

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 34 Summer / July 2019



in this issue...

- Meadow Foods & School
- Dodleston Youth Players Award
- Alan Matthias and the defibrillator
- Never4Get and the Village Festival
- Many, many more...

Local Life's
Best Community
Newsletter
2015

Welcome all...



Roger Taylor - Editor

There has just been so much going on in the village, it is hard to know where to start!

Read about...

- The incredible generosity of Meadow Foods and the School in donating £10000 and £3000 respectively to enable the purchase of outdoor gym equipment for our Sports Field.
- The outstanding success of Dodleston Players in winning the top award for their pantomime.
- The barely credible story of Alan Matthias and the defibrillator.
- Another excellent article from our own esteemed historian – about our Village Hall. Equally fascinating, there's another wildlife article from Colin Bonnington with glorious photos.

• Huge efforts of Paul Buchanan, Mike Maughan, Richard Kitchin, Mac and dozens of others to make Never4Get and the Village Festival such great successes, raising thousands of pounds in the process for charities and local groups.

• Most of the normal contributions feature but a couple are missing because nothing was submitted by the deadline, despite reminders.

It's also "musical chairs" at Royal Oak, Higher Kinnerton. Bernard Dennis reminds us in his article of our good fortune to live in this Community. A church, shop/post office, Village Hall, Primary School, pub restaurant, in addition to all the services that are provided by dozens of tireless volunteers – how lucky we are.

I make no apology for saying again: "Use it or lose it."

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

- September 9th
- November 11th

Bus Timetable...

62.

62 Chester - Dodleston				
Mondays to Fridays				
	dep	11:35	12:35	13:35
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)				
Chester, Foregate Street Stop BB (Stop BB)		11:36	12:36	13:36
Chester, Vicar's Lane (Stop G)		11:37	12:37	13:37
Chester, Lower Bridge Street (Stand Y)		11:39	12:39	13:39
Handbridge, nr Post Office		11:40	12:40	13:40
Queen's Park, opp St George's Crescent		11:42	12:42	13:42
Queen's Park, opp Northern Pathway		11:43	12:43	13:43
Handbridge, nr Appleyards Lane		11:45	12:45	13:45
Handbridge, adj Hartington Street		11:46	12:46	13:46
Handbridge, opp Eaton Avenue		11:46	12:46	13:46
Handbridge, o/s Handbridge College		11:47	12:47	13:47
Handbridge, nr Hugh Street		11:48	12:48	13:48
Handbridge, opp River Lane		11:48	12:48	13:48
Westminster Park, Overleigh Roundabout (SW-bound)		11:50	12:50	13:50
Westminster Park, opp Cavendish Road		11:50	12:50	13:50
Westminster Park, Vincent Drive (SE-bound)		11:51	12:51	13:51
Westminster Park, Dennis Drive (SE-bound)		11:51	12:51	13:51
Westminster Park, Rushfield Road (SW-bound)		11:52	12:52	13:52
Westminster Park, o/s Shops		11:53	12:53	13:53
Westminster Park, Rowcliffe Avenue (SW-bound)		11:53	12:53	13:53
Lache, nr Whadden Drive		11:54	12:54	13:54
Roughhill, By-pass Bridge (SW-bound)		11:57	12:57	13:57
Balderton, adj Level Crossing		11:58	12:58	13:58
Balderton, nr Church Road		11:58	12:58	13:58
Dodleston, opp Primary School	arr	12:01	13:01	14:01

61.

61 Dodleston - Chester										
Saturdays										
	dep	08:30	09:30	10:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	16:15	17:15	
Dodleston, o/s Primary School										
Dodleston, opp Penfold Way		08:30	09:30	10:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	16:15	17:15	
Dodleston, opp Greenwalls		08:31	09:31	10:31	12:31	13:31	14:31	16:16	17:16	
Balderton, opp Church Road		08:32	09:32	10:32	12:32	13:32	14:32	16:17	17:17	
Balderton, nr Level Crossing		08:32	09:32	10:32	12:32	13:32	14:32	16:17	17:17	
Roughhill, By-pass Bridge (NE-bound)		08:33	09:33	10:33	12:33	13:33	14:33	16:18	17:18	
Lache, nr Green Lane		08:35	09:35	10:35	12:35	13:35	14:35	16:20	17:20	
Lache, nr Lonsdale Court		08:36	09:36	10:36	12:36	13:36	14:36	16:21	17:21	
Westminster Park, Rowcliffe Avenue (NE-bound)		08:37	09:37	10:37	12:37	13:37	14:37	16:22	17:22	
Westminster Park, opp Shops		08:38	09:38	10:38	12:38	13:38	14:38	16:23	17:23	
Westminster Park, Rushfield Road (NE-bound)		08:38	09:38	10:38	12:38	13:38	14:38	16:23	17:23	
Westminster Park, Dennis Drive (NW-bound)		08:39	09:39	10:39	12:39	13:39	14:39	16:24	17:24	
Westminster Park, Vincent Drive (NW-bound)		08:39	09:39	10:39	12:39	13:39	14:39	16:24	17:24	
Westminster Park, nr Cavendish Road		08:40	09:40	10:40	12:40	13:40	14:40	16:25	17:25	
Westminster Park, Overleigh Roundabout (NE-bound)		08:40	09:40	10:40	12:40	13:40	14:40	16:25	17:25	
Overleigh Road by Cemetery, Handbridge		08:41	09:41	10:41	12:41	13:41	14:41	16:26	17:26	
Handbridge, nr Brown's Lane		08:42	09:42	10:42	12:42	13:42	14:42	16:27	17:27	
Handbridge, o/s St Mary's Church		08:42	09:42	10:42	12:42	13:42	14:42	16:27	17:27	
Handbridge, o/s Edgar's Field		08:43	09:43	10:43	12:43	13:43	14:43	16:28	17:28	
Chester, o/s Ye Olde Kings Head		08:44	09:44	10:44	12:44	13:44	14:44	16:29	17:29	
Chester, Pepper Street (Stand Z)		08:45	09:45	10:45	12:45	13:45	14:45	16:30	17:30	
Chester, Foregate Street Stop GG (Stop GG)		08:48	09:48	10:48	12:48	13:48	14:48	16:33	17:33	
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)	arr	08:52	09:52	10:52	12:52	13:52	14:52	16:37	17:37	

