

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

# LocalLife

Edition 33 Spring / April 2019



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Local Life's  
Best Community  
Newsletter  
2015

# Welcome all...



Roger Taylor - Editor

We offer you another packed issue. There is so much going on in the village.

We hope there will be a splendid attendance for the Never4get football tournament. It takes place on the weekend

of April 13th and 14th to recognise the 30th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. We are hoping to have a good turn-out of Liverpool Old Boys, so it should be a memorable occasion.

On the subject of football, what a fantastic achievement by Dodleston School. The team is picked from a tiny pool, but they came through as winners of the County

## Bus Timetable...

61,62 Chester - Handbridge - Westminster Park - Dodleston - Higher Kinnerton Stagecoach

Monday to Friday  
(excluding Bank Holidays)

	61X D	62	62	62	61 Sch	61 NSch	61	61
Boughton Bishops Bluecoat School	-	-	-	-	1525	-	-	-
<b>Chester Bus Interchange</b>	0945	1135	1245	1335	1535	1535	1700	1815
Handbridge, Esso Garage	-	-	-	-	1543	1543	1708	1823
Handbridge, Eccleston Avenue	-	1146	1256	1346	-	-	-	-
<b>Westminster Park Shops o/s</b>	-	1153	1303	1353	1548	1548	1713	1828
Dodleston, Primary School	1000	1201	-	1401	1556	1556	1721	1836
<b>Higher Kinnerton Bennetts Lane, Post Office</b>	1008	1209	-	1409	1604	1604	1729	1844

61,62 Chester - Handbridge - Westminster Park - Dodleston - Higher Kinnerton Stagecoach

Saturdays

	61X D	61X D	61	61	61	61	61	61
<b>Chester Bus Interchange</b>	0845	0945	1045	1245	1400	1545	1700	1815
Handbridge, Esso Garage	-	-	1053	1253	1409	1553	1709	1823
<b>Westminster Park Shops o/s</b>	-	-	1058	1258	1414	1558	1714	1828
Dodleston, Primary School	0900	1000	1106	1306	1422	1606	1722	1836
<b>Higher Kinnerton Bennetts Lane, Post Office</b>	0908	1008	1114	1314	1430	1614	1730	1844

Codes:

D - Direct service operates directly via Grosvenor Road, Lache Lane  
Sch - Schooldays only NSch - School Holidays

61,62 Higher Kinnerton - Dodleston - Westminster Park - Handbridge - Chester Stagecoach

Monday to Friday  
(excluding Bank Holidays)

	61 NSch	61 Sch	62	62	62	62	62	62	61
<b>Higher Kinnerton, Bennetts Lane, Post Office</b>	0745	0745	0910	1010	1210	-	1410	1610	1735
Dodleston Primary School	0753	0753	0918	1018	1218	-	1418	1618	1743
<b>Westminster Park Shops</b>	0801	0801	0926	1026	1226	1306	1426	1626	1751
Handbridge, Eccleston Avenue	-	-	0933	1033	1233	1313	1433	1633	-
Handbridge, Esso Garage opp	0806	0806	-	-	-	-	-	-	1758
<b>Chester Bus Interchange</b>	0817	0817	0944	1044	1244	1324	1444	1644	1809
Boughton, Bishop's Bluecoat School	-	0827	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

61,62 Higher Kinnerton - Dodleston - Westminster Park - Handbridge - Chester Stagecoach

Saturday

	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
<b>Higher Kinnerton Bennetts Lane Post Office</b>	0810	0910	1010	1120	1320	1445	1620	1735
Dodleston Primary School	0818	0918	1018	1128	1328	1453	1628	1743
<b>Westminster Park Shops</b>	0826	0926	1026	1136	1336	1501	1636	1751
Handbridge, Esso Garage opp	0831	0931	1031	1141	1341	1506	1641	1758
<b>Chester Bus Interchange</b>	0842	0942	1042	1152	1352	1517	1652	1809

### Route Description

**Service 61** : Chester Bus Interchange, Frodsham Street, Foregate Street, Vicars Lane, Pepper Street, Lower Bridge Street, Handbridge, Overleigh Road, Lache Lane, Vincent Drive, Dennis Drive, Rushfield Road, Castle Croft Road, Five Ashes Road, Rowcliffe Avenue, Lache Lane, Balderton Crossing, Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton, Kinnerton Road, Bantern Road, Bennetts Lane, Kinnerton Post Office  
Return via Main Road, Kinnerton Road and reverse of above

**Service 61X** : Service 61 : Chester Bus Interchange, Frodsham Street, Foregate Street, Vicars Lane, Pepper Street, Grosvenor Road, Lache Lane, Balderton Crossing, Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton, Kinnerton Road, Bantern Road, Bennetts Lane, Kinnerton Post Office  
Return via Main Road, Kinnerton Road and reverse of above

**Service 62** : Chester Bus Interchange, Frodsham Street, Foregate Street, Vicars Lane, Pepper Street, Lower Bridge Street, Handbridge, Queens Park Road, St Georges Crescent, Cross Hey, Appleyards Lane, Hartington Street, Eccleston Avenue Eaton Road, Overleigh Road, Lache Lane, Vincent Drive, Dennis Drive, Rushfield Road, Castle Croft Road, Five Ashes Road, Rowcliffe Avenue, Lache Lane, Balderton Crossing, Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton, Kinnerton Road, Bantern Road, Bennetts Lane, Kinnerton Post Office  
Return via Main Road, Kinnerton Road and reverse of above

Tournament and look to continue their success up at Newcastle.

Litter also features. Welna Bowden organised a litter pick in the village on March 23rd and 24th and I am organising something similar in Lower Kinnerton. Also read about Rob Nimmes who single-handedly seeks to keep Lache Lane clear of litter.

There is the usual fascinating historical item from Bernard Dennis and a really interesting article about local birdlife from Colin Bonnington.

As ever, my thanks go to the dozens of splendid people who do so much to make this such a special place to live. Read and enjoy!

