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INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGER KAREN ENGLAND

International Opera singer, Karen England, returns to Duffield this autumn for two very special family friendly concerts.

If you've lived in Duffield for many years, you may have heard the name Karen England, or know her Dad John and late mother, Celia who sadly passed away earlier this year. Karen grew up in the village, attending William Gilbert Primary School and then Ecclesbourne School, where she flourished under the music department and continued her studies in Music at Leeds University followed by a Postgraduate at the Guildhall



School of Music and Drama. Karen started her professional career at the Royal Opera House

and then signed to Sony Records as half of Internationally acclaimed duo The OperaBabes.

She has performed worldwide, from the BBC Proms under Sir Simon Rattle to the LA Opera with Placido Domingo, the FA Cup Final, and the legendary Stardust Casino in Las Vegas – not to mention the three times she's performed for her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Her family have lived in the village now for 41 years, and upon losing her mother, Celia in March this year, Karen felt compelled to give something back to the community she grew up in and inspire others. With that in mind, she has organised two concerts at ... continued on page 3.



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INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGER KAREN ENGLAND

From the cover...

St Peter's Church, Belper which she hopes will be enjoyed by many.

The first is on Saturday, October 21st. This is a FREE concert, and she will be joined by three local choirs, The Dalesmen Male Voice Choir (who her dad sings with), A'choir'd Taste and Derventio, along with her pianist, Mark Burton. The programme is entitled 'A musical celebration of life and love' and features popular and golden classics from Les Miserables and Billy Joel to Puccini and John Rutter Sprituals; there really is something for all tastes. There will be a retiring collection in aid of local charity Treetops Hospice, who have a place in Karen's heart following all their support in her mum's final days at home, and this concert is dedicated to her memory.

The second concert is on December 10th and is an afternoon of Christmas



Magic with special guests the Ecclesbourne school choir and chamber choir, and the William Gilbert School Choir... along with Santa Claus! Karen really wanted to support her old schools and having not been back in many (many!) years, recently had a tour of both her secondary and primary schools to find them as warm and wonderful as in her memories. This really will be a very special family concert and you are all welcome to join her and the children in Christmas celebrations.

For Karen, there really is 'no place like home'.

Karen England's Charity concert is at St Peter's Church, Belper on Saturday, October 21st at 7.30pm and is FREE entry with donations to Treetops hospice.

Karen England's Christmas Magic concert with special guests is at St Peter's Church, Belper on Sunday, December 10th at 4.30pm Tickets are £15 (under 16's free) and on sale now at Derby Live. www.derbylive.co.uk



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LARRY!

On August 25th a group of friends joined Larry Smith to celebrate his 96th Birthday! There were 26 guests - mostly from the Weston Centre where Larry is a regular at the coffee mornings.

Everyone enjoyed the occasion enormously. There was plenty of food, wine and great conversation.

Larry gave a short speech thanking everyone for attending his birthday and inviting all to come to his 97th next year. Adele was very grateful to everyone who helped with the serving, washing up and clearing up afterwards. It would not have gone so well without your help! Here's to next year!!

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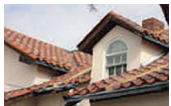
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LAST SUMMERS DAYS IN PORTHLEVEN

About 3 years old - dressed in a little pink tutu and with her blond hair tied up out of her eyes, she tiptoed barefoot through the seaweed and empty shells amongst the resting boats in the harbour now the tide was out. Happy as a sand hopper, oblivious of the rest of the world, she skipped with glee as she found a small crab and unafraid, ran to her dad to show him her treasure. The back of her net skirt showed where she accidentally sat down a number of times and her happy chattering was louder than the wheezing young gulls begging for food from their parents.

