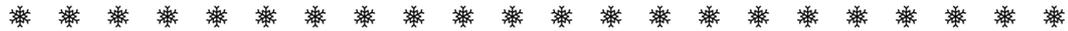


Last year the *DN* chronicled the changes in the Market Place in past years. 2004 is seeing more change there. After prolonged negotiations with the planners, Oxford Swindon & Gloucester Co-op is at last able to proceed with the remodelling of its 'Village Shop', incorporating within it the Post Office counter. We look forward to seeing and using the results in April. Until then neighbourly patience is being tested in the restricted space of the old premises. If the postbox is to be moved to the new location, what effect will that have as car drivers stop to pop in letters? When

Eagles relocate from Bloxham, there will be a ready welcome for a flesh and blood butcher, a facility the village has lacked for several years - but do we also want his plastic monster where the post box now is? A yesteryear postcard of the Market Place with far fewer vehicles than today also shows posts then protecting the grass outside the 'Village Shop'. Why is it that some drivers of off-landers seem to need to show off their capacity to leave the tarmac in the middle of a village? *CH*

**JANUARY DIARY**

Fri 30 Bowls Club: Quiz Night, Unicorn Inn, 7.30 pm ➡ p.9

See page 14 for March events

FEBRUARY DIARY

Mon 2 Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10 am- noon
 Wed 4 Friendship Club: Annual General Meeting, Windmill Centre 2.30 pm ➡ p.9
 Wed 4 Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.
 Fri 6 PTA: Key Stage 2 Disco, Deddington School, 6.00-8.00 pm
 Sat 7 Deddington Colts: Race Night, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm ➡ p.9
 Tue 10 WI: Chris Day, *History of Deddington Castle and site*, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm ➡ p.9
 Wed 11 History Society: Hugo Brunner, *History of the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy*, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm
 Tue 17 Copy Date for March *DEDDINGTON NEWS*
 Wed 18 **CLYDEBULT PUPPET THEATRE: *The Magic of the Mummy***, Windmill Centre, 2.30 pm ➡ p.3
 Wed 18 Parish Council meeting: Town Hall, 7.30 pm ➡ p.4
 Fri 27 Babies & Toddlers Group: Visit to Family Tree Play Centre, Bicester, 1-2.30 pm ➡ p.10
 Fri 27 Bangers & Mash evening, Hempton Church hall, 7.30 pm ➡ p.11
 Sat 28 Deddington Farmers' Market, 9 am~12.30 pm
 Sat 28 **CAMBRIAN MALE VOICE CHOIR: Parish Church**, 7.30 pm ➡ p.4

Weekly Meetings

Mondays: Brownies: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm.
 Mondays: Youth Club: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm ➡ p.10
 Tuesdays: Deddington Guides: Windmill Centre, 7-9 pm.
 Wednesdays: Anchor Boys: Deddington School, 3.15 pm.
 Wednesdays: 1st Deddington Girls' Brigade Explorers: Deddington School, 3.30 pm.
 Wednesdays: Boys Brigade: Windmill Centre, 5.30 pm. ➡ p.10
 Thursdays: Life & Portrait Art Group: Town Hall, 10-12.30 & 1.30-4 pm.
 Thursdays: 1st Deddington Cubs: Windmill Centre, 6-7.30 pm.
 Thursdays: 1st Deddington Scouts: Windmill Centre, 7.30-9 pm.
 Fridays: Coffee morning in aid of Katharine House: Parish Church, 10~12. ➡ p.6
 Fridays: Babies & Toddlers Group: Windmill Centre, 9.30 -11.30 am.
 Fridays: Deddington Friendly Bridge Club: Holly Tree, 2-5 pm.
 Fridays: British Legion: Prize Bingo and "Play Your Cards Right", 8 pm.

Deddington News - Copy please to the relevant editor by next copy date: **TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY**

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 assisted by Liz Handley, Alison Brice 338950
 and teams
 DEDDINGTON-ON-LINE: <http://www.deddington.org.uk>

Meeting in Town Hall - 17 December 2003

PRESENT: Cllrs Flux (chair), Alton, Ellis, Harvey, Rollason, Spencer, Squires, Swash, Todd, Westley, Wood, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and about 4 members of the public.

TRAVELLERS STOPPING PLACE

Meetings of OCC Environment Scrutiny Group and Executive Committee were attended by C/Cllr Jelf, who is Deputy Chairman of the Community Safety Committee which will be responsible for regional reviews. C/Cllr Jelf will keep PC informed of any developments.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Cost effectiveness of parish grass-cutting to be reviewed.
- Lighting under Town Hall arches to be kept on through hours of darkness.
- Clifton residents to vote on alternative proposals for position of footpath.
- PC reaffirmed opposition to parking on grass verges in the parish.
- Building work at Featherton House is blocking footpath. Clerk to pursue.

BRITISH LEGION LEASE

According to Aplins, the proposed lessee, Thames Valley Investments would continue to run the British Legion premises as a club, which would still be a branch of the Legion. Clerk to obtain written confirmation of the position and seek a way which would allow sight of the lease.

PLANNING

PC no objection: (i) The Flat, Pretoria House, Market Place - replace existing metal spiral staircase and decking with wooden equivalents, and install rear window. (ii) Deddington Post Office, Market Place - new front door and window; internal alterations. Concerns about effect on the Antiques Centre next door, and environmental effect of large refrigeration room at rear. (iii) No 21, The Daedings - 2-storey front extension - amended plans.

CDC approvals: (iv) 29 Gaveston Gardens - single storey rear extension; (v) The Mount, St Thomas Street - reduce by 3ft the height of Western Red Cedar and Lawson Cypress. Remove dead ivy from Laburnum.

PC to query with CDC the signs fixed to the outside wall of Centrepoint, and whether the house-letting agency at Centrepoint is office or shop.

NEW BUS SERVICE

PC asked that this new service be publicised by OCC, the operating company, *Deddington News* and other local media. [See page 12]

PARISH FINANCES

Budget. A deficit of £5,000 was forecast for 2003/4. Bids from Working Groups for 2004/5 funds must be submitted without delay to the Finance & General Purposes Working Group, so that recommendations for next year's budget and precept will be solidly based and timely.

Invoices passed for payment totalled £2,936.05, including £1,093.28 imprest account (wages etc);

£663.96 Clerk's salary; £634.50 autumn fertiliser. Investments totalled £527,577.26, of which £6,203.29 Barclays (£606.68 imprest + £5,596.61 current, both @ 0.1%); £1,000 Bradford & Bingley @ 3.4% on 120 days; £520,373.97 West Bromwich @ 3.4% overnight.

Meeting in Town Hall - 21 January 2004

PRESENT: Cllrs Flux (chair), Alton, Cox, Ellis, Haslam, Harvey, Rollason, Squires, Todd, Watts, Westley, Wood, C/Cllr Jelf, the Clerk, the Minutes Secretary and about 5 members of the public.

CONGRATULATIONS

PC congratulated Cllr Spencer on the birth of twin girls, and wished mother and daughters well.

SCHOOL REPORT

Linda Davies, who represents PC on school's board of governors, reported (1) from September 2006, PC will no longer have the right to nominate a school governor. She outlined the various options open to PC. (2) the school will have an Acting Head from Easter until a new appointment, probably in September.