**Dates for the Parish Council Meetings – The dates are the 2nd Monday of the odd numbered months – held in the Grosvenor Room @ 7.30pm**

- **May 13th**
- **July 8th**
- **September 9th**
- **November 11th**



# Never4get



## 5-a-Side Football Tournament

**Teams required!**

**30th year**

**Hillsborough anniversary**

**5-a-side football tournament  
in memory of the  
Rogers brothers.**



**Dodleston Sports Field  
Dodleston, Chester  
CH4 9NN**

**Saturday 13th April 9am – Under 14's**

**Sunday 14th April 9am – Under 35's  
Over 35's**

**Entries still available– enter online at [www.never4get.org.uk](http://www.never4get.org.uk)**

**BAR — FOOD — LIVE MUSIC — FUNFAIR — ATTRACTIONS**

**LFC LEGENDS!**

**All profits will be shared between:**



**Foundation**  
THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY



**Zoë's Place**  
Baby Hospice

**Register your team at [www.never4get.org.uk](http://www.never4get.org.uk)**

# Know Your Village



## An Historic Monument

**For many years the telephone kiosk at the junction of Church Road and Kinnerton Road has served as a landmark for visitors to the village.**

A couple of years or so ago, British Telecom decided Dodleston no longer needed such a facility and without warning, the kiosk was removed. This left an open and redundant space which was partially enclosed with an ancient curved sandstone wall.

The wing walls originally displayed directional signs for Chester to the left and Pulford to the right, but these have since eroded away. Visitors to the village approaching from Kinnerton Road could clearly be directed, depending on their destination. Hopefully these will be reinstated in due course.

Dodleston Local History Group (DLHG) felt this now open area needed to have a focal point and historical documents showed this was the site of the village water pump from where water would have been drawn for domestic purposes.

A project to locate a suitable hand pump was started and despite visits to many reclamation yards, nothing could be found that would suit the situation.

However, through good fortune and contact by Christine Roberts, Sue Gillam from Kinnerton Road offered a pump that was original to her family house and so the process began.

DLHG arranged for the pump to be taken away, repair welded, shot blasted and powder coated, and Dodleston Parish Council agreed to carry out the installation on the original site.

During excavation work by Dave Jenkins and his two colleagues, to prepare the base on site, the ancient well was discovered, and the depth was measured to be about five meters; water could be heard running, so the well source was still functioning.

The pump was firmly bolted down on to a concrete base and the surrounding area paved with cobbles in a sympathetic and functional manner.

As a result of the sand blasting, this revealed that the pump was cast in Chester by the firm J & W Killon with a date of 1865. The house in Kinnerton Road is dated 1864. Although the pump is not original to the site, it is original to the village and not an import. It should be noted that the pump is purely for decoration and not connected to the underground water source. Health & Safety would have a field day if it were!

According to a trade directory of 1864, J & W Killon were based in Egerton Street, Chester and are described as being “pumpmakers and wellsinkers”

A plaque is now fitted to the sandstone wall indicating briefly the history of the site and that the pump has kindly been donated by Sue Gillam in memory of her parents George and Gwen Gillam who lived in Kinnerton Road for more than forty years.

One extra thing to look for is the graffiti scratched into the top surface of the sandstone wall. This must date back many decades and no doubt contributed by various youths of the village.

Bernard Dennis  
Chairman  
**Dodleston Local History Group**

# Know Your Village

## The Year 1919

**In 1919, King George V was the Monarch and Queen Mary, his wife and Consort.** David Lloyd George was the Prime Minister and Lady Nancy Astor became the first female MP to sit in the House of Commons. Her constituency was Plymouth Sutton and she eventually stood down as an MP in 1945.

The 2nd Duke of Westminster (1879 – 1953) was resident at Eaton Hall. He was Hugh Richard Arthur Grosvenor aka Bendor and during his lifetime managed to have four wives, but not all at the same time!!

In that year, almost exactly one hundred years ago, an event took place in Dodleston that was to have an impact on the village and education.

The Great War ended in November 1918 with nine souls out of seventy-four from this small village who went to the 'front' sadly losing their lives in protection of their country. That alone was a significant loss in what was a purely agricultural community with a population of about 300. The work had to be done and women, young children and the older generation had no option but to 'muck in' and help. The school records are a testimony to the roles played by children.

On 29 January 1919, by the Direction of His Grace the 2nd Duke of Westminster, G.C.V.O. D.S.O, a sale of the remaining outlying or Western Portion of the Eaton Estate was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester at 2.30 o'clock precisely

Amongst many other villages, this included a number of properties in Dodleston. The total of properties and land in the sale amounted to fifty-three with about 30 per cent being in Dodleston. The Model Cottage attached to the Reading Room (now the Village Hall) and adjoining small holding (Church Farm) plus properties in Kinnerton Road were just some sold at this auction.

According to the records, the sale realised £286,655.00 and there was some thought, although not yet confirmed, that the proceeds from the sale went directly to the British Government as reparation towards the cost of the Great War. Major land owners across the country were 'obliged' to add their contribution to the huge financial cost of the war and selling off property was an easy, but for many, a difficult route to take.

It is interesting to note that in 1919, £100.00 was in today's value worth just over £4,900.00. On that basis, the sale raised more than £14 million by valuation. That was just from one estate as many other prominent landowners would also have contributed significant sums from similar sales of their property across the country.

Dodleston C of E Primary School, opened in 1871, and was under the remit of the 2nd Duke of Westminster. In 1867 there was a Government Reform Bill which was the first reference to a national system of elementary education. This would be free of cost and made school attendance compulsory. The First Education Act was passed in 1870 and it was mandatory for children up to the age of 13 to attend school.

The school record books show a monthly register of attendees. Given the small size of the actual school building in the early years of the 20th century, it must have been incredibly crowded, and possibly smelly, as the school building was less than half the size of the current facility having since been extended over the years.

In 1918, the school had upwards of 70 pupils registered although this did vary according to illness, harvest time and the weather which was a basic element given that many children didn't have the luxury of shoes!



