

March 2025

The DEDDINGTON NEWS



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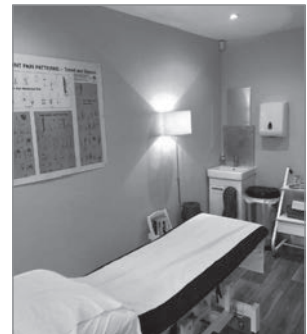
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The DEDDINGTON NEWS

I have reflected on how lucky we are to live in such a lovely and lively place. There are so many activities available locally, something to suit everyone. In addition we regularly have some extraordinarily talented musicians coming to take advantage of the great acoustics of the parish church and the wonderful piano that is available for visiting pianists.

One such example was in mid February although it feels slightly disappointing to me that more locals don't take advantage. What a display of talent!

JC

What's On March

- Wed 5 Photographic Society: Travel and Techniques, Kim Benson, Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Tue 11 Barford–Bloxham road closed.
- Wed 12 WI: AGM, Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- Wed 12 Friends of Castle Grounds: AGM, Deddington Arms, 7.30pm
- 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
- Fri 14 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am
- 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
- Thu 27 Bookworms, Holly Tree Hall, 6.30pm
- Thu 27 Book Group: Call Sally Lambert on 01869 338094 for details
- Fri 28 Deddington Playgroup: Windmill Centre, 9.45–11.45am

April

- Wed 2 Photographic Society: Adderbury Institute, 7.30pm
- Sat 5 PFSU & Nursery: Easter trail, 9.30am–1.00pm
- Sat 5 Cherwell Choral Society: Stabat Mater, Paul Mealor, Deddington Church, 7.30pm
- Wed 9 WI: Holly Tree Hall, 2.30pm
- 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
- Sat 26 Pop up Art Exhibition, Holly Tree Hall, 9.00am–4.00pm
- Sun 27 Pop up Art Exhibition, Holly Tree Hall, 9.00am–4.00pm

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

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 on Wednesday 19 February at the Windmill Centre

Present: Councillors Collins, Cox, Norton, Oldfield (chair), Robinson, Snashall, Swadling, Timms and Watts, District Councillor Rogers, the parish clerk and minutes clerk, two members of the public and a *DN* representative.

There is still a vacancy for a parish councillor.

Open Forum

Adam Nell introduced himself and indicated that he's hoping to represent the locality as a district councillor at the elections in May.

District Councillor report

There are ongoing discussions about local authority reorganisation and the creation of a unitary authority. The main difficulty is that the population within any of the likely groupings is insufficient to qualify.

According to a BBC report there have been more than 100 fines in the last year for drivers speeding in new 20mph limits in the Thames Valley Police area of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, so two a week across the entire area.

Highways and Transport

The proposed build-outs for Hempton have had to be redesigned to accommodate current cycle safety standards which OCC weren't aware of. Carriageway width cannot be 4m; 3.2m is the maximum allowable, so islands that can be overrun are being included in the redesign to accommodate farm vehicles. In addition, as a result of the many objections received, OCC needs to carry out a speed and accident trial using a temporary layout to prove the proposed layout will work. The timescale is tight so new costs are being obtained to determine whether the work can be carried out this financial year.

A report of a near accident with an overtaking vehicle on Deddington–Clifton road at Fardon Way has been passed to OCC.

Residents of Fardon Way have received information that Burringtons do not intend to put a final surface on internal roads and pavements or install a pavement at the front of the site. PC has written to CDC requesting enforcement of this work as promised under S278 agreement. Councillor Rogers will follow this up. OCC will not adopt the road if it is not up to standard.

Environment and Recreation

A teens hangout shelter had been proposed for the far side of the playing-field but this was considered inappropriate as conflicting with cricket outfield and football pitches; it would also be out of range of CCTV. Alternatives are being considered.

The cemetery gate is to be repaired.

PC has agreed funding for repainting exterior woodwork at the Windmill Centre. Grants will be sought to offset the costs.

Finance and General Purposes

The PC will try to obtain the landowner's permission to have a beacon to celebrate the 80th anniversary

of VE Day on or near to 8 May. Assistance from the Fire Service will also be sought.

It was agreed to lay down memorial stones where relatives had not been contactable.

Funding was agreed for the refurbishment of the upstairs kitchen at the Windmill.

Planning

No objection

Mayfield, Earls Lane, Deddington: small single storey kitchen extension and remodelling of existing extension and garage.

Mount Pleasant, Hempton: layout scale, appearance and landscaping: reserved matters. PC had objected to this outline application but it was given consent in October 2023; deferred to planning officer but urged them to support parishioners' concerns in the most appropriate way.

The Cottage, Goose Green, Deddington: replacement of roof covering with reclaimed Welsh Slate, changes to ridge tiles and guttering.

The Stile House, New Street, Deddington: replacement entrance gates.

Dolphin Cottage, 5 Hudson Street, Deddington: alterations and refurbishments including reconstruction of rear gable and internal remodelling.

Featherston House, Chapel Square, Deddington: tree works.

Berwick House, New Street, Deddington: tree works.

Approvals

Bull Ring Cottage, Deddington: replacement of south facing windows.

Clifton Mill, Clifton: alterations to annexe.

Correspondence

An ex-parishioner who had requested support for an Article 4D adoption in Deddington Market Place, will be informed that nothing could be done retrospectively to reinstate the front door of her former family home.

Appeals

Land east of Combe Cottage and south of St John's Way, Hempton: date set for 20 May.

Land Adjoining and west of Stonecroft House, Deddington (ie The Poplars): Consideration of amended planning application. There was a three-way split on the vote: three councillors voted for the amended application, three against and three abstained, so the chair used her casting vote against the application on the basis it was against the Neighbourhood Plan.

Items of Interest

The parish clerk indicated her frustration in a lack of communication with OCC for agreement on the placing of a memorial bench. A letter will be sent indicating the distress being caused to the relatives.

There was a two vehicle accident at Clifton railway bridge which has caused some structural damage.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 19 March at 7.30pm at the Old School Room, Hempton

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OVER 50s FOOTBALLERS WANTED

The Club

Cherwell Strollers Walking Football Club, accredited by the FA, has a team playing in the Premiership and another playing in League 2 of the Thames Valley League at Bisham Abbey. We have an Over 50s and an Over 60s team playing in the Oxfordshire FA Summer League at Bicester. We also enter teams into tournaments in other counties. In summer 2024, we beat Torquay on penalties in the final of a tournament in Devon and also won a tournament in Brackley.

Walking football, or to be more accurate, non-running football has grown enormously since Cherwell Strollers was formed in 2014 and is now very competitive at representative level. The standard of teams has improved considerably over the years and the amount of skill displayed by some players is outstanding. Some players still play Vets football and we also have county players. We are seeking to recruit experienced players with a view to representing the club and are particularly short of players in the 50–60 age range but welcome players of all ages.

We currently train at the Dewey Sports Centre, Bloxham, on Sundays at 10.30am (moving to Tuesday evenings in the summer).

If you are interested please contact me.

Stan Horlock
stan@thehorlocks.com
07889 315069

PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term all classes have embarked on new focus topics of learning with enjoyment and enthusiasm.

