

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

# LocalLife

Edition 41 Winter / November 2021



## in this issue...

- Dodleston Foodbank
- Winter Wildlife News
- Brian Jones Award Winning Garden

## Welcome all...



Roger Taylor - Editor

Again, we have a packed magazine: a tribute to all those people who give so selflessly of their time. They help to make us what we are – A Community!

With that in mind, I'd like to appeal to the entire parish to make me aware of BIG events – 100th birthdays, 70th wedding anniversaries, for example.

Above all, I'd like to know about Births, Marriages and Deaths. My contact details are on the back cover if you want to let me know. In "News & Events" we have brief reference to two recent deaths, provided to me by Councillor Carl Willis – thank you Carl.

On several occasions I have actually been to meet people in the Parish who are celebrating notable events – thereby enabling a story and a photo. I can't promise to do that every time but I'm waiting to hear from you.

The three annual issues of Local Life tend to be delivered in November, March & July so your news would be included in the next edition. Over to You!

## Homewatch Report



Air rifle culprit spoken to

**In terms of reported incidents, there have been a couple of serious complaints needing police intervention.**

In September this year, a resident of St Mary's Road, Dodleston reported her cat had been shot with an air rifle and the pellet had to be removed from its body by a vet. Luckily the cat survived but it was a close thing!

Earlier this year, rear windows of a house close to St Mary's Road were also targeted with air rifle pellets causing damage resulting in the glass panes being replaced, at great inconvenience and considerable cost.

On both occasions, the police were involved although at the time it was difficult to identify the culprit, especially who targeted the windows.

However, after the cat incident, police were given a name of a possible individual living in St Mary's Road. The police confirm he has been spoken to and advice given. If the police receive any more reports of this nature involving this young person, further action will be taken.

The cat owner has said the vet confirms the cat was lucky to survive this shooting as it could easily have died.

The Dodleston Parish Council request that should a similar incident occur, please let them

know in confidence as complaints from the community are essential in preventing a recurrence of this sad and totally unnecessary episode.

**Contact:**  
[www.dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk)



Dog napping fortunately on the decrease.

It's good to note the incidents of scams and reports of dog snatching have not been so much of an issue in recent months, and let's hope that continues.

**Bernard Dennis**  
**Tel; 07966 436073**

Front Cover: Welna Bowden with just some of the kind foodbank donations

## Local News

**Reverse Advent Calendar 2021**

If you are thinking of donating this Christmas, why not do our Reverse Advent Calendar but rather than donating Christmas Eve do the calendar for the month of November and drop off to us at our warehouse for the beginning of December, that way we can make sure everybody has something for Christmas period.

**Some More Ideas From Our Shopping List**

**Sweet treats**  
**Tinned Tomatoes**  
**Pot Noodles**  
**Paste/Spreads**  
**Christmas Pudding**  
**(Please note Christmas Puddings CANNOT contain alcohol)**

Unit 3  
Stanley Mill Industrial Estate  
Dutton Green, Chester  
CH2 4SA

0151 355 7730

**What We Need Most This Christmas**

- Milk UHT
- Juice UHT
- Tinned Veg/Potatoes
- Coffee 100gm
- Biscuits
- Tinned custard/fruit
- Pasta Sauces/
- Curry Sauces
- Jams
- Cuppa Soup
- Instant Mash
- Toilet Rolls
- Toiletries

\*please note items donated close to Christmas will not be distributed until the New Year so there is no rush to bring them before January.

Our warehouse is open Monday – Friday Fri 9 am – 2pm. Pop by with your donation & say hi ☺

Last day before Christmas – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 (9am – 2pm)

Closed all the Bank Holidays

Re-opening on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Our Food Bank needs YOU!

Thank you to new contributors St. Mary's Church who provides regular donations – thank you so much. Lower Kinnerton drops off a big boot full of items which usually fill the Red Box – thank you! If you are thinking of donating this Christmas, why not do their Reverse Advent Calendar? Christmas is a time for Families and what better way to help others by donating food? What they need most are:

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



*(Please note that items donated close to Christmas will not be distributed until the New Year.)*

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

# DODLESTON YOUTH PLAYERS



The cast of our recent "Murder is Served" Murder Mystery Evening production.

## Players are delighted to be back entertaining Dodlestonians once more.

Our first offering post-Covid was the much-delayed murder mystery evening, "Murder is Served" in September. Judging by the audience reaction to this colourful performance it was well enjoyed and a real tonic to be able to see live entertainment. The cast were highly entertaining and kept most of us guessing 'whodunnit' to the very end. The event was also successful in raising £862.80 which was divided between Players and the DVF. Players' half is very welcome and has been used to replace some aged stage lighting and an old backdrop

We are also excited to be well into rehearsals for our annual panto in February. 'Jack and the Beanstalk' sees us with many new faces in the cast – both children and adults – which is great! Lines, songs and dances are being learned, costumes organised, the beanstalk and other props are being created and special effects are

being organised. You won't want to miss out on this I'm sure so put the date in your diary now and keep an eye out for booking details which will be advertised in January.

