

The Newsletter of Dodleston Parish Council

LocalLife

Edition 24 Spring 2016



in this issue...

- Anti-Fracking New Developments
- Primary School Achieves Outstanding Inspection
- Aladdin Summons a Magic Performance!

Local Life's
Best Community
Newsletter
2015



Karen Tilston
- Editor



Message from the Editor

Welcome to your Spring 2016 Local Life

Hello Everyone

A Very Very Happy New Year to you all. I really hope everyone had a lovely Xmas and a happy New Year.

We seem to be getting through the Winter quite happily...

I know I haven't felt as cold as I have in years past and I also think the Winter season has been quite short. It must have been quite mild because the daffodils and snowdrops appeared earlier than normal.

The days are getting longer, lighter in the mornings and lighter for longer in the evenings so we can all start to prepare for the better warmer weather.

In this issue there will be announcements for Easter and any events happening in the spring months leading up to the Summer and also updates from the Parish Council.

We also have a write-up and pictures of this years edition of the panto which was Aladdin and it was huge sell out.
Well done to the Dodeleston Players young and "old".

Don't forget if you have anything putting in the magazine like an opinion, a thought, a birth/death or marriage notice please email me... this is a community magazine and we will accommodate

all requests. kaz.tilston@yahoo.co.uk.

Happy Easter Everyone and here's to a warm, bright and dry Spring and Summer."

Warmest Regards

Karen Tilston
Editor

Dodleston & District Parish Council

Anti-frackers set up mini camp at Lower Kinnerton

You may have seen over the last few weeks that we have a group of Anti-Fracking demonstrator's who have joined our Parish and are in residence on Lesters Lane

A handful of campaigners who lived at the Upton protest camp until its recent eviction have moved to Lesters Lane where in 2011 Greenpark Energy drilled a borehole for purposes of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) appraisal and production.

Greenpark Energy, now owned by IGas, had said there was 'high potential' for developing CBM in the Chester area and over the English-Welsh border

For information the site was developed under an application X/10/11458/MIN permitted on 10th Jan 2011.

The Parish Council was consulted on the application and we were under the understanding, at that time, that the application was for exploration only but it appears, retrospectively, that permission was granted for exploration and extraction. The Parish Council objected to the application.

The application was permitted for the exploration and extraction of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and if commercially viable volumes of CBM had been found and the period of extraction could have been for a maximum of 20 years.

"Permission Proposal The drilling of a borehole for the purposes of coal bed methane appraisal and production, the installation of well, production and power generation facilities, the extraction of coal bed methane and subsequent restoration of the site"

The Anti Fracking protest group that has taken up residence on Lesters Lane and are there due to a concern they have in condition 12 of the planning permission, see below.

Full details of the scheme for restoration were submitted by the applicant to CWaC and condition 12 was discharged. The site was explored and I understand that insufficient volumes of CBM were found for commercial extraction to be viable.

Subsequently the site has been restored back to its former condition and all equipment removed however the Anti Fracking lobby do not believe that the developer has provided written confirmation of the site's status to the Mineral Planning Authority on request. As a result they believe that the application is still extant and that the developer could come back at any time.

"12. Within three months of the date of commencement of the development, full details of a scheme for the restoration of the site shall be submitted for the written approval of the Mineral Planning Authority. The scheme shall outline all steps to be taken including the removal of all buildings and structures. The scheme shall detail the timescales for implementing and completing restoration works.

These shall provide for the complete restoration of the site no longer than 20 years from the date of the commencement of the development, or within 12 months of the cessation of the production test phase (when a decision has been taken to abandon the wells), whichever is the sooner. Where site activity ceases the developer shall provide written confirmation of the site's status to the Mineral Planning Authority on request, and where that status is that the production test phase has ceased and the wells are being abandoned then the requirement to restore the site shall be triggered.

Reason: To ensure the site is restored when the development has ceased and to comply with Policy 12 of the Cheshire Replacement Minerals Local Plan."

The Parish Council has written planning department and received written confirmation that the application is complete as follows:

"Condition 12 Restoration. The condition was discharged under application 12/01434/DIS and included treatment to the area of stone where the compound had been. A copy of the documents is on our web site for you to see.

