

December 2021

The **DEDDINGTON NEWS**



The best Christmas package delivered free to
Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
CATHERINE DESMOND

FEBRUARY 2022 COPY TO
JILL CHEESEMAN
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk
by **15 January**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 January**

EDITORS

Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609
Catherine Desmond
01869 337657
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS

Debbie Grimsley
01869 336110
monthly@deddingtonnews.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS

Pat Sedgley
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Alison Day
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS

Alison Day
01869 337204
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609

COLLATING & DISTRIBUTION

Netia Piercy and team
01869 338191

TREASURER

Jane Price
01869 337586
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER

Steve Waterman

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

The end of another era! Since 1976 a dedicated band of volunteers has produced an annual 10 issues of the *DN*, most recently printing almost 20,000 pages each month and assembling them with a further 10,000 advertising pages and cover, before stapling, stuffing with inserts and then delivering to every parish household. The tiny printing crew laboured in solitude while the dozen or more collators contrived to convert a frankly boring job into a valued social occasion.

The ever-increasing volume of copies as the parish continues to expand and the need to offer a higher print quality to the advertisers who enable us to provide the magazine free to residents have driven a regretful decision to print professionally in 2022. We are all deeply indebted to the 'generations' of printers and collators who have made the *DN* possible for the past 45 years and remain grateful to the significant number who will continue to deliver it in all weathers. Thank you. **CD**

WHAT'S ON

December

- Wed 1 Photographic Society: Carole Henson, 'Photographing Live Events', Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Sat 4 Festive Craft Fayre: Windmill Centre, 2–5.30pm
Sat 4 Choros: Advent Carols by Candlelight, Parish Church, 6.30pm
Mon 6 Holly Tree Club: Weekly Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Mon 6 Local Vocals Community Choir: Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat 11 Cherwell Choral Society: *Wenceslas*, Parish Church, 7.30pm
Sun 12 Music in Adderbury: Vivaldi, *Four Seasons*, St Mary's, Adderbury, 7.30pm
Tue 14– Advent lighting, Parish Church
Thu 16 History Society: Alistair Lack, 'Oxford and Inspector Morse', Primary School, 7.30pm
Wed 15 Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm
Sat 18 RC Baker Tractor Run: for route and timings see rcbaker.co.uk/tractorrund
Sat 18 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Sat 18 Dolly and the Ivys: Christmas Concert, Parish Church 7.00pm

January

- Mon 3 Holly Tree Club: Weekly Coffee Morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am
Mon 10– Hempton Road: Closed except to emergency vehicles and
Fri 14 residents

Cover This is the last of Steve Waterman's local watercolours. We are very grateful to him and hope he enjoyed painting them as much as we have enjoyed looking at them each month for the past year.

Submission of any article to the *DN* carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent/guardian in the case of a minor) /company/organisation for this information to be used both in print and online. Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity. Disclaimer: The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the committee. Inclusion of an advertisement or insert does not constitute any recommendation or endorsement of the organisations concerned on the part of the Deddington News. The *DN* takes no responsibility and gives no guarantees, warranties or representations, implied or otherwise, for the content or accuracy of these advertisements. The *DN* always seeks copyright permission where appropriate. Material is proof read. The editors seek to ensure the material is not scurrilous, offensive or otherwise unacceptable to the public at large. The *DN* team reserves the right to refuse any material on this basis.

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/deddingtononline and Twitter @DeddiOnLine

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting at Windmill Community Centre on 17 November

Present: Councillors Cox, Oldfield, Robinson, Rogers (chair), Snashall, Squires, Swadling, Timms, Watts, parish clerk and assistant, District Councillor Williams and County Councillor Fatemian and four members of the public.

District Council: The Cherwell Household Support Fund is available to the most needy residents who can self refer by calling Citizens Advice on 0300 303 0993. A consultation process is being held until 14 December on a plan to improve accessibility to Banbury railway station, To comment: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/banburystation>.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue is seeking comments on its Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-26 available at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/crmp-2022-26>. A printed copy of the questionnaire, information in an alternative format or other help is available by emailing engagementteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk or calling OCC's customer services team on 01865 792422.

Finance & General Purposes

PC decided to maintain the Survey Monkey facility.

The £25,000 allocation for equality accessible (EA) lavatories is still available. Whilst there were a number of questions raised about the insurance, cleaning and maintenance costs, the proposal for new EA toilets was agreed, subject to due diligence and planning.

Planning

No objection

Land north of Hempton Road and west of Wimborn Close: management company structure scheme for public open space.

Folly Cottage, The Lane, Hempton: Underpinning and bracing to garage resulting from subsidence.

Old Manor Farmhouse, Hempton Road: tree works.

Leaden Porch House, New Street: erection of glazed extension to existing kitchen, taking down and rebuilding existing garden wall.

Approvals

Grove Lodge, High Street: loft conversion.

End Cottage, The Stile: biannual pollard of ash tree.

28 The Daedings: single storey side and rear extension, part two-storey rear extension.

Corner House, Duns Tew Road, Hempton: removal of garage, replacement by garden room, on condition it is not sold, leased or used as independent living accommodation.

Hen Cloud, Castle Street: tree works.

Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane: replacement boiler, external flue.

Large Scale Development

Land on Clifton Road: there is an application for 15 houses, including 5 units of affordable houses on the east side.

Hempton Road: an application for an additional 14

houses, which has yet to be decided.

Environment & Recreation

The PC is waiting for a quote to cut back brambles at Gaveston Gardens.

Highways & Transport

The group recommended that members of the public who complained of excessive speed in the parish be invited to join Speedwatch activity.

Noted that Thames Valley Police are no longer responsible for enforcing parking infringements on double yellow lines in the parish but these are now the responsibility of OCC and will be enforced.

CC Fatemian was asked to make enquiries regarding the speed monitoring tubes on the northbound carriageway of A4260 just beyond The Grange.

The faded road markings at the traffic lights are now on the maintenance programme, new signs are being ordered and the foliage has been cut back.

OCC is proposing a countywide 20mph scheme for villages if this is requested and this was discussed at some length with members of the public from New Street giving their views. OCC has committed to paying the required legal fees although TVP have indicated they would not enforce this limit. Residents are urged to give their views on such a parish-wide scheme, bearing in mind costs involved in traffic calming measures, would fall to the parish council. It was discussed that Survey Monkey should be used with the addition of a paper questionnaire. On County Councillor Fatemian's advice, it was agreed to register the PC's interest in the process.

Next meeting: Wednesday 15 December at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre, Hempton Lounge.

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter, Jill Cheeseman, and not the official minutes. For those, go to <http://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/2021.html>.

WHAT'S ON

January

	<i>continued from p1</i>
Wed 19	Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm
Thu 20	History Society: Ciaran Walsh, 'The Otmoor Riots: the historical context', Primary school, 7.30pm
Thu 20–	Deddington Players: <i>Peter Pan</i> , Windmill
Sat 22	Centre
Sat 22	Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Thu 27	Book Group: Contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details

HOME TRUTHS ABOUT DEDDINGTON

Hello again. There's been radio silence from the Neighbourhood Plan steering group for several months, which doesn't mean we haven't been making progress behind the scenes. Since I last reported, two key things have happened (aside from the pandemic). We have commissioned a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) for Deddington parish; and a combined total of some 15 sites have been offered either to us or to Cherwell District Council as possible locations for housing development.

The HNA, carried out by the independent consultants, Aecom, came up with a figure of 126 new dwellings that Deddington parish will need between now and 2040. Deducing the sites that have already received planning approval on the Clifton Road and Hempton Road, opposite the Windmill, that figure comes down to around 70, which seems quite manageable.

However, that figure may be trumped by CDC's Local Plan Review, due to be completed around the end of 2023, which is itself dependent on the amount of new housing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 eventually stipulates. Previously CDC has aimed to focus new development on Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and Upper Heyford, while preserving the rural character and beauty of the North Oxfordshire villages. In the consultation just completed, which is a precursor of the updated Local Plan, there's some suggestion this may change – that Banbury and Bicester have already taken as much development as they can support and CDC may be looking to the "more sustainable" villages to expand. This could put Deddington in the frame for more housing than the 70 dwellings calculated to meet local needs.

