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LOCAL BARBER SUPPORTS CANCER CHARITY

David 'James' Clemens' ability first came to my attention in 2016, not through his efforts as a local barber, but because of creativity in producing the scarecrow 'Edward Scissorhands', voted most inventive in the first village trail on the theme 'My favourite book'. Our second meeting was quite different: he has organised a 24 hours fundraising event at his barbershop on Saturday, 27th January, 2024. All appointment proceeds and donations will go to the 'OddBalls Foundation' which raises awareness of testicular cancer and makes a difference to male health around the world. David kindly provided more information about the forthcoming event and the charity he and his team are supporting.

PW: Paul Wiggins

DJC: David James Clemens

PW: What has prompted a 24 hours fundraising event to support the 'OddBalls Foundation' and how confident are you people will book appointments during a January night?

DJC: Myself and the team decided to support the charity because I found out in October 2022 that I had testicular cancer. We did research about the particular condition and the care that was offered, and decided that the 'OddBalls' charity seemed to be the best one for detecting the early signs of the cancer. As of today (December 12th, 2023), there are very few appointments available so I have no concerns about the event taking place.

PW: How much money are you hoping to raise for charity?

DJC: We are hoping to raise about £2000. The team is asking for a minimum of £20



for the charity. There will be no charge for the haircut. Any extra donations will be used to raise an awareness of the condition, if people cannot make an appointment.

PW: Abbey and Burton Glass have wished you the best of luck. Have other local companies also offered support?

DJC: Sanchini's coffee bar have offered to supply us with coffee. Angelo's Bistro will supply food throughout the day and possibly during the night.

Should you wish to try and get one of the very few available appointments for a modern male barbering experience, then please telephone David on 01332 840149 or call in his shop at 14 Town Street. He is accepting donations for the 'OddBalls Foundation' from anyone. I am grateful for David agreeing to proceed with the article and his responses. Furthermore I wish him well in his continued recovery. Thank you to everyone who has already agreed to support the fundraising event and in turn the UK's leading charity raising awareness of Testicular Cancer.

by Paul Wiggins

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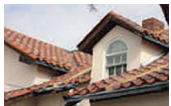
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THE CHANGING SEASONS ON THE MEADOW

I have spent the last couple of months trying to remember what makes me realise a change in the season. Deprived of my usual frequent visits to the reserve by knee surgery - where are the usual observations of developing hazel catkins, the thrill of cold blue skied days, the surprise of tiny dancing midges in the winter sunlight, a sudden appearance of some waxwings feeding on the last berries, a buzzard mewing as it circles in the sky, the rushing water of the Ecclesbourne washing the banks clean of debris or of overflowing its banks across the meadow areas or the dancing jackdaws enjoying the sunny windy days?

As the CP28 draws to a close with the 197 Countries reluctantly including a promise to reduce the use of fossil fuels to counteract global warming - the rise in global temperatures are already noticeable in many parts of the world - not least here in Duffield.

The wettest period since the mid 1800's shows no sign of abating and the effect of the waterlogged ground on the plants and animals has yet to be recorded. There will be casualties and those native plants and trees we consider to be a staple part of our landscape may not be adapted for this different prolonged

wet environment.

In the UK alone, our **soil** holds an estimated **9.8 billion tonnes of carbon** which is equivalent to all the global carbon emissions made by humans in one year!

There are many challenges as to how to preserve the health of our soils and thus our plants and animals. This is the case on the reserve where run off from farms upstream on the Ecclesbourne will have been deposited on the meadow from the recent floods -as will the deposits from the upstream flooding of the Derwent which spilled over the meadow.

One of the consequences of this and a major challenge for farmers generally is the use of antibiotics. This is mostly associated with intensive farming systems where generally unnecessarily high levels of antibiotics are used. As humans we are reliant on antibiotics to preserve our health and to fight bacterial infections. Unfortunately many of these drugs are becoming less and less effective as they are the same ones prescribed to animals as a preventative measure

and this excess use develops resistance in the bacteria.

Of course there may be some interesting additions because of the recent flooding. The range of fish in the wetland ponds is likely to have

been increased.

We regularly have grayling, stickle backs, minnows, roach, young trout fry - most of which do not reach maturity due to the relatively restricted feeding opportunities as the water levels drop - and due the predation by herons, kingfishers, egrets and perhaps pike.

In California a recent large study has concluded that relying on trees to be the main way of reducing carbon in the atmosphere may no longer be the answer. Since 2010 for instance, **130 million trees** have been lost due to high tree density, drought, fires and bark beetle infestation meaning their role as carbon sinks cannot be relied upon nor traded against emissions. Our lack of really prolonged cold temperatures means that the grass has **not stopped growing on the reserve**. Grasses are the most

prolific plant on the planet (worldwide there are about 10 000 species) and all have a number of adaptations that allow them to survive such conditions as drought, fire, heavy grazing, and frost. The bulk of a grass plant resides underground and is insulated by the soil, protecting the plant from sudden changes in temperature. Thus **most of the carbon sequestered by grass is also underground** unlike forests/woodlands where the woody biomass is mostly above the ground and in leaves.

