

September 2024

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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THE TEAM

YOUR EDITOR THIS MONTH:
CATHERINE DESMOND

OCTOBER COPY TO
JILL CHEESEMAN
editor@deddingtonnews.co.uk
by **14 September**

ADVERTISING COPY
by **10 September**

EDITORS

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

MONTHLY ADS & INSERTS

Sandie Goundrey
01869 338764
monthly@deddingtonnews.co.uk

ANNUAL ADS

Pat Sedgley
annuals@deddingtonnews.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

Alison Day
whatson@deddingtonnews.co.uk

CLUBS

Alison Day
07970 863255
clubs@deddingtonnews.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Jill Cheeseman
01869 338609

DISTRIBUTION

Netia Piercy and team
01869 338191

TREASURER

Jane Price
01869 337586
treasurer@deddingtonnews.co.uk

COVER:

Steve Waterman

Find out more about
The Deddington News at:
www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Thank you to everyone involved, not only in getting the church clock running again, but also in finally causing the strike to catch up with its sorely missed hour. Things feel just that little bit better with the world!

Thanks also to those involved with establishing the memorial to Maj Gen Percy Hobart at the entrance to Hobart Way (p13), including the parish council, which, while not responsible for the event, laid on a great tea in the Windmill after the memorial's unveiling.

CD

WHAT'S ON September

- Wed 4 Dementia Oxfordshire: Autumn Information Fayre, Windmill Centre, 10.00am–3.00pm
Wed 4 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Fri 6 DOGS: Whittlebury Golf Club, Towcester
Mon 9 Local Vocals: New term starts, Primary School, 7.30pm
Wed 11 WI: 'Pearls and Art Deco', Frances Carlaw, Barford St Michael Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sat 14 Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust: Ride and Stride
Sun 15 Deddington Players: Panto auditions, Windmill Centre, 2.00–5.00pm
Wed 18 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu 19 DEN: People Planet Pint, White Horse, Duns Tew, 7.30pm
Sat 21 Fire Fighters Charity: Car wash, Fire Station, 10.00am (morning only)
Sun 22 Music in Adderbury: Alice Neary, cello and Viv McLean, piano, Parish Church, 6.00pm
Thu 26 Bookworms: Holly Tree Hall, 6.30pm
Thu 26 Book Group: contact Sally Lambert, 01869 338094, for details.
Sat 28 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

October

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: 'Flowers', Andrew Buchanan, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Sat 5 Deddington Wine Festival: 'Cheers to Charlie', Windmill Centre, 7.00–11.00pm
Wed 9 WI: Oxfordshire's Secret Gardens, Dr Stephen Wass, Barford St Michael Village Hall, 7.30pm
Thu 10 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, Holly Tree Hall, 1.30pm
Thu 10 History Society: 'Life on the Home Front in WWII', Karen and Brett Wiles, Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat 12 Deddington Players: Charity Music Night, Windmill, 7.00pm
Wed 16 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Sun 20 Music in Adderbury: Tim Horton, piano, Parish Church, 6.00pm
Thu 24 DEN: People Planet Pint, Red Lion, Deddington, 7.30pm

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Contributors should be aware that the monthly issues are posted online and therefore any personal contact details given are there in perpetuity.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting 17 July at the Old School Room, Hempton

Present: Councillors Collins, Darwall-Smith, Fisher, Mylne, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swan, Swadling, Watts, County Councillor Fatemian, District Councillor Rogers, parish clerk, two members of the public and a *DN* representative.

County Councillor

Councillor Fatemian reported that the developer applying for nine houses in Hempton could re-appeal, although it was felt Deddington's Neighbourhood Plan would preclude it.

District Councillor

Councillor McHugh, reported that, while he will support the planning application favoured in our Neighbourhood Plan for up to 90 homes and a children's nursery, he has some concern about the nursery being built. The PC has no such concerns, having received a commitment from the landowner that it will be built.

Finance and General Purposes

The PC agreed to: additional spending on improving CCTV at the Windmill, the cost of fencing the mini tennis project, funding for tree works at Castle Grounds, the Windmill copse and wood, and at the Windmill playing field by the cricket nets.

An application has been made to Historic England to erect a blue plaque at Leadenporch House, commemorating Major General Hobart.

Some complaints will be forwarded to the grass cutting contractor following No Mow May and June.

Planning

No objection

Home Farm, Main Street, Clifton: erection of a steel portal lean-to.

Castle View, Goose Green, Deddington: tree works.

Affric, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: tree works.

Deddington Manor, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Johnson and Co, Chapel Square, Deddington: tree works.

The rear of the Duke of Cumberland's Head, Clifton: discharge of condition 4 (package of measures to maximise the sustainability) of 23/01045/F.

Approvals

Street Record, Grove Court, Deddington: tree works.

Holly Tree, Earls Lane, Deddington: detached single storey pool house.

Grove Barn, the Grove, Deddington: tree works.

The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Deddington: sliding timber gate.

Land adjoining and west of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington: variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 23/00376/F.

Glencree, Philcote Street, Deddington: tree works.

Large Scale Developments

A CDC planning officer assured the PC that the nursery and freehold of land east of Banbury Road, Deddington, will be gifted to the PC, not to OCC.

Environment and Recreation

The CCTV camera at the cemetery has been broken but will be replaced with metal and placed higher up.

The current owners of the land on which Satin Lane allotments stand are selling all their land but the PC considers that there couldn't be any significant change because there is a requirement to provide allotments in perpetuity.

There was criticism by some councillors of the way in which play equipment is maintained. This suggestion was refuted by other councillors who regularly examine the equipment and either carry out running repairs or request for work to be undertaken.

English Heritage reacted to a report made direct to them, bypassing DPC, of children having dug out a BMX layout on Castle Grounds, stating that it should be reported to the police as criminal damage.

Highways and Transport

A public meeting was held on 2 July at the Old School Room, Hempton, with representatives from OCC, to discuss traffic management issues in the village. It was a generally positive meeting, resulting in residents requesting to know when OCC would act on agreed build-outs at each end of the village.

On 15 July an HGV blocked the Hempton pinch-point when the footpath was also breached. The police were called but did not attend, in spite of the vehicle being there for around two hours and the route was in breach of the agreement for the B4031.

The Clifton Speed Watch group is trained and ready to act when equipment is available. The coordinator of the group, a resident of Clifton, has had a recent meeting with a representative from OCC, to press their requests for a replacement VAS sign and to extend the weight restriction to the Northamptonshire boundary, in an aim to make the village safer and more pleasant.

Meeting 21 August at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors Cox, Darwall-Smith, Norton, Oldfield (chair), Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Timms and Watts, District Councillor Rogers, County Councillor Fatemian, parish clerk, 12 members of the public and a *DN* representative.

Public Forum

Several Hempton residents raised concerns about proposed traffic calming measures, stressing a lack of consultation but also the need for action, preferably for the long term. The PC responded that discussions have been going on for a long time with Cllr Swan, particularly, spending a great deal of time holding meetings with residents. They suggested that some compromise was likely to be needed.

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Fatemian clarified that there is a difference between consultation and engagement as far as OCC is concerned. What has happened so far is engagement. Consultation will be made available to anyone interested in the near future. He acknowledged

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

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL *Continued from p2*

that solving the problem is difficult and cited a local village with similar issues that had failed to agree because there are no perfect solutions. They still have the same problems. Conversely, another village had agreed some long term solutions that appear to be working well, such as white lines, vehicle activated signs (VAS), and a build out.

The planning application for Upper Heyford by Dorchester Living Ltd for 6,000 homes is a speculative application for land around the cold war site.

Highways and Transport

The PC agreed several proposals to forward to OCC for their consideration for consultation through their website. They include a build-out on the west side of Hempton by the Duns Tew/Barford St Michael crossroads and a further build-out at the other end of the village between Snake Hill Lane and St John's Way. A further build-out in the middle of the village will not be put forward. No speed bumps are proposed.

The PC suggested that Hempton residents might create a speed watch group as Clifton has, to provide formal information to TVP.

