

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 27 Spring 2017



in this issue...

- Introducing 'The Wild Goose'
- Local News & Events
- Profiles of key people

Local Life's
Best Community
Newsletter
2015

Thank You...

Thanks to our advertisers who help to cover magazine printing costs. If we use their services, they'll be encouraged to carry on paying!

Community Bus Scheme:

The Parish Council is looking at the potential for a Community Bus Scheme. This could provide new routes and improve access to services. Community bus schemes operate successfully across the country. They cannot replace existing commercial services (such as the DB1) but are often used to complement commercial operators by providing flexible routes, or routes to destinations which may be important to residents but don't necessarily have high demand. So, for example, a scheme in and around Dodleston could provide a route to Broughton retail park, to doctors surgeries, Bank Holiday or Sunday services, or a late bus back from Chester. We need to understand if there is a need for a Community Bus Scheme, so the first thing we need to do is find out what

demand there might be, and what routes would be useful. So please let us know if there is a route that would be of value to you or someone you know. It would be helpful if you could provide information on the proposed route or destination, when and how often the route would operate and who specifically would benefit.

Please send any ideas by the end of April to m_dix@hotmail.co.uk

Once we have your ideas we will establish a working group to look at the potential for a community bus scheme in more detail so that options can be presented to the Parish Council. If you are interested in being part of the working group, please contact me by email.

Chester/Caer - Higher Kinnerton - Treuddyn/Leeswood - Mold/Yr Wyddgrug
Mold/Yr Wyddgrug - Treuddyn/Leeswood - Higher Kinnerton - Chester/Caer

DB1

Monday to Saturday (except Bank Holidays) - Dydd Llun i Sadwrn (heblaw Gwyliau Cyhoeddus)

Arriva

Service Number/Rhif Gwasanaeth	CAS NS	G									
Chester Foregate Street Stop E	0749	0915	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1615	1715	1815
Handbridge Garage	-	0921	-	1121	1221	1321	1421	1521	1621	1721	1821
Westminster Park Shops	-	0928	-	1128	1228	1328	1428	1528	1628	1728	1828
Dodleston Primary School	0806	0936	-	1136	1236	1336	1436	1536	1636	1736	1836
Higher Kinnerton Church	0814	0944	1036	1144	-	1344	-	1544	-	1744	1844
Hope Church	0830	0949	-	1149	-	1349	-	1549	-	1749	1849
Caergwrle Castle Street	-	0952	-	1152	-	1352	-	1552	-	1752	1852
Treuddyn Farmers Arms	-	1006	-	1206	-	1406	-	1606	-	1806	1906
Mold Bus Station	-	1021	-	1221	-	1421	-	1621	-	1821	1921

Service Number/Rhif Gwasanaeth	NS	B								CAS SDO	SSH	
Mold Bus Station	-	-	0900	-	1100	-	1300	-	1500	1500	-	1700
Treuddyn	0700	-	0915	-	1115	-	1315	-	1515	1515	-	1715
Caergwrle Castle Street	0712	0742	0929	-	1129	-	1329	-	1529	1529	-	1729
Hope Church	0715	0745	0932	-	1132	-	1332	-	1526	1532	-	1732
Higher Kinnerton, Church	0722	0752	0937	1037	1137	-	1337	-	1537	1537	-	1737
Dodleston Primary School	0730	0800	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1545	1645	1745
Westminster Park, Shops	0738	0808	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	1557	1557	1657	1757
Handbridge Garage	-	0815	1004	1104	1204	1304	1404	1504	1604	1604	1704	1804
Chester Foregate Street	0746	0822	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1610	1710	1810

CAS - operates via Castell Alun High School / heibio Ysgol Uwchradd Castell Alun
G - Operates via Grosvenor Road, Lache lane to Higher Kinnerton (Bennetts Lane)
B - Starts at Bennetts Lane Post Office, Higher Kinnerton (not Church)

NS - Not Saturdays
SSH - Saturdays and School Holidays only/Dydd Sadwrn a Gwyliau Ysgol yn unig
SDO - School Days only / Dyddiau Ysgol yn unig

Dodleston & District Parish Council

'The Wild Goose' At Chester Lakes

We are fortunate to have some excellent eateries within a couple of miles of the village – Higher Kinnerton, Pulford and, of course, our very own Red Lion. Now, right on our doorstep, we welcome The Wild Goose.



The brainchild of Alec and Katie Pickering, aided by Manager James and Chef Alyn, it opened on March 2nd. From Tuesday to Saturday it serves coffee from 10am, followed by lunch and dinner with the last guests departing at 10pm. On Sunday there are the traditional roast dinners from midday with the last orders being taken at 6pm.

The décor is "Pure Katie" – stylish and very comfortable. Chesterfield settees and the daily newspapers are gathered around a blazing log fire while you enjoy your coffee or a drink. And fresh flowers on the tables too! As the weather improves we are promised al fresco dining. There is some cover and complementary blankets are on offer if our weather lives down to expectations.

Chef, Alyn Jones, spent several years with Brunning and Price. He is only 30 but has made his mark on the menu. Goodness knows how he manages to serve pink roast beef that is so exquisitely tender. Mrs T has a gluten allergy and Alyn makes everything gluten free except, of course, the Yorkshire Pudding. Here comes one tiny moan – how about gluten free bread, Alyn?

During the week, there is the choice of some tempting main courses or "small plates". These are a similar concept to Spanish tapas but with a much greater culinary range. We each had two of these. You must try the Cheshire Blue



An east to west flight of tastes on small plates



Intimate and modern surroundings

Profiteroles and the Teriyaki Steak Salad. Mrs T warmly recommends the Poached Tiger Prawns and the Bacon, Leek and Mussel Risotto (without the Mussels!)

For those who fancy a career as a chef or simply want to help out "front of house", look no further. James and Alyn would love to hear from you

The bar is run by Roy and Carol who will organise live music from time to time. I imagine Alec has had a hand in choosing the wine. We tried a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc - "Waddling Duck" - which was outstanding.

The accent is on variety and quality. Alyn will be changing the menu regularly. Furthermore, bookings are



Locally sourced, finest ingredients

spread in such a way that there won't be a host of diners arriving at the same time. Reservations are organised so that arrivals are staggered, thus ensuring maximum attention to everybody's culinary feast. Prices are quite reasonable too. On Sunday our food worked out at about £20 per head, with three of the "small plates" each coming out at about £25.