Which brings us to the sites on offer in Deddington. CDC is currently juggling with scores of possible sites across the district, many of which, the planners say, will be ruled out at this early stage as just not suitable. This may well include some of the sites in Deddington.

We on the steering group will shortly be organising our own sustainability appraisals of the sites, again done by independent consultants. We will rate them against a set of criteria, with the help of our planning consultant and then consult the parish as to which sites they favour – and whether they approve our policies – before we complete our Neighbourhood Plan. This will go to a referendum, later next year.

We are proceeding on the basis that we're looking for around 70 new dwellings but will have to build in some flexibility in case CDC raises the required number a year or two later. A map showing all the sites on offer throughout the parish has been posted on the Deddington Community Facebook Noticeboard by David Rogers. Some of them are so big they could individually accommodate at least twice the total number we're looking for.

You will see there are two large potential sites on

either side of Banbury Road, respectively north of the fire station and north of Deddington Grange. M&G Real Estate, once the property arm of the Prudential, which owns a fair chunk of land in these parts, is offering five sites – the biggest of them is Grove Fields, behind the Paddocks, another, more modest, north of Wimborn Close and abutting Cosy Lane, a couple in Hempton, and another in Clifton. One of two sites on the Clifton Road, offered by a different landowner, would replace the industrial, office and storage works on the north side of the road. A couple of smaller contenders, lately added by a third landowner, lie between Chapman's Lane and St Thomas Street, and there is yet another opposite St John's Way in Hempton.

A neighbourhood plan is not just about how many homes and where – also crucial is the type of housing needed and its affordability, or otherwise. The Aecom assessment came up with some interesting information which largely confirmed the findings of the questionnaire and housing needs survey we carried out in 2015. The greatest need is for smaller or mid-sized, two-bedroom or especially three-bedroom homes, but of two kinds – fairly luxurious for older, equity-rich residents looking to downsize and more modest ones for families starting out.

One startling figure they come up with is the prediction that 51% of the population of Deddington parish will be over 65 by 2040. The current proportion is closer to 30%. So we're all ageing – who'd have thought?

It's no surprise that affordability is an important consideration. This, says the HNA report, is a 'serious and worsening challenge in Deddington'. Households with incomes of £15,000 per year cannot afford to live in private rentals in the parish unless they receive some kind of housing benefit. The median cost of new houses in Deddington is £470,000, which means, they reckon, the fairly large proportion of Deddington households who have an income of between £40,000 and £80,000 cannot afford to buy a new home here at market prices.

How to tackle this is something we'll have to face in finalising the neighbourhood plan. More about this in a future report, *DN* willing, and if I haven't grown too old to write in the interim.

Helen Oldfield
helenmoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE ...

Wondering how to dispose responsibly of your Christmas tree after the festivities are over? Katharine House Hospice is offering a pick up between 9.00am on 7 January and 4.00pm on 8 January to those making a donation to the charity. Details are on their website at <https://www.khh.org.uk/Event/christmas-tree-cycle>.

THE UNIQUE GEORGE

The Farm



The yards and barns stand silent now,
 From the fields no sound of sheep or cow,
 The gates are closed, the chains in place,
 No more the wave or smiling face
 Will cheer all those who pass this way –
 Instead, there haunts an era – passed away.

The farmhouse windows blankly stare,
 Its doorbell echoes - no one's there,
 Though its walls absorbed three hundred years
 Of many lives, their joys, their tears;
 Now, the house deserted shows no sign
 Of those who lived there, kind benign;
 It stands lonely, sad, still uncomprehending
 That it's natural way of life is ending.

Where gardens bloomed and children played
 The grass grows long, the flowers, dismayed,
 Are hidden by encroaching weeds ...
 What next will show the title deeds?
 What will replace the yards and barn
 Where now deserted, stands the farm?

Will perhaps, phoenix-like upon the site,
 Spring new-birth of homes both warm and bright?
 Will old stones with mellow tones
 Sit gently in the newer homes?
 Will the green and friendly acres
 Be cared for by new century-makers?
 Will the kindly ghosts of all that's been
 Approve the changes of the scene?
 Or, will greed and insensitivity prevail
 And inheritance prove to no avail.

A Villager

George does not remember where he found it and
 has no idea who the Villager is who wrote it. A quick
 Google search provides no answers either.

For obvious reasons George has valued this poem
 for many years and finally shared it with us who now
 share it with you. The note of optimism at the end is
 a welcome hope at a time when COP26 failed to take
 the necessary decisive action to avert catastrophic
 climate change. **CD**

FROM THE FIRE STATION

With a change of season upon us, the fire station has
 seen 14 shouts this month, encompassing standbys,
 several fires (both domestic and vehicle), alarms, bar-
 iatric moving, hazardous materials on the motorway
 and two rescues of trapped members of the public.

The station crew has been busy training. Garrin
 Wilby has passed his Breathing Apparatus and Cor-
 rie King has started hers, Ben Fenemore passed his
 BA team leader technical exam, James Greenwood
 and Ben Fenemore attended a Hazardous Materials
 course, and Emma Flint will be starting her full Driver
 Training course next month.

With low sun and greasy roads, please be careful
 whilst driving. The drop in temperature will see home
 fires being lit so please get your chimney swept and
 test those smoke alarms regularly – constant call-outs
 where smoke alarms have alerted sleeping occupants
 show how quickly fires can be spotted, put out and
 lives saved.

James Greenwood, FFD
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

Monthly Advertising Rates

1/6p (82mm x 82mm): £15pm
 1/4p (125mm high x 82mm wide): £20pm
 1/2p (125mm high x 170mm wide): £40pm
 Inserts £40

Please contact the short-run ad manager, Debbie
 Grimsley,
grimsleyhome@live.co.uk, 07765 243748
 T&C apply. Please see Advertising on DN at
<http://www.deddington.org.uk/news>

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/deddingtononline and Twitter @DeddiOnline

CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Deddington church is open for public worship and services continue to be streamed live. Please see the church website or FaceBook page for updates, www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness please contact the Vicar, Reverend Annie Goldthorp at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or on 01869 336880. If Annie is not available, then please contact one of the church wardens, Iain Gillespie, 01869 338367, or Meriel Flux, 01869 338901.

December

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer	Hempton
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion	Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea & Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles	Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion, followed by mince pies TBC
Sun 5	10.30am	Holy Communion	BarfordSt Michael
	3.00pm	3 O’Clock Service, (informal)	Sun 12 9.00am Communion
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	Sun 19 10.30am Family Service
Sun 12	8.00am	BCP Communion	Barford St John
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Sun 26 9.00am Holy Communion
Sun 19	10.30am	Holy Communion	
	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service	
Sun 26	10.30am	Holy Communion	

Christmas Services and Events

Tue 14–	5.00–9.00pm	Advent Lighting	Hempton
Thu 16			Fri 17 6.00pm Carol Service
Fri 24	4.00pm	Crib Service with Christingle	Barford St Michael
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	Fri 24 10.00pm Midnight in Bethlehem
Sat 25	10.30am	Holy Communion	Sat 25 10.30am Family Communion

January

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer	Sun 23 10.30am Holy Communion
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion	Sun 30 10.30am Holy Communion
Thu	9.30am	Tea & Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles	Hempton
Sun 2	10.30am	Holy Communion	Sun 16 9.00am Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O’Clock Service, informal	Barfords
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	Sun 9 9.00am Communion, St Michael
Sun 9	8.00am	BCP Communion	Sun 16 10.30am Family Service, St Michael
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Sun 23 9.00am Holy Communion, St John
Sun 16	10.30am	Holy Communion	

RC Parish of Hethe

St John’s Church in Banbury will be streaming Mass daily at 9.30am, Mondays to Fridays; at 10.00am on Saturdays; and 11.15am on Sundays on <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-john-the-evangelist-banbury>. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be streamed for 30 minutes at the end of each weekday Mass.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

This year there will again be Christmas lunches freshly made by our wonderful Alex Moss, to take away on the day or to be delivered, if required. If you, or anybody you know in our villages, will be alone or who, because

of the pandemic, will not be able to see friends or family as planned, please let us know. Please request your festive meal either by ringing me on 01869 338367 or emailing SariBee@yahoo.com.