However, as mentioned earlier, the sale of properties and land in Dodleston and surrounding locations had a detrimental effect on the school, as the record for 31 January 1919 states;

*"Sickness still continues and the average (attendance) is further reduced to 64.0. The sale of the Duke of Westminster's property in this district and the consequent removal of families is also having a disastrous effect upon the attendances and general work of this school. Seven children have already left, and there are more to leave shortly"*

From the school records, it's possible to identify almost double that number of children having to leave Dodleston school over a period of time in 1919 because of the sale of tenanted properties.

Sickness was also a sad factor, especially the young girls who came from the Girls Home, just along in Church Road. Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were causes for the school to be closed on many occasions and there are some distressing reports of young girls dying from these diseases.

The school reports are very 'matter of fact' about these sad losses but no doubt it must have impacted on the school emotionally, let alone just reducing the attendance numbers.

For the school and village population, life went on and the 'sold off' properties were soon re-occupied but it took several years for the school numbers to reach a more acceptable level. The school records show that sickness amongst the pupils continued to have a detrimental effect on attendance and was closed for a few days on a number of occasions on instructions from the Chester School Medical Officer.

Fortunately, as a result of progress in medicine and the fact Dodleston more than doubled its population with the Boydell Park development in the 1980s, the village is now a thriving community.

However, there are victims and many of the long-established farms in the area are no longer functioning. Only a handful manage to survive the constraints of a changing economy.

**Who knows what Dodleston will be like in 2119?**

**Bernard Dennis**  
**Chairman Dodleston Local History Group**  
**email: bernarddennis531@gmail.com**  
**Tel: 07966 436073**

# Dodleston & District WI

## Dodleston WI

It has been a while since we have appeared in Local Life, since last writing we have continued to enjoy a varied programme here at Dodleston & District WI as well as welcome lots of new members, we now have 48 members, not bad for a small village WI!

We are proud of what we have achieved in just a short few years and increased membership makes our WI even more sustainable and means that we can provide the very best inspirational speakers and opportunities for our members and the community.

To summarise in the last year, we have had evenings on modern embroidery, Thai Chi, Croquet, history tour of Dodleston, line dancing, herbalist, stone painting, life drawing, wire craft, Brazilian Capoeira dancing, and ceramic pot painting.

In addition, Samantha Whitehead our Treasurer attended the National Federation of WI's Annual Meeting in Cardiff in June and represented both our WI and 3 others in the local area.

In November we took a coach to the Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch a production of Calendar Girls - The Musical, it was great to be taken door to door and we all laughed a lot.



DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN



There are loads of great events coming up such as a trip to Meadow Food Dairy, Thai Cookery, Fishing at Chester Lakes, Yoga, Cocktail making, St. Johns Ambulance CPR, Singing, The Autumn Show, Apple Pressing and much more, come along we'd love to meet you.

**If you would like to join Dodleston & District WI or just come and see if it is for you we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Dodleston Village Hall, 8:15pm or get in touch [dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk), and join our Facebook page Dodleston & District WI.**



## Dodleston Community Woodland

The community woodland has, like the trees, been dormant over the winter period. However, Spring is here, and events are being planned.

Following on from 2 very successful planting days we hope to bring a third planting day to Dodleston in late Autumn. This time, in conjunction with the Dodleston Brownies and Guides, we will be planting fruit trees and making our own community



orchard for scrumpers and bakers and cider makers. This will be sited next to the existing woodland and once established will be open to all. Keep an eye out for more information later in the year.

We are also holding a Work Day on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 10am till 1pm. It would be great to see as many people as possible tending to the trees, weeding the areas around them and laying down mulch. As usual there will be tea and cake. Bring a spade and sunglasses/umbrella..... it is April!

# Events at St Mary's Church, Dodleston

## Easter 2019 – Church Update

**Hello everyone, I really do appreciate the opportunity given to me to say a very public Happy Easter to all of you who get to read the Local Life magazine.**

It is a privilege which would not be available perhaps in a place where persecution of the church is rife. So, I do not take it lightly but with a huge thank you for this gift.

**Happy Easter on 21st April.**

This comes not just from me but from the church (who are largely the village!) community. We would like to invite anyone to come to our Easter services this year in St Mary's Dodleston. Easter Day is a celebration of The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is a day that has been celebrated from the very earliest days of the church in Jerusalem and beyond. It is the huge culmination to the three days before; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday and Holy Saturday (Triduum - three days Latin!) Maundy Thursday a quiet and meditative service in which we recall the last Supper and the arrest and trial of Jesus after his betrayal by Judas Iscariot at the Garden of Gethsemane; Good Friday, a plain service of readings and music as we recall the sufferings of Jesus on the Cross and Holy Saturday a day of quiet thoughtfulness in the face of Jesus death. Then the magnificent Easter celebration that runs through the western tradition Churches always begin with Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Not resuscitated but raised by God from death to never die again.

It has not a lot to do with spring or small boundy creatures with long ears. in Australia they are going into different seasons altogether.

Once again thank you for the chance to be able to wish you the compliments of this season of the Church year.

Check 'A Church Near You' website – [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## Events at St Mary's

### St Mary's Church

1st Sunday of the month: 11.00am Morning Worship

### Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion

### Coffee Morning:

The first Wednesday of the month. 10.30am – 12noon.  
Wednesday 3rd July the school choir will be singing for us during the morning – come along to support the choir and staff of Dodleston School.

### Crafty Creations:

Second Monday of each Month – 10.00am-12noon.  
Please come along to the Craft Group held at St Mary's and see the completed Dodleston Quilt plus there are always refreshments and plenty of chat. New crafts are explored and experienced!!!



