the Writers' Group.

Her articles on both gardening and cooking were a regular DN feature.

To honour the memory of her parents, she wrote two books about her escape from the Nazis and the terrible fate her parents suffered. She gave over 100 lectures based on the books, one in the States before an audience of 1500, who gave her a standing ovation. Her books were used recently in a Radio 4 series, 'Writing the Century'.

Sadly, for ten or more years Parkinson's disease progressively stopped her doing many of the things she enjoyed so much and did so well; she won a needlework prize at last year's Parish Show. Her profound deafness also robbed her of the pleasures of social life and her love of music.

A Memorial Tribute meeting is to be held at the Carrdus School, Overthorpe on Saturday 13 February at 11.30am.

CH

DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev Cotton Risley for the months of December 1859 and January 1860:

27th December – I saw Spiers the Clerk who stated that the Picture over the Altar – which I had given to the Church more than 20 years ago – was removed on Saturday last, but by whom or whose order he knew not. Mr. Brogden he said expressed surprise when it was mentioned to him and said he knew nothing of it.

[28th and 29th Dec. he questioned the Churchwardens and sundry others about the removal without success.]

5th January 1860 – I wrote to the Bishop to complain about the removal of the Picture from the Chancel, and asking for an interview with him.

6th January – A monthly meeting of Justices took place for the first time at the Town Hall instead of the Kings Arms, an arrangement for the purpose having been made with the consent of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

9th January – I received a letter from Dr. Welch announcing the death of his dearest wife, my dearest second sister Mary, after a lingering illness from Dropsy.

12th January – I left home by mid-day train for Dawlish in Devonshire to attend my poor sister Mary's funeral, which took place on the 13th.

25th January – Found from Spiers the Clerk that the picture lately so unjustifiably removed from over the Communion Table had been replaced since Sunday in accordance with Mr. Churchwarden Field's promise to the Bishop, who had ordered the thing to be done.

26th January – Mr. Field's Coachman's brother came to offer himself in Edmund's place. I agreed he should come on trial, wages £20 per annum.

Buffy Heywood 338212

Christmas Eve Carols

Despite the cold foggy evening, over 400 people attended carols around the village Christmas tree in Deddington Market Place on Christmas Eve. Geoff and Joan Todd's street organ played Christmas tunes, children played bells while adults enjoyed mince pies and shortcakes made by Gillian Durham and mulled wine was provided by village businesses and served by Chris and Yvonne Twomey, Carole and Sarah Horlock and Pat Brittain. The event had Jim Flux as MC and raised £656.73 for Katharine House Hospice – a record amount for this annual event.

The evening was supported by Bengal Spice, Blend, British Legion Club, the village Co-op, Crown and Tuns, Deddington Arms, Deddington Farmers' Market, Eagles Fine Foods, George and Bryony Fenemore, Foodies, Mange Tout, May Fu 2, Otters Restaurant, Red Lion, Charles Wells Brewers and the Unicorn Hotel.

Geoff Todd thanked all those who supported us and especially Stella and Robbie from the Unicorn for preparing the mulled wine from the wines so generously given by village businesses.

Geoff Todd 338532

Thelma Dover has been nominated as the Co-operative 'Colleague of the Year Award 2009' for, as Thelma says 'Being me in the shop, for rapport with customers, and for completing my Co-operative Community Service. (I do not have to wear a yellow reflective jacket to do this, just pick up knitting-needles to produce buggy blankets which Pat Brittain sells on her stall to raise funds for Katharine House).' Thelma was flattered to receive this and says the award could not be achieved without the dedicated input of all the team in the shop.

Pat Brittain 338685

DOWN ON THE FARM

So what happened? At the beginning of November the experts told us that we were in for a mild winter and now they are telling us that we are experiencing the coldest one for 30 years, so on both counts they are wrong. According to a frivolous time-wasting debate at the Oxford Farming Conference I am well past my sell-by date but this winter is far from the coldest or snowiest that I have experienced on the farm.