Noted from data for the period Tue 16-Jul-2019 to Mon 22-Jul-2019. Times not in bold are estimated by using the distance between the stops.

61 Chester - Dodleston										
Saturdays										
	dep	09:00	10:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:45	16:45	17:45	
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)										
Chester, Foregate Street Stop BB (Stop BB)		09:03	10:03	12:03	13:03	14:03	15:47	16:47	17:47	
Chester, Vicar's Lane (Stop G)		09:04	10:04	12:04	13:04	14:04	15:49	16:49	17:49	
Chester, Lower Bridge Street (Stand Y)		09:06	10:06	12:06	13:06	14:06	15:50	16:50	17:50	
Handbridge, o/s Esso Garage		09:09	10:09	12:09	13:09	14:09	15:53	16:53	17:53	
Handbridge, nr Hugh Street		09:09	10:09	12:09	13:09	14:09	15:53	16:53	17:53	
Handbridge, opp River Lane		09:10	10:10	12:10	13:10	14:10	15:54	16:54	17:54	
Westminster Park, Overleigh Roundabout (SW-bound)		09:11	10:11	12:11	13:11	14:11	15:55	16:55	17:55	
Westminster Park, opp Cavendish Road		09:11	10:11	12:11	13:11	14:11	15:55	16:55	17:55	
Westminster Park, Vincent Drive (SE-bound)		09:12	10:12	12:12	13:12	14:12	15:56	16:56	17:56	
Westminster Park, Dennis Drive (SE-bound)		09:12	10:12	12:12	13:12	14:12	15:56	16:56	17:56	
Westminster Park, Rushfield Road (SW-bound)		09:13	10:13	12:13	13:13	14:13	15:57	16:57	17:57	
Westminster Park, o/s Shops		09:14	10:14	12:14	13:14	14:14	15:58	16:58	17:58	
Westminster Park, Rowcliffe Avenue (SW-bound)		09:14	10:14	12:14	13:14	14:14	15:58	16:58	17:58	
Lache, nr Whadden Drive		09:15	10:15	12:15	13:15	14:15	15:59	16:59	17:59	
Roughhill, By-pass Bridge (SW-bound)		09:18	10:18	12:18	13:18	14:18	16:02	17:02	18:02	
Balderton, adj Level Crossing		09:19	10:19	12:19	13:19	14:19	16:03	17:03	18:03	
Balderton, nr Church Road		09:19	10:19	12:19	13:19	14:19	16:03	17:03	18:03	
Dodleston, o/s Greenwalls		09:20	10:20	12:20	13:20	14:20	16:04	17:04	18:04	
Dodleston, nr Penfold Way		09:21	10:21	12:21	13:21	14:21	16:05	17:05	18:05	
Dodleston, opp Primary School	arr	09:22	10:22	12:22	13:22	14:22	16:06	17:06	18:06	

Bus Timetable...

62.