## Easter Events

**Sunday 14th April – Palm Sunday**  
– Holy Communion at 11.00am.

**Thursday 18th April – Maundy Thursday**  
– evening service at 7.30pm.

**Friday 19th April – Good Friday**  
– Stations of the Cross – 2.00pm-3.00pm

**Sunday 21st April – Easter Day**  
– Holy Communion Service at 11.00am

**Friday 10th May – Music for a Summer Evening** – presented Delta Academy Choir – 7.30pm – tickets will be available nearer the time

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

# Dodleston & District Parish Council



## Nature's Departures and Arrivals

**Spring is one of my favourite times of the year. After enjoying the festivities of Christmas, I, like many others, while the remaining winter months away, and particularly the early dark nights that they offer. But this year was a bit different from most, with unseasonal warm days in February. Perhaps only a brief taster of things to come, because as I write, from my home in Dodleston, we're back into the more typical, unsettled, cold, wet and windy weather.**

But the early onset of spring didn't only have us tricked to think the fine weather was here to stay, but wildlife was convinced too. We've had common frogs back in our little pond early on in February, and there has been reports of swallows and sand martins on the Wirral in the middle of the month. These birds do not typically return to the UK from their African wintering grounds until at least March.

Bird singing was also well under way for many species last month too, with males declaring their ownership of the territory. This ranged from skylark singing their rambling tuneful song, fluttering high in the sky above arable fields around Dodleston, to a song thrush singing its delightful song, consisting of a series of repeated notes, in our back garden.

And there's been some early evidence of nest building too. I've noticed wood pigeons carrying twigs, along with magpies, rooks and jackdaws from early February. These species are however notorious for nesting early, with rookeries often occupied from February. A pair of collared doves were trying out our satellite dish for size as their love nest at the same time, and when driving out of Dodleston, again in the middle of last month, a female blackbird swooped into a hedge carrying food in her beak; a good indication that she had chicks already. Bearing in mind that blackbirds incubate eggs for around 11-14 days, this would mean that she had started laying, perhaps as early as late January.

But at the same time, most of the birds who winter here are still around and haven't made their move back north just yet (as of early March). These include redwings and fieldfares, who are both related to blackbirds, and spend the winter here gorging themselves on berries of hedges, or on the old fallen fruit that lies under your apple trees in the garden. I've seen these birds in and around Dodleston, and, more often than not, they are moving around together in large flocks. It won't be long though before they venture back to their Scandinavian breeding grounds.

And, last but not least, another bird which, over winter, has been a commoner and commoner sight (and sound) over the skies of Dodleston (and this part of Cheshire in general) is

pink-footed geese. Not to be mistaken for the larger greylag goose which is resident all year around, the "pink-feet" are only with us for the winter months. They arrive from northern climes (Iceland, Greenland and northern Norway) in the autumn and have left by April. These birds roost on the Dee Estuary, where numbers have reached into several thousand (as high as around 10,500 birds two winters ago), and in the morning they will leave the refuge of the estuary and venture out into the fields of Cheshire (and perhaps further afield), searching for rich pickings. Pink-feet feed in arable and grass fields and will eat pretty much all parts of the plant, from leaves to shoots and roots. A decade ago the number of pink-feet using the Dee Estuary in winter would be in the hundreds only, and so the much higher number of V-shaped goose flocks (skeins) these days is a very welcome addition to our wintery Cheshire skies.

So it's a farewell, for now, to our wintering bird neighbours who will be making their northerly trip (if not already) and a warm welcome to those summering feathered friends who, if they haven't arrived already, will do so imminently.

**Colin Bonnington**

## Hawarden's best kept secret

Just 10 minutes' drive away from my house in Lower Kinnerton is Hawarden's best kept secret.

Just behind Hawarden Farm Shop, nestled in the Orchard is a Community Garden. There are many raised beds currently planted up with broad beans, onions and garlic. We are harvesting leeks, and greens at the moment, with lots of things to go in the ground over the coming weeks. There is a pond to encourage biodiversity, along with a communal area for resting and eating. Hawarden is one of 3 productive gardens belonging to FlintShare, a community run social enterprise whose members grow organic food together.

The other 2 sites are in Cilcain and Northop

Cilcain is a 3-acre site, again tucked away in a valley. It's south facing, with plenty of social space. It has fruit cages, a willow patch, cut flowers beds, bee hives, along with vast amounts of beds for vegetables, salads and herbs.

Northop is mainly made up of polytunnels, where we are able to grow food all year round. It also boasts our Orchard.

All fruit is free when you are a member of Flintshare. You just need to harvest it yourself.

I re-joined Flintshare this January, having been a founding member 10 years ago. I left reluctantly in 2011 to have a baby and run my own business and forgot to go back.

I, like many people want to eat and feed my family the freshest and healthiest of organic fruit and vegetables, but simply cannot afford supermarket and box scheme prices. It made sense for me to re-join the Hawarden team. I am so glad I did.

The passion and enthusiasm of the people of Flintshare

is boundless. The vegetables are delicious, the conversations are varied and interesting and it just feels great working together to produce the most nutritious produce possible.

Each member has a veg account. You either credit your account with hours worked or money, depending on your personal circumstances. This then allows you access to fresh, local organic vegetables, fruit and salad for the majority of the year.



FlintShare is completely inclusive. You don't have to be a gardener. There is plenty to do behind the scenes too such as event planning (we are a sociable bunch), Web design and maintenance, PR, administration treasury duties, DIY jobs, and making the tea. Any type of work counts towards veg account credits.

We are a diverse bunch, giving our time when we can. Our common denominator is our love of fresh, organic produce, the environment, teamwork, cake and tea. Our tea selection in the potting shed is second to none.

We currently meet on a Thursday morning at the Hawarden site. If you are interested to find out more, pop down between 10am

and 1pm for a look around and a chat. We would love to show you around.

