

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 35 Autumn / November 2019



in this issue...

- Dodleston Cricket Team Tops League
- Bob Hughes our Centenarian
- More sports field improvements
- Many, many more...

Local Life's
Best Community
Newsletter
2015

Welcome all...



Roger Taylor - Editor

Putting the magazine together takes a huge amount of time and TLC. On the other hand, it is a constant reminder of how lucky we are to live in such a thriving community.

I see the work of the Parish Council, Dodleston Village Foundation and the School Governors at first hand. Then I receive the articles and realise that literally dozens of people willingly devote time and money to make everything happen.

Our cricket team won their league. An orchard and outdoor gym equipment will be appearing at the Sports Field. We celebrate Dodleston's centenary. All this and so much more are featured in our Autumn edition.

Please do your best to support all the pre-Christmas activities. Sadly, we report on several instances of petty vandalism. The police think that they have identified the culprits so be warned: Desist or risk "having your collar felt."

FRONT COVER: Features Bob Hughes who celebrates his 100th Birthday. Pictured with Mike Maughan. Well done from the village!

Dates for the Parish Council Meetings – The dates are the 2nd Monday of the odd numbered months – held in the Grosvenor Room @ 7.00pm

- January 13th
- March 9th
- May 11th
- July 13th
- September 14th
- November 9th

Bus Timetable...

62.

62 Dodleston - Chester	
Mondays to Fridays	
Dodleston, o/s Primary School	dep 09:30 10:30 12:05 13:05 14:05
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, nr 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

Bus Timetable...

62.

62 Chester - Dodleston	
Mondays to Fridays	
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)	dep 11:35 12:35 13:35
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	
Dodleston, o/s Primary School	dep 08:30 09:30 10:30 12:30 13:30 14:30 16:15 17:15
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	
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)	dep 09:00 10:00 12:00 13:00 14:00 15:45 16:45 17:45
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

61 Church - Chester	
Mondays to Fridays	
Church, Main Road, Higher Kinnerton	dep 07:45 07:45 16:17 17:37
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
Gorsfield, 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	08:01 08:01 16:33 17:53
Westminster Park, Rushfield Road (NE-bound)	08:01 08:01 16:33 17:53
Westminster Park, Dennis Drive (NW-bound)	08:02 08:02 16:34 17:54
Westminster Park, Vincent Drive (NW-bound)	08:02 08:02 16:34 17:54
Westminster Park, nr Cavendish Road	08:03 08:03 16:35 17:55
Westminster Park, Overleigh Roundabout (NE-bound)	08:03 08:03 16:35 17:55
Overleigh Road by Cemetery, Handbridge	08:04 08:04 16:36 17:56
Handbridge, nr Brown's Lane	08:05 08:05 16:37 17:57
Handbridge, o/s St Mary's Church	08:05 08:05 16:37 17:57
Handbridge, o/s Edgar's Field	08:06 08:06 16:38 17:58
Chester, o/s Ye Olde Kings Head	08:08 08:08 16:39 17:59
Chester, Pepper Street (Stand Z)	08:09 08:09 16:40 18:00
Chester, Foregate Street Stop GG (Stop GG)	08:11 08:11 16:43 18:03
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)	arr 08:17 16:47 18:07

