

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 38 Autumn / November 2020



in this issue...

- Lucy Parry (featured photo) - Rising Star
- Dodleston Autumn Show
- Nurturing Nature

Local Life's
Best Community
Newsletter
2015



Roger Taylor - Editor

Welcome all...

As, hopefully, the end of the Covid nightmare is in sight, we again celebrate the diversity of village life.

Looking back, we record the death of the village milk lady, Mrs Pierce; our eminent historian recognises the brave boys who gave their lives in the service of their country.

More recently, a hugely successful litter pick was organised by Councillor Welna Bowden. It may be demoralising that it needed to be done again a few days later but we will repeat the exercise.

Vicki Rahill caters for your physical self and our dear Rector, Hazel, has wise words about Christmas and the lockdown.

Going forward, who knows where our rising star will finish up? Read the fascinating article about the rise of Lucy Parry which should encourage every ambitious young sports person.

Finally, think of those who are less fortunate. Again, the dynamic Welna Bowden is organising collections for the local food bank. When you are shopping, think of others and buy a little extra for them.

Dates for the Parish Council Meetings

The dates are the 2nd Monday of the odd numbered months – now virtual meetings @ 7.00pm

- Jan 11th
- March 8th
- May 10th



Well... WHAT a year!! I hope you have been looking after yourselves. All of us at the North pole have been sticking to the rules. We have all our Covid measures in place to ensure that our factory is safe for all the elves. So, production of all your favourite presents has not stopped. We have fitted out the sleigh with sanitiser and I will be using it and other 'special' measures to make sure that all is safe when I visit you on Christmas morning (if you've been good!).

I've teamed up with Sam and Lloyd again this year and Santa's rocket will be outside Chapel Stores from early December. Don't forget to stock up on Christmas essentials and treats from the shop (but no stockpiling please!) And make sure that you post your letters to me before Sunday 20th December. Santa's Rocket will be launched at 7pm that evening. If you look towards Dodleston church, you will see the rocket as it takes off on its way to the North Pole.

**Have a very Merry Christmas.
Best wishes, Santa Claus**

A Rising Star in our midst

The story of Lucy Parry is absolutely fascinating. You might know her from her weekend work in the Village Shop, but you may not know what she does with the rest of her time.

Well she is currently an A Level student at The Bishops' High School. However, it is her sporting prowess that brought her to my attention – she is the youngest player ever to appear for Liverpool F.C Women. Of that, more later.

She lives in the village with her dad, Simon, mum, Tracy and her brother Adam. Her older sister, Mia, is at Liverpool John Moores University. All three children are gifted sports people but Lucy's success (and her dizzying experiences) is amazing.

Encouraged by her sister she started off with Chester Nomads U8's. A year later she was watching Mia training with Liverpool Girls' Academy. Reluctant at first, she eventually joined in and was instantly recruited for Liverpool U9's.

Lucy had tried dance lessons, but her speed and skill destined her for football. A hard road lay ahead with three training sessions and one match every week during the season with Simon and Tracy as her chauffeurs.



She mainly plays at right back and models herself on her two favourite players – Trent Alexander Arnold and Lucy Bronze (both of whom play in Lucy's position). Who knows - Lucy could eventually replace her heroine in the England set-up. Her prized possession is a signed pair of Lucy Bronze's boots.

Her ambition is a career in football, but her mentors and parents are keen that she should continue with her education. So, she finds time to study Sport and Business at Bishops' as well as a Diploma in Sporting Excellence with Liverpool.

For a young lady of just sixteen, she has had some incredible experiences. In October became she the youngest ever debutant for Liverpool Women against Coventry. She has also recently played against Man Utd in a 3-1 victory. Which are the best teams she has played against? In internationals for England, the USA. In club football –

Barcelona, (Yes Barcelona!!!) at an international tournament in Singapore. She has photographs of her with sporting icons such as Lionel Messi and Jurgen Klopp when she was lucky enough to go to Wembley to represent the Liverpool FC Foundation.

Her next ambition is to play in the Women's UEFA U17's Finals which are being held in the Faroe Islands next May. Meanwhile, in addition to Liverpool training, she also goes to St. George's Park to train with the England team. It is a lot of hard work, but she loves it and has the dedication to succeed.