I was only a few months old and have no recollection of the 1946–7 winter but of the cold and heavy snowfalls during the winters of the 50s, 60s and 70s I have vivid memories. In the 50s I was a day-boy (day bug) at a local prep school and if the snow was too deep to ride a bicycle you walked the two miles across the fields. Being a boarding school (bed bugs) with most teachers living on site, closing down during bad weather was not an option. The school was a large country house with a very primitive heating system. Most of the classrooms were converted stables and coach houses set in a high walled quad with the only heating being a small paraffin stove with a wood and wire netting cover on which the teacher sat. During break we were each given a small bottle of milk (usually with the cream on top being frozen) and a slice of bread which we toasted on the paraffin stove using a pair of dividers as a toasting fork. If the snow was too deep on the rugby pitches we were sent on a cross-country run in PE kit, led by the headmaster with the games master bringing up the rear. As you would expect, these runs in the snow usually ended up in pitched snowball fights between the day bugs and the bed bugs with the headmaster being the main target. It was always advisable to run hard during the last mile or two to make sure that you got into the changing room first, as the hot water in the showers did not last long.

By the very hard winter of 1963–4 I had left school and was working on the farm. The roads around the farm at Warkworth were covered by drifted snow for many weeks, with the tractor being the only means of transport to get fodder to the outlying livestock. With all the waterpipes frozen, water had to be fetched in 10 gallon churns from the brook for the livestock that were inside. One very vivid memory of that winter is that it was so cold that the wood pigeons and crows

became so weak that they froze to death in the night and were lying under the trees next morning.

The 60s and 70s produced a number of difficult winters and the tractor became the preferred form of transport. A certain young lady whom I met while at agricultural college moved to the Horton Hospital as an SRN and during her first winter at the hospital we were yet again snowed in and the trusty tractor (by this time having been fitted with a cab) was pressed into service as a passion wagon and was often parked outside the Nurses' Home in Hightown Road. We were married in the summer of 1969 and moved into a small cottage on the farm, and were again snowed in.

On one of these snow-bound shopping trips Bryony was sitting in a transport box attached to the back of the tractor when we hit a very deep drift which lifted the box off its tipping latch, dumping Bryony into a deep drift. Needless to say, the next trip was made by me and the tractor.

We moved to Clifton in 1974 and have been blocked in on a number of occasions since, but by now we had a number of modern farm buildings and all the livestock came inside for the winter. A Land Rover was used for shopping trips to Walter Hayward's emporium and the shopping list was extended to cover the needs of other families in the village. The Land Rover was put to other uses during bad winter weather. It often towed Bill the milkman and Frankie Cox on their rounds in the Parish and then back to Banbury after the float had run out of steam. It was also used on a few occasions as a vicar-mobile and after one particularly bad snow-storm which blocked the Hempton Road, I transported Ken Reeves via Bloxham to conduct a wedding in Barford St Michael. As we drove up to the Church we overtook the wedding party walking to the Church with the bride in her wedding dress and wellington boots which she, along with the groom and the vicar, wore for the service. It was then back to the vicarage via the farmhouse kitchen for a large plate of beef stew and dumplings preceded by a few 'medicinal' malts. This was just one of the many scrapes the vicars of Deddington have got this particular warden into over the years – but these are stories for another time.

George Fenemore
338203

Deddington Writers

The annual Deddington Writing Competition is going national! Following last year's record number of entries and the interest shown from different parts of Britain, it has been decided to extend publicity through a number of nationwide writers' networks and magazines whilst also increasing the number and value of prizes in the Open Competition. At the same time the popular Children's Competition, whilst still restricted to young

people living in Oxfordshire, SE Warwickshire and SW Northants, is being divided into three age groups to reflect and encourage the varying skills and abilities of young people. Full details of both competitions may now be downloaded from www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk and are available in schools and from Deddington and other local libraries.

Hugh Marshall
337761

2010 festival deddington

This year's Deddington Festival will offer something for everyone. Along-

side the most popular regular events there will be two exciting concerts featuring contrasting styles of music but which promise to be memorable: a Friday evening open air rock concert and a Saturday evening 'come and sing' performance of *Carmina Burana*.