PLANNING

PC no objection: (i) St James's Farm, Clifton - erect 2m high wall and gates & alterations to outbuildings. (ii) Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane - fell prunus (Cllr Todd declared interest). (iii) Park Farm, New Street - conversion of stables to new dwelling, and repairs/alterations to existing house. PC assumes adequate off-road parking and no new access. (iv) Land at Clifton adjacent to Sedgheill and adjoining Four Winds - new dwelling and 2m high boundary fence. (v) The Hazels, The Maunds, High Street - 2-storey extension as self-contained unit for disabled person. (vi) Holcombe Hotel, High Street - new dwelling with leisure building and garaging. PC urged that right of way to Renwick Cottage be preserved and defended.

PC objection: (vii) No 12, The Paddocks, Hempton Road - demolish WC and store and erect 2-storey extension (amended plans). Extension too large; loss of light to adjacent property (Cllr Cox declared interest).

CDC approval: (viii) Unicorn Hotel - steel lintel and replacement window. (ix) No 7, Windmill Street - single storey rear extension; (x) The Mullions, Castle Street - convert/extend garage to study/office and garage. (xi) The Cottage, Philcote Street - demolish and rebuild boundary and gable walls. (xii) No 21, The Daedings - 2-storey front extension. (xiii) The Flat, Pretoria House - replace metal stairs and decking with wood equivalent and insert new window.

Other matters (xiv) PC concerns about signage and usage at Centrepoint have not been fully answered. (xv) Applications in respect of Victoria Terrace and Whitegates, Philcote Street, arrived too late for consideration this time.

PATHS AND VERGES

The occupant of Lime Cottage, New Street, has ceased parking on the verge and has re-seeded the damaged area. PC will pursue policy of protecting

grass verges and require those responsible for damage to make good. The Hempton footpath, and a number of footpaths in Deddington, are deteriorating. C/Cllr Jelf undertook to raise these matters with OCC.

DANGEROUS CORNER

At the junction of Philcote Street, St Thomas Street and Hopcraft Lane, the road markings have practically disappeared and drivers cut corners. C/Cllr Jelf undertook to raise with OCC.

TOO CLOSE IN MILL CLOSE?

Occupant of 30 Mill Close has asked that adjacent tree be felled or pruned. By majority vote, PC decided to get advice from CDC experts on best practice and cost, payable by the complainant.

WINDMILL PRESENTATION

The Windmill management have asked permission to make a presentation at the next PC meeting. PC agreed in principle, and requested that an exposition of the key points of the lease should be included.

PARISH FINANCES

Invoices passed for payment totalled £4,064.55, including £1,263.69 stewards' wages, £891.90 tax and NI, £667.92 Clerk's salary, £411.25 annual audit. Investments totalled £526,318.98, of which £4,945.01 Barclays (£257.03 imprest + £4,687.98 current account) @ 0.1%; £1,000 Bradford & Bingley @ 3.4% on 120 days; £520,373.97 West Bromwich @ 3.4% overnight.

Budget and Precept 2004-5. After considerable discussion on providing services and controlling costs, PC agreed that there is scope for cost-cutting on a major expense, grass-cutting; that the policy on grants to charities should be tightened; and that revenues must be maximised. Reserves of £40,000 are allowed for projects that have been identified but cannot yet be properly costed, such as traffic calming measures. PC to work with the Windmill management, now a limited company with charitable status, on resurfacing the all-weather court, reserving up to £10,000 but seeking grants from appropriate outside bodies. Forecasting a deficit of just under £4,000, PC will ask CDC to set a precept of £25,000 which equates to £28.50 for the average household. This will increase an individual parishioner's total Council Tax bill by about £1.

NEXT MEETING 18 February, Town Hall, 7.30pm

Official minutes of PC meetings may be seen at the Clerk's office and the Library, on parish noticeboards and the village website: www.deddington.org.uk/pcminutes

Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre
Present

**THE MAGIC OF THE MUMMY
TALES OF ANCIENT EGYPT**

Wednesday 18th February at 2.30pm
Windmill Community Centre

Tickets £5/£3 The Post Office or Tel 338153

Part of the Cherwell Rural Arts Programme arranged by Deddington Players

WELL REMEMBERED

BETTY HASELDEN died 5 days after her 80th birthday at the Old Vicarage, to which she moved in 1970. Her husband Myles had died in 1963 on their 10th wedding anniversary, leaving her with Merriol, Anna Lisa, Clare and Virginia. A descendent of the Lancashire Lever family, she was a lifelong supporter of Bolton Wanderers. Keen on tennis as a player and spectator, she could beat all her teenage daughters, and her granddaughter Tessa at table-tennis last October. A renowned hostess, for many years she was part of the Meals on Wheels team. 'The Lady with the Dogs' made many friends in Deddington. *Cwain Blackwell*

JOAN SYKES was born in Tadmerton in 1914. Following domestic service in Stratford and Adderbury, she married Gerald in 1934 and moved to Deddington. Joan's many jobs in the village (she liked to be busy) included domestic work, dinner duties at the Windmill School and playground supervision for the Primary School. She enjoyed the Thursday Club at the Windmill Centre, Coffee Mornings in the Church and shopping expeditions to Banbury. Earlier she had been a keen dancer, a talent regularly exercised at the British Legion. Joan took great pride in her family; she never fully recovered from the death of the eldest of her three sons, Gerald. *Hugh White*

VIV WALKER was born in High Wycombe in 1952, Viv married Steve, an American, in 1983 and came to Deddington via Tampa, Florida and Bloxham ten years later. An outgoing person who enjoyed company, Viv contributed fully to Deddington life. She was in at the foundation of the Deddington Colts Football Club, becoming its Secretary, and she gave ready support to activities connected with the schools attended by her sons, Simon and Kyle. She became a Parish Councillor and was Secretary of the Windmill Centre Committee. Beyond the village, Viv found fulfilling work with Social Services, recording conferences relating to child protection. *Hugh White*

JOAN WYATT came to Grove Court late in life with her husband Leslie, whom she had met at Barford Airbase during World War 2. She and Leslie ('Ginger') were a devoted couple, who found contentment mainly in one another's company - Joan remained rather reclusive following her husband's death. Ginger had cared for Joan so well that when he died Joan had suddenly to find ways of coping for herself in many new areas. She professed amazement at how difficult it could be to arrange matters, but she nevertheless confronted the difficulties resolutely and took some pleasure in the late burgeoning of her household management skills. *Hugh White*



Return Visit of LYRA SINGERS
from St. Petersburg
Tuesday March 9th. 7.30pm.
Parish Church
Superb singers. Not to be missed.



I should like to begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you are all looking forward, as we are, to the challenges that lie ahead in 2004. It was lovely to see so many people at our Christmas production and I hope that you enjoyed it as much as we all did. The children and teachers have returned from their Christmas break refreshed and ready for another busy term ahead.

Topics to be studied this term range from Change, Electricity and The Great Fire of London in Key Stage One, to the Egyptians, Invaders and Settlers, Ancient Greece and Rivers in Key Stage Two.