Fiona Gillespie

HEMPTON ROAD CLOSURE

Hempton Road will be closed for five days from 10–14 January to allow installation of a mains water connection for the new development beyond Windmill Close. This is a 24-hour per day closure with limited access for emergency vehicles and residents of houses within the closed section of the road only, subject to the progress of the works.

If considering going through the Barfords, it should

not be forgotten that there is a width restriction near the bridge between the two villages.

OCC suggests the alternate route as New Street–Oxford Road A4260, B4030 North Street–Enstone Road, B4030–B4022 Butchers Hill, A361 Banbury Road. Possibly not going to be the most favoured route?

CD

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

There were more than 50 volunteers, including an encouraging number of 'yoof' and an even more encouraging number of Candleford folk for the planting of the community orchard in Welford's Piece. Paul the Screw Gov gave an insightful and expert training session before the dig (although he might have forgotten he wasn't addressing a load of cons) that meant 15 apple trees of Deddington Golden and Deddington Pippin, Blenheim Orange, Old Fred, Marjorie's Seedling, White Early Increment, Hoard and Oxford Conquest, Autumn Pearmain and Laxton Epicure were planted for future generations.

Tea, coffee and some lovely cakes were provided by the excellent organisers and everyone felt well happy with their efforts. You are not welcome to help yourself next autumn as Councillor Swadling has his name on all the apples for his cider press.

The Duck's quiz is back ... and a very full house welcomed the return of our tame Sherman DD who presented his usual mix of accessible questions around

a serving of 'chips and dips' to mop up the beer. The winners, by the narrowest of margins, were the usual suspects who donated their winnings to Chances, a local charity for young people with strokes, which will pay for a whole rehab activity pack. Italian cuisine is the topic for the next quiz on the 17 November. Be there and take down this smug lot.

We welcome Russell back to cooking for us in the pub. I understand the current 'safe menu', with ham, egg and chips as a favourite of this correspondent, will be moved up a gear very soon as we'll look forward to hosting even more Candleford folk here. Christmas party bookings are going well although Book Club persuaded Tim that opening on Christmas day might not be very well supported as it seems a lot of members have dinner cooking responsibilities themselves. Tim might get more positive counsel elsewhere.

Martin Bryce

martinbryce@gmail.com

What are you doing on Saturday afternoon, 4 December? May I suggest that you bring your good selves, your families, your friends – but, if possible, not your cars – along to the Windmill? We are delighted to be hosting Deddington Festive Craft

Fayre supporting local makers with some amazing, affordable gift ideas. More than 30 stalls ranging from unique crafts to original art, cards and prints, clothing, accessories, decorations, jewellery and more. Make sure you bring the kids because Santa will be handing out treats, refreshments will be available and there's a big raffle with fantastic prizes. Entry is free and doors open at 2.00 to 5.30pm. The whole thing has been organised by local resident, Jo Cross, and money raised will go towards Chances – an organisation set up by Jo to support young and working stroke victims.s.



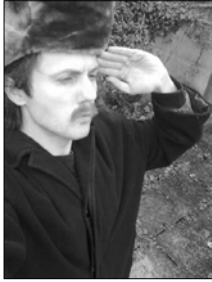
At the end of a second year blighted by lockdowns and other Covid restrictions, it's a real treat to be able to open our doors and invite everybody in the village to an event like this. It is, after all, what community centres should be all about. It is also

a chance for us to show off the Windmill facilities to those of you who may be new to the area. We can host large-scale events like this, small one-to-one business meetings or anything in between. If you want to know what else goes on at the Windmill, visit our website at www.thewindmilldeddington.org or come and speak to one of the management team. We'll all be there at the Fayre. Happy Christmas!

Vaughan Jones

vaughan@englishlanguagematters.com

BLISSFUL THINKING



I swear timepieces used to last forever. I rarely remember a clock in the house stopping ticking. Let's just say when the survivors of mankind's final stupid decision are groping blindly through the black rain and radioactive ruins, the lone bleeping of a Casio wrist-watch's alarm will be the beacon that guides them safely through

the nuclear winter.

Yet the kitchen clock recently seized up and ominously refuses to be resurrected. A miniature alarm clock in my bedroom has averaged a battery change a year. This is not a clock burdened with multiple features: it just has three hands and an alarm selection and, to make it worse, I bought it in Switzerland – the home of exemplary timepieces I was led to believe. Are batteries just shoddier than ever before or is this some portent that our collective time is running out and we ourselves are the next planned obsolescence? In our consumption-fuelled state, the one precious commodity that can never be hoarded to excess is time. It rolls remorselessly on, unaffected by fear or coercion, and now apparently even objects to being kept in an abstract manner, lending a whole new dynamic to 'free time'.

Aaron Bliss aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

What a strange year it has been with so many events cancelled. The Four Farms Run was cancelled twice. It is a lovely event, welcoming so many people to the Castle Grounds, and we hope it will take place in the spring. We have been happy to see so many visitors using the Grounds during lockdown. Unfortunately we had a few cases of fires and barbecues which are not allowed within the area.

The Castle Grounds looks spectacular at this time of year. so please enjoy walking through all the colourful fallen leaves.

Many places are very muddy underfoot so take care whilst visiting, especially the area around the moat where the path is eroding. English Heritage is currently reviewing plans for its repair. Some remedial work is still being carried out and the grass has been mowed throughout the season.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports our efforts to maintain this peaceful and beautiful heritage site. Here's looking forward to 2022.

We hope the world will return to normal at some point.

Merry Christmas and a happy healthy new year.

Carol Garrett

cgarrett@btinternet.com



Mallams
1788

Thinking of selling your artwork?

Design & Modern Art Specialist Max Fisher, is available to give **free** confidential valuations on any piece(s) you are considering selling at auction.

Home visits also available

Enquiries: 01865 241 358
or max.fisher@mallams.co.uk

www.mallams.co.uk

FARMERS’ MARKET



FOURTH SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
www.deddington.org.uk

Well, 2021 is drawing to a close – another strange year. What has been really good is to see the market up and running again, even if not quite as before, so now is a good time to thank all those many people involved in making it happen.

Firstly, the stallholders – it is exciting to go to the market each month to see what goodies they have brought with them. Stallholders, however, need stalls. Some people bring their own but, as many do not, the market has about 30 of its own which need to be erected. So every market Saturday, at the unfashionably early hour of 7.00am, you will see a band of merry volunteers trundling them along to the Market Place from the shed in the Holly Tree grounds. Once the market is over the process has to be reversed. A big vote of thanks must go to the construction crew which turns up faithfully each month whatever the weather.

They are not the only volunteers. There are the people who put up the large advertising signs and take them down again and the committee which oversees the running of the market and has the onerous job of taste testing before any new food stallholder is accepted. Thanks to each and every one of you for making it all go so smoothly. New volunteers are always welcome. If you think there might be a role for you please

contact us through our website. You can find other information there and, if that's not enough, you can always sign up to receive the email newsletters which give you the latest news and information.

Our final vote of thanks must go to you, the customers. The average number on any given Saturday is around 1,500 though it can be as high as 2,500. Fortunately not everyone comes at once.

The December market on the 18th is the last one for 2021. If you are looking for something particular remember you can pre-order from many stalls. Contact details are on the market website.

Jenny Snashall

www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

‘TWENTY IS PLENTY’

OCC is considering a scheme to allow increased use of 20mph restrictions in previously 30mph areas. Individuals and councils would be able to apply for the change, with the support of their local councillor. The restriction could cover a whole village or simply individual streets. The increased restrictions would rely primarily on increased signage and road markings and would be enforced by Thames Valley Police.

