

February 2025

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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by **10 February**

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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

Welcome to 2025 and the challenge of interesting times. An old environmental motto exhorted us to 'Think globally, act locally'. The limitations on the effect of our efforts at the global scale now appear severely limited, making it all the more important to remain positive and redouble our efforts locally. On which topic, please note the local emergency plan on p9 and take care of your keyless entry vehicle keys – see p17. **CD**

WHAT'S ON 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
- Thu 13 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *Victoria and Abdul*, Holly Tree Hall, 1.30pm
- Thu 13 History Society: 'Archaeology of Stowe Landscape Gardens', Stephen Wass, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Thu 13 Steve Kershaw Jazz Evening: Deddington Church, 7.30pm
- Fri 14 Deddington Playgroup: The Windmill, 9.45–11.45am
- Wed 19 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 22 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sun 23 Deddington Pork Pie Appreciation Society: Deddington Arms, 4.00pm
- Thu 27 Bookworms: Holly Tree Hall, 6.30pm
- Thu 27 Book Group: call Sally Lambert, 01869 338094 for details
- Fri 28 Deddington Playgroup: The Windmill, 9.45–11.45am

March

- Wed 12 WI: Annual Meeting, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Thu 13 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris*, Holly Tree Hall, 1.30pm
- Thu 13 History Society: 'Lord Nuffield's Great Generosity to the Oxford Colleges', Liz Woolley, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Wed 19 Parish Council: Old School Room, Hempton, 7.30pm
- Sat 22 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm
- Sat 22 Banbury Symphony Orchestra: Deddington Church, 7.30pm

April

- Thu 10 'Roxy' at the Holly Tree: *Easter Parade*, Holly Tree Hall, 1.30pm
- Thu 10 History Society: 'Jericho: Oxford's First Industrial Suburb, From Cholera Epidemics to Gentrification', Ciaran Walsh, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Wed 16 Parish Council: Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 26 Farmers' Market: Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

May

- Wed 7 Annual Parish Meeting, Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Thu 8 History Society: 'The Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Scheme', Professor Robert Evans, Primary School, 7.30pm
- Wed 21 Parish Council, Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, 7.30pm
- Sat 24 Farmers' Market, Market Place, 9.00am–12.30pm

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 18 December 2024 at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Mylne, Norton, Robinson, Oldfield (chair), O'Neill, Snashall, Smith, Swadling, Timms, Watts, District Councillor Rogers, County Councillor Fatemian, three members of the public and *DN* representative.

10 Minute Forum

A Steeple Aston parish councillor spoke asking for financial support for their project to reduce the incidence of the Blandford fly along the Cherwell valley from Clifton to Kidlington. They are seeking support from all the councils along this route. Action to participate in the treatment programme needs to be taken by January 2025 before the March larval stage. The treatment involves applying an organic agent (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) to the fly's egg-laying grounds. It has been successfully used by Dorset County Council on the River Stour for over 30 years with no observed environmental impact. The total cost of the first year's treatment would be £23,000.

Two representatives from the Windmill Centre management committee presented their annual business plan and reported on significant improvements made with support from the PC and S106 funding.

District Council

Dist Cllr Rogers reported that CDC's Local Plan was going ahead with no changes to accommodate the latest changes to national planning requirements although it could be up to two years before completion.

Environment and Recreation

The PC will erect signs banning BMX bikes from the woodland trail, the adventure playground and the coppice since there is no personal injury cover for the activity around the Windmill.

Finance and General Purposes

The precept is likely to increase by 5.6% for 2025 although the actual increase will be 4.5% because of an increase in parish ratepayers.

Planning Applications

No objection

Pure Barn, Oxford Road, Deddington: extension to barn with associated works.

Mount Pleasant, Hempton: discharges of conditions but defer to planning officer.

Bull Ring Cottage, Deddington: replacement of seven south facing windows, but defer to planning officer.

3 Castle End, Castle Street, Deddington: tree works, but would ask the applicant to replace felled trees where possible or to contribute to a suitable Woodland Trust scheme to ensure their value to biodiversity and ecology is not forever lost.

Approvals

Victoria House, Horse Fair, Deddington: installation of detached timber outbuilding.

Aurigny, 2A Philcote Street, Deddington: remove rear conservatory and erect new conservatory.

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

Hempton Gate, Hempton Road, Deddington: modification of the Section 106 obligation for the application in connection with affordable housing, specifically to amend the tenure of the five affordable units to Discounted Market Sale Housing.

Refusals

Winmour, Philcote Street, Deddington: replacement of front elevation ground floor windows.

Highways and Transport

Forty-nine replies were received on the survey on proposed EV charging points in the centre of the village: 15 in favour of the east side of the Bull Ring, 13 for the west side and 20 neither. Main objections were loss of parking spaces. There will be two charging points in the expected car parking for the new development.

Jill Cheeseman

Meeting 15 January 2025 at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors ap Simon, Cox, Mylne, Robinson, Oldfield (chair), Snashall, Smith, Swadling, Timms, Watts, two members of the public and *DN* representative.

No-one has applied to fill the current council vacancy.

10 Minute Forum

A potential buyer for the Crown and Tuns on New Street sought the PC's sense of whether its conversion to residential use would be welcomed. If so, she would make a studio space available for community use. She was referred to the Hospitality Hub for further input but, given the property not finding a new tenant in over a year, was encouraged to proceed.

A resident of the Paddocks asked the PC what could be done to increase security as his pick-up had been stolen from the street after his keyless entry key had been cloned.

Planning Applications

Approvals

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

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

1-4 Almshouse, Church Lane, Deddington: removal of existing slate tiles, replacement of battens and insulation and replacement of tiles.

Town Hall, Market Place, Deddington: repairs to floor and column bases and undercroft lighting renovation.

Appeals

There is no update as to a rescheduled date for the appeal on the nine houses proposed in Hempton.

Highways and Transport

The PC has submitted an application to OCC for two to three EV chargers to be placed in the Bullring, preferably on the east side.

Residents opinion is sought on OCC's proposal to impose a 50mph limit on the Oxford Road between Berry Hill Road and Deddington. Contact roger.platner@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Catherine Desmond

Cox's Garage

Walnut Tree Lane, St Thomas Street, Deddington, OX15 0SY

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RAPUNZEL



Bev Hamblet-Bowes as Gothel, Eva Upson as Rapunzel, Adam Perry as Ophelia Bottom, Steve Moss as Julia Blidging

The Deddington Players staged *Rapunzel*, their 32nd annual pantomime, as usual in mid-January to help lift us out of our winter blues. It was the latest in a long run of wonderful village entertainment, unbroken since 1993, except during lockdown. What entertainment they provided! The 44-strong cast, including 28 children, gave us plenty of traditional panto treats: boos, hisses, 'behind-you' moments, slapstick plates of cream, audience participation – all the much-loved ingredients for a happy show – all supported by a further 44 backstage crew.

The script was written by Steve Moss and the show directed by Carrick Cameron in a departure from his normal, on-stage role. Rapunzel, incarcerated in a tower in Daeda's Wood by wicked sorceress, Gothel, must be rescued by the handsome Prince Charlie from Deddington Castle if he is to prove himself worthy of becoming king.

Much of the action centred round this year's outrageous 'dames', Julia Blidging and Ophelia Bottom (Steve Moss and Adam Perry) as Polka Dots' hairdressers and, in a suitably happy ending, reuniting Julia with Rapunzel, her long-lost daughter. King

Edward (Chris Manley) and Queen Desirée (Jen Toll) occupied Deddington Castle and attempted to direct their disorganised band of helpers and courtiers for the rescue mission but needed the help of Suzie Upson's Good Fairy to succeed,

Bev Hamblet-Bowes was wonderfully over-the-top as Gothel, helped by some fluttery bats and a scary two-headed monster, while Eva Upson as Rapunzel and Daisy Barnett as Prince Charlie successfully eluded the evil Gothel and, in the process, gave us some delightful musical duets.

