

THE TEAM

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MAY 2016 COPY TO
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ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 April**

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the Deddington news

With finer weather on the horizon perhaps more people will be out in our beautiful countryside. Why not try entering the Friends of Deddington Library's photo competition? See p18 for more information. There's more background to our 40th anniversary on p4. **JC**

What's On April

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Mon | 4 | Holly Tree Club: coffee morning, Holly Tree, 10.30am |
| Wed | 6 | Deddington Ladies Netball Club: Windmill Centre all-weather court, 6.30–7.30pm |
| Wed | 6 | Photographic Society: AGM and members' photographs on 'What is it?', Cartwright Hotel, Aynho, 7.00pm |
| Thu | 7 | Holly Tree Club: Film Night, <i>The Lady in the Van</i> , Holly Tree, 6.30pm |
| Sun | 10 | Oxfordshire Family Mediation: Fundraising Spring Walk, Market Place, 11.00am |
| Tue | 12 | WI: Pam Newall, 'A Whistlestop Walk around Budapest', Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 13 | Deddington & District History Society: Dr Don Ratcliffe on 'Hook Norton Lunatic Asylums', Windmill, 7.30pm |
| Wed | 13 | Boys Brigade restart after Easter break |
| Thu | 14 | Friends of Daeda's Wood: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 16 | Parish spring clean: volunteers to meet in Market Place, 8.00am |
| Wed | 20 | Parish Council: meeting, Holly Tree, 7.30pm |
| Sat | 23 | Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm |
| Sat | 23 | Nursery and PFSU: Spring Hamper Raffle to be drawn at Farmers' Market |
| Sat | 23 | 1st Deddington Scout Group: St George and the Dragon visit the Farmers' Market |
| Sat | 23 | Charity Jumble Sale, Barford Village Hall, 11.00am |
| Tue | 26 | PTA: Bags to School, donate unwanted textiles and clothes |
| Thu | 28 | Book Club: <i>No Great Mischief</i> by Alistair McLeod |

May

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| Tue | 3 | Beeches Bowls Club: home match against Banbury Borough |
| Tue | 3 | PFSU & Nursery: Boden Shopping Party at the Beeches |

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

at the Windmill Centre on Wednesday 16 March

Present were Councillors Anderson, Collins (Chair), Cox, Finnegan, Flux, Higham, Morrell, Oldfield, Rogers, Squires, Watts, Williams (CDC) and Wood.

Councillor Williams reported that there has been a meeting between Steve Turner from CDC and the contractor dealing with the Windmill Street car park. They have been asked to quote for the removal of a small amount of the worst area and to re-stone with MOT granite stone with grading towards the drain gully. This work should take place within the next month.

CDC has a fund of up to £500 available to Deddington for planned celebrations to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. The parish may apply with a project if desired.

Planning

No objections

Centrepoint, Chapel Square, single storey extension to rear for B1 accommodation and new single storey stairwell for existing flat above.

The Beeches, Earls Lane, internal and external works. Former garden of No 4 Victoria Terrace, formation of new basement, minor amendments.

The Parish Council is to submit three suggestions for the naming of the planned new development. These are: Swere View, Daeda's View and Axletree Drive.

Highways and Transport

Installation of the VAS at Clifton is complete.

PCSOs have visited the school twice and have spoken to drivers of vehicles which are parked illegally on the double yellow lines. This intervention was initially effective but unfortunately short-lived and the illegal parking continues.

It has also been noted that cars are now being parked on the A4260 alongside the posts on the grass verge. The posts were originally installed to discourage dangerous parking on the edge of the main road. The present situation is even more dangerous for children, parents and other road users.

There was a discussion concerning the frustration caused at the traffic lights when vehicles are queuing to turn right into Hempton Road.

Speedwatch is to be resumed in May. Cllr Higham will co-ordinate with TVP and volunteers.

The four people who used Dial-a-Ride are to receive a letter detailing alternative arrangements.

OCC is to be asked if the S4 bus to Oxford could run half-hourly, as does the present service to Banbury.

Environment and Recreation

The parish Spring Clean is scheduled for Saturday 16 April. Volunteers should meet at 8.00am in the Market Place. It is possible that road signs will also be cleaned on this occasion and appropriate equipment will be obtained.

The application for the registration of Satin Lane allotments as an asset of community value is about to be submitted. It was agreed not to request the same protection for Stonepits in Clifton as the PC already owns the site.

The drain at the entrance to Castle Grounds is blocked some way in but the land does not belong to the Parish Council and it is therefore not responsible for the cost of repair. It was pointed out that there is in fact only a problem when there has been extremely heavy rainfall.

Windmill Centre Upgrade:

The sum of up to £8,000 was voted to cover the cost of internal decoration. The colour chosen will probably be 'gardenia'. Quotes have been requested for flooring.

The Primary School is to become an Academy in accordance with government directives. It will become part of either the Diocese Academy or the Warriner Partnership.

A blue plaque has been nominated for Leadenporch House to commemorate Major General Sir Percy Cleghorn Hobart, who lived there during the Second World War. (Reporter's note: 'Hobo' was one of the most talented tank technicians in the British army and General Eisenhower later said that without his inventions it is doubtful whether a bridgehead would ever have been established on D-Day.)

Next PC meeting: Wednesday 20 April at 7.30pm in the Holly Tree Club, Deddington

These Parish Council notes are the view of our reporter Jean Rudge, and not the official Minutes. To see those, go to <http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/pc/pcminutes>.

DAEDA'S WOOD

Now that the warm spring weather has arrived the wood has taken on that beautiful haze of soft leaf green and underfoot shoots are pushing skywards. The river is still very high and running quite fast, so care needs to be taken when walking on the banks.

A date for your diary: the AGM of the Friends of Daeda's Wood is on Thursday 14 April at the Deddington Arms at 7.30pm. All are welcome to come.

Among other items, we will be discussing the 20th anniversary celebrations of the wood. We would love to have your memories and photos for a display and possible inclusion in a newly updated Diary of Daeda's Wood.

Annette Murphy
annette-orchard@live.co.uk

Man of the Match

When the Parish Council was asked by the High Sheriff of Oxford to nominate someone who has made a special and valued contribution to the community I thought of a person who had impacted my life here and who was responsible for an activity that, not only triggered my wider involvement in the community, but has also given me a lot of fun over many years. I suggested Derek Cheeseman of Deddington Cricket Club to the Parish Council and he was nominated with this biography.

Derek joined the Cricket Club a year after it was founded in 1981 and is the club's longest serving member. The club runs a first and second team which play every week and started a junior team which he originally coached from around 1990.

As a player Derek bowled spin and was a classical batsman, still running quick singles with younger players well into his 80s. Best bowling figures are 3 for 16 and he still holds the 1st team record for the tenth wicket with James Ransom.

In 2014 he turned out for the seconds who were a man short. While fielding, Derek was at first slip and took a catch when the keeper fluffed taking an edge

from the batsman and Derek snaffled the rebound. This got him three pictures and a full article in the *Banbury Guardian*.

Derek goes to watch most games with a critical but supporting eye and an encouraging word, seeing youngsters from his youth coaching days scoring runs for the seniors while reminding us older players that this is no time to give up.

Derek was the driving force behind getting the club a first-class pair of nets and a bowling-machine largely funded with several successful grant applications. He also completed a fund-raising skydive for the club when in his 80s.

He is now working to get the Cricket Club a new and larger pavilion to provide complete facilities and again is seeking grants and the support of the Parish Council.

On 29 February Derek, Jill and I went to Christ Church College for the awards ceremony and a reception in the Deanery where we chatted to a very affable Dean. Throughout all this Derek kept telling us he was not worthy which is the essence of a man who has impacted mine and many other lives. Thank you Derek.