The Wild Goose is a splendid addition to our choice of local restaurants and, of course, in a glorious location overlooking the lakes. Give it a try – you won't be disappointed.

Online booking couldn't be easier at www.wildgooseresaurant.co.uk.

Events at St Mary's Church, Dodleston

Happy Easter Everyone!

It is not possible to do anything other than celebrate Easter with a service at the end of March just before holidays begin. It is going to be a challenge to ensure the children in our Church School still learn about Easter and that we celebrate it in a meaningful way but also to ensure that it doesn't become too far removed from the actual Feast Day itself.

Does it matter? Yes in very many ways it does matter that the focus of our celebration time is changed but in one major way it doesn't. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus every Sunday!

Every Sunday is kept as a Feast Day; the third day on which Jesus was brought from the dead by God and the sorrow of the disciples at his death was turned to joy as they saw him alive and eating with them

Sunday is a celebration day always so if you are keeping Lent and wonder if you can have a biscuit (or choc bar or whatever) on a Sunday in Lent then yes you can with a good conscience as nothing takes precedence over the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

So we too can with good conscience celebrate Easter as school and church together whenever it falls in future. As we shall this year at the end of March. With joy and conviction and once again retelling the story of the Cross and the empty tomb... as only children can...

Please feel free to join us at any point over the Easter weekend at our services in the village church.

Every good wish
Hazel x

St Mary's Church 100 Club

As part of the fund raising effort, St Mary's Church runs a 100 Club. After the prizes have been distributed, the rest of the income goes to the church. Subscriptions for the Summer members will be due by the end of June, and, hopefully, all current members will continue their support, and maybe others will join. The Summer members' year runs from 1st July 2017 until 30th June 2018. [The Winter year runs from 1st January until 31st December 2017. Thank you to all of the Winter members who have paid their subscriptions.]

The annual subscription for the 100 Club is £12. This can either be paid by banker's order, or cash, or cheque, whichever you prefer. To renew your membership, or to join, with the banker's order option, please contact either the church Treasurer, Pat Troughton, or Lynne Russell for the forms. If you prefer to renew, or to join, with the cash or cheque option, please put the £12 subscription in an envelope with your name and address on the back of the envelope. Please make cheques payable to " St Mary's Church, Dodleston " Please return the envelopes to 18 Egerton Walk, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9NS, before the end of June 2017.



Your Church Diary. Services

1st Sunday of the month:

11.00am Morning Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion

Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

Coffee Morning:

The first Wednesday of the month. 10.30am – 12noon

Crafty Creations:

Second Monday of each Month – 10.00am – 12noon. Please come along to St Mary's if you would like to know more about the exciting project we are working on.

Events and Other Services:

Sunday 12th March – Thomas Egerton Memorial Service at 11.00am

Monday 13th March - Crafty Creations - 10.00am to 12noon.

Sunday 26th March – Mothering Sunday - Family Service at 11.00am.

Sunday 9th April – Palm Sunday - Holy Communion at 11.00am

Thursday 13th April – Maundy Thursday - evening service at 7.30pm

Friday 14th April – Good Friday - An hour at the Cross - 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Sunday 16th April – Easter Day - Holy Communion Service at 11.00am

St Mary's Church supports the West Cheshire Food Bank – any donations can be brought to church.

St Mary's Church Monthly Coffee Morning

Please join us for a coffee and a catch-up with friends and neighbours at the monthly Church Coffee Mornings, held on the first Wednesday of the month, from 10:30am - 12 noon, in the church. At our March Coffee Morning, the Dodleston School Choir sang Spring and Easter songs for us. During the 5th July Coffee Morning, the School Choir will be joining us to sing once again.

Forthcoming dates are:- 5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July (School Choir), 2nd August, and 6th September, 2017.

Please join us, everyone is most welcome.

School Age News

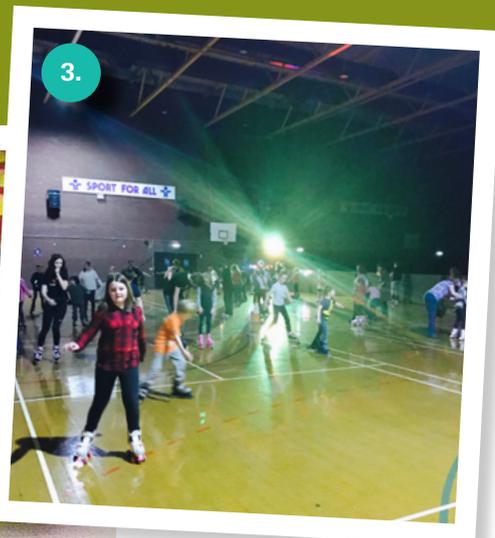
1.



2.



3.



Picture 1: We handed over the reading books at our World Book Day Event on 2nd March. This was a wonderful event and pictured we have the winners of the 500 words writing competition. Thanks to Nicola Ryan (Class One teacher) and Emma Preston for putting this together.

Picture 2: Our roller disco event on 11th March, Mrs Robertson and some disco goers

Picture 3: Fun at the roller disco!

For the upcoming months we're planning on various fundraising events, namely the Race Night in May, which will be a joint effort with Pre School. This is set to be a great evening and we'd like to extend the invite to the local area; we hope you'll come and join us! We are still finalising the details, watch this space! Also in May three of our parents will be running the Chester Half Marathon in aid of the PTFA: Claire Lockerbie, Sharon Phoebe and Melanie Hughes. You can help by donating via Just Giving, www.justgiving.com/dodlestonschol-ptfa. You can sign up for monthly donations or just a one off donation.

More resources are needed to enhance our children's learning and enjoyment and by engaging our Parents, the School and the local community we can achieve this. A successful PTFA is a key indicator of a successful school! With that I'd like to end on saying we're happy to be continuing to work with the School the local community and look forward to the coming summer months.

We always welcome new ideas and helpers to support enrichment and learning. If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas please get in touch with Emma Preston (Chair) at dodleston@outlook.com.

Tina Byrne, Dodleston PTFA Secretary

DODLESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTFA

LocalLife

Dodleston PTFA Spring Update: November 2016 Onwards...