61 Boughton Heath - Higher Kinnerton	
Mondays to Fridays	
Boughton Heath, o/s Bishops Blue Coat School	dep 15:30
Boughton, nr Ingham Close	15:34
Boughton, o/s St Paul's Church	15:35
Boughton, opp Health Centre	15:36
Chester, The Bars (Stop L)	15:37
Chester, Chester Bus Interchange (Stand B)	09:00 10:00 15:40 15:40 17:05 18:15
Chester, Foregate Street Stop BB (Stop BB)	09:03 10:03 15:43 15:43 17:08 18:17
Chester, Vicar's Lane (Stop G)	09:04 10:04 15:44 15:44 17:09 18:19
Chester, Lower Bridge Street (Stand Y)	09:06 10:06 15:46 15:46 17:11 18:20
Handbridge, o/s Esso Garage	09:09 10:09 15:49 15:49 17:14 18:23
Handbridge, nr Hugh Street	09:09 10:09 15:49 15:49 17:14 18:23
Handbridge, opp River Lane	09:10 10:10 15:50 15:50 17:15 18:24
Westminster Park, Overleigh Roundabout (SW-bound)	09:11 10:11 15:51 15:51 17:16 18:25
Westminster Park, opp Cavendish Road	09:11 10:11 15:51 15:51 17:16 18:25
Westminster Park, Vincent Drive (SE-bound)	09:12 10:12 15:52 15:52 17:17 18:26
Westminster Park, Dennis Drive (SE-bound)	09:12 10:12 15:52 15:52 17:17 18:26
Westminster Park, Rushfield Road (SW-bound)	09:13 10:13 15:53 15:53 17:18 18:27
Westminster Park, o/s Shops	09:14 10:14 15:54 15:54 17:19 18:28
Westminster Park, Rowcliffe Avenue (SW-bound)	09:14 10:14 15:54 15:54 17:19 18:28
Lache, nr Whadden Drive	09:15 10:15 15:55 15:55 17:20 18:29
Roughhill, By-pass Bridge (SW-bound)	09:18 10:18 15:58 15:58 17:23 18:32
Balderton, adj Level Crossing	09:19 10:19 15:59 15:59 17:24 18:33
Balderton, nr Church Road	09:19 10:19 15:59 15:59 17:24 18:33
Dodleston, o/s Greenwalls	09:20 10:20 16:00 16:00 17:25 18:34
Dodleston, nr Penfold Way	09:21 10:21 16:01 16:01 17:26 18:35
Dodleston, opp Primary School	arr 09:22 10:22 16:02 16:02 17:27 18:36
Gorsfield, nr Welsh Road	16:03 17:28 18:37
Lower Kinnerton, opp Old School House	16:05 17:30 18:39
Lower Kinnerton, nr Moor Lane	16:05 17:30 18:39
Higher Kinnerton, nr Blenheim Road	16:08 17:33 18:42
Higher Kinnerton, opp Post Office Higher Kinnerton Church	arr 16:10 16:10 17:35 18:44

You are invited to a Charity Concert in aid of the British Heart Foundation



Saturday 23rd November at 7.30pm

**Dodleston Village Hall,
Pulford Lane, Dodleston, Chester CH4 9NN**

A variety of performers will provide musical entertainment of all styles for you to enjoy!
Refreshments and raffle too. Tickets £15 or £8 for under 16s from
Helen Longmuir 01244 660509 or 07951 880702 or 52 Penfold Way,
Dodleston, Chester.
All proceeds to the BHF.

BHF - Helen Longmuir

My family and I first started the Dodleston British Heart Foundation concert in November 2007, in memory of my son Christopher who passed away from a heart condition at the age of 14 in 2004. Christopher was a musical boy who played the clarinet, so it seemed a fitting way to remember him, especially as music is so uplifting.

It was only meant to be a one-off concert, but it went so well and was so well supported that we decided to organise another one the following year. This was also a success and was very enjoyable, and the generosity of time and money from both the performers and the audience was wonderful.

Local people started asking if we would make this an annual event, so we did! **This November will be the 12th concert!** Over the years, the concert has raised an average of £1800 for this worthy cause. Most families have someone who is suffering from a heart condition or has had a heart attack, so the money raised goes towards researching and improving heart related conditions. Thank you to everyone who has supported the concert over the years, and to the DVF for allowing us to use the hall.



find out more
www.bhf.org.uk

The Season of Hibernating Hedgehogs and Trees Losing their Leaves

Autumn is a time of change, when the leaves of many trees (broad-leaved) begin to transform from green to a fantastic show of warm colours, like ambers, reds and yellows, which before long fall and litter the ground beneath.

With the clocks recently changed, and the shorter daylength, the changes in nature appears to happen very quickly. It is often at this time that you notice the sudden presence of some species, and the absence of others. Birds like swallows who summered here have left these shores by autumn and ventured back to Africa (and not flown to live in the bottom of riverbeds here which folk believed before they knew about migration!), whilst other birds like redwing, fieldfare and brambling, the latter which is a cousin of the chaffinch, all arriving here from northern climes; mainly Scandinavia. Look out for these species in large mixed flocks,



Migratory overseas birds add to our autumn population

with redwing and fieldfares often flocking together, alongside blackbirds. Similarly, brambling is often found in flocks with other finches. Huge numbers of birds commonly seen in the UK all year round suddenly skyrocket in number in autumn with overseas birds adding to the resident population. Starlings are a good example of this, with thousands and thousands of birds sometimes congregating and moving in a single flock performing murmuration flights often prior to returning to their roost, which is a true spectacle.

Many birds form flocks in the autumn, when the breeding season has finished, and feeding and fattening up for the impending winter becomes the name of the game. Territories that male birds have defended over the spring and summer break down and hanging out with your buddies is more important. Not only does moving around in a group mean that you're

more likely to detect food resources, but it also increases the chances of detecting a predator. More eyes are better than one pair.