**Alternatively go to [www.flintshare.org](http://www.flintshare.org), find us on Facebook or email [info@flintshare.org](mailto:info@flintshare.org)**

Lou Billett



**FlintShare**

# School News

## Dodleston Church Of England Primary School

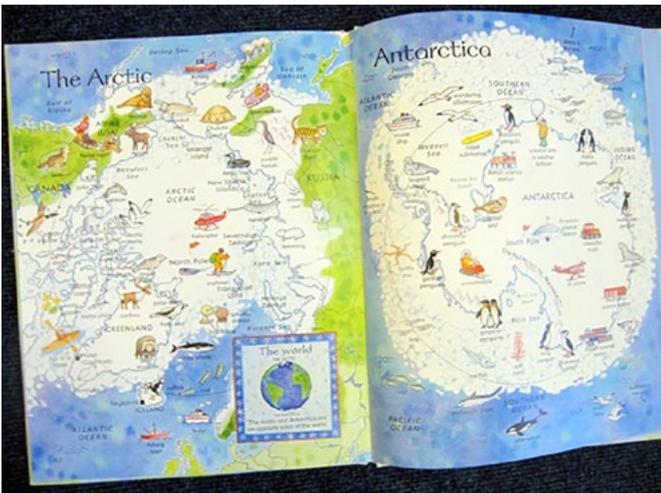


**We have a very exciting term to look forward to – Class trips to Legoland Discovery Centre, Techniquest and a residential to Boreatton Park in Shrewsbury. We'll be dressing up for World Book day and wearing our noses on Red Nose day. And again, we are eagerly awaiting our eggs and incubator – there is always something so special about hearing that small chirp from a newly hatched chick.**

### Enrichment

In our Enrichment afternoon last term we were learning all about the Polar regions – the Arctic and the Antarctic. We had so much fun exploring the culture and habitat of the Inuits.

Did you know that the Arctic is an ocean surrounded by land and the Antarctic is land surrounded by ocean?



### Northern Lights art

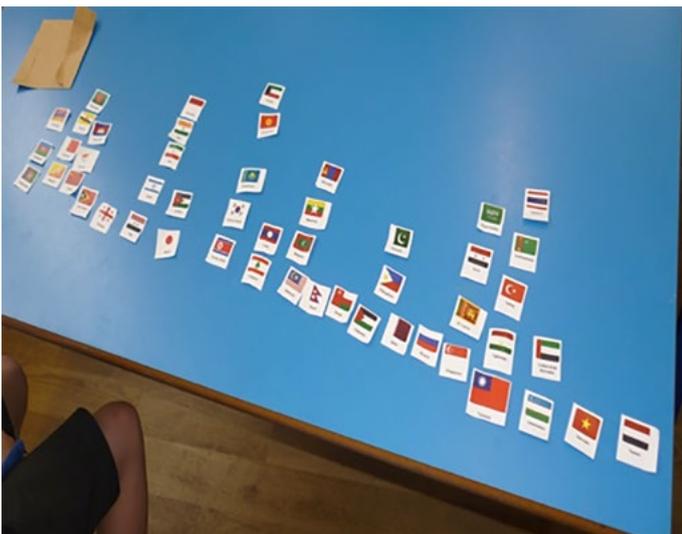


Did you know that Eskimo means 'raw meat eaters'? The Arctic communities didn't like it so they chose to be called Inuits which simply means 'people'.

Did you know that an igloo is warm and dry and protects you from a polar storm when hunting? Boys still learn how to make an igloo today as they still hunt for their food.



Inukshuk Rock Sculptures



This term we are looking at Asia. Did you know there are 50 countries in Asia? That took some finding out!



### Community Unity

This is a call out to anyone who has a little time to help out in school. There are two areas that we're struggling with and wondered if our community could help out.

#### 1. Help in the classroom.

Tasks would be things like listening to children read, helping out with craft activities or with general activities going on in the classroom. The children love working with different adults and it can often become a lovely relationship, especially for children who need a little extra nurture.

#### 2. Midday assistants

We currently employ two grandparents as Midday assistants and it is such a gift! The grandparents love being with the children and the children love their special dinner time helpers. The role is just for an hour – 12.00-1.00pm. We are looking for people who would be prepared to do every day – Monday to Friday, term time only, people who would be happy to do two or three days a week or people who would go on a 'supply list' for days when staff aren't able to get into school. The pay isn't much but the rewards are tremendous. If you would like to become part of our team, please contact Mrs. Page on 01244 981080 for further details. We can promise you fabulous children who will brighten your day and a great team to support you all the way.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

# Local News



## Football News!

We are so proud of our boys' football team as they have won the cup for the Cheshire small school league!

They won the local heats and went forward to represent Chester at Crewe Alexander Soccer Centre in the C.S.F.A. U11 Small Schools' Soccer Sevens County Finals on Monday 28th January 2019.

The won all three games in the group stages 2 - 0 each game. They then just won the semi-final round 1 - 0 The final game finished 0-0 at full time then went to extra time and remained goalless.

Penalties followed! Their player missed the penalty and we capitalised on this and all five of our boys scored a penalty ending the result 5-4 to us.



## The Big Dodleston Spring Clean

Old cans, plastic bottles and many empty Vodka bottles. Not to even mentioned a couple of tyres, part of a car dashboard and large sheets of plastic were picked up over the weekend of 23rd & 24th March as part of The Big Dodleston Spring Clean - the second year that we were running this successful event.

Many thanks to the following people who supported this fantastic cause: Peter Bullivant, Pete Troughton, Mike Maughan, Roger Taylor, Chris Ward, Nicola and Ewoud Bos, Jane Graham, Dave from the Wirral and Scamp, Pete, Georgina and their daughter.

We collected a staggering 21 bags of rubbish - well done to the Dodleston Spring Clean Team!



# 30 Year Hillsborough Commemorative CHARITY 5 a Side Competition in memory of Henry Rogers, one of the 96, and his brother Adam Rogers who passed away 6 months following the Hillsborough disaster.

On 15 April 1989 four young lads from Dodleston near Chester went to the Hillsborough football stadium in Sheffield. Carl Willis, Phil Greenough and brothers Adam and Henry Rogers went to watch their beloved Liverpool FC play Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup semi-final. Only three of them returned home.

Henry was lost that day and 6 months later Adam, who suffered with diabetes and also suffering from the trauma of Hillsborough and the loss of his brother, died from insufficient insulin levels.

The lads had been part of an active 5 a Side team and, following the loss of Henry and Adam, Carl and Phil organised the "Henry Charles Rogers Memorial" 5 a side competition which ran for the following 10 years.