What a busy and exciting year we've had so far! Since the outgoing chair Louise Kitchin handed over the reins to Emma Preston we had a list of targets drawn up; and alongside the Head at the AGM we discussed how we would achieve them.

Since November we've hosted two Cake and Pre Loved Uniform sales, which have raised £278.46. The Christmas Fayre surpassed our expectations and raised a record £1119.50. We've also managed to host several used book sales too, with bookmark designing activities alongside the book sales, totalling £152.80 so far.

In collaboration with Joanne Robertson's (Class 2 teacher and Sports Leader) sports initiative we had a Roller Disco which was a lot of fun! We then finished off the evening in the party room for our picnic tea. The Roller Disco was a great success and the total raised was £250!

Every year for Mothers Day the PFTA like to facilitate the children in making gift bags with a plant and goodies inside, this is always well received as was this year's, the children love filling their bags and presenting them. The next big event we're busy planning for

is the Easter Celebration afternoon on the 28th March; this is a school event and the PTFA is getting involved by organising the PTFA Easter Hampers which we are selling raffle tickets for and a £1 an entry Easter Egg colouring competition, parents will find it in the book bags soon.

To date we've purchased £2500 worth of school reading books which we handed over to the School at the World Book Day event (pictured) and a much awaited Notice Board for the school playground. This is an amazing achievement and we are extremely grateful for the support of the parents and our volunteers. I'd like to make a special mention to the Parish Council for their generous donation of £200, too. The PTFA is constantly thinking of ways to raise funds for the school that do not come directly from our families' pockets, we actively approach local businesses and have received many generous donations.

Dodleston Village Foundation



Dodleston Village Hall Lift

Visitors to the Village Hall after Easter 2017 may have noticed that we now have a new lift installed giving access for all hall users that have difficulty with the stairs. The lift is located opposite the bottom of the stairs and against the wall to the Gents toilet. This has all been made possible following the DVF's successful grant application to Veolia and a significant effort by Andrew Bettley to coordinate and make it happen.

Village Hall Bookings Secretary

We are presently without a booking secretary for the Village Hall with temporary cover arranged. This is an appeal to anyone in Dodleston that would be interested in getting involved and developing the basic but important organisation of our hall use. Please contact Richard Lloyd for further details on 660747.

Dodleston Summer Festival 2017

This new look summer event for our village is taking shape now. The day of the event, Saturday 24th June is fast approaching. Dodleston Summer Festival will be held in the Parish Council field and help will be needed to make sure it is a success. It is a great way to get involved with life in Dodleston and should not take up much of your time so you will still be able to enjoy yourself on the day. Watch out for notices on the Parish Council notice boards and in Chapel Stores.



Comedy Night 2017

Returns again later this year. Date for your diaries is 14th October



Ross Arnot winning the Christmas 2016 £100 prize.

DVF 100 Club Father Knows Best!

They say that lightning does not strike twice but Ross Arnot has now won the DVF's 100 club £100 megadraw for a second time. Ross clearly remembers joining the 100 club. Talking to DVF chairman Richard Lloyd he said "It was at village day 2014, you collared me and asked me to join. Well it was the least I could do really, the village hall does such a lot for the community, and joining was an easy way to give my support. Anyway my daughter Imogen was with me when I picked my number 35. Imogen strongly advised me that it was not a lucky number and I should pick another one, but I stuck to my guns and later that day it was picked out as the winning number. It is amazing that I have now won the jackpot for a second time. I always said that father knows best."

The DVF 100 club has ten monthly draws and additionally two £100 prizes in June and December each year. If you would like to support the village hall by joining contact Stephen Bowden on 660499. If you do - take Richard Lloyd's advice "Don't be influenced by your daughter!"

Dodleston & District WI

SAVE THE DATE!

**Dodleston Autumn Show
Sunday September 10th 2017**



A full list of categories will be available at the village shop so that you can get planting this spring!

March 2017:

At last spring is here! Since last writing in November Dodleston & District WI have continued with our varied programme of events. December was a busy month we did Christmas crafting with local crafty creator Helen Warren, a Faulty Towers Christmas party at Rossett Hall, Christmas tree switch on/sing song and we also found time to decorate a tree for the Church Christmas tree festival! In January, it was time to shed the pounds and Clubbercise, we dressed in 80's gear, donned glow sticks and danced our hearts out, it was so much fun. In February, we went on a Civil war pub tour of Chester, we were all amazed by what we saw when we lifted our eyes upwards from street level, Ed our guide was dressed as a Cavalier which drew much attention from on lookers (good and bad!), he was full of tales from the period and we ended the night ghost hunting in the Kings Head Pub. In March, we had a go at painting using acrylics with local artist Lorraine Black, we used bold colours and brave brush strokes and the results were rather good if we do say so ourselves, you can check out Lorraine's work at www.paintthehound.co.uk. Coming up we are making hanging baskets with a twist (all will be revealed in due course), debating this year's WI resolutions, crown green bowling, an evening of local food sampling, and a summer soiree at Eaton Hall.

Fancy coming along?

Everybody is welcome you don't need to be invited.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month generally at Dodleston Village Hall, 8 for 8:30pm start. Get in touch dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk or join our Facebook page Dodleston & District WI.



DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Dodleston & District Parish Council



Dodleston Cricket Club

Now that the days are getting longer and the 6 nations is over again its time to start to get things moving for our 2017 cricket season.

On the facilities front the pavilion is now completely sorted so we and the outfield is looking really good with the grass having taken well in the surface drainage sand slits that were still a bit exposed last year.

We are going to re-commission the practice nets on Saturday 25th March and we will leave some stumps in the nets this year again so anyone can have a go at batting and bowling in the nets. We are planning to start weekly club nets from Tuesday 28th March, weather permitting - starting as last year at 630pm so come down and have a go - all ages and ability levels welcome.

We are playing this season in Div 5 again - with most of the usual suspects still in our league and home games will be on Wednesdays starting at 630 as usual, with our away games on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and quite a few Thursdays. Our first game of the season is at home on 3rd May versus Shotton.

The ground is going to get regular use this year, not just from our own Village team but also will be used by Boughton Hall Ladies and Kinnerton cricket clubs. Boughton Hall Ladies are planning to use the ground for weekend matches and Kinnerton will be playing midweek games on Tuesdays.

The rest of our fixtures are below - the challenging fixture from a logistics perspective is going to be Abergele which will be a struggle to get to for a 630pm start - I'm not sure how they qualify for the Chester and district league!

