

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 30 Winter / March 2018



in this issue...

- Chapel Stores
- Tremendous
- Dates for your Diary

Local Life's
Best Community
Newsletter
2015

Welcome all...



Roger Taylor - Editor

The sad disappearance of **The Wild Goose** reminds us once more – use it or lose it. Rumour has it that a new tenant has already been identified, perhaps they'll change the name to **The Phoenix!** Post-makeover, **Red**

Lion goes from strength to strength and Chapel Stores expands its retail space still further. In this issue you will read of the outstanding success of the tree-planting initiative from Dodleston pre-School which raised thousands and will be a feature of the village for years to come – Andrew Barnett, Louise Billet and their team worked like Trojans. Read too the fascinating articles from our Head Teacher and our Rector – in fact, read everything!

DB1 Timetable...

Mold - Nercwys - Treuddyn - Caergwle - Hope - Higher Kinnerton - Chester
 Chester - Higher Kinnerton - Hope - Caergwle - Treuddyn - Nercwys - Mold

Arriva **DB1**

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

Service Number/Rhif Gwasanaeth	DB1 NS	DB1	DB1 SDO	DB1 SSH	DB1	DB1						
Mold Bus Station	-	-	-	-	1050	-	1250	-	1430	1450	-	1650
Treuddyn	0657	-	0905	-	1105	-	1305	-	1445	1505	-	1705
Caergwle Post Office	0709	0742	0919	-	1119	-	1319	-	1459	1519	-	1719
Hope Church	0712	0745	0922	-	1122	-	1322	-	1502	1522	-	1722
Hope Castell Alun School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1525	-	-	-
Higher Kinnerton Church	0719	0752	0927	-	1127	-	1327	-	1532	1527	-	1727
Dodleston Primary School	0727	0800	0935	1035	1135	1235	1335	1435	1540	1535	1635	1735
Westminster Park Shops	0735	0808	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1552	1547	1647	1747
Handbridge Edgar's Field	-	0815	0954	1054	1154	1254	1354	1454	1559	1554	1654	1754
Chester Foregate Street	0743	0822	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1605	1600	1700	1800
Chester Bus Interchange*	0746	0825	1003	1103	1203	1303	1403	1503	1608	1603	1703	1803
Service Number/Rhif Gwasanaeth	DB1 NS	DB1	DB1	DB1	DB1							
Chester Bus Interchange*	0746	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	
Chester Foregate Street	0749	0913	1013	1113	1213	1313	1413	1513	1613	1713	1813	
Handbridge Esso Garage	-	0919	-	1119	1219	1319	1419	1519	1619	1719	1819	
Westminster Park Shops	-	0926	-	1126	1226	1326	1426	1526	1626	1726	1826	
Dodleston Primary School	0806	0934	1030	1134	1234	1334	1434	1534	1634	1734	1834	
Higher Kinnerton Church	0814	0942	-	1142	-	1342	-	1542	-	1742	1842	
Hope Church	-	0947	-	1147	-	1347	-	1547	-	1747	1847	
Hope Castell Alun School	0830	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Caergwle War Memorial	-	0950	-	1150	-	1350	-	1550	-	1750	1850	
Treuddyn	-	1004	-	1204	-	1404	-	1604	-	1804	1904	
Mold , Bus Station Stand 5	-	1019	-	1219	-	1419	-	1619	-	1819	1919	

*Please note that the opening of the new Chester Bus Interchange has been delayed until 5 June 2017. In the meantime this service will commence and terminate in Foregate Street until the new bus station is fully operational. / Mae agor Cynnewidfa Bysiau Caer wedi ei ohirio tan 5 Mehefin 2017. Bydd y gwasanaeth hwn yn cychwyn ac yn gorffen yn y Foregate Street hyd nes bydd yr orsaf fysiau newydd yn gwbl weithredol. **NS** - Not Saturdays/ Dim ar ddydd Sadwrn **SSH** - Saturdays and School Holidays only/Dydd Sadwrn a Gwyliau Ysgol yn unig **SDO** - School Days only / Dyddiau Ysgol yn unig

A Tremendous Day

Dodleston Pre-school Community Garden Project. November 2017.

The idea was the dream of Andrew Barnett and several committee members of Dodleston Pre-school who all share a keen interest in Wildlife, Conservation and the need to plant more trees in the UK. With land kindly donated to us by the Parish Council, and over 250 trees, shrubs and hedging plants donated to us by The Woodland Trust, we had the makings of an exciting community based project, that would both, hopefully raise much needed funds for Dodleston Pre-school and create our very own Community Woodland. The vision was to create a special place for our children to learn through play in their very own forest school, whilst creating new habitats for birds and insects. Additionally, the Woodland would become a place for reflection, relaxation, exercise and socialisation for everybody.



Would everybody else share our vision?

Yes, they did. Every single tree, hedging plant and shrub was bought up, with people arriving on the day ready to purchase any remaining trees or bulbs. There was a fantastic response to our event. The community donated daffodil bulbs and Dandy's Top Soil donated a ton of soil which we used around the base of the trees. We received cash donations, offer of much needed free labour in advance of our planting day in order to get the site ready. We could not have hoped for a more positive response.

Many volunteer hours were put into planning, mapping and preparing the site, organising the sale of the trees via Dodleston Stores, inviting community groups such as Cheshire Wildlife Group, Friends of the Earth Chester,

Animal Oddities, Becky The Storyteller and Chris Matheson (our MP) to attend the event.

The day itself was a fantastic event with planting, socialising, refreshments and entertainment. Inside the pavilion, people came to collect their trees and tags and to purchase a much-needed warm beverage and delicious homemade cake or two! Each person's story as to the reason for planting their tree was different, from celebrating local organisations such as the 1st Dodleston Guides and Brownies, to families leaving a legacy for generations to come, and also in remembrance of our loved ones who have passed away. Community spirit was at work right from the roots with people donating trees to those who'd turned up in expectation of planting a tree for a loved one but disappointed to hear of the sell-out.

The disappointment turned into wonderfully unexpected conversations with people sharing their stories and hopes for their trees and the woodland, forging new friendships. Braving the changeable weather and the boggy conditions underfoot out on the Parish Field itself, Louise Billet (a local Gardener and Pre-School Committee Member) led the team of tireless helpers to guide and aid people in planting their trees, bulbs and barrowing soil across the site.