This term we will be continuing with our fortnightly, "Arts Days" where children have the opportunity to spend an entire day working on Art, Drama, Dance and Music. The whole

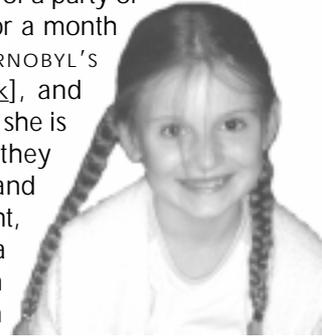
school has also set itself a New Year's Resolution to become whizzes at mental arithmetic. So, if you are related to any of the children in school I am sure they would appreciate your support in this aim.

Later this term I look forward to seeing you at the Mothering Sunday and Easter services.

Lynne Stephens 338430

From Belarus to Deddington

Seven-year-old Sasha came from Mogilev in Belarus to stay with the O'Sullivan family in Gaveston Gardens last October. She was one of a party of ten brought to this area for a month by the FRIENDS OF CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN [www.focc.org.uk], and may return each year until she is 11. For their first week they received careful health and dental checks and treatment, a fearful experience for a child with little English on her first trip away from home - but necessary when only about 6 in every 100 children are born healthy in Mogilev 18 years after the nuclear melt-down 180 miles upwind in the Ukraine. As well as natal deformities, there has been a 800% increase in children with cancers. It will take 240 centuries before the land is safe. Sasha took some persuading that it was safe to drink milk here ! For seven hours each weekday the children were occupied with activities based in Kings Sutton. For the rest of their stay they shared in the life of their host families. Sasha went home with extra luggage stuffed with many of the everyday things she cannot get at home. *CS*



Deddington Pre-school

Our Spring term has seen us start with a full complement of children which is lovely. We said sad goodbyes to our children going to school and wish them every success for the future. We'd like to thank all those parents who donated leaving gifts to the Pre-school.

Special thanks go to Andy Shepherd and his colleagues at Deddington Football Club who raised £170 for the Pre-School at their fundraising match during the Christmas break.

As we are now registered for Full Day Care with Ofsted, this term we have started Lunch Club on four days, enabling the children to spend the whole day at Pre-school - it has been a great success and at £1.50 per session represents very good childcare value. We are also planning to start an after school club in the very near future.

We will be running a holiday club again during half term (w/c 16th Feb) for our own children and any children in Reception class at school. Please contact Anna Justice for details and to book your place.

Fundraising events this term will see another of our Fashion Shows run in conjunction with the school, Easter events and we are still finalising the details of the Child First Aid courses. A date for your diaries in the summer, 10 July, Eighties Night. *Julie Westley*

Deddington Nursery School

The sudden closure of the Nursery School has drastically reduced the local provision for toddlers, and left a major hole in the Windmill Centre's diary and finances. The gap in the *DN's* advertising pages was rapidly filled by the newly opened Olive Restaurant. *CS*

The Living Rooms Project

**Saturday February 28
7.30pm**

St Peter and St Paul's Church Deddington

Cambrian Male Voice Choir

Tickets £10.00 and £7.50 (with wine) available from Post Office

One Man Band On the door

SS PETER AND PAUL, DEDDINGTON AND ST JOHN, HEMPTON*You will always be very welcome at any service in Church or Chapel***Parish Church in February**

Sun	1	10.30 am	Morning Praise
		6.30 pm	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST Eucharist
Wed	4	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thu	5	2.00 pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	8	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist and Baptism and Children's Church
Wed	11	10.00 am	Eucharist
Sun	14	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30 am	Morning Worship
Wed	18	10.00 am	Eucharist
Thu	19	2.00 pm	Squeals and Wheels
Sun	22	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist and Children's Church
Wed	25	10.00 am	ASH WEDNESDAY Eucharist and Ashes
Sun	29	10.30 am	Choral Mattins (BCP) Speaker from Biblelands



**www.
deddingtonchurch.
org**

*For Baptisms, Weddings,
Funerals, hospital or home visits
in case of illness,
please contact the Vicar,
the Rev. Dr Hugh White,
28 Duns Tew (349869);
or one of the Churchwardens,
Liz Dickinson (337050)
or Iain Gillespie (338367)*

St John Hempton in February

Sun 1 & 15	9.00 am	Eucharist
Sat 22	6.30 pm	Evensong

From the Parish Registers

BAPTISMS	14 December	Nathan Robert Shaw, Ryan Jack Hope
WEDDING	27 December	Damian Lloyd Hart & Karen Anne Hutchings
FUNERALS	10 December	Vivienne Walker
	2 January	Joan Sykes;
	8 January	Betty Haselden
	9 January	Joan Wyatt;
	12 January	Jo Mace

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

Boulderdyke House, Clifton [Jean Welford 338539] alternate Weds from 4 Feb 7.30pm
2 The Leyes, Deddington [Liz Dickinson 337050] Wed 11 Feb, 7.30pm

Charity of the Month - each month a charity benefits from donations in the box in the Parish Church or St John's Hempton: the use by taxpayers of the pink *GiftAid* envelopes is commended.

February: NORTH & WEST OXFORDSHIRE CARERS' CENTRE

WESLEYAN REFORM CHURCH, Chapel Square

Pastor Isabel Walton 337157

Morning services at 10.30 am

Feb 1, 8, & 15 - Pastor Isabel Walton; 22 - Marian Roberts; 29 - Mike Graveny

Bible Study/Fellowship every Wednesday at 7.30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, New Street

Joyce Minnear 338 529

Sunday *morning* worship jointly with Wesleyan Reform congregation at 10.30 am

Sunday evening services will resume on 24 March, with Pastor Isabel Walton as the preacher

R.C. PARISH OF HETHE WITH ADDERBURY

The Revd A J Burns 277396

Hethe : Mass is said every day [except Wednesday] at 10.00 am. Confessions: Sats -5.30~6.00 pm

Adderbury : Mass is said Sundays at 8.30 am; Wednesdays at 7.00 pm; Confessions before Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY, 25 Feb, is a day of Abstinence for all Catholics and a day of Fasting for adults.

Mass with Imposition of the Ashes will be said at *Hethe* at 10.00 am and at *Adderbury* at 7 p.m.

The Eve of Sunday Mass at St John's, South Bar, Banbury is said at 4 p.m. on Saturdays to allow

Catholics from the villages to attend by bus.

Living Rooms Project

On Sunday 1 February the £10.00 'TALENT RAISING' will formally close. A host of bright ideas has kick started our funds; some will overrun the closing date (bedding plants do not grow very fast in the winter!) Thanks to all those who took to the idea so enthusiastically.

CAMBRIAN MALE VOICE CHOIR - this nationally known choir sings in Deddington Church on Sat 28 February at 7.30. They are twice winners of the Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs and their repertoire covers modern songs, ballads, classics and the 'war horses' of male voice singing.

EDWIN RYE, BBC GARDENER OF THE YEAR 2002 will talk on 'Garden Delights' on Sat 17 April and answer questions - an invitation to all gardeners who wish to start their season with a flourish because ...

... there will be a **THREE VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS** display on the weekend of 19/20 June. Those willing to open and show their gardens, please contact Andrew and Jane Green 337837 early in the season.

And calling all gourmets to contribute to a **PARISH COOK BOOK** - 'gorgeous sorbet, pudding and pie' or whatever. Please send your favourite recipes to Liz Handley or John Sampson (338739).