The musical side of the evening was a real treat, with Kelly Scott as musical director and Sarah Mahfoud as choreographer, producing exhilarating performances from the whole cast but the show was almost stolen by the Jester (Jensen Smith) and 'Girl With No Lines' (Sophie Halton) whose frequent one-liners gave us some of the best laughs of the evening.

Adrian Brett
aandcbrett@gmail.com

(The DN appreciates the free advertising provided by its appearance on stage. Ed)

DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

We started 2025 with our first Lego Club which went so well that we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday afternoons from 3.30–4.30pm. Please note, children need to be accompanied by an adult. RhymeTime for babies, toddlers and their parents will be starting in March. Please look out for further information on our Facebook page and in the library

Lots of new adult and children's books have arrived and are waiting to be read. They have been bought with money from a special fund left to the library by a local resident and I have had the pleasure of choosing the books with recommendations from my readers. There are jigsaws available to borrow, both children's and adults, 12 pieces to 1,000 and you don't need to be a member of the library to borrow them.

The Friends of the Library have a table of second-hand books for sale at 50p for paperbacks and £1 for hardbacks to raise funds in support of the library. There are lots of Mr Men and Thomas the Tank Engine as well as a wide range of adult titles.

And don't forget that the library is registered as a safe warm space, where I can offer a cuppa, a chat and a place to sit out of the cold.

We have lots going on, so please pop in and say hello and ask away with any questions – I will do my very best to answer.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Gail Cripps, Manager
Gail.Cripps@oxfordshire.gov.uk

LAST WORD

ALEC WILLIAM CHARLES WRIGHT 1935-2024

Alec was a tall handsome man whose hobbies were growing vegetables, reading and travelling. He was born in March 1935 in Lydney, Gloucestershire, into a farming family of three generations; great grandfather, grandfather and father. He had an older brother, a sister and a younger brother.

In about 1948 Alec's father was offered the tenancy of a smallholding farm in Denham, in the south of Buckinghamshire where he attended the local primary school before passing the eleven plus examination and moving on to the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe. By the time he turned 15 his father's health was deteriorating rapidly, from multiple sclerosis, and Alec left school to help on the farm. He worked very hard, getting up at 5.00am and milking cows twice a day until his early twenties. However, farming life began to take a toll on Alec's health so he decided to look for other employment.

Initially, Alec worked for an animal feedstuff company but found this not to his liking. He was then offered a job at P & J Dodds, a haulage company in Gerrards Cross, working as a driver, which he did for some considerable time. Through Dodds an opportunity arose for Alec to manage a quarry in Marlow where he worked until his retirement.

Alec and Joan married in 1973, living for the next ten years in Loudwater, High Wycombe. They then moved to Widmoor, Bourne End, where they lived until they both took early retirement in 1995. The next ten years was spent in Stadbroke, in Suffolk, before they decided to move nearer to family, coming to Deddington in August 2005.

Farming was still in his blood and he just had to have an allotment where he spent many happy hours growing vegetables, from plot to pot. Joan used to

count the number of vegetables on their dinner plates, usually about eight different varieties. Unsurprisingly, in 2008 Alec became chairman of the Parish Show where he exhibited his vegetables, on many occasions winning first prize. Alec joined Joan in distributing the *Deddington News* and they opened their cottage garden to raise funds for the Deddington Festival. In retirement Joan and Alec did an enormous amount of travelling: New Zealand, Australia, Africa, America, Canada and all over Europe. They enjoyed all these trips, especially Australia and Africa which left wonderful memories of life together.

Alec's health was always vulnerable and, in 1989, he was diagnosed with severe ulcerative colitis. After three major surgeries Alec was fitted with an ileo-anal pouch which served him well. In spite of his health problems, he challenged himself on DIY tasks; building an archway using stone from the local quarry, assembling a new greenhouse, laying tiles on the kitchen and hallway floors, to name just a few. He also had a flair for sewing. Joan's mother had passed over her old Singer sewing machine with which Alec used to make a bedspread with piping around the sides and pleats at the bottom.

Although Joan and Alec never had children of their own, they were blissfully happy and were devoted to each other. Alec was a wonderful, kind husband with a great sense of humour and as, Joan puts it, 'he really was the love of my life'.

Sadly, over the last few years Alec's health deteriorated significantly and greatly affected Joan as his full-time carer. Ultimately, professional help was needed and Alec entered Wardington House Care Home which provided wonderful service.

Joan Wright

BLISSFUL THINKING

There's nothing like a proper midwinter to stir the spirit. When the gathering gloom sets in and the chill permeates the marrow; when the Clifton Everglades dazzle unsuspecting transients as the sun's rays ricochet from its mighty glaciers, and when the furrowed fields resemble cottage pie dusted with icing sugar, then we know to cover our extremities and hunker down under cover with provisions, just as our forebears did many moons ago

And when we spot grown adults cycling on the pavement, motorists idling at a complete stop without turning off the engine or even signalling, or individuals getting irate at not being able to churn up front gardens to gain passage around fallen trees and power lines strewn across the road, we should again look to our ancestors for wisdom. I suspect they may remind us that there are other people who exist around us, and we should temper our behaviour from time to time to ensure that we can all interact with as little friction and resentment as possible.

Aaron Bliss aaronbliss@hotmail.com

DEDDINGTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION

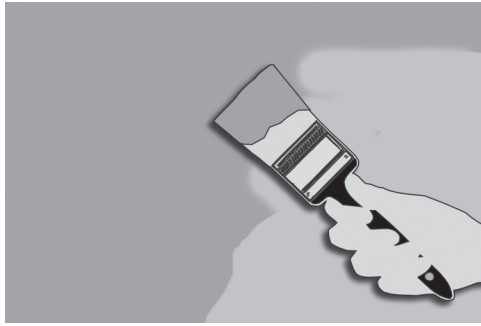
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We will shortly have a fully refurbished one-bedroom bungalow available, which is suitable for a single person or a couple. Expressions of interest can be registered, in the first instance to me, either by email or post to DHA Chair, c/o College Farm Cottage, 5 Hopcraft Lane, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0TD. The closing date is midday Wednesday 12 February 2025.

Those whose expression of interest proves they meet the charity criteria will be sent a full application form for completion, following which, shortlisting, interview and appointment will be carried out.

Stella O'Neill
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CHURCH

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

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 between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Deddington church is open from 9.00am–4.00pm for anyone wishing to visit, pray, meditate or simply be. Church services are streamed live. Please see the church website or Facebook page for updates, www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

I hope the new year has got off to a good start for you all. The festive season may already seem like a long time ago now, but it was wonderful that we were able to play our part in helping to make it an extra special time for so many of you. It was a delight to see the church packed with children and adults for the many school nativity and carol services, as well as being able to offer the community a full range of seasonal services, including Christingle and crib services, carol services and, of course, the traditional Midnight Mass and Christmas Day family services. As I reflect on this, I am again thankful to be called here to serve all our communities and to help the church be there whenever people need us. I wish you all every blessing for the year ahead. Nick.

FEBRUARY

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Mon	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Tue	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Fri	8.45am	Morning Prayer
	5.15pm	Evening Prayer
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion (healing prayer on 4th Wednesday)
Thu	9.30am	Tea + Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles
Sun 2	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 9	10.30am	Holy Communion
	3.00pm	3 O'Clock Family Service
Sun 16	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 23	10.30am	Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 16 9.00am Holy Communion

Barford St Michael

Wed 5.15pm Evening Prayer

Thu 8.15am Morning Prayer

Sun 2 10.30am Coffee and Chat

Sun 16 10.30am Family Service

Sun 23 10.30am Family Holy Communion

Barford St John

Sun 9 9.00am Communion

From the Parish Registers

Funerals:

Nov 21 Diana Burton

Dec 7 Mick Bullard

Dec 19 Alec Wright

Dec 29 Grace Hancock

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

RC Parish of Hethe

St John's Church in Banbury streams 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.

PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

We've had several extreme weather events already this winter: snow, ice, heavy rain, gales and, most recently, a burst water main on Dane Hill. And we are told to expect more of the same.

The parish council has an Emergency and Resilience Plan to provide parishioners with a clear idea of who to contact and where to go in the event of an emergency. It details the roles of the various services and support agencies and the self-help measures available within the community. For instance, under the heading Utility Failure, you will find details of how to apply to be included on the Priority Service Register for water, electricity and gas supply.

Events which could trigger a local emergency include flooding, severe storms, drought, extreme heat, a major fire, explosion, gas leak, a pollution incident, a

pandemic health threat, contamination of food or water supply – any of which might necessitate a localised or large-scale evacuation. As heavy snow is a real possibility, there is a separate Winter Plan. There is also a contact list under the headings of Health, Fire, Police, Energy, Snow/Winter, Floods, Local Authorities and Other Agencies..

All three documents are available on the PC's website: <https://www.deddingtonparishcouncil.org/> – under the 'Emergency & Resilience' tab on the Home page. For those without internet, printed copies will be provided for Holly Tree Club members, a copy is in the library and copies are also available from the parish council office.

**Clive Snashall, 07761 828066,
clivesnashall.dpc@gmail.com**

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS IN THE MARKET PLACE



Photo courtesy Stefan Wathan

Christmas Eve must seem a long way off already, but perhaps you were among the huge crowd gathered in the Market Place for our traditional carol singing round the Christmas tree?

Two residents, Joy Drake and Maggie Rampley, came up with the idea in 1983 – just a few friends coming together to sing a few carols. For many years it stayed low key, even selling the first carol sheet booklets for £1 to cover the printing cost. The PC has since paid for two reprints but they do disappear afterwards and numbers are dwindling fast. Instead, please download your own copies from www.deddington.org.uk.

In the early days I brought my two young sons out and we met up with other families with similar aged children. Many of us are still around, now with grandchildren in tow. It really is a great non-religious, family occasion.

This year Deddington Brass treated us to 'While shepherds watched' sung to the tune of *Ilkla Moor Baht* 'at which foxed a few folk but, as a Yorkshire exile, I loved it. Not sure about the authenticity of drums in a brass band but they did help the music swing along.

The PC coned off an area south of the Town Hall to accommodate families but, even so, many overflowed on to the road until the buses trundling through separated them. Cars travelling through stopped to listen.

With carol accompaniment by our own Deddington Brass band, Al Collins as MC, and mulled wine (courtesy of the event's organiser, Michael Liebrecht and others), it's become one of Deddington's big community turn-out events. The charity chosen this year to benefit from the mulled wine sales was the homeless charity, Crisis.

Mary Robinson
robimary@gmail.com

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

We have a published author in our midst. Harriet, year 5 at Deddington Primary School has written a book on her love of Christmas, a love attested to by Clive Evans, headteacher of our local school.

According to the *Banbury Guardian* 'Harriet Murray-Hundley of Clifton, got the idea for a book from her love of Christmas and from the ethos of her school – "be kind, be safe, be responsible". She was helped with illustrations by her dad'. <https://tinyurl.com/5c9efvyp>.

The book was going to be available on Amazon but sales locally went so well that £2,000 was raised for the PTA, Home-Start Banbury, Oxfordshire Mind's children's services and Oxfordshire Autistic Society. Harriet also sent a copy to HRH Princess Catherine, Princess of Wales and Princess Charlene of Monaco, prompting a charming reply hoping for a future meeting.

Obviously Clifton did its usual Santas, with 23 decorating the village in many different styles but this

time, perhaps belatedly, it had a fundraising element with QR codes all around raising money for ROSY, our local charity providing respite care for sick Oxfordshire children. This scheme, championed by Alice and supported by the Clifton Ladies, raised over £400. Next year we'll be better organised and looking for parish-wide support.

CAST greatly enjoyed the quieter roads when the tree fell down in Candleford, but they deny being responsible. However, sadly, too many fools chose to drive round the tree, not only cutting up the verge terribly, leaving a lasting mess, but also, as there were no resulting power outages, miraculously driving within inches of the 'hidden in the dark' downed 415V cable that was clearly still live. Not only did they risk their own safety but they are clearly the nutters who don't follow the speed limit once they get round.

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WHAT HAVE THE PUBLICANS DONE FOR YOU?

Christmas and New Year have come and gone. For everyone in hospitality, this is the big month. Many pubs make most of their profit for the year in this period and now have to last until Mother's Day and spring before the mood of communities rises up again.

Our pubs and restaurants did reasonably well, despite Guinness shortages, cyber-attacks, chimney fires and water outages, as well as the usual list of everyday challenges. Remember, for most, it's their first Deddington Christmas, so they inevitably also learnt a lot for next year. We, Hubbers and Operators, meet regularly to discuss this.

Monty Python's Life of Brian is a favourite of mine, so when I am asked why pubs are so important to British life, I inevitably urge people to consider: what have the publicans (and restaurateurs) done for us? They welcome you into their house and smile, whatever they feel like. They listen to your chat (interesting or not so much), and nod encouragement. They make sure the beer is well-kept, the wine is chilled, the food is hot and safe to eat. They order it in, prep, serve, do the washing-up, take out the rubbish. They light the fires and give you warm spaces to meet, chat, support each other, make new friends, laugh and giggle. They socialise our young, and stave off loneliness in the elderly. During the Christmas season, they work every day to serve and feed you when you are having fun. On Christmas Day, all three pubs opened their doors for villagers to celebrate the holiday, the Deddington

Arms for the first time ever.

Pub numbers continue to fall: we are now down to 39,000, a 15% decline since 2010. If I am writing in 10 years' time, I am betting the number will be 20% lower, meaning a lot of villages like ours will lose their last pub. About 50% of pubs are independent (all of Deddington's) and struggling right now. It's especially tough from January to March, when publicans' income typically falls to minimum wage or below. Communities like ours, that see the value in community spaces and social engagement, will help them to survive. Please keep on supporting them through the hungry gap till spring. The offers in our ad below will help you enjoy jolly times around Deddington while we all wait for the longer days to arrive.

Join our Hub monthly email or whatsapp by emailing me and find out the latest, including what-son monthly diary on our update blog <https://bit.ly/3X4KjeD>.

Hamish Stoddart
Hamish@stoddart.co



'Rapunzel! Rapunzel! Let down your hair!' was possibly the only recognisable line from the original fairy tale in this year's panto up at the Windmill. The Players put on what I think we might call a 'loose adaptation' of the original story, reset in Deddington and Daeda's Wood. It included all the usual ingredients for a village pantomime – a heroine, a hero and his helpers, a bird (really?), two sex-starved dames (obvs!), an evil sorceress and accomplices, bats, a two-headed monster, a good fairy, a king and queen plus entourage including a hopeless jester and a girl with no lines, servants, guards, villagers, John Travolta (what?!) and, of course, the pantomime horse. The magnificent scenery, props, lighting and sound effects, slapstick moments, as well as some banging tunes, all made for three glorious evenings of silliness. As Lord Helpus commented: 'It was well wicked, innit?'

As well as the panto, in the last few weeks we have hosted, amongst other things, a spectacular 40th birthday celebration with live band, a very successful football club quiz fundraiser, a kid's go-kart party and a thought-provoking meeting of local groups working towards community sustainability: all very different events which remind us of how versatile our facilities are. So, if you have an event planned for 2025, we hope you will consider holding it at the Windmill. Just visit our website, www.thewindmilleddington.org or our Facebook page or call our bookings secretary, Julie, on 07720 834006.