We are also always looking for new players so if you are interested or just fancy having a go please come along to one of our nets sessions - we have plenty of kit of varying sizes so you just need a pair of trainers to have a go.

If you are interested in playing please contact Jeremy Parker 01244 661526

Fixtures 2017

DATE	OPPONENTS	GROUND
3rd May	Shotton	Home
10th May	HSBC Old Boys	Away
17th May	Castle Square	Home
25th May	Westminster Park	Away
1st June	Oak Tree Outlaws	Away
7th June	Northop Hall	Home
15th June	Abergele	Away
21st June	Abergele	Home
27th June	Northop Hall	Away
5th July	Oak Tree Outlaws	Home
12th July	Westminster Park	Home
18th July	Castle Square	Away
26th July	HSBC	Home
3rd August	Shotton	Away



Giggles Shares a joke with the Dame's many children in the Schoolroom

Spotlight On DYP...

"The show must go on" is a phrase all thespians will recognise, but there were times this year when we really wondered whether or not the pantomime would ever be ready. The tummy bugs and long lasting coughs and cold which were around this winter affected many of the cast and crew at some point through the rehearsal period. With just three weeks to go one poor chorus member had to drop out because of appendicitis! However, we battled on and 'The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe' was another success for Dodleston Youth Players.

It was a colourful, lively show kept light-hearted throughout by the antics and corny jokes of Giggles the Jester (Mike Dix). There were goodies, baddies and dafties aplenty and even a cameo appearance by our backstage fairies!



Giggles (Mike Dix) and Company singing Happy Birthday



The King (Iain Tyrrell) and Dame (Gordon Robertson)



Panto - "The Old Woman who lived in a Shoe" by Norman Robbins

Mayoress Hester Hepatitis (Karen Woodworth)



Backstage boys, Sion Lloyd, Gordon Peterson & Roger Higginson



Gena Farrell as Calumnia the Witch



Dozey Duo - Denise Ward and Karen Welsh as Wrack and Ruin

It was educational too as now we all know three different ways to prove that $7 \times 3 = 28!!!!$

One audience member asked where we hired our costumes from. We were delighted to tell her that our very own Elaine Porter was responsible for them, ably assisted by Margaret Lloyd. We are extremely fortunate to have a very talented team working in all areas behind the scenes.

We had a lot of new chorus members of this year who were young and inexperienced but they did very well. We were also delighted to welcome Iain Tyrrell (the King) to the team and I understand his rendering of 'Around the world' had many ladies swooning!

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Plans for our reunion weekend of September 23/24 are making good progress. Do come and join us if you have ever been part of the DYPlayers. Roll back the years as you reminisce with old friends and make new ones.

These celebrations are exciting, but a big undertaking for what is a relatively small group. If you have any time or skills you could help us with, former Player or not, we would be delighted to hear from you. We need particular help with:

- publicity
- making tickets and invitations
- creating our Memory Book
- collating material
- sourcing exhibition stands

Details of the weekend are below but numbers for the Reunion Party on Saturday will be limited, so please register your interest in attending asap via our DYP e-mail address below. If you would like to take part in the entertainment, do let us know. **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Contact Details: Karen Welsh, secretary 8 Egerton Walk - 660672
e-mail - dodlestonyouthplayers@gmail.com fb - Dodleston Youth Players Golden Jubilee

Local Heroes...

Everything you ever wanted to know and were afraid to ask!, we talk to a people that add to your community and make Dodleston the unique place to live.



TOM NORTON our local PCSO

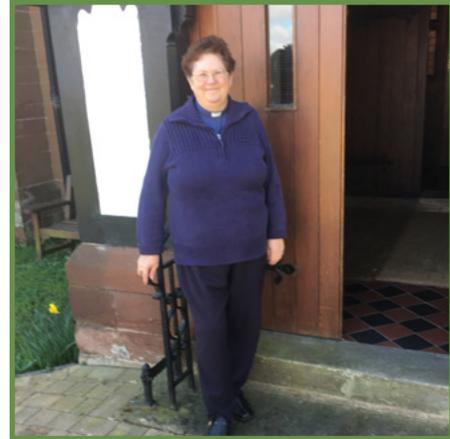
Tom is employed by Cheshire Police. Indeed, as a Police & Community Support Officer, he is keen to join the Police Force.

Tom attended Darland School in Rossett before going on to Yale College and the Bangor University. He studied Criminology and Criminal Justice and graduated with honours before going on to read for an MA.

It was probably a rude awakening to discover that it was not easy to get a job where he could use his qualifications. He had various jobs – cleaner, postman, carer, he even worked with the probation service, eventually finishing up at Risley Prison, near Warrington – a Category C Establishment. There he was funded by the EU as a Probation Service Officer for “Achieve”, a programme to place released prisoners in jobs or education.

He began his present job in September 2015 and started his present beat 3 months later. It is a huge patch covering Huntington, Eccleston, Eaton, Pulford, Poulton, Lower Kinnerton, Dodleston and Chester Business Park. It is the aim of David Keane, our local Police & Crime Commissioner, to have a PCSO in every ward in the area. Tom has to work three weekends out of five and early and late shifts.

He values his role greatly. He characterises the community as being mutually supportive. People won't hesitate to report anything suspicious and to tackle anybody who appears to be skulking around. He communicates with lots of local organisations including, of course, Dodleston Primary School. He doesn't have the power of arrest but he can detain people, confiscate things like cigarettes and alcohol and control traffic. His role largely revolves around working with the community to both stop becoming the victim of crime, and to offer reassurance to those unfortunate enough to be the victim. He and a Community Safety Warden recently set up a Speed Indication Device to warn speeding motorists at Rough Hill. We need one on the Welsh Road too, Tom!



HAZEL CHARLES Our Rector

Elizabeth Hazel Charles was born in Wallasey in 1955. She attended Oldershaw Grammar School from 1967 to 1972 – the first of the co-educational intake. Due to the early death of her father she had to leave after ‘O’ Levels, to start working and bringing in the money.

At the time, she was a member of the Methodist Church and felt an early call to preach. She was greatly influenced by a Methodist Lay Preacher whom she heard in her teens. Then, of course, women priests (in Anglican Church) were merely a gleam in the eye of some reformers so a succession of jobs followed – Shop Assistant in Owen Owen in Liverpool, Library Assistant in Wallasey, one year as a Student Nurse, and five years in the Wirral District Magistrates Court, collecting fines.

