

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

# LocalLife

Edition 21 Summer 2015



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**Karen Tilston**  
- Editor



## Message from the Editor

# Welcome to your Summer 2015 Local Life

### Hello All

And a very happy Summertime to you all. The weather has been kind to us up to now and hope it continues.

I am seeing some very beautiful pictures of the sunrises and the sunsets on local media sites and some from local people so if you have one that in your opinion is eye-catching then please send it to me and I will share it in the next edition.

I would also love to hear from anyone that has any stories, questions, opinions, thoughts or anything else that you would like to share about our beautiful villages. I will add them in our next edition.

I'm sure a lot of you are looking forward to your Annual Summer holidays, I know I am. I hope you all have a wonderful time.

We also have the Annual Village Day coming up and this year's School theme is the Great Outdoors and there are many preparations going on from all the Organisations within the village to make the day a HUGE success. So if anyone can spare a few hours to man stalls or gates please, please email me with your offers to [kaz.tilston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kaz.tilston@yahoo.co.uk).

We are also in need of plates for the Aunt Sally, and Bric a Brac.

Just as we are getting over the Village Day on the 11th July we are also all invited by the Parish Council the Saturday after to the opening of Dodleston Sports Field on the 18th July starting at 12.30pm where there is lots going on, football, rounders competition, cricket and also there will be ice cream, a beer and pimm's tent and a tuck shop and much much more so I hope to see you all there as well.

On a more serious note at the last couple of PC Meetings there have been comments/concerns about the parking outside the school at "drop off" and "pick up" times. The main road through the village is being used more as a "rat run" to avoid the everlasting roadworks on the A483 so can we please ask parents to park considerably in the village at these times and to possibly use the Village Car Park next to the Church.

Anyway, I really hope you enjoy this edition of Local Life and I would invite anyone that would like anything to be included in future editions.

Many thanks and Kind regards

Karen  
Warmest Regards  
[kaz.tilston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kaz.tilston@yahoo.co.uk)

# Dodleston & District Parish Council

## New Parish Council

The Parish Council, was historically formed from the three warded areas of Dodleston, Marlston Cum Lache and Lower Kinnerton with Councillors being elected to represent each area, 5 for Dodleston, 3 for Lower Kinnerton and 2 for Marlston and it was known and constituted as "Dodleston and District Parish Council".

Following a Community Governance review of all Parish Councils throughout 2014 by Cheshire West & Chester the Parish Council has now changed.

The following recommendations were implemented and became effective on 1st April 2015.

- 1) The boundary of the existing parish of Marlston-cum-Lache be redrawn to the south-west to follow the line of the A483;
- 2) The boundary of the existing parish of Dodleston be redrawn to the south-west to follow the line of the A483;
- 3) The grouping of the existing parishes of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache under the single common council of Dodleston and District be dissolved;
- 4) The parishes of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache be amalgamated to constitute a new single parish comprising the area of those parishes;
- 5) The new parish shall be known as Dodleston;
- 6) In consequence of paragraph (4) above, the existing parishes of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache shall cease to exist;
- 7) A new local council for the area be created;
- 8) The local council for the area adopt the style of 'parish';
- 9) The new parish shall not be warded;
- 10) The parish council for the parish of Dodleston consist of ten members; and

## DB1 Bus Service Update

Back in February 2015 the Parish Council were made aware that there were potential changes to the DB1 bus service as the current contract is due to end in August 2015. The contract (contract 60608) awarded by Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) to GHA coaches in 2009/10 to provide the DB1 bus service started on 6/1/2010 and was for a fixed period ending 31/8/2015.

This means that the contract with GHA does come to an end in August 2015 and as any new contract has not been awarded it may or may not go to the same company (GHA). So whilst the contract may come to an end for GHA Coaches it does not mean that there will not be a service provided.

Whilst this may seem good news we do have some concerns.

The current DB1 service is a highly subsidised one which is funded by the two councils within the areas that it operates. The current service covers a route that

extends not only over two County Council areas, CWaC and Flintshire County Council, but also two countries, England and Wales. This does raise an additional level of complexity as agreement on provision and funding of the service has to be agreed by both councils. We also know that both councils are under pressure to make reductions in their respective public transport budget spend.

The Parish Council has continued to communicate with Cheshire West and Chester council (CWaC) as we want to ensure that the bus service is retained as it is vital to our community.

As stated the current service runs in both Wales and England it has been jointly subsidised by Flintshire and CWaC councils and there is still uncertainty that the funding from Flintshire would continue. On 27th May 2015, Mr John Ellis Jones who is part of the transport commissioning service for CWaC confirmed the following as an update.

11) A Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in May 2015.

### What does it mean? We are now a single, new parished area called "Dodleston Parish Council".

We still have 10 councillors but they are now for the single area of Dodleston Parish Council which include the three old warded areas. The boundary lines have been tidied up very slightly.

## May Elections

At the elections in May, 7 people put themselves up for election and as there are 10 councillor positions there was no requirement for an election and the following seven people were elected as Councillors for Dodleston Parish Council.

Paul Buchanan, Mike Dix, Richard Kitchin, Mike Maughan  
Karen Tilston, Chris Ward, Richard Ward

We have had a number of people express an interest in joining the Parish Council and we have completed a co option review process and I can confirm that the following people have been co opted onto the Parish Council.

**Mark Williams, Rachel Jones, Roger Taylor**  
**Kathryn Lloyd continues as our Parish Clerk.**

*"I Believe that Flintshire are still in discussion with GHA over funding the 'Welsh' section, but CW&C will ensure that a service is maintained between Chester, Dodleston and Higher Kinnerton after 1st September. I shall forward you and Councillor Williams details of the timetable as soon as revisions are registered.*

*Yours sincerely*  
**John Ellis Jones**  
**Transport Commissioning Service**  
**Cheshire West & Chester Council**  
**01244 976118"**

Whilst this is good news it does not mean that it will retain the same service frequency which remains a major concern.

We have asked that Mr John Ellis Jones attends the next Parish Council meeting on 13th July to provide an update. In the mean time the Parish Council will continue to campaign to retain the DB1 service and will update you as any developments come through.



## Babies and Toddlers Group

Baby and Toddler Group meets every Thursday morning during term time from 10 till 11.30 in the Village Hall. All parents and grandparents are welcome to bring their little ones along to join in with the play, craft, singing and fun activities plus refreshments.

**Only £2 per session or £3 for two siblings. For further information contact Helen Longmuir on 01244 660509 or just turn up!**

## New Noticeboards for Dodleston

Whilst the Parish Council is always trying to find and use the latest ways of communicating with residents and the broader community throughout the Parish including twitter and Face book, the old fashioned village noticeboard will take some beating. We have had noticeboards for many years in Lower Kinnerton, Balderton and Rough Hill and we also have 3 in Dodleston at the phone box area, on Penfold Way and at the entrance to the Parish Field.