62 Dodleston - Chester						
Mondays to Fridays						
	dep	09:30	10:30	12:05	13:05	14:05
Dodleston, o/s Primary School						
Dodleston, opp Penfold Way		09:30	10:30	12:05	13:05	14:05
Dodleston, opp Greenwalls		09:31	10:31	12:06	13:06	14:06
Balderton, opp Church Road		09:32	10:32	12:07	13:07	14:07
Balderton, nr Level Crossing		09:32	10:32	12:07	13:07	14:07
Roughhill, By-pass Bridge (NE-bound)		09:33	10:33	12:08	13:08	14:08
Lache, nr Green Lane		09:35	10:35	12:10	13:10	14:10
Lache, nr Lonsdale Court		09:36	10:36	12:11	13:11	14:11
Westminster Park, Rowcliffe Avenue (NE-bound)		09:37	10:37	12:12	13:12	14:12
Westminster Park, opp Shops		09:38	10:38	12:13	13:13	14:13
Westminster Park, Rushfield Road (NE-bound)		09:38	10:38	12:13	13:13	14:13
Westminster Park, Dennis Drive (NW-bound)		09:39	10:39	12:14	13:14	14:14
Westminster Park, Vincent Drive (NW-bound)		09:39	10:39	12:14	13:14	14:14
Westminster Park, nr Cavendish Road		09:40	10:40	12:15	13:15	14:15
Westminster Park, Overleigh Roundabout (NE-bound)		09:41	10:41	12:16	13:16	14:16
Overleigh Road by Cemetery, Handbridge		09:41	10:41	12:16	13:16	14:16
Handbridge, nr Brown's Lane		09:42	10:42	12:17	13:17	14:17
Handbridge, o/s St Mary's Church		09:42	10:42	12:17	13:17	14:17
Handbridge, opp Handbridge College		09:43	10:43	12:18	13:18	14:18
Handbridge, nr Eaton Avenue		09:44	10:44	12:19	13:19	14:19
Handbridge, nr Hartington Street		09:45	10:45	12:20	13:20	14:20
Handbridge, adj Appleyards Lane		09:45	10:45	12:20	13:20	14:20
Queen's Park, opp Northern Pathway		09:47	10:47	12:22	13:22	14:22
Queen's Park, nr St George's Crescent		09:48	10:48	12:23	13:23	14:23
Chester, o/s Ye Olde Kings Head		09:51	10:51	12:26	13:26	14:26
Chester, Pepper Street (Stand Z)		09:52	10:52	12:27	13:27	14:27
Chester, Foregate Street Stop GG (Stop GG)		09:53	10:53	12:28	13:28	14:28
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)	arr	09:56	10:56	12:31	13:31	14:31

61 Church - Chester						
Mondays to Fridays						
	dep	07:45	07:45	16:17	17:37	
Church, Main Road, Higher Kinnerton						
Royal Oak, Main Road, Higher Kinnerton		07:45	07:45	16:17	17:37	
Lower Kinnerton, opp Moor Lane		07:48	07:48	16:20	17:40	
Lower Kinnerton, o/s Old School House		07:49	07:49	16:21	17:41	
Gorsilla, nr Welsh Road		07:50	07:50	16:22	17:42	
Dodleston, o/s Primary School		07:53	07:53	16:25	17:45	
Dodleston, opp Penfold Way		07:53	07:53	16:25	17:45	
Dodleston, opp Greenwalls		07:54	07:54	16:26	17:46	
Balderton, opp Church Road		07:55	07:55	16:27	17:47	
Balderton, nr Level Crossing		07:55	07:55	16:27	17:47	
Roughhill, By-pass Bridge (NE-bound)		07:56	07:56	16:28	17:48	
Lache, nr Green Lane		07:58	07:58	16:30	17:50	
Lache, nr Lonsdale Court		07:59	07:59	16:31	17:51	
Westminster Park, Rowcliffe Avenue (NE-bound)		08:00	08:00	16:32	17:52	
Westminster Park, opp Shops		0				



Defibrillator Training at the Village Hall

Following the generous donation of a defibrillator to the DVF by Mrs Jennifer Griffiths and the increasing availability of this life saving equipment elsewhere many of us wanted to know how they are used. And so, on the evening of 29th May a training session was run at the Village Hall where

Janet Graham from the North West Ambulance Service demonstrated how the defibrillator is used and answered questions from a well-attended group from Dodleston.

The evening began with an appearance from Alan Matthias who told us his amazing story.

Alan & Yvonne Matthias were the first couple to move in to the new development of Penfold Way on February 1st 1980. Alan runs his own plumbing business. In addition to hauling bathroom and kitchen equipment around, he is a keen sportsman – badminton, golf, cycling.

A candidate for heart problems? For a man as active as this, one would think not. Both his father and grandfather lived to good ages but both succumbed to heart problems.

Nevertheless, the Grim Reaper came knocking. Alan and his badminton partner, Jo Sanderson, had just lost the first set in a match at Mold Leisure Centre on May 18th. They had changed ends when Alan collapsed. His last memory is of the floor rushing up to meet him.

He had no prior warning, no pain even. But an artery was blocked, and he'd stopped breathing. He was turning blue. He was incredibly lucky that he was surrounded by people who knew what they were doing. First the swimming team, then a nurse, then two policemen rushed to his aid.

CPR was applied with limited success, but a defibrillator was to hand. It only took one blast and his heart was restarted. He was still comatose, but an ambulance had been called, closely followed by the Air Ambulance.

After five hours in the operating theatre, Alan finally regained consciousness. His wife, Yvonne was at his bedside. He'd had stents fitted to keep his arteries open. After only five days he was discharged from hospital. He was driving within a week and back at work by the end of May.



Alan and Yvonne accept that they have been very fortunate: that it occurred in a location where a defibrillator was to hand; that there were people who knew what to do in such an emergency.

Would YOU know what to do? We have three defibrillators in the village – in the Sports Pavilion, in the Village Hall and outside the Post Office. Alan's normal badminton venue does not possess one. If it had happened there or when he was cycling, he would probably be dead now.

Alan was very touched by the number of cards and greetings he received and wishes to thank everyone for their support.



Dodleston Village Hall

The village of Dodleston is quite unique in as much it has virtually all essential life support systems.

A church, a pub, primary school, a village shop that caters for all needs which includes a post office and facilities for banking and an excellent Sports field. It also has a Village Hall that is used by multifarious groups together with events for wedding breakfasts, christening parties and funeral wakes. In fact, the whole gamut for hatched, matched and despatched plus many other activities besides including a thriving theatre group!

