

December 2024

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton

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THE TEAM

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JILL CHEESEMAN

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by **10 JANUARY**

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

The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Well, the PC's request for snow warden volunteers seems to have been timely! (See p9). The publicans and the Deddy Hubbers are doing what they can to keep our hostelrys open so let's do what we can to support them.

Sadly for some, this year there will be no Christmas dinners provided by Alex Moss's amazing team. So look out for your neighbours and make sure no one is alone over the Christmas holiday. Have an enjoyable and peaceful time and my grateful thanks to the extensive DN team who ensure you receive this. **JC**

What's On December

- Wed 4 Photographic Society: The People and Places of Rajasthan, Martyn Pearse, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Fri 6 Deddington Playgroup, Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
Fri 6 Deddington Primary School Christmas Market, Primary School, 3.30–5.00pm
Sat 7 Cherwell Choral Society: Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Deddington Church, 7.30pm
Wed 11 WI: Christmas craft activity, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
Thu 12 Roxy at the Holly Tree: *Miracle on 34th Street*, Holly Tree Hall, 1.30pm
Thu 12 History Society: Launton Handbell Ringers, Primary School, 7.30pm
Sat 14 Hempton Fête, 11.30am–2.30pm
Sat 14 RC Baker Tractor Run for Katharine House Hospice, approximate times: Clifton 7.45pm, Deddington, 8.00pm, Hempton, 8.15pm
Wed 18 Parish Council: Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Fri 20 Deddington Playgroup Christmas party, Windmill Centre 9.45–11.45am
Sat 21 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Tue 24 Christmas Carols in the Market Place, 6.00–7.00pm

January

- Wed 8 WI: Katharine House Hospice, A Community Ambassador, Holly Tree Club, 2.30pm
Wed 8 Photographic Society: Best of 2024 members evening, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
Thu 9 Roxy at the Holly Tree: *Shall we Dance*, Holly Tree Hall, 1.30pm
Thu 9 History Society: A 17th Century Christmas, Tim Healey, Primary School, 7.30pm
Fri 10 Deddington Playgroup, Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
Wed 15 Parish Council, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
Thu 16 Deddington Players: *Rapunzel*, Windmill Centre, 7.00pm
Fri 17 Deddington Players: *Rapunzel*, Windmill Centre, 7.00pm
Sat 18 Deddington Players: *Rapunzel*, Windmill Centre, 2.30pm and 6.30pm
Mon 20 DOGS: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.00pm
Sat 25 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
Fri 30 Deddington Playgroup, Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am

Continued on p29

Submission of any article to the Deddington News carrying personal information (for example names, locations, pictures) will imply that the person submitting the article has obtained the necessary consent from the individual (or parent / guardian in the case of a minor) / company / organisation for this information to be used both in print and online.

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DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting 20 November at the Old School Room, Hempton

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Mylne, Norton, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Timms and Watts, plus three members of the public, the parish clerk and DN representative.

Mr Nick Smith was co-opted to the council.

Open Forum

A Hempton resident addressed the PC, referencing the recent discussions and consultation on traffic calming measures for the village, wishing to thank PC for all their work and support in the matter.

District Council

Councillor Rogers put forward a motion to CDC which was carried unanimously that primary health care services across north Oxfordshire should be improved. Since 2018 only 15% of developer funds available have been applied for in CDC. Berks, Oxon and Bucks West Integrated Care System Board (BOBICS) are to be urged to improve this.

CDC has joined with Anglo Doorstep Collections for charity. If you are having a clear-out, you can book a collection by going to <https://anglodoorstepcollections.co.uk/make-a-booking/>.

Finance & General Purposes

Deddington library had made a request for future funding. The feeling amongst councillors is that OCC habitually passes their responsibilities to parish councils such as grass cutting, whilst reportedly sitting on £288m of S106 money which should be used for local infrastructure. This is to be reconsidered at a subsequent meeting.

The draft budget would be likely to increase the precept by around 4.5% (around £4 extra on a Band D property).

It was agreed to close the PC's account with Barclays Bank, with the exception of the Imprest account, and open alternative accounts as necessary, following the request last month from Deddington Environment Network.

PC agreed a contribution of £325 to the cost of road signs at Clifton and the use of the coat of arms.

Contractors have been agreed to carry out improvements to the playgrounds at the Windmill and Wimborn Close, all such improvements to be paid out of S106 money.

It was agreed to place signs at Castle Grounds indicating the closure of the path from Betty's bench to the mound until the badger sett damage can be repaired.

Planning Applications

No objection

1-4 Almshouse, Church Street, Deddington: remove of existing slate tiles, replace of battens and insulation and tiles.

5 New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Sunnyside, Main Street, Clifton: remove conservatory and erect single storey rear extension.

Deddington Mill, Milton Gated Road: erection of a

separate single storey office annexe at the end of the garden ancillary to Deddington Mill.

Rowan Cottage, High Street, Deddington: single storey rear extension.

Land South of Home Farm House, Clifton Road, Deddington: amend the tenure of the five affordable units to Discounted Market Sale Housing with the proposed discount to be agreed with the Council. DPC to contend the discount should be 40% in perpetuity. If these were available on a part-buy part-rent scheme the purchaser would be able to negotiate how much they could afford to buy, and rent the remainder, having the ability to increase the amount they own up to a maximum of, say, 80%. The PC contends that the market price of these houses, less a 20% discount, will make them unaffordable to those eligible, as they are being asked to front up 80% of the price from the get-go. There is no flexibility and thus their opportunity is being diminished. A larger discount it will make these homes more affordable to more of those who meet the eligibility criteria.

The Beeches, Earls Lane, Deddington: repairs to front porch.

The Manse, Bull Ring, Deddington: single storey rear extension, replacement of windows, lime mortar re-pointing and replacement of rainwater goods.

Objection

Land Adjoining and West of Stonecroft House, Clifton Road, Deddington: erection of four additional single storey age restricted dwellings, following an address by a member of Friends of Castle Grounds.

Environment & Recreation

PC agreed to permit 6'x6' greenhouses at Satin Lane allotments.

It was decided to explore the possibility of installing a scramble net at the Windmill.

The original contractor has finally responded with a commitment to complete the mini tennis court by April 2025 with a £500 discount. The PC will give an ultimatum that other contractors will be used if any subsequent dates are not adhered to.

Highways & Transport

Vehicle activated signs (VAS) with smiley face have been installed to the south of Deddington and to the west of Hempton and Clifton.

There are now eleven volunteers in the speed awareness group but it will be a few weeks before they are fully operational. TVP has been very helpful.

Items for Information

A new winter and emergency plan has been agreed by the PC and will be sent separately to residents.

Parish Representatives

Deddington Charity Estates are repairing the almshouses roofs but are constrained by requirements for new slates and which kind can be used.

Next meetings Wednesday 18 December and 15 January at 7.30pm at the Windmill Centre.