CD



Hearing Choices UK



Because
quality of
life means
everything

For further information please contact
 Lisa Summersell, BA (Hons), RHAD, Audiologist
 ☎ **07942 641 986 / 01295 574380**
 ✉ **contact@hearingchoicesuk.co.uk**
www.hearingchoicesuk.com

Expert advice on
all of your
hearing needs

- Hearing Tests
- Latest Digital
Technology
Hearing Aids
- Invisible
Hearing Aids
- Ear Wax Removal
Service

Strict hygiene and PPE
in accordance with
Covid-19 government
guidelines. Home visits
can be arranged for the
housebound



EXPERT ADVICE - OVER 16 YEARS' EXPERIENCE - HCPC REGISTERED

Kings Sutton Millennium Memorial Hall, Astrop Road, Kings Sutton, Banbury OX17 3PG

<https://www.deddington.org.uk/>

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/deddingtononline and Twitter @DeddiOnLine

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Hempton's carol service will take place in St John's at 6.00pm on Friday 17 December. Strained vocal cords can be soothed after the service with mulled wine and mince pies, for which a donation would be gratefully received.

The following day, Hempton Friends Committee plans to open the Old School Room in the evening for the Christmas Tractor Run, Saturday 18 December. The whole village is invited to socialise over mulled wine, mince pies, tea, coffee and biscuits. Starting well before the arrival of the tractors, what better way to spend a convivial evening awaiting the arrival of the parade and avoid standing around in the cold or wet? A donation will be collected for the refreshments.

The Old School Room is available for hire by anyone at £6 per hour. The facility includes the meeting hall, kitchen area and toilet. All income goes toward the maintenance and upkeep of the church and School Room. Recent constraints on social gatherings have adversely affected the income of the Friends. Your ongoing support at future events and possibly hiring the hall will be appreciated and is needed to help ensure we can continue to enjoy our only community facility.

On the 16 October anyone setting out from Hempton along the path to Deddington found part of the way opposite Snake Hill Lane buried under debris. We are in hedge-trimming season, September–February. This was not just the usual shards of splintered green wood but twigs and branches more than a metre long. It is the duty of the landowner, occupier or local authority to trim back vegetation invading public spaces, obscuring visibility or road signs. It also stops encroachment, maintaining field margins. Where debris is left on the road or public path operators are required to make reasonable efforts to clear it. This is a legal requirement under the Highways Act 1980. I noted that there was very little if any debris scattered along the inside of the field margin and there has been no attempt to clear the pathway.

Under normal circumstances I would have had a quick grumble, kicked the larger pieces of debris aside to make way and moved on, were it not for what followed later in the day. Mid afternoon, I had just powered up the PC when phut ... the power dropped out. Our intrepid hedge trimmer had moved on to trimming electricity transmission poles. I imagine 11,000 volts didn't do his tractor much good. Thankfully, as far as I know, the driver was not injured. Some of us were without power until an emergency generator was eventually hooked up at 10:00am the following day. This entailed parking a six-wheel beast carrying the diesel powered generator under my bedroom window. I spent the next ten days enjoying the hum of the generator and its emissions. This simulation of living in the engine room of an ocean liner was only interrupted when the generator failed on two occasions, plunging us into darkness for a couple of hours. The noise and having

to keep the windows closed was not conducive to a good night's sleep.

For most the inconvenience was minimal. Missing *Strictly* for me was not a problem. It's on catch-up so I can miss it more often. The Red Lion was a beneficiary, their excellent fish and chips replacing our planned evening meal. The crisis over, we are back to our usual contribution to climate change. Perhaps SSEN should put more effort into ensuring their equipment does not disappear into the undergrowth. Maybe its one of their carbon offset initiatives!

A convoy of eight anarchic bikers was spied passing through the village. Arriving at the pinch point, they ignored the give way signs forcing an oncoming vehicle with obvious right of way to stop to let them through. Each one, separated by multiple car lengths, sailed merrily through – a serial code violation. A neighbour witnessed another anarchist, in a vehicle this time; they took issue with the vehicle in front stopping to give way. Blowing the horn and making a forcefully reproachful protest was not enough; they pulled out, drove past the stationary car in front, forcing the oncoming traffic to give way and back off. Perhaps our new road signage omits to point out 'This means you'.

Stuart Oldham

sjoldham_oldham@btinternet.com



Are you fearful of

- Public speaking
- Delivering a presentation
- Giving a speech

**I am a professional voice coach
who can help you
STAND TO DELIVER**

Contact Elli Ince

standtodeliver@gmail.com

01869 338417

07986 586933

*'Elli's invaluable tips gave me the confidence
to relax and deliver . . . with style'*

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Texas, Senate Seats and Covid Travel

I sold my company, but this means two worrying things. I have a boss for the first time in over 25 years, a fact that many who know my wife will dispute, and I get to visit my new head office in Texas. Texas is a confusing place for us Brits. If you hadn't heard they just introduced a law to say anyone over 18 can buy a gun and walk down the street with it on display – loaded.

Over dinner at a ridiculously expensive Texas steak house, meeting the new team, one of them told me his gun story. He had been on a camping and shooting trip with his family when there was a sudden rainstorm so the kids threw all their belongings into bags and he drove home. The next day he got up early and went to the airport for a business flight. He put his work bag on the belt at security but it didn't appear at the other end. Then a couple of nice people arrived and took him away. One of his kids had put his gun in his work bag rather than his home bag. He spent the night in jail.

The balance between the states is a strange one. In the UK we talk about the North–South divide, but here it is much more than that; Texas is nothing like California. The political system was set up to balance federal power with the partial independence of the states. You can see what they were trying to achieve – many of the states have truly different identities – but today it creates huge imbalances. For instance, each of the 50 states gets two senators, so Wyoming with half a million people gets two and California with 39 million gets two. And, of course, the small rural states are very Republican. The current Senate is equally split between the two parties, but the 50 Republicans only represent 44% of the population.

We are currently wending our way around Europe on our first tour for 21 months. Another grandchild has been born since we were last here, but Covid is still

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

There was another great turnout of calendar buyers at November's farmers' market. Thank you to all who ventured out and supported us. It is greatly appreciated. Only a few calendars remain so please pop into Nellie & Dove before December's market in case they've all been sold by then. Keep an eye on our Facebook page as well which will tell you where else you'll be able to buy your copy.

As ever, your support for the library throughout another difficult year has been very welcome, from our valued sponsors, brilliant photographers and everyone in our community who supports us by buying the calendar. Without you it just wouldn't be possible.

Looking ahead to the festive season, we'd like to thank you all and wish everyone a very safe, healthy and happy Christmas and an even better New Year. Thank you!

Bryn Williams

bryn.williams@iconpublishinglimited.com

with us, and, as usual, things have gone wrong for me. My last test looked fine to me but when I uploaded it the automated service said it was 'inconclusive' and it won't let me upload my next test today. Some airlines and airports just aren't set up properly, my love affair with British Airways is well and truly over after huge delays in Denver. But Jet2 at Manchester was fantastic. Something has gone terribly wrong with the airline industry.

Last week's UK political news was an MP caught lobbying. I don't know about you, but surely this has been going on forever. In the US everything is bigger, including their lobbying. Earlier this month there were long discussions about finally ending the mandate that US public bodies (like the medical aid for us old people) cannot negotiate prices with drug companies. To put this into perspective my knee consultant got me to order the stuff he injected in my knee from Canada and I saved myself \$1,000. However, the politicians wouldn't change that law and no-one knows how many are paid by the drug companies.

I'm off to sit on a beach in Cyprus. I can't walk but I don't have Covid and I'm looking forward to seeing my old sane mates in the parish. I'll be lobbying for a proper beer. Cheers.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

HALL 

PERSONAL TRAINING



OPENING THIS AUTUMN



JOIN THE MOVEMENT @ HALL-TRAINING.COM

Delivering private, semi-private
and small group personal training

LETTERS

FROM JEAN WELFORD, CLIFTON
It gave me so much pleasure to see the video link to the DEN Orchard Team planting the Community Orchard in Welford's Piece on 16 October. Many congratulations to you all. My late husband, Donald, would have been delighted. He loved tree planting and particularly wanted Welford's Piece to be used for the enjoyment of Clifton families. I think the crocus under-planting will be lovely too. Thank you all.



met through our dogs. Michael and I used to joke that we might not always remember names of the people but we remembered the dogs. I would like to thank everyone for the cards sent and the offers of help and assistance. It is helping me in getting through this, and to those who have stopped to talk to me and remember Michael. This is very much appreciated.