District Councillor's Report

Councillor Rogers outlined demands for housing on CDC under new government proposals, suggesting an increase of 55% on their housing target, plus a share of Oxford's unmet housing need. There is a continuing challenge on CDC's five year housing land supply position.

He is engaging with the Bucks, Oxon and Berks West Integrated Care Board for developer contributions. He is keen to ensure appropriate infrastructure is put in place when approving developments in the area.

Finance and General Purposes

Funding was agreed: for clearance of undergrowth and two dying trees at Gaveston Green; replacement of a rotten bench in Clifton; up to £3,000 for repairs to play equipment and an additional £4,000 from S106 money for replacing the basket swing; and a £175 contribution for maintenance of the church clock, to be reviewed annually.

After seven weeks' notice, the PC carried out its five yearly memorial testing and cemetery compliance inspection. Fourteen headstones were found to be unsafe and cordoned off. The clerk is trying to contact all grave owners to request that the stones are made safe. Three have been done so far with another scheduled. If, after 3 months, contact has not been established the PC will need to make a decision on a permanent safety solution such as laying the memorials flat.

Planning*No objection*

Earls Court, Deddington: tree works.

Holly Cottage, Market Place, Deddington: replacement of conservatory with slightly larger hardwood double glazed orangery.

Town Hall, Deddington: repairs to floor and column bases and lighting renovation, defer to conservation officer on appropriate materials.

Land Adjacent to Clifton Gate, Deddington: variation of conditions.

Parlour House, Earls Lane, Deddington: tree works.

Castle House Cottage, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: tree works.

Highway Maintenance Depot, Banbury Road, Deddington: replacement of temporary buildings with new office with associated parking and ground works.

Approvals

Old Stores Cottage, Main Street, Clifton: single storey rear extension and erection of new garage.

Deddington Arms, Horse Fair: conversion of hotel bedrooms for four two-storey residential units.

Ithaca, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington: fell Prunus.

Johnson and Co, Chapel Square: fell common ash.

Deddington Manor, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Large Scale Developments

CDC has invoiced Burringtons for outstanding S106 money.

Environment and Recreation

The mini tennis courts will be completed by the end of August and the fencing and water to the pavilion have been installed. The Tennis Club will be asked to take responsibility for maintenance.

Next meeting Wednesday 18 September at 7.30pm in the Windmill Centre

BEREAVEMENT VOLUNTEERS FOR KHH

Since the end of the Covid pandemic there has been a steady increase in demand for bereavement support locally. To ensure that the service remains effective in supporting this community, Oxford University Hospital's (NHS) Bereavement Services at Katharine House Hospice is urgently recruiting new bereavement volunteers.

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The closing date for recruitment is 1 November. If you are interested in applying or finding out more please contact us on pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk, www.khh.org.uk/bereavement-support-volunteers, 01865 225868 or 01865 225944.

PFSU AND NURSERY

September brings the start of a new school year and we'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the children and families joining us at both Pre-school and Nursery. We hope everyone settles in quickly. We look forward to another successful year of fundraising for our settings. Watch this space for our first fundraiser.

Charlotte Witka

Charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Ten years ago, when our Jake went off to college, it was decided it was time to add a dog to the family unit. I wanted to call him Jake Jr; it seemed the right thing to do in America. There were several votes for Jamie but someone else scored for my team that day and so, Leo has been a drain on our resources ever since. He doesn't socialise with the dozens of dogs in our neighbourhood: they are all small and literally beneath him. The Shih Tzus bark at him and, despite the fact he could take the little things' heads off with one bite, he ignores them manfully. Or is it dogfully?

Several times a week Leo goes to doggy daycare for his favourite pastime, swimming. When I picked him up from his fun day out this week it became clear that he certainly is a Ward child. Just as when I picked the other two up from Deddington primary school, he was desperate for a wee. My boys wouldn't go to the toilet at school.

Life is a lot sunnier here in Greenwood Village and it's not just the endless 30C days. Thankfully one of the two old men who were contesting the US election backed out and a happy, smiley, lady turned up on the Democratic ticket. Kamala is a breath of fresh air. She is positive, she is bright but, most importantly, she isn't grumpy and can hold a civilised conversation.

Trump has responded very badly to this development. I thought purposely mispronouncing someone's name normally stopped at puberty. Teenage boys brag about the size of all sorts of things but Trump hasn't grown out of this habit. Apparently, he has bigger crowds than Martin Luther King ever did. He also

seems very confused that Kamala is black, something he seems to think she grew into recently. This week he said, 'rising seas will create more beachfront properties'. If he gets elected his schoolyard bullying and thirst for revenge against his enemies will know no borders and the election is still his to lose.

In order to stay married I am trying to stop being so condescending about the great American nation but watching the Olympics here on US TV created some problems for me. The jingoistic approach was very annoying. They even order the medals table differently so that USA is always top, rating by the number of medals rather than the number of golds. Heather says in her childhood she learnt all the anthems of the world from the Olympics coverage on the BBC but this time it was difficult to tell if there were any non-Americans in many events.

On the closing weekend of the Games, we were up in the mountains visiting friends. It was great to watch the locals in their weekly rodeo. One guy nearly won the big prize for staying on the bull for eight seconds. Our hostess was winding me up by cheering on each American in the Olympics coverage but, since this is Trump country, I decided I needed to respond. So, I have created a new cult called MUKAA (Make the UK Average Again). I've ordered the hats and I think it will take off. I'm sending one to the bull rider: I know which hospital he is in.

Mike Ward
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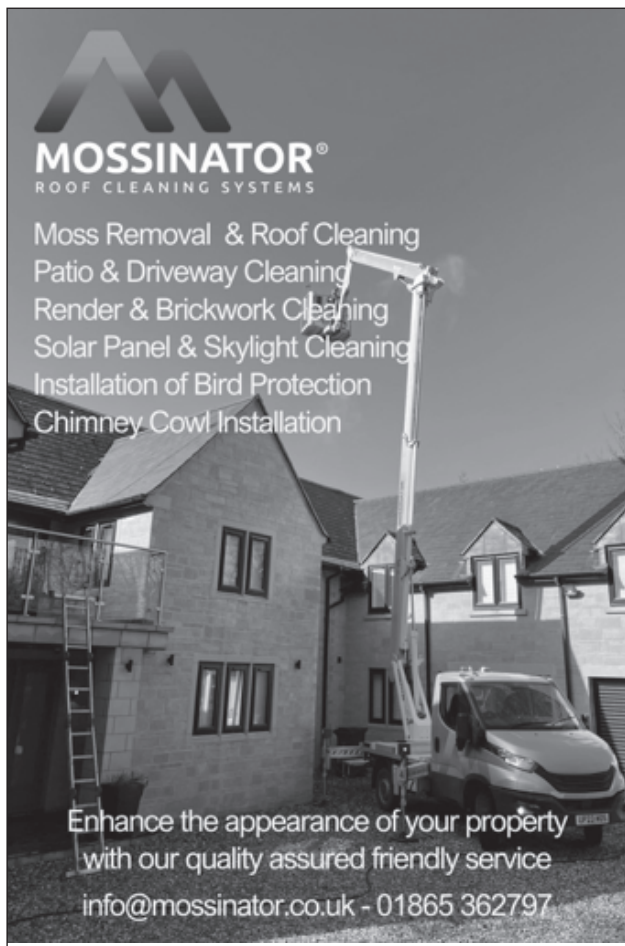
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CHURCH

The Revd Nick Fielden is vicar of Deddington with Hempton and the Barfords. Please note that Mondays are Nick's usual day off. If you need to contact a member of the clergy urgently on a Monday, please contact one of the wardens, details below. Barford St Michael's church is open every day between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Deddington church is open throughout the day for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. Deddington church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or Facebook page for updates, www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Tue	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)
Thu	9.30–noon	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
Fri	8.45am 5.15pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Sun 1	10.30am 6.00am	Holy Communion Sung Evensong
Sun 8	10.30am 3.00pm	Harvest Festival 3 O'clock Family Service
Sun 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 22	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 29	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 15	9.00am	Harvest Festival, Holy Communion
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Barfords

Wed	5.15pm	Evening Prayer, St Michael
Thu	8.15am	Morning Prayer, St Michael
Sun 1	10.30am	Coffee and Chat, St Michael
Sun 8	9.00am	Communion, St John
Sun 15	10.30am	Family Service, St Michael
Sun 22	10.30am	Harvest Festival including Family Holy Communion, St Michael
Sun 29	9.00am	Holy Communion, St John

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms:

4 August	Elizabeth Ross
11 August	Oliver Coles

Weddings

20 July	Liam Card and Malgorzata Dziembala
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For baptisms and weddings, funerals and home visits in case of illness, please contact the vicar, Nick Fielden, on 01869 934794 or at vicar@deddingtonchurch.org, or one of the church wardens; Deddington: Stan Nelson, on 01869 337883 or wardens@deddingtonchurch.org; Barfords: Sue Addison on 07484 718791, Sally Barber on 07776 241218, or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

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.