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**  
17TH TO 19 FEBRUARY 2022  
IN DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL.

### OBITUARY

On a sad note, we are sorry to say we have lost one of our longtime helpers. Gordon Watkinson, who died in October, created a lot of our props over many years from Aladdin's lamps to animal heads (not to mention the dames boobs!) Our thoughts remain with his wife Shelagh and Elaine (our wardrobe mistress) and family.



So, about this time last year, in November 2020, I was sitting in my kitchen, reading Local Life. It was during Lockdown 2, with winter looming, bringing its cold days and dark nights, and we were all going stir crazy. Opportunities to meet people were strictly limited, so talking to yourself made more sense than usual.

To my shock and horror, I learned from Local Life that due to Covid, the Dodleston Players were not going to perform a pantomime in February 2021, potentially breaking the tradition of Dodleston Pantomimes over the last 50 years.

I had a long conversation with myself and decided to write a pantomime that could be performed on Zoom. Although it's said that the first sign of madness is talking to yourself, the second sign is definitely opting to organise a Zoom pantomime! However, it would continue the Dodleston tradition, give local children an opportunity to perform, and hopefully raise some money for charity.

I really enjoyed writing the pantomime. I know you're not supposed to laugh at your own jokes, (but to be honest many of the jokes weren't mine anyway), and I certainly had a giggle or two. I'd written a pantomime called "Rapunzel and the Ayatollah" for the Dodleston Players about 40 years ago, and I must have seen about 60 pantomimes, so I know the format very well. The script almost wrote itself; I could easily picture Mike Dix and Gordon Robertson acting as the Ugly Sisters; a horrible old Witch developing the disgusting Corona Fie Rush; and a dashing young Vaxini finding the cure, with good ultimately triumphing over evil.

It was only possible for us to go ahead thanks to the hard work and technical wizardry of the producers, Richard Kitchin and Nicky Morris. Thanks also to everyone else who took part, or helped, supported, or added sparkle, glitter glamour and dazzle to the Show. You know who you are!

We performed Cindervirella live on Zoom on 13 February 2021, with some added bonus scenes filmed locally and incorporated into the production. We raised well over £1,000 for the Dodleston Village Foundation, the charity that manages the Village Hall and the Play Park near the Church. If you contributed, thanks to you for your generous donations.

**Liz Shanklin**

ZOOM PANTO

## The Marl Pits

**“There’s Marl in them thar pits!”**  
A majority of those who have ventured to walk on the many designated footpaths around the parish will no doubt have consulted either the excellent but dated version of the small booklet “Walks around Dodleston” or an Ordnance Survey Pathfinder map of suitable scale as a reference.

The first Ordnance Survey maps were available to the public in the late Georgian era. These stunning ‘works of art’ weren’t cheap, but the owner was privy to a spectacular aerial view of the landscape until then only seen from a hot air balloon.

It is interesting to note the detail of these early OS maps is incredibly accurate, given that the surveyors and cartographers didn’t have the benefit of modern technology, viz GPS and modern surveying equipment.

One example of this is the positioning of ponds in the fields around our locality.

A short while ago, I overlaid a modern OS map over a 19th century map of the area and the ponds on both maps lined up, almost perfectly. This I consider to be an incredible feat of draughtsmanship by the original cartographers. A small factor but it just goes to show how accurate these maps are and were in their time.

The Parish of Dodleston is littered with ponds and wherever you walk, a pond will present itself. The relatively new Dodleston Sports field on the outskirts of the village originally had a pond in the middle of its 14.5 acres. This was filled in when landscaping work was carried out to create the new sports field. It would have been impossible to use the field for cricket, football and other activities with the pond being where it was, so, as all users of the field will know, a new larger pond was created nearer the footpath entrance.

Circumnavigating the field on the Sports field footpath, another pond can be seen in the adjacent field. The field currently being inhabited by a large flock of migrating geese whose presence is noisily announced.

These ponds, or to give them their correct title PITS, have been around for many centuries and served a very specific purpose. Not only providing habitat and water for wildlife and cattle alike, but originally as a source of MARL to enhance the soil for

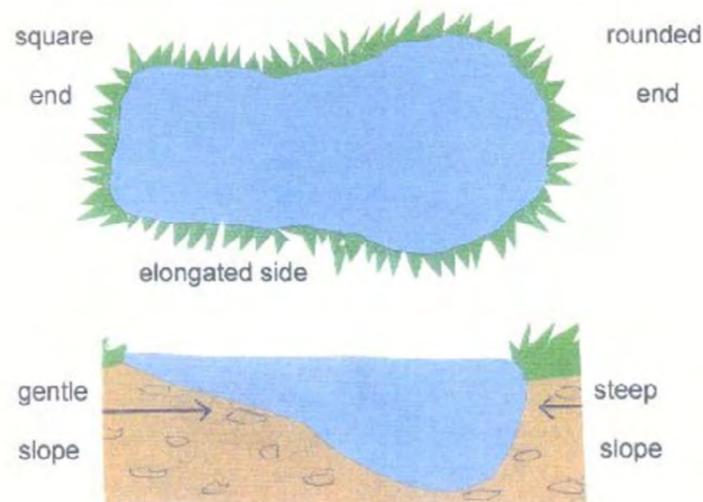
agricultural purposes. Commonly known as Marl pits, they will have provided a special type of carbonate-rich mud or mudstone containing variable amounts of clay and silt. Marl would have been excavated by hand from these pits, loaded into horse drawn carts and then spread on to the soil as a form of fertilizer to improve the quality of the crops being planted and harvested. It is likely this method of spreading clay over sandy soils to enrich the substrata and improve its water retention was probably introduced by the Romans.