On the meadow there are a number of the 160 species of UK grass - bent, fescue, brome, rye-grass, cocksfoot, oat-grass and meadow-grass for instance. The study of grass species is not for the fainthearted but is easier when they are in flower when their differences become more obvious. Cocksfoot when in flower, belies its name with the shape of its flower heads and is important for wildlife.

The tall grass spikes are food sources for caterpillars like the gatekeeper and meadow brown; the seeds are eaten by finches and game birds; are pollen sources for pollinators such as honeybees which will favour cocksfoot pollen over that of many wild flowers; habitats for wildlife such as bumblebees that build their nests in the long grass; carder bees nest in holes, hidden by the stalks; they are nesting sites for small mammals; and habitats for amphibians and reptiles.

So as the reserve emerges from the wet and the lighter days herald spring, the felling of the ash trees affected by dieback will be offset by the vigorous grass and hopefully the spring flowers.

Happy New Year!

by **Di Hancock**
(Chair; Duffield Millennium Conservation Trust)
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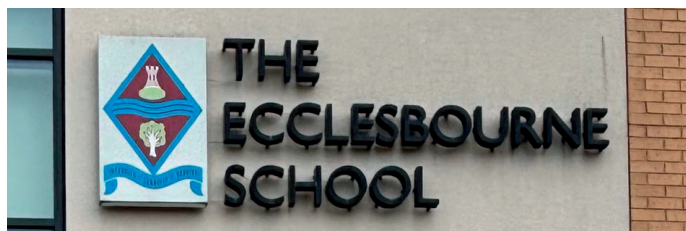


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DUFFIELD SCHOOLS & FLOODING UPDATE



Many of you will be aware of my close connection with Ecclesbourne School. My children attended the School and, when there was a threat of closure of the Sixth Form in 1987, I felt it was important to keep it open to allow parents and pupils to have the choice of either staying at school or attending college. This resulted in my campaign to save the Sixth Form at that time and started my career in national politics.

The School has always obtained excellent student results both locally and nationally and following its disappointing Ofsted inspection in May 2022, it was

inspected again in September 2023 and was judged 'good' for overall effectiveness. I am aware that inspectors were satisfied that the leadership of the School have demonstrated the capacity to raise the standards of pupil behaviour and attitudes. According to the inspectors, the School has addressed the deep-rooted issues around safeguarding reported at the previous inspection. The School leaders have worked hard to improve the School since its last inspection and I am extremely pleased with this outcome.

I am in regular contact with Derbyshire County Council regarding the progress in

relation to Duffield Meadows Primary School. I am delighted that the School is repairable, the restoration costs are covered by insurance and the six-month return to school is achievable. At the time of writing, I am informed that a specialist company is currently working on the interior aspects of the building to bring it back to a high standard. This is an extremely difficult and

disruptive period for staff and pupils, however, I understand that they have settled in well at their temporary premises. The School is a very important part of the Duffield community and I will continue to closely follow its refurbishment programme to ensure that they are able to return to their School as soon as possible.

Finally, I have been in regular contact with the Environment Agency regarding flooding in Duffield. Climate change is obviously having an impact on the increase in flooding and Luke Gardiner, my replacement candidate for Mid Derbyshire, has compiled an Environmental Survey which will be posted through your door early in the New Year. Please take the time to express your views in the survey and return it as soon as possible (return details will be on the form).

by **Pauline Latham OBE MP**



YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS IN DUFFIELD

Councillor Alison McDermott is excited to support Jodi Gray and John Oakley in setting up a repair café at St Alkmunds. They plan to hold monthly sessions and are looking for volunteers who are good at fixing things or can help making and serving refreshments.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact jodigray61@gmail.com. Councillor Gez Kinsella says, "It's great that a repair is opening in Duffield. Repairing things is so much greener than replacing them, reducing waste, raw materials and use of energy".

Gez was contacted by a Duffield resident who reported that a well-used footbridge just off Wirksworth road, had been washed away by the recent flooding of the Ecclesbourne river. Gez contacted DCC and they have temporarily

closed the path with plans to repair it by the end of December.

The Parish Council have been working with Gez to tackle several traffic related issues. They successfully secured the creation of a disabled space outside the shops on the A6. However, because the sign isn't visible, non-disabled car users have been parking in the space; Gez got the council to agree to paint clearer signage on the road, although a date for this has not yet been given.

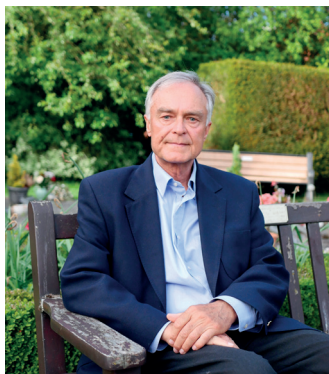
Duffield Parish Councillor, David Walton, has been finding out about the Belper Car Club. The club is run by Derbyshire Community Transport. They have an electric car and a wheelchair accessible vehicle available to hire at £5 an hour with a joining fee of £20. The cars are kept at the Coppice car park in Belper. The scheme, which is funded by



the Motability Foundation, is guaranteed until next summer but will continue if well used. For more information, email Carclub@derbyshiredirect.org

The picture shows Gez and Alison at the successful Quarndon repair café which was set up with help from Gez's Members Community Leadership Fund.

DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN



Cllr Roger Harrison – Vice Chairman

I was first elected to the Parish Council in May 2019, then again in May 2023 after acting as Chair for nearly four years following the death through Covid of our previous chair Colin Thompson. For this first year of the new Council, I have continued to chair the Finance & Management Committee, Staffing Committee and agreed to Chair the Strategic Development Committee.

The Finance Committee comprises Cllrs Grieveson, Harrison, Knee, Shoesmith and Spilsbury. It oversees compliance with the financial regulations and the financial position of the Council and it recommends the setting of the annual budget and the Precept. Many Duffield residents may be unaware that the Parish Council has control over the setting of the local Precept, which accounts for about 80% of our local revenues. Our remaining income comes mainly from cemetery burial fees, rental income received from users of Eyes' Meadow such as the Duffield Dynamos and the Cricket Club, rental from allotment holders and occasional extraordinary amounts such as the generous gift of money for maintenance of Parson's Meadow by John Weston, mentioned in previous article by Cllr Spilsbury.

For the annual budget starting on 1 April 2023, the Precept was set at a 5% increase and agreed at Full Council. Although this is below the annual rate of inflation, we took the view that many families will be faced with a difficult year as the cost of living has increased. Our Reserves are healthy and within 30-60% of the Precept value as advised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils

(DALC). Around £41,000 has been set aside for projects which the Outdoor Management Committee feels are needed for equipment replacements, footpath maintenance, building maintenance and car park repairs, as well as projects identified by the Strategic Development Committee.

Day to day control of the Accounts is managed by our Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) David Melsome and our thanks are due for his efficient control of expenditure and income. He also acts as the interface with both our internal auditor Joanne Taylor and our external auditors PKP Littlejohn. The Parish Council also provides limited grant support to local organisations and we encourage organisations in need of support to apply for grants.

The Staffing Committee deals with the staff organisation structure and the Clerk's proposed annual salary adjustments for the six members of staff, based on annual adjustments negotiated nationally by NALC and the government, plus discretionary scale increments based on annual performance reviews. It also deals with recruitment of the Clerk and the Clerk's recommendations for adjustments to staffing structure, as well as HR strategy/policies/procedures and matters requiring the hearing of disputes or grievances. The Staffing Committee for 2023/4 comprises Cllrs Grieveson, Harrison, Knee, Rowen, and Spilsbury.

The Council employs six staff, uses several contractors and has many suppliers. The day to day running of the Council is done by our Clerk Fay Craig and her staff who was appointed last year, following the untimely death of the previous Clerk Jane Terry. Fay is ably assisted by Assistant Clerk Jackie Clements (who also manages cemetery matters),

Administration Assistant Dee Fitzgerald, who also helps to organise the annual Remembrance Parade in November and occasional grant applications. The Finance Officer David Melsome, The Village Warden is Michael Forkin and the Groundsman is Michael Hutchinson. There are also many volunteers who help with litter picking and we appoint a flood warden, footpath

advisers and a tree adviser. There are also numerous local organisations who help keep the parish safe and tidy. Our thanks are due to all of them.

The Strategic Development Committee currently comprises Cllrs Broadbent, Harrison, Knee, Spilsbury and Thompson and it takes a longer-term view of village needs. It monitors the current 2021 to 2025 Village Action Plan and will oversee development of the follow-on plan.

It also monitors longer-term projects such as the possible future development of the Ecclesbourne Meadow as a nature reserve and sensory garden on land currently owned by Amber Valley Borough Council.

We also provided support to the parishioners for retaining St Margaret's Church from the threat of closure and, in the event of sale, are exploring possible use as a community centre. A petition was launched by parishioners to keep the church open and at the date of writing had attracted well over 300 signatures. The Parish Council organised legal support to assess the original covenant via the well-known local resident and solicitor Nigel Cullen OBE and the Council wrote to the Bishops and Vicar General in support of the parishioners in their attempts to persuade the Bishops to retain the church. At the time of writing, they appear to have decided to delay the decision to sell the church for development or to offer the facility to the parish as a community hall.

The John Weston-donated land at Parsons Meadow required a separate dedicate project group as outlined by Cllr Spilsbury in his recent report.

The Village Action Plan currently focusses on four themes: Traffic Management, Environment, Community and Culture and Supporting Vulnerable Residents.

Each theme has had a lead Councillor and detailed reports will be issued in future articles.

Parking

The Parish Council undertook market research of home and business owners of the central area of Duffield led by Cllr Spilsbury and the County Council (which has responsibility for highways)

has agreed that it will carry out parking improvements for the village through "no waiting" restrictions on Ecclesbourne Avenue and Chapel Street, create blue badge spaces on Chapel Street and Town Street and to designate limited waiting spaces on Chapel Street. Additional signage has also been erected to direct drivers to the Eyes Meadows Car Park and we are hopeful that these changes will go some way to improving parking in the village centre. Cllr Knee will be undertaking research to assess potential further improvements to parking and will report in a later Councillor's report.

Community Speedwatch.

Cllr Thompson chairs the Speedwatch group of volunteers and speed checks have continued around the village. The police report that speeding numbers are reduced as a result. She will report in more detail in a later Councillor's report.