The Festival will start on **Thursday 17 June** with the Community Concert. This year it is being organised by Elsa Williams and Wendy Burrows and it will mark the 70th anniversary of the Home Front during the Second World War. There will be scenes featuring the Home Guard, the Land Girls and women's war effort in munition factories, the evacuees and contemporary wireless broadcasts. There will, of course, be opportunities for the audience to join in many of the popular songs of the 1940s. Alongside this, there will be an exhibition of wartime memorabilia, photographs and posters, as well as individual experiences and memories.

The organisers would like this to reflect Deddington's war effort as much as possible, so they would be delighted to hear from anyone who has any items suitable for the exhibition, eg. ration books, helmets, gas masks, or any wartime memories which can be written and displayed or used in the concert. Does anyone know of land girls who worked on local farms? Did anyone's parents or grandparents take part in any local war effort? Does anyone know of anyone who took a boat across the Channel to rescue our troops from Dunkirk? Your help is needed to make this a worthwhile and memorable event, so please contact Wendy Burrows (338082) or Elsa Williams (337238) if

you can help in any way and, of course, if you would like to take part.

Friday 18 June will see the welcome return of Deddington Rocks – an open air event for all the family featuring two local bands and a nationally successful ABBA tribute group.

Saturday 19 June is the date for an exciting new style of classical music event – a 'come and sing' performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Anyone who has some ability to read music and sing in tune is welcome to take part alongside singers from local choral societies and professional soloists. There will be workshops in the morning and in the afternoon, and the performance will be at 8.00pm. If you would like to be part of what will surely be a thrilling experience you can download a registration form from the Festival's website.

19 and 20 June will be the weekend of the Open Gardens and Allotments. Following the success of this event last year, eight more gardens will be open to the public in Deddington and Hempton – a chance to be inspired and challenged by your neighbours' gardening skills!

In the following week many of the regular Festival events will take place – John Cheney's Poetry Please evening, the Art Workshop and Exhibition, local guided walks and the ever popular Stekpanna jazz evening.

The Deddington Writers' Group annual competition is now achieving nationwide interest and last year saw more entries than ever. Details of the 2010 competition are available on the Festival website and the presentation evening will be on **Friday 25 June**.

So make sure you put all these provisional dates in your diaries so that you can look forward to enjoying and supporting your community festival.

Elsa Williams www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON FESTIVAL

Plans are well underway for this year's Festival which starts on Thursday 17 June. Your subscriptions have been coming in well; can this be a reminder if yours is still outstanding? Your support is vital for the running of the Festival.

As always we will be sending you a newsletter during April so if you have any matters that you would like included, please let me have them.

Althea Wood, Publicity
altheawood@aol.com, 337904

Barford Village Market

Village Hall, Lower Street

20 March

10.00 - 12.00

Third Saturday each month

French bread, cakes, jams & preserves

Free range eggs, cheeses, vegetables

Local meats from The Meat Joint

Book swap, gifts, cards

Refreshments - bacon butties!

Deddington Allotment Society AGM

Under the able Chairmanship of Lynda Lake Stewart we held our AGM at the Unicorn on Tuesday 19 January. It is only a little over a year since the Society was formed and it is in good heart; 18 members attended on a cold night to review the last year and look forward to the new season.

In the last year, three more allotments have been cleared, a new communal shed constructed and the water supply extended. Four people are waiting for allotments and a working party is going to start clearing the bramble and scrub over the weekend of 5 – 6 March. Surrounding and overhanging trees are also to be trimmed and pruned to give more light. The Committee was re-elected with the addition of Mike Sainsbury. The Society is a member of the National Society of Allotment Holders and Leisure Gardens and we all agreed that they were an excellent source of high quality discounted seeds. Finally, it was agreed that we would investigate Public Liability Insurance.

Charles Barker 337747

PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the time of writing we have only been back at school a few days, having been snowed out for the start of term. The staff are very grateful to our fantastic parents who helped to clear the school grounds, enabling us to return to school as quickly as possible.