Alan Collins



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01869 388943



Sunday 22nd May 2016

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

Registration is now open

visit www.fourfarmschallenge.co.uk
email: info@fourfarmschallenge.co.uk



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



When I was first persuaded to edit *DN* in 1976 I was at home with small children, so I had to shut myself away one week-end a month to try to exercise what brain cells lurked unused. And it all nearly ground to a rapid

halt after the first issue when irate Parish Councillors saw it as a 'waste of ratepayers' money' (the PC helped finance the first issue to the tune of £4), and suggested copy be submitted to them for vetting. But we persevered, and *DN* was soon paying its way.

Production too had a pretty shaky start. Jill has talked of typing copy on Gestetner skins; the fun continued when I helped the then vicar, George Palmer, wrap the skin round the inked drum of a duplicating machine and turn the handle to produce copies – punctuated by comments from his wife, Nora, reading in bed in the next room in the vicarage. The results were just about legible but not much more.

I remember my excitement when the editor of *Steeple Aston Life*, the late Paul O'Sullivan, made a scanner available to us and we could reproduce historic photos of Deddington on the cover. But this was the only illustrative material to be included, apart from rough, hand-drawn ads. But we had a different cover every issue until 1984!

Under the tenure of Angela and the late Norman Stone (1987–94) typewriters were replaced by an Amstrad (remember those?) and floppy discs. Copy was still typed and printed out and pieces of copy assembled on a paper template to create a page which was then photocopied to produce a master for printing.

I must highlight the late Ken Langstaff's cover illustrations, produced every year from 1984 to 2000 with a highly stylised, whimsical take on Deddington

life in the days of yore, probably far distant from reality but no less enjoyable for that (see the Gallery) <http://tinyurl.com/jm6rlsz>.

When Christopher Hall took over as editor in 2002, the true move to computerisation began. A Mac computer and PageMaker, a page layout software package, brought much more flexibility to the process. Then, for the first (and only) time paid help was introduced, along with a PC laptop and Publisher software. The laptop interfaced with a new (well, second-hand, looks like new) printing machine, the Risograph, and illustrations could now be included. A long-serving stalwart, Ruth Johnson, is still in charge of printing after an incredible 20+ years.

Fast forward to 2008 when Jill Cheeseman and I came back as joint editors: InDesign page make-up (sorry, Microsoft, but Publisher is really clunky), and pdf files outputting to the Risograph are now the standard process. OK, the quality of illustration still isn't great, but in-house printing is part of the community team effort. *DN's* driving force has always been that it is produced by local team effort and distributed free to the parish. And that has been crucial to its success – a glossy, professionally printed magazine would soon follow other freebies into the recycling bin.

What of the future? The demise of national newspapers continues, but the need for local, printed news is still very strong. *DN* will continue in its present format as long as there is advertising revenue to fund it and demand continues.

And *DN* has its own website which combined with Deddington OnLine last year under the umbrella title Deddington Media (move over, Murdoch!). The latest issue is posted every month on t'internet for those not lucky enough to live among us. In 2016 the Home page will be updated to give a cleaner, crisper look. Does anyone fancy tackling responsive web design?

Mary Robinson

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Earlier this year we launched an online survey about Deddington PTA to understand parents' opinions about us and what we should be focusing on in our fundraising efforts. We had a terrific result of 96 responses. Thank you to all of you who participated. It has been extremely informative and the core message coming from it was that parents would most value our fundraising efforts to focus on supporting school trips and investing in technology. We will keep you informed of where the money is going as we progress through the year. Please continue to keep us informed of your views on how we can best distribute our funds to benefit our children and the school.

Another exciting piece of news is that we are launching our own website where you will find news on events, tickets, newsletters and much more. You will be able to access it through the school website soon, so keep your eyes open.

The PTA team is working hard towards the next big fundraising events in the year including Four Farms Challenge, School Fête, Harvest Ceilidh and Fireworks. They promise to be great fun so please keep your eyes open for further communications and we hope to see you there.

We are always on the look out for help to organise and run these big events, so please do contact me or your class representative if you can spare some time to get involved.

As always, I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the committee and the school to thank you all for your continued support.

Alex Elvin, Chair
deddingtonpta@gmail.com

CHURCH AND CHAPEL

April

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Weekly

Mon–Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (with prayers for healing on the 4th Wed of the month)
Thu	2.00pm	<i>Squeals & Wheels</i> parent and toddler group

Sun 3	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 10	8.00am	BCP Communion
	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 17	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 24	10.30	God4 Everyone (no Communion)

From the Parish Register

Funeral

2 March Lois Humphries

Barford St Michael

Sun 3	10.30am	Family Service
Sun 10	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 17	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 24	9.00am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	<i>Messy Church</i> in the Village Hall

Hempton

Sun 3	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 17	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 24	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

For baptisms and for weddings, please speak to the Vicar, Rev'd Annie Goldthorp, after a service. For funerals and for home visits in the case of illness, please contact the Vicar (01869 336880, vicar@deddingtonchurch.org) except on Fridays, her day off, or one of the church wardens: Iain Gillespie (338367) or George Fenemore (338203).

Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

Sunday mornings at 10.30am Pastor Isabel Walton

Pastor Isabel Walton

01869 337157

RC Parish of Hethe

Fr Paul Lester

01869 277630

Mass at Holy Trinity, Hethe, is said at 9.30am every weekday except Thursday. There are two Masses on Saturday, at 9.30am in the normal Ordinary Rite and 12 noon in the Latin Extraordinary Rite. There are two Masses on Sunday, the first at 10.00am in the Ordinary Rite and the second at 12.00 noon in the Extraordinary Rite. The Vigil Mass at St John's Church, Banbury, is said at 4.00pm on Saturdays to allow worshippers from the villages to attend by public transport. Mass is said at 9.00am on Sundays at SS Peter and Paul Anglican Church, Kings Sutton.

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

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

I hope none of you has noticed the Vehicle Activated Speed sign now commissioned in Clifton – I say I hope, because if you have you were probably speeding, unless you are the monarch of the late brakkers because it can catch you before the 30mph zone – but it's a useful reminder all the same. Many thanks to the Highways group on the Parish Council who have 'driven' this through.

Her company may have trained stunt dogs for blockbuster films and award-winning TV but Lower Larkrise animal trainer Gill Raddings was in a different type of spotlight last week when she appeared at Crufts. As keen readers well know Gill has trained animals for the film, TV and advertising industry.

Ranging from films such as *Pirates of the Caribbean 4* and *Sherlock Holmes* to TV programmes such as *Poldark* and *Downton Abbey*, Stunt Dogs and Animals can boast a portfolio of animal appearances and 14 of them were with Gill last Thursday at the world's

largest dog show at Birmingham's NEC, among them Buddy from *Doc Martin*. 'It means the world to me to be involved with the Crufts 125th anniversary celebrations. It is an honour and a privilege to be involved.' Gill believes no dog is too disobedient to be trained and said 'These dogs have different amounts of training. Our top dogs, with all the top tricks, take about three months but doing all the basics doesn't take too long at all. We can do that in a couple of weeks really, but it depends on the dog,' a fact that Mrs Collins is particularly interested in as her husband's Parish Council retirement draws ever closer.

Our Una Stubbs team has elected to take a year out – thus depriving this correspondent of much copy as they group themselves for a triumphant return to their home throw next season.

Martin Bryce is particularly grateful to the *Banbury Guardian* for much of this copy

Martin Bryce, martinbryce@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON FARMERS MARKET

SPRINGTIME

First, a word from the management. The Market Management Group has been asked to come up with some ideas to ease the parking on market days. We've a few ideas but we'd be really interested in hearing your suggestions. Do email them to us at marketing@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk.

Whilst we are on the subject it's timely for us to remind you that there is plenty of parking in the school playground in Earls Lane and there are often places to be found on many of the streets in the surrounding area, two minutes walk from the market. There is a drop off point in front of the Town Hall where you can leave passengers and collect heavy shopping bags. The information desk, located close by, is always happy to look after shopping until you return with your car.