In 1981 she married John. He was in the RAF and their first posting was to Shetland and there was no prospect of further training so she settled down to be an RAF wife. From there, the Clarke family moved to Norwich (where their son, Bill, was born), then Stanmore, Shetland and Stanmore again.

The call of her faith never left her so eventually she trained as a Lay Reader in the Church of England in Stanmore. Her local Rector was a big influence. She trained “in-house” in a London diocese for three years performing all kinds of pastoral, preaching and teaching roles. After Licensing in 1999 she was encouraged to think about ordination, she went through a long and gruelling process, known as “discernment”. Finally, with the encouragement of John and Bill, she entered full-time Residential Theological Training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge in 2002. Their support has been and still is crucial to Hazel.

She was ordained as a Deacon in Chester Cathedral in 2004 and became a curate at St John's Frankby and St Nicholas, Greasby, before being “priested” at Chester in 2005.

She came to Dodleston in 2009 as Priest in Charge and is now Rector at St Mary's. She also looks after All Saints at Higher Kinnerton and often takes two or sometimes three services each Sunday. Despite the heavy work load, Hazel isn't even full time. She is “Point Six” which effectively means that she should only work for three days a week – some chance! It is only possible because of the huge support and hard work of the congregations. She is proud of all they do.

Fortunately, Bill is now in his thirties and John has retired from the RAF and looks after IT in a large school. Having lived in married quarters for so many years, and now in the Rectory, she is philosophical about the fact that they haven't yet bought a family home – “God will provide”, she says.

Know your Village

with Bernard Dennis

The Lych Gate

Landmark The Lych Gate.

Once again, as with the twin silos written about in an earlier edition of Local Life, the word 'familiarity' comes to mind.

Anyone who visits a church, for whatever reason, will almost certainly pass through the Lych Gate on the extremity of the churchyard and never give a second thought as to why it is there!

The Lych Gate is a covered entrance on the main approach to the church. The term Lych evolved from the Saxon word for corpse, and the Lych Gate was traditionally a place where corpse bearers at a funeral stopped and laid the body onto a communal bier, ie, a moveable stand or trolley.

In earlier times, the priest would conduct the first part of a burial ceremony under the shelter of the Lych Gate roof but things have moved on since those days.

St Mary's Church, Dodleston has a Lych Gate probably reconstructed at the time of the re-building of the church in 1869/70 by the well known Cheshire Architect John Douglas. The Lych Gate with its roof of Westmorland Slate, oak frame and sandstone wing walls are classified as Grade II by Historic England. This means, together with the church, it is a structure of historic and architectural interest.

Dodleston contains thirteen listed buildings that are included in the National Heritage List for England designated as Grade II. This grade is the lowest of the three gradings given to listed buildings and is applied to "buildings of national importance and special interest". The listed buildings in the parish are mainly domestic or related to farming, and some of them were commissioned by members of the Grosvenor family when Dodleston was predominately part of the Grosvenor Estate. Many properties were sold off at auction in 1919 as part of a national campaign for larger land owners to contribute to the vast cost of the Great War which ended in 1918.

The Lych Gate of St Mary's has a very special significance for one local family. If you look up into the rafters as you

pass through you will observe a small wooden plaque. This commemorates the installation of the electric light and reads:

**"THIS LICHGATE LIGHT WAS GIVEN
BY WALTER MORRLE
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER
MARTHA MORRLE
WHO PASSED TO HER ETERNAL HOME
ON THE NINTH JANUARY 1949"**

It would seem Walter Morrle, who died in 1968, was a retired land lord of the Red Lion pub in Dodleston.



Memorial Service Sir Thomas Egerton Lord Ellesmere, Viscount Brackley, Lord High Chancellor of England.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth I in March 1603, Thomas was re-appointed to his position as Lord Keeper of the Great Seal by the new King, James I and thence in July the same year to Lord High Chancellor of England; the second most important person in the land.

His relationship with the new King was not always at it's best but he kept his counsel and served the monarch well. The King, through perhaps a sense of insecurity and possibly in awe of the reputation of Thomas, was reluctant to let him retire. It wasn't until 1617 when Thomas was aged seventy seven the King acquiesced and agreed that Thomas could finally retire. Thomas had complained that "the smell of wax was making him ill" but in reality, he had had enough of the politics and intrigue of court, he just wanted to live a quiet life in retirement.

He died of natural causes on 15 March 1617 in York House, London but before his death, Sir Francis Bacon, who succeeded him as Lord Keeper of the Great Seal was sent to him by the King to offer him the earldom of Bridgewater and an annual pension of £3,000 per annum. He declined both saying "these things were all but vanities to me" and then died within a few hours. His surviving son Sir John subsequently became the First earl of Bridgewater.

Because of his status, Sir Thomas Egerton could have been laid to rest in Westminster Abbey, London but requested in his will that his body be brought to St Mary's Church, Dodleston to be laid to rest in the bell tower floor alongside his first wife Lady Elizabeth and his first born son Sir Thomas who was killed in action in Dublin Castle in 1599 aged 25.

Thomas was married three times, firstly in 1574 to Elizabeth Ravenscroft, the daughter of his surrogate father, Thomas Ravenscroft. She died in 1588 possibly in childbirth having previously given birth to two sons and a daughter. In 1597 he married the widow Elizabeth Wholley (née Moore) of Loseley, Surrey. She died of Smallpox in December 1599 but his mourning period was soon over as he married Lady Alice Stanley (née Spencer), the Countess Dowager of Derby in October 1600.

This marriage lasted until his death but was not a happy one as he wrote in 1610 about her "cursed railing and bitter tongue". His son Sir John Egerton inherited all his estate, which included properties in twelve counties. John had earlier married Lady Frances Stanley, daughter of his father's widow Lady Alice and her first husband Ferdinando Stanley, 5th earl of Derby.

Sir Thomas Egerton was a Man For The Time who greatly influenced our history but sadly has been overlooked by history itself.

On 12 March 2017 there will be a memorial service in St Mary's Church, Dodleston to commemorate the 400th anniversary of his death and remarkable life.