BLISSFUL THINKING



What do cars and social media have in common? No, it's not a lame play on information superhighways or internet traffic but, if you find that amusing, then it is. But also, both things separate a person from physically facing another person they are interacting with. Both things also seem to have a habit of

fostering explosive rage. On the battlefields of old, perhaps defending Deddington Castle from ne'er-do-wells, they may have used crossbows or trebuchets for fortification, or maybe just rocks and boiling oil. Ranged weapons were preferable to cut down enemies before they got close enough to hurt you, but it's also far more difficult to cut down another human being at close quarters.

We are not built naturally to hurt our own. On the contrary, we crave validation and approval from other people, no matter how much we might deny it. When we explode at the idiot who just cut us off or share a hateful article on social media, we don't have to look into the eyes of the person or people it is affecting. When we have a confrontation with someone in real life, we will endeavour to express ourselves reasonably and perhaps try to de-escalate, not just through fear of physical conflict, but also because hurting people is not in our make-up. When we're face-to-face, we can read body language and see that we might be causing hurt (or risking hurt) and pull back. Cars and social media, much like longbows or suits of armour, separate flesh from flesh and make those consequences more abstract. Here's to fewer filters and more community.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Here in rural Hempton I always considered we had our fair share of bugs and other critters. Relaxing in the garden during a sunny respite from the disappointing summer, I reflected on reports of the decline in the insect population going about their business pollinating, producing honey, ruining my fruit and veg, falling prey to birds and mammals and preying on other bugs. I had a particularly uncomfortable bite early in the season but am definitely not receiving the attention normally leaving me to nurse itchy red weals on any exposed area of flesh following a venture into the garden. The absence of bugs was particularly noticeable before the weather became drier and warmer in late July/August. Fair weather Large White butterflies then set about making up for lost time, depositing thousands of their offspring on my cabbages, rapidly reducing the leaves to lacy skeletons. The Large White may be seen as less damaging, as it tends to devour the outer leaves whereas the Small White likes to dine nearer the heart of the cabbage. Bees and butterflies began to turn out, feasting on our buddleias and lavender. There seemed to be relatively fewer bumble bees than honey bees than in previous years. Unlike honey bees, bumble bees only collect nectar to feed themselves and their young and do not make honey. They lack specialised wax producing glands and cannot construct honeycomb cells in which honey bees store honey.

Wasps have been conspicuously absent this year, I haven't spotted a single one to date ruining my apple crop or setting up home in secluded corners of the loft. Each summer, wasps in the UK capture about 14 million kilograms of insects such as caterpillars and greenfly, making them important friends to gardeners. Their numbers do vary from year to year and they are anticipated to make a come back next year.

Many insects worldwide have largely vanished in what scientists have called the global insect apocalypse. As human activities rapidly transform the planet, the global insect population is declining at an unprecedented rate of up to 2% per year.

Since the first reference survey in 2004, led by the RSPB, analysis of records from nearly 26,500 journeys across the UK shows a continuing decrease in bug splats, with the number of splats sampled on vehicle number plates by citizen scientists decreasing by 78% nationwide between 2004 and 2023.

I am sufficiently chronologically challenged that I remember the wholesale slaughter of bugs and trying to remove the blood, guts and remains of insects from my number plate and the increasingly obscured view through the windscreen of my car on long journeys. It seems much less of a problem today.

There is an exception, at least in my garden: ants. They have established nests in just about every corner and their hordes seem to swell each year. A favourite nesting site is the lawn, creating unsightly mounds of red earth scattered across my verdant moss patches. All attempts to encourage them to move on have failed miserably. Perhaps I should threaten to deport them

to another garden for processing. Thankfully they have shown no interest in invading the house.

Whilst walking to the parish capital one afternoon, just past the planter at the village boundary, we came across a rather large grass snake crossing the pathway from the verge into the hedgerow and quickly disappearing into the undergrowth. I estimate the beast was more than a metre long. I've encountered a number of grass snakes in my garden but they were small juveniles. It was the first time I've seen a full size adult in or near the village as they are normally very shy and it is unusual to catch one on open ground.

My attempts at growing vegetables provided a spring feast for wildlife, only my beetroot seemed to be off the menu. That is until the roots had swelled to a mature size, poking their heads above the soil. Rodents then set about nibbling the exposed flesh. Judging by the size of the tooth marks it was larger rodents, perhaps rats or the grey squirrels that frequent the garden. The whole crop was damaged and unfit for human consumption.

If you meet a squirrel or other rodent with ruby red lips and a fat belly, tell him or her I would like a word.

Stuart Oldham

sj_oldham@btinternet.com

FUN SEPTEMBER DAY OUT

For a fun day out with family and friends, why not take part in the Ride and Stride on Saturday 14 September? Joining in this sponsored event in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust involves riding a bike or walking round some of our village churches.

One suggested route, which can be shortened or lengthened: a nice flat ride or stride to Hempton, downhill to the Barfords, up a bit to Bloxham and then back along the flat road to Adderbury, stopping at Milton on the way, before returning to Deddington by the gated road. This takes you to 12 churches or chapels, at many of which friendly volunteers will supply you with drinks and other goodies. You could take a picnic with you, call in at a pub or you could spend an interesting hour or so exploring Oxford or Banbury churches.

This is a great way of contributing to the maintenance of our beautiful, historic churches, in particular our own parish church where we all enjoy so many different events. Half the money raised will go to your local church and half to the Historic Churches Trust, so that it can respond to the particular maintenance needs of any church or chapel in the county.

New this year, instead of collecting sponsorship money, you can simply pay £10 per family to take part. There will be drinks and cakes in Deddington – at the Town Hall in the morning and in the church in the afternoon.

Do consider joining in this year's Ride and Stride and contact me for more details and sponsorship forms.

Sarah Liebrecht

07976 523494, s.liebrecht2@gmail.com

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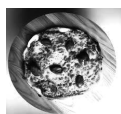
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'HOBO' HONOURED

Jo Eames and Paul Keyte unveiling Hobart memorial
Picture courtesy Richard Broadbent

The North Oxfordshire and Cotswold Military Vehicle Trust came to Deddington on Saturday 17 August to honour Major General Sir Percy Hobart, one time resident of Leadenporch House and, until now, largely unsung, hero of the Second World War. Thanks to the efforts of the Trust, under the leadership of Tony King, and residents of Hobart Way, there is now a memorial to him at the entrance to the new development. Jo Eames, the current inhabitant of Leadenporch and author of the novel, *Not Only the Good Boys*, based on the Major General's war years, was the guest of honour, charged with its unveiling.

Major General Sir Percy Hobart KBE, CB, DSO, MC, (to give him his full rank and title) was the forefather of the legendary Desert Rats and genius developer of the tanks which played a key role in the D-Day landings in June 1944. 'Hobo', as he was known to many, led the engineers who created and tested amphibious tanks, plus special armoured vehicles designed to clear mines, destroy fortified bunkers and cross soft ground and ditches. These tanks, known as 'Hobart's Funnies', were used to great effect at the Normandy landings, saving thousands of lives and ensuring the success of the operation. Many of the designs are still in use today.