Environment

The Environmental Working Group comprises Cllrs Burke, Nelson, Shoesmith and Walton. The council also provides a Councillor (Spilsbury) for the Millenium Meadow committee and one to keep abreast of the Derwent Valley rail line CRP (Cllr Knee).

Community and Culture

Cllrs Thompson and Burke will be reporting on proposed events in later Councillors' reports. Supporting Vulnerable Residents The Parish Council provides up to two appointees to the RJ Weston Duffield Charity Board of Trustees (The Weston Centre) and provides grant support to the charity. The Weston Centre provides activities for the older residents of Duffield and neighbouring areas and the building is rented by various local organisations and used by the Parish Council for Full Council meetings. Cllrs Harrison and Thompson have been the Parish Council appointees. I have recently resigned after more than four years acting as chair and Cllr Thompson will report in more detail in a later Councillor's report.

The council has also provided financial and other support to the Good Neighbours project.

Cllr Roger Harrison
r.harrison@
duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Duffield Parish Council



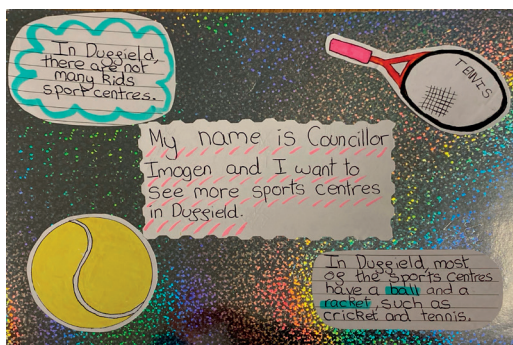
Village Flooding Update /Sand Donation

Following an initial meeting of the new Flood Action Group in December, the Parish Council with the help of the newly appointed Flood Warden are pressing for a proper flood warning system and improvements to the river defences in the village.

Updates will be given via the Parish Council website (and future Duffield Scenes) with any developments – visit www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.

Our grateful thanks go to Huws Gray (aka Buildbase) in Belper, who were kind enough to donate a tonne of sand to use for filling sandbags which can be obtained from the Cemetery. For more details, contact the Clerk (clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Parliament week Posters



During Parliament Week in November 2023, the Parish Council held a poster competition for under-18s. The theme was to show what you'd like to see in Duffield and the two entries shown here are by Persephone Rowen, 4, with her idea for an insect nature reserve, and Imogen Satherley, 11, who calls for

a greater variety of sports options in the village – both great ideas. Thanks to you both for your submissions.

Tree Nursery at Duffield Cemetery

Thanks to the enthusiasm of a local volunteer and a donation of young trees by the Woodland Trust, a new tree nursery has been established at the grounds of the Parish Council Cemetery. It will take several years for the trees to be established and then they will be planted in various village locations or at the Cemetery itself.

The Woodland Trust Free Trees scheme offers saplings that will then be replanted in publicly accessible places, with the community involved in the planting and, if possible, the ongoing care of the trees.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public to attend to listen or address the Council on any Parish issues. Correspondence from Parishioners is also reported to the meetings.

Forthcoming meetings – The next **Full Council** Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at the Weston Centre. Our next Committee meeting is the Outdoor Management and Development **Committee** on the 17th January 2024 at the Cemetery Lodge. Meetings begin at 7pm and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be viewed online at www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Office

Cemetery Lodge, 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield, Belper DE56 4DQ.
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Contact the Clerk

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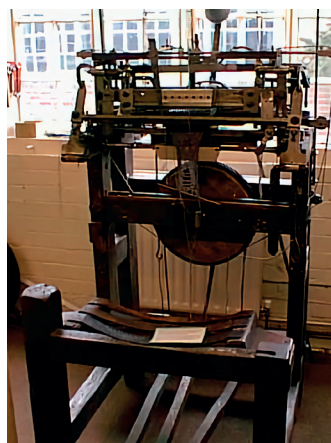


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DUFFIELD & DISTRICT HERITAGE – Getting Framed!

Framework knitting and hosiery was for centuries a household industry throughout Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire and that included Duffield. Generally, Derbyshire specialised in silk, Nottinghamshire in cotton, and Leicestershire in wool worsted. Ultimately, this industry played a large part in the economic growth of the East Midlands.

The first framework knitting machine, using hand and pedal power, was invented by the Reverend William Lee of Calverton near Nottingham in 1589. Its use, known traditionally as framework knitting, was the first major stage in the mechanisation of the textile industry, and played an important part in the early history of the Industrial Revolution. Framework knitting using hand and pedal-power started off as a ‘cottage industry’ in houses or workshops, eventually moving into factories where textiles were made on a larger scale by machines driven by engines.



Rev William Lee's Frame

Essentially, these machines imitated multiple times the movements of hand knitters and enabled a person to knit 100 times faster. However, it could only produce plain knit and did not have the elasticity to make successful hose or stockings. Lee, unable to get a patent for his machine from either Elizabeth 1 or James 1, left for France to make

his fortune but sadly died penniless. Nevertheless, the frames returned to England and the industry thrived.