This means the site is complete as far as planning is concerned and no further work can be carried out without the submission of a full planning application, therefore the permission is not an extant permission"

As ever we will keep you up to date with any further development .

...however the Anti Fracking lobby do not believe that the developer has provided written confirmation of the site's status to the Mineral Planning Authority on request. As a result they believe that the application is still extant and that the developer could come back at any time

Parish Council Precept Increased

You will notice when your CWAC Council Tax statement arrives for 16/17 an increase of 25% in the Dodleston Parish Council precept.

Although at first a headline increase of 25% appears a lot, you should then see that in monetary terms this is not a lot of money. For example, for a Band D property within the Parish this equates to a £8.90 per year (17p per week).

The Parish Council voted unanimously for this increase at the January meeting, on the basis that our expenditure in the past year has increased significantly with the likes of the Sports Field, resurfacing of the village car park and supporting local groups such as Dodleston Pre-School requiring funding.

Additionally, from April this year the Sports Field should be fully up and running with a pavilion, and the ongoing development and maintenance of this facility requires additional funding which the increase in the precept will help cover.

In summary we believe a small amount per week per household is a small price to pay for investment in our Parish that greatly improves facilities and makes the Parish a far better place to live.

Mike Maughan

Dodleston & District Parish Council



Farming Matters

Spring is coming and with it “the smell of the country”!! Spring is coming and we have said goodbye to our grazing sheep, they have returned home to Denbigh. They were well organised with a number of escape committees. Bravery, gymnastic ability and a desire to broaden their horizons characterised this years sheep

The sheep were a big help getting the grass very low, so that this years fresh growth will be tasty for the cows. Next we will titivate the dormant grass plants with some nutritious cow muck or dip into our pockets and apply fertiliser.

Although during the coming weeks, the “smell of the country” does pervade Dodleston, for the last 2 years we have included an additive in our slurry which prevents the ammonia (the smell) becoming airborne and keeps it in the ground, to hopefully mitigate the impact on our neighbours.

Councillor Rachel Jones and Nick Jones, Dodleston Manor



What's Happening at Cheshire Lakes?

Our own Karen Tilston found out...

Q1: The lakes are going through a major refurb I believe. What exactly are you doing there?

A: We are extending the current café facilities and creating a new restaurant which will be named “The Mill Pool Bar & Grill”. This we are hoping will open in June 2016. If we can manage within budget, then we will also build more lakes too.

Q2: What kind of functions, apart from Bonfire night which was a huge success can you cater for?

A: We have much interest in corporate events from local CH4 companies, caravan groups and charity companies. We also have bookings for small birthday & family parties as well as the Dodleston annual BBQ that we can cater for.

Q3: Has all this work on the refurb created any more jobs? And if so, have the jobs gone to local people?

A: The current people at Chester Lakes are a hugely valued team..... Including individuals from Dodleston Village, being John Appleby, Jan Appleby, Bruce Appleby and Carl Willis. We also have Roy Baird and his lovely wife Carol who run the bar, both from Broughton.

All Carls catering team are also local people within 5 miles of Chester Lakes. We are always looking for seasonal workers to help with cleaning, maintenance and organising during summer season.

Q4: Are you busy all year round with anglers and campers?

A: Anglers are all year round, we have 6 lakes of different sizes and 1 private lake. Camping tapers off when the first frost arrives however caravans and the cosy BBQ pods are all year round.

Q5: To your knowledge, where is the furthest anyone has travelled to visit Chester Lakes?

A: We have many oversea campers/caravans mainly from Europe Belgium, France and Germany. UK, many from Scotland and Yorkshire.

Q6: Are there any plans for more festivals?

A: None planned, however a lot of interest.

Q7: With Chester Lakes being so local, do you gain much local business?

A: Our catering outlets, attract many locals. Also employees of the nearby business park, numerous cyclist groups, walking groups, the employees from Meadow Foods and of course the Parish Council members.

Exiting new attractions for 2016

We are delighted to have partnered up with Plas Derw Trust who set up in 2005 to provide Outdoor and environmental education who only do this through the provision of Forest School based projects. They have worked with many schools in North East Wales since 2011 delivering Forest School Training. Plas Derw Trust Ltd is the sole provider of Forest School Training in North Wales. Training local school teachers and individuals from a variety of backgrounds to become Forest School Practitioners in Flintshire

Preschool School News



Pre-school Spring Term

We have another busy and fun packed term planned at Dodleston Pre-School, our pupils have been on a chilly winter walk around the village, we examined some ice in the car park and looked to see how the trees had changed in the cold weather.