The event began with a cavalcade of antique military vehicles, including a smart 1937 Vauxhall staff car carrying Jo Eames in style from Leadenporch House, driving slowly up the Hempton road, to the Windmill car park. The Union Jack was raised at the site and a procession of the Home Guard, preceded by a Scottish piper, opened the ceremony. Jo outlined how Hobart was chosen by Sir Winston Churchill to galvanise the war effort, at a time when Britain's fortunes were at a low ebb, before she and Paul Keyte, from the Shilton quarry which supplied the stone, revealed the memorial itself. Two inset stainless steel panels provide key

details of 'Hobo's' life and career.

Deddington residents turned out in force on the beautiful sunny afternoon to welcome the parade from the Windmill centre to Hobart Way and cheer the unveiling ceremony. They then enjoyed inspecting the array of historic military vehicles, including wartime Jeeps, on display in the Windmill carpark and tasting the refreshments kindly provided by the parish council.

To see the memorial, walk up Hempton Road and turn into Hobart Way. It is on the left, just inside the entrance. Take a moment to admire it and reflect on the debt of gratitude we all owe to this one-time Deddington resident.

Geoff Hall

facilities@thewindmillededdington.org

£2 BUS FARES

Stagecoach is continuing to support the government's £2 capped fare scheme until the end of December 2024. So, for a further four months you pay no more than £2 for a single journey. £2 singles are available on the Stagecoach Bus app using Apple Pay, Google Pay, cards or PayPal, as well as on the bus with contactless payment or using cash.

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One of the most obvious things about the Windmill main hall is that it's a big space where you can do stuff. We have lots of regular groups using the space, from badminton and dog training to Senshi martial arts, and it is also hired a

lot for private functions – particularly kids' parties. Then there are our big annual village events that pack the place out, such as Deddington Town football presentation day, the primary school production and, of course, the panto. However, with a few notable exceptions, what the Windmill has *not* been used for much in recent years – possibly as a hangover from Covid – are those large-scale fundraising events that I remember being quite common when I first moved into the village. Well, maybe all that is about to change. I am delighted to announce that the Windmill will be hosting not one, but three, big fundraising events in the next few weeks. Please support them if you can.

Saturday 14 September 10.00am til 1.00pm – Deddington Autumn Artisan Fayre. Established by local artist, Jo Cross, these quarterly fairs are a showcase for many local artisans, with creations from hand-crafted silver jewellery to photography and cake. Jo raises money to provide rehab activity packs for stroke survivors. More information is available on Facebook.

Saturday 5 October 7.00pm til late – Deddington



Wine Festival 'Cheers to Charlie'. This is our inaugural event and is inspired by, and in memory of, Charlie Elvin, a much-loved member of our community and dedicated wine enthusiast. There will be a range of more than 30 wines for you

to sample, with wine experts on hand, delicious and well-matched quality finger food to complement, spectacular auction prizes, a fully-licensed bar, great music and good times guaranteed! Tickets are available now, <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cheersforcharlie/1332374>. The event will raise money for Prostate Cancer UK.

Saturday 12 October from 8.00pm till late – Deddington Players will host an evening of live music, featuring local bands such as the Village Beats, Whiff of Horse, BackRow and Nexus. This mini festival will raise money for Katharine House and Breast Cancer Now. Keep an eye out for ticket details soon.

Right, that should keep you going! Find out more about these events and other things happening at the Windmill or find out how to book it for one of your own events by visiting our website www.thewindmill-deddington.org, our Facebook page or calling our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones
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LESSONS FROM THE SKIES: A PILOT'S REFLECTIONS ON 25 YEARS IN THE AIR

I am writing this after recently retiring from a 25-year career as a pilot, having flown with the Army, Air Ambulance and the Police. My wings have carried me through the skies in the gentlest of breezes and the wildest of storms. From dawn until dusk and everything in between, the cockpit has been my classroom, and Mother Nature my most influential teacher. As I embark on this new chapter of my life, I'd like to share some lessons I've learned about meteorology and how it has deepened my appreciation for the natural world.

One of the first things you learn as a pilot is that the weather can be as unpredictable as the great British weather itself. Even the most meticulously planned flights can be thrown off course by sudden changes. I've seen clear, blue skies turn into ominous clouds in a matter of minutes. It's a humbling reminder to always be prepared and to respect the elements.

Understanding weather patterns goes far beyond reading charts and data; it's about recognising the subtle hints nature gives us. A slight change in wind direction, a drop in temperature, or the formation of a particular cloud can tell you so much. These are nature's whispers, and learning to listen to them has made me a better pilot and a more attentive observer of the world around me.

If there's one thing I've never grown tired of, it's watching the clouds. They are the storytellers of the sky, constantly shifting and evolving. Whether it's the fluffy cumulus clouds on a sunny day or the dramatic cumulonimbus clouds signalling an impending storm, each formation has its tale to tell.

As a pilot, you quickly learn that not all clouds are created equal. Some are friendly companions, while others are formidable adversaries. I've learned to identify the different types and understand their implications. Cirrus clouds, those high, wispy formations, often indicate fair weather, while a growing anvil-shaped cumulonimbus cloud is a sure sign of a brewing storm. These observations have given me a newfound appreciation for the delicate balance and beauty of our atmosphere.

Winds are the invisible forces that dictate so much of our flight paths. They can be a pilot's best friend or worst enemy. Tailwinds can give you a boost, saving precious time and fuel, while headwinds can slow you down and make the journey more challenging.

Flying in different parts of the world has exposed me to a variety of wind patterns. In the mountains, I've experienced the thrill of navigating through valleys and passes, where winds can change direction at the drop of a hat. On the coast, I've learned to anticipate sea breezes and how they interact with the land. Each flight is a dance with the winds, and I've learned to move with them rather than against them.

One of the most humbling experiences for any pilot is navigating through storms. The sheer power and intensity of a thunderstorm can be both awe-inspiring and terrifying. Lightning, with its unpredictable strikes, reminds us of the raw energy that nature holds. I've learned to respect these forces and to never underestimate their power.

Storms have also taught me about the resilience of the human spirit. As an Air Ambulance pilot, I've flown in challenging weather conditions to reach those in need. Each successful mission is a testament to the skill of the entire team and the indomitable will to save lives. These experiences have reinforced my belief in the importance of teamwork and the profound impact we can have when we work together.

Flying just a few hundred feet above the British countryside provides a unique and intimate view of our beautiful island. From my cockpit, I see patchwork fields of green and gold, quaint villages, and winding rivers that weave through the landscape. The sight of rolling hills and the distant silhouette of historic landmarks instils in me a deep appreciation for the beauty and diversity of our nation. It serves as a poignant reminder that we are the caretakers of this land, and it is our duty to protect and preserve it for future generations.

As I retire from my flying career, I carry with me the lessons learned from the skies. Meteorology has not only made me a better pilot but also a more mindful and observant person. I've learned to appreciate the beauty of the natural world and to respect the forces that shape it. As I hang up my flight helmet and put away my check lists, I look forward to the next chapter of my life, filled with the memories of a lifetime spent among the clouds.

Hal Eriksen
haleriksen@gmail.com

HELP...

1st Deddington Scouts operates out of the Windmill Centre in Deddington.



Meeting every Thursday evening following the Cubs, the Scout Leaders provide a myriad activities including camping, hiking, cycling and life skills.

The combined unit of Cubs and Scouts has been operating for over 25 years, headed in the main by Jo and Peter Churchyard.

The numbers continue to grow and with it the need for additional volunteers. We would love to start a Beaver colony for the 6 to 8 year olds but we need more help. It's not onerous and knowing you're helping can be very satisfying.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved and how you could help, please email Jo Churchyard at

jchurchyard@hotmail.com.

MANY THANKS...

DRINK UP, DIRTY, DRUNKEN DEDDINGTON!

