

All work and projects have been completed within Government guidelines and regulations



PORTFOLIO



Dunchurch in Bloom



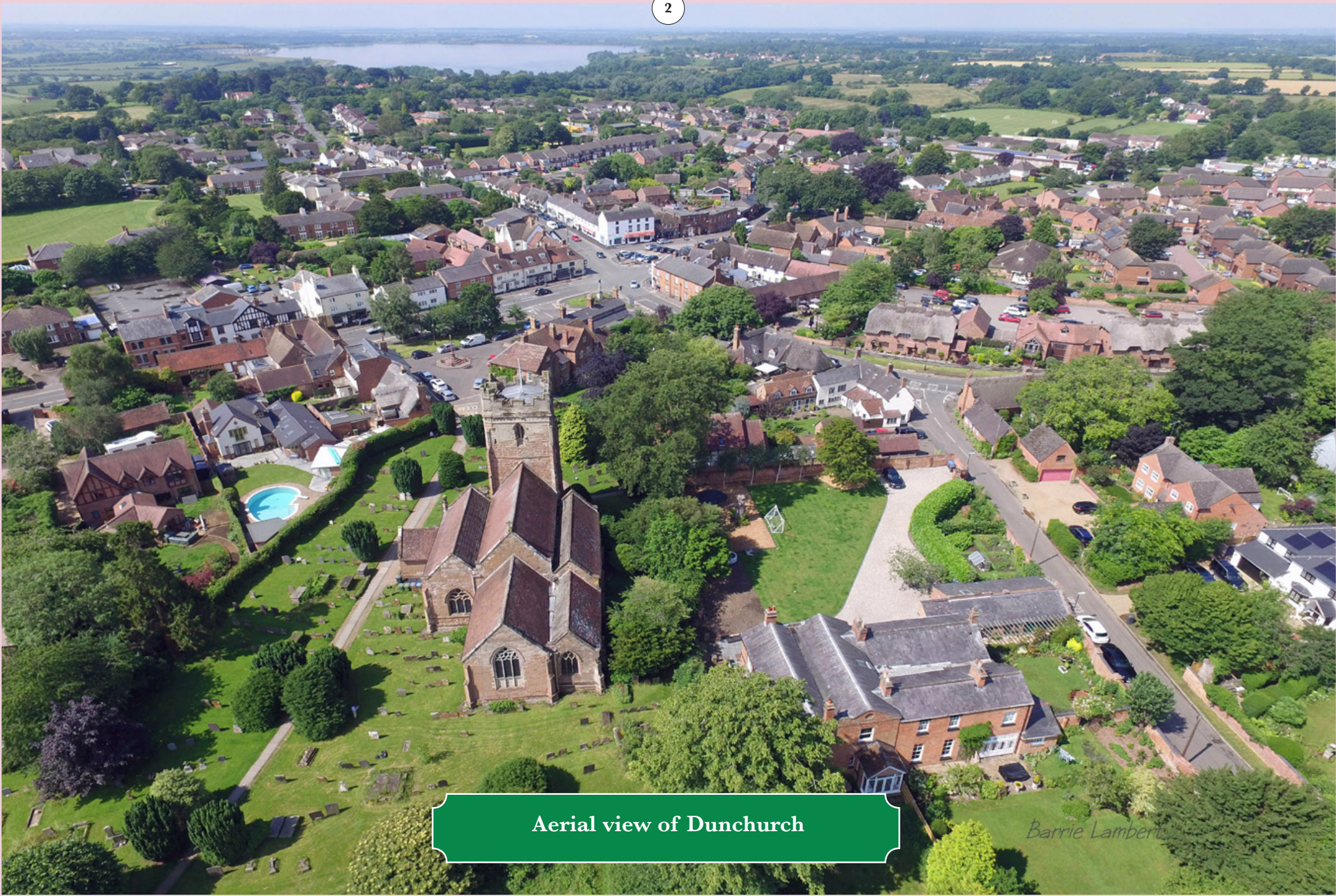
2021



FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY (FODS)

Formed by likeminded residents who love Dunchurch and its heritage and wish to protect and enhance its environment in order to make the village a better place to live, work and visit.