We enjoyed our pastoral groups in early February when we celebrated 'Connections' between ourselves and the wider community. These times, when two or three pupils from each year group, become a 'family' each term, are very special.

The theme for this year's Safer Internet Day was 'Too Good to be True?' Children across the school were involved in sessions appropriate to each year group. Everyone learned important lessons, helping them to be safer online.

We would like to thank Gregg Brown, the 'Cook School' chef. We are very lucky that he is keen to adopt our school and work with us in the coming months. He will be supporting us in a range of curriculum areas later in the year and we know the children will love cooking with him. Thank you, Gregg, in advance for your time.

We have been fortunate to have North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Activators leading active playtime drop-in sessions on Mondays. This was for term 3 and took place on our middle field. The idea has been to give the children an opportunity to join in different sporting activities for as long as they wanted. It has been very successful and we would like to thank the Activators for their input.

With February here, let us look forward to brighter warmer weather as we approach spring.

Denise Welch
dwel3954@deddington.oxon.sch.uk



Stephen Lowry
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POSTCARD FROM AMERICA

Dreams, Kings, Corruption and Healthcare

Retirement is supposed to bring relaxation and happiness but I am plagued with bad dreams. Last night I dreamt the king was issuing proclamations, telling his subjects to throw the invaders out of his land and the robber baron was knocking off the subjects he didn't like. Unfortunately, I woke up and it wasn't a dream, it was all true.

I feel like I'm in a secret society. Locals sidle up to me to tell me how terrible things are in America right now. They ask me what people in Europe think about them and I tell them the truth. They wander off shaking their heads muttering, 'How has it come to this?'

The Kennedys are another kind of American royalty but they are deeply ashamed of JFK's nephew as he starts his job running US health services. He is totally unqualified for the job and his views on vaccines are dangerous. But he is also saying he wants to tackle one of the biggest issues in American society: the terribly dysfunctional healthcare system. We will see whether Trump will allow his man to address the hugely inflated drug prices in the US, since the industry gave \$8.5m to Trump and his colleagues in the last election.

When I qualified for Medicare healthcare coverage last year, I took out a policy from United which gives me extra coverage. United (whose insurance CEO was assassinated recently) kept calling me to arrange a home visit. They eventually offered me \$50 if I took a meeting. I was confused as to their motivations but then discovered that United charge Medicare \$1,800 for each visit. They billed the government \$4.2bn for this absurd service last year. United reject 31%

of claims. The business is now the fourth largest in America. It's hard not to agree with Musk that rooting out fraud and waste in government is a priority but giving 22 year old kids access to the government IT systems in order to 'delete' people and even whole departments is insane and illegal.

Last time Trump was in power, there were marches and coordinated resistance. This time his activity was planned meticulously by the right wing billionaires in the Federalist Society, but the opposition is in chaos. The highly vaunted 'separation of powers' are failing and it will be down to the corrupt Supreme Court to decide whether America has regressed 240 years and is a kingdom again. One thing is for sure, the Tech Bros are all in, they have no morals, Trump is their king.

My biggest problem with it all is the corruption. If our rulers think it is OK to make some money on the side, what kind of society are we creating? What are we saying to our children? Trump is pardoning violent rioters and forgiving corrupt mayors, making millions out of his meme coin and from huge developments in the Middle East (outside Gaza for now). Musk wants to shut down government agencies which have ruled against him and his Tech Bros mates. I wonder what they want in Greenland? Could it be the minerals?

The good news is that I know I am old because I just bought my first pair of sweatpants. At night I go to sleep and forget about the terrible things being done to good people. Luckily my dreams come true and I wake up next to the love of my life. Is it enough?

Mike Ward
mike@mikeaward.com

DRIVING UKRAINE LATEST

As the uncertainty grows for the future of Ukraine, another month of fundraising, volunteering and bravery by Driving Ukraine, has put help in the right hands, saved lives and made a difference to the people of Ukraine.

So many achievements made possible by the tireless work of Fynn and Jacob and so many others – our local charity has become global with volunteers coming from USA, Europe and Australia to help raise money and drive vehicles to Ukraine.

On 23 January the largest convoy, number 37, left heading to the city of Lviv: twelve emergency vehicles, including 4x4s, four ambulances and an armoured vehicle, 28 volunteers, £250,000 in aid and a huge £100,000 raised by this group alone. To mark this occasion, on 16 January, the 12 vehicles took part in an unbelievable drive around the Silverstone race track. The vehicles completed four laps of the race track and generated extensive coverage in the media, including the BBC, Times Radio, Radio Northampton, Radio Sounds and Radio Oxford, ultimately keeping the war and the people of Ukraine at the forefront of people's minds. To date a massive £1.2 million has been raised since the charity was formed in 2022.

A couple of weeks ago, prior to the January convoy heading for Ukraine, Fynn met the former Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, to update him on the incredible work Driving Ukraine is doing and the dedication of volunteers, like Mark and Stephen who have delivered vehicles to Ukraine in the past, vehicles that have carried the wounded to safety and saved countless lives.

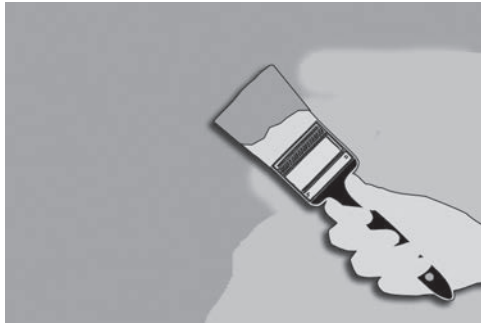
Every pickup truck, every ambulance, every mission is powered by those who refuse to stand and watch, so help us to ensure every vehicle reaches frontline heroes to be there for that crucial moment to save life and limb.

There are so many ways to get involved with Driving Ukraine, please get in touch, use your skills to fundraise, help with the press and media, UK operations, European logistics or just donate. Visit the website, <https://drivingukraine.org/>, for more information and learn more about what we do and the difference it is making.

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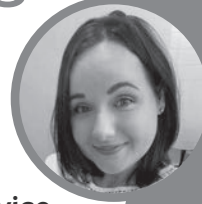
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HOSPITALITY HUB

Change is Inevitable

Surely soon the weather will change. This time of year is the hardest for hospitality: the weather affects mood and mood affects sales. It's also the time when those working in hospitality find out what it will cost them to stay in business.

Hospitality Hub came together as a group and is Diddy-Cated to supporting hospitality because there seemed to be real danger of there being fewer pubs.

I hope the editors will now forgive me for referring to the actual pubs. As you may have spotted, the Red Lion has a 'To let – new tenant required' sign outside. Both the Red and the Unicorn are hosted by publicans on leases and pay rent to large property landlords. The landlord of the Red has chosen to offer Will, the publican at the pub, a lease for the next five years but only if he pays a much higher rent.

On 1 April, all restaurants and pubs pay more money for minimum wages and NI changes. The combination has led Will to believe he can't make a living wage at the Red. The reality of moving sales, costs and rents is happening all the time in pubs and finances are often tight anyway, so a shock cost rise is just impossible to absorb. This is what leads to pub closures and changes of tenant.