One early June Tuesday, a few Deddington folk debated how nervous they were that five of the six local pubs were, at that moment, closed, closing or changing hands. I wasn't nervous: I was positively scared that the village I joined 23 years ago was losing some of the best of its community gathering places. So, we asked for those interested in discussing the problem to gather on Tuesday 11 June. I love WhatsApp for its speed. A hundred residents said they were interested and forty of them met to debate why so many of our pubs were in flux. We gathered names of those offering support and time to help new publicans thrive in those pubs that still have a chance to carry on in their age-old trade of hospitality. Still, some may be lost for good. In the 1800s Deddington had 15 pubs.

Since that meeting, we have watched as three new publicans took on the challenge of running the central Deddington village pubs. The support group started working on ways to find out what more of the parish would like from the hospitality business. We have a plan! Watch out for surveys in September. We would love everyone to tell us what would inspire them to visit

hospitality venues – pubs, cafés and restaurants and how they in turn can help Deddington society.

Jo and I were actively involved in running pubs and we learned how very important they are to villages and communities, over not months and years but decades and centuries. We learned how hard it is, too. We always wanted the pub to be open to everyone and to cater for most peoples' needs as a place to meet, eat, drink and have fun. When it works, a thriving pub brings people together, fosters community conversations and improves the quality of life for many. Once gone, they are gone forever.

So please complete the survey and, if nothing else in the next month, visit one or two of our pubs, cafés and restaurants, for coffee, a drink or a meal and introduce yourself to the owners. They would love it. Your three new publicans are Mark and Hanna at the Unicorn, Lynn at the Deddington Arms and Will at the Red Lion.

Hamish Stoddart
hamish@stoddart.co, 07779651322

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Well, Lower Larkrise has been beset with road closures recently. We very much enjoyed the quieter time. We thought it was to resolve the blight of the momentous flooding issues we suffer from down here – but no. The current theory is that the causeway to Aynho Wharf is going to be resurfaced, as the verges recede into the flood plain. We will see.

The demise of the Duck might seem to be exaggerated. Firstly the 'For sale' sign has come down, followed by the Pub sign (off for refurbishment, perhaps). (*Although hasn't it now returned? Ed.*) Rumours abound and excitement is mounting – but for all who have missed this feature of our community, if it does return, then it is 'use it or lose it again', again. Book Club is still thriving on tour as members make significant efforts to host the club locally. Indeed, some have engaged in major building projects to enhance the social side of this bastion of community living.

CAST has delivered its first court victory with a local driver picking up a £650 fine in the Oxford courts for a flagrant breach of the current regulations when driving through here. The Speed Watch kit has been handed over and the first (second or third ...) patrol will have happened by the time you read this. CAST members have conjured up a war chest of nearly £1,000 to be deployed on signage and other speed-combating initiatives with OCC, and CAST will also have met with the PC by the time you read this.

Lower Larkrise will also have celebrated the 80th birthday of our longest occupying resident, 'Yorkshire Alan', by delivery date. His very active longevity may well be linked to his belated ballroom dancing expertise, his membership of a prominent local choir or the intercontinental cruising – *Play it again Sam*. Or it could be related to a lifelong dedication to a daily

physical routine he adopted from the Canadian army. Who knows? But what a bash this was, although it created a beer mountain as Alan over-estimated our abilities. This has become a challenge, so Book Club has met chez Alan until it has been conquered.

Lastly, the handicapping state of the Clifton Road verges may well be solved. This column has often expressed gratitude to the Candleford resident who mows a lot of it but now Iron Man Mayo has mastered the functional restoration of a 1902 petrol powered Allen Scythe and will deal with the easterly end. Despite the after market addition of a jet ski cut-off, it still doesn't quite comply with 2024 Health and Safety regulations so if you see him at it, I'd step well aside.

Remember, any comments, questions, queries or news send to me.

Martin Bryce
martindnbryce@gmail.com

BARFORD BRIDGE CLOSURE EXTENDED

The company managing the repair of Barford Bridge has given notice that the road closure will have to be extended for a further month with the anticipated completion date is now being 3 October. The need for additional repair works to the bridge elevations and arch barrels have been discovered and failed sections of the footway to the north of the bridge are now being included in the project. The majority of the repairs require approval by the Local Planning Authority Conservation Officer under Listed Building Consent and there have been a number of items which have taken considerably longer than anticipated to be agreed upon. Unfortunately, some elements have needed to be taken down and reconstructed to comply with unanticipated requirements.

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LETTERS

FROM MARIE SMITH, DEDDINGTON

I would like to warmly thank all those who attended and purchased work at my solo exhibition in June of Recent & Retrospective Art staged in my studio. I had decided to donate a percentage of all sales to Katharine House Hospice. The number of works sold (29) exceeded my hopes and I was pleased to be able to donate £1,200 plus two £25 cheques and £5 kindly donated by villagers. On 19 July, with Jenny Soddy, who is a Katharine House Ambassador, I handed over the £1,255 to Rachel Burns at Katharine House which was gratefully received.

The hospice does such wonderful work supporting and caring for the terminally ill and their families, but it is not funded by the NHS. It is necessary, therefore,

always to be searching for ways to raise much needed funds.

Many visitors to my exhibition were equally interested in our small, walled garden. One of the initiatives run by Katharine House is to raise money through their open garden scheme. I for one will be hoping to open our garden next year to raise money for the hospice. Are there any villagers prepared to open their gardens to raise funds for the cause? There could be opportunities for plant stalls, arts and crafts. If so, please contact me at ricmar092@gmail.com or Jenny Soddy at jennysoddy@gmail.com.

My thanks again and also to all those who assisted at my exhibition.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

At our recent meeting, the practice manager gave us the following update:

'At our crisis point we fell to having 5.5 full-time GPs for 12,500 patients, this meant 2272 patients per full time GP.

We then recruited a very highly skilled paramedic and have since added a full-time advanced practitioner and currently have 6.4 full-time equivalent GPs which results in 1953 patients per full-time GP.

When our latest three recruits join us and complete their orientation in September, we will have our urgent care team (paramedic and advanced practitioner) plus 8.1 full-time GPs, this means 1543 patients per full-time GP, such a great improvement.

It is worth noting that we have recruited four newly qualified GPs, so we are busy mentoring and supporting their development.

We have also successfully gained our accreditation as a GP training practice and will have our first GP registrar from August. Our registrars will be fully qualified doctors who wish to become GPs, they will do their GP training with us.

In addition, we have successfully trained our own in-house pharmacy technicians who have both recently completed the latest high level pharmacy technician qualifications after being mentored at the practice. We have a full-time and part-time pharmacist in place, a MIND wellbeing worker, a first contact physio and a record number of staff in our operational teams. Having these other healthcare professionals and specialist operational staff reduces the burden on GPs who can then focus on doing the work that only a GP can do."

Lots of hard work is happening to help the practice and its staff provide the best service possible, whilst working within the constraints of the NHS contract and funding opportunities. For anyone who may not have access to email or the internet we, the Patient Participation Group, can always be contacted by post at the Health Centre.

Anne Hunsley
Deddington Patient Participation Group
ppg.deddington@gmail.com

'ROXY' AT THE HOLLY TREE HALL

We're back!

The new season of film screenings by Age UK begins on 12 September with *Summer Holiday*, a 1963 musical comedy starring Cliff Richard, in which four young London Transport mechanics persuade their boss to lend them a double-decker bus for a holiday. Come and sing along to the well-known songs as the lads have an adventure.

The film starts at 1.30pm with refreshments from 1.00pm. It is open to anyone aged 50 or over and there is no need to book. £2 covers the whole afternoon's entertainment.

Julia Cork
Julia.cork@thedha.org

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

We are sad to note that Jane Green has resigned from the committee. We thank her for all her help as a member and wish her well for the future.

The area around the moat by the badger setts is quite slippery when wet and some of the old iron fence is re-appearing. Please be careful when you walk along here. We are still having problems with full waste bins so please use other bins on the site or take bags home with you.

A reminder, especially in this dry weather, barbecues and fires are not permitted on the Castle Grounds as this is a protected site.