FROM MRS DEBORRAH WILLIAMS, DEDDINGTON

Michael and I moved to this village in 1989. We walked our dogs at least twice a day, mostly Michael; many of the people we came to know, we

FROM JANE GREEN, DEDDINGTON

Christmas cards and note cards are for sale in the church in aid of Embrace the Middle East, a British charity sending funds to charities in the Middle East caring for the poor, disabled and refugees. Payment details are provided.

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

With Christmas fast approaching we thought we'd share some more tips on how to make some sustainable choices when it comes to wrapping your presents and buying your tree. Have a look at the DEN website for more sustainable Christmas ideas.

Would you be surprised to know that the amount of gift wrap we use in the UK each year is estimated to be enough to s-t-r-e-t-c-h to the moon? If you choose paper, try to recycled options and don't forget that any coated in glitter, foil or plastic cannot be recycled. Consider using old newspaper, tea-towels and pillowcases, re-usable fabric bags and wraps (check out wearth-london.com), scarves or one of the umpteen tote bags that we all seem to have lurking in our cupboards. You can search charity and junk shops for vintage tins, boxes, unique containers, scarves and fabric etc that can be used to create unique gift-wrapping solutions and finally, as an alternative and novel idea, look at wragwrap.com which offers eco-friendly wrapping products to rent. Remember to try and use paper tape or re-used ribbon or string rather than Sellotape.

Real tree vs Plastic Tree – this is a debate that comes up every year in our house. The Carbon Trust has found that real trees have a smaller carbon footprint than artificial ones, partly because they absorb carbon as they grow. Artificial ones, with a 40kg footprint, need to be used for over 12 years and then be properly recycled, if that is possible, for them to compare favourably. Not only are they made from petroleum products, but they are also probably manufactured in countries that rely on coal-generated power and then transported halfway around the world. Some have also been found to contain worrying amounts of lead. Real trees that end up in landfill have a carbon footprint of around 16kg while those left out for collection by the council for composting, chipped or burnt yourself, or

live trees planted in the garden, are much lower at 3.5kg. If you opt for a real tree, obviously a locally or British grown one from one of our local farms or garden centres is best and you can check on this website, bctga.co.uk/onlinedirectory, for other local suppliers.

On Sunday 5 December we are organising a local litter pick, meeting under the Town Hall at 10.30am. Please email us if you would like to come along.

Do come and join us for our first DEN social on Wednesday 8 December at the Deddington Arms from 7.00pm onwards. This is an informal opportunity to get together and share inspiration with each other. Hopefully it will become a regular event – we're planning to rotate through the days of the week and different venues each month. Bring any of your Sustainable Christmas ideas with you to share. Everyone is welcome but please drop Nicki an email at Nickicradock@hotmail.com if you plan on coming so we can get an idea of numbers.

Our first film screening will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 20 January at the Holly Tree Hall. We'll be showing the award-winning film *Kiss the Ground*, a thought-provoking look at regenerative agriculture, narrated by Woody Harrelson. All are welcome but numbers will be limited so contact Debbie at Debbiemacaro@gmail.com or 07724 466471 to reserve your place. A nominal donation to cover the cost of the room hire would be appreciated.

Finally, come and see us at the Christmas farmers' market on December 18 and don't forget to bring your empty containers for refilling. Wishing you all a very merry and healthy Christmas!

Fiona and Nick Smith
info@deddingtonenvironmentnetwork.net

DEDDINGTON'S 'SLOW' WAR MEMORIAL

The story of our war memorial is not straightforward. First there were no rules or regulations at the close of The Great War in 1918 for erecting them. Before the nineteenth century they were seen as more of a celebratory object than one of mourning and sadness. They were built to celebrate great leaders and victories, not to commemorate ordinary servicemen or women.

This started to change with the Boer War of 1899-1902. The public perception of the lower ranks of the Armed Forces – and especially of volunteers – started to improve and more communities created local memorials. The First World War was a turning point. Around two-thirds of today's memorials date back to then for several reasons: the sheer numbers of casualties; the fact that so many volunteers and civilians were affected, compared to previous wars; and the ban on repatriation of the dead.

The idea for our memorial was first raised in May 1919 and a committee soon formed, chaired by Mr Brian Millington, a well-to-do farmer living at Leadenporch. Brian's next door neighbours and good friends were Richard Bull, the village vet, and his family living in what is now our house – the Stile House. Their son, Reginald, had been killed in action on 1 November 1918, only ten days before the Armistice. This may well have been why Brian took on the chairmanship of what proved to be a less than happy task. A memorial to Reginald is on the north wall above the crosses.

A decision was quickly made that the war memorial would be in the churchyard, unlike most other villages whose memorials are in the village centre. This may have been because the Market Place was apparently very unsightly but there may have been another problem. The village had a large number of Wesleyan and Congregational churchgoers who, by some accounts, did not like the incumbent vicar's tendency to follow high church practices. So it may be – and here I am speculating – that not all grieving families may have wished their men to be memorialised in the established church's churchyard. The Oxford Records Office holds several extremely unseemly exchanges in notes and postcards between parishioners about location and costs. This all caused delay. Mr Millington himself, in one note, says he is close to giving up the chairmanship. Even the diocesan authority, whose permission is required for any work on church property, seems to have prevaricated for a very long time over the design.

Although by August 1919 it had been agreed that the memorial would be designed by Mr Smithin, would be twelve feet six inches high, executed in Portland stone and cost about £230, nothing really had happened even by January the next year, obliging the committee to issue a public apology. A whole year further on it had still not been completed. At which point a very angry lady, Miss Ellen Hands, took the matter into her own hands, compiled a list of names and personally paid for a small brass plaque to be

engraved and hung in the church in March 1921. You can see it just inside the porch to the north door.

It was not until Sunday 6 August 1922 – over three years on from that first meeting – that the memorial was finally unveiled by Major General Sir Robert Fanshawe, KCB, DSO, who had commanded the 48th (South Midland) Division on the Western Front and in Italy from 1915 until June 1918. It was dedicated by the vicar, Revd Thomas Boniface, the Revd T Buckingham representing the Wesleyan community and the Revd J Carter representing the Congregationalists. Clearly the established and non-conformist churches had come to an accommodation. Wreaths were placed by parishioners and representatives of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, while the bellringers tolled a muffled peal.

The names of 51 men were engraved on the memorial. Subsequent research revealed there were a further 19 men who could have been considered by birth, marriage or residence. Their omission may have been because their parents or wives had moved elsewhere after the war and only those families still in the parish and whose sons were born in the parish were included. It also may have been that some Methodist or Congregational families still did not support the idea of the memorial being in the established churchyard.

The full list of 70 men who died in WWI came from a pool of only about 250 of military age in the parish, a very significant loss in a village largely consisting of agricultural labourers. Of these 70, five families bore the loss of more than one son. The Chislett, Hutt, Hawkins, and Tustain parents all lost two sons and the Tustains also lost several close nephews. A fifth family stands out from the rest. David and Ellen Hancox of Grove Lodge had four sons, Albert, William, Rufus and Arthur. The youngest remained at home to work the land; the eldest three went off to fight and all three died in action. It is hard to imagine the family's grief and the pain with which their father, a woodcarver, created the wooden memorial to them that hangs high up near the font at the back of the church.

In 1928 Arthur took a small team of friends to France to look for his brothers' graves. They found Walter's and Albert's but not Rufus'. The two grave marker crosses now hang on the north wall along with Reginald Bull's and Frederick Tustain's. Many men have no known grave. The other five of the nine crosses are from the graves of those who died in England from war wounds or disease.