Birdfeeders become an important resource for wildlife especially birds, but also squirrels (often whether you like it or not!) in the autumn and into the winter. A vast array of species can be seen at feeders, with birds like woodpeckers, nuthatch and tit species favouring nuts, and seeds being favoured by finches. Putting food out for birds in feeders is undoubtedly a good thing, but it often depends on the food type. A seed mix and nuts are good for birds, but pieces of stale white bread provide very little nutrition to our feathered friends so what food you put out is worth considering.



The charismatic hedgehog

Other wildlife takes a different approach to the colder temperature and the shorter daylength, and arguably the most charismatic animal who hibernates in autumn until the following spring is the hedgehog. Rather than spending great time and effort trying to find enough food (mainly invertebrates) to sustain them over these months, the hedgehog decides, after feeding up, to find a cosy spot in a log pile or amongst dead leaves. With the milder winters however, more and more hedgehogs have been seen in the middle of winter, which can have negative implications for the animals if there's not much food for them around at that time. At this time of year with many a bonfire being

lit, it's always a good idea to check log piles and brush before lighting them to make sure a hedgehog, or any other animal, hasn't taken up residency.

Bats too hibernate with many moving into structures like caves, tunnels and under bridges, where they benefit from constant, cool climatic conditions. They too will reappear typically in the spring, although like the hedgehog, milder winters have brought bats out around Christmas. Other mammals however, may become more noticeable in the autumn, like red fox. This is the time when the female (vixen) is looking for a mate and she screams, in a banshee-like way, which is fitting for Halloween and the longer, dark nights.

Other animals like amphibians and reptiles are in hibernation mode, and autumn is a time when most amphibians have long moved out of ponds and into terrestrial shelters, like log piles. Perhaps one of the few exceptions to this are frogs which may



Don't forget a birdfeeder in your garden!

stay in ponds and lie dormant at the bottom amongst the substrate.

It's clear that different wildlife has very different ways to deal with autumn. Although this season has so much to like, like the fantastic array of coloured leaves, the high number of newly arriving birds from northern climes and weather conditions (if you wrap up well) often ideal for a nice countryside walk, it's worth remembering that wildlife around us could do with a bit of help at this time of year as natural food supplies and temperature and daylength fall. Whether it's putting out birdseed, retaining a 'wild' area in your garden with log piles for hibernating animals, or considering animals like hedgehogs before lighting any bonfires we can help make autumn as pleasurable a season for wildlife than it is for us.

Colin Bonnington



1. Bob & Betty at this momentous event!

2. Bob's family far and wide for a meal at 'Croes Howell'

3. Presented with a model 1919 biplane

4. The queen and Bob's amazing history

5 & 6. Young Bob who as an adult flew in Wellington bombers

Bob Hughes 100th Birthday

Dodleston village must be one of the healthiest places to live in the country as one of our residents has just celebrated his 100th birthday!

Bob Hughes has lived in the village since the age of 4. Bob attended Dodleston school with his older brother and 3 sisters and now lives just a stones throw away on Church Road.

Bob served in the RAF from 1938 until 1945 and, upon returning to the village, met and married Betty Nicholls who also lived in Dodleston. They celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary this year. They have three sons and now have quite an extensive family.

Bob and Betty are members of the village Leisure Group who joined in the celebrations by preparing a delicious afternoon tea. Bob was thrilled to be presented with a model biplane from 1919. A miniature model carry case full of cards on which the members had written their best wishes and birthday messages was also presented to him. Bob was very touched with this presentation, very cleverly hand made by one of their members.

The Royal Mail Postman called in to see Bob open his card of congratulations from Her Majesty The Queen.

Bob received many birthday cards and was quite overwhelmed.

Bob's family all gathered for a meal at 'Croes Howell'. It was touch and go as Bob fell the day before and visited A&E. However, it all turned out well as an x-ray showed no fractures and Bob was able to attend his party albeit in quite a lot of pain! Family members came from Canada, Bristol, Reading and London. Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and Great -Great Grandchildren attended to see 'Grand-dad Bob'.

Bob should have attended an afternoon tea with the Parish Council but unfortunately the fall has kept him inside while he regains his strength, which we have no doubt with Bob's determination, he will!



The Wartime Experiences Of Bob Hughes

Born at Old Coaching House (now Warren Wood) Lower Kinnerton, youngest of 3 sisters and 1 brother. After leaving Dodleston School at 14, did odd jobs at big houses in Lache Lane and Saltney Petrol Station.

In 1938, aged 18, I joined the RAF and did basic training as well as fitness and electrical at RAF Henlow. January 1940 posted St Athens, March 1940 Sutton Bridge, November 1940 -ADEN - via South Africa on Viceroy of India - saw Red Sea and Port Said and joined 203 Squadron (the Blenheims).