As our village shop is a central hub to the village we thought it would be a good idea to put an additional new noticeboard in that location.

Conservative Councillor Mark Williams who was recently reelected as the Councillor for Dodleston and Huntingdon provided the Parish Council with funding from his members budget to allow us to buy a beautiful hand made oak notice board. Chapel stores owner Lloyd Bergess and shop neighbour Gordon Peterson provided the manpower and technical know how and we now have the newly installed noticeboard in full operation outside the shop.



The old noticeboards have been in situation for many years and have deteriorated significantly over recent years however local resident Steve Bowle stepped forward and has volunteered and has started the process of removing and renovating them. The Dodleston phone box board has been completed and the Penfold Way board is undergoing renovation as we go to press. Steve is pictured with the first of the renovated and reinstalled boards.

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Lloyd, Gordon and Steve.

## Chapel Stores, Dodleston

Cheshire farm Ice cream is still selling well, irresistible no matter the weather. If we are not stocking your favourite flavour, let us know, we have deliveries every Friday.



Our sales of Lotto Scratch card & Euro millions have raised over £45,000 for local good causes since September 2012 which is quite amazing really. We have had a few prize winners as well some near misses... One lucky customer won £300 on a £2. Scratch card.

**Dodleston Honey has been & gone**, we are awaiting the next batch .....

**Fathers Day** is next on the calendar, Sunday 21st June. We have some wonderfully exclusive Cards & a large selection of Beers, Wines & Spirits.

If you cannot decide what to buy that Special

Man, **One For All Gift Cards** can be used in over 21,000 outlets nationwide including John Lewis. Also online at Amazon and many other retailers .

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Well, not quite, but banking services are available the whole time that we are open !! Cash & Cheques can also be paid in to a majority of bank accounts. You can post a parcel and

top up your phone at any time too.

Don't forget that we have the Dodleston Autumn Show details here Saturday September 5th will be here before we know it!

Our website is being brought up to date, if there is any info missing that you would like put on let us know. [www.dodlestonchapelstores.co.uk/](http://www.dodlestonchapelstores.co.uk/)

**Please leave your email address with us when you are next in & we will add you to our mailing list .**

**Best Wishes from Samantha, Lloyd & the team xxxxx**



**Claire Troughton,**  
Winner of the BJA Excellence in Jewellery Award BCTF 2015 Beautiful handmade jewellery since 1996

## A Chester Jewel

You may already know our local Lengthsman, Pete Troughton, but do you know his talented daughter Claire Troughton, a respected local designer and maker of beautiful jewellery, based in Chester?

Claire graduated from Edinburgh College of Art and Design (Heriot Watt University) in 1995 with a BA (hons) Design degree specialising in Jewellery & Glass.

She then moved to Birmingham and established a workshop in the famous Jewellery Quarter, where she was able to improve upon and learn new skills and techniques from jewellers who had worked in 'The Quarter' for many years. She eventually met her husband-to-be there and they moved to Handbridge and married in Chester in 2006. Claire

then opened a shop in Handbridge where she designed and produced her own work and also sold work by other jewellers and artists. As demand for Claire's work increased, the pressure of running a shop and fulfilling orders became too great and she sold the shop to concentrate on her own work. She opened a workshop in the Enterprise Centre at Hoole Bridge, but in December 2010 her world was devastated when the Centre burnt to the ground. She, along with 50 other business owners, lost everything. All the tools and

equipment she had built up over the years were gone, some of which were irreplaceable as they were made for her by long time jewellers in the trade in Birmingham. As the fire occurred just before Christmas all the stock due to be sent out was also lost and she had to disappoint many customers.

Undeterred, she re-located to Riverside House in Saltney where she now has a thriving business supplying independent retailers and art galleries across the U.K. and abroad and designs many 'one off' commissions for her clients. You can view some of these on her website [www.clairtroughton.co.uk](http://www.clairtroughton.co.uk) Claire recently received the British Jewellers Association award for Excellence in Jewellery at the British Craft Trade Fair in Harrogate to add to the many accolades she has received over the years.

You could probably say she has risen 'like a Phoenix from the ashes'.



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## Dodleston Pre-school celebrates 'GOOD' Ofsted rating

Dodleston Pre-school are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a 'Good' rating following a recent Ofsted inspection. Staff and trustees are over the moon about the announcement.

The inspector's report paid particular tribute to the Pre-school's management team and committee and highlighted the excellent care which children receive.

The last 18 months have seen tough challenges for Pre-school. Financial and regulatory pressures have lead staff and committee members to work tirelessly to raise funds and make significant changes to administrative systems.



## Visit from the Fire Service

The children (and staff) were very excited to receive a visit from a real Fire Engine. We were able to explore the engine, test the hoses and Karen tried on a real Fireman's uniform all whilst learning important lessons in fire safety. This term we will be visiting Chester Zoo.

## Heartfelt thanks to Dodleston Village

Chairperson Alison Samuels and Manager Karen Feild would like to extend a huge 'Thank You' to everyone in the village, for their generous support. We are also grateful for support from the Dodleston Village Foundation, Parish Council, Chapel Stores and Pritchard's Landscaping. Pre-school has been overwhelmed by the turn out at recent fundraising events and are pleased to announce our forthcoming fundraisers include:

**31st October** – Spooky Doo  
sees the return of our very successful Halloween Party

**31st December** – New Years Eve  
Come and welcome in 2016 with your family and friends.

**More Information available soon.**

## Increase in number of attendees

We are pleased to report that the number of children attending sessions has recently increased. If you are interested in a place at Dodleston Pre-School for your child in September please get in touch soon to check availability as places are filling up fast.

For more information about attending Dodleston Pre-school or to arrange a visit e-mail [dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com](mailto:dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com) or contact Karen on 01244 661611.



## High standards and a bright future

Staff and committee work hard to maintain high standards, a point which was recognised in the inspector's report. As part of a commitment to making further improvements, more changes are on the horizon; these include an upgrade to the outdoor area, one of the Pre-schools key assets.

Dodleston Pre-School,  
Dodleston Village hall  
Pulford Road  
Dodleston, Chester  
CH4 9NT  
[www.dodlestonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.dodlestonpreschool.co.uk)

**REGISTER NOW!**

## Dodleston Pre-School Received "GOOD" Ofsted Report



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in term time for eligible  
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**Please contact Karen on 07938 465435**  
Email: [dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com](mailto:dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com)

## Doddleston's Rising Football Star

By Cllr Paul Buchanan

You may have noticed World Cup Football on the TV in the past few weeks - albeit with a difference. With the growth of ladies football across the world, the Women's Football World Cup is now a mainstream TV football event.