Later the tide crept in and before long the sea was awash with wetsuited children practicing paddle boarding in the safety of the relatively shallow water. Smaller children were seated in between standing larger siblings and with squeals of delight were soon having an adventure yards away from the slipway - the rhythmic chanting as they negotiated the moored boats sounding for all the world like pirates' boarding songs! The occasional safe wobble as they made a turn for home was accompanied by happy semi-scared screams and laughter.

The bunches of flowers on the cafe tables were attractive to the odd wasp and bee. In the sunshine there was a fluttering and a large auburn coloured insect paused in front of an

open buddleia bloom and hovering in mid air, inserted its proboscis in search of nectar. A harmless hummingbird hawk moth making the most of the free food and the early evening warm sunshine and this method of feeding is an example of convergent evolution with the birds of the same name. Once a rare visitor these moths can now be seen up and down the UK. Walking towards the beach, a red admiral landed on my jeans and closed its wings to have a rest. Most of the samphire flowers that festoon the cliff tops were over now and the leaves past their best for adding their distinctive salty tang to that fish dish. This late hot weather was complimented by the ripe figs on the tree in the garden where we were staying. They were mostly over ripe despite their very green skins and slightly disappointing but testimony to the extra warmth available to Cornwall.

It is too cold here during the winter for the tiny fig wasp to enact the fertilisation of the fruit and so fruit comes from trees that are parthenocarpic varieties. The edible fig is produced from the flower that is enclosed within

what becomes the fruit and is never visible. Thus the parthenocarpic variety does not need fertilisation and produces seedless fruit.

The noisy happy chattering of a rowdy bunch of sparrows merged with the calling sea birds in the early morning. Patrolling the tall privet hedge these endearing ubiquitous little birds seem to have a conference every day before departing elsewhere. The sound brings back memories of childhood and also of holidays in Cyprus and Crete where they were always around wherever there was a chance of some crumbs from a cafe table.

The half broken white eggshell on the step was evidence of the prolific pigeons that nest in the area. They seem to mate almost all year round - sometimes precariously perched on the overhead telephone wires - and remove the shells from the nest once the squabs have hatched so as not to alert predators.

A large herring gull landed not far from the rubbish bin adjacent to the cafe and waited for a dog to pass by before swiftly flying up to perch on the edge and retrieve a

discarded polystyrene food container. He picked it up and flew down the harbour floor before teasing it open with its yellow bill. A youngster joined in the fun but after a while it was revealed to be empty bar a few crumbs. The concrete pathway was very hot in the midday sun but did not deter an earwig from scurrying across at great speed looking for either shelter or something to scavenge. A curious jackdaw joined in the fun but totally missed the earwig which lived to fight another day.

On the beach the tiny shingle stones glistened in the heat and the sea was calm with very few waves. Children were digging holes as per usual but were disappointed that their buckets of water disappeared as soon as it was poured in so no decent moats were made.

A leisurely stroll back via the ice cream shop before settling back at the cafe completed a perfect day. A large helping of mussels in white wine and cream ensured that I would be back next year.

Porthleven had not lost its attraction and approaching home it was surprising to see autumnal brown leaves already on the horse chestnut trees - testimony to difference between north and south.

by **Di Hancock**

Chair; Duffield Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust
07511230320



DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN



Cllr Jim Grieveson – Chairman

As this is still a relatively new column, I thought I'd share a brief overview of the Parish Council for residents who may not really have thought too much about how things "happen" in Duffield.

Duffield Parish Council - Who are we and what do we do?

Duffield Parish Council is made up of twelve Duffield resident members – the Parish Council makes certain decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of the local community. It is the level of government closest to the community and therefore normally the first place people will go to with concerns or ideas.

We are ably supported by a small but dedicated staff, headed up by a Clerk who organises meetings, manages the rest of the staff and helps to carry out council's decisions. She is based at the Parish office in the Cemetery Lodge on Hazelwood Road.