Despite the rain and wind that preceded and continued into Sunday 26th November, the good folk of Dodleston and surrounding areas turned up for the Tremendous event that marked the creation of our very own Community Woodland which, in total, raised £2500 through the sale of the trees, donations and refreshments. The money will be split between Preschool, paying for some forest school sessions, and towards maintaining and enhancing the woodland in the future.

We would like to say a huge thank you to each and every person who made the event possible. Without all of us working together, it simply would not have been possible.

Looking to the future...

In February, Pre-school have constructed a willow dome in the Forest School area which will provide a sheltered environment for the children to have outdoor sessions when it is raining or too sunny! So, watch this space and the willow grow.

Once the weather perks up a little, we shall be organising a 'Friends of Dodleston Community Woodland' work day, in order to carry out essential jobs such as strimming around the trees, mulching the ground, replacing cardboard. Everyone is welcome and we encourage you to bring along a picnic in order to make it a convivial event. Everyone is welcome. Look out for local adverts on this.

We intend to apply for more trees from the Woodland Trust this year and ideally, we would like native fruit trees for a Community Orchard. News on this to follow in the future.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Woodland, please contact Lou Billett on 07904 559944 or Andrew Barnett on 07968 221496.

St Mary's Church



Church Update

Hello everyone. Easter comes but once a year ... but we are always in Easter. Every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. It is a festival connected to lunar cycle because of the connection with the Jewish feast of Pesach (Passover) also linked to the time of the moon. That's why Easter changes and that is why any move to fix it is likely to crash. Although sometimes the festivals of Passover and Easter are apart in time they do sometimes mesh so closely as indeed they do this year. First day of Passover is 31st March- Easter day 1st April 2018.

Why do these Festivals link together like this? Simply they are both Festivals of Freedom. Passover is a visceral reminder continuing through several thousand years of the Jewish faith of the Exodus of her ancient peoples, the Hebrews, from Ancient Egypt and their enslaved conditions. God 'heard his people cry' and acted and Moses was tasked by God to 'set my people free'. It is also a reminder of a faithful God.

Jesus celebrated Passover through his life. His last meal before His Crucifixion was the special Passover meal that celebrates in symbolic and meaningful ways the freedom that was so treasured and is so still of the people God called. This is one of the significant strands of theological thought in our celebration of Holy Communion today. What is the hinge that for Christians links these two major faith festivals in a unique way?

The Crucifixion of Jesus which he faced, not willingly, but obediently in love was to win freedom for everyone. His sacrifice was made for all the world. No amount of Passover sacrificial lambs could do that but he who called himself the Lamb of God did suffice and for once for all time and all people. Yet there is this profound link between the two celebrations.

Events at St Mary's Church, Dodleston

1st Sunday of the month:

11.00am Morning Worship
4.00pm Holy Communion (Note new time for this Service)

Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion
4.00pm Evensong (BCP) (Note new time for this Service)

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.

Easter Events and Services:

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 7.30pm - A quiet service to prepare for Good Friday

Good Friday 2pm - an Hour at the cross words music and readings to help us meditate on Jesus Loving sacrifice

Holy Saturday is kept as a quiet day with no services

Easter Day 11am - Holy Communion the cry goes up; Christ is Risen; He is risen indeed

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

The Garden of Eden was not just about eating a forbidden fruit but that one act of disobedience by Adam and Eve enabled sin and death to infiltrate God's Good Creation. Christians call this The Fall (as from God's grace). This Fall needed to be reversed and dealt with and Passover was the major signpost on the way that God had not forgotten his creation. What Jesus did on the cross, his amazing act of love, enabled sin to be atoned for and death to be defeated.

The Resurrection of Jesus allows us to see, if we care to look, that God's purpose for his creation was and is and always shall be; Life; life pressed down and flowing over like the best wine.

If you are interested in finding out more, do come to one of our Holy Week and Easter Services.

Come to visit St Mary's Church with our new sound system with the extended loop system and comfortable cushions bought recently from a legacy and through generous donations too in order to keep the church up to date and in good order for all to enjoy.

After word: You may not be aware but every year our two tiny churches manage to raise the huge sum of over £40,000 for our Parish contribution to the diocese to enable us to have a part time priest, the cost of pensions etc and to help other churches who struggle. This is quite aside from the everyday running and insurance costs of an old sandstone building which are considerable. We are not large in numbers and perhaps we creak a bit here and there. We know we have support from not just those who are 'regulars' but are so thankful for donations from those who come to events or support us in other ways too from villages wide and further afield. Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help in supporting us and the work of the church in the village? Our life blood though is people and we long to see more people in our church. Be sure of a warm welcome if you decide to explore for yourself.

Happy Easter! Hazel



Know Your Village - Open All Hours

With so many well known and long established high street stores struggling to survive, and many going bust, Dodleston is incredibly lucky to have a well stocked and active convenience store. Banks also are re-structuring and many out of town bank branches are closing. The Village Shop not only serves to supply provisions but is a newsagent, post office, bank, stationers and off licence to name but a few of the services available.

The Village Shop also known as Dodleston Chapel Stores in Kinnerton Road also provides a shop front for the many activities, such as announcements for hatched, matched and sadly despatched. Plus of course notices regarding social events, church services, play groups, pantomimes, items for sale, dog walking, history group lectures etc. The list is endless and the shop window is decorated like a tidy jigsaw of village life.

Sam & Lloyd are the present owners and they have transformed the shop since their arrival, which incredibly was in 2009. That's nine years ago but the affect they have had on the shop, and village life is beyond compare.

Soon after they arrived and took over the shop, Sam was heard to say she "didn't realise there were two five o'clocks in one day!"

We are lucky that Dodleston has all the essential life support systems; i.e. church, school, village hall, pub, playground, a new sports field and not least, a village shop which is at the heart of the community.

As many will know, the building that houses the village shop was originally a Primitive Methodist Chapel. There is a small stone tablet high on the front gable that says "My House shall be called a House of Prayer for all people" with a date of 1855.

As a Methodist Chapel it was built in 1854 but closed its doors in 1933 as "we have no members and the outlook is hopeless". A sad reflection on the times but something that isn't uncommon in today's church attendances across the country.