Lee's original machine was suitable only for wool worsted, but his later version increased elasticity and was suitable for silk. In 1759 a breakthrough came when Jedediah Strutt improved the frame by adding an attachment which enabled it to knit cotton, and to produce ribbed hosiery for the first time. Previously the ribbed section had been knitted on by hand. Strutt obtained a patent for his invention, which became known as the ‘Derby Rib’ By 1800 the frame had been adapted as a lace making machine. In 1812, there were estimated to be over 25,000 frames in use, most of them in the three counties - and the frame had returned to Calverton.



Strutt's Knitting Frame

Due to their complexity these frames became too expensive for individuals to buy. As such, wealthy hosiers bought the machines, hired them out to the knitters, supplied the yarn and sold the stockings. Handling the frames was arduous work and framework knitters earned a poor living. They had to pay the rent for the frame even when there was no work. The machines were mostly operated in the home or sometimes in a shed nearby. Maximum use of light was important and

often a window, or windows, would be enlarged. The whole family were involved in the work with wives seaming up the stockings and children winding the bobbins while the man used the frame.



Workshop 1737, Bonsall

Frame knitting workshops as a cottage industry sprang up throughout Derbyshire. Some were purpose-built workshops or modified dwellings, notably in Bonsall, Crich and Holbrook. Bonsall was a major centre of domestic framework knitting, where in 1844, there were 143 frames believed to be in use, with several still surviving. One remaining workshop built of limestone with gritstone dressings is dated 1737.

No 12 The Common Crich, a late 18thC three story stone house is the best example in Derbyshire of a frame knitting workshop where eight separate nine-paned lights were added to its third floor. Holbrook has two Listed 19thC workshops with large expanses of glass on the first floor.



12 The Common, Crich



Holbrook, Well Lane



Holbrook, Town Street



Tamworth Terrace, 'Good Husband's Row'

Not surprisingly Duffield had several such workshops. There were at least three within Tamworth Terrace which is known locally as ‘Good Husband's Row’. No 2 Holloway Road was the home and workshop of Joseph Davis a frame stocking weaver for 34 years, having followed his father William into the stockinger's trade. During good times he employed up to four men and his stockings were sold to Longdon's of Derby. His hand weaving frames were the last to be worked in Duffield. It is believed that a frame-knitters workshop, with its long south facing window, was within the detached building behind *The Gallery* in Town Street.



2 Holloway Road

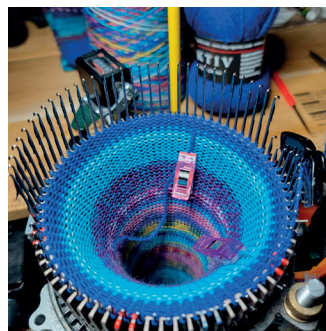


The Gallery

It is understood that almost every Monday Duffield's weavers would take a holiday which became known as 'Stockinger's Monday'. Evidently, they were a lively bunch since they gathered early in the day at the Patten Makers Arms where they caroused until closing time. It seems that those unable to walk were trundled home in a wheelbarrow by their wives! In their case, not such good husbands. Eventually all these machines were superseded by the factories of the giants of the Industrial Revolution, including Lombe's Silk Mill

in Derby, Richard Arkwright at Cromford, and Jedediah Strutt in Belper and Milford, with their **spinning machines**, all harnessing waterpower from the Derwent. According to G Hickling in his 'Duffield in Appletree', the 1841 Census identified some 132 framework knitters in Duffield. By the 1841 census it was 101, which perhaps reflects the continuing drift from a cottage industry to the Strutt's and Brettles' mills in Belper and Milford, and Evans' mill at Darley Abbey.

Circular Sock Machine
The latest knitting machine to arrive in Duffield was



recently acquired by Ben our Editor. It is a CSM (circular sock machine) capable of producing socks, scarves, hats, and mittens, and on. So, when next your young ones are busy emptying their Christmas stockings, spare a thought for the poor hard working frame

knitters of yesteryear. Good luck Ben, and a Happy New Year to you all.
by **Robert Reid**



CHILDREN'S ART CLUB ENCOURAGES CREATIVITY

Within a short space of time during my first meeting with Jane Hawkins I realised how well-organised and steadfast she was in her leadership of the Saturday morning children's art club at the Weston Centre. These qualities have probably allowed her to run the club for 22 years in Duffield without ever advertising for new members and needing a 'waiting list'. Such are the merits of word-of-mouth recommendation and delivering high-quality sessions which are well-received! Lucy Smeath, whose 17 year old son Wilf attends, told me, "Jane caters for all ages and offers a variety of activities". Wilf has been a regular member of the art club since he was 7 and for the last year has come along to help run the sessions. Mr. Bairstow spoke on behalf of his daughter Erin and added, "she loves art and the sessions give her confidence and exposure to different art types which are not necessarily covered in school". Jane has a particular theme or activity for each meeting and they are all developed based on her aims of the club. The group members suggest ideas for activities and paper marbling seems popular. In recent months the group has created a display to mark the coronation of King Charles and embarked on 'A Winter Wonderland'



Christmas project, that being a 3D Advent calendar involving 25 clay woodland animals and the painting of a winter watercolour backdrop. Both were displayed in the Weston Centre. Jane kindly shared her views of this successful art club.