As a Council, we have a good mix of men and women of different ages, backgrounds, and, indeed, political viewpoints. One thing that we all have in common though is that we all have the best interests of the village at heart. We hold Full Council meetings at the Weston Centre and other Committee meetings at the Cemetery Lodge. Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings and can speak or raise ideas or concerns if they so wish (with prior notice given to the Clerk). Notices of meetings are placed in the Parish Council noticeboard outside the White Hart as well as on the Parish Council website.

We are called upon to make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the community in which we live; deciding which



activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. We ensure that our decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are going. We work with and support local groups, manage open spaces and the Cemetery and work on delivering better services, events and facilities for all. Sometimes we take up issues on behalf of members of the public, such as making representations to higher tiers of Government.

And a word about those local groups with whom we work; and we have quite a few for

a village! Life in Duffield is generally regarded as good and although we are very proud as a Council to do what we can, there are numerous other groups that we work alongside and support to make it so. I am proud to be Chair of a Parish Council that has good relations with, and is able to support, these community groups, all of which also work to enhance life for residents of all ages and interests in our beautiful village.

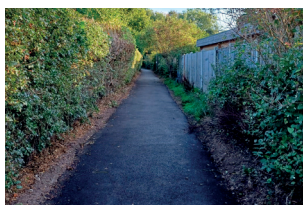
So, who are we and what do we do? Check out future editions of the Councillors Column to find out!

by Cllr Jim Grieveson





Duffield Parish Council



Duffield Meadows/Snake Lane Footpath

The footpath between Duffield Meadows School and Snake Lane has been partly resurfaced where required and general improvements made which we hope will make life easier for anyone using the path this autumn and winter.

Duffield Parliament Week

UK Parliament week is to be held between 6th-12th November 2023 and is an annual programme of events that connect and engage young people with the UK Parliament and democracy. Details can be found at ukparliamentweek.org.

The Parish Council will be offering Duffield school's pupils the opportunity to put forward their ideas for improvements to the village. More information will be available from the Parish Council's website very soon – www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Speed Devices to be Installed

The Parish Council is delighted to confirm that the Speed Indicator Devices are due to be installed during October. The devices will be rotated around four approved locations and we are hopeful that this will contribute to slowing down the minority of drivers who come through the village at excess speeds.

ASB Update

Following the Council's decision to utilise private security patrols around the village during the school summer holidays, we're pleased to say that the level of ASB reported seemed to have reduced.

As before, the message to anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour is to report it to the police on 101 or online (or 999 in an emergency) in the first instance. We also recommend that the incident is reported to Amber Valley Borough Council via their website, and the parish Council by email at clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk – this helps to build a picture of where the activity is occurring.



Duffield Remembrance Parade and Service – 12th November 2023

The annual Remembrance Parade is set to take place on the 12th November. As reported previously, this year the Parade will return to its usual route along Town Street. Uniformed organisations will meet at the Weston Centre at 10:15am and set off along the Parade route at 10:35am, with the Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial starting at 10:55am. Please do join us to mark this important event.

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 8th November 2023 at the Weston Centre. Our next **Committee** meeting is the Outdoor Management and Development Committee meeting on October 4th 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.
Telephone 01332 842740.

Contact the Clerk

clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07719 103015 (emergency contact).

Cemetery Enquiries

contact the Assistant Clerk at assistantclerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07514 871801.



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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 OCTOBER

- 3** | **CHAT (Come and Have Afternoon Tea)**
Baptist Church 2.00 - 4.00pm. Various activities for all age groups. Come and join us for tea and a chat!
Keith Powney 01335 372153.
- 5** | **Film Screening**
2:00pm, 'Operation Mincemeat'
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
We ask for a donation of £3 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.
- 6** | **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
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- 8** | **EVR Wirksworth Wizarding Day**
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- 14** | **Derwent Valley Wind Band Charity Last Night of the Proms Concert**
7:30pm St Alkmund's Church. www.dwwb.org.uk
Full details on page 15.
- 16** | **Chevin Probus Club**
Makeney Hotel, Milford. 10.15am. AGM. No charge.
Peter Robinson - 01332 705554.
- 20** | **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
- 21** | **Karen England's Charity Concert**
7.30pm, St Peter's Church, Belper
FREE entry with donations to Treetops hospice.
Full details on the cover.
- 25** | **The European Film Club**
7:00 pm for a 7:30pm showing. £4 donation.
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
- 27** | **EVR Halloween Special**
A Halloween-themed evening steam train ride from Wirksworth with fish and chip supper
www.e-v-r.com 01629 823076