The building remained empty up until the second World War when it was used for a period as the headquarters of the Home Guard.

On 11 September 1946 it was sold to a Mr Dunscombe of Garden Lane, Chester for the princely sum of £65.00. No doubt a fortune then but there's no record of its use as a shop until 1953.

This is when Mr Jack Hughes took over the ownership and opened the shop in its simplest form. Prior to that and during the period after the war, a Mrs Evans opened a 'shop' in the garden adjacent to the current building. This was in a shed and can still be seen. From there, Mrs Evans was renowned for her ice cream, amongst other things. Just along from the present shop at a cottage called 'The Dotage', a Miss Fellows was popular for her supplies of black pudding and savoury ducks. No doubt a delicacy of the time.

Not only is the shop unrecognisable from how it was, the stock of products has changed enormously. Sam's mantra is the shop should be a 'local friend, not a big brother'. It is evident that since their arrival and first refurbishment of the shop, trade has increased exponentially because of a greater range of products, many of which are locally sourced.

Whilst creating a new life for themselves, Sam and Lloyd have also generated employment by recruiting new members to their team. Many teenagers from the village have cut their teeth serving customers in the shop and it would be good to think the experience has given them a perfect start in their working life.

The shop is literally 'open all hours' and no one should ever take for granted that running and managing such an enterprise is anything but hard work and dedication.

During the early part of this new century, the village shop was expanded to incorporate living accommodation by its then owners, Peter and Ann Barrow who by 2009 had decided to retire and seek a quieter life across the border in Wales.

Prior to the Barrows the shop was for many years owned and run by Bill and Jean Hughes who were local residents of long standing.

As testament to their success, the Village Shop has just undergone further alterations with an existing storeroom being opened up and a new area created with a considerable range of chilled foods and drinks.

The shop now resembles the Tardis in Dr Who. The outside belies just what awaits internally.

Dodleston Chapel Stores and Post Office, in Kinnerton Road, is a traditional village shop with a personal, modern service and long may it survive and prosper in these days of economic trauma and difficulties.

Bernard Dennis
Chairman Dodleston Local History Group
email: bernarddennis531@gmail.com

Chapel Stores

It is already the start of our 9th wonderful year here at Dodleston Chapel Stores & Post Office and we are making changes already!



We have been re-categorised by the Post Office as a Community Branch which means that we are entitled to funds from the Network Transformation Community fund to use on the retail side of the business.

This has enabled us to replace the existing Chillers with a new bigger more efficient pair of chillers with external motors. We are using what was the stock room to its full extent and have fitted more efficient LED lighting in that area as well and hope to have it in the rest of the shop soon.

Camelot has also made some changes and you have more games to choose from, we have had a few prize winners one lucky lady recently won £800!

We have a new collection box on our counter for Blood Bikers, a very worthwhile cause they deliver urgent supplies of blood to local hospitals free of charge and are self-funded, so please donate when you are in.

Cheshire Honey is here.... the Honey is from Hives in Marford Pulford and Eaton.

Great News We now have our popular Priory Pork Sausages back for sale too!

Mothers Day is next on the calendar & we have some wonderfully exclusive Cards. Also, Wine, Chocolate & Flowers available, you can also order a bouquet from Vivid flowers via the shop. If you cannot decide what to buy that Special Lady, One For All Gift Cards can be used in over 21,000 outlets nationwide including John Lewis & Amazon. Ideal Mothers Day Gifts.

The clocks spring forward on the 25th March closely followed by Easter Weekend.

Our Easter opening hours are Good Friday 7am till 7pm.

Easter Saturday normal opening usual 6am till 9pm

Easter Sunday 7am till 7pm & Easter Monday 7am till 7pm.

Best Wishes from Samantha, Lloyd & the team xxxxx



Now that the days are getting longer and the grass starts to grow its time to start to plan for this years cricket season for Dodleston CC.

Last season was a really good season for the club - we had some great results, welcomed several new players to the team, the pavilion was completed and we even managed to install an electronic scoreboard – much to the envy of several visiting teams.

The first job for this season will be to put the nets back up in the next couple of weeks. To get the old bowling and batting muscles going we are planning to start outdoor nets on the playing field on 10th April – weather permitting, and we plan to have nets practice every Tuesday evening starting at 6.30pm through the season. If anyone – boys/ girls/young/old - would like to have a go please feel free to come along to one of the sessions – we are a friendly club and we have plenty of spare kit so just come and have a go.

We are playing this season in Div 5 again of the Chester and District Midweek 2020 league - with most of the usual suspects still in our league. Our home games will be on Wednesdays starting at 6.30pm as in recent years, with our away games on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and quite a few Thursdays. Our first game of the season will be on or around 9th May – as we go to press the fixtures haven't been announced, and the last league game of the season will be around 8th August. This seems to be an early finish for the season but as we play evening cricket the light starts to fade around this time and its not really possible to play midweek evening games much later into August. For those of you who would like to keep up with our progress or would like to watch the matches we will post the fixtures and results on the usual village notice boards and in the pavilion.

The ground is going to get regular use again this year so there should be plenty of cricket to watch, not just from our own Village team, but the pitch will also 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 Tuesday evenings again.

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 or scoring or just want to get involved with the club please contact Jeremy Parker - 01244 661526.



Dodleston PTFA Spring Update

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

Since November we've hosted two Cake and Pre- Loved Uniform sales, the Christmas Fayre and we're now busy putting the finishing touches to our Mother's Day gift event and the Easter Celebration Afternoon.

Every year for Mother's Day the PTFA 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 27th 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

We would also like to showcase the School's new 'Design Technology' corner. The cupboards, worktops and flooring were generously provided by Sharon and Des Pheby of PFC Group LTD, who supplied and fitted for us. The PTFA purchased the Cook Station.

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.