The Village Hall was first built in 1896 by the well-known Cheshire architect, John Douglas to instructions from Hugh Lupus, the First Duke of Westminster (1825 - 1899) and was established as a Men's Reading Room. This was where men (now it would be very controversial) would go to read newspapers and catch up on the news. Also, a place to socialise and no doubt gossip.

The photograph reproduced here clearly shows the original Village Hall with the entrance on the side elevation. The attached houses are firstly Institute Cottage, and then adjoining that, Church Farm House. The photograph also shows an intriguing collection of eight young children with a hand cart. Sadly, the date is unknown as are the identities of the children, but obviously from the village.

Records show that the Keeper of Institute Cottage was a Mr Wright who most likely ran the adjoining farm. His daughter Miss Sarah Ann Wright, who was born in 1885 took on Church Farm after her father's death whilst at the same time was Headmistress at the local primary school at a later stage in her life. She died, aged 96 in 1981.

The Village Hall was first extended in 1986 when the entrance porch was moved to the front elevation and then finally finished to the configuration we are all familiar with in 1990 when it was opened in May 1990 by the 6th Duke of Westminster.



The Village Hall was first built in 1896 by the well-known Cheshire architect, John Douglas

Even before the hall was extended it was in regular use not only for celebratory reasons but by active groups and associations, many of whom are listed here together with their date of formation:

Badminton Club (1989); First Dodleston Brownies (1989); Dodleston Community Association (1981); Dodleston Branch of the Conservative Association (1988); Dodleston Players (c.1961); Dodleston Village Foundation (1977); Dodleston & Kinnerton Flower Club (1970s); Leisure Group (1987); Local History Group (1985); Mother & Toddler (later renamed Parent & Toddler) Group (1983); Parents & Friends of Dodleston School Association (1982); Parish Council (1947); Under-fives Pre-school Playgroup (1982); Wine & Beermakers' Circle (1983); Women's Institute (1984) and Youth Club (1967/1984-5/1992).

Since those dates, many of the groups listed are still extant but sadly some have closed down for various reasons.

However, new users have filled the gaps and the hall is in regular use under the auspices of the Dodleston Village Foundation and through their good management in recent times, the hall is extremely well maintained. A lift was recently installed to facilitate access to the first floor Grosvenor Room for those less able, where meetings with smaller groups can be held.

It should be mentioned that the First Dodleston Brownies celebrated their 30th anniversary this year and are still going strong. In 2010 the First Dodleston Girl Guides were established as up until that point, any Brownies from the age of ten had to travel outside of Dodleston if they wanted to continue within the movement.

The Girl Guides Association was founded in 1910 when girls made it very clear to Robert Baden Powell they wanted to do the same things as boy scouts, whose movement was founded in 1907.

Hence, guiding was introduced to respond to the demand!

The current First Dodleston Guides is thriving under its leader Melanie Hughes and co-leader Beth Daniels. They currently have twenty girls in their troop ranging from the age of ten up to 14 and Monday evening is normally a hive of activity in the Village Hall.

Melanie was brought up in the Brownie and Guides culture as her mother has been involved with guiding for most of her life in Chirk and this has rubbed off on to her daughter.

Apart from being a mother to two daughters, Melanie leads an extremely hectic schedule. Having achieved an M.Chem degree from Oxford University she puts this to use as a research chemist for a pharmaceutical company on Deeside. She also qualified as a teacher with a PGCE but preferred the 'cut and thrust' of the pharmaceutical industry.

The Village Hall has seen so many differing events over the past 123 years and if its walls could talk, I'm sure there would be interesting tales to tell, many of which would probably not really be fit for publication!

Bernard Dennis
Chairman Dodleston Local History Group



Simon Chantler
Chairman and Co-Founder



Mark Chantler
Chief Executive Officer

Company Profile:

Meadow Foods is the UK's largest independently owned dairy group and leading supplier of quality dairy ingredients to the food industry; with their main headquarters based in Chester.

The business is family-run, with Simon Chantler – who began his career as a dairy farmer himself – handing over the company to son Mark in 2017, with youngest son Oliver working as a Commercial Manager.

Home of Butter and Butter Oils, the Chester site produces butter, ghee and milk concentrates. Situated in Rough Hill, the site currently occupies 11 acres and employs over 100 people, a third of which come from the local area.

The company also has two other manufacturing facilities in Yorkshire and Peterborough, which produce ingredients



such as creams, soft cheese, and chocolate crumb – the base for chocolate.

Across the 3 sites, the company supplies more than 100,000 tonnes of dairy ingredients to manufacturers operating in sectors such as ready meals, bakery, confectionery, biscuits and ice cream. Meadow Foods prides themselves on providing the essential ingredients to some of the UK's most loved products including Dairy Milk, Tunnock's Tea Cakes and GU desserts. They have even recently worked on a project to supply the custard for M&S' new Best Ever Trifle.



Meadow Foods supply the custard for a classic dessert, M&S' new Best Ever Trifle

..... Dodleston Donation & Support:

Meadow Foods are looking to work closely with the Dodleston community by supporting local events such as the Never4get football tournament and to engage with groups such as the Women's Institute and History Group to offer the opportunity to learn more about the products we produce.