Our own Karen's new arrival Kyle

We have installed some bird feeders in our garden and have been bird watching. It was very exciting to see the birds eating the food we had put out. We celebrated Chinese New Year by making Chinese Lanterns and tasting some Chinese food and made some lovely Valentine's card for all our Yummy Mummies.

Karen is enjoying her maternity leave and she and her new baby Kyle are doing well but she is obviously missing all our lovely children.

Upcoming Events

We have lots of exciting fundraising events planned for the next few months in the Village Hall. Here are the dates for your diary.

Thursday March 24th Easter Eggstravaganza – family fun with Easter games, crafts, face painting, tattoos, lucky dip, tombola and a raffle. We will also be judging an Easter Bonnet competition, so think of your designs now for a chance to win a fabulous prize. There will be hotdogs and soft drinks for the youngsters, with pulled pork rolls and a cash bar with beers and wine for the young at heart. Just £2.50 for kids on the door, including a party bag. Adults are FREE. The fun starts from 6pm.

Saturday April 23rd Quiz and Curry Night – Come and enjoy Stella's famous curry whilst flexing your mental muscles. Prizes for the winning team. Veggie and non curry alternatives available.

Saturday May 14th - Eurovision Party – Enjoy the Eurovision song Contest on the big screen, cheer on your favourite country, have a dance and a few drinks at our bar. Fancy dress optional. Who will you come as??

Garden Re-vamp

Over the next few weeks our focus will be on upgrading our lovely garden area in time for the warmer weather. We have a wish list of items that we are hoping to be able to purchase to improve how the garden looks and also to provide more educational resources that can be used outside. We will be asking local businesses to make a contribution to our fundraising efforts. If you know anyone who could help us with this please let us know.

Places Available

Did you know we have some fully funded places available giving you up to 15 hours of free childcare? We have limited number of spaces for 2 and 3 year olds. Pop in and see us for a tour of Pre-School or get in touch with Elaine on 01244 661611 or e-mail dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com for more information.



Our Winter Walk, a little voyage of discovery!

Primary School News

Primary School Scores Outstanding in SIAMS Inspection



(Above and left) Class One have been enjoying their topic on 'The King of Tiny Things! They have a fantastic bug hotel in their outdoor area which is welcoming all kinds of tiny creatures. The class enjoyed a visit to Techniquest last week looking at light and sound in the jungle.

Christmas seems such a long time ago by the time we get to February but not to share our celebrations with you would be such a shame. This year we decided to go traditional and perform the Christmas Story as it is told in the Bible. Again, everyone worked incredibly hard to produce a high quality performance which was enjoyed by all who saw it.

Our Christmas Carol Service was as reverent and beautiful as always and our Panto and Party day was as mad as usual (but such fun). We finished off the term with Christmas lunch in the Village hall and Christmas Jumper day on the last day of term.

As many of you will be aware, I was helping out at Overleigh St. Mary's CE Primary School for a little while before and after Christmas. Sharing Christmas with children in school is a joy and this year I got to share Christmas's in two schools. This was such a privilege but so exhausting! You may be glad to know (or may be not) that I am back full time at Dodleston school. The experience has been amazing – I have learned so much and made invaluable links with Overleigh, but it is good to be back.

School has recently undergone a SIAMS inspection which inspects the Church aspect of our school. This is not an add-on to school life but permeates through everything we do and contributes significantly to the achievement of the school. We were judged 'Outstanding' in all areas which we were delighted about. The inspector reported that 'Children and adults are polite and respectful, yet full of life and joy in learning and growing together.' This report celebrates who we are not just what we achieve. A full report is available on our school website if you wish to read it.

As you know, Easter is early this year and we have a full programme in place to celebrate. We will be working towards our Easter Celebration afternoon – Easter gardens and Easter bonnets at the ready! Our Easter Service will take place on 23rd March at the church then we have four days of Christian art in school when the 'Art and Soul man', Chris will be helping us make a set of mosaics for our staircase. The theme is going to be God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and I can't wait to see what inspirational thoughts and ideas the children come up with. We'll keep you posted.