Vaughan Jones
chair@thewindmilleddington.org

Deddington Hospitality Hub

What's On In February

LOYALTY OFFERS

Bengal Spice — Free Shot for Loyal Customers
Dine in or Takeaway

The Unicorn — Loyalty Card 9th drink free

The Deddington Arms — Restaurant Club
10% off Food (excludes offers)

WEEKLY OFFERS

The Unicorn — Thursday Steak & Chop Night

The Red Lion — Friday Lunch Offer 12-2.30pm
20% off for over 65s

The Deddington Arms

- Market Menu Monday-Saturday
2 Courses £19, 3 Courses £25
- Special Breakfast Menu 8-11.30am
- Fizzy Fun Night, Thursday, 40% off Prosecco
- Sunday Roast
- Sky Sports/TNT Football & Rugby Everyday

Bengal Spice

- Free Poppadoms with every takeaway order
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Find the latest hub info & Valentines offers on our blog

<https://bit.ly/3X4KjeD>

POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

There are certain benefits to getting old. In London young people give up their seats on the Tube, although obviously this doesn't happen in Colorado as there is very little public transport. At 72 the biggest benefit I have is that most mornings I wake up and I have forgotten that the world has gone mad. As soon as I pick up my phone to read the news, the amnesia is rapidly dispersed and I am reminded that there is a convicted felon in the White House and in any one day many crazy things will occur.

The first time Trump arrived in the job he was completely unprepared. His team didn't even turn up for handovers in some departments. This time his backers in the far right Federalist Society are ready with a plan and there are only two qualifications necessary to be a member of his cabinet: absolute loyalty to Trump and a large scale financial commitment to the cause, although it would appear that drunkenness and sexual assault charges are also good qualifications.

The most interesting member of his current inner circle is Elon Musk. I just finished Isaacson's biography. It's a very interesting picture of a flawed genius, a highly autistic outsider, obsessed with having children and getting to Mars. He is a huge risk taker who is promising to decimate the infrastructure within the US Federal government, repeating his trick of removing three-quarters of the 7,500 employees at X within eight weeks of taking over. This is going to be an interesting battle, unless you think that employees should have rights and the weaker parts of society should be protected.

I wrote my first computer program in 1970 and have worked in this field for over 50 years. During this time IT has developed from being a useful tool that was never seen to the huge changes brought about by the internet. But the 'Tech Bros' who now pull the strings behind Trump have immense power and their manly world has no time for diversity. They are bullies with no time for democracy. Musk and his pals are leading a war on 'woke', regulation and government interference. Their definition of free speech is ensuring they have the loudest voices on the social media platforms. Disinformation is now the norm.

The real revolution will come over the next few years as Artificial Intelligence comes to everyday life. It will change the way we work, how we get information, how we live, and, if the Tech Bros are in charge, it won't be the Common Man who gains from these advances and it certainly won't be the MAGA crowd that thought Trump was their leader. He's not going to 'drain the swamp', he is going to fill it with his cronies.

A few years ago, when we were on a trip to Spain, I was head butted by a giraffe. To be more exact, when I turned away from feeding one of these dangerous creatures at the zoo it got annoyed and dropped its chin from a great height onto the top of my head. Concussion is a strange thing; I woke up wondering what had just happened. These days I keep waking up feeling relaxed but then I realise there are no giraffes, just bullies pounding down on me. And it has only just started, it's all going to get a lot worse.

Mike Ward, mike@mikeaward.com

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FROM THE FIRE STATION

December started off as a busy month for us at the fire station and then quietened down over Christmas. We attended 14 fire calls, including a flat fire, a fire at an industrial unit, a car fire, chimney fire, road traffic collisions and, of course, the usual standbys.

The largest incident was a fire at a building housing a furniture warehouse and self-storage units near to Milcombe. Initially we were mobilised to be attending with Banbury and Chipping Norton's appliances. En route we could see a large orange glow in the distance which was confirmed to be the fire by Banbury's unit, saying 'One building well alight. Make pumps five and water bowzers one', meaning they needed five fire appliances in total (so two more were mobilised) and one high-capacity water bowser. Our water bowser, based in Wheatly, was requested due to the lack of hydrants in the area and poor water pressure, since it holds approximately 12,000 litres, the equivalent of six fire engines' worth of water.

Once in attendance we were faced with a large warehouse, part of which was well alight, with flames coming through the roof. We helped Banbury lay out more hoses and get water onto the fire and to start gaining access to the rest of the building. Despite having three fire engines there to start off with, the scale of the initial fire and the lack of available water meant we were unable to stop it spreading throughout the building.

A further request was made: 'Make pumps eight, water bowzers three and aerial platforms one'. Our aerial ladder platform, based at Rewley Road in Oxford, was requested, it being the only safe way to fight the fire since we couldn't send firefighters in due to the roof collapsing. Two water bowzers were sent from Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. All the crews worked hard throughout the night. We got back home at about 3.00am, having been mobilised at 8.30pm. We were sent back the next day as a relief crew to continue damping down any hotspots. In total, including relief crews, 16 different appliances, three

water bowzers, one aerial ladder, one command unit and the welfare unit attended this incident.

As firefighters we never know what each incident is going to bring. We were mobilised to attend a fire involving 'Road Furniture and Receptacles'. This is normally a bin fire. However, after gaining access we discovered it was not a bin on fire but a car. Using two hose reel jets we extinguished the car fire and inspected the building it was parked next to, to make sure the fire had not spread. Our chimney fire was at a thatched house where luckily the fire stayed contained to the chimney, otherwise it could have been a lot more than just the chimney on fire. We extinguished it with chimney rods and a stirrup pump. Please note: the fire started due to the chimney not being swept recently. It is recommended that chimneys are swept every six months by a registered chimney sweep.

We offer free 'Safe and Well' home visits, aimed particularly at elderly people and people at a higher risk of having a fire in their home. However, anyone can request one. If you or someone you know would like a home safety check, get smoke alarms fitted or checked, make a fire escape plan or get advice on ways to reduce risk from falls, fire, flood and power cuts, book a visit on <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/fire-and-public-safety/community-safety/safety-home/keep-safe-and-well>.

Ben Fenemore

Acting Crew Manager

Ben.Fenemore@oxfordshire.gov.uk

AREA VEHICLE THEFTS

A Deddington resident had his Toyota Hilux pickup stolen during the night from the street outside his home in the Paddocks by thieves who had cloned his keyless entry key. According to police, this was the third such theft in the area. (A keyless entry key is one which locks and unlocks without needing the actual key to be pressed.) Thieves in the vicinity of the vehicle intercept the signal from the key remotely, using the same equipment as locksmiths use to code keys.

The only way to guard against remote key cloning is to keep the key in a Faraday pouch or box made of a signal-blocking material. Individual pouches are available for less than £10. It is also advisable to keep keys indoors well away from windows. The pouches can also be used to protect credit cards and mobile phones from hacking.

Catherine Desmond

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DEDDINGTON PORK PIE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

The Deddington society was formed following a few visits to the Rutland Pork Pie Appreciation Society in Oakham where I used to live and still have a few friends. The idea is really very simple: enthusiasts get together over a few drinks and taste each other's pies, putting a few quid in the pint pot in the process.

Beside the date and time, everything else is very relaxed and we therefore never really know how many bakers will attend or how many appreciators will come along. So far so good, and we haven't yet been oversubscribed in either camp. Both those baking and those tasting are encouraged to put a donation in the pot. The total funds thus raised are passed on to worthy causes in Deddington and I am proud to say that, since its inception just over three years ago, we have donated over £1,800. What better way could there be to raise money for the community than over a few drinks while sampling some excellent pork pies?