Marlpits are different from sand and brick pits. A Marlpit is usually oblong in shape with a smaller square end and larger rounded end (see illustration). The square end is shallow and sloping to allow carts entry for loading; the rounded end would be

being wheat, corn, barley and potatoes - all of which would need a well fertilized soil. The use of dung was limited as cattle numbers decreased during certain times of the year, mainly going to be slaughtered during the winter months for their meat.

Dodleston Parish was predominantly an arable area but by the 19th century, alternative forms of fertilizer were becoming available. Being labour intensive, Marling was becoming less economical compared to the alternative fertilizers coming onto the market, these being, lime, bone dust, sea sludge, soda and salt. The road system was improving, and these products were more readily available throughout the year.

As will be clearly evident by walkers, Dodleston is now mainly dairy



*The Marl Pit, the source of one of our earliest fertilisers*

deeper as it is from here the main bulk of Marl is excavated. Over the years they naturally fill with water, hence new pits being created nearby.

It would seem that Marling continued in use throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries and as Dodleston was predominately an agricultural parish with many farms, Marl would have been an important and freely available ingredient in the production of quality crops.

We know from the late 19th century local school Logbook entries that young school children would not attend lessons so they could help on the farms with harvesting, the crops mainly

with the occasional field of arable crops appearing. Maize is grown by many farms to provide essential winter fodder for their livestock.

There is a story that one of the larger Marlpits in the village was at one time known as the ‘swimming pond’. Rumour has it that local children created a diving board at the deeper end and freely enjoyed the benefits it provided.

**Bernard Dennis MBE**  
Chairman Dodleston Local History Group



*Apple Pressing*



*Cleaning the windows*

**C**ommunity is vital to us at Preschool. Our immediate considerations surround the children who currently attend and their families. However, as members preschool practitioners in a village Preschool, we have a tremendous sense of the wider community too.

As an early years’ provider, we are bound by the statutory Early Years Framework. Amendments came into force this September which allow us freedom to decide what it is that we would like our children, in our setting, in our community to learn about. We have considered our immediate surroundings as well as the wider community and the areas in which our children grow up, and the cultures that exist for them already. We aim to develop these areas through recognising every child’s unique starting points and experiences. We also aim to put opportunities in place where they may be absent or incomplete, as we feel that they are essential to children’s development and well-being. A sense of community is one of the areas that we feel is vital so that, through a sense of belonging and connection and a knowing that there are people outside their immediate circles who care for them, children may develop schemes of tolerance, respect and care for their environment and the people who live within it.



*Pre-School Friends*

Accordingly, we have been delighted to welcome Mrs Ryan from Dodleston Primary School into Preschool this term. She has been able to meet some of the children who will move to Reception in September. Additionally, we had a wonderful time learning how to press local apples at the WI- organised apple press and the children were able to share photographs of their experience with their families through discussion at home. These relationships with local people are important in developing children’s emotional and cognitive abilities both in the short and long term, and we see this displayed in children’s recall and sharing of information between home and Preschool.

**continues...**

We talk a lot about the cows in the adjoining field. The children are fascinated by their presence, but equally fascinated by their non-presence which throws up a well-trodden discussion about where they might be, care for the fields, crop growth and where the farmers and associated cows might live. As frequently as we are able, we all love to walk, this is an opportunity to look at styles of houses, point out where our friends and family live and play in the park and parish field. A particular interest this term has been the church (the children think it is like a castle) and the chiming of the bells.

Also, we re-joined the library! 6 of the children visited the library van in the church car park where they chose a book each, read them on the van and



Pre-School Friends

then brought them back to the hall to share with the other children. It has been a wonderful shared experience that has introduced the children to the concept of caring for items that belong to others, and of borrowing and returning for the benefit of others, but also of meeting members of the community and the people who helped them inside the van.

In another meeting of local people, we were thrilled that one of children's Dad and Grandad from Abbey Windows volunteered to clean our windows! They look fantastic and we mustn't have scared them off too much, as Nic returned today to show the children how to use applicators, squeegees and the telescopic brush to clean our windows. As a final and incredibly generous gesture he rewarded each of the children with £1 each in wages for their hard work.

If you see us out and about in our yellow hi-vis please give our future community builders a wave. They love to say hello and we really do value these positive experiences that link the children to yourselves. These exchanges really do instil positivity, curiosity and acceptance - and we all need as much of that as we can find!

**Heather Marsh**



On the library bus



More cleaning windows!

## DODLESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

# PTFA

What is the PTFA?