Aerial view of Dunchurch

Barrie Lambert

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey



How our village, inspired by

Heart of England in Bloom 2021

brought our community together and made Dunchurch a better place to live in,
work in and visit.

The following is a record of what has been achieved
during the period of the COVID 19 pandemic to date.



New Gateway Amberol Planter

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

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Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

An Introduction

Friends of Dunchurch Society (FODS) – was formed in September 2018 by a group of concerned villagers who wanted to see Dunchurch public spaces better maintained and to offer Dunchurch Parish Council some volunteer assistance in achieving the community village improvement schemes.

The main concerns of villagers at that time included the wish for better maintenance of the village greens, public monuments and poor village floral displays. Villagers considered the village to be neglected by the three local authorities – Dunchurch Parish Council, Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council.

It was decided that Dunchurch should embrace the RHS ethos of community working together with a common aim.

FODS now work in cooperation with our **three** Local Authorities and village community groups.

In 2019 FODS entered Dunchurch into the RHS Heart of England in Bloom event and was awarded a gold, overall Category winner and an Outstanding Achievement (this was the first time Gold had been won by a first time entrant!),

The benefit to the community of the 2019 In Bloom success was most apparent and the community united to celebrate our In Bloom gold win.

It is estimated that FODS and community group's volunteers donated more than 4400 man/woman hours of voluntary work in 2019 in order to achieve this remarkable result.

Continued...

FODS Mission Statement is 'to make Dunchurch a better place to live in, work in and visit'



HEART OF ENGLAND

Heart of England in Bloom is proud to present

Friends of Dunchurch Society

with a 2019

Category winner Large Village

Roger Bache

Chairman, Heart of England in Bloom



HEART OF ENGLAND

Heart of England in Bloom is proud to present

Friends of Dunchurch Society

with a 2019

Gold – Large Village

Roger Bache

Chairman, Heart of England in Bloom



Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Introduction continued...

Dunchurch was selected to represent the entire Heart of England region (7 counties) in the 2020 RHS National Britain in Bloom Awards which sadly due to COVID -19 was postponed and are, in 2021 representing the region in the RHS Community Awards. The value to the whole community in entering all events is they are structured to encourage whole community involvement. In Bloom events are not just about horticulture. They embrace local wildlife management and community involvement.

There is no doubt that visually our village has never looked better. We had of course aimed for improved floral displays but what has surprised and particularly delighted us is the range of artwork that people have incorporated into their planting designs. It seems that we have unearthed a wealth of talent from people of all ages. It is clear that people have put a lot of thought into their contributions and we can't wait to see what comes next.

The success of Dunchurch in Bloom 2019 has promoted huge enthusiasm from the volunteers and brings with it a wonderful commitment from the community to look forward to the next event to show further improvements to our village.

A few words from the Vice Chairman of FODS

I am pleased to report that this very new organisation has proved to be extremely well received by the community of Dunchurch.

We see FODS as enablers for all of the community and we provide volunteer manpower, expertise, advice and help with funding of community projects in the village.

FODS membership is made up of enthusiastic volunteers many of whom are also members of long established village community groups. This increase in cross village group cooperation has been one of the most rewarding aspects of our FODS group. Our members include local Church congregation, village businesses, local Authorities, schools and established community groups, all working together with the sole aim of *making Dunchurch a better place to live in, work in and visit.*

There is very significant enthusiasm, talent and volunteer availability to enable us to achieve a very worthwhile number of successful Dunchurch improvement projects. From an initial start of 40 members in 2018 we now have over 1200 members on our FODS Facebook Group page.

FODS have created, manage and support more than a dozen diverse groups including a Village Events Group, a Village Online Archive, a Dunchurch website, Neighbourhood Watch, a Crochet & Knitting Group, a Public Spaces Gardening Group, an Orchard Wildlife & Gardening Group, an Eco/Bio Advisory Group and a Dunchurch Handicraft Group.