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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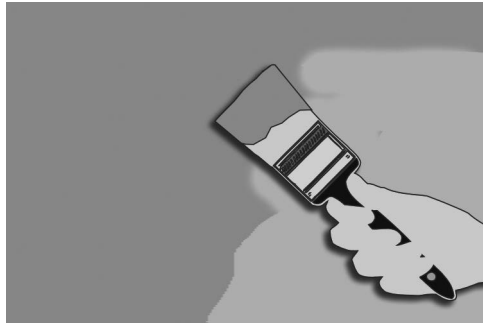
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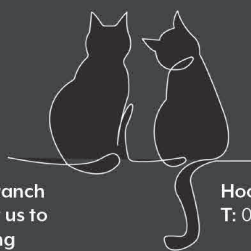
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HOSPITALITY HUBBUB

DEDDY-CATED TO THE FUTURE OF GREAT HOSPITALITY

It has been suggested I write a monthly column Dedy-cated to sharing good news, fun stories and the trials and tribulations of running great hospitality places in Deddington. I have no clue whether this will be interesting enough to merit a long-term place in the *DN*. There are editorial rules around naming commercial places which may be a challenge when it comes to letting you know what's on where! But here goes.

Last month's Budget applied large increases in employers' NI and National Living Wage, with knock-ons to pension contributions. These affect all businesses but particularly ones that employ youngsters, part-timers and minimum wage earners. The biggest blow was the reduction in the starting point for NI from £9,100 to £5,000 which significantly adds to the cost of taking on students and other part-timers who used to fall below the threshold. £25k extra cost a year (plus rates increases) is the average per pub in the UK. All our hospitality operators in Deddington face this new challenge – when they had plenty to be going on with.

This applies from April so there is a little time to plan, but it's not clear where small businesses of all types will find the extra. As all Deddington restaurants and pubs are independent, if they become loss-making, it is hard to see how they will keep going.

This brings into focus the results of our Hospitality Hub Survey. We collected 320 responses, showing significant parish engagement. Thanks to you all.

A quick summary of the main messages is: your top priority is good consistent food quality and choice and you'd like better morning coffee options, you love a reason to visit a pub – like an event, meeting, special night – and the Super Seniors would appreciate a deal. Hearteningly, 90% of respondents said they would come out more if their needs and wants were met. The full results (and they are fascinating) are here: <https://bit.ly/3X4KjeD>.

The Hubbers, the team of volunteers that initiated the survey, have reviewed it with the owners of the three central Deddington pubs (no names, no packdrill). The publicans came together, were really engaged by the results and took all the comments on board. They told us their main challenge is retaining stable teams that can deliver the consistency and quality we all want. It is difficult to bring people in when it is so expensive to live locally. Ideas on how to tackle this issue are welcome.

We agreed to support them in launching new events, products or offers and to produce a collaborative monthly What's On guide for *Deddington News*, Deddington Online and Facebook with events, deals and new stuff all presented as one. Our first effort will be in the next *DN*. Those of you who agreed to receive this by email or WhatsApp will get it direct.

Wow! We have a plan. I am convinced this community can have a wonderful selection of hospitality venues and that we will achieve the happy, sociable atmosphere so many of us value (100 survey responses can't be wrong!) if we proactively use them. Use

them, support them or lose them.

Hamish and the Hubbers
hamish@stoddart.co

For more information, next steps and contact details follow this link – <https://bit.ly/3X4KjeD>. Get the marketing directly, sign up on <https://bit.ly/3CHmstE>

Deddington Brass

Carols in the Market Place

6.00–7.00pm Christmas Eve


As previously, I hope mulled wine will be available, for contributions
We will be raising money for charity

FRIENDS OF THE CASTLE GROUNDS

The leaves and tree colours look spectacular at Castle Grounds at the moment. The new large dog waste bin will be installed soon. Bat boxes will be erected in the spring ready for the new visitors. The parish council will repair the benches and some old benches will be replaced when the weather improves.

A heavy duty cutter has been purchased to tackle the undergrowth and the brambles.

Carol Garrett
cgarrett@btinternet.com



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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

In last month's column I speculated on OCC's motivation for resurfacing the B4031. Subsequent research revealed what some already knew, the works reportedly resulted from the coroner's report into the tragic fatal accident outside Croughton air base in 2019. The report into the accident raised questions around safety at US bases in the UK, of which there are ten. The then Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, ordered a road safety audit to be carried out of the road system between RAF Croughton and RAF Barford St John. The government subsequently announced £5.46m funding for road improvements recommended in the road safety audit to include road traffic markings, traffic signs, traffic calming measures and enhanced maintenance such as carriageway surfacing.

I suspect the extensive resurfacing works carried out on the B4031 and on other local A and B roads was made possible by funds redirected from HS2 Phase 2 to road maintenance across all counties and not purely in response to the audit findings. The government announced £8.3bn in extra funding for road surfacing on 23 November 2023 and announced the provision of £5.46m, referred to above, on 13 June 2024.

Judging by the works carried out so far, the safety audit did not find the Hempton constriction to represent issues of safety worth addressing.

The Future of Hempton Church and the Old School Room

The Church of St John the Evangelist and the Old School Room have stood at the heart of Hempton since 1851, when it was built by Franklins of Deddington after the design of Revd William Wilson. It contains an original Norman font donated by Revd William from Over Worton.

This building has, mostly, withstood the ravages of time, weather and traffic and still stands as the only public place of worship and open space for villagers today. The Old School Room was, as the name suggests, a small classroom but, once the school moved out, it became the place for gatherings, meetings and fêtes, which continues to the present day. The Christmas bazaar, jubilee parties, pumpkin festivals, pub nights have all been held within its solid walls and gardens.

In the 1980s the threat of closure and sale loomed large and it was only a concerted and united effort by Hempton villagers that saved it from sale and conversion into offices or a dwelling. The Friends of

Hempton Church charity (FOHC), which still exists today, was set up to protect the buildings for future generations of Hemptonians. Its committee is made up of Hempton villagers.

Sadly, however, the buildings have suffered in the last few years from dampness, excessive traffic and wear and tear. The roof is losing tiles, damp is becoming more and more pervasive and the lath and plaster ceilings are disintegrating. In fact, the ceiling has now reached a state that is considered dangerous and so the church has been closed pending inspections. Church services have moved into the Old School Room until a way forward is decided and upcoming seasonal events may have to be limited in size and number.

Our vicar, Revd Nick, FOHC and the Parochial Church Council are united in their strong desire to keep the buildings open and protected for the future of Hempton's only place of worship and communal space. Early inspections have suggested that significant repairs are needed, entailing equally significant costs. In order to secure its future, sufficient funds need to be raised, not only for the immediate repair works, but then each year for the regular maintenance needed to keep it in good shape going forward. We are exploring various avenues of funding whether it be private, commercial or charity, but this is pretty complex and time consuming.

If you feel you could help to achieve this by offering time, advice or practical help please contact the Friends at fohchempton@gmail.com. Let's ensure that Hempton Church and the Old School Room remain a special place for our village for a long time to come.

Hempton Common Land Charity

It's a time of year when financial pressures are high and particularly so given recent economic pressures. Should a little support be needed, help may be at hand. The charity can consider applications, for example, for furniture, bedding, clothing, food, heating appliances, tools, books, payment of fees for instruction or examination, or travel expenses. Other requests for support will be considered. Most grants are up to £100 but the trustees might consider larger grants if funds are available. Applications must be made in writing to the vicar, vicor@deddingtonchurch.org. Further details can be found on the web site, www.hemptoncharity.org.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

PFSU AND NURSERY

Our next fundraiser, the Christmas raffle, goes live on Monday 2 December. There are over 30 prizes to be won. Check out our Facebook page for the link to buy your raffle tickets.