It really is a case of 'all welcome'. That includes novice bakers, those interested in starting, hungry consumers and experienced connoisseurs. There are no winners or losers, just an appreciation of all things 'pork pie'. We have attendees from as far away as Turkey, Sussex and Rutland, such is the Society's appeal.

To keep the community up-to-date with all things Deddington Pork Pie we will be listing our meetings here, in the What's On section. We also have a Facebook page: just search 'The Deddington Pork Pie Appreciation Society', to 'Like' and 'Follow' us. You'll

get updates on future meetings but not information overload, so don't worry.

I'd like to thank everyone, whether bakers or appreciators, for their support this far and look forward enthusiastically to welcoming new attendees, whether baking or tasting. Our next convocation is on 23 February in the Deddington Arms, starting at 4.00pm. Be sure to get there on time as we attract a busy enthusiastic crowd.

Mark Adams

m.adams950@btinternet.com

FARMERS' MARKET



It's twenty-four years since the first Deddington Farmers' Market, founded by Clifton resident, the late Charles Newey. He started it in response to the horrendous consequences of foot and mouth disease for our

farming community. The idea was to help provide an outlet for them to sell their products which included anything they could make on the farm, preserves, honey etc.

From a few stalls, the market has grown to be the multi award-winning success it is today. It hosts a number of local farmers and producers of high-quality foods. The original tenet of supporting local farmers has grown to include local organisations that support our community in a variety of ways.

As a not-for-profit Community Interest Company we give our profits away. Annually we email a call-out for requests for capital project donations. Over the years we have given away well in excess of £60,000 and it would be hard to live in Deddington parish without somehow benefitting from a donation from us. The money comes from our stall fees minus our outgoings, and it is all made possible by our fantastic group of volunteers.

This December we gave out cheques for almost £3,000 towards a myriad of items including display boards, fishing, camping and sensory equipment, a tree, printer, rope bridge, bench, food warmer, fire resistant door, welly rack, spotlight, smoke machine, doll's pram and trundle, shrubs and bulbs and an on-line hospitality hub. The beneficiaries were Adderbury and Deddington Photographic Society, Deddington OnLine, Deddington Housing Association, Home-start, PFSU, Parish Archive, Royal British Legion, Scotus, Squiggles & Wiggles, Deddington School PTA, Friends of Hempton Church and Old School Room, Deddington Tennis Club, Guides, Deddington Playgroup, Cubs, Deddington Craft Group, Deddington Environmental Network, Deddington Players and Deddington Nursery.

Tei Willox

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LETTERS

FROM JOAN WRIGHT, DEDDINGTON

I would like to thank neighbours and friends for their wonderful sympathy cards and messages and all donations that I received after the passing of my darling Alec on 22 November at Wardington House Care Home – such cards and messages uplifted my spirits. Also my grateful thanks go to Matron Maggie Rampley and her excellent team of nurses and carers, and all the staff who were simply fantastic. My grateful thanks also to The Revd Nick Fielden who was very helpful, as were Edd Frost & Daughters. They all supported and advised me in every possible way. Thank you all.

FROM JO EAMES, DEDDINGTON

It is now more than three years since a group of volunteers planted 15 local and heritage varieties of fruit trees on Welford's Piece in Clifton with the support of Deddington Parish Council. Since then we have been pruning, watering and mulching our infant orchard through drought and rain. In December we were very grateful to receive a cheque from the farmers' market for just over £100 to help fund materials for ongoing maintenance and development of the orchard which should start to bear fruit over the next few years.

Not only does the farmers' market give us a wonderful community gathering point once a month through the year it also does great work in supporting other voluntary initiatives like the community orchard through grant giving. Thanks to all the organisers who raise and lower the stalls early and late and keep the market running for our benefit, and to the stallholders who bring so much good stuff to our market square. You do great work.

FROM CHRISTOPHER HALL, DEDDINGTON

The local outage in December proved that the fears of nay-sayers were right before the Digital Voice switchover last year. Instantly the TV, lights and heating went off. Computers and tablets went blank for those who have them. The loss of BT's copper landlines meant that the lonely, elderly and infirm could not seek help or report the outage to suppliers, nor could relatives or concerned neighbours contact them. Mobile phones dependent on wifi were useless; I managed to find a signal up the garden.

As climate change triggers more frequent extreme weather events, so too will outages multiply. A Facebook friend commented on the Parish Community noticeboard that a back-up battery box is essential. Lithium battery boxes are available online. Modems and routers may use different voltages, both need to be backed up. Installation is tricky. A caring neighbour with above average expertise rose to the challenge.

I worry for the lonely, elderly and infirm who cannot afford £42 for a battery box and do not have a caring neighbour or close relative with enough expertise. The isolated will increase in numbers as Digital Voice spreads across the country. Internet providers should be required to fit back-up boxes at no cost to those on the SSE Priority Services Register. SSE has

raised the problem with MPs, but say unfortunately, telecommunications is outside their remit. They are frustrated when they know and understand that some customers are completely out of touch if the power supply is interrupted.

FROM PARISH CHURCH ECO-GROUP

Fair Trade Stall returns to Farmers' Market

The popular Fair Trade stall is returning to the farmers' market this month as part of the church's eco-church initiative.

Products on sale are sourced from True Origin Foods, a company which works directly with a network of smallholder farmers and producers in the global south to source the finest ethical foods. As a WFTO Guaranteed Member, True Origin Foods adheres to Fair Trade principles. Your purchases will help farmers and producer communities receive a fair and reliable income, enabling them to buy equipment, education, infrastructure and take care of their environment.

We will be stocking tea, coffee, rice, pasta, Divine chocolate and some surprise items. The stall will be in the church so come and find us. It would be really encouraging to have lots of people come to see us, chat about the Fair Trade project and buy some delicious Fair Trade food. And we'd be interested in your ideas on other things you'd like us to stock.

FROM SUSIE CARDUS, DEDDINGTON

Deddington Castle Grounds: A treasure on our doorstep worth protecting

Deddington Castle is a landmark most of us know and love, drawing visitors year round. But how many of us fully appreciate its historical importance?

In 1067, William the Conqueror's half-brother, Bishop Odo of Bayeux, became Britain's second largest landowner. He established four 'caputs' from which to administer his vast lands: one in Kent, two in the north and the fourth in Deddington. Built in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest, Deddington's motte and bailey stands as a reminder of William the Conqueror's era. Deddington Castle, with its exceptionally well-preserved and extensive ditch and ramparts, is a scheduled ancient monument, one of only seven in Oxfordshire overseen by the Secretary of State.

In Historic England's words, 'The castle has ... high historic value in demonstrating how the Normans deliberately dominated the surrounding landscape militarily and physically by choosing an elevated site, and how the castle stands separate from the village – the existing mainly open setting contributes to that significance.' They also commented on its 'very high evidential value', as previous archaeological digs have indicated.

Maintaining the balance: history and housing

There is one gap in the ramparts, to the north of Castle Grounds where visitors can look out towards Banbury across Poplars field. In 2023, permission was granted to build five single-storey homes on the western edge of this area, largely screened by the ramparts, with the

LETTERS

Contd from p21

rest of the field pledged to remain as 'rough grassland'. However, the developer has since applied to build four more homes with associated street lighting etc on the land, this time only a few metres from Castle Grounds. Historic England has objected to Cherwell District Council, pointing out that the development would be clearly visible as housing rather than rural space. One of the key views into and out of this significant historical site and the dark space that has surrounded the Castle for nearly a thousand years, would be lost. The application contravenes the agreed Deddington Neighbourhood Plan, and Deddington Parish Council also opposed this second application.

If CDC supports our parish council's objection, we can look forward to a balance: the five permitted bungalows for villagers, and a preserved view and northern border for the Castle Grounds. It's a fair compromise that respects both our history and our community needs.