For the upcoming months we're planning on various fundraising events; Emma Preston is running the Half Marathon to raise money for the PTFA on 29th April and

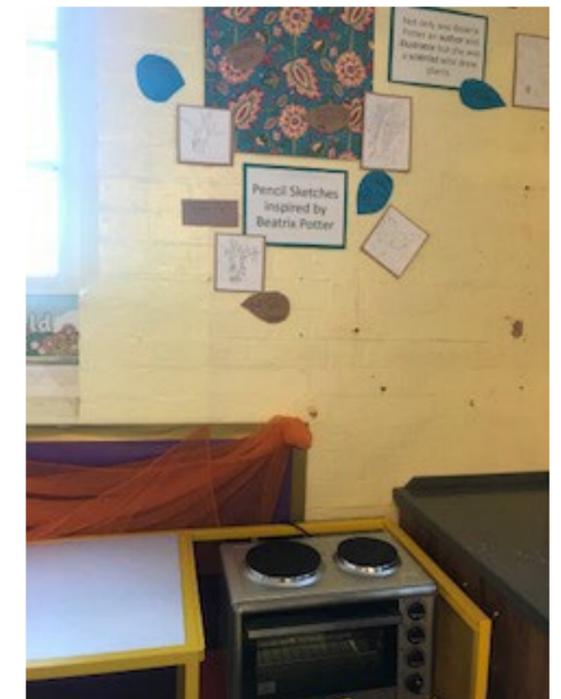


you can sponsor her via our JustGiving page (please contact us if you'd like to take part!) . We are finalising our dates for the End of Term Summer disco, to be held in the Village Hall. Finally, to coincide with Harvest, we are in discussions as to holding a 'Bring and Buy' sale in the Village Hall at the beginning of October. We welcome donations of toys, games, small electronics and clothes (in relatively good condition).

We're happy to be continuing to work with the School and 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 Karen Tilston (Chair) at dodleston@outlook.com

Tina Byrne, Dodleston PTFA Secretary



The school's new design technology corner. Made possible by some very kind donations from businesses.

Dodleston's Got Talent!

We have a school full of talent in Dodleston! Our Christmas performance – The Match Girl's Christmas - was fabulous and the choir sang their hearts out at St. Mary's Coffee Morning, The Red Lion and Wild Goose, raising over £60 for school. Many of our children (and a member of staff) were treading the boards in Dodleston's village Panto last month. Performance is so important to build confidence and self- esteem and a joy to watch.

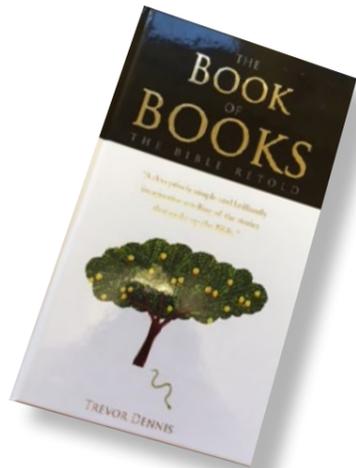


Year 5/6 Readers reading publicly from Trevor Dennis's beautiful book

In March our choir will be taking part in a performance at the Storyhouse in Chester along with 30 other schools. We have been working hard to learn a variety of songs and have already recorded one of them which has been seen by 'Britain's Got Talent'. We haven't heard from Simon Cowell yet but you never know!

We had a visit from Trevor Dennis who has produced a book called 'The Book of Books' – 'a deceptively simple and brilliantly imaginative retelling of the stories that make up the bible.' He did an assembly for the whole school, explained about an event taking place in Chester Cathedral in aid of Christian Aid – 'Bible in a day' - and gave us a copy of his lovely book. A group of year 5/6 readers were chosen to participate along with 15 other schools and many community groups. Each group took a section of Trevor's book to read publicly. Our slot was over lunch time and as the venue was the Cathedral Refectory, there was a large audience. The children read their allotted pieces beautifully and many commented on their confidence and competence. We were so proud of them.

Our wonderful parents have raised money to buy us a new cooking station for school. Cooking has always been part of the curriculum through Design Technology and Science but we have always struggled with space.



The source of inspiration for some wonderful reading from our pupils, Trevor Dennis's 'Book of Books'

However, we have found some space and have the equipment and we're off . . . I can smell the pancakes as I am typing this article!

Of course, Shrove Tuesday is much more than pancakes. Shrove Tuesday is rooted in the Christian faith. The name Shrove comes from the old English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to confession to say sorry for the wrong things you've done. On Shrove Tuesday you empty the cupboards ready for the fasting time of Lent. Of course, things are a little different these days but we do encourage our children to either give up something they enjoy



Delicious pancakes straight from our new Cooking Station for Shrove Tuesday!

for Lent or do a good deed every day – something extra that brings happiness to others. Each Lent we support a different charity; this year it is Christian Aid. The children are asked to find the money themselves rather than ask parents for donations. In the past they have done jobs around the house, donated a little of their pocket money or looked for dropped money when they are out. They always feel so proud that they can make a difference to others even though they are still children. Our pot is already filling up for this year!



Our felt needle chaps taking over! - future heirlooms?

Since last writing in August we have been enjoying a busy and varied programme of events here at Dodleston & District WI. We made a lot of noise at our Samba drumming workshop in September, who will forget our chants of "Where does Samba come from? .

...Brazil! In October we learnt how to forage for food, it's amazing what delights exist in our fields, hedge rows and woods. In November we had a talk from the blood bikers as well as our AGM where the status quo continues with the addition of a new committee member Margaret Hardie who we are thrilled to have on board. In December we continued with what is becoming somewhat of a tradition - a good old crafting session, this year we made some very cute needle felted chaps which are sure to be family heirlooms. We also followed the crafting with a bring and share buffet and disco.

In December we also repeated the Christmas tree switch on in conjunction with the Parish Council. There was carol singing, mince pies, and a shepherdess (Liz Shanklin) with her flock – it doesn't get much more festive than this in Dodleston and it was great to see the event so well attended.

In January we started the year learning Bollywood Dancing, it's more energetic than it appears. Finally, in February we took a ghost tour of Chester, sadly it was more memorable for the helicopter which followed us about town and the rain which did not stop, we were soaked to the bone but it didn't dampen our spirits as we retreated to Storyhouse for a well-deserved drink.

Coming up we are learning new skills in embroidery with 'little bird house' as featured in Kirstie Alsop's Handmade Christmas shows, Thai Chi, Croquet, Line dancing, Life drawing and talks from Bernard Dennis (History tour of Dodleston), Amy Swann (incredible cakes) and a Hill top herbalist.

We continue to go from strength to strength and have around 40 members of all ages.

If you would like to join Dodleston & District WI or just come and see if it is for you we meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Dodleston Village Hall, 8:30pm or get in touch dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk, and join our Facebook page Dodleston & District WI.

DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Calendar of Events 2018

MARCH Thursday 8th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL EMBROIDERY
APRIL Thursday 12th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL THAI CHI
MAY tbc	Try a new sport – CROQUET
MAY Thursday 10th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL RESOLUTIONS EVENING
JUNE Thursday 14th	7.30 – meeting point to be confirmed HISTORY TOUR OF DODLESTON
JULY Thursday 13th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL LINE DANCING
AUGUST	NO MEETING
SEPTEMBER Thursday 13th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL AMY SWAN CAKES
OCTOBER Thursday 11th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL HILL TOP HERBS
NOVEMBER Thursday 8th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL LIFE DRAWING
DECEMBER Thursday 14th	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS CRAFT and PARTY



for further information email DodlestonWI@Yahoo.co.uk



History Board of Dodleston

As a joint venture between Dodleston Local History Group and Dodleston Parish Council, permission has been granted by both the owners of the Red Lion, Mitchells & Butlers plc and CWAc for the installation of a history board depicting some of the historical buildings plus a short write up of the history of Dodleston.

The board will be located in the front garden of the Red Lion and will be accessible for all to see in passing. The photograph shows a gap in the right-hand side of the new front fence where the board will be positioned.

It is intended to give residents, old and new, plus visitors an insight into the history of our beautiful village.

The artwork has been done by Denise & Philip Harrison who are a retired interior designer and architect respectively and will display stunning watercolour images of the prominent buildings.

It is hoped the board will be in place within a couple of months, so if you were wondering why the front fence of the pub didn't reach the end, hopefully all is now clear.

Bernard Dennis
Chairman
Dodleston Local History Group



Paul Downey Our New PCSO

Paul replaces Autumn who only included Dodleston in her beat for a short time. She's gone back to Lache!

Paul couldn't be more different – older (53) and very experienced. He grew up in Great Sutton and was a soldier for six years. Thereafter, he worked at Vauxhalls at Ellesmere Port amongst others. He became a PCSO in 2004.

Paul is married with children aged 21 & 17 and lives in Chester. His area is huge and includes Huntington, Pulford and Eccleston as well as Dodleston.

He has some very innovative ideas to connect with the community. In particular, he intends to make himself available for local people to meet and talk with him. The venue hasn't yet been decided but one suggestion is the Pavilion at our splendid Sports Ground – not on Summer Weekends, Paul!

He sees the key local issues as being (amongst others) petty crime, inconsiderate parking and speeding. He has several ideas about curbing some of the idiots who use our village as a "Rat Run" and you can look forward to his regular articles in Local Life.

Hi everyone, firstly can I thank everybody for the very warm welcome that I have received since moving over to the area in early January. Everybody I have met and spoken to has made me feel extremely welcome.

Up until my move to this area, I have been working in Chester city centre since 2009, before that I was in Runcorn where I was initially posted on joining in 2004.

Both Runcorn and Chester city centre couldn't be more different to any of my current areas of Eccleston, Pulford, Dodleston and Huntington, but having said that, they will, I am sure, bring their own challenges which I am really looking forward to getting my teeth in to.

I have recently spoken to our MP, Chris Mattheson and arranged to join up with him when he is doing his planned surgeries in Dodleston. The first one I will be attending is on 14th July followed by another one on 17th November.

These will be held at the village hall and I really do hope to see many of you there.

In addition to this, I have recently acquired keys to your cricket pavilion and once our weather picks up (don't hold your breath) I will get some dates out when I will be there to hold surgeries, which I hope even if you haven't got any issues, you will pop along and say Hello!

I really love the fact that you have a thriving village store which is obviously very well used. I have been getting along there as much as possible as I am aware that this will be a good meeting point for me to get to know a few more of the locals.

My intentions are to help improve, where necessary, your quality of life within the village. This will mean not only addressing the obvious issues such as speeding vehicles that cut through the village and putting people's safety at risk, but also any incidents of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) that may occur, particularly as the weather improves.

One thing I would really appreciate though, is for you the local residents to let me know what your issues are? After all, you are the local residents, you live here 24/7, so you should be the ones deciding what you think best for me to tackle.

If it is within my powers to tackle these issues, then I will. If not, I will draft in the help of my Beat manager, and together we will address them.

To contact me directly you can email me on:
paul.downey@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Please do not use this for any issue that needs Police attendance quickly. This must always be done via 101 or in the case of an EMERGENCY 999, as I may not be on duty due to Leave etc, and I wouldn't want you waiting for a response when you need one quickly.

So remember, if you see me around the village, please come and say Hello.



Litter Collection

On a cold and wet Saturday morning, February 23rd, seventeen stalwarts (aged 8 to nearly 80) and two dogs assembled in the Church car park at 9am, armed with bin bags, limitless enthusiasm and utter determination to tidy up our village.

They speedily dispersed into three teams to attack the three roads leading into the village. An hour or so later, we had filled twenty large bags with assorted litter. There were thirty empty bottles (half bottles of vodka seemed to be the favourite), a discarded sewing machine, various items of ladies' underwear and a set of drug scales!

It is disappointing to report that, only two weeks later, the litter is reappearing. For those who missed out on this opportunity, there will certainly be another chance later in the year.

We offer heartfelt thanks to those who participated and apologies to those who missed the photo opportunity!



Dodleston Village Foundation

Dodleston Village Hall Kitchen Update

The DVF are in the process of planning a total refurbishment of the kitchen and serving area. Options have been discussed and suppliers consulted for further ideas and costs. Subject to funding being made available we hope to be able to complete the installation later this year.

Events

Easter Bingo – this popular event will be on as usual in the Village Hall. Thanks to the continued generosity of local sponsors we can expect to have a lot of chocolate eggs to be won. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. A lot of fun and chocolate for £1 entry.