From January, applications for September 2025 start for both Nursery and Preschool open. Please

contact info@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk for an application form.

Our term has been super busy with the build up to Christmas. From both Nursery and Preschool, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charlotte Witka
Charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk



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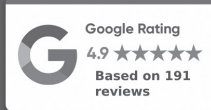
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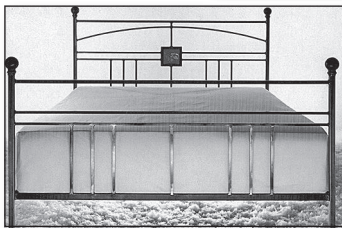
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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

JANUARY

The Revd Nick Fielden is vicar of Deddington with Hempton and the Barfords. Mondays are Nick's usual day off, so if you need to contact a member of the clergy urgently on a Monday, please contact one of the wardens. Barford St Michael's church is open every day from 10.00am–3.00pm. Deddington church is open from 9.00am–4.00pm 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

Sun 5 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 12 10.30am Holy Communion
 3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service
 6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service
 Sun 19 10.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 26 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 19 9.00am Holy Communion

Barfords

Sun 5 10.30am Coffee and Chat, Brfd St M
 Sun 12 9.00am Communion, Brfd St J
 Sun 19 10.30am Family Service, Brfd St M
 Sun 26 10.30am Family Holy Communion, Brf St M

From the Parish Registers

Weddings

19 Oct Alice Wood & Anthony McEneaney

Funerals

13 Oct Joan Wilson, Burial of Ashes

22 Oct Michael Bullard

For December services, please see the enclosed card.

For funeral and home visits in case of illness, please contact the vicar, Nick Fielden, on 01869 934794 or vicar@deddingtonchurch.org, one of the church wardens, Stan Nelson 01869 337883, Caroline Condon 07821 259092 or wardens@deddingtonchurch.org.

For Barfords, Sue Addison 07484 718791, Sally Barber 07776 241218 or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

For baptisms, weddings and general enquiries please contact the parish administrator at office@deddingtonchurch.org.

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.

SNOW WARDENS NEEDED

We're looking for community-minded volunteers to help their neighbours during snowy or harsh conditions in the parish in case of a bad winter.

The Snow Warden scheme sees volunteers organise the gritting of roads and pavements in the areas where they live. Around 20 wardens have previously volunteered but have rarely been called into action because of mild winters. Some have dropped out of the scheme over time and, as this year might see the return of snow and ice, more wardens are needed.

We want to keep our roads, pavements and footpaths safer for everyone throughout the winter, particularly elderly and vulnerable residents who may also need to have the paths to their front doors cleared for them in case of heavy snowfall.

Don't be deterred from shifting snow yourself for fear of legal repercussions. According to the government website: 'There's no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully.'

The parish council has a supply of equipment and salt. OCC will grit the major routes in the community. Anything in addition to that needs a community effort.

For more information, or if you are vulnerable and need help, call Clive Snashall on 07761 828066 or email clivesnashall.dpc@gmail.com.



16-18 JANUARY 2025 | 7.00pm THU & FRI | 2.30pm & 6.30pm SAT

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FROM CATHERINE DESMOND,
DEDDINGTON

Until it went out recently, I had never considered who was responsible for the light in the tunnel at the Market Place end of the Tchure. Not, it turns out, OCC or the PC. Instead, as we travel safely through at night, we are all indebted to Nellie & Dove for their public spirit in installing and maintaining this critical little light. Thank you!

FROM MIKE RAMSDALE, DEDDINGTON

It is interesting that the Deddington Environmental Network attended the last council meeting, not to promote its environmental ambition, but to ask the council to switch its bank account to another bank. Does DEN keep a list of organisations with varying degrees of connection to the fossil fuel industry with DEN having its own preferences? Some list!

What next for us poor Deddington fossil fuel users?

FROM COMMUNITY HELP AND INFORMATION POINTS, CITIZENS ADVICE, CHERWELL & WEST NORTHANTS
Volunteer with us

November is the time to raise awareness of stress. We would like to remind you that stress will probably affect everyone at some point in their lives. This year the theme for National Stress Awareness Day and International Stress Awareness week has been 'Campaigning to Reduce Stress and Improve Wellbeing'.

CHIPs (Community Help and Information Points) offer support to help people self-help, guiding them to the right information for their individual needs. CHIPs are also the front door to our advice services and can refer people to further support from our specialist advisors.

If you'd like to make a difference in your community, help reduce stress and promote wellbeing, please join our team by volunteering with us.

01295 221449, recruitment@cawnac.org.uk

FROM ALISON GRIEVE, HEMPTON

Have you heard of the charity Medical Detection Dogs? It is based in Milton Keynes and trains dogs to detect the odour of human life-threatening disease as well as partnering those who suffer from complex health conditions, such as PoTS, Type 1 diabetes and severe allergies, with a dog that will detect changes in their body odour. The dog then alerts them to the potentially life-threatening medical event that is about to happen, allowing the person to take medication or place themselves safely, avoiding the need to call an ambulance or be admitted to hospital.

I have supported this charity for a number of years and would like to start fundraising locally to assist their life-changing work. If there is anyone in the area, or an organisation, who would like to join me in arrang-



ing an event and would like to hear about their work, please contact me alisongrmail@gmail.com.

FROM SARAH LIEBRECHT,
DEDDINGTON

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Ride and Stride, walking, cycling and welcoming visitors. Together we raised £550. Half of this will go to help churches

in need throughout Oxfordshire and the other half to our church here in Deddington. Look out for details of next year's event, second Saturday in September.

FROM OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL,
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There is free help available to anyone who is struggling with paying fuel bills or having problems with housing conditions such as mould. Contact 0800 107 0044 or visit www.bhbh.org.uk.

FROM KATHARINE HOUSE, ADDERBURY
We need you!

Do you want to gain skills while meeting new people and doing something amazing for your community. We're looking for more shop volunteers to join one of our seven charity shops. If this could be you, visit www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops.

On Saturday 14 December, a festive fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread some Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice. The popular Tractor Run will depart from Spring Hill Farm, Barford St Michael, at around 5.00pm and travel through the local villages via Banbury, and going by Katharine House Hospice to wave hello! Find out more at www.khh.org.uk/tractor.

Our tree-cycle scheme is back, giving people the opportunity to get rid of their Christmas tree in a hassle-free, environmentally friendly way once all the festivities are over. You can make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, we will send one of our elves to collect and recycle your tree. Head to our website to find out more and check if your postcode is included in the scheme. www.khh.org.uk/christmastree.

FROM MOIRA BYAST, HEMPTON

Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy the film this afternoon. It was so good to see you all. Next month on 12 December the film is that Christmas classic, *Miracle on 34th Street*, 1.00pm for a cup of tea, 1.30pm the film starts. Hope to see you all again.

FROM JANE GREEN, DEDDINGTON

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

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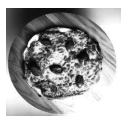
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FARMERS' MARKET

Hygge Confectionery was born from a love of chocolate and Danish heritage

It was a complete career change for Michael who switched from marine biology to follow his passion. Swapping the lab for the kitchen, he enrolled in the Ashburton Chef's Academy to earn his diploma in professional patisserie, covering everything from biscuits and cakes to breads and fine desserts. During this training, he discovered that, whilst he had always had a love for chocolate, he was also pretty good at working with it and so the idea of Hygge Confectionery began to brew.