We are on the lookout for somewhere to store our new parking and market signs near the Market Place. The space needs to be dry and either three metres high or long, and one metre wide. Contact us on the email address above if you can help.

Finally we need someone able to write our monthly specials board with information supplied by us. This board was highly valued by our customers and we would like to reinstate it so if you have a neat hand we'd like to hear from you.

And now for this month's recipe:

MUSTARD CHOPS – serves 2

2 cloves garlic, peeled 1 lemon
1 level tablesp grain mustard 2 tablesp olive oil
4 lamb chops (you may get away with only two later in the season when the lambs are bigger)

Mash the garlic to a pulp with a couple of good pinches of sea salt. Easily done on a chopping board with a fork but a pestle and mortar is best. Stir into the paste the mustard, juice of the lemon and olive oil. Mix to a slush, grinding in some black pepper, then scrape into a dish. Roll the chops in the marinade and set aside for as long as you have. Ideally an hour or so.

Grill the chops, spooning over any remaining marinade as you turn them. They will probably need three to four minutes on each side, depending on the heat of your grill. They are especially good if the fat has singed a little. Serve.

(From Nigel Slater's *The Kitchen Diaries*)

For more up to date information about the market visit the market webpage www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk, listen to Deddington OnAir www.deddingtononair.org or BBC Radio Oxford. The market is on Saturday 23 April from 9.00am to 12.30pm.

Adderbury market is on the second Thursday of each month at The Institute, The Green, Adderbury, 6.00-8.00pm. Details at www.market.adderbury.org.

Ian Willox, 01869 337940
ian@deddingtononair.org



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From The Fire Station

For the first time that I can remember Deddington has been called out on average every day in the past month. They have also been a real mixed bag. The biggest incident was the collapse at Didcot power station, spending many long days organising and implementing the control of people in and out of the risk area. I had seen the structure on the news prior to our first shift but was still amazed at the size of this structure.

It has been reported that other counties have been unusually busy too. One such day was when Deddington was called to standby at Banbury fire station. With a large warehouse fire being attended in Buckinghamshire, it left Banbury with just us to cover this area. The announcement came over the speaker, 'Warning station turning out, zero eight papa one, proceed to a thatch fire.' This is not what you want with limited resources. On arrival, the thatch was already ablaze and watch manager Chris Fenemore, the officer in charge, knew that trying to save the building was futile. He had already been informed that the nearest fire engine was twenty minutes away. With only one tank of water, the fire hydrant too far away and the building lost, there was only one thing to do – salvage. George Williamson and Barney Alton were briefed to go into the building and save as many of the owner's belongings as possible. This is a very difficult and arduous task as you have to fight the fire and remove the belongings. The cause of the fire was from a shaving

mirror positioned next to a window which reflected the sun causing the fire. I have reported on this many times in the past and it is always at this time of year when the sun is low. This should be considered when positioning anything that can reflect light.

There was also the flooding that stretched our resources to the limit with our crew being sent to rescue a person trapped in a van in Lower Tadmarton. The whole village was under water and needed the inflatable sledge to rescue people.

Deddington has attended more lorry accidents. One in particular was on the A43 where a lorry had careered into a roundabout and the driver needed to be cut out and taken to hospital. Another was our own fire engine on the A361 from Chipping Norton to Banbury. Luckily none of the crew was injured. What was really appreciated was all the texts and emails that we received asking if we were OK.

I would like to congratulate Michal Kolinski who has now completed his basic training and has joined the crew. His first day was the day of the flooding. He proved a valuable asset helping to inflate the rescue sled at Lower Tadmarton and clearing a blocked culvert at another flooding we attended.

The car wash was a huge success raising £350. Well done to Tom Hall who organised the event and a big thank you to everyone who had their car washed.

Crew Manager Tim Parker

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BLISSFUL THINKING

We're all going on a ... Bank Holiday, in May and August, and one or two other dates too, I think. Like playing the adjusted rules when landing on the Free Parking space on the Monopoly board allows you to collect the 'snowball' of fines and levies for yourself, a Bank Holiday is

like an all-too-rare additional reward for tolerating the grinding monotony of work-based routines.

The two major parliamentary acts of 1871 and 1971 allocated the framework for the current crop of drinking days, but hopefully we won't have to wait another 55 years for more. Perhaps the time for true Bank Holiday devolution has come. Deddington Parish could create its own intermittent days off, based on its own historical events. Perhaps we could devise an extra day in May, to commemorate the five taverns still operating here, or the nearest Monday to 19 June, in memoriam of that loveable scoundrel Piers Gaveston's capture and execution. Failing that, I propose a kitty to be chipped in to by thoughtless motorists whose parking has caused distress. Within a week, as if we had landed on the Monopoly Free Parking bonanza, the funds would surely be enough to construct a new building, the majesty of which would cause even the gods to nod in wonderment. Any suggestions?

Aaron Bliss, aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

News from Hempton

Once again, I am wondering what to write about. There's very little happening in the village at the moment so I will do my best. I am told that a couple of the allotments on the Duns Tew road are available to rent, so if anyone is interested, please contact Lorraine Watling at the Parish Council, 01869 337447 or deddingtonparishcouncil@googlemail.com. Her hours are Wednesdays 1.00pm–6.00pm, Thursdays 9.00am–1.00pm and Saturdays 9.00am–1.00pm.

The Old School Room will be used for the Police and Crime Commissioner and local council elections on Thursday 5 May between 7.00am and 10.00pm, and here is an advance notice of the EU referendum on Thursday 23 June between the same hours.

The Friends of the Church will be holding their AGM during May so please look out for the date in the next issue. This meeting is open to all so please come along and consider joining the Friends if you are not already a member. The subscription is £10 per year for a family. All funds go towards the maintenance, upkeep and enhancement of the building. At a recent inspection our architect mentioned the condition of the roof in his report. Anything that needs doing to that could be expensive. Please remember, if you wish to use the Old School room, give me a call. There is a nice kitchen and toilet facilities and the rate is only £4 per hour.

Once again, any news for this column, please give me a call. *Les Chappell 01869 338054*

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DOWN ON GEORGE'S FARM

They're back, and game on. 'They're back' refers to the curlew as two pairs have returned to our section of the river valley for the breeding season with any luck more will join them. 'Game on' is a reference to the rites of spring in the lambing shed. After a very slow start, the old dears have finally got their act together and as I put finger to keyboard to meet copy date things are busting out all over. The Cotswold Lions have also made a start to their rites of spring, albeit not a very good start with the first three, dropping nine lambs between them and, as the ovine female is only designed to feed two, 'grandma' is on bottle duty in the 'kade' pen. (Kade is a rural Oxfordshire term for a bottle-reared lamb).

The experts tell us that we have experienced one of the wettest and warmest winters on record, so it seems rather strange that just as we need to turn out the first group of ewes and lambs, we are plunged into the first icy blast of a 'Blackthorn winter' but experience tells me that, as long as a lamb has a full tum and a dry back, it will stand any amount of cold, so with the weather forecast to be cold and dry until well after Easter, things should be fine.

As I have said before, 2016 marks 58 years as an ovine midwife, an anniversary that may well prove to be a season to far. I have always worked with sheep and still enjoy the lambing season, but can no longer do what I did all night, in those long gone days and nights of the YFC (Young Farmers Club) and Ag college, when there seemed to be a party or ball to go to on most weekends, with the regulation dress being DJs and long ball gowns. After a quick cuddle in the car park of the student nurses' home with 'er-in-doors' (the warden of the nurses' home was a real life dragon lady determined to preserve the virtue of her students), it was a full throttle dash the 30 miles home in my six-cylinder Triumph Vitesse to do a night and early morning round of the lambing paddocks. Over

the years I have lambed a good many ewes in a DJ. Then it was a quiet coast down into the farmyard with the lights off, in the hope that I did not wake Father, but often ended up with a breakfast time comment, 'You were late starting the morning milking boy'. Oh, happy days, but that was more than 50 years ago. I still have the



Vitesse and would love to get her back on the road. It was one of those much dreamed of retirement projects which is not going to happen, (retirement, that is) so I need to find someone to do it for me. After all, the sound of a full bore copper exhaust coming down through the box, through the Chapel Square pinch point on a Sunday morning in time for choir practice could be electrifying, but enough of my delinquent past and back to the more mundane life down on the farm.