In the future though, many of us may be watching this sporting event with a little more interest. Indulge me and let me elaborate with a little story...

About 7 years ago, I witnessed a sight to behold. As a football fanatic I watched with joy in my back garden during a Dads v Kids impromptu football match as a little 7 year old girl from Doddleston called Mia Parry dazzled us with her skill, ability and strength, leading me to tell everyone present - "that kid will play for England one day".

Well, wind the clock forward to now and I'm beginning to think I should apply for Roy Hodgson's job when he inevitably gets the boot. Mia has recently gained her first English Schools FA cap when she represented Cheshire Schools FA in the Bob Docherty Cup in Glasgow against Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Over the past 9 years, Mia has developed from playing for Doddleston Village School and for Vicars Cross Dynamos in the Chester & District League to becoming a key player for the Liverpool Ladies Centre of Excellence throughout the various age ranges, moving to the U17s for the 2015/16 season. In the last 2 years she has been regularly selected for the England FA Women's U15 training camps.

So if Mia continues to put in the hard work there should be nothing stopping her gracing our television screens in future world cup campaigns.

Much credit also needs to go to Mia's parents Tracy and Simon, who act as taxi drivers and support mechanism to Mia, which is a huge commitment in terms of time and expense.

For Tracy and Simon though it doesn't stop there, as their other two children Lucy and Adam, both at Doddleston Village School, also excel at our national game. Lucy recently won the Liverpool Ladies Centre of Excellence U11s player's player of the year award and looks to be following in her sister's footsteps and Adam was Manager's player of the year for Newton Athletic U7's.



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& Associates  
GDC registration 72130



## Doddleston Cricket Club Summer update



The new season is now well underway and we are again competing in Division 5 of the Chester and Midweek league playing on Wednesday evenings. Results so far haven't gone our way but with the weather improving and the ability to practice in the new nets we are confident of getting some wins on the board as the season progresses.

We are delighted to have welcomed some new and local faces into the club and the team with the average age at last reducing significantly, so welcome to Andrew Barnett, Matt and Tom Hughes, Mark Romans and Dinesh Silva. We have a new captain this year Jonathan Rendell who is also helping get the club into the 21st century with a new web and **facebook sites**:

<http://doddlestoncricketclub.btck.co.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/393371000865384/>

We are also chuffed to bits to be able to practice in the new nets on the Parish field - we are running open nets sessions on Sunday mornings from 10 -12 and ANYONE ,boys or girls, young or old are welcome, we plenty lots of kit, including junior pads/gloves/helmet so please come along and have a go - the more the merrier!

Until the main pitch is ready to be handed over (waiting for the grass to take in the sand slit drains) by the field contractors, we are still playing our home games at Abbey Gate College in Saighton but we hope to be able to play on our home pitch from the end of July - weather etc permitting!

We are now in planning mode for the opening day on the field on 18th July when there will be a cricket match of Doddleston versus Doddleston; we have managed to persuade and cajole many of the original founding members of the club to turn out one more time so it will be a great day and hopefully plenty of fun too.

### Upcoming Fixtures:

• DODDLESTON v Birkenhead St Marys	Weds 27th May
• BRYMBO BREWERS v Doddleston	Wed 3rd June - Byrmo Sports and Social LL11 5TF
• GWERSYLLT v Doddleston	Thurs 11th June - The Park, LL11 4DA
• DODDLESTON v Burton	Weds 17th June
• BURTON v Doddlesto	Tues 23rd June - Gladstone Village Hall CH64 5TH
• GRESFORD v Doddleston	Sun 28th June
• DODDLESTON v Gwersyllt	Weds 1st July
• DODDLESTON v Brymbo Brewers	Weds 8th July
• BIRKENHEAD ST MARYS v Doddleston	Weds 15th July - Birkenhead Park CH418AU
• DODDLESTON v DODDLESTON Sat 18th July - Doddleston CC	
• DODDLESTON v HSBC Weds	22nd July - Hopefully on our home ground in the village
• CASTLE SQ CUTTERS v Doddleston	Wed 29th July - Barrow CC CH3 7JN
• DODDLESTON v West Kirby Wasps	Wed 5th Aug

with Bernard Dennis

## Meadow Cottage - Things that go bump in the night!



in the first message being received via the computer. According to reports of the time the message was 'a nonsensical poem' that appeared on the screen overnight.

Not surprisingly it was considered to be a practical joke, but then, several weeks later a second message was found on the disc drive of the computer. This time the language was an ancient form of English and made more sense.

Despite its long and varied history, Dodleston had never really experienced any tales of hauntings, ghosts or unexplained happenings until at least 1985 when a BBC documentary featured strange goings on in Meadow Cottage, Kinnerton Road, Dodleston.

It was then the home of Mr Ken Webster, a teacher of Economics at a local school and the cottage was undergoing a slow process of renovation. Funds were low and so the work was dragging on interminably.

Computers were in common use, mainly as word processors as the WorldWide Web was still yet to be revealed to the world and internet connection still a pipe dream.

However, earlier in November 1984 the micro computer in use in Meadow Cottage was beginning to receive messages in a language known as 'Middle English' with the author being Thomas Harden. Research established he received an M.A. from Brazenose College in 1534 but was finally expelled for refusing to remove the Pope's name from chapel service books. This was the time of the Reformation and King Henry VIII's break with Rome and establishing himself as the Head of the new Church of England.

It would seem the renovation work in Meadow Cottage being undertaken by Ken Webster prompted poltergeist activity which included furniture being rearranged and building tools disappearing. This culminated

Over a period of time, more than a hundred Middle English messages were received on to the disc drive of the computer being used by Ken Webster. Poltergeist activity in the cottage was reported on several occasions with furniture being moved and chalk messages being scrawled on to the ground floor.

Ken Webster, together with the help of his friend Peter Trinder, a fellow teacher of English contacted The Society for Psychological Research (SPR) and they took a very keen interest in all that had been going on in Meadow Cottage.

The SPR sent physicist and computer expert Mr John Bucknall to investigate and he carried out eight detailed and comprehensive examinations of the goings-on in Meadow Cottage, the most significant of which was the keying in to the computer of ten questions.

"We did not get a specific answer" said Mr Bucknall. "We got instead a generalised commentary accusing us of not believing in what was going on. We got waffle"

The reports of the time indicate Mr Bucknall was not convinced anything paranormal was occurring "Something or someone is doing it" he said.

He stressed that, having once established to its satisfaction that human agencies were responsible, it was not the job of the Society

(SPR) to point the finger.

A newspaper report of the time (Dec 1985) goes on to say "Clearly, if the case is a hoax, then the two teachers are prime suspects. But Mr Bucknall (SPR) said he believed it was also possible that a third party was responsible"

Mr Bucknall is reported as saying "I would have loved to prove it was genuine. It would have been the most unique phenomenon ever recorded"

To this day, the SPR are "sceptical" about all that happened in Meadow Cottage between 1984 -86.