ANGELA CONLAN, CLIFTON

We noticed that the Clifton Santas have once again brought festive joy to the community, while supporting an important cause, this year, the ROSY appeal for Oxford Health Charity. ROSY (Respite Care for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters) is a service which provides vital additional respite care for terminally ill, acutely, and chronically sick children across Oxfordshire, helping families receive the support they need in their own homes.

Oxford Health Charity would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated, participated, and contributed to this wonderful event. Through your generosity and enthusiasm, this year's initiative raised an impressive £426, including Gift Aid. Alice Collins of the Clifton Ladies Group, also thanks everyone who made a Santa, helped put up posters, and added QR codes around the village to encourage donations.

The Clifton Santas started about seven or eight years ago at a gathering of the Clifton Ladies group. We were at the pub when Maureen Colley, inspired by some local scarecrows, said, 'Why don't we make Santas and have a bit of fun?' And so it began. The Santas have now become a tradition in Clifton, bringing the community together for festive fun to support those in need. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's effort such a success.

To find out more about the ROSY appeal and to donate, please visit Respite for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters (ROSY), Oxford Health Charity, www.oxfordhealth.charity/Appeal/respite-for-oxfordshires-sick-youngsters-rosy.

UKRAINE UPDATE

It's nearly three years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine with a million people either killed or wounded. At this time there is no indication that the conflict will be over any time soon which is why the aid effort by DrivingUkraine keeps rolling on delivering vital vehicles that help with evacuation, medical transport and aid distribution. It has been two months since the last *Deddington News* and, in that time, two convoys have left Deddington for Ukraine. A total of 16 vehicles comprising 4x4s, ambulances and pick-ups have been driven by volunteers 2,000 kilometres, carrying 20 defibrillators, an ultrasound machine, 14 ECG units, four gas analysis machines. These have all been put to work immediately. To date £1,000,000 has been raised and 36 convoys have delivered 156 vehicles. Well done to everyone who has supported financially and volunteered their time.

The school cake stall raised a brilliant £500 on 6 December. Thanks to all those who made and bought cakes. In January the annual Deddington panto's raffle again raised funds for DrivingUkraine. Thank you to the organisers, the cast and the panto audiences for their support.

Finally, on 13 February two stunning and internationally acclaimed jazz trios, featuring Deddington's own Steve Kershaw and Steve Waterman, who have been part of previous Deddington Festivals, will perform in the parish church at 7.30 pm. Steve Kershaw is a supporter of DrivingUkraine and will be donating a percentage of the ticket and merchandise money to the charity. Do not miss this extraordinary concert, it will be a truly memorable event.

**Jenny Soddy, Jennysoddy@gmail.com
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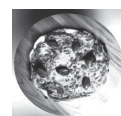
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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

Hempton residents with a view of the western horizon are often treated to spectacular sunsets, frequently enhanced by dramatic cloud formations. Even with an interrupted view the effect can be spectacular, witness the photo for March in the Deddington 2025 calendar. Those with a view of the eastern horizon may also enthuse about sunrise.

The Moon is often thought a night time visitor but is visible during the daytime, a faint, pale presence compared to its night time glow. When the sky is clear I often catch a glimpse of the Moon set in the western sky from my kitchen window as I wash the breakfast pots. You can see it in the daylight sky during any phase except the new Moon when the sunlit side faces away from Earth and, though it's there, you can't see it or the full Moon when it dips below the horizon during the day.

Led Zeppelin sang about a *Stairway to Heaven*. The lyrics are allegorical and obscure, but a stairway to the Moon, negotiated at a decent walking pace of say 4mph would be a journey of 355 days on average. That's nonstop: pitching a tent for some respite on the journey would be difficult, tent pegs don't grip very well in a vacuum.

If we were to extend the M40 directly to the Moon, with the national speed limit in force and adhered to, it would take on average 142 days to get there. As the Moon's orbit is an ellipse, it would vary between 134 and 151 days; so time your departure for the right phase in the lunar cycle.

Assuming your vehicle consumed fuel at the rate of 50mpg you would need 23,000 litres of fuel and, with a fuel tank of capacity 70 litres, you would need 329 service stations at which to refuel. Slight problem; there is no air beyond Earth's atmosphere to provide oxygen for combustion engines, so you would need to make the journey in an EV. At 70mph current battery technology might typically give you a range of about 400 miles per full charge, requiring 633 charging stations. Assuming it takes 30 minutes to fully charge your EV (fastest currently available charge rate) that is six days to relax and enjoy a coffee whilst you charge up.

Because the Earth and the Moon are in synchronous rotation, the Moon always shows the same face toward the earth, rotating precisely once each lunar month. However, the earth rotates 27.5 times faster than the Moon meaning there would be only 27.5 specific times each month you could either begin the journey from Earth or end the journey on the Moon dependent on whether the roadway was tethered to the Moon or Earth. It can't be tethered at both ends.

The Earth or the Moon's entry/exit junctions can not be at a fixed point because the Moon twists, nods and rolls slightly during its monthly orbit. The rate at which the Moon orbits the Earth varies slightly being faster when closest to Earth and slower when furthest resulting in its rotation being slightly behind or ahead revealing more of the Moon's eastern or western sides.

The Moon's orbit has a five degree tilt causing it to nod at the Earth (or perhaps it's head banging to

Stairway to Heaven!) revealing slightly more of either the Northern or Southern hemispheres. The Moon also appears to tilt like a metronome back and forth. This effect is caused by the Moon's tilt but mainly by the Earth's tilt about its axis of 23.5 degrees.

The distance to the Moon varies by 29,000 miles due to its elliptical orbit requiring a concertina or perhaps a bendy-arc road construction.

Long ago the Moon orbited much closer to the Earth and spun much faster. Gradually the Moon drifted away from Earth and slowed its spin under influence of the Earth's greater mass and tidal forces. Eventually it reached the point where one side always faces Earth. The Moon is still drifting away at the rate of a few centimetres a year. But for the Sun's eventual demise, the Earth and Moon would become 'tidally locked' and both the Moon and Earth would spin at the same rate of 47 days, showing the same face and staring at each other for the rest of their existence.

One minor point; such a 'lunny' road scheme is less likely than a certain UK inter-regional bridge proposal. But it might be completed faster than the Botley Road bridge works.

On the subject of roads, I have doubts about the quality of the resurfacing work on the B4031. A substantial pothole is already manifest on the approach to Hempton from Deddington, The edges of significant stretches look particularly prone to breaking up and there are many patches where the tarmac looks less dense and susceptible to hydraulic and frost damage.

I was informed the unspeakable were out and about in January, in their annual pursuit of the uneatable, and I don't mean a scented rag.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

ROAD CLOSURE

The Chipping Norton Road in Hempton will be closed to vehicular traffic between 7.30am–4.30pm on 24 and 25 February while traffic calming measures are installed through the village.

Catherine Desmond

PFSU AND NURSERY

We would like to say a big thank you to those who supported our Christmas raffle in December, we are very pleased to announce we raised a wonderful £1,241 for our charity. We have some great fundraisers planned for this year including our very popular Easter trail. Watch this space for more details.

Charlotte Welch
Charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

CALLING ALL CLUBS

Photographic Society

At our December meeting, Martyn Pearse took us on a journey around Rajasthan 'Land of the Kings'. Martyn went to India in 2018 on an escorted holiday, starting in Delhi where he visited the Qutb complex which lies at the site of Delhi's oldest fortified city, Lal Kot.

He travelled to the Mughal capital, Shahjahan Abad (today Old Delhi), to visit the Jama Masjid mosque that served as the imperial mosque of the Mughal emperors until the demise of the empire in 1857. He ventured further into the city and became immersed in the chaotic traffic scenes India is famous for. A rickshaw took him to Agra to the Red Fort that became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983 because of its importance during Mughal rule. It borders well-manicured palaces and, from certain windows, served as a perfect view to the Taj Mahal.