Smile and Support the Village Hall

2020 will break all records for buying Christmas presents online. Whilst it's good to use local businesses, if you find yourself using Amazon, there is an easy way of getting Amazon to automatically donate 0.5% to charity at no cost to you. Dodleston Village Foundation is our charity that runs the village hall, and it is now able to benefit from this scheme.

It is easy to set up:

- Simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk (or google amazon smile)
- Select your charity (search for "510057" to find Dodleston Village Foundation) – this only needs to be done on your first visit.
- Shop as normal.
- You will be using the same account details/logins as on the regular Amazon site – just make sure you use [smile.amazon](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) each time you shop with Amazon.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Recent winners of the DVF 100 club monthly draw:

- Lynn Mayo
- Dave Morgan
- Pam Crinson

Your support is appreciated and will help us to get through Covid in good health as we look to resume all the Hall activities in 2021.

Dodleston Autumn Show

On a sunny Sunday in early September a socially distanced version of the Dodleston Autumn Show was staged. Instead of meeting in the village hall, we put out tables on the road side and simply enjoyed and appreciated everybody's entry as wandered about the village.

For many our gardens have been a real blessing this year and all that care and attention really did produce some wonderful displays of fruit, vegetables and flowers. In addition, this year there was a category for a scarecrow a few of which are pictured below, I think this could become a regular feature.

Thank you to all those that took part and kept this tradition alive despite the restrictions.



Dodleston Baby & Toddler Group

Dodleston Baby and Toddler Play
Group meets every Thursday morning during term time in the village hall, 10-11.30. Free play, arts and crafts, music and singing, snacks and refreshments. Come and meet other parents and grandparents for a chat and a cuppa!
Only £3 per session (plus £1 for additional children).

Follow us on our Facebook page.

For more information contact Helen on 07951 880702 or just turn up!

We are following the government and pre-school alliance Covid guidelines.



Nurturing Nature When they (and you) need it most

If nothing else, this year has taught us the importance of nature for our physical and mental well-being. This is particularly true for nature in your local area, and you can't get more local than your own garden!

No matter how big or small your own 'patch' is, putting a little aside for wildlife can make a massive difference in encouraging animals

and the positive affect that this has on you both in terms of seeing wildlife in close quarters and just by knowing you're doing "your bit".

Arguably the best thing you can do to attract wildlife into your garden is creating a pond. And it doesn't have to be large fantastic ornate pond. No matter how small a pond is, it has potential to provide a home for a great diversity of animals, from amphibians which will use the resource to breed in, to birds and mammals who will use the pond as a watering hole, and invertebrates like water beetles and visiting dragonflies. To emphasise that size

doesn't matter our pond, is less than 1m squared but is teaming with life. We dug in a ready moulded pond with the base at varying depths and added aquatic plants like water-forget-me-not, marsh marigold, water-mint and yellow-flag iris. After the pond went in it didn't take long for the frogs and dragonflies to find it, and the pond doesn't need much management; just a little thinning out of the flag-iris and marginal vegetation, removal of some of the duckweed (and fallen leaves) in autumn, and the odd top up of water, otherwise we leave the pond to it. Just remember to have a stepping stone and/or a ledge where if any animal falls into the pond like a hedgehog it can escape.

Other garden features that can be constructed (or bought) are hedgehog and bug hotels, the latter which is often made with stacked pallets and a variety of items with cavities for bugs to shelter in. In terms of boundaries around your garden, hedges are miles

whizzing around our back garden during the warmer months at dusk. They must be roosting somewhere nearby.

Often making your garden wildlife-friendly doesn't cost a lot either. The addition of log piles, soil or rock mounds and clippings and cuttings piled in your wild area will create



micro-habitats for insects, small mammals and amphibians like frogs, newts and toads, and, if you're lucky, reptiles like slow worms (which is a leg-less lizard) and grass snake (who love to rest and lay their eggs in compost heaps). This in turn will encourage foraging birds, and perhaps larger mammals, like fox and badger.

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better than fences. Hedges can be important places for birds, mammals and insects to live and forage. Native berry-producing plants like hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder-rose and rowan are the best, as they will provide an important food resource for birds like fieldfares and redwings who come to the UK from northern climes for the winter months.