The same event was held on the 15th and 20th year anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster and the loss of Henry and Adam. In April 2019 Carl wants to commemorate the 30th year.

Carl is passionate that the memory of Henry and Adam is not forgotten and with the help

of Paul Buchanan and Mike Maughan from Dodleston Parish Council, he came up with the idea of "NEVER 4 GET", to create an event to commemorate the 30th year and to make sure that we "Never Forget" the boys and all of the 96 who died at Hillsborough.

On Saturday 13th April there will be a 24 team under 14 years old competition and a 8 team under elevens competition. On Sunday 14th April there will be a 16 team under 35s and a 16 team over 35s competition.

On both days there will be appearances by Liverpool FC legends, extensive food and drink offering, funfair, attractions and live music. Everyone is welcome to come along, even if you don't like football, to enjoy a great event in our village.

All profits from the event will be split between Zoe's Place Children's Hospice in Liverpool and the LFC Foundation.

[www.never4get.org.uk](http://www.never4get.org.uk)



**Zoë's Place**  
Baby Hospice



**Foundation**  
THE CLUB'S OFFICIAL CHARITY



## Never 4 Get

30yr Hillsborough commemorative  
5-a-side football tournament

**Under 14's - Saturday 13th April 9am**

**Under 35's & Seniors - Sunday 14th April 9am**

Dodleston Sports Field, Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NN

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All profits to:



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# DODLESTON YOUTH PLAYERS NOMINATED FOR AWARD.

Those who read last years DYP report in this magazine, will have seen just how complimentary Budge Grousel, the NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) rep was about our production of Robin Hood. That pleased us greatly but to our surprise and delight that production has been put forward as the nomination from our region to the North West Area Awards as the best pantomime for 2018. 11 of us will be attending the awards dinner in Manchester on 5th May where, whatever the outcome, we will be very proud to be representing Dodleston Youth Players. Watch this space for our next report!!!!

This year's panto Cinderella was also well received by our audiences (although the ugly sisters being mean to Cinderella did cause an early exit for a couple of little ones at the matinee!!) A vibrant bunch of youngsters, under direction of Joanne Robertson, brought energy and zest to the music.

Gordon Robertson and Mike Dix, fulfilled an ambition to play the ugly sisters together, and their natural on stage chemistry shone through their performance. Budge said they were 'Outrageous and over the top, in fact all the things the ugly sisters should be'



All the cast did a super job and it was great to have new people join the team, 7 youngsters, Gabby Phillips, Mike Jones and Glen Mulholland as well as Tim Preston and Will Grattan backstage.

For the previous 7 years Mary Brierley had been responsible for providing live music for the shows, but unfortunately she had to step down this year. The baton was taken up by

Richard Kitchin who, as well as creating a working clock for the ballroom, took on the huge task of finding and editing all the music. Those who were listening carefully will have also noticed his clever choice in music linking the scenes. A huge thanks from all the cast for this Richard.

Backstage this year was a logistical nightmare with some huge pieces of stage set; the coach, massage table, jacuzzi and dais to name but a few. Space is tight in the wings at the best of times so to cope as well as they did is a credit to the team. It was lovely to have this acknowledged by Budge in his speech on Saturday night, and his praise for the beautiful coach was well deserved, 'The coach was magnificent, as good as I have seen in many professional productions' (see photo)

Budge finished his report this year by saying the the evident family links in the cast 'Truly reflects the community spirit behind this group of Players. Long may they continue'

**Thank you to all who support us, and if you've never been to one of our pantos, put us in your diary for next year, 13-15 February.**



## DON'T FORGET TO GIVE ROB A HOOT ON YOUR HORN!

Over the years many of you driving up and down Lache Lane may have noticed the wonderful efforts of a local man suited and booted in a high visibility jacket selflessly collecting the numerous articles of litter discarded on this busy stretch of road.

Well we've managed to track him down to say a big thanks and hopefully provide a reminder to anyone reading not to throw their rubbish out of their car and maybe also get involved in litter picking within our community themselves.

The gentlemen in question is Rob Ninnes who lives not far away from Dodleston just off Lache Lane and works at Zest Bathrooms and Kitchens in Chester.

Rob explains how he got involved. "For many years I have been a regular cyclist, and whilst this slower way of travel is a great way to enjoy the countryside, you also get to see how much rubbish there is on the roadside."

As well as collecting the usual array of fast food packaging, cigarette litter, sweet wrappers and drinks cans, Rob who has been collecting litter on the stretch of road for 10 years, has also collected some interesting items. Rob continues, "almost all the trash is the usual stuff – plastic bottles, tin cans (Carling being the most common!), food wrappers and glass, but there have been some odd exceptions. For about a year I was finding full catheters, then there was a phase of cat food sachets, used nappies are a regular find, and some things are far too rude to mention! On Boxing Day I found most of a roast

turkey and veg – that was definitely a first!). It's very satisfying to see it cleaned up even though I know it will all be back again soon. It's great to get a hoot of encouragement if you are driving past – so keep hooting."

Within our community the Parish Council is keen to raise awareness on this issue and to promote initiatives to help the problem such as the Litter Picking Sessions which are being promoted by Parish Councillor, Welna Bowden.

Additionally, if anyone discovers an incident of fly tipping, which does seem to occur at regular intervals in some locations quite regularly, you can report this online with CWAC, by googling "CWAC report fly tipping." and filling in a simple form.

**So once again a big thanks to Rob, a reminder to everyone to keep hooting and also an invitation to follow Rob's lead and get involved in this good work yourself.**



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# Dodleston Pre-School

## Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!

**We are incredibly fortunate in having the use of a fantastic outdoor space at the Village Hall, and over the last 12 months we have concentrated on making it our (or rather the children's) own. It is a large area with a variety of surfaces which are perfect for a host of child led activities.**

We are very strong believers in the philosophy 'there is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing', and it is rare throughout the colder months that you will see a member of staff outside without wellies, waterproof trousers and a thick waterproof coat. The children too are dressed in similar garb that we provide in order that the outside can be explored and outdoor opportunities exploited without the restriction of cooler temperatures and wet and dirty clothes.