As I bash this nonsense out we have fewer than a hundred ewes to go in the Home Farm flock. To date we have had a good 'fall' of lambs. Next on the agenda is the organic flock and, although it is best not to count your chickens before they are hatched, the new project is looking good with the organic ewes in good form. But, somewhere between the two flocks, we need to fit in some field work and get the spring barley planted and the bees sorted before they steal a march on me again, and then there is the new environmental scheme to be sorted out. But it's 2.00am and time for another round of the lambing sheds, so I will leave the 'hokey kokey, in out, shake it all about' debate until next month.

George Fenemore
01869 338203



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Neighbourhood Plan

Oxford has big plans to become a centre of the 'knowledge industry' - and they don't just mean the universities. They're thinking of scientific, technical and technological centres, labs, workshops, what-have-you, that are expected to provide employment for thousands of people. The problem is that Oxford City doesn't have the space to build housing for all these new workers.

It's all a bit speculative at the moment but the calculation is that 15,000 homes will be needed in the surrounding areas for Oxford City's overspill and, for Cherwell, that would mean 3,500 new dwellings - over and above the nearly 23,000 already envisaged between now and 2031.

Cherwell District Council has expressed its willingness to fulfil its 'duty to co-operate' with other Oxfordshire local authorities, including Oxford City, but hosted a couple of workshops for parish councils in the district to see how keen the villages were to co-operate - if that meant housing a new wave of Oxford workers within their parishes.

Well, they were not keen, not at all. Councillors expressed concerns that by deliberately encouraging commuting across the county, traffic congestions and pollution would worsen, in conflict with various other CDC policies, and villages might lose their identity. The general - though not unanimous - feeling was that Oxford City should house its own workers, as closely as possible to the city and, if necessary, by striking into Green Belt land. Deddington Neighbourhood Plan's steering group expressed a similar view in response to CDC's consultation document.

As a Deddington parish councillor, I attended one of the CDC workshops, mostly alongside councillors from the south of the district, and was struck by both the similarities and differences between our outlooks.

Nearly all the parishes were concerned about traffic congestions and rat-runs, and there was widespread irritation that CDC was promoting the use of public transport at a time when the bus services were being axed. In Deddington, I would say the emphasis seems to be more on road safety and parking problems.

Other issues concerning new developments were identical - the need for starter homes for young people and homes suitable for downsizers, worries that 'affordable' housing wasn't actually affordable and the discount purchase scheme would make matters worse, the need for high quality design in keeping with the village aesthetic, gloom about poor infrastructure, in particular water pressure and sewage capacity.

Most of the parishes, unlike Deddington, seemed fairly content with the sport and recreation space they had. Some were anxious about finding the money to maintain the playgrounds and sports fields properly. Some were running out of cemetery space and simply couldn't afford to buy new land at housing development prices.

Many councillors thought home working should be

encouraged, in fact thought it was crucial since there is so little other employment in the villages. For this high-speed broadband was essential and should be included in the Local Plan as a requirement for developers. Another proposal was that planners should be encouraged to allow residents to convert their garages into offices. This is at odds with Deddington Neighbourhood Plan where the current impetus is to discourage garage conversions in the interests of preserving parking places.

Perhaps our homeworkers make do with the garden shed or the kitchen table.

Helen Oldfield

helenoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

www.deddingtonneighbourhoodplan.org

DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CARES

As many of you will know, Community Cares is a voluntary organisation which undertakes to give lifts to residents of Deddington, Hempton and Clifton to medical appointments at our Health Centre, to the Horton and Oxford hospitals or to pick up and deliver prescriptions.

The number of volunteers to carry out this help is dwindling and ageing and some do not drive.

We have been in operation for over three years now and have helped people in need regularly, but the time has now come to ask for more volunteers - younger and fitter than many of us and for someone to take over as contact and co-ordinator.

This is, therefore, a plea for more help in order to enable this valuable and gratefully appreciated service to continue. If any of you feel you could help, please contact me. Thank you.

Wendy Burrows

01869 338082

wendy.burrows536@btinternet.com



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Contact Bethan Leach:
07817 926366
bethan.leach2012@gmail.com
www.bethanleach.co.uk



LETTERS

FROM PAUL COX, COX'S GARAGE,
ST THOMAS STREET

I would like to thank all my customers for their understanding and cooperation while the garage is not fully operating following a physical attack on me. I feel as though I have let people down but please be assured that I shall be up and running again very soon.



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

FROM JOANNA SHAW, THE DAEDINGS

I just wanted to report damage to my fence which runs along the pathway from The Daedings to Hempton Road. It was first damaged about a month ago; I presumed it was a one-off and just got it mended.

However, early last month it was damaged again quite severely, in exactly the same place, presumably by being kicked in quite violently judging by the extent of the damage. As it was in the same place as

last time, I wonder whether it was the same person or people? I have informed the police this time. I wonder if anyone saw or heard anything? If you know anything, I would be grateful if you would contact me at jumbo1961@hotmail.co.uk.

FROM ANN WEIGHELL,
STEEPLE BARTON

We are holding our annual Steeple Barton Chase, a 10k and 5k run on Saturday 18 June at 12.30pm and we wondered if any of your runners would like to join us. It is a challenging and enjoyable course across fields and through woodland in the lovely grounds of Barton Abbey situated between Kidlington and Banbury, just off the A4260. For more information and booking please have a look at our website, www.steeplebartonchase.co.uk.

Postcard from America

Two fun weeks in the UK gave me time to recall what I miss. The grey weather and the terrible traffic? The warm beer and a real pub? Of course the real issue I got to see my grandson, my kids and my dear friends, and they are still English. What a relief.

So I am back in the US and ready for a rant. It all started on the flight back when I watched a film called *The Big Short* and, if you haven't seen it, please commit yourself to two hours because it will explain everything. It is a funny, tragic, true story about how the US banking system cost us all billions. The surprise is how the great US nation gets itself misled, gets its opinions bought by big business, they are just rolling back the banking regulations as if it never actually happened. The banks and the rating agencies lied and no-one got locked up.

Which brings me to Donald Trump. I was pictured in the Deddington Arms in one of several 'Trump the Legend' t-shirts that I brought over, and Facebook went a little bit crazy. The citizens of the US just don't get irony.

Trump does bring one key issue into focus because he is funding his own campaign. For the first time for a very long time a presidential candidate is completely free of financial interest. No-one is paying for his opinions. The problem is that he is racist and crazy and he makes things up as he goes along.

There is a pair of billionaire brothers called Koch (I will not help with the pronunciation) who have stated that they will spend up to a billion dollars on influencing the next election. I don't think the UK electoral system is perfect. When I explain the House of Lords to Americans, they look at me strangely. But this system is more than slightly bent. Money talks and the rich

think they should buy the politicians views.

Of course, the political establishment will win in the end and thankfully Trump will lose. And the citizens of the largest and, in their minds the best, country in the free world will continue to believe what they are paid to believe.

Many people asked me in the UK why I wanted to live in this strange place. Where there is an obsession with being the greatest, in invading countries, carpet-bombing their perceived enemies. But I love the travel, I love the space, I love the way that, in theory, anything is possible. The huge differences in the people and the places are very interesting. Could I live here for the rest of my life? Certainly not. The inequality and stupidity would drive me crazy. But there is no traffic and the Colorado weather is just lovely. Just don't ask me what on earth March Madness is all about (it's the whole country obsessing about kids playing basketball), and how on earth anyone thinks cheer-leading is a sport is completely beyond me.