The company are also supporting Dodleston with a £10,000 donation to fund a project to install new outdoor gym equipment. The outdoor gym will be fully inclusive, allowing adults and children – including the pupils of Dodleston Primary School who use the sports field where the gym will be built - to exercise and improve their fitness alongside each other. Not only will residents benefit physically, but the aim of the Dodleston outdoor gym is also to improve mental health by spending time outdoors and strengthening the community through shared activities.



The equipment purchased with Meadow Foods' donation, which will be suitable for all athletic abilities from complete beginners to regular exercisers, includes leg press, cycling and ski-style apparatus, and will be available for all residents to take advantage of for no charge.



Mark Chantler, CEO of Meadow Foods, comments: "We are delighted to be able to support the local community in Dodleston with their new outdoor gym facilities and we hope everyone in the community will enjoy this new improvement to the village."

Mike Maughan, Chairman of the Dodleston Parish Council, adds: "We're so incredibly grateful to Meadow Foods for their generous donation – without which our new outdoor gym would not be possible. Our aim is to bring the community closer and provide an outdoor hub for people to socialise together whilst improving their health through exercise."

Meadow Foods is looking forward to working even closer with the young people of Dodleston in the near future, with plans to partner with Dodleston Primary School to arrange an educational programme on food production.

And The Winner Is...



Members of the cast of Robin Hood with Director Sue and Budge Grounsell our NODA district Rep and the winners awards

So there we were, 11 of us, all dressed up in our ballgowns and black ties, at the Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel on 5th May for the Noda NW Gala Dinner. The packed ballroom with crisp white linen, shining cutlery gleaming in the candlelight and enormous chandeliers made it feel as though we were at the Oscars! As winners of the Best Pantomime in Noda's District 4, (see the last edition of Dodleston Life) we were automatically nominated for the NW Regional Awards. After our meal and entertainment the presentation of the awards began. The atmosphere was electric!!

We sat through 23 other awards being given out before they came to our category of Best Pantomime 2018. Competition was tough as we were one of 10 nominees, many of whom were much bigger societies than ours. Despite the enthusiastic optimism of some in our group, I tried to temper expectations, however eventually, after all nominees had been read out, the announcement came 'And the winner is... ROBIN HOOD, DODLESTON YOUTH PLAYERS.'

There was a split second when none of us believed what we had just heard, but then I was delighted to go up onto the stage to receive the award from the National President of Noda. As you can imagine there was much jubilation and celebration!!!

This award was the icing on the cake of a very special Golden Jubilee year for DYP, and is a significant recognition of all the hard work and dedication the whole team, both on stage and off, put into the production. I am very proud of them all. The greatest significance to me though, is that that our high standard has been recognised by our peers in the world of amateur theatre. Long may it continue!!

WELL DONE DYP
Sue Ramsey

THANK YOU

to all who bought from or donated books to our stall at the Village Festival.

We raised a splendid

£320

which we will put towards the purchase of new spotlights for our stage



OUR NEXT EVENT WILL BE MURDER IS SERVED, A MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

Date: Saturday 7th September
Time 7 for 7.30pm

Cost: £10 each (to include food)

Agatha Christie meets Fawlty towers as you find yourselves as guests at cantankerous Clarissa's surprise party!

Do join us for this fun evening



Drone photo of Day



Paul Buchanan, Ian Rush, Mike Maughan and Margaret Aspinall



Phil Macready and Carl Willis



Ronnie and Steve Rogers



Never4get

Our Never4get weekend proved to be a great success. It was to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster when 96 Liverpool fans lost their lives due to overcrowding in the Leppings Lane Stand. The fixture was an FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest. Two of the deceased were local lads

The 30th year Hillsborough commemorative event in memory of Henry and Adam Rogers really caught the imagination with 28 junior teams attending on the Saturday and 26 senior teams attending on the Sunday. All the competitions were held in a fantastic sporting spirit with Dodleston Sports Field being transformed into 8 five a pitches along with various attractions and a giant marquee housing a bar and a stage. Following the football on the Sunday the event was capped by a fantastic performance by local band The Cover Lovers.

We were privileged to see LFC legend Ian Rush and Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Support Group present the trophies and prizes on the Saturday, and it was wonderful to see Henry and Adam's parents, Ronnie and Steve Rogers attend on both days.

As ever with all our events we could not carry them off without the wonderful support of those volunteers from our community who came in their droves to help. We would also like to thank all those who sponsored the event and donated prizes for the raffle.

We are also proud to confirm the event raised a total of £3,000 with this being split equally between the two charities we nominated for the event - Zoe's Place Baby Hospice and the LFC Foundation.

Dodleston Summer Festival

For the first time Dodleston Parish Council organised and ran a revamped village day renamed Dodleston Summer Festival which proved to be a great success.

With the help of our co-organisers Michael Green and John Nicholls the Saturday saw an array of attractions from Dog Shows, Birds of Prey, the Army and Taekwondo, as well as a great variety of external stalls and also offerings from all our community groups as well as a rather unique bar - The Dead Lion and various live music which culminated on Saturday night with a great set by Superfly preceded by David O'Connor and Lyle McLaughlin.

