

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 42 Spring / March 2022



in this issue...

- Help for Ukraine
- Village Hall and Jubilee Celebrations
- A live Performance

Welcome all...



Roger Taylor - Editor

During my time as editor, I've learned just how generously people give of their time, effort and creativity to help the community. The unfolding tragedy in Ukraine has stirred people into action. The Church bells were rung. Sam has stepped up to enable cash donations to be made at the Post Office. Read about the experience of one of us in helping to collect, sort and deliver goods to refugee centres in Poland and other neighbouring countries.

This magazine and all of the local organisations would not exist without the selfless devotion of literally dozens of people. You should find the PTFA article particularly interesting – just how many initiatives have taken place and what has happened to the money raised.

Sadly, this is my swan song. I've resigned as a Parish Councillor and as editor. I'll still be there for litter picks, speed gun duty, food banks etc. I must thank all the contributors who have coped with being nagged (and occasionally overlooked) for so many issues. I will, of course, provide every help possible to my successor as editor and they have my best wishes.



Dodleston 2021 - was it a wet year or a dry one?

As always, it was a bit of a mixture! We had some very dry months, especially in April and June, when we only had 19mm of rainfall. Dodleston gardeners might remember many dry days in the Spring and early Summer, when our seedlings needed extra water. I'd set up a water butt next to my greenhouse in 2020 and I'd hoped never to have to use a hosepipe again, but my butt ran dry, so I've now installed another.

We had some spectacularly wet months as well - in January we had 153mm and in May we had 137mm. The total for the year was 791mm, making Dodleston much drier than parts of the Lake District that have over 2000mm, but a fair bit wetter than parts of Cambridgeshire where they only have 500mm.

Our wettest day last year was on 20 January 2021 when 46.4 mm of rain came down in Dodleston within 24 hours - more than fell in the whole of the two months of April and June. The roads were flooded all around us; at Rough Hill the water was about 4 inches deep and at Balderton it

was about 6 inches deep. Lower Kinnerton was impassable at about 18 inches deep and at least one vehicle broke down in a vain attempt to get through.

Global warming is likely to lead to more extremes of weather. We can make a difference by our own personal choices, saving energy, recycling and reducing waste. Although it's not much individually, if everyone joins in, we can **act together to try and limit the adverse effects of climate change in future.**

Liz Shanklin

Local News

Well, we have come into the New Year all full of hope and joy at the prospect of spring and an end to Covid and as the last 2 years have told us, you never know what is around the corner.

Cash & Card donations can be made through the Post Office to the DEC, Disasters Emergency Committee to support Ukraine.

The year is flying along as we all wish for the warmer weather of spring, the clocks spring forward on the 27th of March, which is also Mother's Day, somebody somewhere got that wrong as there is an hour less for a lie in and opportunities for breakfast in bed.....

We are constantly evolving, restocking favourite products, Cheshire Farm Ice Cream, Authentic Thai Cuisine and, looking for new favourites too in all our ranges.

You only have to ask if there is something that you would like us to stock, and we will endeavour to have it on our shelves for you as soon as possible.

We have become known for our extensive card range, and our Fancey by Nature cards also have some new designs.

Easter Weekend is in the middle of April this year. Easter eggs are already available. Cadbury's crème eggs have been here since December...

We will have lots of Easter cards, Hot Cross Buns, eggs both chocolate & chicken!

Our Easter opening hours are:

- **Good Friday 16th April 8am till 6.00pm.**
- **Easter Saturday 17th April normal opening 7am till 7.30pm**
- **Easter Sunday and Monday 18th and 19th April 8am till 6pm**

As always, please support your village shop and Post Office, and a lot of you do, for which we are grateful.

Best Wishes from Samantha, Lloyd Jan Kelly Julie & Paul xxxxx



HELP FOR UKRAINE

A massive drive is taking place at Dandy's Farm, Sealand. With the refugee numbers climbing remorselessly help is desperately needed. Poland has received the biggest numbers, but all neighbouring countries are being flooded – except, of course, Russia and Belarus!

Damian watched the heart-rending news pictures of the plight of the Ukrainian people. He was particularly moved by seeing one very old lady fall into the snow whilst trying to flee from her home as the Russians shelled and moved closer.

When he turned up to help, it seemed chaotic with goods scattered everywhere. He was busy unpacking donations when he was asked to help with bringing another consignment from Wrexham. Steadily, organisation replaced chaos. The range of donations was huge – particularly toys, nappies, sanitary and personal care items, clothing, blankets. These people cannot help themselves and we need to address their every need.

As goods were sorted, boxed and secured, they were moved to another warehouse for onward despatch. A fleet of lorries (literally) will then deliver the donations to the refugee centres in the various countries. Damian is pictured with a Polish lorry driver who has sacrificed his own interests to come here and return with much-needed goods the warmly welcomed guests to Poland.

Cash donations can be made via the Post Office – where would we be without Lloyd and Sam? Goods can be delivered direct to Dandy's Farm. Come on everybody – let's give!

IF SANTA HAD CAUGHT COVID...

None of the children in the world would have received their presents! Father Christmas had promised to visit Dodleston on December 18th. Laura, his quick-thinking elf, decided that it was too risky, so he woke early from his January sleep to visit the Village Hall on January 22nd.

Cheshire Mama Club hosted these later than planned Christmas events for local babies and toddlers and would like to thank Rhythm Time Chester and Diddi Dance Wrexham for the entertainment and local residents Roger Taylor and Helen Longmuir for their help.

Three local women including Laura Ward from Dodleston have joined forces to bring together new mums and Cheshire-based businesses at positive and inspiring events across the county. Cheshire Mama Club launched in summer 2021 at The Townhouse in Chester and has since connected hundreds of new mums and numerous local businesses.

Cheshire residents and teachers, Helen Jones, Laura Ward and Sarah Taylor all had their first children in 2019 and felt there was a real need for events where mums could socialise while their little ones were entertained.

“The three of us were looking to create beneficial opportunities for mums and their young children,” explains Helen. “We were all new to motherhood and felt there



was a huge gap in the market for events where mums and their babies could chat and truly connect in a non-judgemental, supportive environment.”