Mike Ward

mikew@qsoftware.com

Friends of Castle Grounds

Appeal to Deddington gardeners

Would anyone who is thinning out their bulbs and young plants in the coming weeks consider donating some to us? In particular, we would like snowdrops and primroses, aconites and cowslips, and bluebells later of course. Our scheme for introducing suitable plants to the south facing bank has begun.

Margaret Jones 01869 338718

merrysteps@icloud.com

Park Farm: 22 Hectares

It's been a strange winter, with the interminable mud since October whilst the cold only started in February. As a result many of the animals and plants are 'out of sync' with the seasons. Most farms calving large numbers of cattle have sheds adequate for housing all of them during this vulnerable time. We have a small herd and no such facilities. For the most part, this works well by making other adjustments: we keep native breeds, or crosses of them, which are much hardier withstanding the elements, as well as being less likely to require physical intervention during calving.

However, even sturdy Aberdeen Angus calves will be tired after a difficult birth: when, for instance, it is mal-presented, or born of a heifer ('first time mum'). If the calf does not get dry, and thus warm, it can rapidly become severely ill. Calves born on the morning of a sunny day will dry off quickly, get up and suckle, certainly within an hour and sometimes, in the case of a hardy breed, within a few minutes. These first suckles are crucial as the first milk contains antibody-rich colostrum. A calf must drink 10-12% of its body weight in the first 12 hours because, after that, its intestinal structure begins to alter, and less of this life-supporting substance can be absorbed. However, if a calf is born into a cold, wet, muddy environment or a snowstorm, it cannot dry off. Instead it becomes increasingly cold and too weak to stand and suckle its mother's warming, life-giving milk.

The effect that warmth has on an animal is quite astounding. Human babies are born so immature they have no ability to shiver. New born livestock can shiver but if they become too cold they will not have the energy to perform even this basic physical task. To anyone looking on and unaware of the significance of breathing and heartbeat, they would appear to be lying, for all the world, like a carcass. In many lambing sheds apparently dead animals will be placed in a warming box for a few hours, where they become warm and dry, and often bounce out later as quintessential spring lambs - the ultimate magic trick! I remember hearing a story from a friend concerning piglets which had escaped during an overnight thunderstorm and the next morning were found lying around, taken for dead. The quick thinking farmer's wife packed them into the warming compartment of her Aga, and they soon sprang back to life.

When a calf, born outside, has become cold, part of the challenge is to get it warm enough, quickly enough, when it won't fit in the Aga! Such was our task in the case of one of our calves born one evening in a freezing mist. Bringing it in was dramatic enough, with the tractor sliding around in the barbarous mud (the Land Rover wouldn't have stood a chance). The calf was held still in the front loader by a certain brave volunteer, putting extra pressure on the driver who, at every rut, feared that the handler or calf might bounce out of their 'seat', unseen in the gloaming, and fall under

the great wheels. Fortunately this did not happen and eventually the cow and calf were safely brought to our small shed, and the calf nestled into a dry straw bed.

Milking colostrum from the stressed, unaccustomed heifer was a necessary but labour intensive task. Farming is the most dangerous civilian employment, and most injuries are sustained not by bulls (or even precarious driving), but by cows with calves: the hormones racing through them are the same as in any mammal. A heifer has no prior understanding or experience of giving birth, or mothering something that appeared mysteriously from what must have seemed an acute agonising illness, or human hands intimately touching sensitive teats which had never produced milk before. Combine all this with the recent pain of childbirth and the horned three-quarter-tonne weight, and it's easy to see how human lives are at risk in this type of situation. But if the calf is to survive it must have colostrum, and it is reckoned that the powdered shop-bought version is not as effective as the mother's own which contains 'exposure-specific' antibodies. On this occasion we used both, using a tubing bag, fed the pipe down the calf's oesophagus (taking care not to confuse it with the trachea) and filled its stomach with the warm mixture. In her distress, the cow broke our last remaining heat lamp ...

But the calf was still too cold. So we took the only option left remaining to us: we carried the near-dead calf into the house and laid her by the hearth. After several hours, she was able to sustain a sternal posture which is easier on the vital organs than lying flat out, so we left her and went to bed.

Much as this sounds quaintly James Herriot, I would point out it doesn't always feel it. The calf is wet with afterbirth and as it warms up it tries to stand; a wobbly 40kg falls around the room and onto the acquiescent furniture and, of course, as it moves, bodily functions kick in. But this is our role: we must do whatever is required to keep the beasts alive that are dependent on us, even if sometimes it becomes difficult to see where 'animal' ends, and 'human' begins.

By morning the calf was well (and noisy) and returned, skipping back to its mother. It is now thriving and we are left praying for some consistent spring weather and perhaps a clean, animal-free town house, even just for a day!

Beatrice Bathe
beatricebathe@gmail.com

Score Popularity Points at Football Camp

CDC has teamed up with Oxford United to welcome the return of its specialist football camps. The camps are open to boys and girls aged between four and 13 of any ability or fitness levels. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by calling 01865 337525 or by emailing community@oufc.co.uk. Sessions will run in Banbury from 4–8 April from 9am–3pm.

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

In March, member Jim Muller gave a presentation entitled 'From Hummingbirds to Cake Stands - the Sublime to the Ridiculous'. Describing himself as a hobby photographer who has recently taken up commercial photography, Jim delivered his presentation in three parts: landscape, wildlife and commercial photography. Jim's opinion is that the countryside centred eight miles around Aynho is one of the most beautiful parts of England and he demonstrated this by showing a series of stunning images of sunrises over the local misty countryside, including water reflections and views of the canal. He concluded this part with images of the hot springs in Yellowstone National Park, Canadian waterfalls, Swiss mountain scenery and sand dunes and shadows in Namibia.

Jim showed photographs of a variety of wildlife native to the UK and Africa, before returning again to Yellowstone with images of brown bears in their natural habitat. He concluded by reviewing his commercial work to date. This included a discussion on the use of flash and continuous lighting, and embraced a wide spectrum of commercial activities ranging from photographs of house interiors for estate agents, to Christmas food hampers, light bulbs, furniture brochures, conference events and finishing with the challenge of shooting shiny metallic cake stands, and how to manage and control the reflections. This was an excellent presentation by a most accomplished photographer, accompanied by a wealth of technical detail that was much appreciated by his audience.

The AGM is at 7.00pm on 6 April and will be followed by members' photographs on the subject of 'What is it?' On 4 May, Jannine Timms, a local Banbury photographer, will present 'Portrait, Studio and Wedding Photography'. All other meetings are at 7.30pm and are in the Cartwright Hotel, Aynho. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are a very informal Society so please come along and meet us all.

Wendy Meagher 01869 336216
www.addphoto.co.uk

Deddington Ladies Netball Club

A fun, informal weekly club where everyone is welcome. Whether you've not played in years, play regularly or never played, come and have a go. We meet on Wednesdays from 6.30–7.30pm at the Windmill Centre all weather court, £3 per session.

Visit our Facebook page, email me for information, or just pull on your trainers and turn up next week.

Suzie Upson, suzieupson@mac.com

1st Deddington Scout Group

Cubs

The Cubs spent a couple of evenings putting together some bird boxes supplied to us for location in Daeda's Wood. They did a very good job: none fell apart and

none was screwed to the table. They painted them à la Lawrence Llewellyn Bowen, but we are assured that the birds will love them.

Harry, Jack, Dylan and Olly took part in the District Scrapheap Challenge held at Banbury Academy. They had to listen to a story and make a model from household recycling. It was a blur of cardboard and tape but everyone had a great time.