And in the same vein, feeding and "watering" birds is an important resource, although what you feed them is also important.

Natural seeds, grains and nuts are encouraged and pieces of stale bread aren't, as they are not good for birds (same goes for ducks too) with bread filling birds up with very little (if any) nutritional benefit. In fact there is research that poorly fed birds although more likely to survive for longer than they would normally (particularly over winter) produce "poorer quality" young with poor fitness and survival rates, so the longer-term effect can be a negative one.

Nature has been an important distraction for most, if not all, of us this unprecedented year. With the restrictions over the last 8 months I have never been as appreciative as having a garden (and of sharing it with the wildlife I have got to know that little bit better) during this time. I have heard stories of people saying that this year they have only started to really notice bird song or pay attention to the small white butterfly with orange tips fleeting around their flowerbeds. The lockdown has made us take stock and appreciate the environment around us, starting with what's just outside our window.

Hopefully there are a few ideas here on how to encourage even more wildlife into your garden, not just for the benefit of nature, but also yourself.

Lower Kinnerton Migrant Colony

It started at Hill View one Saturday morning in early summer exactly twenty years ago. Jeanie Moorcroft (who at that time was the "Parish Tree Warden") who lived opposite in one of the Grosvenor cottages came into our garden to find me.

"Andrew come and have a look at this" she said. I followed Jeannie across the road and into her back garden which ran along side the house. She pointed to a clay flowerpot (just next to a stable door into the house) with an open side and the top enclosed, in it I could make out a bird's nest. I knew it could be made by one of several species, but Jeannie announced it's a Spotted Flycatcher and this was when I found out that this species was in Lower Kinnerton.

As a bird they are fascinating, highly migratory spending the winters in tropical and southern Africa. They are one of the last migrants to arrive in Britain usually in mid-May and will return year after year to the same site. It is a bird which is secretive and looks at a distance like a large sparrow and so often many residents do not know when they are in the garden.

Last year in 2019 one Saturday morning in July I was filling a watering can on the west side of Hill View where there is a thick native hedge with three mature apple trees and ivy growing. I looked up to see two Spotted Flycatchers perched on a branch watching me, I stood still and observed, then I realised there were four more and in all we had two parents and four young. I was thrilled particularly as I had not known they were there.



One weekend in April this year I saw Roy and Carol Claxton in the paddock between Hill View and where they live at The Gell. I spoke to Roy about leaving an uncut grass buffer strip along our Eastern border with The Gell as two familiar migrants a Black Cap and Chiffchaff nest in the thick undergrowth every spring. At this point Carol exclaimed "Andrew we have Spotted Flycatchers arrive every year and nest around the patio area". I was able to share my experiences at Hill View last year.

As you all know Spring 2020 has been very different due to the Covid 19 virus and in May I was having to spend more time in my office at Hill View (which is along the western side) holding remote meetings instead of face to face work visits. On the 7th May at midday I looked up from my screen to see three Spotted Flycatchers sitting almost exactly where I had seen them last the previous July. I was hoping to see one maybe two but three!

The Flycatchers have nested again this year and to see the adults catching insects is quite something, other birds also do this, but these are professionals and have made it a way of life.

The amazing journey these birds make back to the favoured site indicates the habitat is suitable.

In the paddock the other side of the hedge we delay cutting the grass until after July. This allows the grasses to flower and the variety and number of insects this attracts means that birds like the Flycatcher have enough

food to rear their young. If you can leave some uncut grass as a buffer strip until after July this would have significant wildlife benefits.

In March 2020 as lots more people were working from home, the British Trust for Ornithology began a weekly bird species garden count. I have contributed weekly, so the Lower Kinnerton Flycatchers have been recorded. Let's hope for their safe return in 2021 and once again I can watch the professionals at work.



boxes into the old landing cupboard was a challenge, especially with an ever-expanding wardrobe. I then went to university but always made sure I came back for the pantomime weekend to watch and help backstage.

In 2003 my mum had a brain tumour removed and was unable to drive. I used to bring her down to the hall and we started to help with costumes. I took over running the "shower room", ensuring costumes were in the right place, people were in them at the right time, helping with make-up and entertaining the younger members of the cast whilst trying to keep them quiet! Between 2003 & 2015 I worked on costumes with my mum and many other helpers, Sheila Jenkins, Jane Stuttard and Margaret Lloyd to name a few.