The trio set up Cheshire Mama Club in 2020 with a strong vision to support new mums and their little ones as well as small businesses and local venues.

“We know how difficult it is to meet people (and have a decent conversation) when you’ve just had a baby and we wanted to host fun events which would enable women to meet other new mums, build a supportive network, enjoy some much-needed me time and regain their confidence and all whilst having their little ones entertained” says Sarah.

Cheshire Mama Club offers a range of different events from mum-only nights out to mum and mini brunches, afternoon teas and parties. At each event, local businesses are given an opportunity to showcase their products and services, there is multi-sensory entertainment for the babies and toddlers, delicious food and drink for the adults, and no one leaves empty-handed – there’s a goody bag for every



mum, stuffed full of treats from local suppliers.

Helen, Laura and Sarah also make sure that there’s a photographer on hand at every event: “As mums we all know how difficult it is to get good photos with our little ones, and invariably we’re the ones manning the camera,” says Laura, “so we always book a family or baby photographer who’s used to working with children, to capture the best bits of the day. That way our attendees get some lovely photos with their children, and a wonderful memento of the day.”

“Looking back on the last six months, we’re so proud of what we’ve achieved. It’s not been easy for anyone who’s had a baby during the pandemic, but we’re thrilled that we’ve been able to connect so many new mums and introduce them to lots of brilliant local businesses. It’s been wonderful watching new friendships blossom and seeing mums kick back and enjoy



themselves without worrying that their little ones are bored or being noisy. We’re looking forward to meeting more new mums throughout 2022 and have some lovely events planned for the next few months.”

They will be hosting a Mother’s Day event on the 19th March at the Ring O’ Bells in Christleton and an Easter event on the 10th April at The White Horse in Chester. For more information or to book a place please visit

www.cheshiremamaclub.co.uk
Or follow them on Instagram or Facebook @cheshiremamaclub

DODLESTON TO CELEBRATE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE – SAVE THE DATES!

Dodleston Parish Council are pleased to confirm we will be holding events over the weekend of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee for our community to join together and celebrate this unprecedented event together on Dodleston Sports Field.

Details have not been finalised at the time of writing, but the intention is to celebrate on **Friday 2nd June** and **Saturday 3rd June** with a combination of events to include many of our community groups, Dodleston School, food offerings, and Dodleston Parish Council’s infamous Dead Lion Bar including live music on both days.

We are also looking into the possibility of joining the nationwide Queen Jubilee Beacon Tribute.

Keep an eye out for more details nearer the time and keep those days free!

“Wheels” of Fortune

The hamlet of Balderton within the Parish of Dodleston played an important role in the development of the dairy industry in the locality as the 1st Duke of Westminster Hugh Lupus instigated the building of a cheese factory close to the railway station and sidings.

The Chester and Shrewsbury Railway (later to become the Great Western Railway) was opened on 4 November 1846 with a railway passenger station being constructed at Balderton at the beginning of the twentieth century.

By 1896 a 15 inch (38cm) gauge railway had been built to connect the Balderton sidings to the Eaton Estate, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Westminster. Although it's 3 miles between Balderton and Eaton Hall, the line laid was four and a half miles in length as it took in the estate brickyard and other points including the estates electricity generating station and gas works.

Extensive sidings were constructed at Balderton adjacent to the railway main line enabling the transfer of timber, coal, building materials and other items to the Eaton Estate. At a later stage, once the station was in place passengers destined for Eaton Hall included Royalty, Prime Ministers etc. They could alight at the station and be transported in specially constructed carriages on the narrow-gauge railway.



It is suggested that for many visitors, this was the highlight of the visit!

Conversely, milk in 12-gallon churns could be carried on the wagons of the narrow gauge railway from Eaton Estate farms and taken to the cheese factory for processing.

It was a shrewd move by the 1st Duke of Westminster to commission the construction of a cheese factory close to the Balderton railway sidings. The well-known Cheshire Arts and

Crafts architect John Douglas was given the task of designing the building in 1874 – 5 and thereafter, once production of cheese began, local farms were able to benefit financially from the sale of milk to be processed. Churns of milk would be left on stands outside the farm entrance for daily collection, either by cart or later by lorry. This practice ceased in 1979 when the churns were replaced by tankers holding about 19,000 litres. That's about equal to 350 x 12 gallon churns!!

As most of the farms in the area were owned by the Duke's Estate, it was obviously in his interest to ensure they paid their way.

Hitherto, milk didn't have any great value as it could only be used locally for domestic consumption. The main value being in cereal crops and vegetables, but the development of the railway network and cheese factory put a different perspective on the business of farming.

The cheese (Cheshire?) produced at Balderton could easily be transported to most regions of the northwest of England by railway from the Balderton sidings and hence became a very marketable commodity. Cheese Wheels or Truckles (Latin 'trochlea' for wheel or pulley) would be made, and records show that around 12,000 tons of Cheshire cheese was produced in 1870 and no doubt Balderton played a small but significant part in that supply.

Interestingly, Cheshire has a very long association with cheese going back to Roman



days. In 1758 the Royal Navy ordered that all its ships should be stocked with Cheshire and Gloucester cheese.

Balderton cheese factory ceased production in the 1970s and the building was subsequently converted into a desirable private Grade II listed dwelling now known as Balderton House.

The aerial photographs show the cheese factory when operational and its subsequent conversion to a private house. The black and white photograph is of the building soon after it closed.

Finally, as a matter of interest, the narrow-gauge railway was dismantled in 1947 and sold to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway in Kent. The original steam locomotives "Katie" and "Ursula" were cut up for scrap in 1942 to aid the war effort. However, they have been re-incarnated as diesel engines and can usually be seen on Open Days at Eaton Hall gardens.

Bernard Dennis MBE
Chairman
Dodleston Local History Group

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year, we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Cheshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cheshire has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cheshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Festivals and Celebrations

You may have seen our Christmas tree in the hall, it is always decorated by the children with little input from the adults. This year was no different, with baubles clustered at child height, tinsel and lights swinging and the tree itself at a jaunty angle it was quite a sight to behold. The children loved decorating it but once it was done, it was barely looked at again. When we returned in January, the tree was there waiting for us, still dressed in all its finery, and something fascinating happened – using their experiences from home over the Christmas period, the children began to role play! They wrapped gifts, put them under the tree and talked about the gifts that they had received at home.