FROM KAREN EVANS, THE DAEDINGS, DEDDINGTON

On 28 November I lost my dear friend, Viv Walker, and Steve, Simon and Kyle lost a beloved wife and mum. Viv cared for all the people whose lives she touched. Her crystal clear mind saw things before the rest of us and her advice was always sound and considered. She was strong, just and loyal. She loved her village and community, especially campaigning for our youngsters. She was extremely professional and serious about her job and was often deeply affected by her work. She was also brave, unselfish and one of the most outward-looking people I shall ever meet. Steve and her boys were the love of her life and her top priority. I am thankful to have known this special lady and will always miss her.

Please address all letters to:
KRISTIN THOMPSON,
5 THE LEYES, DEDDINGTON
e-mail: op@kristin.demon.co.uk
and include your name and address,
even if they are not for publication.

E-MAIL FROM PETER MACE

I'm writing to say how thrilled I was to find and read the *DN* archive on the Deddington website. My father was Bill Mace.* He lived in Deddington for about 10 years and was active in the village. Looking through the archive I was able to discover how active he was in ways that I had not previously known. The archive gives a wonderful picture of village life for future generations as well as providing personal memories. Keep it up.

(* Dr. Bill Mace, husband of Jo Mace; tributes to her are on p. 13. Ed.)

**talking science**

The CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory carries out world-leading

research ranging from the vastness of space to the invisibly small world of nanotechnology. It has a programme of inspirational science lectures and open days for members of the public. All the events at Chilton are free and many are suitable for families.

Public lectures - to reserve a place at any of the lectures, please contact Lisa Faircloth on 01235 445789.

Friday 13 February 2004 7.00 pm

What is nanotechnology? *Explore the world of the very small with Professor Tony Ryan of Sheffield University.* This lecture seeks to expose the myths behind the headlines and find out whether they are looking at fantastic facts or frightening fiction. Recommended age 11 and over.

Friday 12 March 2004 7.00 pm

Creating Faces with Dr Caroline Wilkinson, *facial anthropologist of Manchester Museum.* The process of facial reconstruction allows them to imagine the appearance of an individual from the skeletal remains. This lecture will explain the technique of facial reconstruction and highlight the importance of it in forensic and archaeological investigations. Recommended age 9 and over. *Warning: pictures of human remains will be shown in this lecture.*

Open Afternoons - an exciting opportunity to find out more about some of the amazing science and engineering taking place at this working laboratory.

FROM SUE LANE, FUNDRAISING MANAGER, KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

Katharine House was delighted to learn that the proceeds from the popular Christmas Eve Carol Singing in Deddington's Market Place would be donated to the Hospice. We are always amazed at the steadfast loyalty of supporters in and around Deddington. We would like to thank Carol and Joy Putland, owners of the Unicorn Inn, who generously donated the wine and mince pies, Pat Brittain, Chris and Yvonne Twomey and Stan and Carol Horlick for their help, and of course Geoff Todd and Jim Flux for the music. Thanks in particular to the many residents who turned out to sing. The event was a great success, raising an impressive £314.19 towards the upkeep of the Hospice. As a self-financing organisation, Katharine House relies heavily on donations from community fundraising and, on behalf of everyone here in Adderbury, may we wish you a peaceful New Year, with our very grateful thanks for your support.

FROM DEE HAILEY, 7 HUDSON STREET, DEDDINGTON

I am writing to let local runners know that if they have been accepted for the London Marathon in April the Hook Norton Harriers organise a coach to London for the day of the Race. It takes runners and their supporters for a very reasonable return fare. It's an easy way of solving the transport problem, especially when one is 'brain-dead' at the end of the day. Contact either me on: 01869 338942, or Alan Upstone on: 01295 256347.

FROM LISA HALES, HOPCROFT LANE, DEDDINGTON

I am looking for a fell/mountain walking club based in the Deddington/North Oxon area. I live in Deddington and enjoy walking, particularly up hills, and am looking for like-minded people. There being few mountains in this area, I tend to travel to find them and have visited the Lake District and Wales. However, I'm happy to try anywhere that is a bit challenging. It would be good to hear from anyone who is interested or who knows of any clubs or groups that also enjoy vigorous walking - followed by a pint ! Phone 337458.

Suitable for age 16 years and over. Admission is free but places are limited for the open afternoons. To reserve a place, please contact Emma Gilgunn-Jones on 01235 445553.

Space Science and Technology - Wednesday 24 March 2004 (1.30pm - 4.30pm) With significant involvement in over 40 missions including Beagle-2, SMART-1 (first European mission to the Moon), Envisat and GERB, the Space Science and Technology department is at the forefront of UK space research.

Instrumentation - Wednesday 26 May 2004 (1.30 - 4.30pm) Detectors designed and built in this department allow scientists to image the X-ray emissions from the sun, to capture the spectrum of ultraviolet light transmitted by a protein as it unfolds and to detect the subtle pattern of neutrons diffracted from a high temperature superconductor.

The Flower Garden

In an ideal world someone building a new house, would set aside a sum of money for the garden. But brickwork, patios, and laid on water features are expensive. What about starting more modestly with raised beds then ? Hands up those of you who have such a scheme. Not too many, I fear. But for a lot of people this would be a way to continue gardening when kneeling and bending become difficult. I know I have nattered on about this before, but I don't think I told you about my buggy. For many years I gardened on my knees, on a foam pad tucked into a plastic bag (courtesy Harrods). After that I bought a proper kneeler, but did not find this very comfortable. It was not easy to get up from it and the side supports clamped my arms down too much. Then my daughter brought a "Lawn Buddy" for me from America. It is a stout plastic box on stout plastic wheels. You sit on the lid and propel yourself up and down the garden with your feet. The box is hollow, so you can put all your tools and bits into it. It is very easy to get up from and does not tip sideways.



With a long-handled hand fork you can reach well into the flower beds. Judy had quite a tussle to get the huge package containing the buggy home from the airport. The Flights Bus driver said it was freight and he couldn't take it, Judy said it was hand luggage. In the end it was loaded on with the proviso that if any further passenger with difficult hand luggage were picked up on the way to Banbury, the buggy would be turned out. I am very grateful for this wonderful present, it has prolonged my gardening miraculously.

It will not be long now before we will see a bit more colour out there again, so until then just talk to your bulbs or write them a nice letter like Hugh Marshall in the last *DN*. Plants are very responsive, who knows, he might get a letter back !

Marianne Elsley

WANTED PART-TIME GARDENER

The Deddington Housing Association Ltd requires a gardener to maintain the grounds of the Holly Tree Cottages, Earls Lane, Deddington.

The work should not occupy more than half a day per fortnight, according to the season, and mainly consists of lawn and flowerbed maintenance, although some pruning of shrubs will be required occasionally

For details please contact Iain Gillespie,
Honorary Secretary, Deddington Housing
Association Ltd,
Tel: 01869 338367

Good land - going cheap !