It was with great sadness that we had to make the decision to break the great Dodleston tradition and cancel the pantomime for 2021. It was, however, the only option due to the pandemic. We are keeping fingers firmly crossed that we will be back in February 2022. In the meantime, I thought you might like to find out a little more about one of our hard-working backstage crew. As wardrobe mistress, Elaine Porter is not just a key worker for DYP but is one of our wonderful NHS staff working as an Occupational Therapist in Whiston and St Helens Hospitals. Here is her story:

"Dodleston Players has always been a family affair for me. I joined with my 2 sisters, as members of the chorus, for our first pantomime which was Cinderella when I was 5 years old. I can't remember much about the pantomime other than thinking Cinderella (Jane Stuttard) was the prettiest woman I'd ever seen and that I and my sister, Yvonne, really wanted her ball gown.



My next pantomime was in the chorus in Aladdin. Again, I can't remember much except that the Princess (Linda Hulmston) was always nice to the chorus backstage and I was totally in awe of her. I can also remember one of our costumes – yellow trousers, floral tunic, with the traditional Chinese hat (see photograph where Elaine is front left). We still have a couple of pairs of those trousers in the pantomime wardrobe and whenever I pull them out of the Eastern box I smile.

We went to watch Rumpelstiltskin in 1992 with Helen Roberts & her family, and absolutely loved it. All of us decided we wanted to be in next year's pantomime, Sinbad the Sailor, and that is what brought me back to Players. They were short of skirts, so knowing mum sewed we asked her if she would make skirts for Yvonne and me. She did and gradually over the next couple of years she became more involved in Players, eventually running the wardrobe section.

Between 1993 & 2000 I had various roles, mainly part of the comedy duo or baddies. During this time, my sisters and I would also help mum with some of the costumes, usually the last-minute hand sewing adding press studs, ribbons etc. One of the jobs we loved was putting the costumes away, as we got to dress up and play with wigs, props and masks. Although the downside was having to play Tetris, fitting the



I thoroughly loved seeing the costumes develop from a sketch or description from Sue to fully coming alive being worn on stage. I also enjoyed the social side of the Players – the jokes backstage, post rehearsals and performance drinks in the pub and nights out all the year round. Having enjoyed it so much I decided to continue. Since then Margaret, Sue and I have shared many shopping trips sourcing the right fabric, shoes and wigs, along with plenty of coffee, cake and laughter.

In 2017 I was lucky enough to take part in the Players Golden Jubilee celebrations. Looking back over photos and programmes for the last 50 years it made me realise how incredible it is that a small village has managed to keep the group going for so long, how many people have been involved over the years and also how many people will have similar precious memories and friendships from being part of this group."

St Mary's Church, Dodleston

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on the 7th November just at the start of an autumnal 'hibernation' period! 'Lockdown' is such a negative word.

So many of us curl up and take on different occupations/hobbies in deep autumn. Many of our activities are centred around getting ready for Christmas, whether doing crafts or shopping. This year will be a painful Christmas for many people and a hard one if grieving or affected financially or physically or when it comes to keeping our spirits up. This morning I caught a little piece about how Scandinavian peoples survive winters of minus 20. It would seem their mindset becomes attuned to not going out, hobbies etc. Unfortunately, also there is often a high incidence of alcoholism that goes along side this. The writer didn't say that, but it has long been known. It makes this winter especially challenging for a great number of people around the globe. I should think, and I hope, this is a gentle wake-up call to be exercising awareness of how we pass our time. When we are thinking of Christmas normally, we are thinking of families being together and feasting and drinking and big assembled parties. If any of us think this might be possible this year, you might have to think again. Ah but we like all these things at Christmas don't we? Of course, we do. it's a time for families. Oops! is that what it is about? Or can we try to look at Christmas a different way this year? Sometimes we Christians are jokingly (mostly) accused of bringing God into Christmas! So, no apologies but I am! At the heart of the Christmas story is a family.