After qualifying, Michael cut his teeth by working in a local bakery and café, making sandwiches, cakes, pastries, and everything in between. Ultimately though, he knew he wanted to launch his own business in chocolate. In November 2022 he took the jump and began work on Hygge Confectionery which launched at the Chesterton Hotel wedding show in February 2023. The aim: to produce excellent quality chocolate with a difference, using seasonal flavours from pure fruit purées and fresh herbs and spices to create imaginative flavour combinations.

Ideas start with seasonality and seeing what his suppliers have available. This sparks his creative juices and he starts playing around with how best to enhance individual flavours or combinations to create layers of flavours. Some classic flavours feature in the collections, but there are always new and exciting

experiences, along with customer favourites. Michael ranks the appearance of the chocolate as highly as the flavour – we eat with our eyes first and he decorates the chocolates to be visually attractive. Ultimately, it is about creating an eating experience that is unique and incredibly satisfying.

'Hygge' is a very Scandi concept. It is all about contentment and well-being, cosiness and sharing happiness and what better way to embody all of that than with chocolate? The Scandinavian countries regularly feature as the happiest places to live and 'hygge' has a big input in this – time to be in the present, and to enjoy the here and now.

Michael is half Danish and hygge featured heavily in his up-bringing, with Danish traditions being maintained by his maternal grandparents, so it was a natural choice for the name and concept, of his business.

So why not share a box of divine chocolate with your favourite people or snuggle up on your own with a good book and a box of chocolates?

**Anne and Michael
Hygge Confectionery**

DRIVING UKRAINE NEWS

26 October saw Mission 34 leave Deddington – destination Ukraine, with three life-saving 4x4s and an ex-North-East Ambulance, driven by a team of local volunteers. On arrival in Ukraine this ambulance was handed straight over to volunteer medics in the Donetsk region and immediately put to work. Essential medical and humanitarian aid was also distributed, including boxes of braille paper heading for a school for blind children in Lviv.

Missions 35 and 36 are being planned for November and December and, yes – you guessed it – we are urgently looking for local volunteers to pick up vehicles when they become available from anywhere in the UK or to join one of the convoys that leave every month from Deddington to Ukraine, driving one of the life-saving vehicles. To get involved with fundraising or volunteer driving simply go to drivingukraine.org. On the home page fill in the form with your details and we will get back to you.

Head to the Ukraine stall and buy your Christmas cakes and goodies, chutneys and mince pies at the 6 December Deddington Primary School Christmas Market – 3.30pm–5.00pm, where every penny will go towards equipping one of the ambulances heading for Ukraine. Teachers, parents and children at the school are 100% behind drivingukraine.org and are eager to get involved in this and future initiatives to help the Ukrainian people. This month we are so grateful. Christmas toys and gifts have been donated by our primary school children and these are going in the November convoy heading for a school in Kviv.

I very much look forward to seeing you all at the School Market.

**Jenny Soddy
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NEWS FROM CLIFTON

Well done to the litter pick team. More than 10 bin bags of litter and general rubbish was collected from the Clifton Road verges by a gang of hi-vis volunteers but, more alarmingly, the haul included six tyres. This isn't something that gets casually flung out of a passing car window in the hope the occupants don't make the car messy. This is more insidious as someone decided they didn't need to pay the fee at Ardley if they could dump it in our neighbourhood instead.

The resurfacing down here caused some excitement, with late workers having to abandon cars to get home and some being kept awake all night with everyone wondering 'when will they do the rest'. The quieter road noise is a bonus however.

The Book Club tour of Port Meadow was a highlight last month. It started with the hilarity of our tame 'septic' Dave having his walking boots lose both soles before he got to the bus stop where he switched to his soft spike golf shoes. However, Councillor Collins couldn't laugh too long as his boots started to fall apart 20 yards off the bus in Oxford.

The first talk was on the mathematical quarter before the first pub visit. Near the Jude the Obscure Collins had the chance to buy some heavy duty duct tape for not such 'running repairs' that let him and them visit to hear interesting talks delivered by club members on Lucy Ironworks, St Edward's School, Port Meadow as an agricultural resource, Port Meadow as an aerodrome, the Airmen's Bridge, Godstow Paper Mill, Godstow Bridge, Godstow Abbey and Nunnery,

Swan Brewery, Alice in Wonderland inscription bridge, the Bailey Bridge and Swan Bridge. The other hostleries visited were the Plough, White Hart Wolvercote (for two pints after a talk addendum by a very friendly host that earned a second round for her till), Trout, Perch, the Glut for some grub and, finally, the Four Candles.

Some 16km was covered, so good exercise along with knowledge gained made this a 'grand day out' before the bus home by which time one sole had overcome the duct tape Collins had applied and finally let go too.

CAST lent their weight and data to the calls for having our vehicle activated signs (VAS) upgraded to 20mph SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) and the work on new village signage continues.

Remembrance Sunday saw many faces from down here, young and old, to witness the novel inclusion of a piper in the parade to give the memorable event a sound that could be unique to Oxfordshire, I'd bet. Memories of William Millin abounded (Piper Bill) with Commander Rob Forsyth seen as Lord Lovat by many.

Health watch down here has seen a new member of the 'zip club' join our ranks and our sympathies have been elbowed out but the admiration for the very rapid recovery of our patient as he accumulates may 'klick' in his convalescence.

Martin Bryce
martinDNbryce@gmail.com

We Need Your Ideas!

... FOR MORE FACILITIES AT THE WINDMILL FOR TEENAGERS

There's been criticism recently that there's nothing for older kids at the Windmill, so the PC is looking at what we can add. Heidi Fardell has kindly offered to gather ideas from teenagers on what they would like to see, so look out for her flyer which contains an online form and a QR code.

We have amazing facilities for a parish our size but we have to be realistic about what else we can achieve. We have limited space (and money), so a skateboard park or swimming pool are out of the window. What about a five metre scramble net? A bigger half MUGA for non-prescriptive sports? And research so far has shown that girls have different priorities from boys – so a hang-out space to socialise? These are our ideas but we want yours!

An informal BMX track has appeared in the copse. There are problems with this as we have been told there are safety issues since the space is shared with children using the play equipment in the woodland trail and with dog walkers. And we can't get insurance, not only for the riders, but anyone they might hit. For you BMX-ers, there's a dirt track at Steeple Aston and a pump track at Marsh Gibbon near Bicester. There was a BMX track at the Windmill earlier, but it wasn't

used as it was too small, and it's now the site of the new MUGA.

Speaking of bikes, kids on bikes are using the slide mound in the Adventure Playground as part of their unofficial BMX circuit. This really is dangerous – BMX bikes and playgrounds just don't mix. It's an accident waiting to happen. Please, please, stop this before there's an accident.

Do give us your thoughts on facilities for teens – contact Heidi Fardell at heidifardell@hotmail.com or scan the QR code.

Mary Robinson
maryrobinson.dpc@gmail.com





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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

'Gators, Election, Musk

Life has gone crazy here in Colorado. We just held a very important competition. The annual Gatorfest resulted in a new winner this year. I am pleased to congratulate David Fox on wrestling three alligators across the finish line in record time.