**Bernard Dennis
Dodleston Local History Group**



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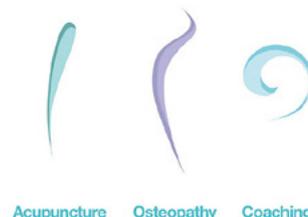
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NICE guidelines (2009), made recommendations for lower back pain and non-specific lower back pain. These included manual therapy as practised by osteopaths.

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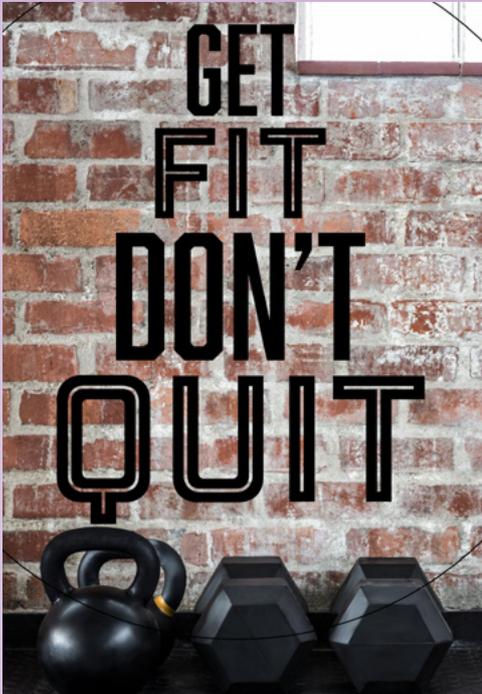
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How many treatments does it take? This depends on the nature of the condition being treated. For some acute conditions 1 to 6 treatments may be sufficient. Those of a more chronic nature may require 10 to 15 (or more) treatments. Conditions such as severe arthritis may require ongoing periodic care to control pain.

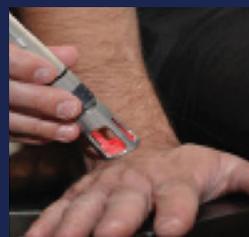
How long before the results are felt? You may feel improvement in you condition (usually pain reduction) after the very first treatment. Sometimes you will not feel improvement for a number of treatments. This does not mean that the condition is not improving. Each treatment is cumulative and results are often felt after 3 or 4 sessions.

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Wez - Dodleston's Atlantic Rower

David "Wez" Weston's Mum and Dad, Pam and Rob, live in Boydell Way and are looking after his rowing boat until the daring crossing takes place. Wez is a captain in the Intelligence Corps, age 41. He's married with two children aged 4 & 1 and currently based in Cyprus.



Sir Ranulph Fiennes

British Heart Foundation Ambassador

"I wish Wez the very best of luck with his solo Atlantic Ocean row in 2017. A highly commendable venture, raising funds for two superb charities. Wez has all the necessary attributes to meet the challenge and I look forward to following his progress".



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His target is to raise £65000 of sponsorship and to undertake the quest in aid of the British Heart Foundation and the Armed Forces Charities. The rowing boat alone, Ravi, will set Wez back £25000. She is made of epoxy resin and plywood and fitted with VHF Radio, an Automatic ID System and GPS. There's also a water maker to turn seawater into drinking water.

This mammoth journey is over 3000 miles, from La Gomera, an island off Tenerife, to English Harbour in Antigua. He's had to attend numerous courses on safety, navigation and ocean rowing to satisfy the Spanish Authorities that he is capable of completing the journey.

The rules of the race, known as the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, are incredibly strict. He's not even allowed to dry a towel in the wind in case it catches in the wind and acts as a sail. He must be attached to the boat at all times too. To break any of the race rules would result in disqualification.

Wez will be stocking up with High Energy Expedition Food, each portion providing about 800 calories towards his 5000/6500 daily calorie target. The rest will come from energy-packed snacks – chocolate bars and the like. He plans to alternate two hours of rowing with two hours of rest, during which he'll try to grab some much-needed kip. Whilst he's rowing he expects to move along at three knots per hour and his daily distance target is the equivalent of two marathons.

Wez is one of only three solo rowers. At the moment there are also eight pairs and eight crews of four. He's already bulked up by about 5 kilos and expects to add another 13 kilos to a round 100 (16 stones). En route he will probably shed 20 kilos. At the moment he's weight training and doing daily two-hour rowing stints. This will rise to two sessions a day and eventually to three before easing off pre-departure.

What is his greatest fear? Simple exhaustion – even more so than raging seas, sharks, heat, sleep deprivation and loneliness.

He'll set off on December 12th and will be delighted at a journey time of anything less than seventy days. Ideally, he'll reach Antigua in time for Valentine's day – February 14th 2018. If he can scrape together the money to get them out there, he's hoping to be greeted by his wife and children.

He's already received the support of Britain's foremost explorer (and British Heart Foundation Ambassador) Sir Ranulph Fiennes: "I wish Wez the very best of luck with his solo Atlantic Ocean row in 2017. A highly commendable venture raising money for two superb charities. Wez has all the necessary attributes to meet the challenge and I look forward to following his progress.

How can we help? By giving, of course! Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/atlanticrow2017> or text wezw99 £5 or £10 to 70070 to donate to the BHF. You can follow his progress at <http://www.atlanticrow2017.com>



LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS SPRING 2017

The Power of the Press!

In the last issue, we complained about the late arrival of the morning papers. The message seems to have got through because, ever since, they've been arriving at 6am or even earlier. Our thanks to Menzies Distribution. Now, if Lloyd would only open at 6am!...

Bus Service Update.

We spoke to Ceri in Flintshire County Council Transport Department who informed us that there are no plans to withdraw the DB1 Service. Hooray!

A Sad Goodbye.

Karen Tilston has announced her retirement from the Parish Council. Formerly the Editor of Local Life, she was responsible for the award of Best Community Newsletter. She was a Councillor for about nine years and one of the creators of the Village Day. Her family needs her and she will be greatly missed.

Pre-School Nursery

Funding.

At the January Parish Council meeting, a request for funding was considered. After three Councillors visited the facility, the request was granted and a donation of £1000 made. It is another example of the Council's desire to encourage local activities for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Putting Dodleston on the Map.

The Wales Link Path has been created to link the Wales Coastal Path with the Offa's Dyke Path. It starts at Saltney Ferry Footbridge, then through Saltney, Bretton, Dodleston and Burton



Soon to be married Richard Ward and Laura Hulmston with cute companions!