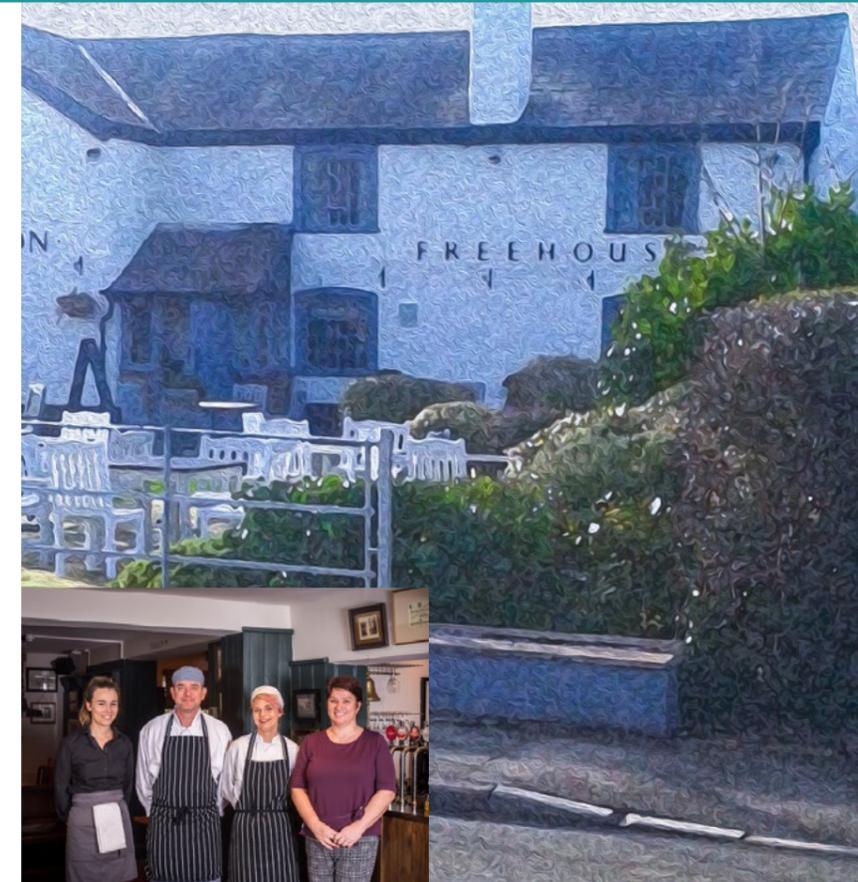
Comedy Night 2018 - Returns again later this year. Date for your diaries is 6th October.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th May at 7pm. Public attendance is welcome and anyone interested in becoming a trustee can do so at the AGM. There are at least 2 vacancies at present and some posts will be up for re-election.

DVF 100 Club

The DVF presently has 68 members who each pay £1 per month for the chance to win the monthly prize. The normal monthly prize with 69 members is £19 apart from our mega draws that happen twice a year in July and December when the prize is £100. Half of the income to the 100 club goes direct to support the work of Dodleston Village Foundation. It is a relatively small part of the funding but it goes some way to helping us to balance our budget. **If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed then there are 31 numbers that you can choose from and you still have time to join before the draws begin again for 2018. To join please contact Stephen Bowden on 660499.**



The Red Lion Refurbished And Revived.

Sue Hughes only came to Dodleston in October 2016, but what a difference she has made! The building is owned by Mitchell & Butler, Vintage Inns being one of their "brands". It wouldn't be inaccurate to suggest that the pub was dying on its feet until Sue arrived but what an impact she's had! Turnover has doubled in the short time she's been here.

The refurbishment only caused the pub to close for a few days but it has been transformed. New carpets, blinds and furniture are featured. The place has been redecorated and an area for walkers and their dogs has been created.

The make over and the loss of some local competition have created a situation where she is desperate for more staff. There are vacancies for people to work behind the bar, taking orders and serving food and drink. But the real need is for kitchen staff. Anybody fancy a career in catering?

Amidst all this activity, Sue and her team are very aware of the need to be part of our vibrant community. They set themselves a target of raising £500 for one of the local groups. The team had a vote and Dodleston Pre-School were the lucky recipients. They aim to do the same this year too, for another local group.

We've said it before and we'll say it again – how lucky we are to live in a community that is home to Sue and The Red Lion, Lloyd & Sam and Chapel Stores, Hazel and the Church, Julie and the School. Use them or lose them!



*Vacancies at
The Red Lion!*

**Fancy a career
in catering?**

**Jobs for the bar, taking
orders and serving food
and drink. kitchen staff
are urgently needed due
to expansion!**

Robin Hood Delights Dodleston Audiences

Months of hard work paid off again for Dodleston Youth Players 50th pantomime, "Robin Hood". With long service awards being presented to 14 of the cast and crew, it was the culmination of a very special year.

NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association), is an organisation we joined this year, which gives help and support to amateur theatre. Budge Grounsell, the District Representative came to our panto on the last night. He was very complimentary about us and this is his review which will be going on the NODA website.

"A month ago I did not know where Dodleston was, neither did most of the people I asked; those who claimed to know placed it in several different locations. Hey Ho. However, after seeing their Pantomime last night I can assure you that they are definitely on my Theatrical map now.

The stage at the village hall was small, stage right exited on to a space about a metre wide; stage left led off to dressing rooms etc. The scenery was hand painted by a very talented local artist Lorraine Black and the stage itself had been extended beyond the front tabs. Having been given a programme which indicated a cast of over 30 I thought how would they manage; well, manage they did and brilliantly too. They had a fine director in Sue Ramsey and a strong team in support

A host of children and young adults got the show off to a fine start then Much the Miller's son excellently played by Ryan Maughan bounded on to the stage and we were really off and running.

The interplay with the audience was superb and everyone seemed to join in, which was a joy to both cast and audience. I felt sorry for the prompt (Marian Murdoch) I'm sure it must have difficult to follow all the shenanigans and ad libbing which were to follow.

We had all the characters one would expect; The Enchantress of the Forest, Elizabeth Higginson in lieu of a good fairy, The Wicked or should I say wickedly funny Sheriff (Mike Dix) who was splendid throughout; two of the funniest ladies I have seen in a long time as Nickit and Scarper, Denise Ward and Karen Welsh; loved the Brummy accents, ladies. We didn't have a wicked witch we had a Soothsayer, Karen Woodworth complete with magnificent hair courtesy of Mr Teasy Weasy perhaps, a dress I'm sure I've seen on "Say Yes to the Dress" as well as a somewhat hazy crystal ball. Nanny Nora, aka Brown Ale, Gordon Robertson was as good and funny a dame as I have seen in a long time, another whose interplay with the audience was a delight. Maid Marion

(Gordon's wife Joanne) contended with the advances of the Sheriff in good style and eventually met with Robin Hood nicely played by Sarah Hulmston. Their meeting, unlike most pantomimes where the lovers meet and miraculously fall in love immediately, was better handled by Director Sue Ramsey by stopping the action to imply they had been hit by a thunderbolt from Cupid's arrow. Much more realistic!