It really brought home to us how young the children are, with few memories to draw on and we began to wonder whether they need to have authentic experiences at home, in which they are fully involved and engaged before they really begin to appreciate the meaning of these special times.



Painting

With this in mind, last week saw pancake day and St David's Day fall at the same time. We made some pancakes, and the children had a turn at flipping them and then ate them with fruit for snack. The part that really caught our interest however was the addition of a bunch of daffodils into our continuous provision. Some of our children live in the border villages, and we wanted to mark the day for those who showed an interest but also wanted to make it age and development appropriate, so a talk about St David just wasn't going to cut it – especially given our observations with the Christmas tree.



Paints

One of the ladies suggested daffodils and duly brought them in and placed them in a jar on the painting table. We chose not to put out just green and yellow paint, as there really should be no limit on imagination, nor did we dictate that everyone would paint a daffodil on this day. The flowers were just placed, with assorted colours of paint and paper and then we stood back and watched.



Painting Hands

One of the children painted a yellow picture, another chose many colours, one chose to paint his hands and wrists yellow, and another carefully painted on a daffodil itself.

A 4-year-old asked if she could take the flowers away, we agreed that it would be fair to leave some on the table for the painters and take some away. This child gave half of her share to a friend and with a mutual idea, they took them to the home corner and carefully decorated the kitchen by arranging the flowers in pots and glasses as they had presumably seen happen at home. A third child arrived, and the daffs were shared into the 3 pairs of hands before some unspoken language occurred and the children skipped and danced together whilst holding the daffodils. A little while later, the flowers that had been used on the painting table became mashed into their jar with a rolling pin and a potion was made. Following on, one of the children selected a daffodil and thoughtfully placed it in a friend's bag for him to take home.

There was a lot to consider here. We think it was a reminder that children don't all have the same interests, that they are unique, and come with their own experiences and culture that influence their ideas. Additionally, none of this brilliant play and learning would have occurred had we dictated that the children painted a yellow and green daffodil each, and that we could not possibly have planned for the events that followed. It also seems important to recognise that we don't all have to experience festivals and experiences in the same way to enjoy them, we can make our own traditions and our own stamps on the world if we are given freedom of choice.

We wonder now what the children will make of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee!



Home Corner



Daffodils

Dodleston Baby & Toddler Group



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

For more information contact Helen on 07951 880702 or just turn up! We are following the government and pre-school alliance Covid guidelines.

My goodness, where to begin updating you with school news since September and a return to 'normal' school!

Firstly, let me introduce you to new members of staff:

- **Mrs Lyndsey Westron** who is teaching class 2. Lyndsey has joined us from Witton Walk CE Primary School and has taken the post of Senior Teacher.
- **Miss Sophie Hartley** is teaching class 3. Sophie has had some experience working in our school before and has come back for more!
- **Mrs Gilfoyle** is an experienced bursar who has worked for many years in a school setting.

We are so fortunate to have such talented staff joining our team.

It is joyous to be able to sing again in school. The choir sang a range of Christmas carols and songs in the Red Lion beer garden which was a lovely community event. We also managed to visit Theatre Clwyd to see the Christmas panto and we invited parents into St. Mary's Church to join us in our Christmas Service.

More recently. . .

Class 3 have just got back to school after a wonderful residential in Anglesey. The weather was dry most of the time but so cold. However, this didn't dampen the enthusiasm nor the fun!

They also went Dragon racing, High rope climbing and Raft building and enjoyed walking a nightline in pitch darkness and Bushcraft activities including lighting fires and eating toasted marshmallows.

A great time was had by all!



Ready to go in our waterproofs



Canoeing



Scavenger Hunt



Toasting Marshmallows



Fundraising Dates for the Diary:

- **31st March:** Easter Event with Raffle and Stalls in the school yard.
- **15th May:** Sponsored Walk

What a fantastic fundraising year we have had so far. Since September we have raised: -

- Autumn Half Term Cake and Uniform Sale **£197**
- Christmas Fayre and Raffle **£1,364.59**
- Valentine Cake Sale **£107.50**
- Crazy Hair and Non-Uniform Day **£60**
- Match Funding from Bank of America **£729.48** & Lexon UK **£400**
- A donation of **£150** from Gorstella Gallery and **£20** in memory of Geoff Edge
- Amazon Smile **£12.68**
- Easy fundraising **£12.87**
- Preloved Uniform sales **£2.00**

Making a grand total of **£3,056.12**

Thanks to our collective efforts we have been able to give the school:

- **£164** for maths equipment
- **£685** for gym equipment
- **£408** for books
- **£570** for musical instruments
- **£1,000** towards transport costs to sporting events and school trips.

Total Spend to date is **£2,827**

Thank you to everyone who has baked, bought, volunteered and donated. Every penny really does count.

Whilst we have done well to raise what we have; we need to keep up the good work. Here are some suggestions as to how you and your family could help us raise even more much needed money for the school.

A really simple way assisting us to fundraise is to sign up to:



- **Download the App. Search for Dodleston C of E Primary school as your charitable cause**
- **Each time you shop, use the App and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to us.**
- **It really is as easy as that.**

You could also ask your employer if they are able to match fund one of our events.

What is match funding?

Match giving, or match funding, is a simple way to maximise the fundraising efforts. It is an informal, albeit corporate, arrangement between a company and an employee. Usually, a company pledges to match a sum of money relating to the amount the employee has either raised or donated to a charity. It is likely that there will be an upper limit and certain criteria applied, such as the recipient organisation being a registered charity. Some companies will pledge time and resources instead of money, enabling their employees to support a cause during their working week.

Please ask your employer if they are signed up to this scheme. We would love to hear back from you.