Two damaged benches have been removed as they were dangerous and will be replaced in the near future. Other benches are being repaired.

If you can spare some time, please come and help us to preserve this special site – or come and join the committee, we are a friendly bunch.

We hope there may be some nice weather ahead for you to come and enjoy this unique heritage.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com

DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

In recent weeks two interesting artefacts have been discovered relating to Deddington grocers trading in the 18th & 19th centuries respectively. The first, researched by David French from the Bodleian Library's collection, is a price list of commodities being sold in the shop of Bartholomew Churchill the elder (1709-80) in Clifton. He was a very successful businessman with commercial interests beyond the shop and built the substantial Deddington House (now Manor) on New Street; later occupied by the Revd Cotton Risley. To see what was selling well in Bartholomew's shop in the late 1700s browse: https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/18939/BartholomewChurchill_PriceList_1780.pdf and then have a look at another article about Deddington House, Bartholomew and his family: <https://www.deddingtonhistory.uk/buildings/privatehouses/deddingtonhouse>.



The second artefact is a coin relating to John Dean (1828–78) and his shop in Deddington, located in what, in more recent times, was known for many years as Tuckers Stores – now a closed restaurant premises next to Foodies coffee shop. John was the younger brother of Henry Dean of Earl's Farm and also of Eliza Dean who married into the Bull family. Richard Bull was the village vet in the early 19th century. His son Ronald's battlefield grave marker from WWI is one of the nine in the church. Tommy Bull, who is a Dean/Bull descendant resident in the USA, has extensively researched both families and visited Deddington several times, so he was delighted to learn that an 'unofficial' farthing coin minted by John Dean was for sale on eBay (well spotted, David Rogers) and has successfully procured it. Images of the obverse and verso sides can be seen above. To read more about John's life go to the History website home page and follow the link under New Articles.

Rob Forsyth
Robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

DEMENTIA DROP-IN

Dementia Oxfordshire, a service provided by Age UK Oxfordshire, is holding an information drop-in event at the Windmill Centre, Deddington, on Wednesday 4 September, 10.00am–3.00pm.

As well as lots of information from Dementia Oxfordshire's own team of advisers about how to live well with dementia, a host of other organisations will be there, with helpful support for older people, including

advice for family carers, how to avoid scams, where to access community activities and how technology can make life easier around the house. There will be delicious refreshments, craft stalls, a Zumba taster session and musical entertainment. Admission is free. For more information, please contact Katie on katiesmok@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk or call 07827 235441.

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

Wow, Wow, Wow! What a wonderful activity and craft day we had on 1 August. More than 125 people came through the library doors and our castle is now built. Thanks to everyone who contributed their boxes, loo rolls, etc to build it.

We had activities inside the library, including a sale of surplus books and, outside, in our little courtyard, we had painted a blackboard on the wall which was a great success. My thanks go to all the volunteers who generously gave up their time to help

on the day.

There is still plenty of time to collect the stickers and badges for the Summer Reading Challenge, which continues until 7 September. I look forward to going to the school to present the certificates and medals to everyone completing this year's challenge.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Gail Cripps
Gail.cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

A big thank you to everyone who entered our parish photo competition. This year's entries were of excellent quality and very varied, including pictures from several new entrants to the competition.

The calendar, the library's major fundraiser, is now in production and we will be debuting it at the farmers'

market on 28 September. Take your pick from two sizes, at £10 and £7.50.

As always, we are most grateful to our generous sponsors.

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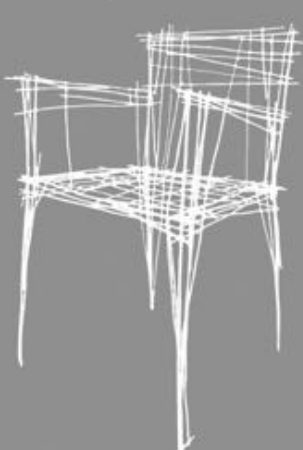
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DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The holidays certainly seem to have passed by at speed and, as we start the new academic year, we hope you all enjoyed the summer. At least the weather improved for some of the time.

The end of last term was busy as always. Our *Cats* production was wonderful. Inspired by Alicia and Seb, the children, once again, sang and danced to a really high level, enhanced by the marvellous costumes and makeup. We would like to thank Alicia and Seb for their hard work in putting on this brilliant performance. We would also like to thank the helpers who gave up their time to assist with costumes and makeup. They all did a fantastic job.

In the final days of term, pupils shared their vocal, instrumental and dancing talents in a public concert in the church. The whole school enjoyed themselves in what is becoming our annual water fun run, despite the weather being rather cool on the day. The Year 6s produced an amazing 'Oscars' Leavers Assembly on the last day of term which was emotional, and informative but also fun. They will now start their next stage of education in their secondary schools. We will miss them but wish them every success in the future, as they continue the their school journey. At the same time, we are, of course, welcoming in our new F1 children. It is always so refreshing every September, when we gain our new 4- and 5-year-old pupils.

Denise Welch

Dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

FROM THE FIRE STATION

We have finally seen the sun come out and the ground dry a little. A late start to summer for most of us and a steady stream of fire calls to boot, across the full range of issues – the usual road traffic collisions, fires, stand-bys, ambulance assistance, motorway coning-offs and rescues. With the majority occurring during daylight hours, the night crew, including your correspondent, have been having more uninterrupted sleep than they would expect.

On the training front, there have been no scenario days this year, but all crew have completed their refresher water training and tethered wade, and our Tactical Ventilation courses are due in December.

However, we have been busy with fêtes, supporting and showing the truck at various local events and even taking part in the odd tug-of-war.

Alarm checks and safe and well visits have been increasing and it is always a pleasure to check up on the more vulnerable groups to make sure their smoke and CO alarms are functioning correctly.

It won't have escaped your notice that we didn't hold the annual charity car wash in May, due to personnel clashes. It will be at the fire station on the morning of 21 September.

James Greenwood FFC

james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

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AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS SINCE 1788

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Deddington and District History Society

Our June meeting was the last under the much-valued chairmanship of Gareth Richard. We shall miss Gareth and all that he has contributed to the History Society but are fortunate to have an excellent replacement in Stuart Heatherington.

At our last meeting we were treated to a fascinating presentation by Stephen Wass, ably assisted by his wife Verna, on 'Voyages to the House of Diversion: Investigations into the 17th Century Grounds of Hanwell Castle'. Although a contemporaneous definition of a house of diversion does not exist, a reasonable assumption is that it was a place where men could go to divert themselves from their labours. In the case of Hanwell Castle, it was also intended as a place to engage in scientific and philosophical discussions.

The House of Diversion was built by Sir Anthony Cope II who inherited the then Hanwell House in 1556 at the age of six. While studying at Oxford he met the men who would play a part in the development of his ideas: John Wilkins, warden of Wadham, cleric Richard Allestree (Christchurch) and Thomas Bazar, a musical genius. Somewhat unexpected was the inclusion of John Claridge, a shepherd who, in 1672, published a book on weather lore. This group was collectively known as the 'Oxford Sparkles' for the brilliance of its members.

There are no visible signs of the House of Diversion above ground. Stephen's interest in excavating the site was sparked by the description of Hanwell as 'the real New Atlantis' by Robert Plot in his 1677 publication, *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, a reference from Francis Bacon's only work of fiction, *The New Atlantis* published posthumously in 1626.

In 2012 Hanwell Castle's current owners expressed an interest in having the gardens excavated and the first survey began in 2013. Initial excavations uncovered several structures, but it was not until 2016 that the House of Diversion was discovered. The hexagonal building was surrounded by a moat in which a large quantity of 17th century terracotta pots and urns were found. Only one was intact – believed to be the only example of its kind.

How the House of Diversion came to its end is not known. Upon Sir Anthony Cope II's death, the contents of the estate went to his brother, John, from whom he was estranged.

Much more detail was covered in the talk and further information can be found in Dr Wass's publication, *Seventeenth Century Water Gardens and the Birth of Modern Scientific Thought in Oxford: the Case of Hanwell Castle*, available from Oxbow Books.