Then posted to Port Said on HMS Phoebe and arrived at Kabrit on the Great Bitter Lake on April 13th 1941. In June I travelled through Cairo into the desert at Burg-al Arab. Served in the desert till 1942 to finish up in Benghazi; by air to Tunis then marched to Kaurowan to join 104 Squadron to work on Wellington bombers. We dropped leaflets over Italy - urging them to forward them to General Badoglio (Mussolini's successor) with surrender instructions!

October 1943, I was promoted to Corporal before finally crossing the Med to Naples and then back to dear old Blighty. Finally saw home on December 7th 1944

Community Orchard

Why you should come and help to plant our community orchard...



We asked the Guides why they thought it would be good to plant a community orchard and this is what they said;

- It's a great friends & family day out
- It's great for the environment, attracting lots of local wildlife
- When it's fully grown, it will be a great place for a picnic and a walk
- It's brilliant for the community and it brings people together to participate in great teamwork on the planting day and for the harvesting days in years to come when they're fruiting!

Our community woodland is growing! It started with the idea of raising money for Dodleston Pre-School and with the driving force of Andrew Barnett and expertise of Lou Billett, the woodland was successfully planted. Since then, Andrew and Lou have engaged the village community with follow up events such as willow dome planting and woodland tidy up days, which have meant the saplings have gone from strength to strength.

The community have been making the most of this beautiful new area with the Pre-School pupils and Primary School pupils exploring the nature that exists already in and around the woodland as well as 1st Dodleston Guides and Brownies spending many of their summer and autumn term evenings around campfires in the forest school area.

We are now building on the wonderful benefits for the community that the woodland can also provide us with a fruitful harvest by planting an orchard. The orchard is coming to life from a grant application by Andrew and Lou to the Tree Council which provided funding that is then being matched by the 1st Dodleston Guides as part of the continued community engagement in the woodland project.

The Guides and Brownies are inviting the rest of the Dodleston community to join them in planting the Community Orchard on Sunday 24th November 10 am - 2 pm, and remember to bring a spade, a cake or just good old-fashioned green thumbs!



1st Dodleston Guides Act on Plastic for Chester Zoo "Never Forget" Campaign

The 1st Dodleston Guides went on a trip to Chester Zoo this October, but they weren't just armed with packed lunches and spending money, but with bags and bags of empty crisp packets which will eventually help research into the deadly elephant herpes virus.

"How on earth can empty crisp packets help research into elephant herpes?" we hear you cry! Well, Walkers®, the crisp makers, provide money for every empty crisp packet that is donated to the Chester Zoo "Never Forget" charity which performs this research. The Walkers® recycling scheme send the crisp packets (all brands) to recycling firm TerraCycle. The packets are then shredded into plastic pellets to be turned into everyday items, like outdoor furniture and trays. We know what your next question is: "where did it all start?" well, we'll tell you...

The Guides were inspired by a visit from Plastic Free Chester representatives Christian Dunn and Helen Tandy where we discussed the use of plastics in everyday life, the potential to recycle them (or not) and the impact that single use plastics may have on our environment. The Guides wanted to act on reducing the impact of a single use plastic waste that they produce daily – crisp packets.

The Guides teamed up to take their message out to their schools by inspiring the rest of the pupils during speeches in assemblies, educating them on single use plastics and encouraging them to place their empty crisp packets in the collection boxes around school. We took 6 big bags full of empty crisp packets that we collected over 9 months, and we will continue to collect them and drop them off at Chester Zoo.

Help us to continue with our project by collecting your empty crisp packets (any brand) and dropping them off with us on a Monday evening at the Dodleston Village Hall. This has the fantastic double benefit of making a single-use plastic item into something useful and to help to save the lives of elephants on the breeding program at Chester Zoo.



DODLESTON OKTOBERFEST 2019

Following on from the success of the first two-day Dodleston Summer Festival and numerous requests from our community to hold another event in the calendar year, Dodleston Parish Council were pleased to introduce the first Dodleston Oktoberfest to the social calendar on 12th October at the Village Hall.

The evening proved to be a great success with a sell-out 100+ locals attending.

Great German food concocted by Councillor Carl Willis and served by local wenches Jan Maughan and Alison Buchanan, and the ever-popular Dead Lion Bar manned by Councillors Mike Maughan and Paul Buchanan along with Josh Buchanan, appealed to all in attendance.

We hired the services of a great 5-piece oompah band who travelled up from London and certainly got the party in full flow with a wide range of music ranging from authentic German tunes to their version of Britney Spears "Toxic", accompanied by ridiculous drinking games which everyone fully committed to - some more than others!

The event pretty much paid for itself, but in truth it was more about having a fun night for the community and hopefully 2019 is the first of many Dodleston Oktoberfests.

Thanks go to everyone who attended, and to Mike Green for his help organising the event and Margaret Willis for providing bed and breakfast for the band.