The pandemic has been a very testing time for all, but in the last 18 months we have significantly increased our membership and completed projects. I am pleased to report that our association with RHS has been a most rewarding inspirational, uplifting and beneficial part of our village life. We are very proud to be working with them

Dunchurch is now a better place to live in, work in and visit.

Tony Kember, Vice Chairman

July 2021



Dunchurch in Bloom
2021





Village Green



Sunny Basket



Shady Basket



Water Collect Scheme



FODS Compost Area



FODS Gardening Booklet Cover



Hanging Basket Water retention aids



FODS water saving advert

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Our Achievements

Horticulture | Environment | The Community

Since winning Gold in 2019 in Heart of England in Bloom much more has been achieved

- ❁ **FODS Public Spaces Gardening Group**, managed by volunteers from all sections of our community, our grass cutters and gardening volunteers have proved an impressive workforce in keeping the appearance of our village pristine. Wearing their hi vis jackets, they have become an excellent and highly visible advert for FODS. They are the ‘backbone’ of our efforts to improve our environment. We couldn’t do it without them!
- ❁ **FODS Guide to producing a Wildlife Friendly Garden**, an A5 booklet produced by FODS Gardening Group in time for Spring 2021, was delivered free to every village home, it explained, in layman’s terms, how to create an environmentally friendly, wildlife habitat in your own garden. Covering a wide range of subjects, it gave lots of handy hints on plants, composting, water

conservation and much more. http://friendsofdunchurchsociety.org/friendsofdunchurch/BIB-project2020/FODS_GB_2303.pdf

- ❁ **FODS Hanging Basket Scheme** – village businesses are the cornerstone of our community, and many have purchased one of our FODS hanging baskets for display at their premises. For the first time, they were grown by our volunteers on their allotments only a few hundred yards from where they are displayed. This year we adopted the FODS water saving practice of lining each of the baskets with old kitchen sponges and woollen jumpers to retain moisture. Members from the Dunchurch Allotment Association devised their own water collection system for watering the FODS hanging baskets whilst in production which were then offered for sale to all of the local businesses and village centre residents.

Continued...



A Selection of our planted troughs & Bloomin Barrows

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

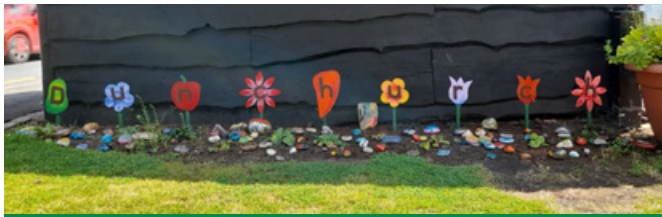
Our Achievements continued...

- ❁ **Thirty-five troughs**, we call them '*Tantalising Troughs*', made by a volunteer from recycled pallets. This gave us the perfect opportunity to include families in our planting programme. After posting on FODS Facebook and our FODS newsletter, all have been 'adopted' and planted. Results are stunning! Originally black, many have been individualised, creating beautiful works of art. Children have loved them, enjoying the process of decorating, and learning about planting and caring for them. All children participating have been presented with a FODS gardening certificate.
- ❁ **Village Gateway Amberol Planters**, Four new planters were installed and planted at the village entrance signs on Southam Road, Daventry Road, Coventry Road and Rugby Road giving a welcome splash of colour and a welcome to Dunchurch to all. These are cared for by resident volunteers. This project was managed by FODS and was equally funded by FODS, Dunchurch Parish Council and the Dunchurch Festival Group.
- ❁ **20 Wheelbarrows (Bloomin Barrows)** have been purchased and modified for drainage as planters. We contacted village groups inviting participation in planting/caring for them. These beautiful, colourful and creative wheelbarrows, inspired by the RHS 'Grow Social' theme are now displayed for all to enjoy throughout the village. All have a FODS sign showing the group name and a message of their choice. Our thanks goes to Jewsons Building

Supplies for donating 3 wheelbarrows and supplying the remainder at trade prices.