Please note that future meetings of the History Society will take place on the second Thursday of the month and not the third as in previous years. The first meeting of the new season is on Thursday 10 October. Karen and Brett Wiles will talk about 'Doing their bit – Life on the Home Front in WW2.'

Pauline Heatherington

Barford WI

We meet at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall. On 11 September our speaker is Frances Carlaw with her talk 'Pearls and Art Deco'. In October it will be 'Oxfordshire's Secret Gardens' with Dr. Stephen Wass. Visitors are always welcome. If you'd like to know more, please contact Carole Coppin (07768 378758) or Christine Hall (338659) or email barfordwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

Photographic Society

At our August meeting Linda Bembridge joined us virtually to talk about her love of abstract photography. She explained this love started with landscape photographs that she formatted in Photoshop and then printed but is equally happy using Pro-create on her iPad. She progressed to tinkering with her photos with glitter pens, calligraphy ink and embellishments with gold leaf paint with the aim of creating an exhibition worthy image every time and put together a virtual panel for us.

Linda's other specialism is abstract triptych and her subjects vary from views through a dirty window, abstracted to look like a pond with reeds, or graffiti in Blackpool bus station turned into an art deco view. She also delves into water reflection and enjoys changing her camera's white balance settings to create an abstract style photo when printed on a matt velvet photography paper. Linda has a self-published book that discusses all things abstract photography.

The monthly topic was playing with colour and photos varied from oily bubbles to flowers and street photography.

We welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. Find us at addphoto.co.uk or on [facebook.com/add.photosoc](https://www.facebook.com/add.photosoc) for further information!

Courtney Killpack


Book Group

Dr Amanda Brown worked as a GP for many years before transferring to the very different world of the prison system. In her autobiographical account, *The Prison Doctor*, she relates her experiences in various notorious jails. The details highlight many of the problems encountered in this environment – addiction, depression, suicide, violence, to name just a few. We found the subject matter interesting and it triggered several strands of discussion. Unfortunately, we thought the style rather clichéd and often featured overlong conversations with troubled patients. We were also irritated by the self-congratulatory tone.

The Book Group



Deddington Bookworms

The rather damp start to the summer gave us plenty of reading time. Our first read, *Moving*, by Jenny Eclair, tells the story of Edwina, a woman in her late seventies who is planning to sell the house she has lived in for



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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p26

over fifty years. The decision made, we go on a tour of the house as Edwina shows the young estate agent around. The story is told in parts, each narrated by a different voice, gradually revealing a perspective on the life of the central family. We begin with Edwina as she reflects on her marriages, a successful career as an illustrator and her fractured relationships with her children and stepson. We then learn about a young drama student who becomes involved with Edwina's beloved son Charlie and, finally, we hear from Lucas, the stepson whose actions caused the whole family to self-destruct. We all felt this was a wonderful read with memorable characters. There were happy and sad moments in a compelling story that will grip you from the start.

We followed this with *The Confessions of Frannie Langton*, Sara Collins' debut novel blending historical fiction and mystery with gothic elements. The novel is set in the early 19th century and follows the life of Frannie Langton, a Jamaican slave turned maid, in a London household. Frannie finds herself on trial for the murder of her employer, Mr Benham and his wife, Madame Marguerite. Her story unfolds through her confessions, which she writes while awaiting her trial. These serve as a lens through which the reader glimpses her past, including her experiences on a Jamaican plantation, her complex relationship with her former mistress and her eventual arrival in London. Frannie is a well-crafted, multi-dimensional character – intelligent, defiant and burdened by a very traumatic past. The novel does not shy away from the grim

realities of Frannie's life and, at times, makes for difficult reading. A slow start and some slightly confusing narrative meant that not all Bookworms finished the book. Not necessarily one to recommend but those who persevered felt it was a thought-provoking read. Interestingly, the television adaptation of the novel received good reviews. Perhaps one of the few instances where it is better to watch than read.

Next is *The Lamplighters* by Emma Stonex.

Deddingtonbookworms@gmail.com

Iron Down Sculpture Studio

Summer has been beautiful at the studio, with a new member who paints and has a creative literary soul. We have space for two more members who can be creative in any medium you wish in a supportive art space and community.

The studio started teaching this summer, with a 'happy hare' clay day. It was fun and the guests made beautiful hares full of personality. They will be fired in our kiln and our guests will be back in September to glaze and have their hares fired again before taking them home.

The studio is primarily a place of calm and peace, a place to let your creative juices give you joy. If this is what you are looking for, contact us and come pay us a visit.

Wendy Edmundson

wendyedmundson@hotmail.com

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

DOGS v DOGS (Deddington v Dorchester) 23 July

Six better ball matches went out in fine golfing weather whilst 'the DOG' trophy was left in the Club House wondering who its minder would be for the following year.

Captain Keith and his partner Debra Jardine were 3 down with 4 to play but, in true Deddington spirit, they fought back to win their match on the 18th. The overall match was drawn for only the fifth time in the last 24 years, which means the DOG remains at the Deddington Arms, until next year, along with the painting of the DOG by our own international artist, Viv O'Donnell.

An exciting highlight of the match was performed by Dorchester Brenda when, taking a drop out of gorse on the 17th, she managed to launch her club over her head deep into the gorse from which she had just retrieved her ball.

Keith Spengler

DOGS @ Coventry GC

A pack of 15 DOGS gathered at Coventry Golf Club for the third event of 2024. The results are: nearest the pin on 7 – Shaun Jardine; longest drive on 18 – Chris Blackwell; team winners with 93 points went to the team of Richard Topliss, Bryony Topliss and Nigel Oddy.

Individual prizes: 3rd Chris Blackwell, 38 points (on countback); 2nd Robert Branch, 39 points and overall

winner Nigel Oddy, with a magnificent 40 points.

The next DOGS event takes place at Whittlebury Golf Club on Friday 6 September. This coincides with our now legendary evening event.

Tony Lowe, Secretary 07710 477000

dogsgolf23@gmail.com

Deddington Town FC

Members of DTFC are still (at time of writing) drowning their sorrows over England's second consecutive fall at the final Euros hurdle. I'm certain they are also immersed in the pre-season boot camp that separates the wheat from the chaff and the wasters from the winners. The winter slog will soon begin in earnest and they will await your support and acclaim when the spring silverware heaves into view.

Aaron Bliss

aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

Deddington Town FC Youth

While our players have had a rest over the summer, the new season soon comes around with plenty of work behind the scenes from the club officers to get players and teams registered for the new season. We will have teams from Under 8s to Under 16s, as well as training sessions for Under 6s and Under 7s at the Windmill on Saturday mornings. We will also have

SPORT

Continued from p29

our second season of Wildcats for Girls. We are very pleased to have three coaches to run the sessions – Katherine, Caitlin and Xanthe.

A special mention for the new Under 8s who, after two years of training on Saturday mornings at the Windmill and friendlies and tournaments over the summer, will now move to play in the Witney and District Youth League for the first time. Good luck to the coaches, Joe, Alex, Ben and Hayley, and all the players and parents on their new adventure. Thank you also to TWB Motors in Deddington who will be the shirt sponsor.

Now is still the time to volunteer. Think about how

you can help as we go into the 2024/25 season. We want to continue to improve the pitches at the Windmill, as well as looking to partner with the primary school to improve their school field. If you want to get involved in our pitch improvement work and give a few hours to the club, please get in touch with me for an informal chat about how you can help. Further information about the club is on our website – <http://www.deddingtontownfc/>. or visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTownFc>.

Roger Sykes
07899 914425

YOUTH

1st Deddington Guides

We had a great end of term with fun learning how to put tents up and then the joy of being able to go inside and get that feel for camping. One of our favourite meetings rounded off the term with backwoodsman cooking – no pans (apart from homemade ones) – just an open fire and creative ideas. The Guides cooked jacket potatoes, bacon and sausage parcels, baked bananas, some delicious bread and baked eggs and muffins in hollowed out oranges.