Mary, pretty young by our standards today, is awaiting the birth of a baby and Joseph, whose age we don't know, is a man established in his trade as a carpenter. We learn later he died before Mary but that is no indicator of his age. They were living in a time of oppression and occupation of their country by the Roman Empire. Joseph was called by reason of his family ties with the family of David (the great former King) to go to Bethlehem for a census by the Roman Governor of the province. I wonder, when the call came to go, whether there were family discussions. Should Mary even go being so close to the birth of her baby? By her marriage she too would no doubt need to be present.

Mary so heavy and almost ready for birth they set off for 'O little town of Bethlehem'. Whether she



was more comfortable on or off the 'Little Donkey' is a debatable point. They arrived on time 'Once in Royal David's city'. It may well not have been in the Bleak Midwinter (its Middle East right?) but there was no room for them to stay anywhere - everywhere was all full. So, they were put up in very humble accommodation often said to be a stable. That night, no doubt exhausted, Mary gave birth in some mess and muddle in the straw. I like Mary. She had come with the right things for the baby - swaddling bands of linen. Strange archaic things, but they seem to carry a twofold purpose; one of which is to help a baby to grow straight limbs (this may be a myth!) but I was shown by an old nursing sister how to gently swathe newborns or very young babies so that they feel very safe and relaxed and didn't wake themselves up by waving their arms in panic as they get used to their bodies! I know which I think is the more likely!

Joseph was there with her as the three settled in together - far from home; far from family; far from a settled place. I don't intend to go into the arrival of the visitors (read in Luke's gospel and in Matthew's - they are a bit different, but they write from different points of view (and later, of course). Oh! such visitors. While shepherds watched their flocks the Magi (wise men; not three and not named (sorry but they just AREN'T!) from Orient came angels and stars involved. You should read these early gospel chapters they are so cool - they are about the whole of the cosmos coming along with all ye faithful people to worship the child .. the one wrapped and warm in his mother's arms and at the centre God's purposes. There were so many things still to go through. It was too dangerous for this little family to go back where they had come from. Herod was on the lookout - this baby was a danger to him. So, God warned Joseph and he took himself and his little



family to Egypt with just what they had. In exile for two years, I don't imagine Mary was expecting to be parted from her Mother and family. Joseph, fortunate in having transferable skills, because carpenters were always needed (or were they in Egypt? In the desert? I wonder). This family and their wider relations and friends were forced apart by their need to protect. In this case their Son (Joseph's earthly Son). We are so forced apart by our need to protect. Normally in times of crisis we can cling together, but we can't and so our love is shown in our protectiveness of others' health or well-being in the case of our school children. It is a sense of sacrificial love; like me foregoing giving you all a hug not for me but for the wider good of all which, incidentally, the baby came and grew to show us! Love for us all.

Some of you may know that, during spring and summer I have been standing outside the church with hands raised in blessing over all the parish of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Higher Kinnerton every Sunday; this continues.

St Mary's Rector Rev'd Hazel Clarke | hazelclarke@jcscomputers.co.uk

Memorial

In St Mary's Church is a hand-written Roll of Honour. It lists 74 men, and boys, who went to serve from this village for their country in the Great War 1914 - 1918.

The church has a memorial to four of those who didn't return. Research of the Roll of Honour with the War Graves Commission by the local history group revealed that a further five were lost in that war! Their names are now listed on a separate memorial plaque in the church.

Considering Dodleston had a population of about 300 at the turn of the 19th century, having 74 able bodied men go to war would have put a tremendous strain on a small agricultural community.

Two other names are listed, one died in WW2 and the other in Pakistan in 1956.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN



As 2020 draws to an end Dodleston & District WI continues to provide speakers and companionship virtually for our members. We did try and start again in the summer but alas no. As soon as we had made plans the virus infections started to go on the rise again and we had to abandon the idea.

Since last writing in May we have had a number of speakers on Zoom including, Hannah from Lache Larder, a climate change talk from two WI climate ambassadors and a talk about sick hedgehogs. In addition, we have now started a WhatsApp group which is proving a fun way for us to connect and share news.

Despite being online we welcome any women in our community who would like to join us, simply contact us at dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk and we will add you to our mailing list so that you receive all the latest updates.