I have travelled a lot across America and I love the different cultures you find in various corners of this wonderful land. But the country has gone insane and elected to the highest office a convicted felon who has been found guilty of sexual assault and who is so good a businessman that six of his companies have gone bust.

Political historians will write books about the strange amalgamation of support that took Trump over the finish line. 80% of white Evangelical Christians and 45% of females voted for him. Tiffany Justice, co-founder of Moms for Liberty, said the election of Trump is 'the liberation of women out of the dark days of so-called feminism. Every woman who feels like Donald Trump is going to be bad for their lives may want to just wait a minute and stop listening to the mainstream media and listen to what President Trump does.' Yes indeed.

The core support that got him elected were white men. They are angry and many feel emasculated. Trump has given them permission to voice their racism, misogyny, and xenophobia and, while he has a core support in the uneducated, it was the educated men who took him over the line.

There were two key reasons he won: immigration and the economy. Food price inflation has hit some people hard, bearing in mind that the poorest 20% of Americans spend nearly a third of their income on food, while the wealthiest fifth spent just 8%. In the ultimate protest vote, they rejected the elite within the Democratic party which has lost touch with the working man.

I live in a liberal bubble but perhaps half of my local contacts are long term Republicans who hate Trump and thus voted for Harris. There are a few outliers who couldn't make themselves vote for the 'socialist' candidate and I can't bring myself to ask the question of two women who I know voted for Trump. I don't want to know the answer.

The craziness has started with the nomination of a sex pest to the Department of Justice and a vaccine denier at Health. I don't trust billionaires to do right by ordinary people. It is Elon Musk who is driving a very disturbing non-democratic agenda. He controls the world's largest foghorn so we need to understand that doublethink is here to stay.

Let's be clear, wrestling with alligators is animal cruelty. The good news is that Gatorfest gave the chance for the winner, Mr Fox, to visit his severed fingers which are held on display in the facility shop. I stand accused of being condescending to the great American nation. I now rest my case.

Mike Ward

mike@mikeaward.com

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'ROXY' AT THE HOLLY TREE HALL

The next film, *Miracle on 34th Street*, the 1994 remake starring Richard Attenborough, will be shown by Age UK on Thursday 12 December.

A department store Santa is fired after appearing drunk and crashing the reindeer sleigh in a parade. The special events manager hurriedly asks a man from the crowd who looks the part to stand in. He calls himself Kris Kringle and insists he is the real Santa. He does well, is hired and becomes the store Santa. Things progress and, ultimately, it's up to a lawyer and a six year old girl to prove that he is the real thing.

The film to be shown on Thursday 9 January will be: *Shall We Dance*, a 1937 musical comedy starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. An American ballet dancer falls in love with a photograph of a tap dancer. He contrives to meet her under an assumed name but she is unimpressed. They meet again on board a ship and get on better. The tabloid press fabricate a marriage story. Does life imitate art? Watch some nostalgic music and dance by the film legends.

All over 50s are welcome, no booking is required. Come along to a lovely warm hall for a cuppa at 1.00pm and film at 1.30pm, just £2.

Julia Cork

julia.cork@thedha.org

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

At our November meeting member Lindsey Smith gave a talk entitled 'Scotland's Wildlife and Landscapes', describing her various trips to Scotland. She started in Aviemore, home to robins, chaffinches, goldfinches, blue tits, siskins, tree creeper and spotted woodpeckers. In the Caledonian pine forest, she found grouse, lapwings and red squirrels, feasting on acorns with the best photos taken from a purpose made hide. Lindsey's quest was to find mountain hares and, although she was successful, the ones she found were shedding their white winter coats.

She stayed at the award winning Aigas Field Centre where the focus is on nature study and wildlife holidays. Whilst there she photographed mountain goats, beavers, and whooper swans that migrate from Iceland to Scotland to breed. Lindsey showed photos, taken from a hide, of pine martens and badgers. She talked about a re-wilding programme under which Aigas is hoping to reintroduce wildcats into Scotland.

Lindsey's photos also included sunset and sunrise landscape photos, including the snow-capped mountains of Glencoe, as well as Kilchurn Castle and she was lucky enough to photograph Eilean Donan Castle, the lighthouse at Neist Point and the Old Man of Storr. At Ardnamurchan, the UK's most westerly point, she found some beautiful Scots Argyll butterflies, sandwich terns and red deer. On Mull she found much flora and fauna to photograph including black guillemots in Oban harbour and white-tailed eagles, with an amazing 8-foot wingspan, catching fish.

At our December meeting, Martyn Pearse is showing his photos entitled 'The People and Places of Rajasthan'. Everyone is welcome.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

WI

Deddington WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Holly Tree Hall. Our November speaker was Jane Abbott on 'An Imaginary World Including Poetry'. Our subject for January's meeting is 'Katharine House, a Community Ambassador' and for February, 'House Calmer – How to Organise your Home'.

New members are welcome. Please contact me.

Moira Byast 07467067883

Local Vocals Community Choir

We ventured into Banbury in early October to sing at the '6 of the Best' concert run by the Rotary Club of Banbury. This was a much larger venue and audience than we have experienced previously and it was great to listen to other choirs and the Operatic Society. We received some very kind feedback and helped raise £1,200 for Rotary charities.

It's always exciting to return after the October half-term, as that's when we discover the Christmas songs we will be learning for our Friends and Family Evening at the end of term. This year we are singing

a song we all learnt at a very young age, *Away in a Manger*, but to challenge our much older brains, it's to a different tune by Herbert Chappell. The Boney M hit, *Long Time Ago in Bethlehem*, is another of the songs, with a John Lewis Christmas advert tune from 2013, *Somewhere Only We Know*, but, for me, the icing on the proverbial Christmas cake is Wings' winter release of *We all Stand Together*, otherwise known as *The Frog Song*. Good luck baritones with all those bum, bum, bum, bums!

To find out more about our choir, which meets 7.30pm at Deddington Primary School each Monday during term time, please go to our website www.localvocalscc.co.uk.

Alison Grieve
alisongrmail@gmail.com

Deddington Bookworms

In October we read *Warlight* by Michael Ondaatje, a story of espionage and reprisal set at the end of WW2 and mostly in London. It is told through the eyes of Nathaniel, aged 14, one of two siblings abandoned by their parents to be looked after by strangers. The pair have had a devastating deception perpetrated on them by their mother. The story is told in two halves: childhood and mystery, which becomes sinister, and adulthood and realisation.

Michael Ondaatje is a poet so it is not surprising that the novel has a mystical, hallucinatory aspect, which relates to the unfathomable mystery in which the children find themselves. The tension is held, mostly, to the end.

Although the novel was well received by some of the group, others found it difficult to read.

Our next book is *Three Apples Fell from the Sky* by Narine Abgaryan.

DeddingtonBookworms@gmail.com

Deddington Playgroup

We are open on Friday 6 and Friday 20 December, both 9.45–11.45am at the Windmill Centre. Friday 20 is our Christmas party, so please wear your favourite Christmas jumper or festive outfit if you would like to. We are also planning for the new year and our first two playgroups will be on Friday 10 and Friday 31 January. Anyone with a baby, toddler or pre-schooler is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Helen Carpenter
deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

Royal British Legion

The branch was present at the October market to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. Although it has not yet been officially counted, the stall was as busy with generous donors as usual. A big shout out goes to the Scouts for putting up 86 Street Poppies through the village. Other parishes have Street Poppies but I think we are unique in naming a soldier who died on each one. The two parades were notable this year for being led by Piper Stewart Carnegie, who had played



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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p18

for us on D-Day 80, and for his playing of a lament after the 2-minute silence. I think everyone agreed he was magnificent. We also welcomed Ruth O'Quigley and family. She is the great granddaughter of David Hancox, the eldest brother of four, whose three younger siblings all died in WWI. Lastly, we were sad to hear that Grace Hancock, a long-term member of the branch and its former club, has died.