The Parents – Teachers – Friends Association.

Our aim is to raise funds to help promote and enhance the children's education and enjoyment of school. Each year we pledge money to school to purchase essential equipment that they otherwise would simply not be able to afford to buy. We also part fund transportation for school trips and sporting events.

In addition, the PTFA also funds events such as the Christmas party and Leavers gifts. As you can see fundraising is key so every donation you make, every event you attend, any volunteering you do makes a difference and goes towards ensuring that our children are able to learn with up-to-date books and equipment, take part in events outside of school, and experience extracurricular activities on their learning journey.

## NEWS

Following our AGM in October, the team says 'goodbye' to Sharon Browett as Chair and Emma Preston as Vice Chair. Both Sharon and Emma have given many hours of expertise, dedication, and passion to their roles, ensuring that the PTFA was run efficiently and successfully. A huge 'thank you' to you both for all that you have done, it is greatly appreciated. The good news is that we are not losing them entirely, as they are still actively involved in the volunteering team.

Sharon Pheby will be stepping down from Co Treasurer, but will remain a volunteer, and Tina Hyland is stepping down as Secretary. Thank you both for your valued contributions.

The volunteering team has seen an influx of members this year. A very warm welcome to you all. Thank you all for your input so far. We look forward to working together with you on forthcoming events.

The volunteering team make all the fundraising events happen. They create posters, organise raffle prizes, sell tickets, make tea, run stalls and so much more. The volunteers give as much or little time as they can. We welcome anyone who would like to get involved, from arranging chairs to organising fundraising events and everything in between.

A very warm welcome to our incoming Co Chairs, Sarah Peters and Kate Courtenay. Sarah is new to the Parish and the school. Her daughter: Charlotte is in reception. Kate has been in the village several years and her daughters Ruby and Layla are in class 3. Mel Hughes and Lou Billett are Co Secretary and Elaine Mulholland remains Treasurer.

The team is keen to get the fundraising season started, and we have already drawn up a calendar of varied, fun events that we hope you can attend. Please look out for posters and social media posts detailing future events.

Our first Fundraiser in 18 months raised a staggering £197 through the sale of donated cakes and preloved uniforms. Well done to those involved and thank you for

buying from us.

We would also like to say a special thank you to:

## GORSTELLA GALLERY

for their very generous donation of £150 recently. This money will be put to very good use.

[www.facebook.com/GorstellaGallery](http://www.facebook.com/GorstellaGallery)

### Dates for the diary:

**10<sup>th</sup> December:**

**Outdoor Christmas Event in the school playground - 3pm-4pm**

\*Festivities - Fantastic Raffle - Stalls

Raffle prizes include: MOT & Service worth £250 - £30

vouchers for Nelsons Bar at The Grosvenor Pulford- Meal

for two at the Red Lion - Meal for two wine at The Beeches

- Family Breakfast at The Twirl of Hay - Gin Gift Set - Free

Climb and Shoe Hire at Boulder Hut - Tattersalls tickets for

the Family Fun Day at Chester Races - Luxury Food Hamper

- £60 photo shoot voucher for Dave Williams Photography

- Tropic Gift Set - Sharons Nail Room Voucher - Coffee and

Cake Voucher at Hawarden Farm - Afternoon Tea for two at

Rossett Hall - plus many more prizes to be confirmed

As we are not able to host the Christmas Fayre this year, we

are hoping to raise a similar amount via raffle ticket sales,

so please ask family, neighbours, and work colleagues to

purchase tickets to make this a bumper fundraiser.

Detail of ticket sales to follow. £1 Per ticket or £5 per strip

**11<sup>th</sup> March:**

**World Book Day Children's Book sale**

\*We shall be looking for donations of children's books, so if

you are having a 'pre-Christmas' sort out, please consider

donating any unwanted, good quality books to us. A box for

donations will be available at school from Mid November.

**Another way of helping the PTFA to raise money is by registering with:**



Registering only takes a few minutes. Then, each time you shop online a percentage of the cost of your bill will be donated to the PTFA by nominated retailers. It really is that easy.

Should you have any questions, suggestions, donations,

please contact us on [dodlestonptfa@gmail.com](mailto:dodlestonptfa@gmail.com)

Follow us on

[www.facebook.com/dodlestonprimaryschoolptfa](http://www.facebook.com/dodlestonprimaryschoolptfa)

[www.facebook.com/groups/1835119860110507](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1835119860110507)

(unofficial parents page - run by parents)

on Insta [#dodlestonptfa](https://www.instagram.com/dodlestonptfa)

for up-to-date information on events and news.

A big Thank You for your continued support from the

PTFA Team

**Well, again, what an interesting & different time that it has been,** nobody could have ever predicted the pandemic continuing this long.

Autumn has arrived and we have had some beautiful weather.

We still have some of our safety procedures in place, sanitising and keeping the screen over the shop counter. The hazard tape table seems to have become a permanent fixture.

We will continue with these measures for as long as necessary.

Thankfully, touch wood, we still all remain fit & healthy.