Dodleston Parish Field update

It has been an exciting few weeks behind the scenes for the Parish Council. Not only have we secured funding to proceed with the installation of an outdoor gym on the Dodleston Sports Field but also secured funding to resurface the perimeter path. Both the outdoor gym and the condition of the perimeter path were highlighted by the community as areas for improvement in the sports field survey.

When the chance came along to apply for funding to develop the outdoor gym, we simultaneously asked for funding to upgrade the path. Works will be completed in two parts – we expect the perimeter path to be resurfaced during April/ May 2020 whereas the outdoor gym will be installed in time for the New Year resolutions! The outdoor gym will have an Android and IOS app which can be used as a training buddy and will provide excellent guidance on how to use each piece of equipment and help you log your training. Huge thanks to WREN and Meadow Foods for funding this vital community project. There are further plans in place for more Sports Field improvements so watch this space!



Dodleston Cricket Club 2019 Season- Champions

We won the league!

After 20 years since our last league win and promotion we have won our division of the Chester Midweek cricket league; the league had to go back to paper records to see when we were last promoted – 1999!

We had a fantastic season this year winning 7 games and only narrowly losing 3 matches with the remaining fixtures succumbing to rain. The team's favourite win of the season was against Frodsham when we had a tightly fought match on a shocking pitch finishing in the dark with a win

that confirmed our promotion. We also enjoyed our biggest wins of the season against local rivals, Kinnerton, bowling them out for 38.

So next year we are playing in Division 4 and will be playing many teams that we have played over the past 20 years – our aim is to keep up the performance of this year and to see if we can get promoted again!

Notable performances this year were Alex Powell who topped the runs scored (221) and wickets (15), George Johansen who had the best figures from a match taking 5 wickets for 3 runs from his 4 overs against our local rivals Kinnerton, and George and Bart Ryan-Beswick who topped the batting averages both averaging 52. Thanks to Matt Hughes (holding the cup in the photograph) who captained the side again this year and has been at the helm for the past few seasons when we have gone from winning no games in a season to this year topping the division. Matt has also managed to recruit a whole raft of younger local players so it's no great surprise that the performances have improved.

“...we have gone from winning no games in a season to this year topping the division.”

Finally, thanks also to Phil Hughes who has been the scorer for the team this year - and in extremis has been an emergency player.

At the end of season, we enjoyed a great evening at Boughton Hall Cricket Club who hosted the League presentation and we were presented with our cup by Ryan Sidebotham ex-England and Yorkshire player – we now need to put up a trophy cabinet in the pavilion!



Alex Powell (photographed with Ryan Sidebotham)



Presentation of our cup by Ryan Sidebotham ex-England and Yorkshire player

“So next year we are playing in Division 4 and will be playing many teams that we have played over the past 20 years – our aim is to keep up the performance of this year and to see if we can get promoted again!”

We also had the league player of the season in our team – Alex Powell (photographed with Ryan Sidebotham). This award is made based on runs scored and wickets taken across all the teams in our division so very well deserved!

So next season we are in division 4 - nets will start in April so if you fancy having a go please come along to one of our nets sessions on Tuesdays – matches will be on Wednesday evenings. We are also always looking for new players so if you are interested or just fancy having a go please come along – we have plenty of kit of varying sizes, so you just need a pair of trainers to have a go.

If you are interested in playing or scoring or just want to get involved with the club, please contact Jeremy Parker - 01244 661526.



As we head into the throws of the colder months a phrase we hear often is "Oh I bet it's too cold/windy/wet to play out now" but for us at **Dodleston Pre-School** the change in weather merely means more opportunities for learning and exploring.

Autumn is amazing for us in the outdoors as we have conkers, acorns, blackberries, rosehips, damsons and more to collect and use in art, cooking, snacking, rolling and sorting.

The magic of the leaves changing colour and frost appearing. There is different wildlife to meet during the autumn months and topics such as hibernation arise. And then there is all the mud, as you can tell from our last article, we fully embrace all that mud can offer.

With all this magic we do have to face the cold and the wet but one our favourite quotes is "There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing" so we have an abundance of splash suits that we acquired with a donation from The Red Lion Dodleston, we have lots of old wellies and the children come prepared with their hats, scarves and gloves and we get suited and booted and off we go to explore the great outdoors.