So Will has chosen to look elsewhere for the right pub and will leave on 3 May. I don't think the landlord has made the right choice. We will miss Will and his team.


Change is inevitable in restaurants and pubs nowadays. It's rare to get lifelong publicans staying in the chocolate box pubs of our youth. What lots of us love about Deddington is the vibrancy and the community, so I am sure we will welcome a new publican who is looking for a great village to be a part of. And the resilience of the pubs will improve. The Hub is ready to help.

So for all those wanting pubs to survive, don't forget to book in for Mothers Day and pray for a sunny day. That's always a good start to happier, busier times in the pubs. If that's not the moment, find one in March to support our hospitality places. There's Aunt Sally coming soon and a charity curry evening for the library on 2 April too. Use them or lose them.

Join our Hub monthly email or WhatsApp by emailing me Hamish@stoddart.co. Find out the latest including our what's on monthly dairy on our update blog, <https://bit.ly/3X4KjeD>.

Hamish and the Hubbers.

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Campfire XP Community Interest Company (reg. 15749813)

CHURCH March

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 Wednesdays to Sundays between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Deddington church is open daily from 9.00am–4.00pm for anyone wishing to visit. To see Deddington church services streamed live, please see our website or Facebook page for updates: www.deddingtonchurch.org and <https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonChurch>.

Lent begins on 5 March with Ash Wednesday when we will be holding a special evening service with 'ashing' at 7.00pm. It is a six week season in which we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and acknowledge the need for our own forgiveness. During Lent, we will be running the excellent 'Come and See' course from Oxford Diocese. The theme for this year is 'Earth, Water, Wind and Fire – Understanding Baptism'. It's perfect for new and old Christians alike. Find out more and register at <https://oxford.anglican.org/campaigns/come-and-see/>. Everyone who registers receives a short daily email to reflect on and a weekly video from Bishop Steven exploring the themes. There are special materials for children and young people. At Deddington church, we will be running weekly follow-up discussion groups on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, starting on 11 March. We hope to see you there.

Mon 8.45am	Morning Prayer, Deddington
Tue 8.15am	Morning Prayer, Deddington
5.15pm	Evening Prayer, Barford St John
Wed 5.15pm	Evening Prayer, Barford St Michael
Thu 8.15am	Morning Prayer, Barford St Michael
Fri 8.15am	Morning Prayer, Barford St John
8.45am	Morning Prayer, Deddington
5.15pm	Evening Prayer, Deddington
Wed 10.00am	Holy Communion (healing prayer on 4th Wednesday), Deddington

Thu 9.30am Tea+Toast and Squiggles and Wiggles (term time)

Ash Wednesday

Wed 5 10.00am Services of Holy Communion with and 7.00pm Ashing, Deddington

Lent Course:

Every Tue 11 March–15 April at 7.30pm in Deddington Church

Parish Church SS Peter and Paul

Sun 2 10.30am Holy Communion
6.00pm Sung Evensong

Sun 9 10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm 3 O'Clock Family Service

Sun 16 10.30am Holy Communion

23 10.30am Holy Communion

30 10.30am Holy Communion

Hempton

Sun 16 9.00am Holy Communion

Barfords

Sun 2 10.30am Coffee & Chat, Barford St Michael

Sun 9 9.00am Holy Communion, Barford St John

Sun 16 10.30am Family Service, Barford St Michael

Sun 23 10.30am Family Holy Communion, BStM

Sun 30 9.00am Holy Communion, Barford St John

From the Parish Registers

Funerals:

28 January Fred Lovell

14 February Meriel Flux

For funeral and home visits in case of illness please contact Revd Nick Fielden on 01869 934794 or vicar@deddingtonchurch.org, or one of the church wardens: Deddington: Stan Nelson 01869 337883, Caroline Condon 07821 259092 or wardens@deddingtonchurch.org. Barfords: Sue Addison 07484 718791 or Sally Barber 07776 241218 or barfordchurches234@gmail.com.

For baptisms, weddings and general enquiries please contact the parish administrator, 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.

Volunteer Church Treasurer Wanted

Deddington Church is looking for a new treasurer. This volunteer role would suit someone with experience of accounts or banking and who enjoys spreadsheets. It involves standard charity treasurer duties, such as monitoring income/expenditure, banking, payments, budgeting, Gift Aid, reporting to committee meetings and producing the annual church accounts, as well

as a few specific tasks such as paying diocesan fees. Support and training will be provided.

You don't need to be a church member, just someone happy to support our work. If you are interested, please contact the vicar, Revd Nick Fielden, for a chat to find out more, without commitment, either by email vicar@deddingtonchurch.org or tel 01869 934794.



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PROBATE – WHY BOTHER?

Ah, probate. The word alone sends shivers down the spine, doesn't it? For most people, it sounds about as appealing as getting a root canal while listening to a bagpipe solo. And I can hear the chorus already: 'Why bother with probate? It's just more paperwork.' Well, not exactly.

Firstly, without it, there's no official proof that you have any right to take control of the deceased person's estate. You'd think, 'Well, I'm their son/daughter/spouse, surely that's enough?' Sorry to burst your bubble, but no. Banks, insurance companies, and even your great aunt Maude's prize-winning dahlias aren't going to be handed over just because you flashed a family photo.

Probate is what gives you the legal power to manage someone's estate. Without it, you're basically in limbo. You can't sell their house, access their bank accounts or distribute their assets. It's like owning a car but being told you can't drive it until you've passed a driving test – frustrating, yes, but also vital to avoid total anarchy on the roads. The paperwork might feel like a bit of a grind, but imagine the carnage if everyone could just take whatever they fancied from someone's estate without any checks or balances.

'But it's just a small estate!' you cry. 'What difference does it make?' Well, let me paint you a picture. Imagine Uncle Bob, who was always a bit tight with

his money, dies without leaving a will. You think, 'It's only a few grand in his bank account and a shed full of tools. Do I really need to bother?' Yes, you do. Because here's what happens when you don't: other family members start appearing from nowhere. Suddenly, Cousin Larry, who hasn't been seen since the '90s, emerges from the woodwork, claiming that Uncle Bob definitely promised him the few grand and the shed and all its contents.

Without probate, there's no legal record of who gets what. And if you think you can outsmart the system and just start divvying up the estate without probate, then you might want to think again. Try selling a house that still technically belongs to someone who's six feet under. It's not happening. Without probate, you're legally powerless.

Yes, probate involves forms and yes, it takes time. But it also gives you clarity and control. It's the difference between a legally sound transfer of assets and a free-for-all that will end in tears, court cases and, potentially, a fistfight at the next family Christmas party.

So, why bother with probate? Because it stops the chaos. It keeps the peace. And, most importantly, it keeps Cousin Larry far, far away from that shed.

Anna Boucher, Solicitor
anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com



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NEWS FROM HEMPTON

The good citizens of Hempton may well be concerned about the direction in which the economy appears to be heading and how they might be affected. Growth is cited by those negotiating the vicissitudes of our economy as the only way to overcome the mess we find ourselves in. Given that we appear to have maxed out the chancellor's credit card with the creditors demanding higher interest and elected to tie our hands behind our backs on raising taxes, we are hearing mutterings about cutting expenditure and services to meet some arbiter's fiscal rules. Will the less well off and the vulnerable yet again be affected disproportionately by the ensuing austerity measures?