As this is the 100th anniversary of Cub Scouting (originally Wolf Cubs) we are looking at significant events in each decade and looking forward to the county camp in June.

Jo Churchyard
jochurchyard@hotmail.com

Scouts

Models were made and problems solved culminating in 'can an egg survive an eight-foot drop wrapped only in straws'? No it can't, but it was fun trying.

A diverse group of amateur electronics experts came to run the Electronics Badge with the boys. We had a week of theory then an evening making some kits, thermometers, steady hand and random number generators. Who knows, one of them could end up working for NASA or maybe installing your satellite dish.

Plans are well ahead for the forthcoming camps in May and June.

Pete Churchyard
pete.churchyard@btinternet.com

Spartans Explorer Scout Unit

The Platinum Award is one of the highest Explorer Scout awards. Its aim is to develop community skills, as well as to test physical endurance, and developing new practical and academic skills in young people.

Over the last month the Deddington ESU has planned two international evenings to tie in with the charity Re-Cycle as part of their Platinum Award. They created three fifteen-minute presentations, focusing on one of the countries that Re-Cycle supports. On the first evening, parents were invited to listen to the work that the group had produced. At the second evening the group presented their work to the Deputy Head of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This has been a really exciting project for the ESU.

Watch out for St George and the Dragon visiting April's farmers' market.

Oli Betteridge Spartans ESU
Contact Janet Duxbury 01608 737959

1st Deddington Guides

Who would have believed we could learn about water safety in the hall in the middle of winter? Under the instruction of our water safety instructor, the Guides learned a lot and had great fun demonstrating mock rescues (water an optional extra). Some very useful

CALLING MORE CLUBS

tips to bear in mind were learned. These will be very useful when, hopefully, better weather and outdoor activities come in summer.

Thinking Day, the birthday of Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, and Olive Baden-Powell, his wife, the first Chief Guide, was celebrated by learning about international issues, and being aware of our sister Guides all over the world. We enjoyed trying many types of fruit from other countries all around the world.

We've also been busy rehearsing for our annual charity entertainment to raise money for our chosen charities. By the time you read this it will be over and we hope those who came enjoyed it.

Maggie Rampley 01295 810069

Marian Trinder 01869 340806

Catherine Blackburn

1st Deddington Boys' Brigade

March saw lots of gifts and cards being produced for Mothering Sunday - we hope all our mums liked them. We've also produced some fine Easter cards in the Junior section; two cards in one, with the real meaning of Easter on one side and the chocolate part on the other. The Juniors and Company sections helped raise some funds for the Fairtrade Foundation by having a non-uniform evening. The Company section also participated in the Fairtrade breakfast campaign. Yes, it was unusual to have breakfast at 7.30pm and yes, the smoothie was odd but a good time was had by all. The term was rounded off with Easter fun and, yes, chocolate was involved.

By the time you read this we will have started the Easter holidays and BB will return on 13 April. The evenings are drawing out and we hope to be getting outside a lot more as the weather improves.

Don't forget you can follow us on Twitter.

Jen Childs

07774 608715

Jen.childs@btinternet.com

Women's Institute

We met on 8 March with slightly reduced numbers. It was the AGM followed by cheese and wine. The committee was re-elected en bloc with one member coming on. Angela Sones, our long-serving secretary, is standing down, and thanks were given to her for her sterling service. She will always be there to give advice. Then the pleasant part of excellent cheese and wine took place!

Our lunch at Otters on 22 March was, as always, enjoyable. Our April meeting is on Tuesday 12th when Pam Newall will give us a whistle-stop walk around Budapest. Visitors are most welcome as are any potential members.

Please ring Beryl Suckling for information on 01869 337385.

Julia Hobbs

Deddington Original Golf Society

At the time of writing, spring seems to have sprung ... forever the optimist, golfing weather seems to be on the horizon at last. Not much else to report except to remind all DOGS and prospective DOGS regarding the venues and dates for this year's competitions.

6 May	Broadway Golf Club	18 holes
10 June	Wrag Barn	18 holes
12 August	Feldon Valley	18holes with barbecue in the evening
30 September	Blackwell GC	18 holes

If you would like to join the DOGS or venture forth as a guest at any of the above venues just contact our secretary, Keith Spengler, by email keith.spengler1@btinternet.com for an application form. We are a very friendly society and golfers of all abilities will be made welcome.

Tony Lowe, tonylowe077@gmail.com

Deddington Town Football Club

First Team Result

13.02.16	Ashton Villa (h)	W 3-2	Cook, Hall (2)
20.02.16	Bishops Itchington (a)	W 4-2	Large, Preece, Hall S (2)
27.02.16	Hornton (h)	(CUP) W 4-0	Hall S (3), Cook
05.03.16	Broughton & N Newington (a)	W 3-0	Hall S (3)
12.03.16	Heyford Athletic (a)	L 0-2	

Reserve Results

13.02.16	Bloxham (a)	L 0-4	
20.02.16	FC Langford (h)	L 2-6	
27/02/16	Finmere (a)	D 4-4	Hayward (2), Hall D, Hunt
05.03.16	Bodicote Sports (h)	D 2-2	
12.03.16	Wroxton Sports (h)	L 3-4	

What a month for the First Team, who slayed all before them, before a reality check at Heyford Athletic. The hero of most of these victories was Deddington Town's answer to Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Simon Hall, who bagged a staggering ten goals in the four victories. This run of wins has left our stallions looking good for a top four push come the season's denouement. The Reserves have fared less well, losing heavily on multiple occasions, and even garnering a red card in the annual grudge match against Bodicote, who were also reduced to ten men. The two draws the Reserves earned may be crucial, as it is keeping their heads just above water as we move into the final stages of another enthralling season. Stay tuned and keep the faith. Don't forget to check out www.deddingtontownfc.com for more match reports and stats.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town Colts

The Under 15s playing in the Midland Junior Premier League lost 0-2 at home to Stratford Town Colts,

... AND EVEN MORE CLUBS

followed by a 3–1 defeat in the cup to Long Easton United. In the Witney and District Youth Football League the Under 15s had a 5–3 victory over Tower Hill Stars (after trailing 1–3 at half time) followed by heavy defeat at Chipping Norton Town, and a 1–3 defeat at home to Clanfield 85. The local derby at home to Hook Norton ended in a 1–1 draw. The Under 14s have won three games in a row – a 9–1 victory away at Grendon Rangers, followed by a 4–1 win the following week over Grendon Rangers in the return match, and a 3–2 win at Launton Rangers (after trailing 2–1 at half time). The Under 13s lost 3–2 away at Stonesfield Strikers, but then had back-to-back victories – a 20–2 home win over Chesterton Juniors, followed by a 3–1 win at Bampton Town. The Under 12s had a 4–1 home win over Stonesfield Strikers in the supplementary cup.

If you want to get involved with the club as player, volunteer, sponsor or fundraiser, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Further information about the club is on our website www.deddingtontownfc.com or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc.

Deddington Town Foot Ball

By the time you read this, the sell-out Foot Ball will have taken place at the Great Barn in Aynho to celebrate 20 years of Colts' football in the village. The youth section of Deddington Town FC has grown from a single team in 1995 to the eleven youth teams we have today. Young players starting with the Colts have a pathway to Deddington Town FC, one of the oldest senior clubs in the county. The money raised from the generosity of those who attended the ball, as well as all the local companies and individuals who donated prizes for the raffle and auction, will go towards maintaining the quality of the football coaching we provide for children and young people in the parish.

Roger Sykes
01869 337034

Deddington Tennis Club

Deddington Tennis Club is holding an Open Day as part of the LTA's Great British Tennis Weekend on Sunday 15 May from 12.30–4.00pm.

You can come along with the family to see what the club offers. It will be a fun-filled day with plenty of tennis, of course, competitions, tennis-related games and a barbecue to keep everyone's energy levels up. You are welcome to join us any time or stay for the day and get to know members and maybe decide that this is the year you are going to join.