NOVEMBER

- 2** | **Film Screening**
2:00pm, 'Oh! What a Lovely War'
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
We ask for a donation of £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.
- 3** | **Duffield Community Association Fireworks**
6:15pm, Eyes Meadow
More information on the back page.
- 4** | **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
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SJP Approved 1/09/2023

WALKING FOR HEALTH GROUP FLOURISHES



It was a noticeboard at the Appletree Medical Practice which caught Chris Thorp's attention during a visit to the surgery in 2017. He was delighted to find a volunteering opportunity offered by Amber Valley Borough Council, which was for a leader to run a new Walking for Health group in Duffield. Chris had recently retired and wanted to volunteer for a role which suited his interests and capabilities, whilst adding enrichment and benefit to the local community. He applied, was accepted and received appropriate training, resulting in the council's endorsement of his ability to lead and organise walkers safely on various routes and distances. Walks began in January 2018, both locally and further afield. Then and now, following registration, all the Duffield walks begin from and finish at the Weston Centre which provides toilets and refreshments. During the first two years the group usually attracted between 10 and 12 walkers, then the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted regular walking activities. Now under Walk Derbyshire, a re-start last year was encouraging and led to more walkers joining, especially in recent months; this year walks have typically 20 to 25 participants, and there are 6 qualified leaders. Chris

shared his views about this well-organised and flourishing group.

PW: Paul Wiggins

CT: Chris Thorp

PW: Has being a leader of the walking group met your expectations and have you achieved any personal benefits?

CT: Looking back I really did not have any expectations, certainly not as far as whether group walking would appeal to others in the community. From my own point of view, leading the group has proved to be more rewarding than I could have imagined, primarily because of its importance for those who participate. Although we tend to think of walking mostly in terms of physical wellbeing, the benefits for mental health and socialising are at least as important, if not more so. It really is so much more than simply putting one foot in front of the other!

PW: How did you gain additional leaders and what training did they receive?

CT: My first co-leader was my wife Judith, who luckily was exceptionally easy to recruit, if only because she enjoys walking as much as I do! As the group expanded in numbers, and as we moved

from walking fortnightly to weekly, the need for a greater pool of help became paramount in order to cover absences. So, in my quest for additional support, I turned to those who walked with me on a regular basis for potential candidates, and as a result all five of my fellow leaders have emerged from those who have joined us. All prospective leaders are required to take part in a leaders' training course, shadow a walk before leading their own, and undergo first aid training.

PW: What are the benefits of walking in a group as a way of utilising time and effort?

CT: As you may imagine, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes in administering, planning, carrying out risk assessments and working out logistics of travel for our walks, so delivering the activity to a group makes for efficiencies in time management. The individual participants benefit, too, from having a structured week, knowing that the leaders are always there for them come rain or shine, turn out when they can and not worry about the logistics.

PW: In October changes are afoot for the group. Can you please explain what they are and how they will improve members' involvement?

CT: The recent expansion of numbers has meant that the size of the walking group has reached a critical mass, resulting in practical difficulties such as getting everyone on to a service bus for our "away" walks, negotiating stiles, and accommodation at the Weston Centre for post-walk refreshments. The solution is to offer 2 days a week (which, of course, has required more leaders). The new programme will be starting in October on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Tuesday walks will be longer and more challenging than the Wednesday walks, both taking place locally and beyond. More information will be provided on the Council's website at www.ambervalley.gov.uk/ambervalleywalkingtogether in due course. As a result there will be a much wider choice of walking opportunities which, I expect, will appeal to a broader audience.