Class Two have been studying Sri Lanka this half term and particularly enjoyed eating Mrs Ranasinghe's Sri Lankan Fruit Salad. They have made some amazing Buddha statues out of clay as well as using the Batik to make elephant material pictures.



Class Three have been learning about the Shang Dynasty. They have created some wonderful pieces of Artwork on the different warriors of the time. They have also enjoyed celebrating the customs of Chinese New Year and processed around school with their dragon dance.

Dodleston & District Parish Council

Chapel Stores, Dodleston

It is already the start of our 7th wonderful year here at Dodleston Chapel Stores & Post Office. We are looking forward to what 2016 has to bring. Happy 2016 Everybody.



Our sales of Lotto Scratch card & Euro millions have raised an amazing £11,190.69 for local good causes such as Sport England & the Big Lottery fund just in the last year !

Mothers Day on the 6th March is next on the calendar.

We have some wonderful new and exclusive Cards. Also Wine, Chocolate & Flowers available. Bouquets from Vivid flowers can be ordered through us here at the shop.

One For All Gift Cards

which can be used in over 21,000 outlets nationwide including John Lewis & Amazon are available from our Post Office. Our Gin Selection is getting bigger 9 varieties and counting !!

The clocks spring forward on the 26th March

during the Easter Weekend
Our Easter opening hours are Good Friday 7am till 7pm.

Easter Saturday normal opening usual 6am till 9pm
Easter Sunday 7am till 7pm & Easter Monday 7am till 7pm.

Please leave your email address with us when you are next in & we will add you to our mailing list so that you will be first to hear of all of our news on new deals & offers.

BestWishes from Samantha, Lloyd, and the team xxxx

Dodleston Village Foundation

Events

Saturday 19th March Easter Bingo at the Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7.00pm and there is a good chance you can win an Easter egg for the £1 admission price! But you will have a lot of fun whatever happens.

Sunday 11th September Autumn Show at the Village Hall. Plenty of time to plan what prize winning produce you are going to grow this year. Watch out for further details about prize categories.

Village Day 2016 This year our summer event will be held on Saturday 2nd July with a theme "Around The World". Dodleston has many many links with places far and wide and we can celebrate it by being here on Village Day this year.

Village Hall News

Hall users and visitors will have noticed the hall floor has been sanded and polished over the Christmas period thanks to the efforts of our Chairman Richard.

We have a lovely new audio system now which was put to good effect during this year's panto performances and will be used responsibly at other times throughout the year.

We are also making grant applications to enable us to improve the facilities at the hall to all our user's benefit.

DVF 100 Club

Peter Wagenaar was the lucky winner of the £100 December prize. Regular monthly draws continue with a membership now at a healthy 72. So 28 more chance exist if you want to help with our fund raising and possibly win some money back.

REGISTER NOW!



Registered Charity No:
1035994

Dodleston Pre-School,

UP TO 15 FUNDED HOURS
PER WEEK IN TERM TIME FOR
ELIGIBLE 2-4 YEAR OLDS

- Beautiful Rural Setting
- Fully Qualified Staffed
- Rated Good by Ofsted

Please contact Elaine on
01244 661611/ 07938 465435
Email: dodlestonpreschool@googlemail.com

Dodleston Pre-School, Dodleston Village Hall, Pulford Road, Dodleston, Chester, CH4 9NT www.dodlestonpreschool.co.uk

Know your Village

with Bernard Dennis

Balderton Drive - Don't Mind the Gap!



Each time you drive, or cycle down Church Road towards the Balderton junction, the well signposted entrance to Chester Lakes cannot be ignored. However, if you glance to your left, directly opposite the Chester Lakes entrance, you will observe a wide gap in the trees, albeit now well overgrown.

This 'gap' is part of a long established, but sadly neglected driveway known as Balderton Drive.

The drive originally connected Eaton Hall to the village of Bretton and less than half a mile from its end a small pathway (marked in blue on the map) leads to Bretton Hall, originally the home of the Ravenscroft family who resided there between the 15th and 17th centuries. In the early part of the 16th century, Thomas Ravenscroft married Katherine Grosvenor and hence began the connection with Eaton Hall.