The Second World War saw 11 more names added to the memorial. We found a further two men not on the memorial who deserve to be remembered by birth and residence. One of them, Sgt Ken Harris, RAF, earned a Distinguished Flying Medal. They, along with the 19 missing names from WWI, are now included on a new memorial plaque on the north wall.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



It seems unbelievable to think we are approaching Christmas. The weeks seem to be rushing by.

We would like to start by saying a massive 'thank you' to our hard-working PTA for organising the firework display on Saturday 6 November. It was a wonderful evening and the enjoyment was heightened by this being the first Firework Night at school for two years. If you were there I am sure you would entirely agree.

Some of our children in Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in a crosscountry event on Tuesday 9 November. They proved their ability and showed great spirit and determination to come in third overall. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 took part in a similar event.

As part of our Remembrance Day activities this year, the children each designed a cross with a poppy on it. Eighty-six were then placed round the war memorial to recognise the 86 soldiers from Deddington and its surrounding area who lost their lives during this terrible war. The rest of our poppies were placed in the church to show how all of us at school remember the sacrifice the military and their families have made over the years in various conflicts.

We hope many of you will enjoy our upcoming Christmas performances,

Our very best wishes to you all from Deddington Primary School.

Denise Welch

dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

DEDDINGTON PFSU AND VILLAGE NURSERY

This term the Nursery children are exploring Julia Donaldson's stories and the Pre-School children are finding out about different celebrations, including Diwali and Firework Night. Of course the latter part of the term will be dominated by Christmas and we have lots of plans including Christmas Jumper Day, parties, decorations and crafts, and performances. Dates for all the events are in our current newsletter.

Children born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 need to apply for a Primary School place now for next September. As there is no *Deddington News* in January, please note that the deadline for applications is 15 January 2022.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lucy Squires
01869 337484

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Our Christmas-themed books have been a great success with seasonally flavoured reads from all categories – even crime – represented and borrowed from mid-October, onwards. Our junior borrowers have been most enthusiastic and we have now received additional Christmas content to satisfy high demand, including Jacqueline Wilson's *Hetty Feather's Christmas* and Roddy Doyle's humorous and imaginative *Rover Saves Christmas*. For adults, some vintage John Mortimer with *Rumpole at Christmas* or the ever popular, Dilly Court. Court's *The Christmas Rose*, set in Victorian London, became a *Sunday Times* Top Ten Bestseller in 2018.

It seems timely to mention that the library will close at 5.00pm on Thursday 23 December, and re-open on Wednesday 5 January at 9.30am so, please consider dropping in and stocking up on some of our excellent books to see you through the break.

I look forward to seeing you soon and would like to sign off by thanking the Deddington community for supporting its library and give especially warm thanks to our volunteers who are so dedicated and generous with their time.

Louise Willis, Library Manager
Louise.Willis@Oxfordshire.gov.uk



DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Get to know our fabulous new facilities!

Dance and Yoga Studio
Deddington Studio
Light & airy, wooden floor

Meeting Space
Clifton Room
Successful meetings & away-days

Kids' Parties
The Lookout
By the Adventure Playground
& All Weather Court (hire me too!)

t: 07720 834006

www.thewindmilldeddington.org

CALLING ALL CLUBS

History Society

On 21 October we had a very interesting talk from Dan Allen entitled 'What Did Granny Do in the War'. Dan described the various roles which women carried out in WWI. These were mainly the traditional women's activities of the time; domestic duties such as washing and cleaning, although over 80 women were employed as 'motorised vehicle' drivers who not only drove the vehicles but also maintained them.

Dan described the organisations which sprang up to use these volunteers who, initially, comprised those who could afford to give their time without payment. However, around 1916 the War Office was persuaded to offer payment which encouraged working class women to join the war effort. One particularly interesting piece of information was that these women lobbied for equal pay and, after considerable effort, achieved their goal; the first time equal pay had been granted.

As happens today, confusion reigned with too many groups competing for their own space. Finally, the War Office appointed a brigadier general to co-ordinate the myriad organisations. Dan showed us an interesting poster aimed at encouraging women to join. It said, '4 ladies will free up 3 men to fight as soldiers!' Dan also pointed out that, just as at Bletchley Park in WWII, telephonists and Morse code operators were able to tap into German military messages.

Barrie Smith
smithinsight@btinternet.com

Photographic Society

Our engaging speaker, Robert Harvey, ARPS gave us an inspiring look at Wiltshire. During his talk Robert gave us a glimpse of the history, geology, geography, architecture and art of the county. He began with a look at the landscape of the chalk downs and the vales of clay pasture. He highlighted the iconic beech clumps along the chalk downs, his favourite being the Charlton Clumps at the edge of Salisbury Plain. Of course, the unique Stonehenge was featured but wasn't Robert's favourite place for capturing the mystery of ancient times. He prefers Silbury Hill and Devil's Den at Avebury. A particular shot of a 'White Horse', famous in Wiltshire, took Robert thirteen years to achieve with the right weather and lighting conditions.

His images are unique and painstakingly researched and observed. Robert uses a tripod for all his shots so that he can include more detail and alter the aperture settings and exposures times. An entertaining shot of an enormous moon illustrated the story of a Moonraker. When smuggling was rife in the 1700s a group lifting stored French brandy barrels from a pond were visited by the law. They explained they were raking for the round cheese, the reflected moon being the foil. Anyone can look at Robert's work in his newly published book *Photographing Wiltshire*; a possible Christmas present perhaps?

Images from our recent photoshoot at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire will be on our website shortly. Our next speaker is Carole Henson giving us tips about photographing live events and festivals on Wednesday 1 December at 7.30pm at The Adderbury Institute. See our website for further details if you would like to join us. Wishing everyone a very peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion Deddington Branch

An impressive 100 tickets were sold for our Poppy Appeal fundraiser on 29 October. Neil Skinner's lighting scheme, with its 'silent soldiers' and the giant shadow of Private Archie Gomm projected on to the north wall among the war grave crosses created a very emotive background for the evening. After a short introduction by the RBL County Chairman and the story of our own memorials (given by Revd Annie on my behalf), Dick Richards of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission gave an inspirational presentation on its history and work worldwide. The Commission cares for six graves in our churchyard.

The aim of the evening was to try and fill the black hole in last year's Poppy Appeal caused by the Covid pandemic. Proceeds from ticket and bar sales raised over £600. A few individual donations – including a significant one from local business, Contact Sales Ltd, raised this figure to over £2,500. This is a truly exceptional sum which, when market day and street collections are added later, will mean that Deddington has shown how caring a village we are. I can hardly express just how grateful our committee is for everyone's generosity. To all those who helped organise and make the evening such a great success – a very big thank you also.

Rob Forsyth Chairman
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Bookworms

Our latest read was written by local author Linda Newbery. Originally published in 2013, *Quarter Past Two on a Wednesday Afternoon*, *Missing Rose* was Linda's first adult novel and is a tale of lives and lies. Anna's older sister, Rose, vanished one day, with no clues as to what had happened to her. The intriguing plot has many twists and turns and follows Anna and her family as they each deal with Rose's disappearance in their own way. The story highlights sibling rivalries as well as differences in attitudes across the generations. The reader is kept hooked by the overwhelming desire to know what happened to Rose. I won't spoil the read by saying whether you find out.

Janet Macey
 01869 336156

CLUBS ————— *Continued from p14***Book Group**

Our latest book, *Death and the Penguin* by Ukrainian author, Andrey Kurkov, satirises the difficulties of life in a corrupt post-Soviet society. Originally published in Russian in 1996, it was later translated into more than 30 languages.

Viktor, a writer, shares his flat with Misha, a penguin rescued from the impoverished city zoo. Viktor aspires to write novels but lands a job preparing obituaries of notable figures. It soon becomes apparent that the obituaries signal the sudden and violent death of the subjects, and that Viktor is trapped in a dangerous Mafia-like organisation.