In years gone by, many Hempton residents endured a life in what we would consider harshly austere circumstances. Consider the plight of Elizabeth Deal, age 15, born in Hempton who, in common with eight others in the village at the time of the 1851 Census, were employed as general servants. These were times of extreme socio-economic inequality. The upper class invested in land and built expansive estates with large country houses employing an entourage of servants, whilst those who turned right at birth struggled to survive. More modest middle class households were also keen to employ servants to avoid the drudgery of keeping a home and demonstrate their status in life. The majority of households engaged a single domestic servant whose routine was physically taxing and relentlessly routine. Circumstances differed but they were invariably female and would rise around 5.00am or earlier and look forward to collapsing into bed 16 hours or so later. One hundred and twelve hours a week not just on call but performing endless chores was not uncommon. This was not a position to which they aspired but a desperate contribution or relief on inadequate household finances or avoiding the workhouse.

Conditions varied but generally as cook, maid or butler, servants might typically be required to get the milk in the morning, clean the brasses, wash the steps, light the fires, clean the hall and dining room, lay the table, get the breakfast, often served in bed, clean the kitchen, answer callers at the door in the meantime, have herself tidy to serve breakfasts, and polish all boots. All day long she is kept going, doing laundry, making up bedrooms, brushing down the stairs, answering knocks at the doors, and running errands. In addition to this, she must see to the fires, prepare meals and rush up and down stairs at the beck and call of her mistress and others. Before going to bed she has to clear out the kitchen range, black-lead

and polish it, sometimes she must stay up late ironing and sewing.

She would be on duty at all times except for a half day on Sunday, allowed one night a week to herself and one day off a month. Although she had board and meals provided, wages were pitiful. They might be given a new name if their own clashed with other household occupants or the mistress thought the name too pretentious or hard to remember. Relations between household and servant varied but most were expected to be strictly deferential. Fans of *Upstairs Downstairs* may be disappointed to learn the series was not an accurate portrayal of domestic service.

At the time of the 1861 Census, there were nine females in service in Hempton, the youngest being one Mary Mole, only 13 years old. In 1901 there were more than 1.5 million in service in Britain, about 4% of the population. Local newspapers contained whole pages crammed with adverts offering positions or seeking them.

Many were able to leave or avoid domestic service during the 1939–45 war, taking up more lucrative factory work. After the war the nature of domestic service morphed to become the au pair and domestic help with more limited duties.

In 1940–50 the number of servants fell by half due to improving employment opportunities and wishing to avoid the low esteem associated with service. Such was the social status reflected in employing domestic help that aspiring protégés of Hyacinth Bucket might disguise the absence of a maid; on hearing the doorbell, the lady of the house would pick up her hat and gloves and appear to be going out just at that very moment, in which case propriety allowed her to greet her visitor herself.

The inter war years were a period of poverty and dole queues for many; for the middle classes they became a lost Arcadia of low taxes and cheap servants.

There are still those who believe the working class exist purely to serve their needs and find their servants as low paid or trafficked migrants. From all accounts, in the worst circumstances, their situation can be little better or even worse than that of their Victorian, Edwardian or early modern counterparts.

Today about one in ten households employ domestic help with dramatically more in London than elsewhere. There are around two million domestic workers in the UK.

Stuart Oldham
sj_oldham@btinternet.com

ROAD CLOSURE

Temporary Road Closure and No Waiting restriction at Bloxham Road–Barford Road, Barford St John

The Barford St John–Bloxham Road will be closed and there will also be a 'No Waiting' restriction while some patching works are carried out on 11 March.

Access will be maintained for emergency service

vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Tim Belton, Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 3101111.



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DH History Corner

www.deddingtonhistory.uk

The Parish Archive contains a wide range of material detailing Deddington Past. David French's research in the Bodleian recently included the following extract from the 1792 Universal Directory published in 1793 in which there is reference to it being known as a town, the origin of being known as 'Drunken Deddington', Botany Bay wharf and two medicinal springs.

'Deddington is an ancient market-town. It was formerly a corporation-town and sent members to parliament in the reigns of Edward I and Edward III but never since; yet it is a pretty large town. It is distant from London seventy-two miles, and from Oxford sixteen. It has a market weekly on Saturdays; and three fairs a year, viz August 21, October 11, and November 22. Here is a large well-built church, which has a strong tower, and in it a ring of six new well-toned bells. The town is governed by a bailiff chosen

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GROUNDS

If you've strolled around the edge of the Castle Grounds' outer bailey recently (the large field as you enter the grounds), you might have noticed unruly patches of brambles scrambling up and over the slopes around the edge. The field itself is owned and maintained by the parish council who cut the grass and empty the bins. The earth bank ramparts around the edge, along with the inner bailey (the smaller field beyond the large beech and sycamore trees) are owned by English Heritage.

As a charity, the aim of the Friends of the Castle Grounds (FOCG) is to promote the use of the site by the local community, assist with its upkeep and accessibility, enhance its beauty and encourage flora and fauna. When the inner slopes are less overgrown, the drama and scale of the motte and bailey, built almost a thousand years ago and protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, becomes more apparent and the path along the top is easier to walk along.

FOCG volunteers have been gradually cutting back the brambles and saplings on some of the inner banks. We're balancing preservation with nature: the outer banks remain wild, and the inner bailey meadow and part of the outer bailey, large field, are left to bloom, especially during No-Mow May and June. We'll be keeping an eye out for the return of the wildflowers planted last year near the cherry tree on the left as you enter and to see if any owls make use of the nesting boxes.

If you'd like to get involved then get in touch: info@friendsofcastlegrounds.co.uk. Everyone is welcome to join us for the Friends of the Castle Grounds AGM on Wednesday 12 March at 7.30pm in the meeting room at the Deddington Arms.

Charlotte Holmes
charlottemegholmes@yahoo.co.uk

annually. In the neighbourhood are two noted springs celebrated for their medicinal virtues. One of them is of a strong sulphureous scent, highly impregnated with a vitrioline salt. In the digging of it was found the stone called pyrites argenteus, and a bed of belemnites, commonly called thunder-bolts; and out of it hath since been taken the silver marcasite, of a glistening colour. It is likewise famous for the goodness of its malt-liquor; whence it is called "Drunken Deddington." And in Charles the Second's reign, according to a traditionary tale, a few old women, lovers of the stupifying juice, pawned the bells of the tower to enable them to enjoy the Bacchanalian rites with less restraint; a story fraught with improbability, but yet received as true by the common people. There is a very pleasant wharf called Botany-bay, distant a mile and a half from this place, situate on the canal from Birmingham to Oxford, which is of great advantage to the inhabitants by reducing the price of coals. There is a turnpike-road through this place from Oxford to Banbury. It is said here was formerly a castle, to which the earl of Pembroke conducted Piers de Gaveston, and there abandoned him to the fury of his enemies. Here is a charity-school. The post goes through every day from Woodstock to Banbury. The principal inns are, the King's Arms, which is the post-office, kept by John Williams, and the Three Tuns, kept by Thomas Williams.'