We always welcome new members. You don't need to have a child in school to join. If you think that you would like to join the team, please get in touch by emailing us at dodlestonptfa@gmail.com



Tracks, and Others Ways to Trace Our Mammals



Top: Stoat.
Bottom: Weasel

Grey Squirrel Drey

Our region supports a variety of mammals, some of which are seldom seen. After all, not all are as bold and audacious as the grey squirrel who comes to have its breakfast at your bird-feeder every morning.

For other mammal species your best chance to see them is perhaps through the use of a trail wildlife camera which is excellent to record particularly nocturnal species like hedgehog (which has been recorded in a number of folk's gardens using the wildlife camera which is free to use; see the Dodleston NatureWatch Facebook page) or unfortunately lying at the side of the road. This is often the commonest and perhaps only way many get to see a real badger, for example. Indeed, as I write, there is unfortunately an adult badger succumbed to a vehicle collision along Welsh Road west of Balderton.

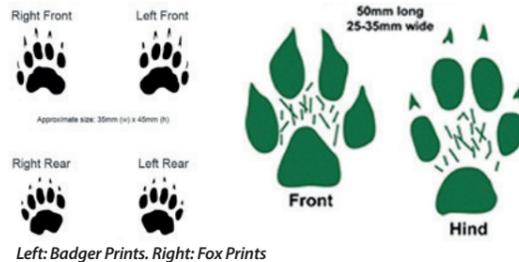
But although it may not always be possible to see mammals in the flesh, they do often leave tell-tale signs that they were there.

Several mammals live in burrows, from small holes used by voles and rats, up to large holes used by fox and badger. A fox 'den' can typically be distinguished from a badger 'sett' by dens being taller than they are wide, and setts the opposite, wider than they are tall, pretty much characteristic of the animals themselves(!) As well as the size and shape of the burrow, other cues in and around the hole can be used to determine what dug it. Badger setts often consist of a number of holes with large spoil heaps outside, but you may also come across a single burrow on its own called an outlier sett (which is used less frequently). Also look out for 'snuffle' holes where badgers have been foraging for worms and beetles, as well latrines (dark gloopy poo in a divot mark), well-worn dirt trails and black and white wiry hairs. Foxes on the other hand can be identified by

poo that is dog-like, pointy and often with fur evident within. Furthermore, fox prints have four forward facing toes while badgers have five toes, and a large, wide central pad.

If you see a large ball of twigs and dead leaves in a fork in a tree this is likely to be a squirrel drey. Magpies have a similar looking nest, but it typically has no dead leaves in it.

Along watercourses look out for signs of water vole. They live in burrows on the edge of the water. Other signs of water vole are thin 'tic tac'-esque dark droppings in small latrines, a pile of nibbled grass stalks where they've dined out and tunnels through bank-side vegetation. If you're lucky enough to have otter along watercourses their presence can often be determined by poo (called 'spraint') on exposed rocks in watercourses. You'll find that the poo often contains bones and other fish remains, and curiously many say it smells like jasmine tea. I'll let you decide! Otter is not to be mistaken for its smaller cousin, the American mink which was released into the UK countryside (both deliberately and otherwise) where it now causes havoc snacking on our water voles and waterbirds.



Left: Badger Prints. Right: Fox Prints

Other mammals in our region are brown hare as depicted by the splendid sculpture on the roundabout by Meadow Foods at Balderton. This leggy species doesn't live in burrows like it's sizeable-eared counterpart the rabbit, but instead hunkers down in shallow depressions called 'forms' in amongst vegetation, where the young leverets also hide from predators. Stouts and weasels can also be found on occasion. Stoats are the larger of the two, and if you do manage to see one, the giveaway it's a stoat is the black tip on the tail which the weasel does not have.

So, although not all the mammals in our region are as easy to spot than others (grey squirrels springs to mind!) If you're prepared to take a closer look (and inspecting poo does not repulse you too much!) you may be pleasantly surprised to discover the wide range of mammals we have around us.

Until next time, have a lovely spring-time.



It is great to see our woodland doing so well. Now in its 4th year the trees are thriving, in particular the Rowan and Dogwood. The Silver Birch, Wild Cherry and Oak are slower growing yet are looking very healthy.

Although not bearing fruit yet aside from the crab apples, we are also very happy with the health of the fruit trees in the orchard. We have recently pruned the apple and pear trees to encourage a strong structure and more bountiful crop going forward. We will feed and mulch them before the growing season really gets going.

We are particularly pleased with how the new wildflower area has turned out. After a lot of hard graft we had a very encouraging germination rate last summer. Having left the seed heads to encourage further natural sowing and vital winter food for birds, we are hoping for an even better display this year. We even managed to fashion a snake and a seat out of the turf that was removed.

We are very proud of our small patch of biodiversity that the Community has helped us develop. By planting trees and sowing wildflower seeds to attract pollinators, using organic techniques and treading lightly on the land, we are allowing a haven for birds, small mammals, insects and invertebrates to thrive.

In recent months we have spotted

- A Little Owl
- A pair of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers
- Pink Footed Geese
- A Kestrel
- A Redshank on the pond
- Meadow Pipits
- Lapwings
- The hole of a small mammal burrowing near one of the scrub piles

Last November we held one of our regular work sessions. There was a great turn out, so we got lots of important jobs done. The trees were tended to; grass was cleared from around the base, rabbit guards removed from the more established trees. We cleared away 8 bin bags of dock seed heads and weeded the willow circle and hedgerow. The wildlife hotel has been re-sited so that it is more sheltered between the willow circle and the hawthorn hedge. The willow circle has had its annual prune and is looking great. A big "Thank You" to all who attended.

We are thrilled that Dodleston Brownies and Guides continue to use the forest school area during their outdoor sessions. If you would like to get involved in any way with this Community project, please contact **Lou (07904 559944)** or **Andrew (07968 221496)**.

We welcome new woodlanders to join us. You do not need to have experience. Enthusiasm and a passion to make a difference is what counts.

Look out for posters around the Parish detailing future work sessions, or follow us on facebook at: **friendsofdodlestoncommunitywoodlandandorchard**

Our next work session will on **Sunday 8th May from 10am to 1pm**. We will be weeding, mulching, and drinking tea. Please join us. We would love to see new and old faces alike.