Cast and crew of Robin Hood

No Robin Hood tale would be complete without the men of Sherwood. Alan A'Dale (Gena Farrell) a young lady who stepped in to the role at short notice; Scarlet (Emily Kitchin), Little Joan (Emma Higginson), Friar Tuck (Joel Willson) aided by apprentice merry men. King Richard was well played by Ian Tyrrell and Mrs Stoneybroke, Gena Farrell, Mr Penniless, Charlie Hague, the two guards Samuel Lewis and Charlie Hague and the Vicar Dave Christmas all contributed to their role in the plot as did the chorus of peasants, Hoodies, School children and Brownies. Mary Brierley did the musical honours.

We were also treated to a very funny film of a dream sequence, absolutely splendid and so clever. Does Stephen Spielberg live in Dodleston? no! but Richard Kitchin does, so watch out Stephen.

Dodleston might be a small community but the quality of the Players and their supporters, which has been in evidence for 50 years this year, shows what can be done when people pull together. At the end of the performance the cast remained on stage, rare these days, whilst awards and flowers were presented not only to members of the cast but to the hardworking backstage workers as well who thoroughly deserved the plaudits they received... Well done to you all, Budge"



Recipients of long service awards and certificates from L-R

Karen Welsh, Ryan Maughan, Denise Ward, Gordon Robertson, Karen Woodworth, Budge Grounsell (NODA rep), Elaine Porter, Mike Dix (kneeling), Roger Higginson, Sue Ramsey, Stephen Bowden, Gordon Peterson, Richard Hulmston & Marian Murdoch

DYP - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

The Dodleston Pantomime is a great tradition of which we are very proud; and 50 years of performance is a terrific achievement for such a small community. We had a wonderful time last year taking a nostalgic look back over our history, celebrating the work of many, many people since Charlie Smith started the group in the 60's.

The 50th Panto over, we're now looking forward to the next one and beyond. Most of us have been involved for many years (becoming greyer along the way!) so we're looking for some new people with fresh ideas to be part of this amazing institution. It's great fun working behind the scenes as well as on stage. Do you fancy using your skills or gaining new ones such as making props and scenery, sewing, acting, administration, publicity, producing or directing?

You don't have to be an expert, just be willing to have a go. We're a friendly bunch (oh yes we are!) and you will be made very welcome.

If you and your friends are just a little bit curious and want to find out more, join us in the Village Hall on Sunday 18th March at 7.30 where you will find out more about what opportunities there are.

If you are interested but can't make the meeting please contact either Karen on 660672 or Sue on 660151. COME AND JOIN THE TEAM TO TAKE DYP INTO THE 2020s

Dodleston Pre-School News

Over at Dodleston Pre-School we have had a very exciting few months! With our numbers rising, our doors are opening more often! We now welcome our tiny friends Monday, Tuesday and Fridays 9- 3.15 and Wednesday 9-1. Spaces are filling up fast each day so hurry if you want to come and join in the fun!

We've also seen the introduction of the Welsh 30 hour funding places and are pleased to announce that, as a border village, we're now able to accept funding from the pilot areas. We have introduced the curiosity approach and loose parts play which has steered us away from too many plastic toys and lets children use their incredible imaginations and explore so many open ended opportunities.

Our fabulous neighbours over at The Red Lion have also been working tirelessly to raise funds for our Pre-School and this month handed over a whopping £500! Thank you so much Sue and your wonderful team for your hard work and generosity. We've decided to use some of this amazing donation to purchase splash suits for all of the children at Pre-School so that we can make full use of both our lovely outdoor area and the forest school within our community woodland.

We have also started planning for a willow den on our forest school site, this should be up and ready for us to use very soon, we can't wait to have our story time inside and see what the children make of it.

less plastic toys and more imagination!



Our preschoolers loving the curiosity approach to both play and learning ...and the great outdoors!



Toddlers and Babies playgroup:

Dodleston Toddlers and Babies playgroup meets every Thursday during term time from 10-11.30am. Free play, craft activity, refreshments and singalong all for £3 per child plus £1 per additional child. Christmas party with special visitor coming at the end of this term! All welcome - just turn up! **Follow us on Facebook. More info, contact Helen Longmuir 07951 880702**

Dodleston Pre-School Presents.....

Thursday 29th March
Dodleston Village Hall
6pm - 8:30pm

Pay on the door **EASTER** Disco and Games
Eggstravaganza Chocolate Tombola
CASH BAR!! **Disco** Tattoos & Nails
Hot Food **£3.00 per child** CASH BAR
Adults FREE

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Open Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri

REGISTER NOW!
FREE Taster Sessions

Registered Charity No: 1035994

Dodleston Pre-School
5 Minutes from Saltney
& Broughton Extended Funded Places
Available for children aged 2-4 from
Cheshire and Wales

We are now open All Day
Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9am - 3.15pm
Wednesday 9am - 1pm

• **RATED GOOD BY OFSTED 2015**
Please contact Elaine on
01244 661611/ 07938 465435
Email: dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com

Dodleston Pre-School, Dodleston Village Hall, Pulford Road,
Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NN www.dodlestonpreschool.co.uk

Fundraiser Alert!

As you know, we have had some very successful fundraisers recently including the **Spooky Doo** and the **Tremendous** planting of our community woodland. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support, it doesn't go unnoticed. We have a few exciting events coming up shortly, on Thursday March 29th we will be holding our annual **Easter Eggstravaganza** at the Village Hall from 6 until 8.30pm, there will be a disco, hot food and a cash bar, along with Easter themed activities and face painting, everyone is welcome. £3 per child, adults free! Pay on the door. It's sure to be hopping mad!

This year is a very special year for Dodleston Pre-School as we celebrate our 35th anniversary. As we were founded in the 1980's we have chosen to celebrate this with a 80s style disco (adults only) at the Village Hall on Saturday 21st April and a family fun day on the parish field, in the summer.