Meadows until it joins the Offa's Dyke path in Llandegla Forest. Signs are now in the village and you can obtain more information from Stephen Lewis on 01352 703905 or Stephen.Lewis@flintshire.gov.uk.

Chicken Sheds Update.

The Appeal was successful so we must await the construction of the sheds and the possibility that an application will be made for two more.

A Chopin or Liszt in our Midst?

It is well known that these brilliant composers were also teachers. In Dodleston, we have Helen Longmuir who tells us that she has a 99% success rate for those pupils who take exams. Whether you are interested in qualifications or merely playing for pleasure, Helen charges £12 per half hour and can be contacted on 07951 880702...

Musical Toddlers.

Minims & Melodies is a music group for babies and toddlers. Starting Tuesday 9th May in Dodleston and Friday 12th May in Broughton, bring your child along and they'll enjoy fun and

music of all types. Find out more at www.minimsandmelodies.co.uk or on Facebook @minimsandmelodies. It is generally accepted that babies in the womb are aware of sound and light. Perhaps expectant mums should come along too!

Dodleston couple set for their 'Fairy-tale' Wedding.

Richard Ward and Laura Hulmston, both raised in Dodleston, who met six years ago during rehearsals for the Dodleston Pantomime, are to marry this Summer.

Laura, who has played the Panto Princess and Richard, who once portrayed the front end of a horse, will get their fairy-tale wedding in St. Mary's Church in August.

As well as having been members of the Players, Richard has been a Parish Councillor since 2011 and Laura has served with the Dodleston Village Foundation. They are another generation making their future in this lovely village.

Both families wish Rich and Lor a wonderful day and a very happy future together - with Love XX

Babies & Toddlers Group

Babies and Toddlers group has been running since the 1880s and has been led by many different people, over the years. We meet every Thursday morning from 10-11.30 in the village hall, during term times. Parents, grandparents and carers come along with babies and toddlers for a busy time of free play, craft activities, snack time (coffee and cake or biscuits for the grown-ups!) and a sing-along.



There is a small charge of £2 per child plus an extra £1 for additional children. This year, we are taking part in the Dodleston Christmas tree festival on 2nd-4th December when we will make decorations for our own little tree which will be on display in the church. We are ending our term with a Christmas party and a visit from Santa on Thursday 22nd December.

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 £2 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!



Brownies bid Barn Owl "Bye, bye"

It's a rare owl that actually lives in Dodleston and helps with the Brownie pack.

After 21 years as an assistant leader with Dodleston Brownies, village resident Joan Buchanan has retired from active guiding and the Brownies held a farewell party in her honour. Known to the girls as "Barn Owl" Joan has given the benefit of her craft expertise and her catering skills to hundreds of grateful Brownies over the years. She has been the cook on many pack holidays, and been a mainstay in many cutting, sticking and gluing activities.

The theme of the party was penguins, and one of our photos shows Joan helping Kate to create a penguin fishing on an ice floe. In the other photo she met her namesake when we had a visit from an owl specialist. We wish her good health and a peaceful retirement but hope she will fly in to visit from time to time.

Brown Owl Janet Butler 01244 676544



Preschool News



Dodleston Pre-School News

Our Manager Karen Feild, has returned full time to Pre-School after her maternity leave and we have a new Deputy Manager, Heather Marsh. We would like to welcome our new Chairperson, Joanne Robertson of Dodleston CE Primary School. We are looking forward to further strengthening our ties and working very closely with school in the coming months. We are still recruiting for supply staff as the number of pupils continues to rise. If you know anyone who is interested in working in childcare please get in touch with us at Pre-School. We are happy to support staff with their studies in gaining work based childcare qualifications.



Over the holidays we made great strides with our garden project, as recommended by Ofsted, we have provided maths and literacy resources specifically for outside; we have planted and painted and are took delivery of our fantastic mural painted by local artist Lorraine Black. We are still in need of some more compost/soil/bark/sand to fill our brilliant new planters and tyres. If anyone can donate any garden supplies to us we would all be very grateful.

Dodleston Pre-School fundraising season is well under way, we held two very successful events at the end

of last year, our annual Spooky Doo Halloween party and a festive Quiz and Curry night supported by the legendary Stella's marvellous curry. These events raised a fantastic and much needed £1700.

We are also planning a Race Night on Saturday 13th May which is a joint fundraiser with Dodleston Primary PTFA. This should be a brilliant night please show your support for these two worthy causes. More information to follow soon.

As an integral part of the Dodleston community for over 30 years now, we continue to provide both local children and children from surrounding areas of Chester and North Wales with a fantastic start to their early year's education. We have fully funded places offering up to 15 hours of free childcare and we currently have some places available for children aged 2 and over. Please get in touch with Elaine on 01244 661611 or e-mail dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com for more information.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the members of the local community and the various Dodleston village groups who have continued to show their support for us by attending our events and donating items to our cause whenever possible. Without this help we would not be able to carry on.



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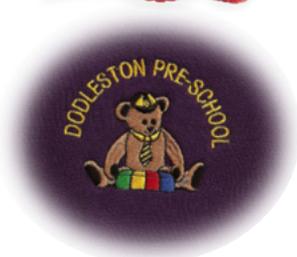
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Pre-School Assistant Supply Worker Vacancy – on call to cover when required to a max of 18 hours pw (term time)

Dodleston Pre-School is a small friendly Pre-School in a beautiful village setting. We take children from age 2 to school age and have been established for over 30 years. We were rated 'Good' by Ofsted after our last inspection.

We are currently inviting applications for our list of supply staff.

Job Description:

To help set up the Village Hall for the session and to help tidy away at the end of the session, ensuring that all toys and equipment are clean and safe at all times. Carry out observations and assessments; maintain records of progress and liaising closely with parents/carers. To be aware of any special needs a child may have and to familiarise oneself with relevant play and learning plans. To teach the children, offering an appropriate level of support and stimulation. To assist with planning and implementing the curriculum. To help to prepare, plan and lead small group activities with the children.

The successful applicant must have a minimum NVQ Level 3 in early years education*. Please do not apply unless you have the required qualifications and experience.

To apply please send your C.V to
Joanne Robertson, Chair, Dodleston Pre-School, Dodleston Village Hall, Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NN or email dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com.
 For further information please contact
Karen Feild, Pre-School Manager on 01244 661611.