Bring your own tools and some refreshments.



Cast and Crew

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Dodleston Youth Players were delighted to be on stage once again this year and chose to perform Jack and the Beanstalk. It was great to be able to interact with a live audience with all the fun that generates on both sides. It was clear that they appreciated our return.

We had to jump through many Covid related hoops in both the staging and rehearsing of this panto, not to mention the backstage arrangements, but we got there in the end. Despite around 2/3 of the cast and crew having had Covid at some point in the rehearsal period we were lucky to have only one casualty. Unfortunately, Denise Ward tested positive just two days before the opening night so had to bow out. Credit goes to Karen Welsh who took over her part and learnt it in two days! Thank you and well done, Karen.

Enjoy looking at the photos taken at rehearsals and do read the review of the pantomime by Joanne Rymer. There are some lovely comments, which recognize the hard work which had gone into the show (and special thanks to the backstage crew for the solving of some logistical nightmares!). If you missed out this year, make a point of joining us in 2023 and if you've never been to a panto before, come and find out what it's all about.



Principals relaxing in their dressing room



Young cast watching dress rehearsal



Back Stage Crew Left to right Sion Lloyd, Roger Higginson, Craig Pollard, Tim Preston, Richard Kitchin, Richard Hulmston

DATE	16th February 2022
SOCIETY	Dodleston Youth Players
VENUE	Dodleston Village Hall
TYPE OF PRODUCTION	Pantomime
DIRECTOR	Sue Ramsey
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Mary Brierly
CHOREOGRAPHER	Joanne Robertson & Sue Ramsey
PRODUCER	Sue Ramsey
WRITTEN BY	Rob Fearn & Leo Appleton

Review by Joanne Rymer

There is always excitement on an opening night for any production, tonight at Dodleston Village hall was no exception. Proud parents, grandparents, families, excited young faces all gathered to support their siblings in this true community pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. What a wonderful welcome back to live performance this was, as a stage full of talented young people sang 'Oh What a Beautiful Morning' with great enthusiasm.

It's a fairly well-known fact that the Dame is the real star of a pantomime and the performance as Mother Betty Bitsnbobs from Gordon Robertson is further evidence to this. His attempt to make cheese to feed the starving people of Poverty was a constant theme throughout, it being a plastic bucket placed downstage right on the stage, which we were all told to shout out loud when anyone went near to it. His continued encouragement for audience participation was to be commended, especially when



Left to right - Sasha Bates, Lauren Preston & Ellen Barnett as the 3 Blind mice

experiencing opening night gremlins. A big thank you goes to Marion Murdoch, who was a very supportive Prompt. He introduced us to the villagers of Poverty played by Alex Robinson and Amber Mulholland, who are kept poor by Squire Root, played with gusto by stalwart Mike Dix, whose daughter Jill disappeared many years before. Everyone loves to Boo & Hiss the panto villain, the Dodleston audience needed little persuasion they really went for it every time he appeared. Great stuff

We are transported to Fairyland, where we meet Fairy, a larger than life character played magnificently by Glen Mulholland. His brief rendition of 'We'll Meet Again' was well delivered. Fairy tells the tale of the giant, the goose that lays golden eggs, and a stolen magical harp. Great stage presence, Glen. Enjoyed your performance

Mother Betty Bitsnbobs has two sons, Jack played by Joanne Robertson, and Simon played by Isabella Grattan, two talented actors, who fed off each other wonderfully. Jack sings 'Food Glorious Food' ably supported by the full chorus. Great performances here, well done.

The plot is a tad different to what you may remember, thanks to Rob Fearn & Leo Appleton's script being provided by NODA Pantomimes. Simon is a futuristic thinker frequently describing items yet to be invented!! A very clever and funny twist to this tale, as Simon produces an automatic chain saw to cut down the beanstalk: but that's jumping ahead. Isabella plays this part with humour and intelligence a talented young lady. Jack tells us all that his brother 'says very strange things

However there is no Jack and the Beanstalk without Daisy the cow, played beautifully by Ann McKeown and Steven Hughes. Mother Betty insists Daisy has to be sold so Jack and Simon take off for market. On the road Jack & Simon meet the Fairy, who purchases Daisy for a handful of beans. Mother Betty is unimpressed with her boys, throwing away the beans.

The following morning the village awakes to see a huge beanstalk



Construction crew at work

reaching high into the clouds; Jack proceeds to climb to reach the Giants Castle. The stage is once again home to the young people whose dance routine to 'Reach for the Star' was full of fun.

My compliments to the set design, scenery, lights and sound which were spot on, the scene changes were timely and seamless. What you do with what is a very restricted space is nothing short of miraculous. Well done Roger Higginson, Gordon Peterson, Richard Kitchin, Richard Hulmston, Lorraine Black and Lucy Marsh. Praise also for the costumes, Mother Betty, and Wife especially priceless, the dapper Squire Root and the wonderful Fairy. Marvellous work Elaine Porter & Margaret Lloyd.

On reaching the end of the beanstalk Jack discovers Jill has been kept caged at the Giants Castle all this time, he promises to return to save her. Jill ably played by Jen Barnett, sang 'I Had a Dream' beautifully, extremely well done.

Mother Betty, Simon and the full chorus with 'A Little bit of Luck' take us once again to the village square. I would like to mention the Musical Director Mary Brierley and the choreography of Sue Ramsey and Joanne Robertson, congratulations on a fine production. The song and dance routine Cheese was masterful, full marks to Mother Betty & Squire Root.

Jack returns to the Castle is captured by the Giants guards, On Guard, Gabrielle Phillips, and Right Guard Karen Welsh (who was standing in for Denise Ward) He encounters the three blind mice, Lauren Preston, Sasha Bates and Ellen Barnett: this is a comic masterpiece girls well done you were superb. I loved' He loves me/ she loves



Jennifer Barnett as Jill



Joanne Robertson and Isabella Grattan as brothers Jack and Simon



Dame and Squire. (Mike and Gordon)



Our Fab-u-lous fairy played by Glen Mulholland

you' sung with Jill. Stars in the making

The Giant, Richard Kitchin: who we never see bellows his instructions to his wife. This voiceover is live and is cleverly done also extremely funny, full marks Richard.