The style is dry with surreal and blackly comical elements. More characters appear but rarely display deep emotions. Conversely, the penguin demonstrates mute distress at his strange surroundings and joy when able to experience snow and ice. After a slow start, the tension increases as mysterious events occur and Viktor's situation becomes bleaker. It was good to read a book unlike any previous choices, even if we found it rather puzzling at times. The ending is enigmatic but apparently all is revealed in a sequel, *Penguin Lost*.

Our next meeting is on 27 January 2022. Please contact Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details.

Sian Waterman

Deddington Players

We are delighted to say the Deddington Players pantomime is back. This season we are performing *Peter Pan* with a mix of toe-tapping tunes, gorgeous dames, daring heroes, a baddie to 'boo' and of course, loads of laughs. Performance dates are 20–22 January 2022. Thursday's performance will be socially distanced. Look out for ticket information in the New Year.

Suzie Upson

suzieupson@mac.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm during term time in the school hall.

Laughter, as the saying goes, is the best medicine and we certainly get quite a dose on a Monday evening. Our new choir leader is a joy to work with and it doesn't matter if the singing is excellent or atrocious, the spirits remain high. Our current repertoire includes a few Christmas songs and we've been warned there will also be clapping and dancing. I suspect the laughter is going to go up a notch. If you would like to see if the choir is for you, please do; you will be very welcome and the first session is free. No experience is required and there is no need to be able to read music as we learn by ear.

To find out more, including our Covid protocols, or to contact us please go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk

Alison Grieve

SPORT —————**Deddington Town Football Club**

First Team results:

16.10.21	Kings Sutton (h)	D 1–1	Radcliffe
23.10.21	Bodicote Sports (a)	L 0–4	
30.10.21	Hardwick Sports (a)	L 2–3	Thornton, J. (2)
06.11.21	Hailey FC (a) (CUP)	L 0–2	

Reserve Team results:

16.10.21	Middleton Ch. Res (a)	L 1–2
23.10.21	Newly Weds Food (h)	Forfeit
30.10.21	Arncott Athletic FC (a)	W 3–1
06.11.21	Broughton & NN (a)	L 1–3

Just the one victory between both sides has made it a mediocre month but both teams sit in a reasonable league position. Special mention should be made of Deddington Athletic who have now had to stomach two forfeits but have still gleaned three wins to keep themselves safely in midtable. Now that's what I call triumph through adversity. Merry Christmas and a glorious New Year from all at DTFC!

Aaron Bliss
07909 642882

Deddington Town Youth Teams

The Under 15s, playing in the WDYFL B League, had a 3–0 away defeat to Easington Sports, followed by a 6–1 home win over Freeland with two goals for James Marrett. The team currently sits fourth in the league just outside the promotion places. The Under 13s, playing in the same league, had a 4–4 draw with Banbury United Spencer with two goals for James Honeyman, followed by a 4–2 defeat at Bart Football Academy. This means relegation to the C League for the spring competition. The Under 12s playing in the Oxfordshire Youth Football League in the D League had a 3–1 home win over Abingdon Youth, followed by a 6–2 away win in the return fixture with a hat-trick for Harry Townsend. The Under 12s sit top of the league and are unbeaten this season.

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

**Roger Sykes, Development Officer
and U7/U6 Coach,
07899 914425**

Deddington Tennis Club

This month we're focusing on news about the juniors. On 22 October we held the 2021 Junior Club Championships. It was an intimate affair with five junior club members taking part. Everyone played each other in a round robin format and the winner was the player who won most matches.

Ben Jones emerged victorious winning all four of his matches, with Dom Elvin as runner up, losing

SPORT Continued from p15

only to Ben. Fraser Honeyman, Sam Elvin and Nick Raath were the other competitors. Well done to the players for taking part and making it a very friendly and good-natured competition.

We award the Rule Family Shield annually to the junior player who has shown the best overall attitude to tennis. The shield was generously donated by the Rule family who lived in the village and wanted to keep a connection to the club. This year's winner is Dom Elvin. He has shown great enthusiasm and always has a really positive attitude on and off court. He takes part in two group sessions and one-to-one coaching, has joined the junior teams and actively encouraged friends to come along to the club and to play with him outside lessons. He has also shown a big improvement as a player. Well done, Dom.

Going into the winter season we have junior teams competing in two age groups in the Oxfordshire leagues. The last time the winter leagues ran was before lockdown in the 2019/20 season when Deddington teams performed very well and were the overall winners in the Under 14 age group. That team will be playing at Under 16 this year and we have especially high hopes for them.

We run junior coaching programmes for all ages throughout winter, weather permitting. If you'd like to know more about coaching, please email Paul Taylor on paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk.

For information about social tennis, box leagues, adult teams, to book a court or become a member, please check out our website, www.deddingtontennis.com.

Becky Jones

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs have earned their Emergency Aid Badges, spending an evening learning when and how to get help, and rolling people around the floor into the recovery position.

We moved on to global issues: where were their clothes made and why, and a graphic demonstration of global warming using desk lamps to melt ice cubes to flood Monopoly houses!

This was followed by another experiment showing how warming seas also lead to rising sea levels. They have a remarkably mature grasp of the problems.

Jo Churchyard

deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

We resurrected the Great Egg Race (anyone remember Heinz Wolfe?). The Scouts made carts to transport their eggs as far as possible. Each egg had its own unique character. Some of the vehicles worked quite well but most were just bonkers. We followed this with

YOUTH Continued

the Model Maker Badge. The lovely people at Games Workshop, having sponsored it, sent out free kits to make Warhammer figures, which the Scouts spent two happy sessions building and painting. For your information, Warhammer is modern war gaming with plastic fantasy figures instead of lead soldiers.

Peter Churchyard

deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

1st Deddington Brownies

Brownies have done lots of fun things during autumn, including making conker snails and using our new Kelly Kettle.

We also had a spooky trip to Evenley Woods before Hallowe'en. This term we will be going on our annual torchlit walk and having an exciting trip to Cadbury's World.

Fern Stringer

deddingtonbrownies@gmail.com

HOLLY TREE CLUB

On Wednesday 4 November the Holly Tree Club had its first outing since before the pandemic. A dozen 'explorers' donned their masks, boarded Ourbus Bartons and headed out to Stratford Garden Centre. The Christmas decoration department sparkled, the centre was bright and not too busy, members enjoyed lunch and some even braved the weather and looked at the plants outside. Our members really appreciated the chance to go somewhere out of the village at last and very much enjoyed the outing.

The members' outing on Thursday 2 December at 12.30pm will be a Christmas lunch (with customary raffle) at the Deddington Arms. We're very excited to be able to have this traditional get-together this year, as it was much missed last year.

In response to the survey earlier in the year asking residents for input on development of the Holly Tree Club, many people thought that a lunch club would be a nice idea, giving another opportunity to socialise in a safe space, get a hot meal that someone else cooked at a reasonable price.

We're very excited to let you know that plans are proceeding well and in the New Year we hope to start a weekly lunch club which, because of its frequency, will be open to both members and the wider community.

The last coffee morning before Christmas will be held on Monday 20 December and resuming on 3 January. There will be no coffee morning on 27 December 27.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, both new and old, a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Julia Cork, Members Liaison

julia.cork@thedha.org

JOHN CHENEY – THE BEGINNINGS

To anyone living in Deddington between 1988 and 2013 John Cheney was a familiar and cheerful presence, frequently encountered in any of the villages hostelrys, on the S4 bus – about which he wrote delightfully in one of his Deddington Ditties and presiding over his version of Poetry Please.

Recently Nick Allen shared with us John's unfinished autobiography, of interest not simply about John himself but recalling other Banbury names familiar to native Deddingtonians and long-time residents.

Chapter One – Beginnings in Broughton Road

I was born on 21 September 1929 in the front first floor room at 72 Broughton Road, Banbury, the son of John Cheney and Mary (née Anson). They already had two daughters, Margaret Anne and Christine Mary. My father was hoping for a son, so rejoiced when Dr Clement Wells shouted down the stairs, 'Jack, it's a boy!' The reason that father wanted a son was to ensure the future of the printing business which had passed through five generations of the Cheney family since its foundation in 1767 at the Unicorn Inn, Banbury. I was the sixth generation.