In 1989 Ken Webster published a paperback entitled 'The Vertical Plane', now out of print but whilst it lists a comprehensive account of all that the author experienced in Meadow Cottage it does seem to pose more questions which to this day have remained unanswered.

As a postscript, the land on the left hand side from the junction of Church Road and Kinnerton Road, heading out of Dodleston towards Gorstella has its own historical interest.

This is believed to have been where the Parliamentary Forces under the command of General Sir William Brereton were garrisoned before the Siege of Chester during the Civil War in 1644 - 45.

Meadow Cottage sits on this land and one might expect to receive contact via a computer from a person or persons from this period rather than a lowly individual whose origins are understood to have been Bristol or the south-west of England!

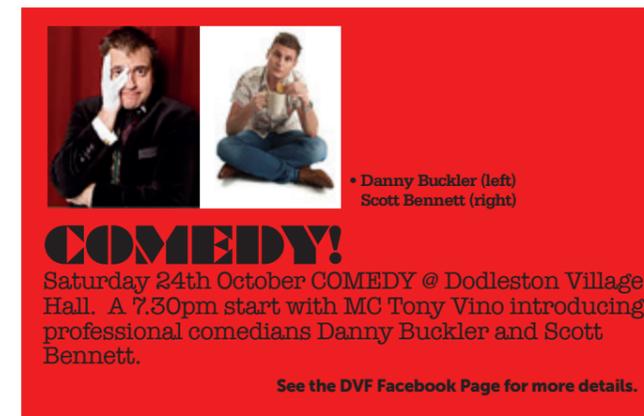
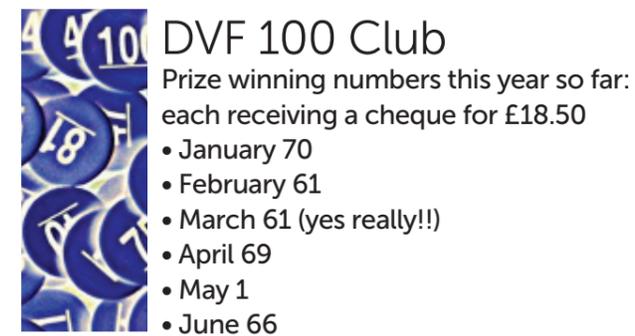
Apart from the apparent happenings in Meadow Cottage Dodleston doesn't have any other reported stories of ghosts, poltergeists or spiritual apparitions - unless of course you know differently!

**Bernard Dennis - June 2015**

## Dodleston Village Foundation – Trustees of the Village Hall and Playing Field (next to the Church)

### Events

**Saturday 5th September is the date for this year's Dodleston Autumn Show**, all the categories which you can enter can be picked up from the village shop to allow you time to get planting and creating so that you can inundate us with entries.

There is a £100 special draw that will take place at Village Day. There are still some spare numbers up for grabs if you want to become a DVF100 Club member before or at Village Day.

### Village Day Saturday 11th July

Help is still needed by the Village Day organisers to fill some gaps in running stalls, manning gates and setting up, taking down. If you can help please let Karen Tilston know.

### Chairman's Report – from Richard Lloyd (for the year ending February 2015).

Dodleston Village Foundation (DVF) was set up in 1979 to provide and maintain a Village Hall and Recreational field for the inhabitants of Dodleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marston Cum Lache.

The success of the DVF can be gauged by the use to which its assets are put. Currently the Village Hall hosts Preschool four mornings a week, with a Mother's and Toddler group occupying the fifth midweek morning. Other regular users are the Village Primary School, Dodleston Youth Players, the Parish Council, Zumba, Fitness classes, Dance Classes, Brownies, Guides, Badminton, W.I., Whist, Leisure and History groups. The Hall is also used for ad hoc private parties and group fundraising events.

Our policy is to make the Hall as affordable as possible to the local community. This is achieved by many hours of voluntary work, which includes maintaining and developing the hall and field, managing the bookings, and promoting fun fundraising events. This year's highlights were the sketch show From HereTo Eternity, which made fun at political correctness and ramblers, and the annual Comedy night in October which saw the return of the impressive MC Tony Vino who introduced two further class acts.

The Village produce show returned this year with the help of the WI and the Easter Bingo was as enjoyable as ever. The highlight of our user group events was undoubtedly Dodleston Youth Players production of Hansel and Gretel. Not only did it thoroughly entertain, but greatly developed the many younger players' performing ability and confidence. Visitors will have noticed how less cluttered the hall is now the permanent storage building has been built. We could not have achieved this without the help of a large donation from Meadow Foods which was augmented with a grant from MBNA and fundraising events. Significant contributions were also made by Peter Millar, Helen Longmuir and Dorothy Bailey for maintaining the Hall, managing the flower beds and keeping the Hall fully booked respectively.

The recreational field continues to be a significant asset to the character of Dodleston. Its variety of play equipment caters for a wide range of ages, along with picnic tables and benches, basketball court, small football pitch and activity course. It continues to be well used by parishioners and its excellence also draws in parents and children from outside the parish. We are very grateful to our Patron John Lloyd for overseeing the successful annual ROSPA inspections (with the help of Pete Troughton) and implementing the necessary remedial works that keep the play areas low risk, and to Councillor Mark Williams for allocating the funding which enables us to keep this as one of the best play areas in the region.

Finance will be covered in the treasurer's report, and I would like to thank Tim Preston, for all the hard work and dedication he has given as a trustee of the DVF. .

As chairman I am fortunate to have an active committee that find time from their busy schedules to voluntarily manage the DVF, plan and help stage fundraising events and the village day, sell tickets, run the 100 club, take minutes, manage projects and deal with the day to day issues that arise and I thank you all for your hard work this last year.

In summary we have had a successful year in terms of usage of the Hall and Recreational field, attracting funding and hosting enjoyable fundraising events and subsidising community groups. I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who contributed to this and Dodleston's sense of community.

## Opportunities with Dodleston Youth Players!

Spring is the time of year which finds me reading through many pantomimes to select our next production. It is both exciting and challenging trying to find something different which both cast and audience can enjoy. Summer is my planning time and the process continues in September when we hold auditions and begin rehearsing for our February production.

For those interested in joining the next pantomime the first meeting will be on Sunday 20th of September 2015 at 7pm and the dates for the pantomime itself are 11th to 13th February 2016. All are welcome from the age of 7 upwards and, provided I don't exceed my numbers, all will be included.