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

Deddington and District History Society

At our November meeting, Brian Pile, a local retired auctioneer, gave a fascinating talk about his 50-year career, half of which was with Midland Marts that ran the Banbury livestock market. After talking about his early life and how he became an auctioneer, he moved on to the history of Banbury market itself.

Cattle, sheep and pigs were originally traded in the centre of Banbury. Animals were bought and sold by private treaty, not by auction. This changed in 1919 when go-ahead farmer and aspiring politician, AP McDougall, bought Prescote Manor, Cropredy, and formed Midland Marts. In 1923 the Merton Street, Banbury, site was purchased and the market transferred there. With the advantage of its position next to the railway, the market became a great success, eclipsing local markets and achieving acclaim as 'the stockyard of Europe'. In addition to UK traders, buyers would travel from the continent. Arriving on a Wednesday, they purchased stock brought in by train

on the Thursday, then exported the animals back by train to Europe on Friday. The 1970s and 80s were the heyday with thousands of animals sold in a day often to the total value of over £1 million.

In the 1980s a questionable decision was made to float the company on the stockmarket. Ownership became fragmented and, in 1998, a break clause in the lease was executed. In July the same year Midland Marts ceased trading with everything at Merton Street being cleared. The site has since been redeveloped for housing. Brian Pile concluded with some amusing anecdotes from his auctioneering days and afterwards. The audience enjoyed looking at the pictures and photographs he had on display.


On Thursday 12 December, the Launton Handbell Ringers are talking about their unique collection of handbells and entertaining us with a selection of music for Christmas time. Tim Healey is coming on 9 January to talk on yuletide celebrations in the seventeenth century, including wassailing rites, frost fairs and Twelfth Night customs. We look forward to welcoming you to these festive meetings starting at 7.30pm at Deddington Primary School.

Jean Dipper jean.dipper28@gmail.com




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December is the first anniversary of our mixed art space. It's been a wonderful experience. Chris got all his commissions completed and acquired new ones to keep him busy into 2025. The studio is his happy


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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p21

space; he loves our community. Lou and I exhibited our work. It's been a blessing to welcome new members regularly to the studio to do clay days. They have surprised themselves at the outcome of hares, owls, angels and plaques. I enjoy these days so much. It's wonderful to pass on a skill and to feel clay absorbing people and having fun.

We welcome new members and offer a supportive environment, space, inspiration and lots of different materials and tools, including a kiln. Current members use clay, mixed media, wire, metals and wood.

The next clay days are on 1 February and 1 March. Send me a message if you would like to attend. If you are interested in finding out more contact me. You'll find us at Iron Down Sculpture Studio, Iron Down Farm, Deddington OX15 0PJ.

Wendy Edmundson
wendyedmundson@hotmail.com

Book Group

A novel set initially in a large garden shed in North

Oxford has obvious interest for local readers. *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams begins in the year 1887. The shed, or Scriptorium, houses James Murray and his team of lexicographers working on the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary.

The factual history of the dictionary is interwoven with the fictional story of Esme, daughter of one of the lexicographers. Allowed from a young age to spend time at her father's workplace, she begins to realise that some words are dismissed as being unworthy of inclusion in the dictionary. This inspires her to research the often vulgar but very expressive vocabulary of ordinary people, especially women.

Although some of us thought the first half of the book was rather slow, we found the second half more compelling and thought-provoking. Set against a background of feminism, the suffragette movement and the turmoil of the First World War, Esme's story is also one of romance, heartbreak and true love. We enjoyed the combination of well-developed characters and sensitive descriptions of poignant situations.

The Book Group

SPORT

Deddington Original Golf Society

Our event finale for 2024 is the now legendary Christmas 9-hole Texas Scramble and dinner on Friday 13 December. Full details will follow shortly but please put the date in your diary. The cost for a full traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings is £26 per person.

Your committee is working flat out to organise venues for 2025 and we hope to announce all of them at our AGM on Monday 20 January. The venue is the Deddington Arms from 7.00pm, another date for your diary.

Special thanks to all DOGS who supported our outings this year.

Tony Lowe, Secretary 07710 477000
dogsgolf23@gmail.com

Deddington Town FC

First Team results:

12.10.24	Wroxton Sports (h)	L 0–4
19.10.24	Hook Norton FC (a)	W 3–2 Leney, Thornton J (2)
26.10.24	Chesterton (h)	L 2–4
9.11.24	Combe JS First (h) (CUP)	L 2–3

Reserve Team results:

12.10.24	Hardwick Sports First (a)	D 1–1 Marrett
19.10.24	Wroxton Spts Dev (h)	W 11–0 Godfrey (2), Jones L (2), Lewis, Newton(4), Worth (2)
26.10.24	Swis 313 Reserves (a)	W 4–3 Jones L, Lewis, Newton, Edmonds
9.11.24	Bearley Utd (a)	L 2–3

The First Team has somewhat underwhelmed following their annulled demolition of Bishops Itchington, despite a brace from Joe Thornton providing

a welcome win over Hooky. The Reserves meanwhile are scoring like mobsters are threatening their families, with a spectacular eighteen goals notched in their four matches. Wroxton Sports Development team clearly require far more developing, if the Latics double-figuring them is anything to go by. Cieran Newton has set out his stall for the season with a four-goal showing, followed by another against Swis 313. The Humbugs seem in need of a spark of inspiration so you know what to do: 2.00pm on most Saturdays is the time, Windmill Playing Fields is the place.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town FC Youth

The Under 16s had a narrow 2–1 defeat at Brackley Athletic followed by a heavy 0–5 home defeat to Bicester Town Colts. The Under 15s playing in the B League had a 1–5 home defeat to Didcot Town, followed by 2–2 away draw at Wallingford and Crowmarsh, and then a handsome 1–15 away win at Thame United in the county cup. The Under 14s playing in the C League had a 1–5 away win at Kennington Athletic, 4–0 home win against Summertown Stars, and 1–9 away win at Tower Hill in the county cup. The Under 13s lost on penalties to Marston Saint after a 1–1 draw in the county cup, followed by a 2–4 home defeat to Charlbury Town. The Under 12s had a 7–3 away defeat at Chesterton, followed by a narrow 3–4 home defeat to Banbury Irish.

We were lucky to get some free tickets for some of our Wildcats to go and watch England Women beat South Africa 2–1 in an international friendly. From all accounts, the Wildcats loved the football experience as well as the amazing lightshow before the game.