At very short notice we decide to extend the festival into the Sunday and further music was provided by Simon Kaviani and Skinny Lizard who certainly rocked the place.

The revamped event allows each community group to retain the profits from their particular offerings, but the gate receipts and income from external stall holders was earmarked for our chosen charity, Save the Family, and we are pleased to have raised £1,270.

Following the success of this event and the earlier Race Night Fundraiser we are intending to host the 2019 Dodleston Oktoberfest on 12 October so watch out for more details as tickets will be limited.

Many thanks to Tomas Wagenaar for the photographs.



The DVF's Gin Palace was a new feature at this year's village festival, as Villagers were invited to try a wide range of speciality Gins. A great feature was the option to taste a sample of 3 gins, Nicola McSalley-Bateman led the tasting team, and commented that the flavoured Gins were the most popular, and especially the Chase "Pink Grapefruit and Pomelo". The great news is that you don't have to wait till next year to try this favourite gin again. **Chase - the UK's premium field to bottle Gin maker from Hereford (Think Tyrells crisps) are holding a tutored Gin tasting and Gin quiz at the Village Hall on 9th November. Tickets will be £10, and will include a G&T on arrival, and a generous tutored tasting of 5 different Gins - A date not to missed.**



Olivia and Charlotte receiving their awards from Guide Leader, Mel Hughes at the village festival



Planning not to Plan

After our article in the last edition of Local Life you may be aware that the children at Pre-school love to investigate and we wanted to share our thoughts on planning investigations within our Pre-school environment.

It's easy – we don't plan! We do, of course, prepare the environment so that it is in such a shape that children are in an optimum position to learn. We ensure that teachers are trained to support individual learning styles. Apart from that, we are proud to be a child-led setting. This means that, supported by a rich environment and supportive teachers, children follow their own interests - in the moment.

Now this may seem like an obvious state of affairs for many. In the past at Pre-school (and as is the case in many settings currently), we have planned for children's learning needs in advance. We might have observed a child's interest; in for example volcanoes and written it up on planning sheets. Our intention is to expand on the interest for the individual or make it a whole-group exercise.

We were coming up against problems. Children are unique, and, as such, an interest in volcanoes for one child certainly isn't an interest for other children; a planned activity that we expected all children to be involved in and learn from just wasn't working. The children weren't interested and weren't focused; we weren't achieving our objectives; teachers and children just became frustrated, so behaviour would inevitably slip. We know as adults that we learn best when we have an interest in the subject matter, some prior knowledge perhaps or

experience. However, throw in a subject that is alien to us or we simply have no interest in, then our minds start to wander, and we struggle to keep up and absorb information.

Another concern was that we were aware that children's needs in ideal circumstances, are met immediately within the home environment; children live and are cared for in the moment. As babies, their needs are met immediately; older children with short attention spans enjoy instant gratification from their carers. If a toddler wants to play with pots and pans but we don't have them out, then we wouldn't ask them to wait until next week when it's on the planning sheet; so why would we do this at Pre-school?

We ditched the planning sheets and concentrated on providing quality learning through play by planning in the moment. We are incredibly proud of the progress that our children make. This afternoon provided an excellent example of a child led interest that went in directions that not only could I have not planned for but for outcomes that I couldn't have predicted.

Months ago, a teacher demonstrated a method of syphoning water to a small group of children. Great fun was had and then it was over as fast as it had started as something else caught their interest. Today, we had set up a

circular blue tarpaulin to protect the grass underneath the slide. The children pretended that it was a dog swimming pool and they laughed as some crawled through the 'water' as dogs and others cared for the dogs. Two children, however, wanted to go one step further, they wanted real water in the pool. Between them, they located a plastic tube and using the same syphoning technique that they had witnessed previously they worked together, communicating at every stage until they had the height and technique exactly right – they were only syphoning water from the water table onto the sheet! This is two three year olds!

My role? Chief Facilitator and Safety Officer perhaps. What's important though is that I allowed it to happen. This was their interest, not mine, they didn't need me sticking my oar in and they certainly didn't need me to spend precious time planning a development of the theme for next week. The input was there months ago and the carefully thought out environment prompted recall, investigation and learning. Who would have predicted that today would be the day they would recall the technique and put it to use? Certainly not me!

What became of the child who was interested in volcanoes though. How did that work out? That's old news, she was desperate to leave the pre-planned activity at the table in favour of the mud pit. It was dumper trucks that day.

Heather Marsh

All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small!

Summer is a time when nature is alive with the sights and sounds of animal youngsters.



In fact, as I write, I can hear the frantic calls of chicks coming from the house martin mud nest under our roof every time a parent returns with insect prey caught on the wing. And looking out onto our lawn, I can see two young blackbirds, who are not black at all but who have taken their brown colouration from their mother. A more mottled front, typically a fluffier appearance, and the fact that, at least in the first few days of leaving the nest, they keep following and pestering the parents for food, gives them away.

The villages in our region seem to be particularly good for many breeding birds, like house martins, with about every house in our street in Dodleston having a martin nest. We're also fortunate in this part of west Cheshire to support less common breeding birds, like the dragonfly-catching hobby, which is a bird of prey, who looks like a small peregrine falcon, and travels here from Africa to raise a family, and another species is the little owl. These pint-sized owls are not actually native to the UK, with their origins rooted in mainland Europe and across to Asia and North Africa, but after being introduced to the UK they have made west Cheshire their home, with several pairs in and around Dodleston alone.