- ❁ **FODS abandoned Orchard project, The Hall Close, Dunchurch** - For many years, there has been a largely neglected orchard with 25 mature apple trees in our village. At the request of the owners, Rugby Borough Council, FODS have taken on care and maintenance of the site and are developing this into a managed wildlife area, accessible to all. Originally overgrown with nettles and brambles, we have created pathways through and its beauty is beginning to shine. We have begun adding our wildlife friendly homes and are currently in communication with other village groups, especially those involving children, e.g. Scouts, Guides, schools etc to see how we may further develop this for their use. We are particularly keen to promote the orchard as a wildlife and conservation teaching site, for wildlife groups, horticulture groups etc. We are also establishing links with a local cidery to try and sell some of the produce to help fund development of the site.
- ❁ **St Peters Church**, we continue to work with the church Parochial Council to produce a plan of action for a **wild meadow area** in the Churchyard amongst the older gravestones. FODS brought together Rugby Borough Council's Green Spaces Officer, Scott Ballard on board for advice. This is ongoing and we hope to see results in the near future.

Continued...



Rocks Around the Stocks



St Peters Churchyard wildflower meadow



Community herb planter



Memorial Green hexagonal planter



St Peters wildlife bug hotel

3. Encouraging Wildlife into your Garden

These are some of the aspects you might want to consider to encourage Wildlife into your garden and will provide places to feed, breed and shelter.

Bees and butterfly friendly flowers	Bat boxes
Fruit trees	Pond (wet area)
Berry bearing bushes	Bird boxes for our local birds - sparrows etc.
Insect hotels	There are several types to provide for local species
Nesting houses (solitary bees)	Bird bath - drinking water provision, such as a bird bath is as important as providing food.
Nesting boxes	Log store bug sanctuary
Bird feeders	

Wildlife appeal houses & hotels handmade in Danchurch from recycled materials now available

HAVE A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN WHERE YOU LIVE!
Perhaps if we all have wildlife eco homes in our gardens it would be very interesting for us, our families and help our village wildlife.

Private Gardens represent half of wildlife habitats in the UK. Our wildlife needs help from us. Bees, hedgehogs and sparrows are all in decline and by considering them when planting our flowers and shrubs we can help them.

We have been working with Phil Freeman, who has now produced a wonderful range of wildlife eco homes from recycled wood. They are designed to help local wildlife flourish and will provide a good home as well as an attractive feature for our gardens.

Available to order now!

- Phil's Eco Homes - all ready to go!
- Single Bird Box - £3
- Small Hedgehog Insect House - approx 12cm wide - £10
- Large Bug Hotel on Post - approx 15cm x 15cm - £25
- Hedgehog House - £25

Made by Phil in Danchurch to order from recycled timber. Phil can deliver to you, if local (social distancing to apply) he will accept if you wish.

If you would like to have a Phil Freeman made Wildlife eco home, email Phil directly - philfreeman@btlink.net
Phil's payment terms are cheque or cash on delivery.

Advert for wildlife friendly homes



Hedgehog house



Bird box



Rugby Road planters



FODS volunteer



FODS volunteer



Bicycle planter

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Our Achievements continued...