The trip included a visit to the burial ground of Mahatma Gandhi and Martyn showed us photos of the queues to enter the site where visitors were separated by gender and by tourists/locals.

One of the hotels Martyn stayed in was the famous Real Marigold Hotel, owned by ex-military Amir Singh, who gave his guests a tour of the hotel and gardens.

The trip took Martyn further afield to Jaipur where he was in awe of the carpet makers and street entertainers, including snake charmers. There was a stopover at Man Sagar Lake which was used in the James Bond film, *Octopussy*.

Martyn's favourite part of the holiday was visiting the popular camel fair that brings hundreds of people and their camels which are paraded and raced. The final part of the trip explored the historic vibrant areas of India where he marvelled at the architecture and colourfulness of the hustle and bustle of street scenes.

Courtney Killpack, www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion

By the time this edition of the *DN* is printed, the branch will be 100 years old. It was established on 22 January 1925. This entitles us to proudly display a Centenary Pennant on our Standard. We are also proud of the fact that the parish contributed £4,850 to the Poppy Appeal from Poppy Weeks; so enormous thanks to everyone who donated. A breakdown of the individual tins/donations will be published on Deddington RBL Facebook; but leading the field was the farmers' market (£640) and Norman West, North Aston, who collected a total of £527. Continuing the good news, we are pleased to welcome James Privett as a new member. Not so good news is that the branch committee is shortly losing both its treasurer and poppy appeal organiser. Added to the fact that the level of corporate style administration required by RBL is proving excessive for a small branch such as ours, we are discussing with the county chairman ways to avoid having to close the branch. An update will be published in the next *DN*.

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

Local Vocals Community Choir

Whilst looking forward to the new term, we first need to look back and thank everyone who supported our Christmas Friends and Family evening on 16 December. The audience participation was excellent and our baritones didn't disappoint with all their bum, bum, bums in *We All Stand Together*. They even donned frog headwear to go alongside the other festive adornments on display. As a choir, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and our audience feedback was encouraging. Thank you.

This term brings new songs from three different decades and even separates the baritones and some altos into basses and tenors, a first for our choir. New members are welcome. Come and try us out.

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

Alison Grieve
alisongrmail@gmail.com

Deddington and District History Society

At the December meeting, we enjoyed an informative and entertaining evening listening to and learning about the history and present day techniques of handbell ringing. Founded by Frederick Sharpe in 1951, the Launton Handbell Ringers use 81 of a unique collection of 250 bells of various sizes and weights, some dating back 300 years. The ringers demonstrated their skills with four bells in hand from a repertoire of carols and traditional dance tunes.

This was followed in January with an engaging talk about a Seventeenth Century Christmas by Tim Healey. Christmas then was a longer celebration than today culminating in the Twelfth Night feast on 6 January. However, celebrations often continued until Candlemas on 2 February. Tim set the scene with a performance of Past Three O'Clock which he played on a shawm, an instrument of that time and a forerunner of the oboe. Feasts began with the bringing in of the Yule log. Christmas fare of poultry, roast beef, pork and lamb (instead of the usual diet of vegetables) was followed by Christmas Pie, a sweet and savoury dish, all adding to this earthy, Twelfth Night binge celebration. Christmas entertainments included masquerading and mumming and games such as 'hop cockles' and 'snapdragon'. The Lords of Misrule, when the master becomes the servant and vice versa, presided over this time of licensed 'topsy-turvydom'. Communal celebrations on Twelfth Night regularly included wassailing around apple trees to ward off evil spirits. All Christmas decorations needed to be taken down by Candlemas and on that day one ember from the Yule Log was kept in the house to be used for lighting the following Christmas' Yule log.

The Puritans strongly disapproved of all the festivities and in 1644 effectively banned Christmas with the 'Ordnance Against Christmas'. It was not until 1660 that Christmas was reinstated by Charles II.

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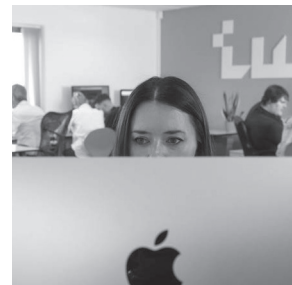
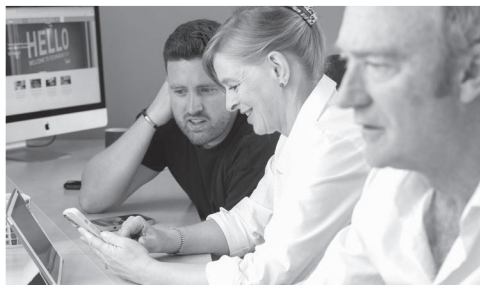


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CALLING ALL CLUBS*Continued from p26*

On Thursday 13 February, Dr Stephen Wass will be speaking on the Archaeology of Stowe Landscape Gardens. His talk will shed light on the long history of the site.

Jean Dipper jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Deddington Playgroup

This month there are lots of people to thank. Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Christmas party and helped us to have lots of festive fun. We must also thank Father Christmas for making the long journey to visit us. The children really enjoyed meeting him, receiving their gifts and listening to him read Christmas stories. Last but not least, an enormous thank you to our volunteers who keep the Playgroup running: KC, Katie, Jess, Sarah and Szintia. These ladies set everything up, prepare snacks and drinks and then tidy everything away at the end. We have a lot of toys so it's no easy task.

If you'd like to join us this month, we'll be open on Friday 14 and Friday 28, both 9.45–11.45am at the Windmill Centre. See you there.

Helen Carpenter
deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

Deddington Bookworms

Our final book of 2024 was *Three Apples Fell from the Sky* by Narine Abgaryan, a tale of a remote mountain village in Armenia, translated from Russian. The book is a cross between a fly on the wall documentary, a magical fable and a history lesson.

The close-knit community of Maran sits high in the Armenian mountains. Having endured hardships from famine and locusts, through war, earthquakes and landslides, the town is nearly deserted with only the old people left. Contact with the city is infrequent, with tales of the storehouses in the city being looted whilst the villagers share out what little food there is, highlighting the contrasting way of life between the two.

The story takes place over thirteen months in

an unidentified time, with the narrative meandering from present circumstances to historical events. The residents bicker, gossip, and go about their daily lives sustaining one another. Two life-long neighbours are brought together by their friends' meddling, and this soon gives the village something new to gossip about.

Descriptions of daily life and traditions followed and beliefs give the book a magical realism. However, the group was divided with some relishing the insight into this way of life and others frustrated by the slow pace and inconsistent timeline.

We return closer to home with our next book, Simon Armitage's *Walking Home*.

DeddingtonBookworms@gmail.com

Book Group

Josephine Tey, who died in 1952, was a prolific writer of mystery novels and plays. Adaptations of two of her works, *The Franchise Affair* and *Brat Farrar* were televised in the 1980s. *Brat Farrar* was our last book choice of 2024.

Patrick Ashby, the elder of twin brothers, disappeared at the age of thirteen. Both parents are dead and soon the younger twin, Simon, will be twenty-one and will inherit the vast family estate. A distant acquaintance of the Ashby family spots that a young drifter, Brat, is the spitting image of the twins. He persuades Brat to impersonate the missing Patrick, gain the trust of the rest of the family and claim the inheritance.

The novel was written in 1948 and inevitably reflects the customs of the time. However, it is very well written with an interesting portrait of Brat and believable interactions between various family members. Some of us found it a quietly compelling read while others felt it lacked momentum. We all thought that the final chapters were a little rushed and various threads tied up too neatly.