You can find up-to-date information on these activities and more, plus full committee member contact details, on our website, www.deddingtontennis.com.

We shall be at the farmers' market too ... so if you would prefer come and have a chat about the club face-to-face, it would be great to see you.

Alison Stevens

Book Club

In February we read *Waterlog* by Roger Deakin. This beautifully written description of Deakin's wild swimming journey around Britain, through its rivers, lakes, moats, swimming-holes and shoreline, was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Each chapter is dedicated to one location, so you can read the book as a whole or select the areas that interest you.

There are some wonderful descriptions of nature and wildlife, a wealth of local history and some often humorous accounts of the people he meets along the way. Highly recommended.

The next book is *No Great Mischief* by Alistair McLeod and the next meeting is on 28 April.

Sally Lambert
01869 338094

Deddington and District History Society

There was a good audience on 9 March for one of our favourite speakers, Shaun Morley. On this occasion his topic was custom and ritual in 19th-century Oxfordshire. He began by explaining that custom was a right (usually transmitted orally) to do certain things, for example glean corn, graze animals on the commons or cut down a tree for maypole dancing. Ritual dictated how exactly such customs were carried out. Custom and ritual were integral to the way that rural life was regulated. One of the best-known examples is 'wife-selling', familiar to us from *The Mayor of Cast-erbridge*. Shaun gave us a local case: a wife sale that took place in Witney Market Place in September 1839. Such 'sales' were, in fact, the only means by which a poor couple might divorce. Fairly common occurrences were 'skimmingtons' or 'rough music', which involved members of a community gathering to produce a cacophonous din outside the house of someone who had breached accepted standards of behaviour – a wife-beater, perhaps.

Shaun gave us many local examples. They included mock-mayor making (sort of Lord of Misrule) at Woodstock, fiercely defended rights of foraging in Wychwood Forest, and Kirtlington's Lamb Ale. Many communities kept a customary calendar for specific events such as Plough Sunday, when a representative plough was blessed; next day, on Plough Monday, the plough boys would dress up and make merry, sometimes very merry. Importantly, such events gave people the right to take a day's leave at a time when there was virtually nothing in the way of paid holidays. Over time enclosure, the loss of common rights, and the hostility of the authorities to popular 'disorderly behaviour' led to the disappearance or taming of activities that had been practised from time out of mind.

Our speaker on Wednesday 13 April is Don Ratcliff on 'The Hook Norton Lunatic Asylum'. We shall start at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

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

‘Need Not Greed Oxon’ Campaign Against Housing Growth

The growth strategy for Oxfordshire is in the hands of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), a limited company which is not a democratically accountable body. The high housing figures in the new Cherwell Local Plan are based on notional job creation targets contained in the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) produced by OxLEP without any public consultation or even debate in any full local authority meeting.

The ‘growth at all costs’ strategy for Oxfordshire in the SEP proposes 85,000 new jobs, 100,000 new houses (equivalent to two new cities the size of Oxford) and at least 200,000 more people (a 30% population increase) by 2031. This aggressive plan takes little or no account of environmental, infrastructure or social constraints.

Plans have been announced for a ‘refresh’ of the SEP and OxLEP has conceded a four-week online public consultation process from 21 April to 19 May.

The precise scope of the ‘refresh’ is unclear, except it is understood that OxLEP is not looking to re-visit its employment growth targets.

Many people feel that this is unacceptable. Spear-headed by the Campaign to Protect Rural England

(CPRE), the Oxfordshire branch, a coalition of 23 local action groups (including DDW) and individuals has come together under the banner ‘Need Not Greed Oxon’ to campaign for a future for Oxfordshire that:

- respects the views of local people;
- meets the real needs of local people not speculator greed;
- protects the environment.

The coalition is insistent that local people should have a real voice in the debate on the future of Oxfordshire. To find out more about the campaign, please visit the Need Not Greed Oxon website, <http://www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk/>.

The OxLEP online consultation on the SEP ‘refresh’ runs from 21 April to 19 May. We urge you (and in turn ask you to urge others) to take part in the consultation and let OxLEP know your views about the growth strategy for the county. Information will also be available on the DDW website.

Deddington Development Watch

<http://www.deddington.org.uk/community/deddingtondevelopmentwatch>
deddingtondevelopmentwatch@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Rhyme time was great fun for the many mums and little ones who attended. However, we urgently need some volunteers to support this; ideally three or four people who could work a one in three or four rota on Monday afternoons so we can run this session weekly. If you are free between 2.30 and 3.00pm on Monday afternoons (and don't have children attending the Rhyme-time) to help support this session, we'd love to hear from you. Come along to our next session on Monday 18 April and see what we do and how we do it; training will be given.

Due to a successful funding bid by OCC we now have public wi-fi installed in the library, so using your own tablets, iPads and so on in the library possible.

In March we had new public network PCs installed; larger screens and quicker processors make working, homework or hobby research a much improved experience. They are still free to use too.

The library service has also been able to secure a subscription to the 1939 register from Find My Past. The 1939 register, dubbed ‘The Wartime Domesday Book’, was a comprehensive census taken on 29 September 1939 and provides an unprecedented insight into civilian life at the outbreak of the Second World War. Sixty-five thousand enumerators were employed to visit every house in England and Wales to take stock of the civil population.

The information they recorded was used to issue identity cards, plan mass evacuations, establish rationing and co-ordinate other war-time provisions. In the longer term the 1939 register would go on to play a

central role in the establishment of post-war services like the NHS.

The 1939 register is hugely significant and the only surviving record of the population between 1921 and 1951 as the 1931 census was destroyed during the war and the 1941 census was never taken. Each record includes the names of inhabitants at each address, date of birth, marital status and occupation. So if you're interested in Ancestry and Find My Past, the 1939 register is for you. Access to all of these and much more is free in the library, no need to be a member (although we'd love you to join of course), just come along and log-on.

Our Reading Group members have been gearing up for their first meeting on Monday 4 April at 6.30pm; this group is nearly full, so please contact me for more details.

Stella O'Neill 01869 338391

Deddington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Deddington PFSU and Village Nursery

It has been a short but busy term. We have enjoyed some better weather, getting out into the garden to plant flowers and taking walks around the village and to Castle Grounds. We made cards and presents for Mothers' Day, and the Nursery children invited their Mums to join them for a special Mothers' Day breakfast. Our term will finish on a chocolatey note. Holiday club runs the first week of the Easter holidays. Our major fund-raising event this term was the jumble sale on 12 March which raised £700. Thank you for your support.

Lucy Squires 01869 337484

WELL REMEMBERED

Lois Humphries 1947–2016

Lois was born in 1947 at Duns Tew in a wooden bungalow, the sixth of eight siblings, to Evelyn and John Cook. John brought the children up strictly with certain behaviour required at table, for instance, and an insistence that the children not play in the village since they didn't need the company of other children, having company enough on their own. There were fields enough to roam around in Duns Tew, but also space for her older brothers and sisters to go off and lose Lois, who wanted to tag along but who was very much a member of the younger department of the family. Lois went to Duns Tew School and then Dr Radcliffe's at Steeple Aston. On leaving school at fifteen she worked in Duns Tew looking after children and she also cared for an elderly couple.

Lois and Albert were married in Duns Tew church in 1970. Having put in a hard shifts to get it ready over that summer, they were able to move into Allo Cottage in Deddington High Street after the wedding. It soon became a real family home with the arrival of Donna (1972) and Mark (1974) – and it was to be Lois's till the end of her life. She was very much a home and garden person. She enjoyed family holidays in Wales and North Devon and elsewhere – she and Albert seemed always to have offers of accommodation in the caravans or apartments of friends, which tells you something about the appreciation and affection in which they were held. There were European holidays too - Lois particularly enjoyed the warmer temperatures of the continent. Although she wasn't a great joiner of clubs and groups, she socialised, always making sure she was well turned out.