The origins of the Ravenscroft family go well back in time when they first lived at Broadlane Hall, in the grounds of the derelict Hawarden Castle. Broadlane Hall was replaced by the New Hawarden Castle building in 1750's when it became the home of the influential Glynne family. It

subsequently became, and remains to this day, the home of the Gladstones and whose most famous resident was Sir William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898) a British Liberal Politician. In a career lasting over sixty years, he served as Prime Minister four separate times (1868-74, 1880-85, February-July 1886 and 1892-94), more than any other person, and served as Chancellor of the Exchequer four times. Gladstone was also Britain's oldest Prime Minister; he resigned for the final time when he was 84 years old and lived out his life in Hawarden.

As a prominent politician and family, Gladstone would have had regular contact

In the early 1500's Thomas Ravenscroft may also have used this route by joining the drive further along as he travelled to see his future wife Katherine, resident at Eaton before their marriage.

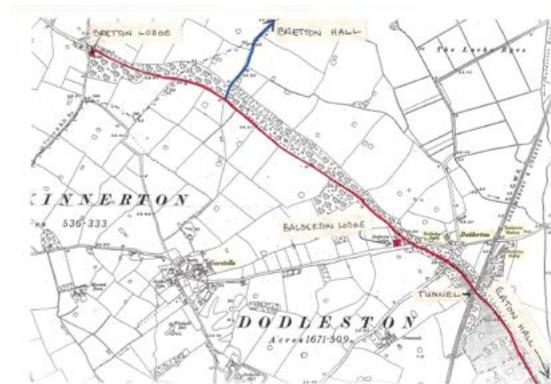
The history and origins of the Balderton Drive are sadly not recorded but it has obviously been in existence for many centuries. An Ordnance Survey map of the late 19th century clearly indicates the route from Bretton, via Balderton and thence, across the fields to link up with Belgrave Avenue and eventually to arrive at the hall itself.

With the expansion and development of the railway system, the GWR line from Birkenhead, via Chester to Paddington, London was built in 1846. The line passed through Balderton and a tunnel was built to allow traffic on Balderton Drive to cross

the line in safety. This is the Balderton Tunnel seen from the level crossing and is 53 yards (48.5 meters) long. It's more than a bridge and is wide enough to accommodate horses and carriages in safety without being frightened by the steaming 'monsters' plying their trade on the rails below. The 'hump' of the tunnel can be seen and experienced as you travel into Chester Lakes along part of the route of the original Balderton Drive from Church Road.

A portion of the 19th century OS map is reproduced here to show the original route, marked in red, of Balderton Drive through to the Chester Lakes area.

Balderton Lodge, which is extant is clearly marked, as is Balderton Diary, the railway station and sidings. Leaving the sidings is the narrow gauge railway that served Eaton Hall with provisions and eminent visitors alike, including King Edward VII and Winston Churchill.



The original route of Balderton Drive

with the Grosvenors at Eaton Hall as members of the Royal family, leading politicians and wealthy businessmen were entertained in their splendid and opulent surroundings.

The direct route to Eaton Hall from Hawarden would most likely have been via Bretton and through Bretton Lodge (see old photo) that guarded the entrance to Balderton Drive. This lodge was present in the 17th century but demolished in the early 1980s to make way for the extension to the bridge over the newly constructed A55 Chester Southerly-By-Pass.

Bernard Dennis
March 2016

Dodleston & District WI



Since the last edition of Local Life we have been continuing to enjoy our WI and I think we are all finding that now that we have been established over 2 years there is a real sense of friendship and belonging which has developed amongst us all. In November we held our AGM, our Presidents Emma and Rachel will continue and we welcomed new faces to the committee including Sam from Dodleston Chapel Stores and Maria Davies. At the November meeting we also learnt some techniques in cup cake decorating with a Christmas theme and we got to eat them, yum. In December we made Christmas wreaths with a twist, we tore off strips of fabric and tied them around floristry wreaths, it was surprisingly effective, we also built several Croque-en-bouche courtesy of Iceland and ate them too! Our Christmas 'do' was held at the Grosvenor Pulford this year, Rachel Jones won a meal for two with her superb hula hooping before we all danced the night away. In January we were joined by Transition Chester for a talk on Transition towns and living sustainably. We have an exciting program for the year ahead and we would love more women to join in the fun, you will be made to feel most welcome.