Dodleston Home Watch

Dodleston Home Watch has been established for many years and was set up to inform local residents of unlawful activity and anti-social behaviour in the parish.

Regular 'ALERTS' from Cheshire Police are circulated to residents who have signed up to receive this information plus reports of any suspicious incidents from local residents.

Points of contact for reporting are as follows:

1. Ring 101 or 999 as the first option. This is important as the police can only act upon reported incidents when a crime number has been logged.
2. Contact directly our local PCSO Rachael McEvitt, email rachael.mcevitt@cheshirepnn.police.uk
3. Inform Bernard Dennis, the Dodleston Home Watch co-ordinator on 07966 436073 or email, bernarddennis531@gmail.com
4. Circulate details of the incident on What's App Home Watch. This is the preferred option as it tends to be almost immediate communication via the mobile phone. You need to be registered by sending Bernard Dennis a request via What's App to 07966 436073.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO LET THE POLICE KNOW FIRST.

So far this year the local Home Watch network has had success with several reported incidents. Firstly, the apprehension by police of an escapee from court, who through the diligence of local residents helped to identify his hiding place within the parish. Secondly, a spate of fires by youths in the area led to police intervention after their identities were revealed and photographic evidence provided.

There are always reports of scams and attempted fraud by either the internet or telephone and details of these continue to be circulated by the Home Watch network.

It continues to be said that neither banks, HMRC, DVLA, telephone companies, internet shopping firms etc will never contact you by telephone or email asking for bank details or to re-register your details. The advice from the police is these contacts are fraudulent so please, don't pass on any personal information. If you suspect the call or contact is not right, just close the line and never download anything on emails or the internet that doesn't look right or is unsolicited.

As the Covid 19 lock down has proven, this village has a great community spirit and together we can overcome any threats from external sources. We need to be collective, caring and cohesive in a world that tries hard to take advantage of innocence and wellbeing.

Thank you to all those who have already signed up to Home Watch and I look forward to expanding the contact list, preferably by What's App.

**Bernard Dennis
November 2020**

PCSO – Rachael McEvitt

Cheshire police are currently introducing a new approach to community policing, which will see dedicated police officers assigned to each of the county's 122 policing areas to tackle crime and support communities.

Dodleston, Huntington and Farndon now have its own police officer to join PCSO Rachael McEvitt who already serves the area. PC Beth Higginson will be working with PCSO McEvitt to solve local issues.

Speeding remains the most common complaint in Dodleston in particular in Lower Kinnerton and Church Road. We have deployed the Speed Gun (Trucam) on a number of occasions over the past couple of months and any motorists in excess of the speed limit have been notified. We hope to continue this speed monitoring on a regular basis to educate road users and make them aware of presence in the area. We are still awaiting Dodleston's Community speed watch to be set up (due to lockdown we have no date for training yet)

We are also experiencing a high number of calls in relation to scams by phone, email and in person.

Most people that call on you at home will be honest and genuine in their purpose and needs, but on the odd occasion somebody will turn up unannounced with the intention of tricking their way into your house. Distraction burglars will often distract you at the front door whilst another will sneak into your property by the back. Rarely do people pop round unexpectedly anymore.

If the gas board calls to read the meter they will likely phone ahead or leave a card. Bogus work people may attend and claim that they are there to check on water or gas and some offer to repair your roof. Some call at properties and offer tarmac or to clean your blocked paving and to cut trees down and if allowed into your property some may



use the opportunity to steal from you. If you choose to have work done, never pay the work up front in cash. Victims usually find that they have had money or possessions stolen from inside their home and in many instances only realise they have been duped at some time after the crime has been committed. So, when the doorbell rings, always first check who it is before deciding whether to answer it. Use a spy-hole in the door or peep through a window to check who is at your door. If you are unsure open the front door with a chain fastened. If the person at the door claims to be an official, a salesman, or a tradesman then don't be afraid of asking them questions to prove their identity. If they claim to be from a company, then the company name and contact the company to confirm their visit.

- Never use a number the caller provides you with.
- Check their ID or paperwork
- Always ensure your back door is locked when answering the front door
- Never keep large amounts of money in the house
- Keep keys in a safe place hidden from view
- Hide valuables away or in a safe.
- Keep out of sight any documents displaying personal details

Dodleston Primary School

My goodness what a year 2020 has been and it's not over yet!