Why? Because the benefits of outdoor play in all weathers far outweighs any draw backs, in fact the only drawback could be that they may feel cold, however the benefits are:

- Playing outdoors promotes physical development, they can run, jump, climb and exercise all the muscles needed for future learning journeys. By being on the swing they are developing their vestibular senses.
- They will be being exposed to fresh air and vitamin D as opposed to being stuck inside where, if poorly ventilated, they will be exposed to bacteria and viruses. We often hear that children will catch colds if they play out in the cold but, they are likely to avoid catching colds if they're outside often.
- The children get to see the outdoors through a new lens exploring all that the changing seasons has to offer and by embracing the changes they become adults that make the most of every day not just the sunny days!
- Some children learn much better when they have the freedom and space of the outdoors and if we take this away from them for half of the year the repercussions would be catastrophic, have you ever heard of the saying "They're bouncing off the walls" well take the walls away and this isn't a problem anymore.

So, as you can see it is worth bracing the cold to head outside, not even the snow can stop us instead we make a fire and have hot chocolate to warm ourselves up!

Dodleston Baby & Toddler Group

Pre-school Play Group
Dodleston Village Hall
Thursdays 10.00am -
11.30am during term time

Only £3.00 per session
(plus £1 for additional
children) including
refreshments



Lots of toys, singing, free play, arts and crafts and other activities. Come and meet other parents for a chat and a cuppa!

For more information contact
Helen on 07951 880702 or just pop in and see us!

Join us on facebook for further information
(Search for Dodleston Babies and Toddlers Group)

Dodleston Primary School

What a busy but enjoyable start to the new school year. I can't believe our new Reception children have been in school for eight weeks – they have settled in so well and it is a delight to see them so happy and confident around school.

All our pupils have been working so hard on their new topics and there is a lovely 'buzz' in the classrooms. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the work they are producing and love hearing them share the facts they have been learnt. The children have been writing persuasive articles on Climate Change, experiencing a day in the life of a Viking Warrior, making planets and making clay models to name just a few.

The term started with a very exciting event: we got to watch the Tour of Britain bike race pass right by us. The children eagerly lined up along St Mary's road ready to cheer on the cyclists but before the first rider appeared, we had a great time waving and cheering to the many police escorts that went by beeping their horns - one officer even high-fived the children on his way past! It was an amazing experience for all of us to see.



This half term we saw our very first Family Worship in St Mary's Church. Our Ethos group did a fantastic job of organising and delivering the whole worship and it was wonderful to welcome parents, grandparents, friends and members of the church congregation. We will be having family worships on the first Wednesday on the month to coincide with St Mary's coffee morning and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

It has also been so lovely to welcome Molly and Tilly to school on Mondays – I don't know who was more excited to greet them when they first arrived: the staff or the pupils. Molly and Tilly are volunteers for an organisation called 'Therapy Dogs' which is a national service which aims to help address the issues in schools around well-being. We have signed up to their 'Paws to Read' initiative which encourages and promotes that love for reading in a safe and support environment. Molly and Tilly lie and listen to the children read and are the most avid and engaged listeners. The children then get an opportunity to talk to the dogs and give them a fuss. This is a wonderful initiative and one which has already had an impact on both reading engagement and enjoyment.

Our sports teams have enjoyed competing in a number of events. They have taken part in Tag Rugby and Hockey events and always make us proud in their conduct and sportsperson like attitude. Our newly appointed Sports Ambassadors, along with their sports crew, are looking for ways to promote healthy lifestyles and active lunchtimes. It is great to see such enthusiasm!

We have lots of exciting things planned for next half term and look forward to sharing some of them with the community.

Joanne Robertson



Our new school year



Dodleston & District WI



Pensioners Christmas Lunch 2019

FREE!
All Pensioners
in the Dodleston
Parish Council area
welcome

Thursday 19th December 1.45pm
Dodleston Village Hall

1.45pm - 2.30pm Arrival & Sherry / soft drink

2.30pm - 4.30pm Turkey Dinner

Xmas Pud & Brandy Sauce

Coffee / Tea and Mince Pies

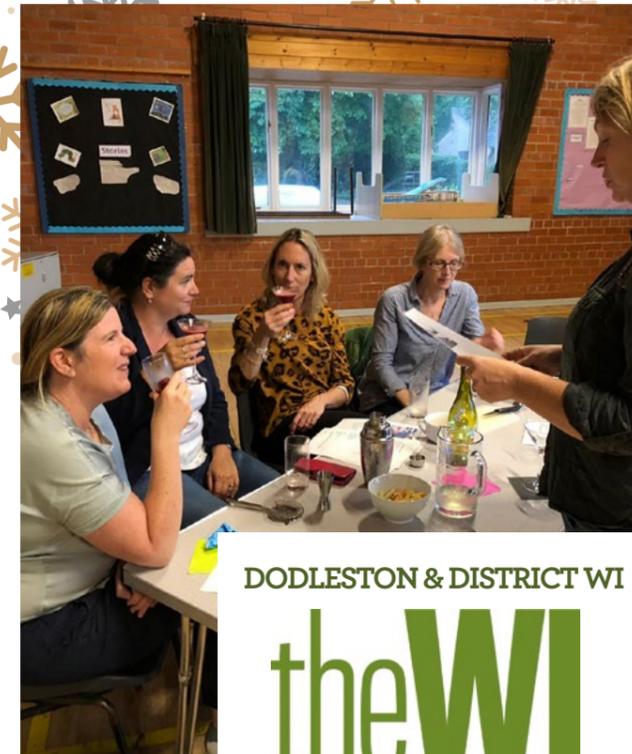
Bingo

FREE EVENT!