(*Universal Directory, 1792, Volume 2, Part 2*)

Rob Forsyth
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com



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LETTERS

FROM JILL MARTIN, BICESTER
I would like to say goodbye and thank you to all my customers at Deddington Post Office. Now I have reached 66 years young, I am a fully signed up member of the State Pensioners' Club.

I've moved around several offices over the last 13 years, the last three at Deddington. I can honestly say those three were by far the most enjoyable. From day one I was welcomed and treated as if I am one of your own families. We have discussed good, new and bad; we have laughed and cried together, especially laughed. From family news to politics, we have shared it all.

In my entire working life I have never felt so happy to go to work as I have done these past three years. Indeed, apart from the chaos that is a Post Office Christmas, I didn't regard it as a job. It was such a lovely place to go every day and I never had that 'Monday morning feeling'.

I will truly miss you all. I don't live locally but am hoping to see some of you at the odd Friday coffee morning in the church. Thank you again. My love and good wishes go with you all.

FROM KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

Why not plan to do something new in 2025 and help Katharine House Hospice raise much-needed funds at the same time. As always, your support and generosity means that we can continue to care for local people and families when they need it

Waterfall Challenge: Saturday 13 Sept 2025. This is a new event for the hospice. We're inviting people to take the plunge into three beautiful waterfalls. The challenge will take you through the heart of the Swaledale Valley with its wildflower meadows, heather moors and, of course, its waterfalls. You'll face the



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Thanks to our brilliant supporters, our Tree-cycle scheme was more successful than ever before! We collected and chipped 475 trees, helping to raise over £13,800 for our hospice. Thank you to everyone for taking part.

FROM NICK HARDWICK, DEDDINGTON


Christopher Hall's letter in the February edition of *Deddington News* drew my attention to the need for protection of our telephones in the event of a power failure. I made enquiries of our service provider and it transpires that Ofcom requires all providers to supply a Battery Backup Unit (BBU) free of charge to all users who are 'at risk', who either don't have a mobile phone or who don't have a reliable mobile signal indoors.

The BBU is actually very similar to the plug-in transformers that power most low-voltage appliances, so the only challenge is distinguishing between your optical network terminal (ONT) unit, the one connected to the fibre optic cable and has a telephone cable coming out of it) and the wi-fi router, which is connected to the ONT.

It should be borne in mind that the base station of a cordless phone needs mains power so, in the event of a power failure, you need a corded phone connected to the phone socket as the cordless phone won't work without mains power to the base unit. It seems that having an Uninterruptible Power Supply for the ONT, router and cordless base unit would be possible but would be more bulky and expensive and not available from your telephone provider.



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As you will have seen in previous news, we have a fundraising Curry Night on 2 April at Bengal Spice, with sincere thanks to Naz and his team. We will have two sittings, at 6.30pm and 8.30pm at £25.00 a head and we'll have a raffle at each with some super prizes on offer. Tickets are available at Nellie & Dove,

Hamptons and the library. We're only able to accept cash or contact us on our email above to arrange an online payment. We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a wonderful evening.

Last but not least, as the weather is finally improving (fingers crossed) and the evenings are getting lighter, we'd like to remind you to start capturing those stunning parish scenes for our annual photo competition. The criteria are the same as in the past: landscape format, files larger than 5Mb and sent in as .jpg files to my email address below. The deadline is 4 August but please submit your images on an ongoing basis throughout the summer. Thank you.

Bryn Williams
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What do a humanist celebrant, a director of an international company, a videographer, a solicitor, an engineer, a chef and a tour guide have in common? They are some of the dedicated volunteers who make Deddington farmers' market the multi award-winning market it is today.



Our market is a Community Interest Company (CIC) committed to promoting, organising, and managing a regular farmers' market. The market donates all its profits to local parish organisations in an annual donation round, typically amounting to around £3,000 each year.

All our 'staff' are volunteers forming the backbone of the market. They fall into two groups, both equally essential to the successful running of the monthly event, attracting up to 3,000 people in just three and a half hours. The market relies on the diverse skills and dedication of these volunteers to thrive.

The stalls are 'put up' by the construction crew which gathers at 7.00am every market morning to set everything up before the arrival of the stallholders. They return at 12.30pm to take everything down and return it to storage for another month.

Parallel to the construction crew, much of the management group's work is conducted behind the scenes. Its job encompasses a range of responsibilities vital to the market's success. They are the guardians of compliance, meticulously adhering to regulations and standards to create a secure environment for all.

Its job also involves scouting for producers who offer unique, high-quality products that align with the market's ethos. By carefully selecting stallholders, the group maximises the potential for profit, creating a diverse and vibrant market place that appeals to a wide audience

The market is not just a place to buy and sell goods; it is a multifaceted operation that fosters community spirit and engagement. By donating profits to the parish, the market supports local initiatives and projects, enhancing the overall well-being of our community.

We are always on the look-out for more people to help. If you want to give something back to our community and feel part of a great team get in touch, either by coming to the information desk at a market or emailing chairman@deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk for more information.

Tei Willox

NEWS FROM CLIFTON

CAST have, temporarily, shifted their focus to HGVs flouting our 7 tonne limit. Automatic camera traps have been set up and patrols mounted. A video, with a familiar 'rubber duck' theme tune, has been compiled and sent to all the relevant authorities. We all eagerly await the outcome.

A nice letter of thanks has been received from the Oxfordshire charity, Rosy, thanking Lower Larkrise for their £500 donation from the Santas that will enable them to continue helping sick children in our area. More is expected later this year for a new charity where we hope for even more contributions.

Book Club has emerged from its dry January purdah with the first meeting of '25 mopping up excess stock from the festivities and previewing the above-mentioned video. New gates are ready to install, but permission from Ffiona Welford is being sought for the full set. As community focused as we all know she is, I'm sure CAST just need to make the request.

Lower Larkrise is bracing itself for another speeding free day with a road closure a week before you read this. It is hoped we'll get the resurfacing finished, but this will be before they have to dig it all up to fix the flooding issue. Unfortunately, some people won't be told.

A bridge strike east of the Great Western has been reported with a resulting road closure. This might make it a long road closure ... thus negating many a late night book club beery plot.

Apart from this it's been a pretty quiet January down here with one or two trips out watching football or international rugby. More to follow I'm sure.

Martin Bryce
martinDNvbryce@gmail.com

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Photographic Society

Tina Hadley, our February guest speaker, shared her inspiring journey in photography. Her passion ignited when her parents moved to Germany, leading her to a transformative three-year apprenticeship with a wedding photographer. There, she mastered the art of cleanliness, essential for capturing the perfect shot, and learned to mix darkroom chemicals and understand camera lenses.

Despite the challenges of growing up as a foreigner in Germany and the constraints of the photographers' union, Tina persevered and found her path. In the Middle East, she thrived, capturing the essence of wealthy dignitaries and processing photos in her tiny bathroom for same-day delivery. On her return to the UK, she created a home business, collaborating with her husband who crafted frames for her art.

Tina embraced the principles of composition, light, exposure, pose and shoot: CLEPS. In her digital era, she found joy using her Hasselblad camera. The highlight of her career was photographing the Queen at a parade where a moment of eye contact filled her with pride and inspiration.