As you all know, March brought with it 'Lockdown' and fear and anxiety and distress. Closing school was a fraught business; government guidance was unclear and last-minute and it changed daily with the expectation that it would all be in place with immediate effect (at least until it changed again the next day). Uncertain happenings, uncertain times, uncertain world.

However, as we settled into 'Lockdown', it became easier to notice the positives in this situation. The weather was beautiful and we were at home able to enjoy it. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have gardens found peace and relaxation just having time to be in them. People began to realise the healing beauty of nature. On one of our woodland walks with our dog we heard a woodpecker and had time to stop and watch as it hammered on the tallest tree in the wood – it was a simple but magical moment. We clapped our key workers on a Thursday night with sincere gratitude and began to appreciate those who we often overlook, the shop assistants, the refuse workers, carers who dedicate their lives to caring for the most vulnerable and the list goes on...

There was a misunderstanding that schools were closed. Schools were not closed, in fact we had never worked so hard! Staff were always available to supervise children of key workers not only in our own school when necessary but around schools in the area as the virus began to affect school staff. Teachers were planning lessons and uploading them daily for the children and began to take live lessons using Zoom which was challenging but great. Support and office staff set up a very complicated Free School Voucher scheme and rang around all our families that needed pastoral, financial or educational support



every week. The team were truly tremendous and I can't thank them enough for their dedication and commitment.

Parents also did an amazing job working, looking after the family and home schooling full time. Some of the activities they did with their children were amazing and it was lovely to see them have that amount of time to share with their children. It was a special time as a family and it was a real treat to see some of those moments as parents would upload photos to share with us.



Dodleston Primary School PTFA are now registered with [easyfundraising](#), which means you can help us raise funds for **FREE** just by doing online shopping. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – **at no extra cost to yourself!** All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely **FREE!** These donations really mount up - we have already raised around **£250** from 22 supporters! So please do consider signing up to support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dodlestonprimary

Eventually lockdown took its toll on children and adults alike and it was clear to see more families struggling with fatigue and mental health as time passed. When we were allowed to open our doors again we felt that all our families needed some respite and managed to open the school for all children in all year groups. So for the last four weeks of Summer Term, our children were able to return to school for two days a week. It was such a joy to have children back in school to breathe life into the building. However, as we are small we needed more space and the DVF kindly stepped in to offer us use of the hall (thanks to pre-school who allowed us to use their sessions). This was a real blessing as it allowed us to accommodate all the children who were coming back to school for those last weeks of term. We can't thank them enough for their kindness – Andrew and Richard, thank you.

And so to September and the beginning of a new academic year and school is fully open. The children have returned with energy and enthusiasm and a renewed love of learning – they found that they missed school so much! This half term hasn't been without its trials. We had our first bubble closure due to Covid-19, part of the ceiling fell in in one of the classrooms so we had to take refuge in the church (a huge thank you to Hazel, the PCC, Fran and the lovely man who puts the heating on for us each day), the school heating has broken and as I write this another lockdown has been announced to begin on Thursday. At least school will stay open this time and all our issues will be resolved and 'normality' will resume. 'This too shall pass.'

One thing we have learned from this whole experience is how well our community look after each other and to count our blessings.

Chapel Stores News

Well, what an interesting & different year that it has been.

Nobody could have ever predicted 2020 like this.

We still have our safety procedures in place & have the screen over the shop counter since our last message to you. Thankfully, we still all remain fit & healthy.

Our procedures have been welcomed by customers and staff to keep us all safe and we will continue with these measures for as long as necessary.

All through lockdown and beyond we have managed to source most of the items that were in short supply at the supermarkets. We have also kept our prices low and not inflated anything due to high demand. Well done to those who tried us successfully first and got the supplies that they needed, and many thanks if you have continued to support us.

Going forward into Lockdown no. 2 we shall continue with all our safeguarding.

We will still be delivering groceries to customers who are unable to get to us and will carry on doing this for as long as needed.

Our telephone number is 01244 660342 or find us on Facebook

Christmas will be soon upon us & we will have an even more wonderful selection of cards than usual as I have found some new suppliers and even some recyclable gift wrap.