As the days begin to get longer, have you thought about getting a little more garden? It doesn't require planning approval nor the purchase of additional land because there are gardens in Satin Lane (that's just off St Thomas' Street in Deddington) waiting to be cultivated. Take a look at them and you will see that many of the allotments are carefully and productively tended; others look forward to their gardeners getting onto the land this month; whilst there are several plots crying out to be cleared and cultivated. Now is the time to start! If it looks too daunting a prospect, take heart! The Parish Council will pay for a thorough digging over (rotovating, actually) of a new gardener's plot and will still only charge a fiver per year for a small, 'starter' plot, twice that for half an allotment and only £15.50 for a full garden of one chain (= 22 yards in old money). Not a big outlay for something which could turn out to be creative, productive, friendly, healthy, relaxing, satisfying and a whole lot more, besides. But don't be too ambitious to begin with! To reserve your new garden, or to find out more, contact the Parish Clerk at the Windmill Centre, (01869 337447) I understand that the Hempton allotments are all taken, but you do not have to be resident in Deddington to qualify for Satin lane.

Contrary to rumour, I do not have an allotment myself, but write as one looking in from the outside. Our garden at home is nearly 2 chains, which is ample. Hugh Marshall

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Deddington 150 Years Ago

The following are extracts from the diaries of the Rev. Cotton Risley for the month of February 1854:-

2nd February - I was busied going to the widows' houses and enquiring into their present circumstances preparatory, I hope, to their being somewhat relieved out of our recent Poor Fund. I wrote to the Chairman of our Union at Woodstock to suggest the propriety of increasing the present weekly payment of the widows and other aged poor by 6d. per week during the present high price of provisions.

3rd February - Holford returned from the Woodstock Ball at half past 4 o'clock a.m., which passed off well.

22nd February - A woman from this place came for an out-patient ticket to the Infirmary.

24th February - Mr. Brogden sent down to me to read prayers for him. Refused to do so as I was going to Oxford to vote on the newly proposed Scheme for University Reform and to petition the Queen thereupon.

27th February - Heard two assault cases with Col. Bowles against the two young Margetts's on Mr. Hiron, their brother-in-law. We convicted E. Margetts and then bound him and his brother H. together with Mr. Hiron in their own recognisances of £20 to keep the peace for 12 months towards each other and all Her Majesty's subjects. *Buffy Heywood*

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LIVING HISTORY**Evacuee children in Deddington, 1939 -1945**

Very recently I was introduced to 3 very charming ladies who, over a cup of tea, shared with me memories of their refugee status in Deddington.

On 1st September 1939 Joyce, Doreen and Pauline aged 13 waved farewell to their parents on Becontree Station (Dagenham East London) to spend, as they were told by their elders, 2 weeks in the country. The outbreak of war was expected daily as were air raids on London. At that time, many schools in and around the city were evacuated lock, stock and barrel, and, unbeknown to the girls this edict had been passed on Campbell Senior Girls School where they were pupils.

Waving their tearful parents goodbye the girls were torn between feelings of thrilling excitement and just a little fear of the unknown. But soon the general happy mood experienced by pupils at any school outing took over. Noses were pressed against carriage windows while they sped towards Banbury. Few of them had ever ventured so far into the country and few had ever been on holiday on their own. But of course, they did not feel "on their own" because the 50 or so girls were accompanied by their Headmistress and 2 lady teachers and were surrounded by their friends.

High spirits of adventure were only slightly dimmed when on arrival at Banbury Station they were ushered into a shed to use "toilettes" consisting of a plank with 12 holes over 12 buckets. On re-assembly each pupil was handed a carrier bag (in pupil speak known as weekend ration) with corned-beef, a packet of biscuits, a bar of chocolate and an orange. Midland Red buses now ferried them to Deddington, their final destination. Clutching their small luggage, with gas-masks hung over their shoulders, they were led into the upper room of the British Legion where village ladies and gentlemen were gathered and where they were offered tea, squash and biscuits.

A lady Billeting Officer encouraged the villagers, who had volunteered a home for one or two children, to take their pick. Soon only a few were left, by now a bit anxious but, (if memories have not blocked out emotions at the time) just dimly aware that there was a problem. In Pauline's case, the problem was her 10 year old brother Terry, who together with a few other younger siblings of Campbell Senior School girls were now members of the group. Pauline's parents parting wish had been that she should be billeted with her brother. She remembers clearly busying herself with wiping the tables. By this act she unconsciously drew attention to her usefulness which finally found her a home and a "Foster mother" who, alas, had only a little spare bedroom. She and brother Terry were parted which, in retrospect, was an excellent solution, his "Foster Parents" had boys of his own age and he spent many happy years with them ...

(The story of our refugees will be continued in the next issue. It would be very interesting to hear from those amongst our readers who lived in Deddington at that time. A party of 50 girls moving into the village must have left some impressions. Please contact me).

Ruth Johnson 338355

1st Deddington Scout Group

Happy New Year to all our Cubs, Scouts and their families. At the end of last term the Cubs performed 'Mowgli and the Bandarlog' from the Jungle Book, making their own masks and turning the upstairs room at The Windmill Centre into a rainforest for the evening. They all performed brilliantly - earning their entertainer's badge - and we were pleased that so many parents came to watch.

The Christmas party was a night of crime and detection: who kidnapped Father Christmas? None other than Bob the Builder! Only a few guessed the answer, but it was fun and everyone entered into the spirit by dressing up as detectives. Thanks to Tanya and Nicky.

We welcomed James to the pack and said farewell to Rory who will be moving up to Scouts; we've enjoyed having you in the pack.

Now a huge thank you to everyone who posted and delivered Christmas cards; we raised £178 (approx. 1200 cards). This is a welcome boost to our funds and we hope we perform a useful service.

Lastly, we hope you noticed our contribution to the village decorations - the bells on the tree. Maybe next year each child in the village could make a decoration for the tree, wouldn't that make it special?

Jo Churchyard 338071

Deddington Beeches Bowls

We are holding a Quiz Night at the Unicorn Inn on Friday 30 January commencing at 7.30pm. £10 for a team of four - all are welcome. On Saturday 20 March we are holding a Race Night at the Royal British Legion. First race under starter's orders at 7.30pm. - again all are welcome. *Yvonne Twomey* 337213

Deddington Colts

The third annual Race Night is at the Windmill Centre on Saturday 7 February. Paddock & Bar open at 7.30pm with the first race at 8 pm. Entry to this popular evening - an 18 and over event - is a modest £2.50 per person. Groups may reserve tables by calling Nicky on 337036, Lorraine on 337471, or David on 337351. Part of the profit from last year's event - £200 - has recently been donated to Deddington Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs, and Boys Brigade. *David Rollason* 337351

Deddington Town Football Club

1st Team Results

Langford Village (a) (Mid Oxon Cup) Won 7-3 J.Pearce (4), D.Clouston, L.Rawlings, L.Hayward

Arncott (h) Won 2-0 M.Hewitt, D.Clouston

The 1st team have started the New Year in excellent form, 4 goals from Julian Pearce helped the side to an emphatic Mid-Oxon Cup win over Langford Village. In the next round the opposition are F.C. Callebaut from Division 2. An excellent all round team performance afforded a priceless win over a strong Arncott side with goals from Michael Hewitt and Dave Clouston securing a 2-0 victory. This result leaves the team second in Division 1 and with a realistic chance of promotion at the end of the season.