One of the members, Margaret Mather, said her joining the group, "was one of the best decisions she had ever made." If you would like to join then contact Chris Thorp on 07977140415.

I appreciate the comment from Margaret and the considerable help provided by Chris.

by Paul Wiggins

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS IN DUFFIELD

Parish councillor, Louise Nelson, has been appointed vice chair of the committee set up to help the community decide the future of the land opposite Duffield Hall, generously bequeathed to the village by John Weston. It was John's stipulation that the land remains a green space for the community to enjoy. Louise and fellow councillor David Walton have been exploring other community green spaces in the local area to get some ideas how the field can be cared for and managed as a resource for the residents of Duffield. The community orchard at Wirksworth and the nature reserve in Holbrook have given them plenty of inspiration. Louise is impressed that so many Duffield residents have shown such passion and interest in the future of the land by volunteering for the committee and is looking forward to working with the community on this exciting project. If you would like to



share your ideas for the land, then contact Louise on louise.nelson@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Alison McDermott has been helping residents on Park Road after they contacted her over concerns about the stretch of the Ecclesbourne river that flows past their houses. They had noticed that the river wasn't flowing properly. Alison contacted

the Environment Agency who initially blamed the problem on the recent drought. Alison advised residents to collect evidence to disprove this and the agency eventually recognised that it was a shift of the fish rocks which was causing the problem. The Environment Agency has assured Alison that they will sort this issue and will now monitor the river whilst looking

for a more permanent solution to make sure this section of the river continues to flow, even during the dry summer months. Councillor Gez Kinsella has successfully arranged for DCC Highways to lay new pipes and clear the gullies to alleviate flooding on Wirksworth road. Picture - Parish Councillors Louise Nelson and David Walton visit Gorsey Piece Nature Reserve in Holbrook

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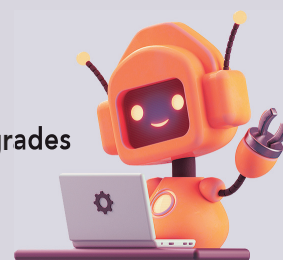
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NEW DUFFIELD TREE WARDEN – DI HANCOCK

I am very happy to be the new tree Warden for the village at the invitation of the Parish Council and thought I would briefly explain what the role entails (and doesn't !!).

The prime purpose to help the Parish Council fulfil its duty in commenting on applications to trim or fell trees in the parish which already have tree preservation orders (TPO). This request usually comes via Amber Valley Council who

are responsible for issuing and maintaining TPO's wherever possible.

A TPO on a tree means that an owner can immediately making a tree safe e.g. trimming a dangerous branch to prevent injury or damage to property but any major work or request to fell a TPO tree must go to the issuing authority e.g. Amber Valley who will ask the Parish for its view..

I am at present collecting

the data from Amber Valley regarding which trees currently have TPO's in the parish.

If you have a specimen tree that you wish to register for a TPO I will be outlining the procedure and the benefits of doing so in next month's Scene.

Meanwhile I am happy to come and look at any trees about which you may have concerns or are wishing to

help preserve to give any help or advice I can and to signpost you to the relevant authority or aboralist. I am not a tree expert per se but can help you to find help if need be!!

We are blessed by having many trees in and around our village and I am happy to say that authorities are being encouraged to plant more.

I can be contacted on 07511230320 or di.2023.hancock@gmail.com

FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERING IN DUFFIELD & NEPAL

American radio host, Bernard Meltzer stated, 'There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up'. Whilst Duffield residents and doctors Ian and Claire Ferrer may not have said this to patients, their actions as volunteers certainly support this notion.