We encourage autonomy in the children and our free flow system means that the doors to the outside are open all day and in all weather conditions. The children make their own decisions as to where, when and for how long they would like to play and wellies and splash suits simply peel off as the children come in (and then, often go back on again within minutes!).

**So what about the mud?** Well, we embrace it! It offers so many learning opportunities and the children love the freedom that we give them to indulge in such unrestricted messy play. In recent months we have seen many types of play arise from access to mud.

This has included risky play in the form of a mud pit with slippery sides; such risky play



allows children to seek challenge, to overcome fear, to employ a deeper level of thinking and it instils confidence. The 'purple ladies' support this play by allowing the children to risk assess and by asking questions that encourage the children to think for themselves, make predictions and then test them out through open ended questions including "how safe does that feel?" and "what could you do to make it safer?".

We have experienced role play thanks to a donation of a mud kitchen and it has seen the making of several apple pies, soups and cups of tea, all made using a variety of utensils, a lot of mud and a generous helping of imagination. Each generously gifted child made delicacy has a story to tell and we can see the children develop their literacy skills as their stories unfold.

We love to watch as children have developed their physical abilities, not just in digging mud, raking it, scooping it, carrying it (and yes, at times throwing it) but in finer motor skills activities including painting and moulding into small shapes.

The children have found worms, so habitats have been discussed and made, worm family members have been considered and then



appropriate rehousing sought, we've discussed how we can keep them safe and whether or not they can swim (they can't, in case you were wondering...).

Sometimes mud has just been sat in, wallowed in, plastic cars and animals have been lost in it, footballs floated and wellies pulled off - the children have just enjoyed exploring the unique qualities of mixing soil and water. This combination of constituents however has also led to a number of scientific lines of enquiry - what happens if we add more water? Why is the mud less muddy today? What happens if we add sand? How can we squidge it through a sieve? How can we rescue the football without getting our feet muddy? All of these fascinations demonstrate an intriguing insight into the



beginnings of scientific research – through initial experimentation a question or hypothesis is formed, it is tested and results are evaluated and adjusted accordingly. From here lessons are learnt and summaries are carried to other areas of provision so that ideas become linked and we as teachers can see the amazing learning that has occurred. In this and many other ways, the children fill us with pride every single day.

**Now, how many for worm pie and a delicious cup of mud tea?**



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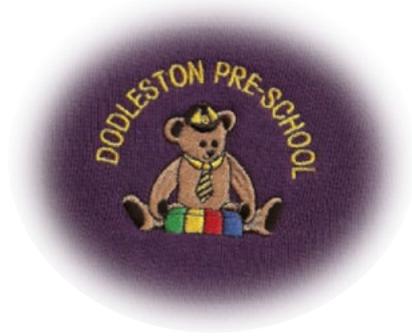
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**Email: [dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com](mailto:dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com)**

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## Pre-School Practitioner Vacancy – Dodleston Pre-School

Dodleston Pre-School is recruiting, we are looking for a qualified practitioner who shares our passion for a child led approach to learning.

We are a forward thinking, term time only setting that is able to offer two positions, one for 26 hours a week and one for 18 hours, over 4 days a week to a childcare professional who has experience or is who is keen to indulge an interest in planning in the moment, the curiosity approach, risky play and free flow learning.

Our doors to outside are open all day every day in all weathers, we are great believers in there being no such thing as bad weather just unsuitable clothing, so please be prepared to face the elements and embrace the marvellous muddy opportunities that they present.

If you're looking for a change- perhaps a reduction in planning time, a move to major focus on skill set learning through CoEL, to spending unlimited time outside, to really enjoying supporting children in their play through following individual interests there and then, please have a look at our Facebook page.

If you like what you see then get in touch and tell us what you can bring to our setting via email to Joanne Robertson, Chair, Dodleston Pre-School, Dodleston Village Hall, Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NN

For further information please contact Lyndsey McCallion, Pre-School Manager on 01244 661611.

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

The successful applicant must have a minimum NVQ Level 2 in early years education and a minimum of 1-year experience in early years. Please do not apply unless you have the required qualifications and experience. Please note this position is subject to an enhanced DBS check and registration on the update service. Previous applicants need not apply.

\*Full list of accepted qualifications can be provided on request

# Local News & Events



• Councillor Mark Williams generously donated £739 from his Ward Councillor's budget which has enabled the Parish Council to buy new steel goalposts and a new pitch line marker for the sports field.



• We also gratefully acknowledge the gift of a defibrillator for the Village Hall from Mrs Jennifer Griffiths – a long-time resident of the village. It was originally acquired for her husband who has sadly passed away. She has no further use for it, but it can help to save lives. The former England football manager, Glenn Hoddle, is in no doubt that he would not have survived a heart attack in a TV studio had a defibrillator not been handy (and someone who knew how to use it).

We now have three defibrillators in the village – in addition to the Hall, there is one outside the Post Office and one in the sports field pavilion. But could you use a defibrillator? We are looking to organise an instruction session in the coming week. Keep an eye on the window of Chapel Stores, and the Parish Council Notice Boards, when there is an announcement.

The pavilion defibrillator came from cash raised by one of our local runners, Claire Lockerbie. She has put fundraising on hold for the while but hasn't stopped running. She has entered

for numerous half-marathons where her target is a time below 1 hour 50 minutes. She will also be in the Chester marathon in October aiming to get below 4 hours 15 minutes.

• If you haven't heard already, 1,283 houses are to be built on the Wrexham Road (plus shops and a school). There are no plans to do anything about our already crowded roads. If you travel in and out of Chester from the west, be prepared for an even longer journey time.



## • **Dodleston Youth Summer Programme**

It's barely Spring and the Parish Council is already thinking about Summer!

As with every long Summer holiday, parents sometimes struggle to keep their children interested and occupied throughout August. The Parish Council is considering pulling together a few days of Summer activities for the children in the Parish, but thoughts are at an early stage - so we need your help!