During this term (weather permitting), our Foundation class will be going on an educational visit to Oxford University Museum as part of their animals topic. Year 6 will be taking part in a Junior Citizens day – a great day that helps them to think about how to keep safe and to help others. We are also sending a Key Stage 2 team along to a quiz day at Dr Radcliffe's School in Steeple Aston; if they do well they will go on to regional then national heats. We're keeping our fingers crossed. Rehearsals for our Easter production are well under way; we have a huge cast as we make sure that any child who wants to be in it is! This year we have chosen the musical *Annie*; the children are really enjoying learning the songs and working hard to learn their lines.

Hopefully we are coming to the end of the bad weather and the rest of the term will be less disrupted and uneventful!

Jane Cross, Deputy Head
338430

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

Well it has certainly been an interesting start to the term, with snow and frozen pipes causing closures at both sites. Many thanks to everyone for your patience with us. When we have been in, we have had lots of fun in the snow. Learning about the seasons has never been so appropriate! This term we will also be finding out about animals and Chinese New Year. It seems a long time ago now but we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas activities. These included the Fenemore family for donating the lovely Christmas trees, Deddington Guides for the pass the parcels, and all the parents who supported our Decorations Days and other activities, including the Christmas production in the church. Thank you also to everyone who supported our Christmas hamper raffle. Over £400 was raised for the PFSU and Nursery. Our next fund-raising event is a jumble sale in the church on Saturday 6 February. Watch out for the posters and please come and support us.

Lucy Squires
337484

DN TEAM

We are looking for someone to join us to take notes each month at the Parish Council meeting (3rd Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Town Hall). The PC Clerk provides notes from each working group.

Each month we accept occasional adverts that need some attention to layout and artwork. The same demands occur with the annual ads. This duty falls to

PTA

Christmas seems so long ago now but before moving on to the new year, we must stop and thank all those who supported and helped at our events in December. Despite the economic doom and gloom you all dug deeply and I am delighted to tell you that Santa's float raised the fantastic sum of £980. Thank you so much to everyone who gave generously.

The Christmas cards designed by the children earlier in the term were fabulous. Our thanks to all who helped us produce (Mike Homer at Multiflow) and sell the cards.

Santa took time out from his very hectic schedule to visit our children who had eagerly queued to meet him in his magical grotto during the December Farmers' Market. The air of excitement and anticipation added a fantastic atmosphere to the morning. Over in the church the PTA added to the spirit of the occasion by singing popular carols whilst Edward and Lewis did a wonderful job of keeping us in tune by accompanying us on the trumpet. Our grateful thanks go to Santa and his helpers, the Farmers' Market committee, Rev Hugh White and to all those who gave so generously.

We have a full calendar for 2010. Saturday 6 February sees the PTA running the bar at the Windmill Blues and Rock Night, commencing at 8.00pm. Book early for another great evening, as we re-stage the successful event of last April, featuring a great musical double-bill of Pete Boss and the Bluehearts and Indigo Child. Ticket prices £9.00 on the door or £8.00 in advance from Pete on 338536 or pboss@btinternet.com.

Our ever popular Quiz Night will be held on 6 March at the Windmill Centre so it's time to dust off those books and start brushing up on your general knowledge! This is always very popular and tickets usually sell fast. For further details or to pre-book your place, please contact Mike on 338750 or email mikew@cherwell.co.uk.

Other dates for your diary:

The sixth Deddington Walk – Sunday 16 May

School Fete – Saturday 19 June

Finally, on behalf of the PTA, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a (slightly belated) happy New Year.

Janet Watts
PTA Chair
337135

Mary Robinson who is the only person on the team with these skills. In order to maintain a reasonable standard of display work, we are keen to find someone who is familiar with Photoshop, and perhaps InDesign (though this is not essential), and who could lend occasional assistance. Please contact Mary or Jill to discuss in more detail if you think you may be able to help.

JC

FROM THE FIRE STATION

In the past month, we have had 22 calls in total comprising two chimney fires, one small barn fire, one car (smoking caused by mechanical defect), one bungalow fire, two road traffic collisions, one bus (smoking caused by mechanical defect), one pub fire, and one flat fire.