Next, further afield into Chester itself, the city supports a pair of breeding peregrines. Take a walk along the Shropshire Union Canal near Waitrose and the Artichoke restaurant and listen out for the distinctive kee-kee-eeee call overhead. Now is a good time to listen out for them as the young birds take to the skies. You may even see a stall here where a charity called Raptor Aid is on hand to provide information to the public about the peregrines and other birds of prey, particularly how important conservation work is for this group of birds.

And it's not just the baby birds who are around at this time of year; frogs, toads and newts are metamorphosing in ponds from their tadpole stage to a juvenile stage (known as an eft for newts), when they venture out from the watery depths for a terrestrial life. Amphibians, like newts and toads are semi-aquatic and only take the plunge into water to breed. After that they are back foraging for slugs, and such like, on land.

Many mammals too will be rearing young families, with the mustelids stoats and weasels having kits. A good identification cue to tell the difference between these two similar species is the dark tip on the longer tailed and typically larger sized stoat. Badgers and foxes too will have had babies earlier in the spring, with badgers particularly early, but only in the last couple of months, have the cubs ventured out of the family sett. It's unfortunate that during this time it's a common sight to see badgers succumbed to collisions with vehicles, as younger badgers look to find their way. Cars are the biggest risk to badgers, and the number of roadkill individuals at the side of the A55 in west Cheshire in the last couple of months is testament to this. This is often the only chance to get to see a badger, unless of course you're lucky enough to get one visiting your garden, perhaps even climbing a tree to get to your birdfeeder, as some recent online video footage revealed!

Even a garden without a badger, however, is a hive of activity at this time of year, with many ornamental plants flowering, like rose and privet, and the busy bees and hoverflies who visit them. And it's not just ornamentals; many wild plants are flowering now too, with elder producing flowers that some of us collect to make cordial, bramble bushes adorned with white (some tinged with pink) flowers, and the damp loving meadowsweet, with its clouds of yellow flowers a common sight along the roadside verges in our surrounding countryside. Meadowsweet has all manner of traditional uses (as many of our common plants have) from flavouring wine and beer to curing an acidic stomach. Whether this remedy for a poorly tummy would be recommended by your GP is questionable; but what isn't questionable is a GP's advice about exercise and being out in nature being great for the mind, body and soul.

A great way to get out in nature this summer is to try the Nature Treasure Hunt below devised by my wife Suzannah, an outdoor educator and accredited Forest School practitioner.

Colin Bonnington



Nature Treasure Hunt

- A feather
- Animals living under a small rock
- A leaf that you like the shape of
- Something white
- Something multicoloured
- Something perfectly straight
- Something with a zig-zag shape or pattern
- Something that you find beautiful
- Something with a hole in it
- Something soft
- Something someone has left behind
- Something that reminds you of yourself or someone else



Nature Treasure Hunt

The summer holidays are a perfect time for kids (and adults!) to get outside and connect with nature, why not try this nature treasure hunt to kick-start your outdoor adventures:

What you need: the treasure hunt list (cut it out from this page!), a container or bag to collect your treasures in, paper and pencil and / or a camera and a keen eye.

Before you start: you do not need to collect everything, some things you may take a photo of, or draw to avoid harming or damaging. Always make sure you are with an adult or that an adult knows where you are. If you are not sure if something or somewhere is safe, then do not do it.

Finally: have fun!

Why not get a friend or family member to do it as well and compare what you chose for each category!

DODLESTON VILLAGE FOUNDATION

Upcoming Events

See below! Saturday 5th October
Comedy Night at the Village Hall.
£15 entry ticket including food.

DODLESTON COMEDY NIGHT
Dodleston Village Hall
Saturday 5th October
7.30 pm



Tony Vino
Our Favourite MC



Steve Hoyle
Back by Popular Demand



Bill Wooland
Original Fresh Modern Humour

Book Your Tickets Now
£15.00 including Hot food
Licenced Bar.

November 2019 Gin Tasting

One of our suppliers for our Gin Tent at the Summer Festival is providing a gin tasting evening for those so inclined. Tickets will be £10 per person with a G&T on arrival and tastings of several different gins. Watch out for this date in November.

OTHER NEWS...

From Here to Absurdity



On 16 March returning after 4 years with new material this talented trio entertained with a quick fire series of topical, comedy sketches. Add food and a licenced bar and a very enjoyable evening was there to be had.

Easter Egg Bingo



Unlike Easter this year the Easter Egg Bingo came early on 29th March. More eggs than ever were donated this year by local businesses and hall user groups. Liz and Jim called the numbers and shared the chocolate eggs out to those lucky enough to be there. Some tables got very lucky, but it was hard to not win something. Nobody knows how many eggs won that night survived until Easter 3 weeks later.

(please use photo attached)

DVF 100 Club

Lucky winners have received cheques for £15 with the recent winning numbers drawn being

- January 20
- February 69
- March 44
- April 12.
- May 29
- June 100.

Regular monthly draws continue with a continuing healthy number of members and £100 draws in July at the Summer Festival and in December. Contact Stephen Bowden if you want to join.