February's monthly topic was 'Blurred/Out of focus/slow shutter/ICM'.

In March, one of our members, Kim Benson, will talk about 'Travel and Techniques'. Everyone is welcome.

Courtney Killpack, www.addphoto.co.uk

Royal British Legion

At the AGM on 20 February it was resolved unanimously that we would apply to become a County Supported Branch (CSB). This means we will keep our Standard and be able to continue supporting Remembrance and Poppy Appeal activities but are relieved of most regulatory responsibilities, including the running of our own accounts; the County Treasurer will do this for us. Branch members will not be affected by the change. In doing this we follow in the footsteps of a dozen other small branches which have opted for this Oxfordshire initiative.

Rob Forsyth, (Chairman)
robert.s.forsyth@gmail.com

WI

At our meeting in February, we had a fascinating and thought-provoking talk, both interesting and useful, by Jen Childs, a personal organiser. Our meeting in March is our AGM.

Deddington WI meets on the second Wednesday at 2.30pm at the Holly Tree Hall.

For further information, contact Moira Byast 07467067883.

Moira Byast

Deddington and District History Society

Dr Stephen Wass gave a fascinating talk in February about 'The Archaeology of Stowe Landscape Gardens'. Dr. Wass regards Stowe Gardens as the

world's greatest landscape garden. Such gardens are a unique English contribution to world culture and Stowe has been a popular tourist destination for many years including throughout the 18th century.

Stowe has the greatest concentration of Grade 1 listed garden buildings in the UK, thanks to the three generations of the Temple family, owners of Stowe in the eighteenth century. They had the wealth and inclination to undertake such a project, employing the best architects and designers of the time including John Bamburgh, William Kent and Capability Brown.

Archaeology puts the researchers in touch with the people who made the gardens and gives an insight into the 'nuts and bolts' of how things were built. Little is known about the years preceding the eighteenth century at Stowe but the works of that time are well documented.

Fieldwork is central to the archaeologists' work but there is so much more involved. A detailed 'Scheme of Investigation' must be prepared in advance and, for each day on site, at least another one is spent in an office writing up the findings and communicating them. Dr Wass gave details of various findings, including the discovery that, at one time, Stowe had its own gasworks and electricity power station, medieval pottery and the different layers of pathways on the Worthies Causeway. Associations with the medieval village of Stowe have also been found, indicating it was a thriving place before the 18th century. There is evidence that monuments have been shifted around. The lakes are classified as reservoirs, so they must be regularly inspected and dams must be kept in good condition. One of the effects of climate change is the need to upgrade water management features. By the end of the talk, the audience had a much greater appreciation of Stowe Gardens and some of its hidden past.

The next meeting is on Thursday 13 March when Liz Woolley is talking about 'Lord Nuffield's Great Generosity to the Oxford Colleges'.

Jean Dipper jean.dipper28@gmail.com

Deddington Bookworms

Simon Armitage was born in 1963 in the village of Marsden and lives in West Yorkshire. He is the Poet Laureate and this month we read his book *Walking Home*.

In the summer of 2012, he decided to walk the Pennine Way – a challenging 256-mile route usually approached from south to north, with the sun, wind and rain at your back. However, he resolved to tackle it back to front walking 'home' towards the village where he was born. Travelling as a 'modern troubadour', without a penny in his pocket and singing for his supper with poetry readings in village halls, churches, pubs and living rooms, he describes his journey and the unexpected kindnesses of the people he met.

A few of our group have walked the Pennine Way and so recognised many of the fells, ridges and dales described in the book. This made for a more interesting read, although it was felt that by the midway point

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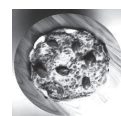
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CALLING ALL CLUBS

Continued from p22

there is a sense of 'Groundhog Day'. Armitage's writing makes easy reading and so, generally, the book was enjoyed by the group.

It is back to fiction for our next book, Anne Enright's *The Green Road*.

DeddingtonBookworms@gmail.com

Book Group

A few years ago we read *The Secret River* and *The Lieutenant* by Australian author, Kate Grenville. These are both richly descriptive novels which imagine the experiences of early settlers in Australia. Kate's latest book, *Restless Dolly Maunder*, is rather different, a semi-fictional account of her own grandmother's life, written in a down-to-earth style reflecting Dolly's character.

Born into a farming family, Dolly's hopes of a teaching career were dashed by her father. She subsequently married and persuaded her husband that they should buy a small shop together. Those male-dominated times did not favour women, but Dolly's energy and need for new challenges enabled the couple to acquire a small hotel, then a bigger one, and so on. Life had its ups and downs, including the

harsh realities of the Great Depression and WW2.

The book is a fascinating depiction of life in Australia in the early 20th century. We were also intrigued by Dolly's character. Why did she have such an awkward relationship with her children? Was it because of resentment over past experiences, her own difficult nature or the children's unhappiness at the frequent moves? Our discussion led us to look back and question our own family histories.

The Book Group

Deddington Playgroup

January and February were really busy months for us. We have met lots of new families and enjoyed seeing those who joined us every time. Anyone with a baby, toddler or pre-schooler is welcome to join us, whether you're a mum, dad, grandparent, auntie, uncle, nanny or childminder. This month we are open on Friday 14 and Friday 28 March, both 9.45–11.45am at the Windmill Centre. See you there.

Helen Carpenter

deddingtonbabyandtoddler@gmail.com

SPORT

Deddington Town FC

First Team results:

18.1.25 Middleton Cheney (a)(CUP) W 16–0
Thornton J (4), Large (3), Taylor O (3),
Catania (2), Leney (2) George, Arnold

25.1.25 Glory Farm (a) W 2–0

1.2.25 Swis 313 (a) W 2–1

8.2.25 Longford Park (a) W3–1

Reserve Team results:

18.1.25 Kings Sutton Res (a) D 2–2
Newton (2)

25.1.25 Swis 313 Reserves (h) (CUP) L 2–4
Jones L (2)

1.2.25 Swis 313 Reserves (h) W 4–2

8.2.25 Swis 313 Reserves (a) (CUP) L 1–4

A fascinating start to 2025 for both teams and you might be rubbing your eyes at this list of results, with good cause. No, you're not seeing things; the Humbugs really did potentially set a record for a margin of victory with a SIXTEEN goal demolition of a risible Middleton Cheney side in the Coronation Cup. And yes, Mike Large actually managed to coax his creaking bones into nabbing a hat-trick, along with Oliver Taylor and star man, Joe Thornton, who stuck a fantastic four in the onion bag. Fortunately for all Deddheads, they weren't finished there and duly slayed Glory Farm, Swis 313 and Longford Park narrowly, meaning they are well placed in mid-table in the Premier Division, ironically while both scoring and conceding, you guessed it, sixteen goals. The Latics meanwhile somehow managed to play Swis 313's little brothers thrice, as they drew them in the semi-finals of both the Eric Morris and Geoff Wilson cups. Despite Luke Jones'

best efforts, they succumbed in both semi-finals, while gaining a measure of respectability in the league clash, meaning they sit on the outskirts of the top four as the season builds to the usual frenetic climax.