All through lockdown and beyond we have managed to source most of the items that were in short supply at the supermarkets. We have also striven to keep our prices low and not inflated prices due to high demand.



We will still be delivering groceries to customers who are unable to get to us and will carry on doing this as long as it is needed.

And don't forget all of the weird & wonderful stock that we have, and a large percentage of it sourced locally...

Our telephone number is **01244 660342** or find us on facebook or even look at our new website **dodlestonchapelstores.co.uk**



*We realise that many of you are going back to the supermarkets for convenience, but can you please bear in mind that just spending a small percentage of your weekly budget at local and independent stores will boost the economy greatly.*

We are lucky enough to be selling Poppies made by our own Craft Club and raise funds for the British Legion.

Christmas will be soon upon us & we will have an even more wonderful selection of cards than usual including cards from Fancey by Nature, our new range from Jackie & Miles from the village.

More than just a Village Shop & Post Office, many thanks for your continued support.

We hope to see you soon – Stay Safe.

**Best Wishes from Samantha, Lloyd, Jan, Paul, Julie & Lucy xxxxx**

**Our hours are 7am till 7.30pm Monday to Saturday & now 8am till 6pm on Sundays.**

## Living in a time of empty

This time of year, for some animals is a time to drop down a gear or two from their usual hectic schedule. Animals like grey squirrels will become less active as they try and conserve energy during the cold weather spending more time in their dreys, but still venturing out to visit well-stocked bird-feeders now that natural food sources are dwindling. Other animals like hedgehogs and bats take the concept of chilling out to another level as they enter a state of torpor reducing their body temperature and become inactive for the winter months.

For other animals however, winter is a time of high levels of activity. No sooner have we said goodbye to our swallows, martins and swifts who spent their summer holidays here, do we say hello to our winter guests, like migratory geese and swans. Given the high interest and number of comments posted in the 'Dodleston Naturewatch' Facebook page about the large number of geese that have appeared in our region in the last couple of months, the pink-footed goose seems a good place



Pink Foot Geese

to start. Having spent the summer in northern climes (Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard in northern Norway) tens of thousands of pink-feet come to the UK (including our region) to spend autumn to spring here. They'll be with us now until around early April. The Dee Estuary is a safe night-time roost for around 10,000 pink-feet these days, who make their daily commute between there and farmland in and around the region. Here they feed on maize stubble, but will also graze on grass in cow fields. The wintering pink-feet are smaller than their bulkier cousins, the greylags, who are with us all year round. The pink-feet also have pink feet (as the name suggests!), as well as pink legs, and a pink beak with black tip and base. Greylags typically have an orange beak and orange (or slightly pinkish) feet and legs. The sound of the calling pink-feet flying overhead in their arrow head formation is a real sign of the days drawing in and Christmas being just around the corner.

Other winter visitors to our shores are whooper swans who visit from Iceland. During the winter time driving along the M56 from Chester towards

Frodsham look north into the grazing pasture, as there are regularly up to a dozen or so whoopers who are often feeding or more often loafing (not doing much!) in the fields, sometimes with the resident mute swans not far away. Whoopers have black and yellow bills, as opposed to the commonly seen black



Whooper Swan

and orange bills of the mute swans.

You may also notice large flocks of starling assemble, sometimes along with the arriving wintering thrushes (fieldfares and redwings), with clouds and clouds of visiting starlings coming in from northern regions, particularly Scandinavia, swelling the numbers of the resident starling population in our region.

When you see large flocks of birds; whether it's a skein of geese or a murmuration of starlings, it can be very difficult to count them with any degree of accuracy. Not least as the flock are forever moving. I find a good way to count (depending on the size of the flock) is to (quickly) get a count for part of the flock (like 10, 20, 50 or 100 birds) and then extrapolate up to cover the rest of the remaining flock. The trick is to get a handle of what a small 'unit of birds' looks like (for example whether it's 10, 20 or 50 birds) and then use that to count the remaining flock in blocks of that unit. I do this all the time when I'm out bird surveying for work or leisure.

Other species will also group together during the colder period, searching out scarce food resources and during the winter time mixed flocks of tits and also finches are common. If you do see finches together, look out for



The brambling and the finch

a winter visitor amongst them, the brambling. Superficially like a chaffinch, the brambling has an orangey chest and the male in the winter has a dark mottled head. And like the fieldfares, redwings and pink-feet they are only in the UK from autumn to spring, before venturing north again to breed.

So, although winter appears to be largely a time of inactivity for wildlife, this isn't the case for all. I suggest



It's important to keep all our winter visitors fed!

layering up and get out with the binoculars, and have a look around. You never know what winter wonder might be found in amongst that overlooked group of passerines who are flocking together at your garden bird-feeder. And as for the pink-feet there's something warming on a cold day about watching and hearing the sound of hundreds of birds passing over our region daily. Their presence signalling that you should look out your winter clothes and pack away those shorts and t-shirts for another year!

Have a lovely winter.

**Dr Colin Bonnington**

We are happy to say that Dodleston & District WI has resumed in person in the village hall. We have recently published our programme of events for the next 6-8 months which we hope will provide something for everybody.