Please pop into Dodleston village
shop to put your name down.

This has been sponsored by

DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Since last writing we have continued to enjoy a varied programme here at Dodleston & District WI as well as welcome lots of new members, we now have over 50 members, not bad for a small village WI! We are proud of what we have achieved in just a short few years and increased membership makes our WI even more sustainable and means that we can provide the very best inspirational speakers and opportunities for our members and the community.

In the last year we have had evenings on CPR Training, Yoga, Fishing, Thai food cooking, singing and a cocktail making evening to name a few.

In October we took a coach to the Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch a production of 9 to 5 the musical, it was great to be taken door to door and we all laughed a lot.



There is loads of great events coming up such as our Christmas party, drum fit, walking, netball, twig twisting, soap making, funeral planning, and much more, come along we'd love to meet you.

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

Dodleston Christmas Tree Carols 2019

Saturday December 7th at 5pm.

Everybody Welcome

We hope to see you at the tree outside the church.

Christmas Carols & mince pies!



This has been sponsored by

DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI



A Farm's Carbon Footprint

A massive issue for all of us for now and the future is looking after the planet. Farmers are very aware of this. Lots of startling stories shoot around social media and can portray agriculture in a bad light. Carbon audits to establish a farm's carbon footprint are taken annually and have been done for a few years now. These audits are very precise,



thorough and demanding and consider all farm inputs and outputs. It takes a few days of information gathering before the assessors arrive. On the actual assessment day, lots of fact checking is undertaken and further searching for information on new topics is required. A new requirement this year was the distance straw bedding travels to establish the fuel usage. Our farm receives a carbon figure, which is then published as part of a league

table and best practice is shared at Co-op meetings. Farmers are actually very good at reducing their carbon footprint and it gets quite competitive to improve every year. However, this figure is not the whole picture as the grassland which livestock need absorbs carbon which further helps our carbon reducing impact. This figure is not included in the audit. But have no doubt, farmers are acutely aware of global warming as it impacts on weather patterns and are doing lots to reduce their carbon hoofprint.

THOSE CHICKEN SHEDS... are likely to be operational in late November/early December. The cycle takes about six weeks when the chicks will be transported away. After a week for cleaning, the cycle starts again.

I've spoken at length to Giles Dodd and his sons. They are adamant that there will be no noise disturbance. Deliveries and collections take place during the day so there will be no night-time disturbance from heavy traffic.

We all feared the worst which is why the Parish Council opposed the Planning Application. We hope to be pleasantly surprised. We'll be interested to hear your feedback when the venture is in full swing. Giles has been very willing to talk to me and long may that continue.

Roger Taylor

Vandals At Work

There have been various instances recently: glass smashed in the village; a window broken in the Sports Field Pavilion; a sign in the Playing Field attacked; the socket for Christmas Tree lights vandalised; unpleasant graffiti in yellow paint in the Playing Field and a drain cover in somebody's garden daubed with the same paint.

The Council is aware, and cleaning has been organised. PC Carmon has a good idea of those who are responsible and there will be extra night-time patrols.

If you see these idiots at work, please DON'T tackle them but please DO inform the Parish Council and the Police.



WILD GOOSE
LAKESIDE BAR & RESTAURANT

Christmas Day Time to Dine in Style!

Our indulgent three course feast menu is perfect for festive gatherings for all the family on this Christmas Day. With traditional dishes served with a modern twist.

Mulled Wine Reception ***

Starters

- Homemade parsnip & apple soup, served with parsnip crisps, warm granary bread & butter.
- Atlantic prawn, crayfish & avocado salad served with a lemon & Marie Rose sauce.
- Duck liver pâté served with a caramelised onion and Cointreau chutney with toasted granary bread.
- Galia melon balls, orange & grapefruit segments served with a champagne sorbet.

Mains

- Butter basted roast turkey breast, pigs in blankets, sage & sausage meat stuffing, herb roast potatoes, honey roast root vegetables. Served with a rich gravy.
- Pan-fried salmon, garlic potatoes, young leeks & carrots. Served with a lemon & parsley Chardonnay cream.
- Roast sirloin of beef, herb roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, honey glazed root vegetables. Served with a shallot & Madeira gravy
- Gnocchi in a blue cheese, cream and leek sauce, topped with chestnut & sage crumb. Served with honey roast vegetables & herb roast potatoes.