Aaron Bliss 07909 642882

Deddington Town Youth FC

The Under 16s had a 3–4 away win at Witney Vikings, followed by a 3–3 home draw with Brackley Athletic. This was followed by 6–2 defeat at Bicester Colts, 11–2 away win at Bloxham and 2–2 home draw with Witney Vikings. The Under 15s had a 4–2 away defeat to Garsington, 3–3 draw away at Bicester Park, and won on penalties in the county cup over Greater Leys Youth after the match ended 4–4. This was followed by 8–0 win over Highfield in the county cup, 2–4 home defeat to Caversham, and 0–11 defeat to Banbury United in county cup semi-final. The Under 14s had a 0–3 win away at Kennington Athletic, followed by defeat on penalties in the county cup to Bicester Town Colts after the match ended 1–1. This was followed by 0–2 win at Berks County Eagles, 2–1 defeat to Summertown Stars, 0–4 home defeat to Banbury United in the county cup, and 3–3 draw with Kennington. The Under 13s have suffered heavy defeats on the road – 7–0 at Hook Norton, 12–1 at Ducklington, and 13–2 at Banbury Irish. This was followed by 3–3 home draw with Chesterton and 4–1 home win over Grendon Rangers. The Under 12s had a 0–2 home defeat to Longford Park, 3–8 home defeat to Chesterton, 3–4 away win at Chesterton and 0–5 home defeat to Chipping Norton. This was followed by 3–3 draw at Hook Norton, 3–2 defeat at Yarnton and 5–5

SPORT*Continued from p25*

draw with Wychwood.

After coaching for the club between 2007 and 2014, and then taking on the role to design and deliver training sessions for 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. The club is now looking for a football coordinator for the Under 6s and Under 7s from the start of the 2025/6 season. The main purpose of this role is to design and deliver weekly training for Under 6s and Under 7s with the support of other coach volunteers. There are 10–12 places available for each age group and we would expect to have three volunteers for each age group to deliver the training sessions. Full support is provided by the officers in the club. If you want an informal chat and more information, please get in touch with me.

Our presentation day is at the Windmill on Sunday 8 June to celebrate the achievements of all our players and the work put in by managers and coaches through the season. If local businesses or individuals wish to sponsor one of our awards, then get in touch with me for more information.

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

**Roger Sykes 07899 914425
or carsykes@btinternet.com**

Deddington Tennis Club

Things have been quiet over the winter, although we do play tennis all year round, weather permitting. We had our first committee meeting at the start of February and made plans for the year, so I thought I would share.

Our club sessions run on Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. We also

have an All Play All session on Thursday afternoon which has spaces for players if you'd like to join in. We are intending to run some one day tournaments this year which will give members the opportunity to play competitive tennis, get to know each other and win very desirable prizes (that last bit might not be true ...). We're also hoping to start a singles competition alongside our popular doubles box league and our Club Championship will be running from April to September.

We have teams playing at all levels in local competitions. In the mid-week Banbury leagues, we have three teams in both summer and winter competitions, and we have men's, ladies' and mixed teams playing in the Dunlop leagues at the weekend. I'm pleased to say that we have quite a few new members already playing for our teams and we are always keen to hear from people who have moved to the area or are looking for a new club.

There are a few spaces in some of our junior classes over the winter for any children and teenagers would like to get involved in coaching. For adults, there are three sessions a week at different ability levels and we are looking to start a daytime session. If you'd like to know more about coaching, please email Paul Taylor on paultaylortennis@hotmail.co.uk.

We will have an Open Day in the spring to showcase the club and what is on offer with a few trial coaching and social sessions – watch this space for a date.

If you'd like to find out more, check our website www.deddingtontennis.com for more information. There's also Facebook, [DeddingtonTennisClub](https://www.facebook.com/DeddingtonTennisClub), and Instagram [@deddingtontennis](https://www.instagram.com/deddingtontennis).

Becky Jones

YOUTH**1st Deddington Guides**

It's been a busy half-term with a variety of activities taking place. All the Guides have gained their Mixology badge and are working on another about Natural Remedies. We've learnt how to work out garment washing labels – always useful.

The girls have designed their ideal rooms, tried their hand at origami and put together and demonstrated a keep fit routine. We have played a variety of games and tried numerous activities, one of which helped us to get a feeling for how it must be to try and cope with different disabilities. We ended this half-term with a team quiz compiled by Charlotte with some real brain teasers – and great fun.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

1st Deddington Scout Group**Cubs**

The Cubs have been busy working on their Hobby badge. We were amazed at the diverse range of hobbies we have and we've thoroughly enjoyed listening to each other describe what makes them so enjoyable. We discussed some of the safety considerations of

the more adventurous ones and even enjoyed some demonstrations.

We have continued our Fire Safety badge. We have been practising what to do in the event of a fire, had a fire drill at the Windmill and planned fire escape routes from our homes.

We welcomed more new Cubs and so there are quite a lot of us now.

Tracy Tong deddingtoncubs@gmail.com

Scouts

As usual January brought the Deddington panto which all the Scouts attended. There was lots of whooping, booing and a huge consumption of jelly snakes, so a success on many levels.

We challenged the Scouts to design an imaginative add-on for a cycle as a forerunner to their Cyclist Badge. Well, there were the obvious motor upgrades but a toilet complete with seat and a saddle full of fire ants to encourage the rider to work harder, were eyeopeners.

Next, we set the younger Scouts a problem-solving quest in the form of a submarine escape room that



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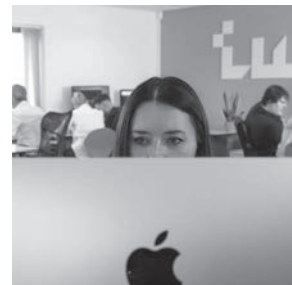


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YOUTH*Continued from p26*

the older Scouts supervised – most of them escaped. The big boys then made spring rolls for Chinese New Year, quick, healthy and delicious.

We had a visitor, Rob Forsyth, who was a Submarine Captain. He came to talk to the Scouts about his life in the service complete with a slide show. It was

fascinating; the boys were captivated and now we are hoping to go and visit his old boat at the museum in Gosport.

Lastly, a trip to Adventure Climb at The Light, which is always an enjoyable event.

Pete Churchyard
deddingtonscouts@gmail.com



DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

I asked my computer why people volunteer for local groups and its AI magic replied: 'to give back to their community, make a positive impact on others' lives, feel connected to their neighbourhood, develop new skills, meet new people and gain a sense of personal fulfilment by contributing to a cause they care about; essentially, it's a way to actively participate in and improve their local environment while also benefiting their own well-being.' Great, I thought. We'll have some of that! I then asked it why people *don't* volunteer and it gave me another long answer which I interpreted as: 'They can't be ar\$&d!'

The reason I bring this up is that we host a lot of local groups at the Windmill that are run by dedicated volunteers. They contribute immeasurably to our community by providing a variety of activities which

we, particularly our young folk, can benefit from. They all need our ongoing help and support. In particular, I'd like to mention the Brownies who have had to temporarily stop due to insufficient volunteers. I know, I was shocked too. If you are interested in helping to get them restarted, then please contact Mary Brodey on deddingtondistrict@oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk Support and training is available. I should also give a shout out for the Football Club youth section. They are always looking for volunteer coaches, particularly for the under 6 and under 7 age groups. Again, support and training is provided. Contact Roger Sykes on carsykes@btinternet.com or 07899 914425.