We have a vacancy on our team this year as Shelagh Watkinson, our Wardrobe Mistress has, after more than 30 years sterling service to the Players (see the last edition of Local Life), decided to hang up her tape measure and switch off her machine. She has been a much valued member of our group and will be greatly missed but I'm sure there is someone out there who can step into her shoes. Is it you? We have good stock of costumes belonging to the Players which provide the basis of any production, so whoever takes over will not have to start from scratch. Perhaps you would be more confident working as part of a costume team, but however you feel you can help, support and guidance is available. If you have any interest at all in helping with the costumes for our next production or to find out more about what it entails, please contact me on 660151

July 11th sees Players once more providing the Bric-a-brac stall at Village Day. If you have time to spare and are willing to help setting up, selling or packing up please let me know. We will be missing some of our usual helpers due to holidays so the more offers of help the better. If you have donations for the stall, please take them to Croftville on Pulford Lane a few days before and leave them in the porch there.

Im looking forward to another rewarding year's work with Dodleston Youth Players!

Many thanks, Sue Ramsey



There is a definite love of dressing up in our school! World Book Day is always a great day to be in school – some of the characters the children (and staff!) dress up as were, as usual, brilliant. We had an abundance of princesses from 'Frozen' and some brand new characters that I am not familiar with from the popular David Walliams books. Then, later in March, we donned our red noses and red outfits for Red Nose Day.

We had a Christian pop group in school called 'IsingPOP'. They taught us some fabulous Christian songs which we rehearsed during the week. On the Friday, the whole school went to Chester Cathedral for a concert. There were lots of other schools there too – we almost brought the house down! It was brilliant! Children and staff all had a really good time and were singing around the school for weeks afterwards.

Easter was extra special this year as we welcomed Rhema Drama in for an Easter Drama Day. The 'show' was fabulous, every child was completely enthralled in this energetic, moving retelling of the Easter Story. During Holy Week we had quiet Easter activities in church on Monday then on Wednesday the children led the staff and their families through a most incredible, poignant Easter Service. It gives me goose pimples now just thinking about it, they really captured the essence of what Easter really means.

We did have a raucous time at our Easter Celebration afternoon with Easter Bonnets and Easter Gardens galore! The Year 6 children set up stalls to raise money for Marie Curie and the PFTA provided refreshments and raffles. There were cakes and chocolate, daffodils and chocolate, Easter hampers and more chocolate!

This term is about testing and assessing for the end of the year. Our Year 6 children did us proud during SAT's week and our Year 2 children will no doubt do the same. In amongst all this testing though we still managed to enjoy

more Mad Science, more trips and more fun days. One to look forward to is Strawberry Tea afternoon on Friday 3rd July at 2.00pm. We hope you will join us for a cuppa and a cake. The Year 6 children have their residential to Colomendy to look forward to and a Leaver's Service at Chester Cathedral in July. It's a funny time of year - as we prepare to say goodbye to our older children, we welcome our new Reception children into our school by organising a whole range of welcome activities and opportunities. That is the way it is in school, comings and goings, beginnings and endings - keeping things constantly different and fresh.



## Dodleston Autumn Show

Saturday September 5th 2015

To be held in  
THE VILLAGE HALL

Doors open from 9.00am to 11.00am  
in the morning for exhibitors

Doors open to the public at 2.00pm

Refreshments, Raffle and Auction of Produce

Entry forms and further details available from the Village Shop



## Your Church Diary. Services

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:

11.00am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sundays following:

11.00am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

### Crafty Creations:

Second Monday of each Month

10.00am-12noon. If you would like to know more about the exciting new project we are starting then come along to our meetings held in St Mary's

### Events:

**Sunday 20th September - BBQ** at Chester Lakes including raffle – further details will be published nearer the time but raffle tickets will be available soon.

**Saturday 17th October** – in the Village Hall, Crafty Creations Craft Day – various crafts on display and for sale.

St Mary's Church also supports the **Chester and Ellesmere Port Food Bank** – any donations can be brought to church or given to any committee member. We will probably have a Food Bank table on Village Day so any donations can be given then.

### Church Coffee Mornings:

Please join us for a coffee and a catch-up with friends and neighbours at the monthly Church Coffee Mornings. We meet on the first Wednesday in the month from 10:30 am - 12 noon, in the Church. Forthcoming dates are, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September and 7th October, 2015. Everyone is most welcome.

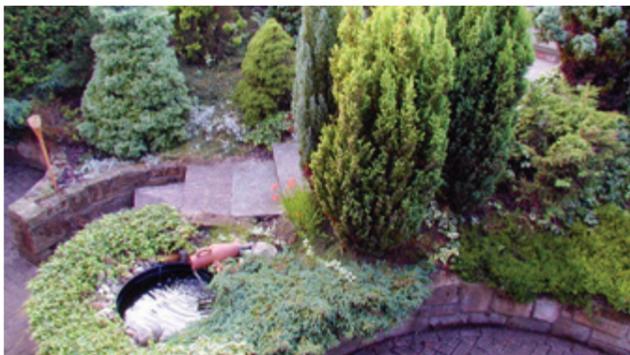
## Hello everyone,

Still at the heart of many villages in the UK there lies a warm welcome within a still living Anglican church community for anyone who wishes to come and visit or to find out more about just why after 1000 or more years the churches that are left offer this warmth of spirit and welcome

Dodleston due to the faithfulness of past and present congregations witnessing to Jesus Christ still has its village church and we seek to make the welcome we offer a genuine one in Jesus' name. We have some interesting events- one off and regular items alongside. Of course our worship services are also open to everyone every Sunday 11am and 6.30 pm .

Now it IS summer and I do wonder on this rather cold grey May afternoon what the weather will be like when this issue comes out. .brighter and warmer I hope

Summer and our thoughts turn to holidays. For those who see little prospect of a holiday for whatever reason life can feel an uphill struggle over the summer period. I do hope that some rest and refreshment is possible for all of us even if it is in the back garden for half an hour in the sun... or going to 'ourgate' as an old friend said!



holiday relaxation - even if its just the back garden!

Lip service is often paid in the work place to the importance of people taking time out but reality can dictate that hours are long and time off is brief and just as busy as people have to catch up at home.

'Sabbath rest' - taking one absolute day off A WEEK has seemingly become less important in modern life as everything is now full on 24/7 but paradoxically it is as much needed now as it ever was.. Time off without guilt! How does that sound?

I think what I am saying is - do take time out, however short, if you can and do enjoy it and may God bless it to your refreshment and health

**Spare a Prayer** - this summer for the children from our Village school going up to senior school in the Autumn and for pupils, parents, teachers and other staff and governors

Best wishes  
Your Rector, Hazel



LOVE/LOVE... Our Taster Session at Glan Aber Tennis club.