In September our speaker was Dawn Weaver who is a professional florist and floral designer and multiple Chelsea gold medal winner and also happens to live in the parish. We were all mesmerised by her elaborate creations which were raffled to members at the end of the evening.

In September we also hosted the Autumn Show, it was lovely to see all the produce and creativity we have in our community on show at the event.



Autumn Show Cup presented by Emma Preston to Liz Shanklin



Pictures and from our amazing Autumn Show

DODLESTON & DISTRICT WI

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



We also hosted the 8th annual apple pressing, this year the event was very well attended by children in the village who loved the process of chopping, scratting, pressing, and of course drinking apple juice!

We welcome any women in our community who would like to join us, simply contact us at dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk and we will add you to our mailing list so that you receive all the latest updates and invites to our upcoming events. Alternatively, just come along to an event that takes your fancy from the programme and see if you like it.

email: [dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk)

Meetings Calendar (Guests are welcome for a £4 Donation)

- NOVEMBER 2020**  
Thursday 11th November 8.15pm - DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL  
Remembrance with Bernard Dennis
- DECEMBER**  
Thursday 9th December 8.15pm - DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL  
Christmas Party & AGM
- JANUARY 2022**  
Thursday 13th January 8.15pm - DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL  
Hoola Hoop
- FEBRUARY**  
Thursday 10th February 8.15pm - DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL  
Just Footprints (Eco-Shop)
- MARCH**  
Thursday 10th March Tour of St Peter's Church at The Cross  
- time TBC

- APRIL**  
Thursday 14th April 8.15pm - DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL  
TBC gardening
- MAY**  
Thursday 12th May 8.15pm - TBC (village field / parish field / village hall)  
Nordic Walking
- JUNE**  
Thursday 9th June 8.15pm - TBC (village field / parish field / village hall)  
TBC GARDEN PARTY WITH SINGING
- JULY**  
Thursday 14th July TBC
- AUGUST**  
NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Local News



Transforming an open space into a beautiful garden

Brian Jones, Dodleston's Award Winning Gardener

**At the corner of Penfold Way and Church Road a beautiful garden has emerged during lockdown. If you've walked that way, you might have seen Brian pulling weeds, planting bulbs or laying small walk paths with cobbled stones.**

In November 2019, the Parish Council sponsored a bulb planting day to turn that once neglected corner from one with just shrubs here and there, into a beautiful Spring display. But, as with every garden, maintenance is where the real input was needed. So this is where Brian enters the picture...I went to meet him and here is his story. Brian thinks he has lived in Dodleston for seven years. He arrived with his wife Liz just after they retired from running their last pub.

He was born near Broad Oak level crossing close to Lavister on the way to Burton Green. Brian pointed out that he was born on the Welsh side, not the English side! He went to Darland school in Rossett and started working at The Golden Grove in 1966 as a Waiter after leaving school.

After leaving The Golden Grove in 1989, he and his wife went to St Martins near Oswestry and worked at a pub there - The Greyhound Inn. From there they went to Pentre to work at The Grove after which they returned to The Grove after which they returned to Higher Kinnerton where Liz got a job at

The Swan. Brian followed her later and worked behind the bar there.

More pubs followed, even one where they were asked to be Pub Lord and Lady but that was awful as they only had one patron coming in every Monday for three pints and that was it for customers!

Their last pub was The Three Fishes after which they both retired.

I asked Brian about his gardening passion - did he like gardening whilst growing up? He said he used to do a little bit at home, his dad was a gardener and he used to attend and do Flower Shows where he won trophies. Brian said he didn't do an awful lot at home as his Dad was very competitive.

So how did it all started then? "Well, Brian said, my Dad started two jobs - one at Rosemary Nurseries and the other at The Golden Grove whilst I was working there. So when my Dad left, I took the garden care over at The Golden Grove. I did all the gardening, the window boxes and the hanging baskets.

And I also did the gardens at The Greyhound whilst we were working there. At The Three Fishes, we only focused on the window boxes as the A49 that passed it, played havoc with the hanging baskets, so we stopped those. A lady called Chris, who maintained some of the slot machines at the pub, also helped out at the The Shrewsbury Flower Show. She convinced me to enter and in 2013, I won the Bertram Jennings Challenge Trophy for the Best Hanging Basket Exhibit."

Brian also won a host of other prizes - all together winning the Window box

display six times.

"The Dodleston Corner Garden kept me going throughout the pandemic - it gave me focus and a purpose. My doctor was so pleased that I had something to do!"

So Brian - what is your favourite plant?

"I don't really have a favourite plant - I like Dahlias, Fuchsias, Geraniums and Sophinia Flowers - my favourite colour is red so you might see a lot of red flowers in the Corner Garden !

Do you have any future gardening plans for the Village?

"If I can have my way - I would like to tend to the small garden at the water pump but it is too far for me as I have difficulty walking. I have planted lots more Daffodils and Tulips for next Spring. When you pass the corner garden, don't just walk past, take the opportunity to follow the little paths into garden and have a look around."