Locally they have dedicated time and ability working together with a committed team on the Good Neighbours project and for the community meal (the latter for over ten years), also providing cream teas, distributing seasonal gift boxes and hampers to many people in need during lockdown and helping with the village barbecue during Carnival week. Part of their Christmas preparation has been the collection, packaging and delivery of provisions to the Derby City Mission food bank and the Padley Centre. In addition, through a strong Christian faith, caring attitudes and transferable skills as medical practitioners, they have adapted to serving others in Nepal. I was interested to learn more of their ongoing volunteering experiences in this South Asian country, and their responses were most appreciated.

PW: Paul Wiggins

IF: Ian Ferrer

CF: Claire Ferrer

PW: Why did you both begin



volunteering as doctors in Nepal?

IF: As young newly qualified GPs in 1988 we felt called to help in a developing country and worked for 2 years in Pokhara; Claire as a medical officer at Green Pastures Leprosy hospital and Ian in the newly built western Regional Hospital in Casualty. We fell in love with the country and people, and our first daughter was born before we returned back to the UK. From 2005 every year we formed part of an international team, running outreach gynaecology and surgical camps all over western Nepal, enabled by an amazing dedicated Nepali support team: a bit like MASH if you remember the series. It kept us grounded and put our life in the UK in a different perspective.

PW: How has your more recent work with Partnerships in Medical Education (PRiME) differed from your

earlier opportunities with the organisation International Nepal Fellowship, (INF)?

IF: This has focussed on raising mental health awareness in the public and on suicide prevention over the last 5 years. Sadly the rate of suicide is probably 3 to 4 times that of the UK, for varied reasons and in different demographic groups from those at risk in the UK. We have also recently supported the new palliative care project initiated by INF (International Nepal Fellowship) and EMMS (Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society). This year we are starting to train new trainers to pass on some of the skills to improve awareness of the problems and how to address mental health issues in this low income community.

PW: How effective have initiatives and training been to cope with challenges facing Nepalis including poverty

and mental health problems and the organisation's limited resources?

CF: We started teaching on mental health awareness in 2017 when many people were unsure what mental health was. Post pandemic, with escalating suicide rates throughout the world, there is now huge interest in looking after mental health and how to reduce suicide rates. This year we are excited to have been awarded a small grant to enable us to expand training and start training up Nepali leaders to deliver this training. We hope then that the project will gain traction and help improve mental health across all 7 provinces in Nepal.

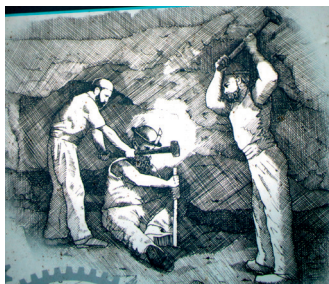
PW: What have been the important benefits of volunteering with regard to your activities in Nepal?

CF: Nepali communities are generous and supportive so we have been blessed, and received far more back than we have ever given. We have learned to appreciate their culture and country, travelling to many remote and beautiful areas. We have had the privilege of meeting and supporting Nepalis, both in the UK and in Nepal, and have hosted Nepalis who have become part of our family and close friends over the years.

by Paul Wiggins

DUFFIELD & DISTRICT HERITAGE FEATURES – COPPER

Copper is a rich mineral ore, much sought after over millennia, and is one of the most commonly mined metals in the world. The estates of the Dukes of Devonshire enjoyed rich mineral deposits of copper at Ecton, which straddles the boundary of Derbyshire with Staffordshire. This mine is said to have financed the building of the Devonshire Dome and The Crescent in Buxton.



"Mind my fingers!"



Buxton Crescent

Possibly the oldest mine in the world is the Skouriotissa mine in Cyprus, dating back to 4,000BC while the world's largest copper mine is the open pit mine at Escondida in Chile. That country produces 23% of the world's copper and this mine alone accounts for almost a third of that output.