'Ask not what your community can do for you – ask what you can do for your community.' You know the JFK quote. Get involved!

For more information about what's on at the Windmill, including a new yoga class on Mondays and new 'Ride on Time' for under 5s once a month, 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

'Roxy' At The Holly Tree Hall

This month's film, shown by Age UK, will be on 13 March at 1.30pm, with refreshments served from 1.00pm.

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris is a comedy drama starring Lesley Manville, the third film adaptation of the 1958 novel, *Mrs 'Arris Goes to Paris* by Paul Gallico.

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides she must have one.

She embarks on an adventure to Paris that changes not only her outlook, but that of the House of Dior.

All Over 50s are welcome, no need to book. Come and relax with a cuppa and an afternoon's entertainment in a warm hall for just £2.

Julia Cork
julia.cork@thedha.org

PFSU and NURSERY

We are excited to announce our first fundraiser of 2025. Our Easter trail is back on Saturday 5 April from 9.30am–1.00pm. Maps will be on sale for £2 per child in the last week of the spring term, w/c 31 March. Look out for posters in the village with more details and thank you to Deddington library for helping on the day.

Charlotte Welch
charlotte@deddingtonnurseryandpfsu.co.uk

BLISSFUL THINKING

I noticed that mysterious arrows have appeared overnight on the roads surrounding the parish, pointing simply ahead in each lane. I'm going to pretend for the purpose of this piece that I don't know the politics behind the sudden appearance of these arrows and make some other suggestions for the next signifiers we could add to improve everybody's driving experience.

The obvious prime candidate would be at the Banbury/Oxford junction lights, where I propose we paint 'KEEP GOING!' in mile high letters just before the traffic lights going towards Banbury, particularly for the benefit of Hempton road traffic turning left. 'NO PARKING EVER' could perhaps appear in a few places but particularly around the pinch points, because it does seem like many motorists don't really pay attention to road signs or common sense, but you have to assume they can read plain English commands. Earls Lane could perhaps use an unequivocal 'THIS IS NOT A DRAG STRIP. ALSO NO 18 WHEELERS!' and while we're at it, 'PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGNAL BEFORE TURNING' 50 yards from every turn of any kind throughout the parish.

Aaron Bliss
aaronjbliss@hotmail.com

ROBERT HOOKE 1635–1703, ENGLAND'S LEONARDO

Natural Philosopher, Astronomer, Geologist, Meteorologist and Engineer

In an era of political correctness and cancellations, we need to rediscover the great nation to which we belong. We prefer deprecation to celebration. Most times it is the ordinary man or woman challenging the accepted norm who ends up changing the world. This is the first of an occasional series celebrating some of those men and women.

Robert Hooke was born in Freshwater on the Isle of Wight in 1635, the fourth child of Cecily Giles and John Hooke, the curate of All Saints' Church in Freshwater. Robert was a frail child and not expected to reach adulthood. Because of this, his education was neglected and he was left to his own devices. He liked to make mechanical toys and constructed a wooden replica of a brass clock that he found dismantled. The replica actually worked. He would wander the countryside around Freshwater and became fascinated by the insect life. He had a talent for drawing and received tuition from a visiting artist friend of his father's. His father left him £40 in his will plus £10 held over from his grandmother. So, at the age of 13 he left for London and took up an apprenticeship with the painter, Peter Lely. Unfortunately, the smell of oil paint made him ill so he left and became a pupil at Westminster School. He quickly mastered the classics and mathematics. He learned to play the organ and started his lifelong study of mechanics. He secured a place at Christ Church, Oxford, receiving free tuition and accommodation as an organist and chorister. The friends he made at Oxford included Christopher Wren. When Robert Boyle moved there, Hooke became his scientific partner. Boyle was working on gases and the possibility that a vacuum existed. Hooke designed an air pump which allowed the development of the gas laws subsequently attributed to Boyle.

In about 1665 Hooke designed one of the first microscopes and his observations were recorded in his book *Micrographia*. Hooke used the word 'cell' suggesting a resemblance between plant structure and honeycomb cells. In addition, he put forward the idea that for combustion to occur it needed a component of air, an idea fully accepted now but hardly understood at the time.

His study of fossils led to a series of lectures in 1668 in which he put forward the idea that the earth's surface had been formed by earthquakes and volcanoes, and this was why shell fossils were found above sea level. He was condemned as a heretic.

At the time of the Great Fire of London in 1666, Hooke was surveyor to the City of London and Christopher Wren's assistant. He designed the Monument to the Great Fire and worked on the design of St Paul's Cathedral. He determined the ideal shape of an arch to be an inverted catenary and that a circular series of such arches would form an ideal shape for the dome of St Paul's. He proposed a design for rebuilding London comprising wide boulevards and arteries on a grid pattern. It was deemed too expensive by the King and the idea was discarded. Subsequently, Paris and

many cities in the USA adopted the idea.

Hooke discovered the Law of Elasticity and developed the balance spring which allowed a portable timepiece to keep accurate time which eventually solved the longitude problem. The principle of the universal joint was known way before Hooke's time but his work on the idea and the development of the double Hooke joint has proved invaluable to the modern automotive industry.

Hooke was a keen astronomer and was fascinated by the movement of the planets. Gravity had been understood for some time and his contemporaries, including Sir Isaac Newton, believed there was some medium in space causing the attraction or repulsion of one body relative to another. Hooke suggested that all heavenly bodies have their own gravitational field but also have a gravitational impact on other bodies. He said that all bodies will travel in a straight line unless impacted by other bodies when they will describe a circle or ellipse. His third point was that this gravitational force varies, depending on the distance of one body from another. However, he did not go on to prove his theories.

In correspondence with Newton, Hooke brought attention to these issues and sparked Newton's interest. Newton further developed the idea of the inverse square law of gravitation. However, when Newton presented his ideas to the Royal Society, Hooke claimed that Newton had stolen his original ideas. Modern assessments show that the acceptance of the inverse square law was relatively common and had been advanced by several people. However, Newton was the one who proved its validity. This situation serves as a good example of the gap between a truth that is glimpsed and one that is proved. Hooke's continued agitation over this matter obscured the credit that was due for his seminal idea of curvilinear orbital motion. Within a few months of Hooke's death, Newton became President of the Royal Society and oversaw the move to new premises. Interestingly, Hooke's portrait was the only picture that went missing in the transition. In a letter to Robert Hooke in 1675, Newton said 'If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.'

To say the least, Hooke was a difficult person to deal with. Descriptions of him depict a suspicious and irritable individual. However, his reaction to controversy involving his inventions and discoveries seem mild in comparison to the behaviour of some contemporaries. Although he never married, he had relationships with his niece and various housekeepers. Hooke struggled with poor health throughout his life and died a pauper in London in 1703, having been blind and bedridden for the previous year. After his death, a chest containing £8,000 in cash and gold (equivalent to £2.5 million today) was found in his room. He was buried at St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate, the City of London, but the precise location of his grave is unknown.

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