If you would like to join Dodleston & District WI or just come and see if it is for you we meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Dodleston Village Hall, 8:30pm or get in touch dodlestonwi@yahoo.co.uk or join our Facebook page **Dodleston & District WI** for the latest news.

OCTOBER Thursday 8th October	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL Beauty Therapies – Pure Perfection, Rossett
NOVEMBER Thursday 12th November	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL Cake Decoration Demonstration (includes AGM)
DECEMBER Thursday 10th December	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL Making a Christmas Fabric Wreath (Attendees will all be making a wreath)
JANUARY 2016 Thursday 7th January	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL The Work of Transition Chester
FEBRUARY Thursday 11th February	7.30 – COUNTY HALL MEDICAL MUSEUM, CHESTER
MARCH Thursday 10th March	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL Annie Sloan Chalk Painting by Lucy from The Palace Darling, Chester
APRIL Thursday 14th April	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL BELLY DANCING - Can exercise keep you young?
MAY Thursday 12th May	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL WI RESOLUTIONS & "ROAD TO RIO" EVENING
TBC	7.30 TRY A NEW SPORT – CRICKET,
JUNE Thursday 9th June	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL Re-inventing Clothes presented by The Pincushion
JULY Thursday 14th July	7.30 – DODLESTON MANOR ARCHERY and SOCIAL EVENING (WI MEMBERS)
AUGUST	NO MEETING IN AUGUST
SEPTEMBER Thursday 8th September	8.30 – DODLESTON VILLAGE HALL Ellie & Sarah Parker – Presentation on their visit to Swaziland

For further information e mail DodlestonWI@Yahoo.co.uk



SAVE THE DATE! - DODLESTON AUTUMN SHOW
Sunday September 11th 2016

Dodleston & District Parish Council

Aladdin! - Dodleston Youth Players



This year's pantomime production by Dodleston Youth Players had everything we've come to expect: excellent performances, superb colourful costumes, detailed backdrops, brilliant special effects; and even - at times- a script! Aladdin is one of the classic pantomimes with strong characters, a fight between good and evil and, of course, romance.

The younger players were very much at the fore in this production and they did themselves proud. The confidence and quality of these young actors deserves much praise. Bringing the characters to life and singing and dancing in front of friends and family is no mean feat; and it was good to see how these young players have matured as actors over the past few years.

Performing is a great way to develop some key life skills like team work, confidence and the ability to present to others. But it wasn't all about young talent. There were some fine performances (and interesting accents!) from the older gang too. And the inevitable horse play on Saturday evening gave the audience just what they wanted.

Back stage did another superb job in helping to create the right atmosphere. The hundreds of hours that go into making the costumes - every piece made individually to fit each performer- really do help to create the characters. The backdrops provide another point of interest and, as well as being superb works of art, they are also full of humorous detail.

This year's crop of props included some wonderfully inventive ideas such as the washing machine that shrunk Wishy Washee, the mangle that flattened him and a flying carpet -yes really- that moved independently around the stage carrying Aladdin and the Genie of the Lamp back to China. Well done to the carpenters.

Direction, choreography, music, lighting, make up and sound were up to their usual very high standards. The whole ensemble was enough to make one want to take part!

We thank Mike Dix for this review and hope he enjoyed watching his first panto for 17 years! We're all hoping you'll be back with us next year Mike!



A well earned tea break!



Wishée Washee (Gena Farrell)



The Empress (Karen Woodworth) with Widow Twanky (Gordon Robertson)



Abanazar (Richard Lloyd) with his henchmen Hi (Karen Welsh) and Lo (Denise Ward)



Princess Jasmine (Lucy Marsh) and Aladdin (Elizabeth Higginson).



The two PC's (George Marsh & Eben Seager)

Dodleston & District Parish Council



Dodleston Cricket Club Spring update

As the new season starts to approach the village cricket club has been busy getting organized for its first season playing at our own home ground.