Wife, to me was outstanding. Karen Woodworth take a bow, hilarious, feisty performance, cheeky reference to Tinder... 'The Boy Does Nothing' superbly delivered the performance of the night for me. Loved it

Now as you know it is compulsory that pantomimes have a happy ending. Jack helped by Right Guard & On Guard releases Jill; they all get safely down the beanstalk with the goose and the magic harp. Daisy is back at home. Squire Root has his daughter home; Jack & Jill are in love. Will the Squire marry Mother Betty? Oh, I nearly forgot Simon gets his automatic chainsaw and chops down the beanstalk. Priceless

Thank you, Dodleston Youth Theatre, for a wonderful opening night's entertainment, you are a unique community driven society. Long may it continue.

Joanne Rymer
NODA
District 4



Dodleston Parish Litter Picking supporting the Great British Spring Clean

Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton, Gorstella and Balderton will for the fifth year in a row take part in the Great British Spring Clean which will run on the weekend of 2 and 3 April.

Please look out for the notices via our social media channels and village notice boards for details of your local picks and join us for the #onebagbigdifference campaign. In 2019 we had twenty five volunteers taking part in separate group across the Parish. In 2022, we hope we will have adults and children helping to clean up the streets and environment.

- **Lower Kinnerton – Meet in Moor Lane 10am Saturday 2nd April 2022**
- **Dodleston – Meet at the church car park 2:30pm Sunday 3rd April 2022**

The Parish Council has bought litter picking equipment including Hi Vis vests which could be borrowed should volunteers want to do some litter picking outside of these dates.

Please get in touch with Cllr Welna Bowden, Tel 07717574185 to pledge your support



In January Dodleston & District WI started 2022 with a fun hoola hooping session by Sasha Kenny of Hoola Nation. Sasha taught us some simple moves as well as telling us about her experience of running a marathon whilst hoola hooping nonstop in order to break a world record, impressive skills!

In February we had an interesting talk by Debbie from Just Footprints a plastic free shop in Chester. We also made some toilet fizzers from the raw ingredients!

We have a great programme of events coming up from paper craft, a royal garden party, Nordic walking and more.

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

DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



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

We had a steady season last year and we will again be playing our matches this year in the 4th division of the Chester 2020 midweek league.

The first job for this season as ever will be to put the nets back up on 26th March and to get the old bowling and batting muscles going. We are planning to start outdoor nets on the playing field on Tuesday 5th 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 (juniors and adult sizes) so just come and have a go.

We will be playing our home games as usual 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 4th May – as we go to press the fixtures haven't been announced, and the last league game of the season will be around 5th 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 and on our Facebook page that we are currently refreshing.

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 a couple of other local teams so plenty of cricket planned this year - weather and other events permitting!

We are always looking for new players to join so if you are interested or just fancy having a go please come along to one of our nets sessions. If you don't fancy playing and just want to get involved with the club, please contact **Jeremy Parker - 01244 661526.**



St Mary's Church, Dodleston

One thing the whole world needs is to find a way of tackling unbridled power; whether of individuals or nations. Here I can do no other than point us to the crucifixion of Jesus. God found a way of showing us what our reaction to unbridled power must be; horror at its naked greed and utter disdain for its fear and killing and destruction of all that opposes it.

We have this not as a historical scenario but as one being lived out before our eyes. Lent is not so much about making ourselves more holy or spiritual it is about being ready to make small sacrifices to teach ourselves and for God to gently show us so that we learn that we do not or ought not to hold power over others- this is what it means to look at Jesus.

How will it help if I give up whatever I am giving up - how will that help the international situation. Well it won't immediately but if each of us were prepared to give up some of the territory we stake as part our own lives perhaps there would be a collective learning of what it means to give up the power that things have over us and give ourselves up to humility. The condition of being unwilling to allow pride and power the upper hand in our lives. Jesus the Son of God sacrificed his power and the exercising of it when they arrested and flogged him and tried him and then fastened him with nails on the cross... he said " Father forgive them for they know not what they do"

Absolute power will always seek to destroy - Jesus gave himself up as helpless; like those who have no power no matter who they are. We could be pressed to that point. Lent may take us a baby step nearer to that readiness... to give ourselves into his hands... hands with nail holes.

Easter is about life. Not just pretty flowers and blossoms. It is about the power of God over life and death. Jesus died and was buried, and he was raised by God on the 3rd day. This is our Creed. His is the power not ours.

It became the day we now know as Easter Sunday. Each Sunday in Lent is always a feast

Dear Friends

Writing my sermon for this Ash Wednesday, the gateway to Lent, reminded me this Lent is a very sombre one just like the last two. It feels like we have turned the corner in a long Covid tunnel only to find ourselves embroiled in a situation when international condemnation of a unilateral power's arrogant and violent incursions on a neighbouring country leave us very exposed to a changing balance of power in Europe.

Whenever we in the church look into a new season of Lent we look ahead towards Good Friday; it never does any harm to remind ourselves that the political scene in Judea was that of an oppressed and conquered nation. The Roman Empire was getting to the height of its powers; Britain was in its sights; they have failed once to grab it - a bare ten years it took them after the events in Judea to land in Britain. How depressingly repetitive seem the rising and falling of Empires and the absolute power that seeks to gobble all in its range as power unbridled always will. So, what is Lent about to reveal to us?

I wonder if we will find it easier to give things up this Lent as we have given up so much during this pandemic. Or is there a sense that, no I have given up too much already.

day because the Resurrection sets the tone for Sundays so enjoy that refreshment. No need to be gloomy on that day or any Sunday! All Sundays celebrate the Risen life of Jesus

With apologies to many people who will have found the paths in the churchyard difficult to get around. During the wettest part (so far) of the winter the number of burials left part of it terribly muddy. Now as we seek to get back to normal the PCC are examining ways in which the paths may be made safe and accessible for all users. Whether wheelchair or walking aids mechanical diggers the funeral trolleys or just on foot. It is going to be a big ask and we would like to ask the village to support this - as it is for us all now and on into the future. We have a super front path and it is let down by the paths through the churchyard. Gravel is not suitable for wheelchairs or trolleys and soon beds in - we need a long term and appropriate path in keeping with the Conservation area.