Reserve Team Results

Steeple Aston Res (h) (Supplementary Cup) Won 2-1

P.Kirsopp, L.Rawlings

Vodafone Res (h) (Supplementary Cup) Lost 0-1

Decoma Sybex (a) Drew 2-2 A. Kirsopp, A. Wallock

The Reserve side have produced 1 win, 1 draw and 1 loss during the past month. Leading goal scorer Phil Kirsopp was on target in the Supplementary Cup win over local rivals Steeple Aston Res. However, Vodafone Res inflicted a 1-0 defeat on the team in the same competition. This leaves the side with some work to do to qualify for the semi-final stages. On the League front a useful draw was achieved away to Decoma Sybex and Phil's brother Adam was one of the scorers. Currently the team occupy a top half position in Division 2.

Over the Christmas break there was a charity football match when current and past players participated. There was an excellent turnout and £170 was collected, which has been donated to Deddington Pre-School. Some of the 'past players' who took part were John Keys, Arthur Fairns, Chris Tompkins, Pete Bliss, Robin Nash, Lewis White, Kenny Stephenson and Club President Cliff Smith. 75 Club Winners winning £50: J.Bliss, M.Walker, B.Humphries, M.Simons, A.Dickson (twice) and E.Harrison won £100. *Steve Plumble* (01295) 278258.

WI

The meeting on 13 January began with members observing a short silence in memory of our ex-President, Shirley Gibbs, who died at her home in Norfolk. Shirley was an excellent President giving much time and thought to the WI and she was greatly missed when she and Mike moved to Kings Lynn. Our condolences are offered to her family and friends.

The business meeting followed and then Maureen Cox took over to tell us about 'The Role of the Practice Nurse'. The nurse has evolved with many skills to the present position where she is now accountable and responsible to the GPs. She is of immense value to the patients and doctors alike.

On 10 February our speaker is Chris Day on 'The history of Deddington Castle and Site'. Visitors are, of course, always welcome. *Rene Mahony* 338438

Deddington Friendship Club

At the meeting on 4 January we discussed future plans for the club, especially in view of a Lottery Grant of £1,950 to purchase equipment for our type of indoor activity and endeavour to increase membership. It is felt, therefore, that we should concentrate more on the social aspect of the club where people can meet in an informal way and choose how they wish to spend an enjoyable afternoon - quietly or in a more active pursuit. We plan to buy our own carpet bowls (the present ones are on loan from Cherwell DC) as well as indoor croquet, varieties of board games, bingo, etc. All these will be discussed in more detail at our Annual General Meeting on 4 February and all input will be greatly appreciated. *Joyce Minnear* 338529

Deddington Babies & Toddlers Group

We are pleased to announce that due to popular demand, the group now meets twice weekly. The additional session is on a Wednesday morning - same time, same place - drop in between 9.30 and 11.30am at the Windmill. Both sessions give your child a chance to meet and play with others their own age. There is a singsong, maybe a story, lots of toys, and special events and outings from time to time. On 27 February we visit the new 'Family Tree' play centre in Bicester from 1.00 - 2.30pm. For you as a parent or carer, there is the chance to get out for an hour or two, make new friends and swap experiences - we provide much-needed coffee and chocolate biscuits! Our Friday session continues as before (including 27 February). Why not join us? We'd love to see you.

Lucy Squires 338442

Tennis Club

In the middle of winter there's not a lot of tennis being played at Deddington, but there is some. We have four teams in the Floodlit League and borrow Adderbury West End's courts as our home ground as they have floodlights.

This is the first winter that we have been running children's lessons in small groups indoors at the Windmill Centre and they are going well. We hope to offer more coaching this summer and to run sessions for adult beginners and rusty players

We enjoyed a really good Christmas night out at Middle Aston with great food and many thanks to Ann and Mick Pearson for organizing it.

This is a good time to join the tennis club, as you'd have a few months to practice ready to emerge walloping aces by spring! If you prefer to 'pay & play' you can hire the courts from Cyclogical (who kindly keep a key for us) in Hudson Street.

Katie McGovern 338771

1st Deddington BB Company

Boys' Brigade activities resumed on 14 January. Four teams represented Deddington at the local BB 5-a-side football tournament held at The Spiceball Centre in Banbury on 16 January. There were no trophies for

Deddington this year, although our teams were runners up in both the Anchor Boys and the Juniors competitions.

Brian Bushell 338715

Deddington Youth Club

The club is going well with the regular attendance of 25-30 young people. The Leaders, Peter Robinson and John O'Connell, have settled in and are planning for the future. Peter will be absent for several weeks from mid-February having a major operation and so extra support is needed. Cherwell Sports Team is sending a trained youth worker for some of this period and John has a friend who is interested in coming to help.

At the AGM on 12 January Gay stood down as Chairman (after 8 years!) in favour of Maureen Forsyth. Molly Neild, our secretary, will be retiring when a replacement is found - any offers? Moreover, we would like some more people on our Management Committee. If you are interested please contact Maureen or myself - we meet approximately once every two months. If anyone is discarding beanbags or CDs we would be very grateful.

Gay Brewer 338097 *Maureen Forsyth* 338384

Deddington & District History Society

Our January speaker was Paul Sanders, member of a well-known Deddington family. Paul spoke about his research into the wartime experiences of Channel Islanders, several of whom tragically were sent to concentration camps for offences against the occupiers. It was a fascinating and moving story. We hope that Paul will return at some point to talk to us about the experiences of local communities in occupied France during World War II.

On Wednesday 11 February at 7.30 Hugo Brunner, the highly active, respected and popular Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, will speak on the history of the Oxfordshire Lieutenancy. On Wednesday 10 March David Vaisey, whose excellent talk on the Treasures of the Bodleian Library led to demands for a return visit, will speak on Victorian and Edwardian shops and shopping.

Chris Day 337204



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ON THE FARM

What a difference a year can make - last year I was complaining about the extensive flooding in the Cherwell valley but this year I am pleased to say that we have had enough rain to fill the dykes and give a little standing water on the low parts of the Clifton meadows. With the open winter to date the crops have made up for the dry conditions at planting time. The winter beans are growing and for once the Rooks have left them alone. I wish I could say the same about the oil seed rape. The Wood Pigeons have become a real problem this year and have proved very difficult to keep at bay despite regular shooting, gas guns and sky rockets. We always get some pigeon damage but this year they are concentrating on the fields close to the village. One or two people have been a little upset by the noise and the sight of men with guns wearing camouflage jackets. But needs must when the devil drives; if the pigeons damage the growing point the crop will be backward, reducing the yield and making harvesting difficult.

The ewes came in just after the new year as they were beginning to poach the ground around the feed troughs. Each ewe will be given a booster jab for the clostridial diseases and Pasteurellosis, all of which can cause heavy losses among young lambs. The ewes will pass on antibodies to the lambs through the milk. To give them some protection until their own immune system is able to fight off infection we have also given the sheep a pedicure and trimmed their nails out. This is done so that we can see when the ewe starts to drop her lambs. It is also easier for the new born lambs to find the milk bar and helps to keep the ewes' rear ends cleaner when they hit the spring grass.

The bees are venturing out so another feed will soon be needed but this time I shall give them sugar candy and a pollen substitute. Now that the pantomime is over for another year I can start on preparations for the coming bee-keeping season. I like to give each colony a fresh brood box and floor. The old boxes and floors are cleaned and put into store to dry out. Last year's brood chambers will now be scorched out on the inside with a blow lamp and given a coat of paint on the outside. It may seem unnecessary work but it is easier to work a clean brood chamber and it helps with the control of insect pests and diseases. Anyway I am sure the old queen appreciates a good spring clean.