The new pitch in Dodleston is looking good for the forthcoming season . The sand slits that were really obvious when we played last summer have been refilled and new grass has started to grow over these so there shouldn't be any problems playing all our home games on our own pitch this season. The drainage system that was put in has worked brilliantly; while the surrounding fields have been turned into swamps the whole sports area on the field has remained really well drained and very firm under foot - this should mean that we shouldn't really lose any games at home due to soggy playing surface areas. The wicket and the nets are also in good condition but will probably need a spray with weedkiller before the season starts as some plants are starting to grow through the surface.

We had to take the nets down in December as the wind was starting to damage both the nets and the frame, and we need to get the nets back up probably in March - once the weather starts to look up, so I'll be looking for some volunteers to

help with this please - it was quite a task for 2 of us to take the nets down in a gale!

The other major news is a link for our club with Boughton Hall Cricket Club.

Boughton Hall have expanded their number of teams and have been looking for an extra ground to play weekend league cricket at, and they approached the Dodleston Parish Council to see if they could use the new facilities in the village for weekend cricket. Boughton Hall do not want to take over as the village club- they just need more space, and they are going to support the village team in our development by offering;

- to help us out with players if we are short for our midweek team - they only have one midweek team and always have people looking to play
- to join their club nets sessions - that have already started - Kings School mondays from 8-10pm so nets are on NOW so dust of your kit, do some stretches and come down to Kings school - we've never had the opportunity to start nets so early so lets make the most of this opportunity - theres very good coaching too!
- for those of us who would like to play weekend cricket Boughton Hall will be playing league cricket on saturdays on the pitch in the village and we hope to have several players in that team from Dodleston
- Boughton Hall are also offering coaching in the summer at our outdoor nets- this could be great for the local school and juniors.

To support all this development Dodleston Parish Council have also committed to have a pavilion on the field for the start of the season. The pavilion will be 12m x4m and will have 2 changing rooms, kitchen and toilets and also a storage area for kit. Again this gives us a home in the village at last

This is a really positive opportunity for us to develop our club and to develop the cricket facilities in the village – so anyone interested in playing please give me a bell.

**Jeremy Parker
01244 661526**



Brownies News:

Dragons! Welsh or otherwise...

Soon after Easter nearly all the members of 1st Dodleston Brownies are off to deepest Wales in search of dragons! We are to be guests at Broneirion, a mansion owned by Girlguiding Cymru, and will be sharing our holiday with several members of other local Brownie Packs.

To prepare for the experience we have held an enjoyable event celebrating Chinese New Year, in which we created and danced with a giant Chinese Dragon with 96 legs!

Be Prepared!



Advertise your business in this magazine!...

Why not advertise in your new look Parish newsletter, 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 with following advertising rates:

- A6 - 1/4 page colour - £40.00
- A5 - 1/2 page 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

0161 875 2486



Aladdin, Dodleston Players - a review.

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Performing is a great way to develop some key life skills like team work, confidence and the ability to present to others. But it wasn't all about young talent. There were some fine performances (and interesting accents!) from the older gang too. And the inevitable horse play on Saturday evening gave the audience just what they wanted.

Back stage did another superb job in helping to create the right atmosphere. The hundreds of hours that go into making the costumes - every piece made individually to fit each performer- really do help to create the characters. The backdrops provide another point of interest and, as well as being superb works of art, they are also full of humorous detail.

This year's crop of props included some wonderfully inventive ideas such as the washing machine that shrunk Wishy Washee, the mangle that flattened him and a flying carpet -yes really- that moved independently around the stage carrying Aladdin and the Genie of the Lamp back to China. Well done to the carpenters.

Direction, choreography, music, lighting, make up and sound were up to their usual very high standards. The whole ensemble was enough to make one want to take part!

We thank **Mike Dix** for this review and hope he enjoyed watching his first panto for 17 years! We're all hoping you'll be back with us next year Mike!

Homewatch Report Spring 2016

Hopefully everyone who wants to receive police reports via email has either signed up directly with the police or has informed Bernard Dennis or their own co-ordinator.

As we come into spring it will be lovely to see the children coming out to play once more. It is important that they can enjoy themselves in safety, so may I remind drivers to take extra care, especially in shared use areas, and also remind young cyclists to beware of vehicles reversing off driveways.

Gardeners are reminded to keep their sheds secure, and avoid leaving expensive equipment in view. If you are going out, check windows are closed, and if going away

make sure someone has your contact details.