PW: Paul Wiggins

JH: Jane Hawkins

PW: When did you begin running the children's art classes at the Weston Centre and what did you hope to achieve?

JH: Originally I ran the activities at home with my mum for my own children's friends. As the group grew I approached the Weston Centre and have been here since 2001. I encourage children to experiment with different materials, to create their own art work, to learn a little about well-known artists and to have fun!

PW: What have been the highlights of your work in Duffield?

JH: Seeing children express themselves, use their imagination and watch their confidence grow. I have encouraged artistic achievement and delivered knowledge of famous artists.

PW: How important to the children is the display of their work and the feedback that has subsequently arisen?

JH: Very important: the Centre manager, Emma Morrison, reports the comments to me and they have been lovely concerning 'The Coronation' and 'A Winter Wonderland'.

PW: Have you any significant ideas for 2024 which the children may develop?

JH: Each term is devoted to a particular idea. From January

the theme is paint and print and I want the children to learn about famous artists and their work. Jane arranges a Summer Exhibition every year and parents can view the group's achievements and learn about the progress individual children have made. Furthermore during carnival week her sister, Sally, displays on the hairdressing shop window in Tamworth Street pictures the children have produced on the theme for the shop window competition of that year. Whilst encouraging comments have been raised about the children's work, the young creators themselves have enjoyed seeing the contributions from Jeff Barber's adult art and crafts group and David Zydzienowski's fine world war Remembrance Day display with an emphasis on local involvement. The latter, apparently, enriched the children's knowledge first imparted to them by teachers in history lessons. Award-winning author and visual artist MaryAnn F. Kohl stated, 'Art is a place for children to learn to trust their ideas, themselves, and to explore what is possible.' This process of discovery and creating seems to be at the heart of Jane's teaching. Thanks to all contributors particularly Jane Hawkins.
by **Paul Wiggins**

WEEKLY EVENTS

- MON** | **Coffee Morning**
10.00am - 12noon, Emmanuel Church
Opening so people have a warm place to go for free coffee, cake and a chat.
- TUE** | **Walking for Health**
Meet at 9.45am, The Weston Centre for supervised walk 10.00 – 11.30, round Duffield and beyond. All welcome.
Chris - 07977 140415.
- Yoga with Pilates**
1pm - 2.15pm. Bring mat & blanket. Beginners welcome. Julie 07817 147167. Methodist Church Hall, King Street.
- Boys Brigade & Girls Association***
6.15 - 7.30pm. New members welcome. £2.00. Ages 5-11. Baptist Church Hall. 01773 689983
- WED** | **Ignition Youth Group***
7.30- 9pm.
St. Alkmund's Church Hall.
School years 10-13. Relaxing with a hot drink and cake, games and thinking through a section of the bible.
- Duffield Singers**
7.45 - 9.45pm
St. Margaret Clitherow Church, Hall Farm Road.
theduffieldsingers@gmail.com
www.duffieldsingers.org
- FRI** | **Time Out for Toddlers and carers (TOTS)**
10.00am - 12 noon
St Alkmund's Church Hall
A new free group. Come along to play, chat, join in the fun and make new friends. Snacks; coffee and tea on tap.
- Chairobics**
Lunchtime, The Weston Centre.
Suzanne, a practising physiotherapist, runs a friendly chair-based exercise class. Why not join her to get fit, have fun and make friends. Book with Suzanne 07810 023 743.
- Amber Painting Group**
1.30-3.30pm - Methodist Church Hall.
amberpaintinggroup@yahoo.co.uk
www.fb.me/amberpainters
- Massive***
4.00 - 6.00pm (years 7-9)
7.00 - 9.30pm (years 10-13)
Emmanuel Community Church
- TUE-FRI** | **Coffee Morning**
10.00am - 12noon
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
Coffee, tea and biscuits. £1 for a bottomless cup. Volunteers will ensure you are made welcome.

*term time only

MONTHLY CALENDAR JANUARY

- 5** | **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk
2-4pm. 01332 840349
- 11** | **Art and Craft/Model Making Group**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
1.30-3.30pm. All levels and experience are encouraged to our friendly, informal group.
- 15** | **Public Drop in for Residents and Businesses Affected by Flooding**
2pm to 7pm. Room 107, Strutt's Centre, Derby Road, Belper, DE56 1UU. If you are unable to attend but would like to share your experience, please email us at emdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Chevin Probus Club**
Makeney Hotel, Milford. 10.15am. Coffee followed by Mr Keith Blood, his Topic, Bamford Dams.
Peter Robinson - 01332 705554.
- 16** | **Osteoporosis Information**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
Session held by University Hospitals of Derby and Burton. All welcome to drop in. 2pm-3.30pm
- 18** | **Art and Craft/Model Making Group**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
1.30-3.30pm. All levels and experience are encouraged to our friendly, informal group.
- 19** | **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk
2-4pm. 01332 840349
- 25** | **Art and Craft/Model Making Group**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
1.30-3.30pm. All levels and experience are encouraged to our friendly, informal group.
- 31** | **Euro Film Club**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
'Les Misérables' £4 suggested donation, doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm show

FEBRUARY

- 1** | **Film Screening**
2:00pm, 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
£3 suggested donation. Tea, Coffee and bar available.
Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.
- 2** | **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk
2-4pm. 01332 840349

Tell us about your upcoming event at
www.duffieldscene.co.uk or call 01332 898898



Duffield Community Association or **DCA** is run by volunteers with the aim of making our lovely village an even better place to live.