With lambing just around the corner the Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) seems to be making little headway with the contentious issue of the disposal of dead farm stock. Their inability to get a workable scheme up and running could create a real stink over the coming month.

Another contentious issue is that of Badgers and bovine TB. The correlation between Badgers and TB in cattle has been well documented for many years and in the interests of human and animal health all dairy herds have been regularly tested for TB since the 1920s. The Badger populations were controlled by government contractors and bovine TB was reduced to

**News from Hempton**

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success. Everyone who came enjoyed themselves and it was nice to see lots of children there. About £900 was raised, which was a great effort. This will go to the Friends of the Church who support the maintenance and repairs to the building. Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported this event. About 50 people attended the Carol Service on 20 December. The Deddington Parish Church choir led the singing. The Table Tennis team continues to improve. Its record now is P9-W5-D1-L3. Although they were defeated in the Handicap Cup by a Blessed George Napier team, an excellent match ended with a 5-4 win to the school side. The Friends are holding a Bangers & Mash evening on Friday 27 February at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. There will be soft drinks but if you require alcohol please bring a bottle and glasses. Tickets will be £7.50 per head, obtainable from me or any committee member. It is hoped to lay on some form of entertainment afterwards. Ever since the road through the village was resurfaced with chippings, the pavements have been covered with loose ones thrown up from the road, making it uncomfortable to walk on. Let's hope the Highways Authority will come along with a sweeper to clear them.

Les Chappell 338054

News from Clifton

In the garden there are snowdrops, violets and aconites. As the days lengthen other plants are bursting through the soil and the sap rises. The Lenten Hellebore has a long display right through to Easter. With that comes the hope that with thought, prayer and charity comes Resolution. I shall enjoy seeing the children around more as the clocks change. *Carol Draumer*

Clifton is a wonderful place
for kids I think it's really Ace.

There are so many places where we can hide
across the village far and wide.

In summer we're out from morning 'till night
the countryside is such a delight.

In winter time we go round to friends
but most of our playtime is at weekends.

Sophie & Jay White

a few cases each year. The Badger is now a protected species and the population has exploded and so has TB in cattle. DEFRA has refused to undertake a cull despite the potential risks to human health (so much for all the rhetoric on food safety) but in a round- about way this may soon change. We seem to have a fixation with our distant past. The poor old Badger in its search for new homes has been digging up some much-treasured archaeological sites on Salisbury Plain and our eminent archaeologists are calling for a cull. We have a growing number of organisations and committees besotted with preserving the past at any cost, so perhaps it is time for an extended cull to safeguard the future.

George Fenemore 338203

Friends of Daeda's Wood

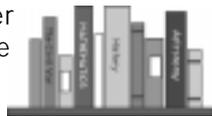


'Our' Woodland Officer John Brown is moving on to new responsibilities in the Woodland Trust. We wish him well and thank him for his considerable input into the management of Daeda's Wood, his support for the Jubilee Picnic, and the solving of sundry problems during his tenure. Recently he introduced me to his successor Neil Chamberlain, who can be contacted on 01844 290912. Among the more intractable problems we discussed was that of the creeping (rampaging?) thistle. There is now good evidence that under the trees, as the canopy thickens, the thistles have gone into retreat. For the wildflower meadow areas this solution is not available, but alternatives are being considered. More about these next month.

The sight of the first silvery glint of pussy willow buds seems an affirmation that spring is on its way. Harbingers of spring even in January? Well, seeing is believing. If you haven't been recently, go and take a look.

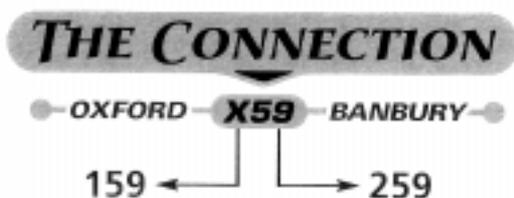
Sylvie Spenceley 338995

Thank you to all the underfives who entered the Blue Kangaroo colouring competition. Judging was nigh impossible so everyone was awarded a prize. If you haven't been given yours yet - toddle off to the Library to collect.



In the next few weeks work will be carried out to fully computerise the Library. Existing members will receive a new card which can be used at all computerised Libraries in the County. An on-line catalogue is also available now on the Internet. To find out more, please come along to your local Library.

Rosemary Arnold 338391



The dapper new small coach often to be seen in the Market Place is the new feeder bus service, supported by the County Council, linking with the X59 bus to Oxford and Banbury. Hempton residents, for instance, can book through to either terminus. The 159 service can be used to Barford and Bloxham, the 259 to Duns Tew, the Bartons and Steeple Aston - £1.20 is the same fare to them all. Bus passes and tokens are accepted.

THE CONNECTION lives up to its name by waiting for passengers on the X59; the drivers keep in touch by phone. The coach has easy access for wheelchairs, with a 'kneeler' action to lower the threshold. The driver will pick up or set down passengers on request at any safe point along the route. The take-up for the initial guaranteed period of two years is encouraging. Ask the driver for a timetable which includes the X59 bus times, or Freephone 0800 328 1744. *CH*



Just when the DN's back cover was being printed for six months

Thames Valley Police announced a new single number for all non-emergency calls ...

 **0845 8 505 505**

Broadband 4 Deddington

Deddington has reached the trigger level of 300 registrations. Even more would help our cause in getting the date for the exchange to be enabled. As soon as an exchange reaches its target, BT starts a detailed survey to determine exactly how long it will take to enable it for Broadband. This survey is currently still going on for the Deddington exchange. One problem being encountered is that smaller exchanges have varied needs. If an exchange requires even the smallest amount of road works, that can add a couple of months to the build time. Dates are currently being set for us and 180 other exchanges, between June and November '04. So the wait could quite possibly be another 10 months or even more. BT will publish the activation date on the regional pages at www.bt.com/broadband. A bit of outrage about BT not giving us a date might help.

Hamish Stoddart



In time for an early spring stroll, we now have a guide to the history and flora of Deddington Castle Grounds. It can be found at <http://www.deddington.org.uk/chapter6>. This chapter is an extract from *Hedges and Landscapes of Deddington Parish* by Deddington resident and DN contributor, Walter L Meagher, to be published later in 2004.

We have received a family history enquiry from Australia, regarding Mary Ann Pargiter b. c1820 in Deddington. Please contact me if you have any information about her or her descendants. Confidentiality will be respected. *Colin Clark* 338064 colin.clark@deddington.net

News from Deddington Fire Station.

The total calls received in 2003 was 188. Since my last report we have received 28 calls: 1 chemical spillage, 10 calls to stand by, 2 bin fires, 7 road traffic accidents, 1 false alarm with good intent, 4 Chimneys (3 of which were in Pubs!) 1 TV on fire, 1 minor house fire, and one serious house fire which completely destroyed the home. This seems to be the season for road traffic accidents: the crew have been to many recently where casualties have been trapped, have sustained serious injuries and extrication has been very difficult. Please take extra care on the roads, especially at night, the weather and road conditions can be unpredictable.