No 72 Broughton Road was, under a new numbering scheme in the 1930s, changed to 5 Broughton Road, the new numbers starting from the corner of Beargarden Road instead of The Cross. It is a tall, not very beautiful, semi-detached house. No 1 was occupied by Tom and Madge Hankinson. Tom was a farmer and his sister Madge had one of the earliest examples of the Fiat 500c Topolino (Mickey Mouse), a tiny beautifully designed little car which, subsequently, formed the basis of the suspension for the successful Cooper racing cars.

No 3 was occupied by Mr and Mrs Edgar Chapman and their daughter Gladys. Edgar Chapman was a partner to his brother, Howard, in Chapman Brothers, at the time Banbury's leading furnishers and drapers. Both Edgar and Howard were diminutive men and were leading lights in the Baptist Church. Edgar Chapman had a most beautiful garden which we overlooked from our bathroom window, so we gazed in wonder at the splendid garden parties that were held there, everybody in their best summer dresses.

On the first floor was the main bedroom (Father and Mother), a second bedroom (Margaret and Christine), and a small room at the back (me). This also served as a nursery for a time. There was a large bathroom with a tiny washbasin, subsequently replaced, and the world's noisiest flush cistern. The toilet was called The Maxim and had the manufacturer's name and address on it, presumably if we needed to write to them. The bath was lovely, with wrought iron claw legs and huge taps.

The second floor consisted of 'the top back bedroom', the front bedroom and the bug-room. Here was also the 'top cupboard', a massive structure containing toys, including my clockwork Hornby train set, a collection of carved animals, a Noah's ark, Meccano,

jigsaws, a red Schuco model racing-car, bric-à-brac and the things that might be needed but, of course, never were. I slept for some time in the front room.

Until the 1939 War and the blackout there was a gas-lit street lamp immediately outside. The lamp lighter would come round on his bicycle, with his ladder slung over his shoulder, hang the ladder on the rungs built into the lamp-post, climb up and activate the gas lamp. It threw a soft yellow friendly light onto the ceiling of my room and the sound of people's boots walking up the Broughton Road would be duplicated on the ceiling shadows, long, shortening then lengthening again as people crossed the patch of light thrown by the street lamp. It was a secure little room and I liked it. There was a text above the bed, in a black frame, 'Commit they way unto the Lord'. It was an iron bedstead but comfortable.

I have referred to the 'bug-room'. My father was an entomologist and, in the days when there were plenty of butterflies and moths, would stride about the fields with his butterfly net, or paint sugary syrup on telegraph poles, to attract nocturnal moths. Anything of any rarity or value would be consigned to the 'killing bottle', a screw-top jar with cyanide of potassium at the bottom, covered with a thick pad of cotton wool. The creatures never stood a chance and no-one seemed to worry that this deadly device was left within easy reach of three young children.

On one occasion my father's hobby was being discussed with an elderly cousin. The hobby was always known in the family as 'bug-hunting' – hence the bug-room and the cousin suddenly chirped up with 'yes, we all love Jack's bug-hunting, in fact we call him the family bugger!'

Our garden was long and rather narrow. It had a path with arches of rambling roses, a few fruit trees and a sandpit at the end. Over the back wall was a tennis court and we would sit on the wall and watch the tennis players. Later we had a beautiful swing, on which I nearly killed myself. I thought I had perfected the art of jumping off when the swing was at its further point forward. I leapt off, caught my hand on one of the ropes, the seat came forward again and caught me a resounding blow on the back of the head.

Next door at No 7 lived the Crouchleys, sisters who disliked us and we them. If we made too much noise they would bang on the wall. Ultimately they moved out and a friendly man, Mr Tustain, moved in. The first we knew of his arrival was when we were in the garden and a handful of toffees came over the wall. We immediately classed him as a 'good neighbour'.

Inside No 5 Broughton Road, there was a small entrance hall with a stained glass door. This led into a hallway with a stairway to the right and a sitting-room and dining-room to the left. The sitting-room had an open fire surrounded by bright painted square panels depicting British birds. They were colourful and I loved them. There was the piano on the right. My mother

Continued from p 17

was a good pianist and used to play tunes for us to dance to, round the sofa. The door had a heavy velvet curtain to keep out the draughts. There were cabinets with displays of china in them and a lovely set of ivory chessmen.

The dining-room was dark but had French windows leading into the garden. There was a massive

dining-table with pull-out leaves and a hideous almost black wooden sideboard with a picture of great-great-Granny Esther Cheney hanging above it. I remember the dining-room always being dark because during the war it was an Air Raid Warden's Post (Charlie One) and a high brick wall of concrete blocks was built beyond the window, to protect us from bomb damage, but also

TALES FROM THE PUMP

'Why do you call him Fossil Fred – he's not that old?', I asked Jack, as I nodded over to the elderly guy sitting by the fire nursing his pint of Hooky. 'When he was younger we called him "Prof" because he was a professor of geology but somehow it became "Fossil Fred" as he grew older', replied Jack as he nodded over to Fred. 'Everything OK Fred? Are we going to save the planet?' Fred looked over to us, 'I think people find it difficult to get their minds around geological time. Earth's been around for around four and a half billion years and we reckon that's about half the planet's life. We've been around for around two million years, less than 1% of the planet's life. Whereas dinosaurs lived for 150 million years, ammonites 140 million and brachiopods 550 million, managing to exist through major changes to the planet.'

Judy interrupted, 'Can I have a bit more ice in my G&T please, Grumpy?' Fossil Fred took the cue, 'Talking of ice, Earth's had five major ice ages. The ice sheets grow for about 90,000 years and then take



10,000 to collapse. The last one ended about 11,000 years ago so a new one should be starting around now.' 'Hang on Fred,' I said. 'I thought all our carbon emissions were causing climate warming.' Fred walked over to the bar, 'Another Hooky please, Grumpy. The percentage of CO2 in the atmosphere has certainly increased – should delay the onset of the next ice-age by about 100,000 years.'

'So Fred, are you saying that if we keep pumping CO2 into the air, sea levels will increase, causing terrible harm to many sea-level communities, but if we reduce emissions the polar caps will grow and wipe out even more?' Fossil Fred sipped his new pint and smacked his lips, 'Jack asked about saving the planet. What I'm saying is that the question should be about saving our skins – the planet will carry on doing what it does for a few more billion years. Can I put another log on the fire?'

Grumpy Landlord

Grumpylandlord1@gmail.com

OTHER CLUBS**Craft Group**

Meets on Tuesdays from 2.00–4.30pm at the Holly Tree
Meriel Flux liquorishflux@gmail.com

Friendly Bridge Club

Meets on Fridays at 1.45-4.45pm at the Holly Tree.
Hugh Blythe 01869 338126 hughblythe@btinternet.com

Deddington Brass

Practise on Mondays from 7.00–9.00pm in the church.
www.deddingtonbrass.myfreesites.net
Michael Liebrecht 01869 33762 liebrech@1gc.com

Church Bellingers

Practise on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the church.
www.deddingtonchurch.org/bellingers.html/
Colin Cox 01869 337486 or Yvonne Twomey 01869 337213

Deddington Original Golf Society (DOGS)

Nigel Oddy, nigeloddy@yahoo.com

Deddington Badminton Club

Plays Tuesdays: Juniors 6.30pm, adults 7.00pm, September–April at the Windmill Centre.
Caroline Tindale deddingtonbc@hotmail.co.uk

Deddington Cricket Club

Fields two men's teams on Saturdays, a women's team on Sundays.
Simon Oldfield simon.oldfield0@gmail.com deddingtoncricket.co.uk

1st Barford and Deddington Rainbows

Meet on Fridays, in term time, 4.15–5.15pm at Barford St. Michael village hall
Hazel Neal 01869 337822

1st Deddington Guides

Meet on Wednesdays, in term time, 7.00–9.00pm at the Windmill Centre
Maggie Rampley, 07957 600755
Marian Trinder 01869 340806