Since the last Local Life we have enjoyed some varied evenings at WI. In March we participated in seated Pilates with Luos Johnson of Chester Yoga, the evening including demonstrations and active participation in some Pilates techniques as well as learning about the history and some of the benefits of Pilates to everyday life and wellbeing. In April it was Life Drawing, members enjoyed what was for most of us a new experience! For many it was the first time we had tried to draw for many years, added to this the novelty of a nude male model it was to say the least interesting and I think we were all pleasantly surprised by our talents! In May we debated this year's resolution which has the title: Failing to care – assessment of need in long term care. *We voted in favour of the resolution which calls on HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing.* We will now wait to see how other WI's vote at the AGM in June. A few of us also went to Glan Aber Tennis club for a taster session with Jo Trataris their coach, it is such a friendly club and we were given a great welcome and we would highly recommend to anybody thinking of taking up tennis.

So what next? We are hosting a Centenary Celebration Evening at Eaton Hall on July the 2<sup>nd</sup>, our

committee is working hard to make it a special evening and we are very excited to be hosting an event at such a prestigious setting so thanks to all those who have supported this event and brought tickets. In terms of our monthly meetings we will be having a talk on Gardening at Dodleston Manor, a Lancome Beauty evening, Cake Decorating, and a 'Colours' expert to name a few look out for posters in the village shop and on notice boards around the village. We will also be co-hosting the Dodleston Autumn Show which this year is on September 5<sup>th</sup>, the list of categories which you can enter can be obtained at Chapel Stores.

And finally... we are holding a competition for children of 11 and under to design a front cover for a cookery book. The cookery book will be a combination of an old pre-school copy given to us by the Dodleston Local History Group and new recipes from our members. Details of how to enter are given in a poster in Chapel Stores. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation to allow for the cookery book to be printed. If you would like to join Dodleston & District WI or just come and see if it is for you we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month generally at Dodleston Village Hall, 8:30pm or get in touch [dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk), join our Facebook page Dodleston & District WI, or follow us on twitter @dodlestonWI.

We voted in favour of the resolution which calls on HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



## Advertise your business in this magazine!...

Why not advertise in your new look Parish newsletter, get the word out, there's a new audience just waiting for you!

We can offer local businesses the opportunity to advertise in this publication on a 'covering costs' basis.

This newsletter is published quarterly and current modest advertising rates are as follows:

- A6 - 1/4 page colour - £40.00
- A5 - 1/2 page landscape colour - £65.00
- Full page colour - £95.00

Our design agency offers graphic design service at the modest cost of only £50 per advert regardless of size if you provide imagery, copy and your logo.

Please contact us at [info@whd-comms.co.uk](mailto:info@whd-comms.co.uk)  
0161 875 2486

## DODLESTON SPORTS FIELD

### GRAND OPENING

18th JULY 2015 12.30pm-6pm

12.30pm DODLESTON DASH

1pm FIELD OPENING

1.15pm FOOTBALL

Dodleston FC Girls U11's V Chester Girls U11's  
U10's Tournament (inc Dodleston FC U10's )

1.30pm CRICKET

25 overs match plus kwik cricket in the tea interval

2pm ROUNDERS COMPETITION

5.30pm FOOTBALL PRIZE GIVING

6pm FINISH

All welcome-bring a picnic and enjoy the field.

Tuck Shop

Ice creams and lollies

Beer and Pimms tent

Raffle

Dogs - please keep on leads all day



## Business of the Council

### PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME BUS SERVICE

A resident advised Saltney Town Council (DB2 Service) and Higher Kinnerton Community Council have both raised concerns about the threats to their Bus Service. There is an active group in Saltney / Westminster Park raising awareness. The current DB1 service is excellent and reliable; however, concerns have been expressed about its viability. The bus service is heavily subsidised by Flintshire County Council and CWAC and both councils are facing budgetary pressures. The GHA six year contract ends on 31/08/2015 with a six week de-registration period prior to this and a four to six week period for a review of contracts. Councillor Maughan has spoken with John Ellis Jones, the MP for Chester and Councillor Mark Williams and has been assured there will be a service although the details are unknown. Passenger surveys are being undertaken. The Parish Council has concerns and will find out more in the forthcoming weeks.

### TELEPHONE BOX AREA

The History Group is planning an information Board which will be sited next to the Telephone Box. With the work completed to clear the area, the site is now looking unsightly. Bob Bradshaw has offered to clear the site and provide top soil so the History Group can plant climbing plants. There are issues over ownership of the area and with Gas / electricity pipe works.

A resident asked whether there were any funds available for the scheme, with a possibility of WREN funding. There is outline plans for a scheme although no costings to date. The resident will liaise with Councillor Mike Dix.

### WAR MEMORIAL

The History Group and Parish Council are planning to establish a war memorial. Heritage Memorials of Saltney have suggested a low level memorial possibly made of sandstone with a slate insert and a Celtic cross. A resident is currently waiting for details of the designs and costings.

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A resident asked whether or not the Parish Council has a Local Development Plan within the village. Councillor Maughan confirmed the Parish Council does not have a Development Plan although this has been considered previously. The process is extremely lengthy and costly. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

### FIELD UPDATE

Councillor Maughan provided an update and advised a review of drainage and pitches are being undertaken together with remedial and maintenance work. The base for practice

nets and wickets has been completed and this an open day planned for the summer. The Parish Council legally owns the piece of land given by Alex Pickering. As a separate project, the Parish Council is looking to develop a small car park and sports pavilion. The Parish Council will seek new funding sources once design and costs have been finalised.

### PARISH SUGGESTION BOX

Councillor Maughan confirmed there have been no further suggestions since the last meeting. The suggestion concerning the widening of the gate is being progressed. A resident has proposed git bins at junctions to be used in icy road conditions. There are two git bins, one at the end of Penfold Way and another in Lower Kinnerton. Parish Councillors have keys for opening these.

### PARISH COUNCILLORS' UPDATES.

Councillor Richard Ward advised the Parish Face book is being updated. An article will be included in Local Life with Councillor Ward offering to provide support to any resident wishing to sign up to Face book. Councillor Tilston advised Local Life has had a final review and will be delivered by the weekend. There have been four new advertisers. There are thoughts the Minutes of the Meetings may not be included in future editions as these are accessible on the Parish website

### PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY

Councillor Maughan advised the determination date of the Poultry Shed Planning Application has been delayed until 6 April 2015. A Parish Council Surgery prior to and following this date will be arranged with details communicated via the shop and Parish notice boards.

### THE CHURCH CAR PARK

Councillor Maughan provided an update and confirmed the planning application had been submitted. The Dodleston Village Foundation has committed to £5,500 (inc vat) towards the cost of repairs which is £11,500 plus vat. Work is expected to be completed within the next six months.