Among the things we do:

- We have organised the amazing annual **DCA** DUFFIELD CARNIVAL since 1976
- We have planted thousands of daffodils and sown wildflowers on the public verges.
- In the past we landscaped Wirksworth Road Corner which we now maintain and plant up—we would like to do the same for Chapel Street Corner.
- We install community defibrillators around the village. There are now 11 defibs, publicly accessible, 24/7, and we want to facilitate the installation of one more.
- For the past two years the **DCA** has put on fantastic FIREWORKS evenings for the village to enjoy.
- We put up the Christmas trees with lights and decorations around the village.
- We support village organisations and make donations when they ask for our help – for example:

Amber Painting Group, the Primary Schools PTFs, Music in Duffield, Duffield Scouts and Guides, Duffield Singers, the Squash Club and Tennis Club, Millennium Meadow, and others.

Most recently, in response to the extraordinary October 2023 floods, the **DCA** created a fund to support those severely impacted by the floods.



Despite all the above the **DCA** is to many an unknown or unrecognised entity, by incorporating the DCA Newsletter in the Duffield Scene we wish to reach into every household in Duffield.

There is so much more we could do, with your help. This is YOUR village – be a member and give us any ideas or suggestions you may have to make our village a better place to live. You can support us in many ways: -

- Get involved in some of the projects listed above - we need more help.
- Become part of the CARNIVAL CREW and help us to deliver a great fun day for everyone.
- Or just - By joining the **DCA** for a fee of £5/year your subscription will help us!

Everyone in Duffield is invited to become a **DCA** member, be it as a household (£5 p.a) or as an Affiliated Organisation (£10 p.a). The natural question is what do I get for my membership? The answer is being part of this wonderful organisation and having a say as to how to improve the village. The **DCA** wants members because it needs the support of the village in its actions, and to be able to demonstrate, through a register of members, that it represents a significant proportion of the community.

Please visit the website at www.duffieldvillage.co.uk/subscriptions to send us your 2024 Duffield Community Association subscription. Ben Slater is our new DCA Membership Secretary, he will be happy to receive your subscriptions.

The **DCA** is managed at two levels, an Executive Committee that executes projects and expenditure. The Exec is guided by the Council made up of representatives of the Affiliated organisations and householders. Underpinning all of this are our volunteers, it is they who deliver the **DCA's** projects, be it the Carnival, planting bulbs or improving public areas. Have your say, the next **DCA Council** meeting is on **Wednesday 17th January** 7.30pm at the Weston Centre, household members and affiliated organisations are invited.

DCA News

A Phoenix reborn, not from ashes but floodwater, the Duffield Tennis and Squash Clubs are regenerating as an organisation with ambitions. Thanks to the tremendous effort led by Nigel Williams, the team has been driving the plan to refurbish the facility, including tweaks to reflect the sports needs of the village today. Whilst the Squash courts are still some way off, the Clubhouse has reopened and is providing a social space again; in addition to being open for Tennis and Pickleball. Good news came in the form of their insurer confirming that the great majority of refurbishment costs will be paid for by the insurance company.

Congratulations from the **DCA** to Duffield Tennis Club for being awarded "**LTA Youth Recognised Venue Status for coaching**", a nationally recognised achievement, equivalent to "Academy Status" for football clubs. The **DCA** has through grants supported the club's Junior Development programme. The Coaching programme/team has had a long successful history of producing county/regional/national ranked juniors along with creating a pathway for keen teenagers to develop their coaching and assisting skills. This is also alongside successful junior teams and outstanding individual success stories. Currently 16 juniors represent Derbyshire along with 2 accessing American Universities and 6 in the top 100 National rankings.



Photograph credit to Lesley Doubleday

Duffield Well Dressing

Well dressing is a Derbyshire tradition dating back to pagan times, the DCA is hoping this year to bring this iconic Derbyshire tradition to Duffield.

We are in the early planning stages of how to deliver this project. We have no experience we need people to guide us and point us in the right direction. We will also need people / organisations to help with the preparation of the dressings the inserting of the materials into the clay to form the dressings. We are starting small, so hopefully it will be several small groups doing two-hour shifts. (give as little or as much time as you can or want)

We hope it will be a fun project involving several teams with satisfaction at the end. Although flower petals form one part of the artwork, as seen opposite seed heads, beans, stones and even broccoli heads can be used to create the image.

Please contact the DCA if you are interested

Community Banking. Last month's Newsletter trumpeted the long awaited Belper Banking Hub which is reported to be opening this month at 46-48 King Street, Belper.

We should not overlook the fact that our village Post Office can perform most of the everyday banking/over the counter functions* for Personal or Business Accounts. The Post Office has agreements with some 34 banks (including Coutts – so Mr Farage is catered for). **Pay in cash and cheques, withdraw cash, check your balance; albeit for most you will need a bank card and PIN.*

The next **DCA Council** meeting is on **Wednesday 17th January 7.30pm** at the Weston Centre, household members and affiliated organisations are invited.