Swansea was once the world centre for copper-ore smelting and became known as 'Copperopolis'! Since copper refining needed three to four tons of coal to smelt one ton of copper ore it made economic sense to bring copper ore to the coal. The glistening coal hillsides around Swansea and Neath lay midway between the copper-ore fields of Cornwall, as described in Winston Graham's Poldark novels, and the metal hungry factories of the English Midlands. By 1820, 90% of all the copper-smelting capacity of Britain was based within twenty miles of Swansea.

From the Bronze Age, both copper and lead deposits on

Ecton Hill were worked for over 3,500 years, ceasing in 1891. In the 18thC it was the richest in the Peak District and made for the Duke a fortune of over £300,000 (c.£70million today!). Much of the copper from Ecton was used to protect the bottoms of wooden ships of the Royal Navy, while in 1854 it was used for the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable.



Cutty Sark, Greenwich

In tropical waters, wooden-hulled sailing ships were vulnerable to potentially terminal damage from wood-boring worms. In 1761 the first Royal Navy ship was clad with copper plates known as 'Muntz Metal', being a compound of 60% copper and 40% zinc with traces of iron. This protected wooden planks from attack by Teredo worms, aka shipworms, a type of bivalve clam. By the 1780s the Navy, as well as merchant East Indiamen, was plated with it. This streamlining undoubtedly gave British warships the edge over the French and Spanish fleets in the Napoleonic Wars. A visit to the Cutty Sark in Greenwich reveals the immaculate 'copper bottom' of that famous Clipper-ship. Copper-plating ships meant intensive use of copper-rolling mills, and by 1800, annual production of rolled plates was over 1,000 tons. The use of the term 'copper-bottomed' to mean a safe investment evolved from this practice. Copper is used in the manufacture of electrical equipment such as wiring and motors because it conducts

heat and electricity very well and can be drawn into wires. It also has uses in plumbing (water pipes), industrial machinery such as heat exchangers and in building construction. Copper was an easily workable metal that could be readily formed into cooking and industrial vessels. A visit to the old kitchen at Kedleston Hall reveals a display of 18th/19thC copper cooking and dining utensils.



Kedleston Hall kitchen

The history of copper in art and architecture can be linked to its durability, corrosion resistance, prestigious appearance, and ability to form complex shapes. It has long been used for many architectural elements including gutters, spires, roof 'flashings' and most notably in roof construction, particularly domes. For the past quarter century, it has been designed into a wide range of buildings, incorporating new styles, varieties of colour, and different shapes and textures. Copper clad walls are a modern design feature in both indoor and outdoor environments. Vital uses for copper include lightning conductors and tie-bars.



Seamed flat roof and fascia, The Park, Tamworth Street



Lightning conductor, St Alkmund's



Tie-bar, staircase, Kedleston Hall

Over time copper produces a distinctive and characterful colouration called Verdigris: a bright bluish-green encrustation, or patina, formed on copper or brass by atmospheric oxidation, consisting of basic copper carbonate. Perhaps the most famous example is the Statue of Liberty in New York, containing some 80 tons of copper sheeting!



Liberty

In Northern Ireland a copper galleon weathervane surmounts the Bradbury Buildings in Belfast, dating from 1932. Notable copper clad buildings in London include Hounslow East Station, with its sweeping curved roof, the dramatic and uncompromising Peckham Library, and Brewery Square with its pre-patinated copper façade. Copper was used to fashion the famous Liver Birds in Liverpool.



Belfast

Nearer to home is the dome of Northcliffe House, and the partial cladding of the Leonardo Hotel in Derby. In Belper the former Herbert Strutt School, built in 1909, illustrates the versatility and attractiveness of copper in the bellcote spirelet, and ornate weathervane surmounting a leaded spire above the clocktower. Herbert Strutt's gift of the River Gardens to Belper contains a bandstand with a splendid ogee shaped copper roof.