### A483 ROADWORK

Councillor Maughan provided an update on the A483 Roadwork and confirmed completion has been delayed by six weeks. Councillor Maughan has spoken with Highways and the MP for Chester. A resident raised concerns about the exit out of Rough Hill on to the A483 with vehicles entering the yellow box and causing obstruction. Traffic flow should be easier once all four lanes are operational Election Nominations Process and Key Dates and Interim Transitional Arrangements The Clerk provided information on the

election Nomination process and key dates. Councillors agreed for nomination forms to be submitted collectively by the clerk prior to the deadline of 9th April 2015.

Dodleston and District Parish Council will cease to exist on 31 March 2015 and will be replaced by Dodleston Parish Council. There will be ten Parish Councillors who will cover the same area. Councillors discussed transitional arrangements and agreed for the Parish Council to continue to operate in the same manner during the transitional period. Due to the election process the first Ordinary Parish Council meeting of the new financial year cannot be called until after the Annual General Meeting. RESOLVED: Parish Councillors agreed new dates for the Annual General Meeting of 18 May 2015 and the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 1 June 2015.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Maughan advised there has been an extension to the determination date for the Poultry Shed Farm planning application following a request by the applicant. There have been a number of questions raised by the Consultee Department due to insufficient information / concerns. There has been an addendum to the Noise Assessment report and the key Highways report has not yet been submitted. CWAC Highways have been contacted over concerns with the bridge at Rough Hill and a Highways inspector will be reviewing this. The 7.5 tonne weight limit sign has been replaced although it has been situated past the roundabout. Councillor Maughan read through the other applications received since the last meeting. A resident raised concerns over solar power within a conservation area.

### FINANCE

All income and expenditure received / paid since the last meeting was approved. Councillors noted the Parish Council's 2014/15 forecast outturn as at March 2015. Councillors noted Secretary of State approval for the funding of £110k from CWAC.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Insurance Renewal – Zurich Municipal The Clerk provided details of the insurance renewal quote from Zurich. This is the final year of a three year contract. RESOLVED: Councillors approved the insurance renewal. Cheshire Community Action – 2015 Pride Competition Councillors agreed for the Parish Council to enter the newsletter competition

### ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Parish Council received a note of thanks from St Mary's Church for the provision of the Christmas tree.



## Report from Cllr Mike Maughan 30th May 2015

**Report to the Parish council, which aims to give an overview of some of the activities completed over the last 12 months and of those still underway by the Parish Council.**

### NEW PARISH COUNCIL

Following completion of Community Governance review by Cheshire West and Chester council the old "Doddleston & District Parish Council ceases to exist and the new "Doddleston Parish Council" comes into being as per the following review recommendations.

### FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS OF DODDLESTON, LOWER KINNERTON AND MARLSTON-CUM-LACHE PARISHES Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

As part of the current Community Governance Reviews of Doddleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache parishes, under the terms of reference published on 25 October 2013, the Community Governance Review Committee of Cheshire West and Chester Council has made the following final recommendations:

That:

1. the boundary of the existing parish of Marlston-cum-Lache be redrawn to the south-west to follow the line of the A483;
2. the boundary of the existing parish of Doddleston be redrawn to the south-west to follow the line of the A483;
3. the grouping of the existing parishes of Doddleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache under the single common council of Doddleston and District be dissolved;
4. the parishes of Doddleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache be amalgamated to constitute a new single parish comprising the area of those parishes;
5. the new parish shall be known as Doddleston;
6. in consequence of paragraph (4) above, the existing parishes of Doddleston, Lower Kinnerton and Marlston-cum-Lache shall cease to exist;
7. a new local council for the area be created;

8. the local council for the area adopt the style of 'parish';
9. the new parish shall not be warded;
10. the parish council for the parish of Doddleston consist of ten members; and
11. a Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 and shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in May 2015.

### MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the election in May 2015 we had 7 people who stood for Parish Council and, as there are 10 vacancies, the election was uncontested and no Parish Council election was held. The newly appointed councillors on the new Doddleston Parish Council are as follows:

Cllr Paul Buchanan  
Cllr Mike Dix  
Cllr Richard Kitchin  
Cllr Mike Maughan  
Cllr Karen Tilston  
Christopher Ward  
Cllr Richard Ward

### 2014/15 councillors.

Cheshire West & Chester Cllr Mark Williams has asked to be considered to be co-opted back onto the Parish Council and Parish Cllr John Blythin did not put himself forward for re-election and has confirmed that he is standing down from the role. John has been a councillor for many years and I would like to thank John for his time representing the community and particularly for representing the best interests of the old Marlston – Cum –Lache ward.

In the last 12 months Councillor Sarah Parker also resigned from the Parish Council due to work and family commitments.

I would like to thank Sarah for her time and effort during whilst acting as a Cllr for the PC. We currently have 3 vacancies on the council but encouragingly have a total of 4 people who have registered an interest in being co-opted onto the council.

### Budget Precept

We continued with our aim of reducing the precept whilst continuing to undertake the wide range of activities and development detailed below. The Parish Council precept for 2014/15 was £16,624.00

### PARISH COMMUNICATION

#### Parish Council Newsletter

"Local Life" the parish Council magazine has changed in its format to improve the opportunity for increased and relevant content, reader usability and to improve the magazines relevance to potential advertisers. The new format has been very well received. Cllr Karen Tilston has done a fantastic job as editor and by encouraging all community groups to contribute and bringing local life together on a quarterly basis.

#### Website

The Parish Council website continues to be an essential tool in providing and sharing information from the Parish Council a useful medium for communication and update. We have made the decision to update the website to make it easier for the Parish Council to update but also make it an easier site for the community to access and navigate. Cllr Rich Ward has taken responsibility for this project.

#### Facebook

Cllr Richard Ward has set up a Facebook Page for Doddleston Parish Council <https://www.facebook.com/doddlestonparishcouncil> This provides an immediate, quick and easy way of communicating Parish Council and community relevant information across a wider community audience. Cllr R Ward has also offered to assist members of the community who are not social media savvy in setting up and accessing the Facebook information.

#### Suggestion Box

The PC has installed a suggestion box in the village shop to give every member of the community the easiest and most simple way of communicating any concerns or issues with us by simply dropping the suggestion or idea into the box.

#### Village Notice Boards

Village notice boards form an important part of communication within the Parish. We have notice boards at the following location.  
Rough Hill – Opposite the caravan Park  
Balderton - by the post box  
Lower Kinnerton – Moor Lane  
Doddleston – By The Phone Box area  
Doddleston – Penfold Way  
Doddleston – Penfold Way Parish Sports Field  
kissing gate

### Doddleston – New notice board by the village shop

Throughout the year the posts on the Rough Hill board were replaced and the board reinstated. The board was also repaired. This was undertaken by the PC's Lengthsman, Pete Troughton. The Doddleston Phone box area notice board was removed, renovated and replaced, the Doddleston Sports field Board was re varnished and the Penfold way notice board has been removed pending renovation. The work on these three has very kindly been done voluntarily by local resident Steve Bowle from Doddleston. We have added to the notice boards by installing a new notice board at the village shop. I would like to say a big thank you to Lloyd Bergess of Chapel Stores and Gordon Peterson for their time taken to install it. Funding for the notice board was provided by Local CWaC Councillor Mark Williams.