The Book Group

SPORT**Deddington Town FC**

First Team results:

16.11.24	Bodicote Sports (h)	W 2–0	Hayward, Glazebrook
23.11.24	Kings Sutton (h)	L 1–2	Glazebrook
30.11.24	Hardwick Spts (a)(CUP)	D 2–2 (AET Won 3-2 on pens)	Hayward, Marrett
14.12.24	Hardwick Sports (h)	L 1–2	Glazebrook

Reserve Team results:

16.11.24	Longford Pk Res (a)	W 5–4	Newton (2), Jones L (2), Worth
30.11.24	K Sutton Res (h)(CUP)	W 2–1	
14.12.24	Chesterton MBLs (a)	D 3–3	
21.12.24	Longford Pk Res (h)	L 0–5	

Plenty of weather-induced postponements in mid-

winter for both teams mean the Humbugs and Latics may have something of a backlog come the season's denouement. A mixed bag of a month for the First team as a win (on penalties) in the league and cup was balanced by two narrow home defeats. Tom Glazebrook scored in three of the four games but won't be happy that two proved to be only consolations. The Humbugs currently sit second bottom but have games in hand on all the teams around them. Meanwhile, the Latics snatched a barnstorming victory by five goals to four away to Longford Park Reserves, only to lose 5–0 to the same opponents on the shortest day. A narrow win in the cup and a high-scoring draw proves that the Reserves' matches are full of goals if nothing else. What more excuse do you need to catch their latest capers at the Windmill playing field on most Saturdays from 2.00pm?

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

SPORT Continued from p29

Deddington Cricket Club

We are gearing up towards the new season. While it was still cold and wet outside, our indoor team delivered some great performances in the Banbury Indoor League, finishing third in their division, just falling short of promotion. Good wins against local teams from Hook Norton, Sandford St Martin and Middleton Cheney were notable scalps. Well done to the squad.

Pre-season indoor nets will commence at the end of February on Friday evenings. If you are interested in joining one of these sessions, whether you have played before or are a beginner, please contact Rich Munro on 07917 208190 for dates and timings. All are welcome.

Our Women are also looking for new players. Anyone over the age of 13 is able to play in our teams and we offer coaching, access to equipment and a friendly environment. We will be staging a taster session in April for those who have never played before and some indoor sessions will also be arranged before the weather improves. If you or a daughter is interested in learning to play cricket or wants to get playing again, please contact Sarah Cox on 07834 423891.

Simon Oldfield
simon.oldfield0@gmail.com

YOUTH

1st Deddington Scout Group

Thanks to everyone who used the Christmas Post. We attempt to deliver everything, even the ones with no address. Usually with a bit of detective work we can find them, only one defeated us this year.

Scouts

Even now Christmas seems a long time ago, but I can remember back into the mists of time that the Scouts made Morse code keys with mixed success and played Morse Code Battleships, again with some success although I don't think any armed forces will be queuing up for them just yet.

One of our number brought his collection (vast) of whistles to a meeting and told the other Scouts about them – surprisingly, very interesting. We then made handwarmers from a sock and rice – just pop them in a microwave and voilà. They were meant for Christmas presents but seem to make good bean bags. We finished the term with a quiz night, the buffet supplied by the Scouts; not surprisingly, there wasn't anything left at the end for us to scrounge.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com

Cubs

We finished 2024 with a fantastic Christmas party packed full of games and yummy treats. Each Cub drew a Christmas scene which we joined together to create some lovely festive bunting and then delivered it to Featherton House.

We have an exciting plan of activities lined up for 2025. Our first session back was a trip to the Deddington pantomime. (Oh no, it wasn't!!)

Tracy Tong
deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF DEDDINGTON LIBRARY

A big thank you must go to everyone who supported us in 2024 through subscribing to the Friends, kindly making donations, buying preloved books and, of course, our calendar. It was a sell-out, thanks to sales through the farmers' market, Fenemore Farms, Hamptons, Nellie & Dove, and the library itself. It would not be possible without the continued support of our valued sponsors, the gifted local photographers who submit such stunning shots and you for buying it.

You'll notice that this edition of the *Deddington News* carries a Friends of the Deddington Library subscription form. Many thanks to Mark David Estate Agents for printing and the *DN* for delivering it.

We are appealing to you all to consider supporting the library in this way. The library remains open only because the community covers a portion of the operating costs, as well as supplying volunteer support for the library manager. The proceeds from the parish calendar top up our annual financial obligation to OCC, but our subscription income is the bread-and-butter of our fundraising effort and crucial to keeping the library open. Unfortunately, due to people moving away and the age demographic of our current subscribers, this income stream has fallen dramatically in recent years, hence the need to address this now with an appeal for new subscribers.

I'm sure you'll agree, we're so fortunate to still have a thriving village library. What an asset it is for the parish, particularly for the children who make regular class visits and the elderly who rely on it for social interaction, as well as the vast array of reading materials, audio books and the home library service in particular. We all benefit, directly or indirectly, from our library. So, please consider supporting the Friends today and keep our library in our community.

Stop press! Bengal spice curry night fundraiser – 2 April, details next month

Bryn Williams
abw@brynwilliams.com
www.friendsofdeddingtonlibrary.org

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

As always, the end of last term was busy but equally wonderful. Everybody enjoyed our three Christmas performances by F1 and F2, KS1 and then KS2. The children portrayed the Christmas story in a variety of ways, singing, acting and reading beautifully. As part of our festive activities, the children enjoyed taking part in our 'Mental Elf Dance' this year, as well as making and selling things at our school Christmas Market. Thank you to all the parents, families and friends who attended and supported this special event. It was extremely busy, possibly the busiest it's ever been.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk

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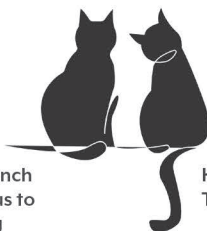
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* Terms & Conditions Apply.

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	TRAVEL:	
CITIZENS ADVICE	01295 221448	Pulham & Sons (Coaches) Ltd	01451 820369
HEALTH CENTRE DEDDINGTON	01869 338611	National Express	0371 781 8181
HOSPITALS:		National Rail Passenger Enqs	03457 48 49 50
Churchill	0300 304 7777	OurBus Bartons	01869 699699
Foscote (Private)	01295 252281	Oxford Bus Company	01865 785400
Horton General	0300 304 7777	Oxfordshire Comet	01865 323201
John Radcliffe	0300 304 7777	Stagecoach Bus Company	01865 772250
Manor (Nuffield Health, Private)	01865 521247	Traveline (Public Transport)	0871 200 2233
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre	0300 304 7777	UTILITIES:	
Katharine House Hospice	01295 811866	Gas Escapes (24hrs)	0800 111 999
NHS Non emergency	111	Electricity – any supplier	
PARISH CLERK	01869 337447	Emergency/Power cut	105
(Monday 9.00am–12.30pm, Wednesday 9.00–5.00pm, Thursday 9.00–12.30pm)		Careline (over 60s)	0800 101 3333
POLICE (non-emergency, 24 hrs)	101	Ofgem	020 7901 7295
PRIMARY SCHOOL (C of E)	01869 338430	Thames Water (24hrs)	0800 316 9800
PFSU	01869 337484	WARRINER SCHOOL, Bloxham	01295 720777
VILLAGE NURSERY	01869 337383	WINDMILL CENTRE	07720 834006
		OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01865 792422
DEDDINGTON LIBRARY	01865 816010	DEDDINGTON CLUBS & SOCIETIES: The full list of contacts is available from the Library and Deddington OnLine website at http://www.deddington.org.uk/directory .	
Monday	2.00–7.00pm	DEDDINGTON CHURCHES	See section inside
Wednesday	9.30am–1.00pm		
Thursday	1.00–5.00pm		
Saturday	9.30am–1.00pm		



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