Still trendsetting, what can I say.

More than just a Village Shop & Post Office.

We hope to see you soon – Stay Safe.

Best Wishes from Samantha, Lloyd, Jan, Netty, Paul, Julie & Lucy xxxx



SERVING GREAT FOOD FROM THE USA, MEXICO AND ITALY

FIND US ON FACEBOOK OR CALL US ON 01244 256974 TO

BOOK YOUR TABLE!

Local News

The Importance of Exercise

It will happen! We will party, dance, sing and be merry again!

It's been a hard year for most of us, but let's look to the future. Corona will not dominate our lives forever and the gorgeous dress, skirt, tux you brought last Christmas will be dragged out of the cupboard again! When this is over and life returns to normal, let's be ready to ditch our lounge wear and make sure we can fit into our party outfits. Let's be ready with our sparkly tops and loud shirts for the Dodleston comedy night, ready with our lederhosen for the Dodleston Parish Councils fabulous Oompah night.

Let's set our goals together! Join other familiar faces from our area on Vicki's Fitness Zoom sessions. We say a quick 'hello' at the beginning and end of each session. When the exercise begins, you can turn your video off, so nobody sees you huffing and puffing away, you can work at your own pace and level.

My classes are VIRTUAL so you can join me LIVE from the comfort of your own home. If you are unable to make the times the sessions can be sent to you, for you to do in your own time.

Finding the motivation to begin an exercise regime can be difficult. We all want to do this, but it's always easier to start tomorrow or after you've lost a few pounds. The motivation to exercise today can only be created by you! Changing any negative thoughts regarding



Unfortunately, we could not hold our annual charity concert for the British Heart Foundation due to Covid restrictions. Instead, we did a simple sponsored walk around the Parish field on 27th October. We received lots of donations and together, we raised over £500 for the BHF! We hope to resume with our concert in the village hall next year. Thank you to everyone for your continued encouragement and support!

Helen Longmuir and family

Vicki's Zoom Fitness

Group Fitness Classes



Strength & Cardio Training
Mon & Wed 6pm-7pm
Sat 9.30am-10.30am

Yoga - Thursday 6pm-7pm

£5 a session, £20 for the month or £25 for 2 people sharing a computer

PT Sessions also available

For more info contact Vicki 07963 500607

exercise is crucial. Prioritise yourself and give yourself the gift of time to exercise. Don't put off looking after your body and mental health. Be proactive! Be positive!

Everybody benefits from exercise regardless of age, sex or physical ability. When you engage in physical activity, you burn calories, raise your metabolic rate, build muscle which supports weight loss, this promotes a positive body image and self-esteem. Exercise fights heart disease, increases lung capacity along with bone density, looks after mental health and improves our immune system, all of which is particularly important at this time.

Let's be motivated, stronger, toned and more flexible.

Let's get fit and keep smiling together!!

Call for more info Vicki Rahill

07963500607



Remembering the late Mrs Pierce.

As a child, I remember being awakened by the noise of clanging milk bottles, the local youth running around the street to deliver the milk quickly before school, hanging off the back of an Escort van, no "health 'n' safety" in those days. Driving the van was the good old Mrs Pierce, fag in mouth, bright red lipstick and a smile that always brightened your day. I would say most of the youth from St Mary's Road worked the milk round for pocket money.

The farm house was also used as the Doctor's Surgery back in the early 1970s. Paul Buchanan subsequently acquired the property and renovated it to its gorgeous state today.

Mrs Pierce was known as a local legend, a character, to the village supplying milk for many years. Her death earlier this year marked the end of an era. She will always be fondly remembered

Parish Councillor, Paul Buchanan bought Dodleston Farm from Mrs Pierce in 2003 and remembers sitting in Mrs Pierces lounge just before the sale went through. "It was quite obvious having met Mrs Pierce a couple of times before that she was one of a kind. When she told me that when she moved house it would be the first time she had slept in a different bed since moving to Dodleston Farm in 1966. I was amazed as she explained she'd never had a holiday in all that time! At that point a tractor went past the window from the farm and she looked at me matter of fact and said - well that's worked out well you've just witnessed the last ever crop come from Dodleston Farm, although I suspect there may have been a tear in her eye."

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