After coaching for the Football Club between 2007 and 2014 with my son's team and then taking on the club role to design and deliver training sessions for

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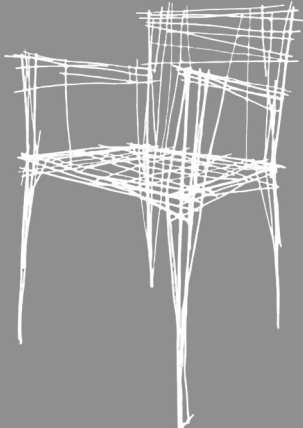
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SPORT*Continued from p22*

Under 6s and Under 7s since 2016, I have decided it is time to step down from coaching and let younger volunteers take on the role. So the club is looking for a Football Coordinator for the Under 6s and Under 7s from the start of the 2025/26 season. The main function of the role is to design and deliver weekly training for U6s and U7s with the support of other coach volunteers. There will be 10–12 places available for each age group and we would expect to have three volunteers for each group to deliver the training

sessions. Full support will be provided by the officers in the club. If you want an informal chat and more information, get in touch with me.

I will continue with my role as Development Officer for the club, looking to support player and facility development and fundraising for our future.

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

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

YOUTH**1st Deddington Guides**

Not to be defeated by the recent road closures, we continued meeting through the disruption in Deddington church. We were made very welcome by Reverend Nick and church warden Caroline and had two great evenings there. One was spent with 15 little robots whizzing round ... these are available to loan from the county and the Guides quickly got the idea of programming them and had them doing all sorts of manoeuvres. They are a size smaller than a tennis ball and can change light and sound patterns – great fun and quite a sight to see! On a more serious note, we also learnt a little about home nursing and how to care for others and treat those common ailments that can upset us all day to day.

Back in the Windmill, we had our usual nod to Hal- lowe'en, with the girls coming in some fun costumes.

We played seasonal games and enjoyed party food.

The Guides who attended the Remembrance Day parade were very smart and did us proud in the Colour Party and in laying the wreath and a cross on the Commonwealth graves.

We are looking forward to welcoming four new Guides at their promise ceremony and to fitting in lots of other activities before Christmas is upon us.

Any girls 10 and over are welcome to join us.

**Maggie Rampley
07957 600755**

1st Deddington Scout Group**Cubs**

This month we completed our Chef badge making delicious homemade pizzas. We enjoyed eating them together and celebrating our achievement.

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YOUTH

Continued from p25

We learnt about the history of Guy Fawkes night and created some very artistic firework scenes.

Thank you to those who made it to the Remembrance Parade. You demonstrated our Cub Pack values perfectly and should be very proud of yourselves.

Tracy Tong,
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

Well, we have been busy bees this month. We split the Scouts into two groups, one to work on the Scientist badge and the other Photography. The scientists

tried several experiments in electronics, chemistry and physics, just falling short of the full Frankenstein! The photographers went away after a session with Alasdair Gill to take pictures on various subjects for an upcoming exhibition.

Communicator came next: we looked at codes, both Morse and phonetics and the more usual boy method of 'grunt'. In between we paraded and a few of the Scouts helped the British Legion by installing the street poppies. Well done everyone.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

In October half term we had our first LEGO club in Deddington library and what a great success this was. More than 18 children and parents came and made some lovely creations. We used library resources to have extra books with ideas for Lego and these can be borrowed by our readers. With this success, I will be starting a weekly club on Mondays 3.30pm–4.30pm from 13 January for age four-and-a-half upwards. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

We have a beautiful bear which needs a name for Christmas. This is a fundraiser for the library so pop in and choose a name from the list. It's £1 a go, cash only. There are 90 names to choose from. The winner will be announced on 21 December at midday and will provide a new home for the bear.

Christmas opening hours: I will close at 7.00pm on 23 December and reopen Thursday 2 January 1.00pm.

A big thank you to all my volunteers, Duke of Edinburgh helper and readers for their continuing support in keeping the library running and to the Friends of Deddington Library.

I will have some big news in February so please keep an eye out and check out our Facebook page.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and blessings for the new year.

Gail Cripps 01865 816010
Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

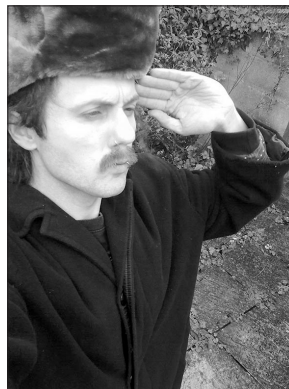
PRIMARY SCHOOL

We would like to thank our PTA for the fantastic firework display on 4 November. The time it takes to organise such an event is huge and we are grateful to all who gave their time to make it so successful. Everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Towards the end of November we held a Christmas Toy Drive to support the local charity, Driving Ukraine. Donations of good quality second-hand toys and some new toys, were made. Children brought in their offerings which were gathered by our class teachers. The event was very successful and the children loved supporting this excellent charity.

Our Christmas Market will take place on Friday 6 December from 3.30–5pm. Children and staff will be selling items which the children make during that week at school. Some classes will run Christmas

BLISSFUL THINKING



We all know that time is an immutable and yet remarkably subjective concept. A term at primary school seemed like a lifetime, and in some ways it was. Meanwhile, time flies as an adult when everything seems familiar and routines grind on.

For another take, performing exactly sixty sit-ups in one minute makes it clear just how fast a minute flies by, but performing one sit-up that takes exactly sixty seconds will make it clear just how slowly a minute ticks by. Getting delayed when driving to meet someone makes every passing minute for the driver seem like ten seconds but, for the person waiting, every sixty seconds feels like ten minutes. And so it seems one minute we're pointing down at the yellow and brown leaves all about us and by the time we look back up it's the winter solstice. Apparently there is a particularly popular festival period not more than a few days after, but the name escapes me right now.

Clifton in recent years has shaken off Deddington's colonial tyranny and made something of a name for itself with their often comedic and always imaginative take on the St Nicholas character in ruby red robes. They're not quite Lewes bonfire effigy levels yet, but seem to edge closer, year by year. I'm looking forward to having a gander this time and humbly suggest that the parish dubs this winter festival of revelry 'Cliftmas' in their honour!


Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

themed games with prizes too. Thank you in advance to everyone who intends to support this festive market.

Our annual Charity Santa Fun Run will soon take place when our children run in the school grounds. It's great fun, and great exercise for a great cause too.



Our Christmas performances will take place in the penultimate week of term.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



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Let there be light! We've finally got around to fixing the street lights in the Windmill car park. It's one of the many improvements that we have wanted to make for a while now. In fact, it's probably been on our 'to do' list since I took over as chair seven years ago.

There are several other improvement projects which haven't yet progressed beyond the discussion phase. They come up regularly at our committee meetings, are discussed earnestly, recorded in our minutes and then ... it's a bit like *Groundhog Day*, but not as funny. (And for those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, check out the reference and then watch the film: genius!) I'm not complaining though. It's just the way things are. As a team of

well-meaning volunteers, we do what we can with the time and money available. Er... I think I must be in this rather reflective mood as we are currently drafting the Windmill business plan and budget for 2025, which we present to the parish council every December for approval. I wonder how many things on our wish list we'll be able to tick off next year?

One thing is for sure, we will continue to do our best to make the Windmill as good as it can be and we are grateful for all your help and support. On behalf of the management committee, I'd like to wish you all a very happy festive time and remind you to book your tickets for the legendary Deddington Players' panto – one of the highlights on the Windmill calendar. This year it's *Rapunzel*, a tale of love, bravery and long hair. Performances are on 16, 17 and 18 January and tickets will be available online and can also be purchased from Polka Dots Hairdressers. To find out what else is happening at the Windmill or to book it for one of your own events, just visit our website www.thewindmilleddington.org, our Facebook page or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmilleddington.org

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP Deddington Health Centre

At our recent meeting, the PPG looked at missed appointments that can sometimes happen because life gets in the way. If you have an appointment and are unable to attend, please try and let the surgery know as soon as possible so that it can be offered to someone else. Even 30 minutes notice can be valuable to reallocate an appointment on the day.