Now our newsletter is included in the Duffield Scene any articles, letters, photos for inclusion will need to be with the DCA editor by the 13th of the month to be in the following month's Duffield Scene.

Please send DCA News to Nigel Hooker e-mail: news.dca@outlook.com Tel. 07712 079730.



INSPIRATION BEYOND THE SCARECROW TRAIL



Even if there was initial support for keeping a scarecrow entry alongside the A6 months after the 2023 Scarecrow Trail and the moral of the Aesop Fable, 'The Magic Hen', (never be greedy or impatient) is always worth remembering, interest may wane over time. Therefore husband and wife, John and Jo Foster of the Duffield Dairy, decided to allow people an appreciation of 'The Hen' in different contexts. With the same creative flair and inspiration used to achieve recognition as the most entertaining scarecrow in the group and business category of the theme 'Myths, Legends and Fairytales', they have adapted 'The Hen' in recent months to befit an event or occasion such that it has evoked Halloween, Remembrance Day, 'Children in Need' and Christmas. And to share a passing motorist's comment, 'what a stroke of genius!' Jo had to respond quickly on the morning of the 15th November to decorate 'The Hen' and provide encouragement for a visitor's endeavour, after hearing on Radio Derby that broadcaster Vernon Kay would be travelling through Duffield as part of his Ultramarathon Challenge for 'Children in Need'. I was grateful to them both for providing their views on these 'developments'.

PW: Paul Wiggins

JF: John Foster

JoF: Jo Foster

PW: Who or what has prompted you to present 'The Hen' as a fixture in keeping

with different occasions following the scarecrow trail?

JF: As a lot of work had been done to create a scarecrow and the response to it was good, we decided to keep the hen as a permanent fixture in a prominent position. During the trail bus passengers cheered when they saw it. Initially we kept it out for an extra few weeks before being remodeled for 'Halloween'. It is helpful having good facilities such as a barn for storage and opportunities to allow a rather wet hen to dry! For the 'Remembrance' occasion the Duffield W.I. members who had made poppies asked if they could place them in front of the hen. That in itself provided a link with the local community.

PW: What feedback have you received as a result of your efforts?

JoF: We have received many good comments on social media including the following, 'Great Halloween hen, someone's been busy'...'I think we have a Banksy in the village!'...'Love this and that your hen is having his life extended!'...'Such a lovely, happy, colourful vision for everyone when you drive by'...'Merry chickmas to you too!'

PW: Have you any plans for 'The Hen' in 2024?

JF: We have no firm plans. Whatever happens, there will be a gap between the remodelling of 'the hen' and the next Scarecrow Trail.

The theme of the 2019 Scarecrow Trail was My Favourite Song

or Musical. Duffield resident Susan King and her family created a 'Grandad' (the song was recorded by Clive Dunn in 1970). The bespectacled scarecrow is now watching the world go by, well, Belper, to be exact as he resides at Bluebird Care on Bridge Street. I am reliably informed that even his presence in usual day clothes creates amusement and pleasure particularly for children. Visitors to the office have responded favourably to the impressive work of team members who have dressed 'Grandad' as Captain Sir Tom Moore (British army officer and notable fundraiser) and Santa Claus. I wish to thank

Ann Cruickshank and members of Duffield Evening Women's Institute, who began making the poppies in January 2023 and then displayed them, such that they enhanced the 'Remembrance Hen' in November. My appreciation is also conveyed to Susan King. Without the considerable help of Jo and John Foster over several months, this article would not have been completed, so I am immensely grateful to them. The theme for the 2024 Duffield Scarecrow Trail is 'The Magic of Cinema' and it will be held from Wednesday 18th to Sunday 22nd September.

by **Paul Wiggins**



Public Drop in for Residents and Businesses Affected by Flooding

Date: Monday 15th January 2024

Time: 2pm to 7pm

Location: Room 107, Strutt's Centre,
Derby Road, Belper, DE56 1UU

The Environment Agency, in partnership with Derbyshire County Council are working together to help residents and businesses recover from flooding in Derbyshire.

We are available at the **Strutts Centre in Belper** between **2pm and 7pm on Monday 15th January 2024**

Please come and share your views, seek advice and find out what support is available.

If you are unable to attend but would like to share your experience, please email us at

emdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

DUFFIELD TENNIS CLUB

From the cover...

a track record of producing quality juniors who go on to play County, regional and national level tennis plus many who go onto a coaching pathway. The Recognised Venue status is equivalent to a Michelin star in the restaurant world or Academy Status for football clubs. This is fantastic news for the club and community", Sam Richardson, Head of Tennis Products and Programmes at the LTA said: "We are so pleased to be recognising tennis venues for delivering outstanding junior programmes and committing to LTA Youth. The venues that

have been awarded the status so far are examples of best practice and should be very proud of their achievement".

LTA Youth is an innovative junior programme created to help more children enjoy the benefits of playing and staying in tennis, whatever their age, gender, ability, disability or background. It connects all tennis activity for juniors so everything looks and feels the same, whether kids are playing in a school, park or club – creating a simple and clear route into tennis for players and their parents.

www.duffieldtennisclub.co.uk



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