Dodleston Pre-School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

*Full list of accepted qualifications can be provided on request



Ladies Cricket News

Building on the successful Chester Boughton Hall Ladies cricket team, the Chester club is developing women and girls' cricket at a pace and Dodleston Parish Council is fully behind this initiative. Following a successful launch last year, which attracted more than 30 youngsters to weekly sessions at CBH, the club has entered an Academy side (2nd X1) into the Cheshire Women's Cricket League and will play their Division 3 home games on the Parish fields.

Last year, the Academy girls pictured here, played two matches at Dodleston and CBH coaches held an inspiring 'taster' session for the local WI, which they are hoping to repeat again in 2017.

Jo Herbertson, the lead for developing women and girls cricket at Chester said 'We are really pleased to be forming

this partnership with Dodleston Parish Council and are very grateful to them for allowing us to use their facilities, which are a credit to the village'.

Club Senior Di Totty said 'With the Women's World Cup being held in England in June/July this year, it is a fantastic time for women and girls to try cricket for the first time or perhaps pick up that old bat that's been gathering dust at the back of the garage for a number of years'.

Jo Sandbach is the co-ordinator for the Second X1 and if anyone needs further information or would like to be involved please contact her via email at josandbach@yahoo.co.uk or contact jo_herbertson@hotmail.co.uk or ditotty@gmail.com. For club information visit the CBH website www.chesterboughtonhall.co.uk



Farming Matters. 'Pedicures for the ladies...'

As our fingernails grow, so do cows hooves. Every year each cow needs its feet trimming twice, so for a farm our size that is 2,000 feet per year that need a hoof trim. To help to keep their feet healthy, the cows walk through a foot bath (or a spa pool to you or me) every day.

In Summer hooves get extremely hard and take quite a bit of muscle power to shape them, but they get much softer in the winter. For the cows pedicure, they need to stand in a foot trimming 'crush' and as of today, against my budget managers (wife's) advice we have fitted an electric motor to help lift the feet up, which is easier for the cow and the ageing farmer. The pleasure you get from seeing a cow with freshly trimmed hooves is nearly as good as booking your wife a spa day (this never happens!!!!).

Dodleston & District Parish Council



Tom Norton PCSO

My name is Tom Norton and I am the PCSO that covers the Huntington and Dodleston beat area. I have been responsible for the area for close to a year now. I enjoy the diversity that the area offers and the variety of work that I am involved in. Fortunately the area is lucky to have a very low level of all crimes. One of the problems that the area has however is being targeted by opportunistic criminals. Due to the low crime levels, residents can become slightly complacent in protecting their belongings. This is often by either forgetting to lock car or house doors, or by forgetting to put objects away safely. My role is to educate and bring attention to residents of crime prevention advice to ensure they do not become victims of crime again, by working together we can manage to ensure crime levels are at the level they currently are or hopefully eradicated.

A typical day for myself is heavily revolved around different members of the community. I will give reassurance visits to any victims of crime in the area, and make sure they have my contact details for future reference. I am also involved with the schools as I believe it is important that the pupils see the police as a positive influence and try to assist the schools in whatever way I am able to. I may have to get involved with neighbour disputes that are not called through as police incidents and are just brought to my attention. There is also the possibility that I will have to assist other officers in incidents such as helping with a road closure after an RTC or with a scene guard after a serious incident.

The role can vary day to day and I can have to adapt my plans at short notice. Prior to becoming your PCSO I worked for Probation in both Risley prison and Community Payback. This is a job that varies and I enjoy assisting those caught up as victims in the criminal justice system, helping people avoid being caught up in the system and making sure that those that need to be in the criminal justice system are put there. I look forward to hearing from all residents and will try and assist in anything I can to stop problems that affect you.

**Please feel free to contact me on
tom.norton@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or 101.**



Homewatch Report Spring 2017

As summer approaches, it is important to bear some basic facts in mind.

If you are leaving your property empty, please make sure a neighbour has your contact details etc., and check your security measures. In particular, don't advertise the fact that the house is empty by having a faulty alarm system, e.g. continuous ringing. A keyholder should be known to someone handy.

As the children are able to play outdoors more, drivers need to be especially careful. Children will be going to and from the playing fields on the shared use areas (identified by the brick rumble strips). They should be warned that some visitors and delivery drivers are not as used to these areas as residents are, and should still be cautious.

Some children have got into the habit of screaming when playing on the village green. Could parents please explain that not only does this cause a nuisance, if it becomes the norm, any real problems that arise could be ignored by adults who could be able to assist.

One of the many advantages of the benches on the field is that adults are often around to intervene if there is a problem, and we have always encouraged them to do so. Children can play in safety if everyone is considerate.

Best wishes for a peaceful summer

June Bagot
June.bagot@gmail.com

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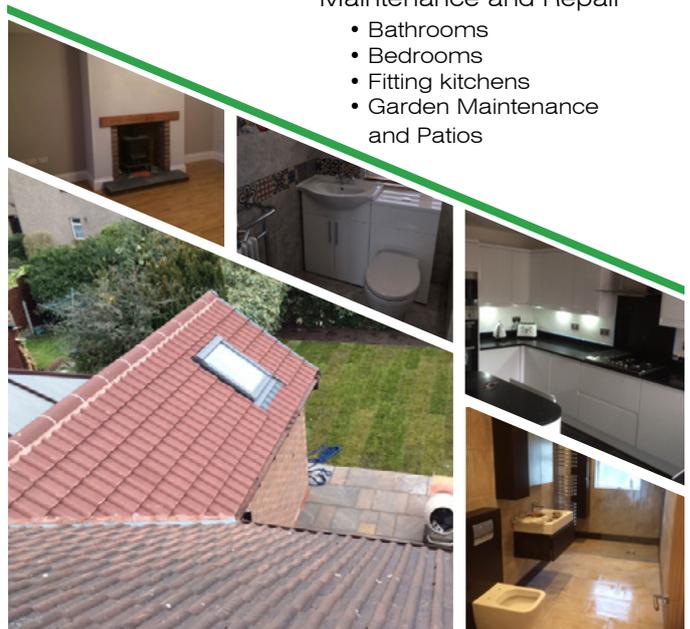
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Chairman: Cllr Mike Maughan

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