Dodleston Brownies & Guides

It has been an exciting few months for Dodleston Brownies as the Pack celebrated 30 years of Brownie Adventures! We certainly celebrated in style, with a Birthday Party themed Pack Holiday at the fantastic new Brownie lodge, 'The Lookout'. The new facility at Pettypool has been many years in the making and all local units contributed with their fundraising efforts, so we were thrilled to finally be staying there.

This year has also seen the launch of a new programme in Girlguiding, complete with a new set of interest badges. It was very exciting to award one of our newest recruits with her Baking Badge; the first to be awarded with one of the new badges.

Sophie managed to bake the Brownie Story and brought the biscuits to share with her Brownie friends (and leaders!).

Brownies also enjoyed joining up with our friends from 18th Chester Brownies for a grand day out to Danger Point in Holywell to learn about safety in the home, on the roads and in the water.

During our weekly meetings, Brownies and Guides have recently been working on a Teamwork Challenge Badge which involved learning some British Sign Language, construction tasks and playing lots of team games.

Dodleston Guides have been visited by some very motivational guest speakers this term. Plastic Free Chester made quite an impression and we have been working to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' our plastic waste. Guides have also been working hard to help with the development of the Super Trees Project

on Hoole roundabout; having been involved in fundraising for this fantastic project for some time we were very excited to help with planting now that construction is underway.

Another highlight was hosting a tuck shop stall at Dodleston Village Festival and we were very proud to present some awards to some of our fantastic Guides. Olivia Rich won the Guide of the Year Award, for her unwavering enthusiasm, commitment and kindness. Charlotte Guy was awarded with a Special Award for her commitment to Guiding values. We also presented an award for the best team work at Guides to Holly, Millie, Evie, Izzy and Elen.

To round off the Summer term, Brownies and Guides had a wonderful campfire evening. Predictably, we got rained on, but we never let the rain dampen our spirits!

Events at St Mary's Church, Dodleston

One of the greatest gifts that can be given is that of being able to have time for rest and refreshment I am very fortunate to be able to take time out from the everyday cares (and joys) of ministry this summer and autumn. As I begin my sabbatical time in August I am conscious of people giving their gifts of time and ministry to enable this to happen. After 10 years of ministry here it is great to be able to take some time and assess and re-appraise life and work.

I am also hugely looking forward to exploring Biblical storytelling (isn't that just for kids? I hear you say!) Oh no very much NOT! Very few of the treasures of the 66 books in the Bible were told for the simple instruction of children.

Stories, in all their cultural and historical variety can repel and or attract; can link people together or remind them of the things that separate communities from within or divide them from neighbours. Stories sometimes need to find a point of healing for communities to move on into flourishing or to move communities on from dwelling on past injuries which can lead to festering bitterness when justice, mercy and forgiveness are not rightly applied. Families too can live by stories which can divide or reconcile. Story it turns out is important for adults.

What in our village story is helpful or what hurts lie deeply buried? You will know this better than I will, after only ten years here, all I know is that roots go deep. One thing I do know is the Dodleston Methodist Church closed finally in 1920's ish (twice- I think after a short reopening period it closed for good) and since then St Mary's Parish Church has held its place as the bookmark in the Christian history of this village itself with mighty deep roots. As the seasons of country life; of church life and mortal life have rolled by for 1200 years ish and St Mary's has celebrated or consoled with her village. For how much longer depends on whether once again the village will take St Mary's to its heart and support us and through us and alongside us to maintain that ministry here. We pray for our community which we serve every week. We will pray for you too if you would like us to do so.. we are all linked in that story.

See you around Hazel
have a good summer and do rest and relax we need to do that. X

Events at St Mary's

1st Sunday of the month:

11.00am Morning Worship
(followed by refreshments)

Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion
Family Zone for children with plenty of activities for the children and parents

Coffee Morning:

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

Crafty Creations:

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

Events and Services:

1st September – Parish BBQ at Chester Lakes and Grand Raffle, 1.00pm. Tickets for BBQ – Adults £10, Children of primary school age with adult £5, Family ticket £25

Sunday 22nd September

Harvest Communion – 11.00am

26th/27th October – Art and Craft weekend

in St Mary's - Local artists and crafters, also display of children's artwork – admission £1 – children free
10.30am-5.00pm on Saturday and
1.00pm-5.00pm on Sunday

St Mary's Church also supports the Chester and Ellesmere Port Food Bank – any donations can be brought to church.

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Dodleston & District Parish Council Officers

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

Tel: **07872927050**

email: **katepcdodleston@gmail.com**

Chairman: Cllr Mike Maughan

Tel: 01244 661776

email: mike.maughan@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Buchanan

Tel: 07710 900833

email: paul.buchanan@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mike Dix

Tel: 01244 661030

email: mike.dix@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Chris Ward

Tel: 07730 564712

email: chris.ward@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Mark Williams

Tel: 01244 315535

email: mark.williams@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Richard Kitchin

Tel: 07968 323567

email: richard.kitchin@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Roger Taylor

Tel: 07860 514899

email: roger.taylor@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Rachel Jones

Tel: 01244 660206

email: rachel.jones@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Welna Bowden

Tel: 07717 574185

email: welna.bowden@dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk



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