Interested in joining us? Ring 0800 5 870 870

Anne Waters Sub-officer Deddington Fire Station

Jo Mace

From her arrival in Deddington in 1982, Jo Mace was involved in activities that stretched right across the community. Year after year Jo designed and made theatrical costumes and ingenious props for the Deddington Players. With the Play-reading Group she gave many fine performances - from Shakespeare to Victoria Wood. A founder member of the Holly Tree Artists, she exhibited her landscapes, still-lives and flower portraits in Deddington and beyond. Her illustrations for the Map Group and the Deddington News were charming and to the point. Jo hosted the weekly Craft Group meetings, and examples of her work can be seen in the health centre, library and private houses. Though with reservations about the Church, she was a friend of the church, happy to clean, polish and decorate the oldest and most beautiful building in the parish. Jo was friendly and convivial, truly a Good Neighbour, and creative to the end of her life. *M.S.*

*Do you have any idea how bereft we are feeling ?
We loved you so much it has left us all reeling
There's a hole in our lives that no one can fill
Oh, how wretched to find you'd given the slip
To family dear and on Deddington hill*

*You were always so full of mischievous fun
With designing and colour we hadn't a clue
How to start on a collage or plan something new
Your pencil would fly and in no time at all
We had, lo and behold, a new project begun*

*When we brought you a drawing - "Oh no that won't do,
I'll rough something out to give you a start,
You do the sewing and I'll do the art."*

*In spite of arthritis you could still sew a patch
To fashion great gifts for your grandchildren too*

*We're out of your home where we kept all our stuff
And wondering however our group will re-form
Now that tea round your table's no longer the norm
Since you're not here to help us, and telling us how
To get our ideas drawn when starting was tough*

*"Please use my house" was always the cry
"It's really too big for me here all alone"
So craft group, conservatives, friends, one and all
Will have to find refuge with backs to the wall
'cos while you were with us, on you we'd rely*

*Wherever you are I hope still your chuckle
Will echo around giving angels great pleasure
As you gave to us all in your life. What a treasure!
Rest easy dear Jo, you gave us all of your best
Because you were here, we are mightily blest.*

Stella Marmion

B. A. R. K. S.



Here's a new one - for an old one ! Don't bin your expired car tax disc. To the Banbury animal rescue centre they are worth 15p each. Not worth posting a single one, but give them to Sheena or Ron in the Post Office. There's £1.35 worth in the disc holder of my Polo. How many in yours ? *CH*

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

This year a mixture of new author with a large cast of well-known faces and new talent made for a fresh, lively and very funny Pantomime. It frolicked along, enhanced by strikingly beautiful scenery and colourful costumes. Dick and his delightful Cat met some hilarious characters on their travels and all the essential ingredients of Pantomime were there. The actors were obviously having fun and so indeed was the audience. *M.N.*

Not only chocolate !

After a record Christmas, Deddington Fair Traders are still busy distributing cards, gifts and high quality, fairly traded confectionery, cereals, chocolate, tea and much more at the monthly stall in the Church during the Farmers' Market. Nationally as well as locally, concern to use trade to fight poverty in many parts of the world has increased and helped to build up the work of Traidcraft, Britain's



Traidcraft

leading Fair Trade organization. New products are constantly being developed with a whole new range of clothes, furnishings, toys and jewelry available from the Spring catalogue. Ring 01869 337761 with enquiries and orders, or call at the Church during each Farmers' Market.

Hugh Marshall

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Parish Woodland

The ancient forests of Oxfordshire were deciduous woodland with a strong representation of ash, elm, lime and oak. In exactly the same level of the woodland where they are found today - in the understorey - hazel and hawthorns flourished. As tall trees fell, light gaps formed, and birch colonized the open spaces. These were the trees and shrubs of England's primaeval forest.

For the clearance of forests, blame cannot be fixed with certainty, except it is considered more and more that "Neolithic people were the first to have a major impact on vegetation throughout Britain" (John Killick et al., *The Flora of Oxfordshire*). For them, as for us, woodland impeded agriculture.

Once populations became larger and more settled, clearance of trees became more widespread and permanent. Today, only about 7% of England is covered by trees - less than in any other European country except Ireland; coverage in Oxfordshire is about 6.6%.

The spine of Deddington parish is an outcrop of marlstone rock which forms a ridge from Hempton to just east of Jerusalem Lane. From the central village a stony ridge runs west toward Chipping Norton and north toward Banbury. On all sides, for varying distances, extends the plateau of the parish. Gradually in some places, more precipitately in others, land falls away from the plateau, sloping north to the River Swere on one side of the ridge, and south-east toward the River Cherwell on the other.

Drainage, following the fall of the land, shows a marked east-west arrangement of valleys. In bottomland, the most extensive wooded place is the edge of Worton Brook, on Ilbury Farm. Otherwise, 'Woods are not on land that was good for growing trees, but on land that was bad for anything else.' (Oliver Rackham, *The History of the Countryside*) 'Steep Wood' (OS456322) is an overgrown scrub thicket located on the steepest slope of the River Swere highland (c.125 m). The Old Spinney (OS474316) at Leadenporch Farm is located in the hollow of two medieval fish-ponds, and The Rookery (OS466312), at Manor House, is located in the valley of



a stream with naturally formed steep sides. The wooded edge of the River Swere beside Daeda's Wood is a remnant of a time when crack-willow trees were prized.

Daeda's Wood gives the only public access to the Swere and the trees and shrubs that grow on its bank. While sycamore is more plentiful than willow, willow attracts our interest more. Old and large, some are injured, the boles hollowed and limbs fractured. Occasionally a crack-willow offers a foothold for a seedling of another species. This is what botanist Jo Dunn (Charlbury) calls, their "hospitality". "Contrary to the belief of many people", she writes, "pollarding prolongs the life of the tree, and at the same time renders it less susceptible to wind damage and windblow." There are 18 crack-willows on the river-bank at Daeda's Wood, and it is agreed among experts that pollarding would probably save many from having their trunks torn and their limbs shattered.

Walter L Meagher

MARCH DIARY

Mon	1	Monday Morning Club: Coffee Morning, 10 am - noon.
Wed	3	Deddington Ladies: Holly Tree, 8 pm.
Tue	9	THE LYRA SINGERS: Parish Church, 7.30 pm ➡ p.4
Tue	9	WI: Annual General Meeting, Holly Tree, 7.30 pm ➡ p.9
Wed	10	History Society: David Vaisey, <i>Victorian & Edwardian Shops & Shopping</i> , Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm
Sat	13	School PTA: Quiz Night, Windmill Centre, 7.30 pm
Wed	17	Parish Council meeting: Town Hall, 7.30 pm ➡ p.3
Sat	20	THE NORTH OXFORD CHAMBER CHOIR: Parish Church, 7.30 pm
Sat	20	Bowls Club: Race Night, British Legion, 7.30 pm ➡ p.9
Tue	25	Copy Date for April <i>DEDDINGTON NEWS</i>
Sat	27	Deddington Farmers' Market, 9am-12.30 pm
Sat	27	BANBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Concert, Parish Church, 7.30 pm

Remember: This diary is delivered not only to every home in the three villages, but is also published on the Deddington website. Make sure you get the date of any event you are organising to Jean Flux, our diary editor [338153] as early as possible - the best way to make sure it is widely known, and avoid clashes with other events.