Northcliffe House



Strutt's Bellcote spirelet



River Gardens

Across the Derwent valley from Duffield Castle can be glimpsed the copper clad domes of mid-19thC Makeney Hall built for George Herbert Strutt, and the grand Victorian

House occupied by his head coachman - latterly his chauffeur.



Makeney Hall and House

On Duffield's Broadway a bold statement and a dash of character was added to a 1950's 'modernist' domestic building using a copper roof. The building is currently being extended in like fashion but with an entirely new roof, this time made with Verdigris coloured 'seamed' anodized aluminium.



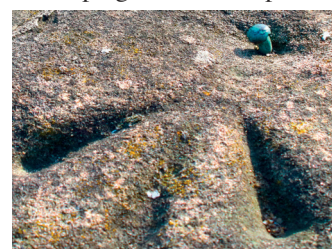
Broadway 'Modernist' before extension

Copper cladding of churches includes St James the Great, Harvington, Evesham which has a copper 'broach' spire, and All Hallows by the Tower in the City, with its ornate 17thC spire, now dwarfed by an office block.



All Hallows by the Tower

A copper knob, now Verdigris-coloured, forms part of the rare horizontal benchmark on Duffield Bridge, Town Street. Even our sundial made from second hand copper taken from a water cylinder is slowly developing a distinctive patina!



Benchmark, Town Street

A rare one penny piece has been sold recently at auction for £72,000, smashing the world record for the most expensive copper coin. The Lavrillier Pattern Penny was cast in 1933. One of only four ever made, it is decorated on one side with the likeness of George V and on the other with the spirit of Britannia.



Finally, it's good to know that we're in no danger of running out of copper. World-wide resources are estimated at nearly 5.8 trillion pounds of which only 12% have been mined throughout history - and most of that is still in use today! by **Robert Reid**

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Derwent Valley Wind Band Charity Last Night of the Proms Concert

7:30pm 14th October, 2023
St Alkmund's Church, Church Drive, Duffield, DE56 4BA
With guests Myforte Youth Choir and solo soprano Linda Perry Smith.

An exciting programme of music from stage and screen plus everyone's Last Night of the Proms favourites to sing along to. Tickets £8 or £5 concessions (including



under 18s). Available now from our website www.dvwb.org.uk or on the door. Visit www.dvwb.org.uk for more information.

HELPER/TRAINER WANTED

The Weston centre is looking for someone to help deliver basic iPad training to the over 60's. "The centre has some money available to pay for your time" says Rob Crowder, trustee for the centre. "We also have several ipads available for people to use and what we are now looking for is a person with about 3 hours a week to spare, who can help beginners build their confidence. Course notes are already available which cover understanding the Basics



of the iPad and how to get the most out of the device."

If you are a young person wishing to develop your own skills as a trainer or somebody who already has training experience and think you may be able to help, contact Emma at the Weston Centre on 01332 840349.

DUFFIELD

FIREWORKS



Duffield Community Association Fireworks on Eyes Meadow Friday 3rd November. The DCA assisted by volunteers are pleased to say... "There will be Fireworks again!" Gates open 6.15pm, Fireworks 7.15pm.

Tickets available from Duffield News and online at TicketSource (search "Duffield Fireworks"). Advance £4. On-the-day (if available) £5. (Pre-school free).

Burgers & Hotdogs, Anthony Andrews Pulled Pork, Duffield Cricket Bar, Lady Crepington Crepes, Children's

Rides, Candy Floss, ProjectD Doughnuts, Hot drinks, LED toys. No car parking on site except for Blue Badge holders. Sorry but no Spectator's Fireworks or Sparklers please. Bring a torch.

Timings and arrangements may be subject to change. The right to refuse admission is reserved. It is a 'condition of entry' that those wishing to enter consent to being searched by the Security Staff.

No refunds except in the case of the event being cancelled. Organised by the DCA; contact news.dca@outlook.com.

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