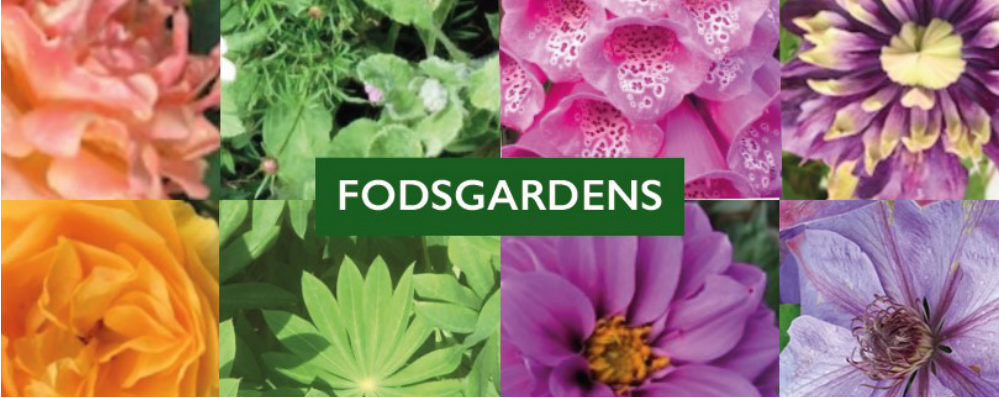
- ❁ Our '**Green Spaces**' campaign resulted in the donation of 8 Sweet Chestnut trees from a member of our community. FODS working with Rugby Borough Council Parks and Grounds Department, who agreed we could plant 5 of these trees on The Heath, a large expanse of Rugby Borough Council green land on the Rugby Road approach to the village that lends itself well to the development of a small, wooded area, eventually perhaps a copse. By kind permission of the Village Hall Trustees, the other 3 trees will be planted on the village sports field. This may prove to be helpful with a high-water table issue. We have also planted a walnut tree. Tree planting in appropriate locations will be ongoing, and we continue assessing locations for trees and berry, bearing bushes to help sustain wildlife.
- ❁ **Wildlife Homes**, There are lots of manmade wildlife homes available on the market but few are as robust or as economical as our own. FODS member Phill Freeman, carpenter by trade, makes a variety of wildlife homes from recycled wood and these are available to the community to buy at a fraction of the shop prices and he delivers direct to the customer. These include bird and bat boxes, insect houses, large bug hotels and hedgehog houses. Beautifully crafted and bio degradable, these have been widely promoted via our FODS village magazine, wildlife booklet, regular newsletters and on social media. Phill has donated a number of these to FODS and they have been placed in community spaces around the village in public spaces. We provided the homes and nature moved in! Our bird and

bat boxes and bug hotels are an attractive addition to our village and instrumental in encouraging wildlife to settle here. Our large bug hotels have also created a 'stop and discuss' point in our village and have provided a useful learning tool for children

- ❁ **Winter Wonderland Windows**, we encouraged villagers to decorate their windows during December 2020. 70 houses participated at Christmas and we produced a location/trail map for villagers to view each window display.
- ❁ **Installed 2 Community Herb Troughs**, donated to FODS, We have planted with free to pick herbs grown by the Dunchurch Allotment Association. Placed in prominent village locations the local residents maintain and water them.
- ❁ **Rocks Around the Stocks**, Not everyone can join in with the pleasures of gardening pursuits, so we encourage the painting of rocks. We have 120 beautiful works of art created on stone by all ages on permanent display in the village centre.
- ❁ **Village Public Spaces Floral Displays**, for the first time FODS and DPC collaborated to plant out our village public spaces with summer plants - the traditional plants suppliers having closed down. FODS volunteers selected, ordered, planted and will maintain over 30 planters for Dunchurch Parish Council.

Continued...

Rugby Borough Neighbourhood Watch Friends of Dunchurch Society NHW Scheme



DUNCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE
 MARCH 2021 ISSUE 10

PRODUCED BY FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY
www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org

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Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Our Achievements continued...

❁ **Box mowing the public greens**, FODS took over from Rugby Borough Council the mowing of our village greens. The improvement in the appearance of our green spaces is clear for all to see. Now neater but with a conscience about the improvement of habitats for wildlife, the future of our village is looking brighter.

We have been experimenting by leaving swathes of green areas unmown and continue to monitor its effectiveness in bringing more wildlife to the area. Our community seems to prefer box cut greens. We continue to deliver our grass cuttings to Dunchurch Allotment Association for composting.