We are keen to know whether you and your child (or children) would be interested in participating in some events that we might plan for Summer and if so, what type of events would you be keen for us to plan? What age group(s) should we focus on? Creativity or Sport events - what takes your fancy? Ideally the Parish Council would like to cover these costs, but would parents be willing to make a small financial contribution for a planned event?

Please email [welna.bowden@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:welna.bowden@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk) with your views and ideas.



### • **Our Local Bus Service**

Dodleston Parish Council is keen to survey the local community views about the local bus service and in particular, we would be keen to know whether the local service is fit for purpose and serve the needs of the community - young and older! We will design a survey similar to the Field Survey that we used last year and will publicise it via our Dodleston Facebook page and webpage as well as have printed copies available to collect from Dodleston shop - please keep an eye open for the survey which should be available as from 1 April.



### • **Chicken Sheds**

Their construction is under way. Giles Dodd and his sons have undertaken that there will be as little disruption as possible, for which we thank them in anticipation.



### • **Can you help?**

The Head Teacher and Governors of the Village School are planning to extend a covered area in the playground which will provide more shelter when the weather is bad and enable more lessons to take place outside. They have received a quote for an enormous amount of money for the project to be completed professionally. Have you got the skills to help other parents and governors to do it? If so, and to find out more, please contact Mrs Boyes at [head@dodleston.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@dodleston.cheshire.sch.uk)

• **Finally, can anybody give some time to help children with their reading at the village school?** Your Editor has volunteered and you can do so too by emailing the Head Teacher on [head@dodleston.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@dodleston.cheshire.sch.uk) Mrs Boyes would also like to hear from anybody who is interested in becoming a midday assistant.



### • **Dates for your Diary**

April 13th and 14th - Never4get, Sports field;  
July 6th - Village Fete, Sports field

# Local News & Events



## DODLESTON SUMMER FESTIVAL RETURNS THIS YEAR

We pleased to confirm Dodleston Parish Council are hosting the return of Dodleston Summer Festival this year on Saturday July 6th on Dodleston Sports Field.

Fortunately, we have engaged the help of local lads, Michael Green and John Nicholls who did a great job two years ago organising the last festival and initial meetings and plans suggest this year should be bigger and better.

As well as the usual mix of stalls and events being held by all our numerous local groups, new events from last time such as the Dog Show will also be included, as well as a bigger and better offering of food, drink and attractions, hopefully including the return of the Birds of Prey Show, a new event involving archery and a slightly later finish which will allow for some live music.

We are also interested in hearing from local groups or individuals who feel they can offer something before, during or after the event. If you are interested in hosting a stall or an attraction, please feel free to contact Michael at michael.p.green@baml or John at j\_a\_nicholls@hotmail.com.

We also need volunteers to act as marshalls on the day and to help with the clear up the day after. If you are interested, please contact Councillor Paul Buchanan at paul.buchanan@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk.

**All we need to do now is pray for good weather!**

## Animal Thefts in Rural Communities

**You may or may not know that night-time thieves stole 142 sheep from Meadow House Farm on Dodleston / Pulford Lane at the end of January. Police suspect the sheep were loaded on to a wagon alongside the Wrexham-Chester bypass. The raid was one of the region's biggest rustling incidents of recent years and they suspect it was very well organised with experienced dogs working at night time and they would have had to undertake "recces" of the area in preparation.**

Most of the stolen sheep belonged to a Denbighshire farmer, but 22 in-lamb ewes, were owned by 15-year-old Jack Sinnott, Brian Edges grandson. He was left with just a single Jacob cross ewe and was so distraught he needed coaxing to go back to school. Jack had saved up his money to buy 6 ewes and had built up the flock over the past two years.

After other farmers saw news reports about the thefts they gave Jack a total of 10 black Welsh mountain ewes.

Jack said: "I've seen the good and bad this last week - by people taking things and then other people being really generous and letting me have new sheep to help me. It makes me feel really happy and I'm just glad there are nice people out there who are willing to help."



*Brian Edge with grandson Jack Sinnott and John Lightfoot  
(Image: Ian Cooper/Daily Post Wales)*

An awful thing to happen, and especially so local, please always keep a look out for anyone acting suspiciously and report it to the police. However, as Jack said it's nice to know that there are nice people out there who are willing to help



## DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL

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**Please contact: Lynn Mayo**

**01244 660124**

**lynn.mayo@tiscali.co.uk**

**or Robin Ward 01244**

**660699**



### FORTH-COMING EVENTS FOR 2019

W.I./DVF - Autumn Show - Sunday 15th September - all day until 5pm

DVF - Comedy Night - Saturday 5th October - from 7.30pm (always well-attended and a very successful event) - Tickets available from Robin Ward (01244 660699)

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Dodleston Village Foundation (DVF), please contact Richard Lloyd on 01244 660747 for further details. Thank You.

## 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.



# Dodleston & District Parish Council



## Dodleston Cricket Club

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, but still just managed to dodge promotion – again!**

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 16th April – weather permitting, and we plan to have nets practice every Tuesday evening starting at 630pm through the season. We are starting nets a little later this year to fit in with the Never4get football tournament. If anyone – boys/girls/young/old - would like to join or just 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 630pm as in recent years, with our away games on Tuesdays. Our first game of the season will be on the on 8th May at home against Frodsham and the last league game of the season will be around

6th 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 it's not 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.**

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# Dodleston & District Parish Council Officers

Clerk to the Parish Council: **Kate Lloyd** Tel: **07872927050** email: **katepcdodleston@gmail.com**

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Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Buchanan  
Tel: 07710 900833  
email: paul.buchanan@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mike Dix  
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Cllr Chris Ward  
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Cllr Roger Taylor  
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Cllr Rachel Jones  
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email: rachel.jones@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mike Hall  
Tel: 07704 320699  
email: mike.hall@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



**Never 4 Get** 30yr Hillsborough commemorative 5-a-side football tournament

Under 14's - Saturday 13th April 9am  
Under 35's & Seniors - Sunday 14th April 9am

Dodleston Sports Field, Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NN

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