### PC Surgery

The Parish Council has agreed to undertake PC open surgeries at the village shop and whilst we only undertook 1 surgery last year we do intend to continue with these on a more regular basis over the coming year.

### COMMUNITY POLICING

We continue to get good support from our police force with PC Beverley attending PC meetings and holding local community surgeries.

### PARISH COUNCIL LENGTHSMAN ROLE

The parish council decided to create a new role for a "Lengthsman" for the PC to undertake ad hoc works on our behalf. Peter Troughton was appointed to the role. Peter Troughton has undertaken maintenance work in a number of areas including the field, path, telephone Box area, bus shelter, notice boards and the benches.

### PARISH AREAS OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

#### Sports Field Development

As part of the process of securing a Sport England Grant (£50K) confirmed in the previous period, Sport England appointed specialist consultants PSD Consultants to specify the works and to complete a tender process for the works. Following this tender, Souter Sports were appointed as the contractor and commenced on site in 2014. Phase 1 will be completed in the summer of 2015. A launch of the sports facilities completed in phase 1 will take place on 18th July with a cricket and football competition and also the 2nd Doddleston Dash. Phase 2 will include development to the vehicle access of the field, car park area and a sports pavilion, planting around the pond and the installation of out gym equipment and the scoping and planning for this continues. Once complete we will be able to start the process of sourcing funding.

Neighbouring land owner Alec Pickering has agreed to gift a strip of land to the Parish Council and the legal transfer is now completed.

#### Doddleston Phone Box Area Development

There has been a long running project by the local History group to make use of the area around the phone box in Doddleston and the PC is trying to support the History group with this project. Throughout the year the Parish Council has had

support from local landscaping business Stuart Pickering Landscaping in cutting down some of the trees in the proposed area. Pete Troughton (PC Lengthsman) has continued to clear the area of plantation weeds and shrubs.

### Dog Fouling Bins & Bag Dispensers

With funding from CWaC Cllr Mark Williams we were able to fund and install a new dog bin and 3 dog bag dispensers. The new bin with a dispenser was installed on the footpath between Church Croft and Mallory Walk in Doddleston. We also installed bag dispensers to the notice board near the phone box area and on the existing bin at the entrance to the PC sports field. We also had the existing bin at the phone box area changed to a new dual rubbish/dog foul bin.

### ROADS & TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

#### A483 Roadwork's

Concerns were raised over major road changes on the A483 with the roundabout being removed and traffic lights being installed at Rough Hill and we have campaigned as we have suffered with increased levels of diverted traffic and delays.

#### A483 Concrete Road surface replacement.

The Parish Council has contacted the local MP and the highways authority over the failure to resurface the concrete surface of the A483 and whilst no change was promised we will continue to campaign for it to be resurfaced.

#### Bus Service

DB1 Bus Service Contract renewal  
The Parish Council has continued to communicate with Cheshire West and Chester council (CWaC) in relation to the DB1 bus service as the contract to provide the service is due for renewal in August. We want to ensure that the bus service is retained as it is vital to our community. As the current service runs in both Wales and England it has been jointly subsidised by Flintshire and CWaC councils and there is uncertainty that the funding from Flintshire would continue. CWaC has confirmed the following as an update. Flintshire are still in discussion with GHA over funding the 'Welsh' section, but CWaC will ensure that a service is maintained between Chester, Doddleston and Higher Kinnerton after 1st September. The Parish Council will continue to campaign to retain the DB1 service and will update you as any developments come through.

#### VILLAGE CAR PARK

The Parish Council has over the last 12 months moved towards getting the village car park by the church resurfaced. Quotes for the work have been received and we have approached the Doddleston Village Foundation as the main beneficiary of use of the car park and they have agreed to share the cost on a 50/50 basis. To mitigate any potential issue over surface water flows we have obtained the additional costing for a sunken gully, between the boundaries, the Old Rectory and neighbouring properties. Resurfacing work requires planning permission which we have now obtained and we will at the PC meeting of June 2015, be proposing to move forward with the project as soon as possible.

#### BUS SHELTERS

The Bus Shelter in Doddleston has been varnished by local resident Steve Bowle and the roof tiles

were secured in place by PC lengthsman Pete Troughton.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS & FUNDING

The Parish Council is always keen to support community groups where it is able to, and over the last year we have supported the following:  
Doddleston & District Women's Institute - £200 contribution towards printing costs of Doddleston Pre School Cookery Book.  
Doddleston St Mary's Church Clock maintenance. £229.00  
British Legion Poppy Appeal / Help the Heroes. Councillors approved a donation of £100 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal and £100 to the Help the Heroes Fund.  
Doddleston Pre School. Councillors approved a donation of £500 towards the Doddleston Pre School Nursery, fund raising initiative.  
School PTA Fund Raising Event. Councillor agreed to a Parish Council Sponsorship of £50  
DVF for a donation of Easter eggs for their Annual Easter egg bingo.

### Village Christmas Trees

This year we erected trees at St Mary's Church Doddleston, at the bottom of Penfold Way in Doddleston and also one in Lower Kinnerton at the junction of Brick Lane. We have installed permanent power from the street lighting in Lower Kinnerton and at the church so we can provide power for the lights. We have also bought a number of new lights.  
A big thank you the Egan family for supplying power to the tree at Penfold Way and a big thank you for all who assisted in erecting the trees.

### Fireworks

Due to the development works been undertaking on the sports field we were unable to hold the 2014 fireworks event.  
We are hopeful of reinstating the event in 2015.

### PLANNING

The Parish Council continues to be part of and involved with all planning applications and issues affecting the parish. This responsibility does take considerable time at both Parish Council meetings and outside of these and it would be difficult to provide a summary of all planning activity over the last year however we continue to represent the best interests of the community.  
We have had one major planning application within the parish over the last 12 months for the development of a poultry farm in Doddleston. The parish council has proactively shared the information on the application and has listened to the views of the community. The community has resoundingly rejected the proposal and we have represented the Parish in objecting to the application. At the time of writing a decision on the application has not been made.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As ever the activities that are undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of the community are done voluntarily and I would therefore like to acknowledge and thank all of the members of the council for their efforts and support over the last year. I would like to add a big thank you to the members of the parish community that have helped with the many activities that we are involved with.

**Mike Maughan  
Chairman May 2015**

# Dodleston & District Parish Council Officers

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