Just to let you know there is a dedicated PPG box in the surgery, just by reception, to leave feedback if you prefer not to use our email address. We are unable to respond to personal matters.

The huge pharmacy dispensing machine, is ten years old and is about to have a systems upgrade to eliminate the need to print and sign prescriptions, thus allowing GPs more time for consulting with patients.

The triage system has been running for a year now.

It has given better access to GP appointments since its introduction. The PPG is aware that there are still misunderstandings about how the system works, especially for those who may struggle with completing an online form. The surgery is always ready to help those who do not have access to the internet but if someone is able to help you use the system it can speed up contact. The PPG will be working with practice staff at our next meeting to help introduce and explain to patients how best to make the appointment system work for both patients and the practice.

Finally, the PPG and the surgery staff would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Anne Hunsley
ppg.deddington@gmail.com

PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Deddington School PTA would like to thank the local community for supporting our recent fireworks display. Once again, Skyline Productions put on an impressive display and we had a brilliant turnout on the night. Deddington Fire station joined us, with many children jumping onto the fire engine before they headed up to the top field. The coffee guys, tuck shop, bar and barbecue were all kept busy through the evening, with Eagles meat being a highlight for many – delicious!

The fireworks event is one of our main fundraising events of the year, generating vital funds for our school. There are some exciting projects afoot and we are pleased to be able to help. We would like to give a huge thank you to our team of volunteers, generous sponsors, DH Electrical, and Gilly and the team from Deddington farmers' market for their ongoing support.

See you next year.

PTA Team at Deddington Primary School

What's On

January

Fri 30 Bookworms, Holly Tree Hall, 6.30pm

Fri 30 Book Group: call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details

February

Wed 5 Photographic Society: A Lifetime of Photography, Tina Hadley, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm

Wed 12 WI: House Calmer – how to organise your home, Jen Childs, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm

Continued from p3

THAT'S VERY NEARLY AN ARMFUL!

This is our six year old golden doodle, Toby, and he is a blood donor! Yes, it's true, dogs can donate blood just as humans do. Donations are managed through the Pet Blood Bank UK.

The organisation visits veterinary practices to hold donation sessions for dogs. One unit of blood donated by a dog can save up to four other dogs so it is a very worthwhile cause.

To be able to donate, the dog should be up to nine years' old, weigh more than 25kg and needs to meet a few other simple criteria. A unit of blood is the same amount that humans donate through the NHS Blood Donation Service and dogs can replenish their blood level within a couple of days. They can donate again after about eight weeks.

There are two blood types, DEA1 Positive and DEA1 Negative. The majority of dogs in the UK are DEA1 Positive so stocks of that type are healthy. Only 30% of dogs in the UK are DEA1 Negative and



so stocks are low compared with the positive type. However, in an emergency, dogs can be given DEA1 Negative blood, although, of course, it is preferable to give the same blood type.

The Pet Blood Bank UK teams which carry out the sessions are very compassionate to your dog and give them a full health check during the session. More details can be found at www.petbloodbankuk.org/welcome. It is a charitable organisation so relies on donations and fund raising.

We want to spread the word about this amazing organisation because we would feel dreadful if something happened to our dog and blood was not available to help him. By donating Toby can help up to four other dogs every time he donates. As a bonus he gets treats and a toy when he donates.

Phil Draper
pdraper.07@btinternet.com

FROM THE FIRE STATION

After a busy month in September, October was back to normal with us attending 12 incidents this month. These included multiple Automatic Fire Alarms, Road Traffic Collisions, car fires, people trapped in a lift, assisting the Ambulance Service to make entry into houses and, of course, the usual standbys.

We are often called to assist colleagues at South Central Ambulance Service, either to make entry into houses when they're unable to, or to help to extricate patients in difficult locations. The most recent was to gain entry to a house for an ambulance crew. They had been called to someone who had pressed their panic button, but could not raise an answer at the door so we were called to help. We try to avoid breaking doors or windows if we can and luckily, in this case, one of the firefighters crew lived opposite and knew there was a back door that could be accessed via a neighbour's house. We got the neighbour to let us in and climbed over their garden wall to find an unlocked back door and let the ambulance crew in. Luckily the alarm was accidentally set off while the person was sleeping and they were okay.

We visited Banbury fire station for our training nights this month to use their smoke house to carry out Breathing Apparatus (BA) training. The smoke house is a brick building with a mock-up interior as a normal one-storey domestic house. It has everything from sofas and beds to a kitchen and can be filled with synthetic smoke to allow us to make realistic fire scenarios without having actual fire. Multiple realistic size and weighted casualties can be placed throughout the building to allow us to practise rescuing casualties from a house fire.

FF Flint and I also attended Moreton-in-Marsh Fire Service College to go on a scenario day. The

Fire Service College is an old air base with lots of training venues, including large concrete structures to replicate houses, workshops, a shopping centre, car garages, a ship, oil rig and a highrise. These can all have pallets and straw put inside them and ignited to create realistic fires. There are trains, planes and helicopters to practise rescues from, as well as a motorway called the M96, the shortest motorway in the UK (good pub quiz question). Our day at the College was a good opportunity to refresh our skills, for me being an incident commander and wearing BA and for FF Flint being a driver and wearing BA, in scenarios as close to real life as possible.

Congratulations to FF Baker for passing his Wholtime Basic Training course and being rewarded for being the Recruits' Recruit, after a tough eight weeks at the Fire Service College and follow up training. We wish him the best in his Wholtime career.

We attended the parish Remembrance Sunday parade in November and marched to the war memorial where we laid a wreath and paid our respects to those who have fought and died to protect our country. Some of you may have seen FF King wearing First World War uniform and carrying a Union Jack on her horse, George.

We are recruiting for new firefighters so, if you are interested in joining us and you live or work within five minutes of the station, you can get more information on our website, <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/working-oxfordshire-county-council/fire-service-recruitment/on-call-firefighters> or come to the station for a chat on a Tuesday, 7.00– 9.00pm, when we will be training.

Ben Fenemore, Acting Crew Manager
Ben.Fenemore@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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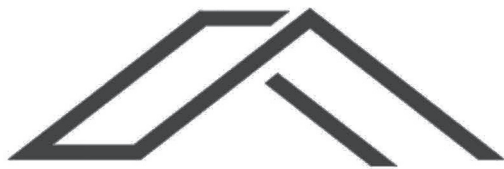
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 Horton General 0300 304 7777
 John Radcliffe 0300 304 7777
 Manor (Nuffield Health, Private) 01865 521405
 Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre 0300 304 7777
 Katharine House Hospice 01295 811866
 NHS Non emergency 111
 PARISH CLERK 01869 337447
 (Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm,
 Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)
 POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs) 101
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 PFSU 01869 337484
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DEDDINGTON CLUBS AND SOCIETIES: The full list of contacts is available from the Library and Deddington On-Line website at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory>.

DEDDINGTON CHURCHES See section inside



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