Desserts

- Wild Goose Christmas pudding with brandy sauce.
- Mulled berry Eton mess, with fresh strawberries, meringue & mulled fruits of the forest.
- Duo of Joe Delucci ice cream served in brandy snap baskets
- Trio of cheeses served with chutney, grapes, celery & biscuits (£2.95 supp)
- Mince pies & filter coffee

Sitting times • 1st sitting: 11.30 for 12.00 • 2nd sitting: 2.45 for 3.15

Adults £65.00 • Children under 12 £25.50 (half portions)

A deposit of £20pp is required upon booking

Festive Lunch & Dinner

This season, we invite you to join us at the Wild Goose for your own festivities. Whether it be for a special lunch, dinner or a private celebration.

CLASSIC FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MENU ***

Starters

- Chef's homemade soup of the day with warm bread
- Trio of Salmon Gravavlax with beetroot ginger & lime
- Roast pork belly with glazed apple & black pudding
- King Prawns with sweet chilli & coriander sauce
- Chicken Liver pâté with toasted brioche & onion marmalade

Mains

- Roast Turkey Breast served with pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes and gravy
- Pan-fried salmon served with garlic potatoes, young leeks, carrots and a lemon and parsley Chardonnay cream
- Penne Casalinga with beef strips in a granary mustard and white wine sauce
- Wild Mushroom Rissotto in white wine, onions and garlic with parmesan
- Beef fillet medallions in a red Shiraz sauce, served with mashed potatoes (£6.95 supp)

Desserts

- Wild Goose Christmas pudding
- Homemade Black Forrest Cheese Cake
- Trio of Joe Delucci Ice Cream
- Slow cooked Pears in cinnamon sauce with vanilla ice cream
- 3 cheese platter, served with chutney, grapes, celery and biscuits (£2.95 supp)

12-4pm: Lunch 2 courses £19.95 3 courses £24.95

4-9pm: Dinner 2 courses £24.95 3 courses £29.95

Pre-order required for parties over 8

New Year's Eve 3 COURSE GOURMET DINNER

Entertainment by AromaCosmo into the New Year 2020!
Champagne Cocktail & Canapés

Starters

- Seared king scallops, braised and glazed belly pork served with a butternut squash purée finished with lemon oil
- Garlic mushroom mille-fuille with fresh asparagus, truffle oil.
- Ham hock terrine, apple compote, thyme ciabatta croutons

Mains

- Filetto Rossini fillet steak topped with pâté in a rich Madeira gravy served with seasonal vegetables & sautéed potatoes.
- Monkfish wrapped in Parma ham served with creamy saffron root vegetables and fondant potato.
- Wild mushroom tortellini in a white wine, chive cream sauce, finished with shaved parmesan and truffle oil.

Assiette of Wild Goose Desserts ***

Coffee & Petite Fours

Arrival 7.30 dining 8.30

£65.00pp

A deposit of £30 is required upon booking

• Dress code: Smart casual

St Mary's Church, Dodleston



Events at St Mary's

1st Sunday of the month:

11.00am Morning Worship

Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion

Coffee Morning:

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

Crafty Creations:

Second Monday of each Month – 10.00am-12noon.

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

Christmas Events:

Lighting of the Christmas Tree outside St Mary's, followed by mulled wine & soft drinks in Church

Dates for this event and other Christmas Services are yet to be finalized. Posters will be put up throughout the village with further details. Details will also be on village websites and in the church magazine.

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

The main road and Moor Lane in Lower Kinnerton are susceptible to flooding, as the picture attests. The Parish Council is applying pressure to improve drainage in the area. To the best of our knowledge, nobody has suffered damage to their property or possessions yet but preventative measures are essential. Watch this space.



Santa's rocket

Don't forget to post your letter to Santa at Chapel Stores before the 21st December, and watch for the rocket to be launched to the North Pole at 7pm on Sunday 22nd December, just in time for Christmas

NODA AWARD WINNERS

Dodleston Youth Players
Invite you to their Annual Pantomime



TREASURE ISLAND

by Toby Bradford and Tina Webster

13 -15 February 2020
in the Village Hall

Join us for a fun filled Panto with
all the traditional ingredients and
a few surprises too!

TICKETS: Will be available in
the New Year



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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



Cllr Carl Willis

Tel: 07540 282186

email: carlwillis01@yahoo.com



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Designed & Produced by Wodehouse - 0161 875 2487 - whd-comms.co.uk