The small barn fire was in Middle Barton and believed to have been caused accidentally after a night of drinking by teenagers. We were first in attendance and backed up by the Woodstock pump. Prompt actions by the crews managed to prevent the fire spreading to the whole barn and limit the damage caused.

The bungalow fire was at Bodicote and started around 5.00pm destroying the roof and also about 20% of a neighboring property. High winds that day may have helped the fire take hold quickly. Banbury pumps were first in attendance followed by ourselves and then Hook Norton. The incident support unit from Eynsham also attended and provided salvage equipment and spare BA cylinders.

The pub fire was at the old disused Cricketers Arms in Middleton Road, Banbury and luckily was spotted by drinkers leaving the Bell pub opposite. First crews in attendance were the two pumps from Banbury, followed by ourselves. Again, prompt actions by the crews prevented the fire from spreading upstairs and taking hold of the rest of the building. As it happened, nobody was inside and fire investigators are looking into the cause.

We were called to a small block of flats in South Bar, Banbury where it is believed an electrical under-floor heating wire had caused a rug, sleeping-bag and carpet to catch fire (luckily no-one was in the sleeping-

bag). Breathing apparatus was used and a cut into the flooring to check for fire spread.

The weekend of the 12 December also saw us split our crew in two with half going to sleep at Banbury fire station for the night to cover the retained pump whilst the normal crews celebrated an early Christmas with a night out in town. This resulted in one fire call for us to a house in Bretch Hill. As we were already at the station, we were only seconds behind the whole time pump and ready for action. On arrival it turned out that this was a hoax call, one of many recently.

We can now officially welcome our latest recruit, Richard Day from Barford, who has passed his brigade interview and eagerly awaits his basic training in January. As I type, I am (not so eagerly) awaiting my phase three BA assessment in a couple of days at Rewley Road, Oxford. I'll let you know how I get on next month...

Speaking of people getting on, we have received a lovely letter from a lady who was involved in the head-on collision last month at the Steeple Aston junction on the A4260. From her hospital bed at the John Radcliffe, she took time to write to our Chief Fire Officer, John Parry, and thanked him for the care that she had received from ourselves and the Woodstock/Kidlington crews after her collision. It's always nice to hear from people that we have been able to help and to find out how they are recovering.

Well that's it for us for 2009, apart from wishing you all a happy and safe new year!

F/F Graham Harding
Deddington Fire Station 338281

News from Clifton

Firstly a big Clifton welcome to Phil who not only joins our happy neighbourhood but has also joined the book club (it's getting quite busy now with eight members – but more always welcome I'm told). Phil harks from far away Bicester and we all wish him well in our midst. Also a big hello to Viv who has taken over the managerial reins from Andy at the 'Duck'. We hope Andy continues his successful quizzes as we thank him for his efforts and we know he will still be around.

However, we saved a lot of our welcoming to the long awaited return of Sarah, Ian and their children Hugh, Richard and William. They were key members of our community seven years ago when they left to make a major contribution to the advancement of China's economic domination of the world before moving on to the Far East. But the lure of our corner of heaven was too strong and now they have returned. Ian was a founder member of the fish 'n' chip club (a forerunner of the book club) and we look forward to him taking his rightful place at the bar.

The inaugural Clifton bus trip was a real community affair with 12 people catching a bus up to Deddington Market and one doing the full trip to Banbury. Remember people – use it or lose it!

But then came Christmas and the snow and Clifton did what it does best. The Christmas Eve carol concert at the 'Duck' was a great success with many of our neighbours having a great time and a good old sing-song accompanied brilliantly by Rob on the joanna. For some, the highlight was Cllr Collins banging out 'Fairytale of New York'; for most, however, the highlight was when he stopped!

The New Year's Day walk to Deddington up the footpath (via Bowman's Bridge of course) was very well supported and many thanks to the 'Robster' for looking after the lunch needs so well when the walkers arrived. Then the snow came and the children surpassed last year's efforts by building a nine foot snowman. So impressed were the parents that they had a barbeque and drank themselves silly before clearing the snow all the way to Main Street.

You couldn't make it up!