Brian and I have been wondering if there are any other avid gardeners in our Village. He thinks it would be great if we can establish a Gardening Club in Dodleston. We need people with all type of skills; from ideas to resources to help with the digging and pulling weeds.

"My gardening really stimulated gardening conversations and a lot of people contributed seeds, bulbs and even some money to buy more seeds and bulbs. If you have any contributions for our corner garden, you will find me at there. Come and say hello!"

**Brian Jones**  
6 Penfold Way

## Dodleston Baby & Toddler Group



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

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

## The Quaynotes

**In 2019 we moved to Higher Kinnerton from Penrhyn Bay on the outskirts of Llandudno. Having been used to live concerts in and around Llandudno for over 40 years I looked around locally for similar. The nearest regular events I could find were in Chester such as Alexander's Live.**

Higher Kinnerton has a beautiful Hall but very little going on at the weekends so I thought I would put on a live event for 25th April 2020. Having been to the Quaynotes concerts in and around Llandudno I thought they would suit Higher Kinnerton very well, so I booked them. However, Covid decided otherwise so I postponed the event until July. Nope. A second lockdown so I postponed it until November. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown I realised a live concert was a lost cause for the immediate future.

August 2021. At last, we could begin to re-open the halls, so I reckoned '4<sup>th</sup> time lucky'. Well, yes and no. I provisionally booked the hall in Higher Kinnerton for December the 4<sup>th</sup>. This time it was Strictly

• Come Dancing semi-final night that  
 • scotched that idea!!  
 •  
 • In September my husband and I came to  
 • the Murder Mystery night at Dodleston  
 • Village Hall. It was a packed, fun filled  
 • evening in a very cosy and atmospheric  
 • room. Loved it. Found out Dodleston has  
 • many live events. I made enquiries at  
 • the hall regarding the Quaynotes event  
 • I had planned, and all seemed to go very  
 • smoothly so I booked the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December  
 • 2021 to be 'The Night'. The rest, so far,  
 • is history. I am just praying that Covid &  
 • Strictly behave themselves from now on.  
 •  
 • For those of you who like Jazz/Swing/&  
 • 'other stuff' I have attached a poster  
 • giving the full details of the event in the  
 • hope that I will see you there. I am hoping  
 • to hold other live events once a month  
 • either in Dodleston or Higher Kinnerton. (If  
 • in Higher Kinnerton I will make the same  
 • transport arrangements as per details on  
 • poster) The music will vary each month  
 • e.g.: Folk, Rock and Jazz.  
 •  
 • **Looking forward to meeting you.**  
 •  
 • **Kindest regards**  
 •  
 • **Glenys**

# DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2021

## A FRIDAY EVENING WITH THE QUAYNOTES

SWING, JAZZ & OTHER STUFF  
 WHY NOT MAKE IT A STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT?

## DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2021



**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK OR JUST COME & ENJOY THE MUSIC**



**At last, they're back! The Quaynotes are in the driving-seat and revving up for a new series of the coolest jazz concerts around. Next venue: DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**IF YOU ARE COMING FROM HIGHER KINNERTON THERE IS RETURN TRANSPORT AVAILABLE @ £5pp (limited availability so early booking advised)**



**TICKETS £12 available from Glenys (Higher Kinnerton) or from: DODLESTON STORES & POST OFFICE CH4 9LP**

For further enquiries: call Glenys on 07810 672 966 or email: [glenysroston@hotmail.com](mailto:glenysroston@hotmail.com)

**DOORS OPEN 8PM UNTIL 11PM**



## St Mary's Church, Dodleston

for human lives to flourish and grow? So much so that we often seem to want to throw it away... or some people do.

We have the precious gift of family or friends and, for some people this year, it will perhaps feel that they have lost their most precious gift. But please I think that we and our loved ones are held as precious gifts in God's hands - they and we are certainly not lost to God.

Sometimes we have to look at that which we take for granted and examine it in a new light. Is it really a precious gift hidden in plain sight? Clean water and sanitation; enough food to be healthy; how many more things?

It's meant as a challenge to us: a way of finding gifts and a way of passing gifts on. In what way could we have done that this year? It is in finding God's gift to the world in Jesus that we may find extra determination to pass on the gifts to others who have little. This may be far away, or it may be next door to you!

Our Starlight Carol Service on 19th December at 6.30 pm at St Mary's might help us to celebrate together that precious gift of God and maybe you may wish to remember a much-loved person by placing a star on our tree in Church.

The most blessed and precious gift of Christmas fill you with peace and thankfulness now and in the future

In Jesus' name Amen

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

### Dear Friends

We have all been, I am sure, battling against all sorts of things that continue to be very challenging at the moment, not just Covid but all the difficulties of helping life get back to normal when there are some shortages going on.

When we have taken Communion, wafers only, in church over this last twenty months, I sanitise my hands and deliver the wafer into someone's hands without touching them and then they take the wafer back to their seat.

This small white wafer is often carefully cradled in two hands as people walk back to their pew. It is given as a special gift, and we receive it as the precious gift of God that it is. I was reminded of this by a member of the congregation at All Saints, Higher Kinnerton who has seen this careful carrying of the precious gift shared between us. Then people go back to their seat and consume the wafer.