This continues the theme of our wishing to be accessible in our church building in worship and general life of the church.

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

1st Sunday of the month:
11.00am Morning Worship

Sundays following:
11.00am Holy Communion

1st Wednesday of the month.
10.30am – 12noon
Coffee Morning

We hope to resume coffee mornings in the near future

2nd Monday of the month
10.00am-12noon
Crafty Creations

Please come along to St Mary's if you would like to know more about the exciting projects we are working on.

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

Events at St Mary's Church

Sunday 27th March	Mothering Sunday 11.00am Family Service
Thursday 14th April	Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Holy Communion
Friday 15th April	Good Friday 2-3.00pm An Hour at the Cross
Sunday 17th April	Easter Day 11.00am Holy Communion Join in the Easter egg hunt!
Sunday 24th April	The Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council at All Saints, Higher Kinnerton 10.00am. No Service at St Mary's on that day.

Advance Notice:
St Mary's Craft Group will be holding their annual Art and Craft Event on Saturday 19th November.

EXCITING NEWS ABOUT DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL

Dodleston Parish Council (DPC) are pleased to confirm that we have embarked on a joint project with the Dodleston Village Foundation (DVF), who own our village hall, to re-model and possibly extend our existing village hall to provide a more suitable facility for the changing needs of our community.

As part of this project, we have spent some time with DVF visiting other village halls across Cheshire with a view as to whether we should look to re-locate the village hall on the Parish Sports Field, but the group came to the conclusion that the best option was to invest in the existing hall.

Key to this is the large use that Dodleston Pre-School currently have on our village hall which restricts the use of the hall to other user groups from within our community, and the ability for external organisations to hire the hall. Also, given the restrictions of the current layout of the hall and the requirement to free up space for other users when they vacate each day, Pre-School had already asked for help from the Parish Council in providing a new facility.

We are pleased to confirm we are now working with Dodleston Pre-School for Dodleston Parish Council to provide a newly built exclusive facility on the Parish Sports Field for Pre-School.

The re-modelling of Dodleston Village Hall will be based on the results of an extensive questionnaire which was sent to all the current user groups last year, and the intention is to seek to include the following:

- A village hub area which can be used during the day as a meeting place for members of the community to meet up for coffee, a chat, etc. This would be non-licensed.
- New toilets
- New kitchen
- Better meeting rooms
- New heating and ventilation system
- A larger main hall which can be sub-divided to accommodate different users at the same time but can also accommodate functions more effectively.

We are now drawing up initial plans to share with the community and hope to be able to present these in the next few months.

DVF March 2022

Dodleston Village Foundation Recreation Field

It was noticeable in 2021 that the grass cutting at the Recreation Field through the summer months was not as regular as it should have been. We apologise if this affected you and confirm that we are taking steps to make sure it is much better in the future.



With the present play equipment at the Recreation Field now over 20 years old the DVF committee are planning a programme for replacing the equipment over the next few years and will keep you updated of these changes.

Dodleston Village Foundation Events planned for 2022 include:

Easter Bingo Friday 1st April

Doors open at 6.00pm and 'eyes down' at 6.30pm - at last we are back in the Village Hall winning chocolate Easter eggs and having fun.



Autumn Show Sunday 11th September – Watch out for further information about prize classes



Comedy Night Saturday 8th October

When **Tony Vino** returns as MC



And brings these talented comedians

Steve Harris - Whatever age or walk of life you're from Steve has something for you, guaranteed to have you breathless with laughter, a master of the obvious and a Ninja of the not so obvious, you'll be hit so hard by a punch line you won't know where it's come from.



His most obvious asset is his ability to get any audience on his side. A well-crafted act and a will and confidence to survive outside of it is what sets Steve aside from many of his peers. With most comedians you might get laughs with Steve you get a guarantee.

Daliso Chaponda - As seen and heard on The Royal Variety Performance 2020 (ITV), Britain's Got Talent 2017 (ITV), Britain's Got Talent Champions 2019 (ITV), OI (BBC2), The Apprentice: You're Fired (BBC2), Good Evening Britain (ITV), The News Quiz (BBC Radio 4), and The Now Show (BBC Radio 4).

Daliso Chaponda shot to fame on Britain's Got Talent, making it to the final of the 2017 series and establishing himself a firm favourite with the judges and the British public. He became a Facebook and YouTube star amassing over 200 million views of his performances.



Tickets will be on sale nearer the time but they sell out fast so be ready and note the date for a great night out in Dodleston.

DVF 100 Club – Join Now!



The DVF 100 Club continues to pay out monthly prizes whilst making a useful contribution to support

the cost of running the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground on behalf of the Village. In 2021 the big £100 prizes went to Jon Talbot in July (pictured) and Jane Williams in December. Monthly prizes are otherwise typically around £20 with this depending on the number of members. There are at present around 30 numbers available and we want to invite more supporters to get involved. You can contact the coordinator Stephen Bowden direct on 660499 or look out for a flyer that will come through most Dodleston letterboxes in April. Maybe one of them could be your lucky number but if not you can reflect on your true support for these very worthwhile and well appreciated local facilities.

DODLESTON VILLAGE FOUNDATION 100 CLUB

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

WHICH ONE IS GOING TO BE YOUR LUCKY NUMBER?
MONTHLY PRIZES WITH A PRIZE POT OF £25 (WINNERS AT DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL) AND £100 ONCE A YEAR
 £5 PER MONTH HALF IN THE PRIZE POT HALF SUPPORTS THE WORK OF DVF



Sad Departures.

We have asked you to make us aware of events in the Parish. We sadly announce the passing of:

Tommy Duffy.

Sadly, Tommy who lived on Penfold Way passed away on 20 February at his home aged 68.

Tommy lived in Dodleston from age of 3 and was a well-known face around Dodleston, always having a smile and a greeting for everyone he met, as was shown at his funeral at Chester Crematorium by the many Dodleston residents past and present who attended.