Martin Bryce
MartinDNBryce@aol.com

(To see the pictures go to the DN website: <http://www.deddingtonnews.co.uk/pics10.html>, where there are other pictures of Deddington and Hempton in the snow)

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington Windmill Tuesday/Thursday Club

We were fortunate in managing to fit in our Christmas lunch before the Arctic weather set in. As usual we had a very good time with a traditional turkey meal (supplied by the Unicorn, many thanks), delicious desserts donated by volunteers, a Christmas raffle and a visit from Father Christmas. Thanks to Debbie's hard work and timely organisation, the clients all went home with a substantial bag of goodies to help them celebrate the season.

We have had a busy second half to the year. In September there was a visit for the Thursday group (held over from last Christmas!) to Bicester Avenue Garden Centre. We were very well looked after and enjoyed an excellent roast beef dinner.

The Lights Went Out, with memories of the war years, was prompted by a box from the Woodstock museum. It was very interesting to hear clients' reminiscences – many bittersweet. Some served in the war, some were evacuated, bombed or spent agonising months waiting for news of missing husbands – theirs was a generation which had much to endure. There were, however, some lighter moments, as when the Home Guard was put on invasion alert only to discover that the tramping feet that had been reported belonged to a column of circus elephants on the move in the hours of darkness.

We had a visit from 'famous dogs' that have appeared on television and film. We were amazed by their versatility and obedience and charmed by their friendliness.

Many of our members are especially keen on birds and enjoyed Graham Soden's very knowledgeable presentation of his wonderful seasonal slides of local wildlife.

Some of us spread our wings with a couple of visits to the Oxford Playhouse. One group saw *Dial M for Murder* and another *My Fair Lady*. Both productions were much enjoyed and we hope to repeat the venture in the future.

In between the special events we have continued to enjoy the usual activities and, more importantly, the company of friends.

We are still pleased to welcome both new helpers and new clients. For more information call Debbie (07737892745), Ann (01869 337144) or Jean (01869 338110).

Jean Rudge
338110

Book Club

At our last meeting we discussed *Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA* by Brenda Maddox. This book about the part played by Rosalind Franklin in the discovery of DNA attracted a full turnout and provoked a lively discussion. The author writes a compelling biography on the life of this fascinating young woman and

tries to unravel, in a balanced way, the reasons for her exclusion from recognition. The unscientifically-minded need not be discouraged by the scientific content of the book as experiments and problems are carefully explained and do not detract from enjoyment of the book. Recommended.

The next book is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson and our next meeting 25 February.

Sally Lambert
338094

1st Deddington Brownies

This month we say goodbye and good luck to Sophie who is moving on to Guides. We are busy rehearsing for the Thinking Day service at St Mary's Church, Banbury, where we have been asked to represent Australasia. Our centenary adventures continue as we work towards our Adventure 100 badges. Brownies is still full so if you have a daughter who may be interested in joining us at some point (Brownies are age 7 to 10), please contact Brown Owl, Anne Kent, on 1stdeddingtonowls@hotmail.co.uk, to put her on the waiting list.

Lucy Squires
338442

Deddington and District History Society

We had a terrific evening on 2 December when Lynda Maud entertained us with a history of pantomime that included much printed material and a selection of costumes. None of us guessed the date of a newspaper review lamenting pantomime's over-reliance on celebrity stars and hackneyed plots, and predicting its imminent demise: it was the mid-19th century!

The heavy snowfall and treacherous conditions meant that Martin Way, who was due to speak on 'The Cotswold Wool Trade and Shepherding', was unable to get to Deddington on 13 January and so we had to cancel our meeting. It was only our second cancellation in ten years or so. We tried to get in touch with all members to inform them, and we apologise to anyone with whom we failed to make contact in time.