This comment about precious gifts has set me to thinking this Advent and Christmas of other precious gifts. We have the precious gift of the Earth, and we need to begin treating it as such. We have the precious gift of peace in this country. Yet how often do we truly appreciate the fact that so many people around the world do not have that sense of peaceful living that is so important

## St Mary's Church Arrangements For Christmas Services

Of course these services are all subject to change if the guidance changes.

5 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am St Nicholas Toy Service.
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Family Service with Baptism
19 <sup>th</sup> December	No service in the morning at St Mary's - Lessons and Carols in the evening at 6.30pm
24 <sup>th</sup> December	No service at St Mary's, but a joint service will be held at All Saints, Higher Kinnerton at 10.00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Joint service with All Saints, Higher Kinnerton will be held at St Mary's at 10.30am
26 <sup>th</sup> December	No services at either Church
2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2022	Informal Holy Communion service at normal times at both churches



## Abbey Window Cleaning

Local business Abbey Window Cleaning recently paid a visit to Dodleston Preschool at the Village Hall. Both are registered charities, so **the team gave the building a free window clean as a thank you to Dodleston for supporting their company, over the last 40 years.**

Owner Nic went back after half term to let the children have a go! All the toddlers were given a squeegee, applicator and a big tub of bubbles then let loose on the windows!

The children played with a water fed pole, brushing, and spraying the higher windows with purified water and some of the pre-schoolers were very brave and even climbed a ladder!

The toddlers had lots of fun learning and playing and were even given 'wages' in the form of pocket money.

Nic wants to thank Secretary Lynn, preschool manager Jo and the "purple ladies" for letting Abbey share the love of their job and act like children for the day!

**You can see the other volunteer work the company do in Dodleston and the services they offer at...**

**AbbeyWindowCleaning.com**



## Santa's Rocket.

Thanks again to Santa's little helpers at Chapel Stores – Sam, Lloyd and all the other elves. Santa's rocket will be waiting outside the shop so you can post your Christmas requests. It will be launched at 7pm on Sunday December 19th – look in the direction of the Church to see your letters flying off to the North Pole.



## Christmas Tree Lighting.

Children, parents, grandparents – gather at the Church on Sunday November 28th to see the tree being lit up.



## Queen's Jubilee 2022.

There is a long Bank Holiday from **Thursday June 2nd to Sunday June 5th** to celebrate Her Majesty's Accession to the throne in 1952. Lots of events will take place!

## Sad Departures.

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

### George Laird.

George sadly passed away at peace on 25th October after illness. George has been an upstanding part of the community for 40 years. I can only describe him as a local character who has left a legacy behind him. Our thoughts go out to Jean his wife, and his 2 sons Adam and Hamish.

### Andrew Duffy.

Andrew died earlier in the year. He was a massive part of Dodleston featuring in most of the pantomimes which led him into his future role as a red coat in Pontins. He moved to Spain for the latter part of his life, and he will be sadly missed. Condolences to his family, to which 1 of his brothers Tommy still resides in the village.

# Directory of Local Activities in the Parish

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

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

Contact: Diane Swift - 07733463620

### Dodleston Youth Players

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

### Dodleston & District Women's Institute

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

### Dodleston Local History Group

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

### Dodleston Leisure Group

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

### Toddlers & Babies

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

### Brownies & Guides

Brownies (aged 7 to 10) meet Mondays 6 pm - 7:30 pm  
Guides (aged 10 to 14) meet Mondays 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm, at the village hall. We have a very active and diverse program very much led by the girls themselves.

Brownies highlight: "Pack holiday" where we go away for a weekend of fun indoor and outdoor activities.

Guides highlights: campfires, making "Smores", learning camp skills, and games on the Parish field.

Adult volunteers also wanted so please get in touch to find out more about Guiding!

Mel Hughes (Guide Leader and Assistant Brownie Leader (Snowy Owl)). Tel: 07970802213.

Beth Daniels (Brownie Leader (Brown Owl) and Assistant Guide Leader)). Tel: 07860614041. [Dodlestonguides@gmail.com](mailto:Dodlestonguides@gmail.com)

### Dodleston Home Watch

Keeping local residents informed and updated with Cheshire Police Alerts. Also, reports and circulates any suspicious incidents and anti-social behaviour.

Contact: Bernard Dennis MBE. Tel 07966 436073 Email: [bernarddennis531@gmail.com](mailto:bernarddennis531@gmail.com)

### Chapel Stores

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

### Dodleston Pre-School

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

### Fitness & PT

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

### Dodleston Sports Field

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

### Cricket

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

### Dodleston Village Foundation

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

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

### St Mary's Church

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

### Bell Ringing

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

# Dodleston & District Parish Council Officers

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

Tel: **07872927050**

email: **katepcdodleston@gmail.com**

Chairman: Cllr Mike Maughan

Tel: 01244 661776

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Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Buchanan

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[www.dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.dodlestonparishcouncil.co.uk)

 [dodlestonparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dodlestonparishcouncil)

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