Tom Norton has recently started patrolling the village in his capacity of Community Support Officer, and I hope you will have had the opportunity of meeting him. His contact details are given below.

As ever, Homewatch areas rely on everyone taking responsibility, being supportive of each other, and reporting any suspicious activity.

June Bagot, Area Co-ordinator : june_bagot@tiscali.co.uk

Tom Norton: 0845 4586375 (voicemail) or email: tom.norton@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Sally-Anne Malone is our beat officer on the same number or sally.malone@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Coffee Mornings and St Mary's Lent Lunch

Please join us for a coffee with friends and neighbours, at the monthly Church Coffee Mornings, held on the first Wednesday in the month, from 10:30am - 12 noon, in the Church. Forthcoming dates are 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May, and 1st June 2016. The School Choir will be singing at the Coffee Morning on 2nd March.

St Mary's Church Lent Lunch will also take place on 2nd March, following on from the Coffee Morning.. Come to the Coffee Morning, come to the Lent Lunch, or come to both. Everyone is most welcome.

Announcements



Obituary - John Cummins

It is with great sadness that we report the untimely death of a familiar friendly person John Cummins

John was born 08/02/1956. John Arthur Mother Hilary Cummins, Father Frank Cummins. His first school that he attended was Dodleston Primary School for a short while before attending The Choir School at Chester Cathedral where he later became Head Chorister.

After leaving the Choir School, he went to The Kings School Chester. This was followed by studying Law at Manchester University. He was an Article Clerk at Bartlett Solicitors in Chester before working in Chancery Lane in London for a Law Firm. He gave up Law to go into research which he always kept closely guarded for obvious reasons.

John's hobbies were fishing which he loved from childhood, badminton, walking with friends, pub quizzes, reading and listening to music. His thirst for knowledge was unquenchable and he could talk about any subject with knowledge.

He was engaged to a long term girlfriend from Belarus, who he wanted to marry. Sadly this never happened.



Obituary - Kurt Potempa

Kurt was born in Linden, East Germany on 8th June 1926 – the youngest of 13 children (the last surviving child).

He grew up on his parents farm until he was drawn into the war at the age of 17. He was a motorbike dispatch driver until he was captured as a Prisoner of War and transferred to Liverpool. Because of his experience on the farm, he

was taken to Eccleston where he worked as a stable hand for General Horrocks. He then worked at various local farms including Parkers at Poulton, and Nield's at Gorstella. Kurt was pretty handy with a shotgun, and would habitually poach on the Duke's Estate, and the Duke wondered why there was very little game about when he had organised a shoot!

Kurt had a number of jobs, but eventually worked for Bambers Cheese Factory at Balderton as a boiler man, then engineer. The Company was taken over by Reece's Creamery, so for a short while Kurt was running 2 factories until the Balderton branch closed down. Kurt was then based at Malpas. He had a strong work ethic, and regularly worked 7 days a week. He also kept various local hosteries', including the New Inn very busy! Kurt was due to retire at age 65, but was persuaded to work another 2 years in an advisory role whilst a new factory was being constructed.

Following the War, Kurt had to overcome the language barrier, and adverse reaction from a country just emerging from war. He rose above this and prospered, and became a valuable and respected member of the community. Kurt met Vera at a local dance hall, and after the war finished, Kurt decided to settle in this country, but did go back to his homeland several times to 'show off' his new wife – he was so proud! They were married at Dodleston Church, and eventually moved to Lower Kinnerton where Kurt was to live for the rest of his life. They had 3 children – Tony, Hazel & Nick. Sadly, Vera passed away in 1996, leaving a big void in everyone's life. Vera is buried in this Parish Church Yard, where Kurt will now join her.

Kurt worked hard and played hard, and regularly enjoyed a game of pool with the lads in the Nags Head in Lavister. He was a very generous man, and used to enjoy nothing more than treating his family and friends. In later years, he didn't have many visitors to the house, because they knew they would leave worse for wear!

Kurt will be greatly missed by his children, his daughter-in-law Marion, and Mike. Also by his grandchildren – Kelly, Kirsty, Amy, Joanne and James, and by his Great-Grandchildren – Chelsea, Katie, Harry and Millie.

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