From Allo Cottage Lois worked first at some cleaning jobs and then for Pete and Bet Howarth's catering firm as a waitress. Later she moved to the Holcombe where she started as a chambermaid and moved on to assistant chef. Then came a period of 21 years working for Solar Designs at their various sites in Clifton, Deddington and then Chipping Norton, assembling jewellery. The assembling happened too back at home because she liked to be busy. When Solar Designs ceased trading, Lois became a carer at St Anne's Home, Clifton. She also looked after the Waters family who looked on her as a surrogate granny.

Being a Granny certainly gave Lois huge pleasure: she doted on Tom and Amy, Georgia and Toby, and on Vicky and Katie too. The family and friends were all the beneficiaries of Lois's fine cooking and baking which she did to great general appreciation without ever using a measure, just eyes and hands. There was many a birthday cake and the mince pies were a real industry too - 60 dozen baked at Christmas time for generous widespread distribution - and that was just one part of Christmas. The whole house had to be decorated room by room at Christmas time.

These extravagant Christmas observances which

carried on a family tradition set by her mother, had to do with central aspects to Lois's character – her desire to do things for other people, her desire to put other people first. Maybe Lois liked doing the baking and the decorating, but she probably didn't much enjoy getting up at night to put a sock in the bell calling Albert to Fire Service duty (the children needed to sleep) and getting his bicycle ready for the road at such times.

Lois's life was very much about helping others but it was also an expression of her enthusiasm for life. She appreciated the gift of life and strove to make life good for others. She will be missed by all her family and friends.

The Humphries Family and Hugh White

Tony Waller 1935–2016

Tony was born in India, to Harry and Gertrude, as his father was a sergeant in the British Army. Five years later in 1940 the family, having returned to England, moved to Barford St Michael where he went to school on The Green before going to the Windmill School in Deddington.

In 1950 the family moved to Batchelors Row in The Lane, Hempton. Tony left school at 15 and joined a local firm doing building work at the old Northern Aluminium Company in Banbury, later to become Alcan Industries. He also worked for Hinkins and Frewins, a well-known local builder at that time, and also worked for himself over the years. He met Betty from Duns Tew and the couple were married in 1963 and went on to have two sons, Keith, born in 1966 and Paul, in 1969.

The family was still living in a cottage in Batchelors Row but had bought some land during the 1960s and built their present home in The Lane during 1970 after demolishing three old properties. Tony was a keen outdoor man, enjoying the countryside and nature in general. He was a keen vegetable gardener, kept pigeons which he regularly raced, had pond fish (he was always calling my wife when the herons were around raiding ponds) and always had a dog. All his dogs had the same name, Jip. He was also a very keen sportsman, having played football and cricket, mainly for Barford when they had teams. He was a very good table tennis player, playing for Deddington at the British Legion Club, Hempton and Sibford in the Banbury and District League. Tony was one of only two people that I knew when I moved here as we had played each other several times when I lived in Banbury. Tony was always ready to stop and have a chat with you and I miss seeing him around the village. His funeral service with a good congregation was held at St John's church, followed by a burial in Barford churchyard. Our condolences to his family and friends at this time.

Les Chappell

Friends of Deddington Library

The Friends of Deddington Library met on 1 March to review progress to date, plan future events and fundraising initiatives. Our subscription numbers have been hovering around the 100 mark for the past few months despite our best efforts to continue signing more subscribers. Please spread the word as we still need to double the number to ensure the library's future.

The Peachy Raffle was won by Maureen Robinson who scooped a meal for four to the value of £160.00 which was generously donated by Peach Pubs, so congratulations to Maureen and a huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets and supported our cause. You raised a quite fantastic £413.00 towards the Friends of Deddington Library funds.

We are running a Photo Competition and inviting entries from within and outside the parish. The only stipulation is that the subject matter must be taken within the Deddington parish which obviously includes Clifton, Hempton and our beautiful surrounding countryside. The winning entries will be published in a 2017 Deddington Parish Calendar with prizes of free calendars to the winners. Full details will be in the May issue of *DN* or you can visit our website at www.friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.com.

Finally, a huge thank you to a little girl who's made a very big impression ... Thea Jones. Thea is just eight years old and on 12 March, independent of any support from us, completed a sponsored cycle ride and walk from Barford St Michael to South Newington, Bloxham, Barford St John and back to Barford St Michael, a distance of about nine miles. She gained a massive £73.63 in sponsorship money which she has very kindly donated to the FoDL. We are overwhelmed by her generosity and efforts to raise such an impressive sum off her own bat. Thank you Thea. With the next generation of keen readers supporting the library like this, we will have little to fear from an uncertain future.

Bryn Williams

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DEDDINGTON 150 YEARS AGO

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of April 1866:

6th April – A monthly Petty Sessions took place at the Town Hall.

10th April – I visited the Church twice – the organ was partly taken down by a man named Rouse from Summerton who helped put it up with his father 26 years ago. Spoke to the Vicar about using the school room for services during the present state of the Church repairs. He thought the Chancel would do – I said not.

13th April – J. Whetton came for Income Tax.

14th April – I visited the Church and found the Vicar and Mr. Gulliver there – Divine Service to be performed at the National School till further orders.

23rd April – 5th May - I spent the time with my sister, Mrs. Hearn, my brother John and S. Adams at Great Horwood - preached at Great Horwood on the 29th

Buffy Heywood

INHERITED SURNAMES

At some point in history, bynames – patronymics like Johnson, nicknames like Whitehead, Badger, trade-names like Baker, placenames like Milton – started to be handed down through the generations. They became family names only, no longer descriptive of the individual. So someone called Black might be a beautiful blonde, and someone called Baker might be unable to bake so much as a currant bun.

When did this start – and why? Well, for us it seems to have started among the Norman French aristocracy. That great Scottish patriot, King Robert Bruce, was the eighth generation of French family with the surname 'de Bruis' and his 'Scottish' contemporaries, John Baliol and the Red Comyn, were also of French ancestry. 'Bruce' seems to have been the place in France where Robert's ancestors had owned land (indeed, his enemy, Edward II, was also French and spoke no English). It was of course convenient to have family names for taxation purposes, for example. If the king needed money to finance something important, he would levy a 'tax' on landowners, so taxpayers were at first usually aristocrats. Of course taxation soon spread more widely, and the inherited surname was useful in this: if your late father owed taxes, you could conveniently be held responsible, and of course it was also a good way of keeping track of families for many other reasons, eg marriage and inheritance. The custom of inheriting surnames diffused gradually downwards from the aristocracy, taking several centuries to reach the lower orders.

Many of the names that we think of as typically English or British are in fact French. William, Robert, Charles and Geoffrey are French, and some French names had previously been borrowed from Germanic languages: such names include Richard, Edward, Audrey (a version of Ethelfrida). The poet, Geoffrey Chaucer, had a French surname (a chaucer was a shoemaker), and many common surnames – for example Carpenter, Butler, Russell – date back to Anglo-Norman times. Local names from this period include Cheney (de Chesney), Gulliver (a glutton in French) and – probably – Bliss.

Jim Milroy 01869 337614

Avoid Being Collared Over New Dog Laws

From 6 April it will be a legal requirement for all dogs over eight weeks old to be microchipped. Currently it is only a legal requirement for dogs to wear an identity tag in public, with microchipping previously optional to help reunite lost pets.

Those who fail to microchip their dog or keep their details up to date will be served notice and could face a £500 fine and criminal conviction. Microchipping ranges from £10–£30 and can be carried out by veterinary practices. It will still remain a legal requirement for dogs to continue wearing an identity tag.

For details on the new microchipping law visit www.gov.uk and search 'dog microchipping'.