The best way to describe Tommy is from the simple sentence from the Funeral Order of Service:

"He never bad mouthed people and was a gentle soul"

Rest in Peace Tommy



Food Bank News

THANK YOU to all our regular and new food bank contributors. Every donation counts, whether that is one tin or a bag full.

In 2021, we donated 656,77kg of food and supported 51 people through your amazing generosity.

Food, Sanitary products and pet donations that will be particularly welcome are:

- Milk UHT • Juice UHT • Tinned Veg/ Potatoes • Coffee 100g • Biscuits • Tinned custard/ fruit
- Pasta Sauces/ Curry sauces • Jams • Cuppa Soup (for those cold days) • Instant Mash
- Toilet Rolls • Toiletries • Pet Food • Sanitary products

Please note that we are not able to accept any fresh food donations

Donate an Easter Egg campaign

Last Easter, we took part in an Easter egg collection, with all donations going to the Food Bank. The eggs were given to the children of families who use the Food Bank and would have otherwise gone without a treat.

This year we would like to beat our record donation to the Food Bank from 2021 which was a whopping 55 Easter eggs. If you are able to donate either food or Easter Eggs, please drop them off in the Red Box by the blue front door at 12 Egerton Walk. The Red Box is always available – 24/7.

*If anyone would like to join us at a future drop off at the Food Bank, please get in touch via welnabowdendpc@gmail.com. We can sort a suitable date and introduce you to the process.



Directory of Local Activities in the Parish

You have joined a thriving community where dozens of people give their time voluntarily to provide active opportunities for all.

The Village Hall is used for meetings, pre-school education, lectures and classes, and other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation. Although the hall is in use throughout most of the week, it is available for hire for private functions, including children's parties, wedding receptions, funeral teas, and village social functions.

Contact: Vicki Rahill 07963 500607
vickirahill@gmail.com

Dodleston Youth Players

Friendly group of adults and youngsters whose main production is the annual pantomime in February. Great team spirit and lots of laughs. Come join us. Contact us via email dodlestonyouthplayers@gmail.com

Dodleston & District Women's Institute

Dodleston & District WI are a group of around 40 ladies, we meet on a monthly basis normally in the village hall on the 2nd Thursday in the month. We have a variety of speakers through which we hope to inspire, educate, and pass on skills and knowledge. We also give women in our community a voice on issues that matter to them and in doing so we have a lot of fun, foster community spirit and make friends. If you would like to join us, then please get in touch by contacting us at dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk or join our Facebook page for more information.

Dodleston Local History Group

Founded in 1984, the History Group has recorded the origins of the Parish. It also holds regular lectures in the village hall. Contact: Bernard Dennis MBE Chairman. Tel: 07966 436073
Email: bernarddennis531@gmail.com

Dodleston Leisure Group

We meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall. Diary of events will be published on the notice board inside the main door. Contact: Jim Howard Secretary 01244 661468

Toddlers & Babies

Dodleston Toddlers and babies playgroup meets every Thursday morning 10 until 11.30 during term time, in the village hall. Free play, craft activities, sing along and refreshments! £3 per session.

Brownies & Guides

Brownies (aged 7 to 10) meet Mondays 6 pm - 7:30 pm
Guides (aged 10 to 14) meet Mondays 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm, at the village hall. We have a very active and diverse program very much led by the girls themselves. Brownies highlight: "Pack holiday" where we go away for a weekend of fun indoor and outdoor activities. Guides highlights: campfires, making "S'mores", learning camp skills, and games on the Parish field. Adult volunteers also wanted so please get in touch to find out more about Guiding!
Mel Hughes (Guide Leader and Assistant Brownie Leader (Snowy Owl)). Tel: 07970802213.
Beth Daniels (Brownie Leader (Brown Owl) and Assistant Guide Leader)). Tel: 07860614041.
Dodlestonguides@gmail.com

Dodleston Home Watch

Keeping local residents informed and updated with Cheshire Police Alerts. Also, reports and circulates any suspicious incidents and anti-social behaviour.
Contact: Bernard Dennis MBE.
Tel 07966 436073
Email: bernarddennis531@gmail.com

Chapel Stores

Not just a Village shop & Post Office, so very much more, come and find out and say hello to Lloyd & Sam

Dodleston Pre-School

Highly qualified staff facilitate learning through play with child individuality at the forefront of practice. Large play spaces, free flow to outdoors, continuous provision and child-initiated play. Dodlestonpreschool@gmail.com

Fitness & PT

Qualified Internationally in Group Fitness, Personal Training and Yoga, 20 years' experience. Providing 1 to 1 Personal Training and online Zoom sessions.
Contact: Vicki Rahill - 07963500607.

Dodleston Sports Field

Is owned and operated by Dodleston Parish Council. This facility has cricket and football pitches, a pavilion, perimeter walking / jogging track of about 1km and an outdoor gym for all ages. All members and groups within our community are free to use the facilities, details of which can be found at www.dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk

Cricket

Dodleston CC - play in the midweek league and weekend friendless, won our division last season. Matches on Wednesday evenings and nets Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm.
Email Jtbparker@me.com or phone 01244 661526

Dodleston Village Foundation

The Dodleston Village Foundation was established in 1979 to provide and maintain a Village Hall and Recreational Field for the inhabitants of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache and believes its objectives to be consistent with current Charity Commission guidance on providing for the public benefit, and these objectives are pursued in the activities of the charity. Dodleston Village Foundation is a registered charity (510057).

The Recreational Field is a significant asset to the character of the village. It presents a wide variety of play equipment catering for a range of ages, along with picnic tables and benches, a basketball court, a small football pitch and an activity course, and is well used by both villagers and those living outside the parish.

St Mary's Church

Our inspirational vicar, Hazel Clarke, leads services each Sunday at 11am. There are coffee mornings at 10.30am the first Wednesday of the month and a craft group the second Monday at 10am (both suspended during lockdown). You'll be made very welcome!

Bell Ringing

Join our team for an exercise of body and mind in a 400-year-old tradition. For ages 10 - 75 with reasonable health and hearing.
Contact: Liz 07762 630364

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
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Cllr Welna Bowden
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