In February we shall stay close to home: Ed Frost (delicious irony) will speak on the 'Adderbury Morris Men Memorial Trip' on Wednesday 10th at 7.30pm. Then on 10 March we shall welcome Mike Boyes, the title of whose talk – 'A Victorian Rector and Nine Old Maids' – is wholly irresistible.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

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

Photographic Society

In December, following the indisposition of the planned speaker, Steve Brabner stood in at short notice to give an account of his personal recollections of being a 'biker' with a presentation entitled 'Ten Years as a

CALLING MORE CLUBS

Harley-Davidson Rider'. Taking his audience through his time in California, Steve described how he acquired his first Harley-Davidson with the object initially of exploring the west coast of America. However, ownership conferred the unexpected benefit of membership of the Harley-Davidson Owners Club which provided a unique insight into the biker fraternity in America and opened the door to a hugely enjoyable experience. For two years Steve and his wife toured the western United States as part of the Owners Club and the first half of his presentation drew on his photographic reminiscences from this time. On his return to the UK Steve joined the European Harley-Davidson community and the second part of his presentation dwelt on his experiences of touring Norway, France, the Netherlands and Spain. He concluded with four audio-visual presentations of a 2008 holiday in America when he and his wife hired a Harley-Davidson bike to explore the Rocky Mountain area. Finally, he gave a short primer on using the Pro Show Gold software he used for his presentations. Overall, a highly entertaining presentation by an engaging speaker, interspersed with many anecdotes and personal reflections which allowed several in the audience an opportunity to relive their lost youth.

The January meeting was cancelled at short notice due to the heavy snowfall. The planned presentation by John Prentice is now re-arranged for 4 August. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3 February at the new venue of the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho when members Valentino and Anotoli will give a presentation on 'Painting with Light, Table Top Photography and Other Photographic Matters'.

John Branton
01295 811071

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results:

21/11/09 Bardwell (a) W 4–0 Thornton L, Waddelow, Hall, Thornton J

28/11/09 Highfield Old Boys (h) L 3–7 Hall (2), England

05/12/09 Drayton Village (a) W 6–2 Hall (3), Thornton L (3)

12/12/09 Kings Sutton (a) W 6–3 Hall (4), Thornton L (2)

Reserve Results:

21/11/09 Souldern (h) L 0–3

28/11/09 Croughton Old Boys (a) D 2–2

05/12/09 Abba Athletic (h) W 2–0

12/12/09 FC Naranja (h) L 0–1

So the brave new world we received at the dawn of a new decade was ... *Narnia*. No games have been played since mid-December as Deddington Town could not guarantee the safety of their legions of followers, but before the deluge of white there was plenty to cheer about for the First Team.

Despite a devastating defeat by their title rivals the team has shrugged this off to wallop their other opponents, with Luc Thornton and Simon Hall as clinical as the finest surgeons in the field. An average five Deddington goals scored per game should be reason enough to shake off those midwinter blues and witness the glory at the intimidating cauldron of noise that is the Windmill Centre playing field.

Rumour is the King's messenger was thrown from his horse in the blizzards, preventing news of the Reserve team's goal scorers from reaching your intrepid correspondent, but we still have some intriguing scores to dissect. None more so than when the mighty Reserves somehow contrived to be humiliated at home by perennial joke team and resident cannon-fodder Souldern; rock bottom and quadrupling their points tally with that unfathomable victory. Credit goes to the Reserves for the response to that catastrophe, earning a decent away point and beating fellow strugglers Abba Athletic at home, although a narrow defeat to FC Narnia, sorry Naranja, leave the Reserves in an exceedingly precarious position in Division Two, which is snow joke.

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Players

Snow and ice may close the country but the show must go on! Only one rehearsal was cancelled during the bad weather. We all made it to the others through the dedication of cast members who took their four-wheel drives to fetch others who could not get out of their houses and gave lifts to those reluctant to brave the icy roads. Thanks everyone! By the time you read this the pantomime will (weather permitting) have been performed, our efforts hopefully paying off with a great show. 'Break a leg' is possibly less than appropriate this year.

Lucy Squires
338442

Youth Cub

Youth Club returned on 25 January and we are very pleased to welcome two new committee members: Angus Watt and Jill Munson.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 23 February at 6.30pm in the Windmill Centre; all parishioners are welcome to attend.

We look forward to creating saleable products for our own Deddington Market stall in the spring and raising the profile of this popular club for the local 10 to 14 year olds.

New members are welcome! Please come along at 7.00pm on Monday evenings to join in the fun.

Helen Spencer
337373

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