Due to this very special anniversary we are trying to locate the person that originally set up Dodleston Pre-School and would be very keen to talk with them, if anyone has any info on this please contact us either in person or via our email dodlestonprepreschool@googlemail.com thank you.

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Get Fit with Vicki

Stretch & Strengthening



- Lose body fat
- Gain muscle
- Feel stronger and fitter
- Live healthier
- Have more energy

Tuesday evening
7.15pm to 8.15pm
All abilities, Male & Female are welcome

£4.50
per session

Dodleston Village Hall

For more info contact
Vicki Rahill

☎ 07963 500607

✉ vickirahill@gmail.com

Personal Training also available

20 years+ experience in the fitness industry. ISSA Personal Trainer, Yoga Fit. Levels 1 and 2, YMCA Group Exercise, ISSA Sports Nutrition.

My ambition is to offer affordable tuition, make exercise accessible to everybody and help people to reach their full potential in an enjoyable and safe environment.

I have over 20 years of experience in the fitness industry and hold qualifications in group exercise, personal training, yoga and nutrition. I have also qualified as a psychotherapist at Warwick University which helps me to support my clients overcome any psychological barriers that are affecting them reaching their sporting and nutritional goals. I have studied and taught internationally, working with a wide variety of clients with different challenges, including strengthening injuries, athletes preparing for competition, realigning bad posture and general fitness and weight loss.

Personal Training can be offered in the comfort of your own home or in my home gym and can be one to one, or if two clients are of a similar level, they are welcome to train together, which also helps spread the cost. I enjoy working with all fitness levels and will adapt training to suit the clients goals. Where possible, all exercises will incorporate the whole body, continually improving the clients core and flexibility, leading to less joint stress and reducing other risk areas such as back, knees and hips.

Personal Training can be tailored to combine healthy nutrition with physical activity to reach the clients goals and provide a life changing experience. There are no fad diets, just a positive



approach to healthy food, combined with improvements in the metabolic system to help burn unwanted calories.

The 7.15pm, Tuesday evening class, in Dodleston welcomes all ages and levels of fitness in an encouraging, welcoming and friendly environment. Each client is encouraged to work at their own level, listen to their body and remember that nobody is expected to be perfect. The class incorporates cardio, strength and flexibility. The last Tuesday of each month is a circuit training class, again this is suitable for all fitness levels.

Regular exercise plays a key role in reducing your risk of injury, obesity and medical problems, including mental health.

“A bear, however hard he tries, grows tubby without exercise.”

Winnie-the-Pooh

James' Gardens

Professional Garden Maintenance

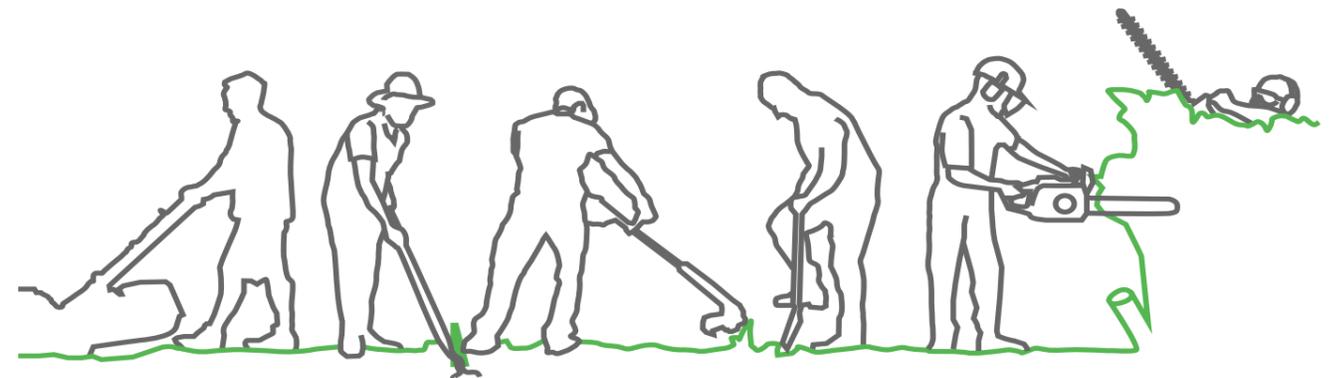
James Hull

t: 07889 020444

e: jamesgardens1@gmail.com

www.jgardens.co.uk

RHS Qualified



Have you ever wondered what happens twice a year at Tudor Farm?

Gorstella Gallery was set up 28 years ago by long term residents of Dodleston, Peter and Klazien Bullivant and is now run by their daughter and her husband, Bridget and Stephen, who live in Higher Kinnerton.

Twice a year, Exhibitions are put on in the Gallery featuring many of the country's leading artists from Scotland to London, as well as many local artists, and it is a unique opportunity to see work of this high quality in a small Cheshire village!

The gallery is only open when an Exhibition is on, so when the signs are up, and the A board is outside please pop in, say hello and have a look around! You will receive a warm welcome and children are very welcome too – and if you come to one of the evening viewings you will get a glass of wine as well!

Please contact Bridget on 01244 660540 or gorstella@gorstellagallery.co.uk for further information.

GORSTELLA GALLERY



Tudor Farm, Kinnerton Road
Dodleston CH4 9LP
www.gorstellagallery.co.uk
gorstella@gorstellagallery.co.uk
01244 660540

Dodleston & District Parish Council Officers

Clerk to the Parish Council: **Kate Lloyd**

Tel: **07872927050**

email: **katepcdodleston@gmail.com**

Chairman: Cllr Mike Maughan

Tel: 01244 661776

email: mike.maughan@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Buchanan

Tel: 07710 900833

email: paul.buchanan@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mike Dix

Tel: 01244 661030

email: mike.dix@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Chris Ward

Tel: 07730 564712

email: chris.ward@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mark Williams

Tel: 01244 315535

email: mark.williams@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Richard Kitchin

Tel: 07968 323567

email: richard.kitchin@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Roger Taylor

Tel: 07860 514899

email: roger.taylor@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Rachel Jones

Tel: 01244 660206

email: rachel.jones@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr James Clarke

Tel: 07564 448645

email: james.clarke@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mike Hall

Tel: 07704 320699

email: mike.hall@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



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