We brought the term to a close with our annual camp. For most of the five days we had the Horley Scout campsite to ourselves. The weather was lovely, with a thunderstorm to add a bit of excitement. The Guides took part in archery, shooting, mini-Olympics, games, crafts and hikes. We explored Horley village and church and got up at 4.00am one morning to watch a spectacular sunrise before going back to camp and cooking bacon butties. Whilst the girls went back to bed, we leaders enjoyed our favourite time of day, sitting round the fire. During the week we cooked everything on a wood fire, including sweet and sour pork, chicken casserole and our signature dish, chocolate steamed pudding with chocolate sauce.

Maggie Rampley
07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group

Got time on your hands? Used you to be a member of Deddington Scouts? Do you have a skill that would help us? Our group can only function with the help of volunteers. You don't need to have a child attending the group or be good at knots and camping – we do lots of other things. We just need you to be enthusiastic: we can teach you the rest.

Work with us every week or just now and then – we're very flexible. Let me know if you would like to come and see what we do.

Jo Churchyard
deddingtonsl@gmail.com

Cubs

We've really enjoyed spending time together outside. We had a lovely summer evening hike from Aynho to Souldern and enjoyed a paddle in the ford along the

way. We spotted interesting wildlife and finished our walk with a play in the park.

We also enjoyed a very competitive Cubs sports day involving bean bag races, obstacle courses, cargo net scrambles, archery and shot put. Our last meeting of term was an evening spent in Daeda's Wood.

Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

A trip to Daeda's Wood followed a chaotic session of alternative sports to round off the summer term. Then came the annual camp at Horley. We took 14 Scouts for a weekend of survival skills, including foraging, signalling, cooking and working out how best to use the contents of a 'mystery' bag (sewing kit, mirror, crisps, paper, floss, Vaseline). We set them the challenge of building shelters and spending the night in them. Some managed the whole night, while others were tempted back to the relative comfort of their tents – it was quite chilly! The next day was spent charging around the woods.

Our last meeting of the term was spent fishing at Nell Bridge Farm which is becoming a very popular end to our year. The boys were delighted with the number of fish caught. We send our thanks to Matt and Jo for allowing our motley crew access to their great lake. We'll be back!

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Come and join us for a drink and a chat from 7.30pm at our next People Planet Pint meet ups. Don't forget, the first 30 people to sign up via Event Brite get a free drink. We'll be at the White Horse, Duns Tew, on 19 September; the Red Lion, Deddington, on 24 October; and the George in Barford on 21 November.

We'll also be at the October farmers' market in Deddington with our biodiversity hats on so come and find us at the DEN stall.

Fiona Smith
Fionasmith1969@gmail.com

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* Terms & Conditions Apply.

JOHNSONS OF DEDDINGTON DISCOUNT FORM (DN)

This form, when completed, entitles residents of the Parish of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton to ten percent discount off all materials collected from our yard*.

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DEDDINGTON DATA



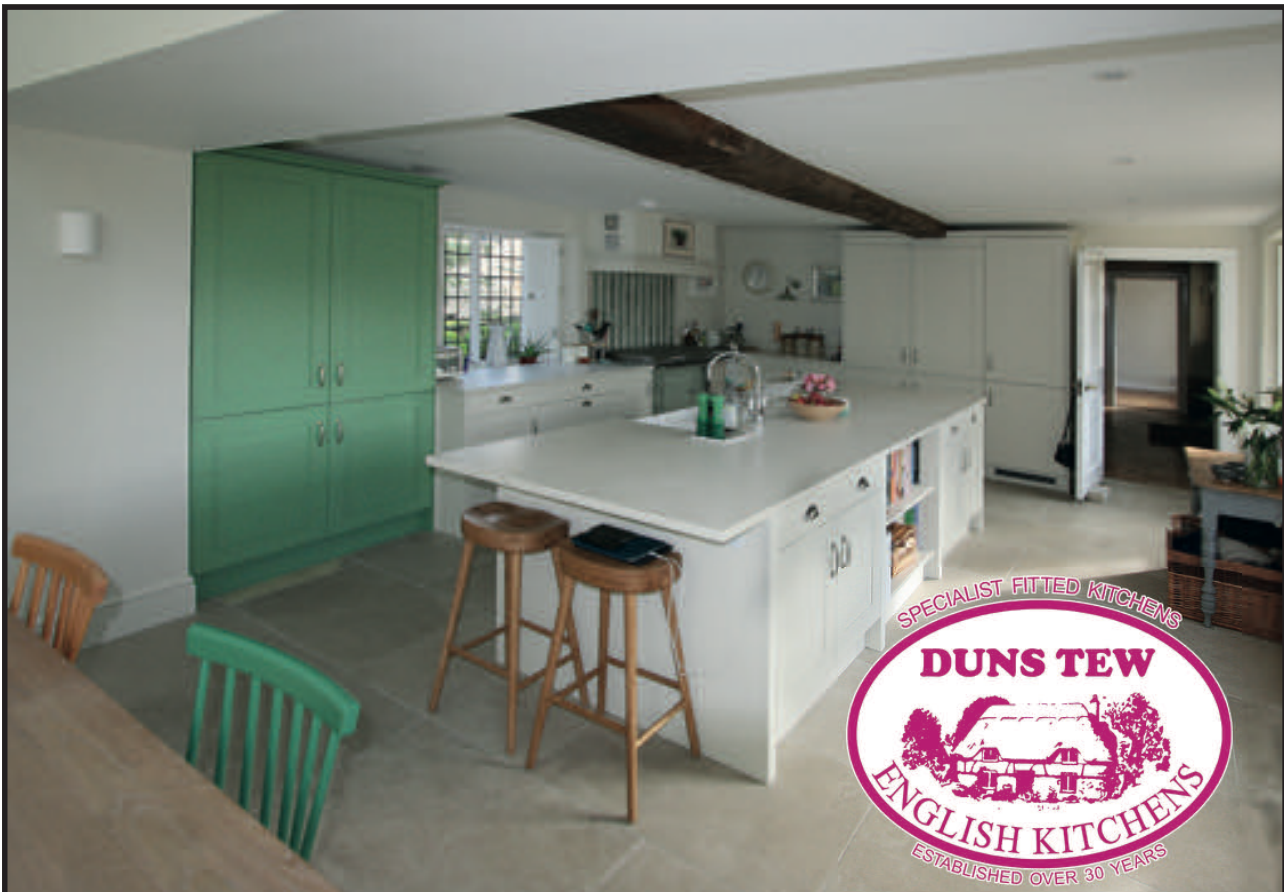
CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL 01295 227001
 CITIZENS ADVICE 0808 278 7906
 HEALTH CENTRE DEDDINGTON 01869 338611
 HOSPITALS:
 Churchill 0300 304 7777
 Foscote (Private) 01295 252281
 Horton General 0300 304 7777
 John Radcliffe 0300 304 7777
 Manor (Nuffield Health, Private) 01865 521405
 Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre 0300 304 7777
 Katharine House Hospice 01295 811866
 NHS Non emergency 111
 PARISH CLERK 01869 337447
 (Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm,
 Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)
 POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs) 101
 PRIMARY SCHOOL (C of E) 01869 338430
 PFSU 01869 337484
 VILLAGE NURSERY 01869 337383

TRAVEL:
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 UTILITIES:
 Gas Escapes (24hrs) 0800 111 99
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 Emergency/Power cut 105
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 Ofgem 020 7901 7295
 Thames Water (24hrs) 0800 316 9800
 WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham 01295 720777
 WINDMILL CENTRE 07720 834006
 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 01865 792422

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY 01865 816010
 Monday 2.00–7.00pm
 Wednesday 9.30am–1.00pm
 Thursday 1.00–5.00pm
 Saturday 9.30am–1.00pm

DEDDINGTON CLUBS AND SOCIETIES: The full list of contacts is available from the Library and Deddington OnLine website at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory>.

DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside



01869 340429/01908 505658 ● info@dunstewkitchens.co.uk ● www.dunstewkitchens.co.uk