❁ **Dunchurch Village Magazine**, An A5 full colour quarterly magazine delivered free to every home within the Parish of Dunchurch. This has proved invaluable, not only for the FODS message, but it has also become a voice for every other community group that wishes to contribute. Funded entirely by advertising, it takes nothing from our fundraising efforts and has become widely respected as one of the best village magazines in the area. FODS do not charge village community groups for advertising.

❁ **The FODS War Memorial Group** tends to the two war memorials. Each year, we remember the 'fallen'. Knitted by our FODS community knitting and crochet club, we create a stunning poppy display on our Memorial Green.

❁ **FODS Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**, We manage the scheme to help deliver a safer and stronger community environment

❁ **FODSGARDENS**, daily, we share, via FODS newsletter and on Facebook a photo from a village resident's garden sent in by email. These total 400 so far. This is a great way of sharing gardening ideas and involving those who might otherwise be unable to participate in physical gardening projects. This is a very popular project and we have expanded the project to include garden wildlife.



Dunchurch



Cllr. Howard Roberts

Friends of Dunchurch
Winter Wonderland
 Christmas Market



Hanging Basket
 Scheme

Dunchurch
 Festival Group

Grateful
 Residents



FRIENDS OF
 DUNCHURCH
 SOCIETY



Join the Dunchurch
 Easter week-end
 VIRTUAL
 BALLOON RACE
 (ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY!!)

£3 per balloon
 buy at the website
www.balloonrace.com/dunchurch

Daily prizes
 plus main prize of £25
 for the balloon that travels
 the furthest
 12noon 1st April to 12noon 4th April



Formed by likeminded residents who love Dunchurch and its heritage and wish to protect and enhance its environment in order to make the village a better place to live in, work in and visit.

Village Green House, The Green, Dunchurch, CV22 6NX Tel: 07837 182114 Email: friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF
 DUNCHURCH
 SOCIETY (FODS)

DUNCHURCH IN BLOOM

BRITAIN IN BLOOM UK FINALIST
 with the RHS

2019 GOLD AWARD



VILLAGE HANGING BASKET (HB) SCHEME 2021

THIS YEAR WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER SUMMER HANGING BASKETS (HB's) WITH LOVELY HOT PINK TRAILING PETUNIAS OR RED TRAILING BEGONIAS

Let's Keep Dunchurch Beautiful

ALTHOUGH BRITAIN IN BLOOM HAS BEEN POSTPONED THIS YEAR WE WILL STILL BE TAKING PART IN THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NATIONAL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021 AND HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM 2021

Dear Neighbour

Working together in 2019 our community succeeded in its mission to make Dunchurch the village so many wanted to see, by winning Gold in the Heart of England in Bloom 2019 event. We now want to keep Dunchurch in GOLD condition. This Summer Dunchurch village is one of five chosen representatives for the Heart of England region in the Royal Horticultural Society National Community Awards 2021

Our objective this year is to have 100 hanging baskets in the village centre.

You are invited to be part of our FODS village centre summer hanging basket scheme This will again be coordinated by FODS working (Covid-19 safe) together with village businesses, residents DPC and organisations. All baskets will be planted based on FODS water & wildlife conservation policies

WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER YOU THE FOLLOWING SUMMER TREATS

All baskets will be delivered to you and hung by our FODS volunteers

THE SCHEME FOR THIS SUMMER

Hot pink trailing Petunias and Blue Trailing Lobelia and for shadier spots Red Trailing Begonias with Hot Pink bizzie lizzies.

THE COST TO YOU

We will provide and deliver a large complete basket with plants & water conservation devices and hang it on your property bracket/s with an anti theft security wire for only **£20**

If you require a **metal hanging bracket** we will supply and fix one for an additional **£7 each**

WHEN TO ORDER – NOW PLEASE!

Our Growers need as much growing time notice as possible. Latest date for ordering is **1st May**

WHEN TO PAY

By cheque or cash with your order please or BACS transfer (see attached order form) by **1st May**

HOW MANY HB's CAN YOU ORDER?

There is no limit! The more floral displays in the centre of the village the better!

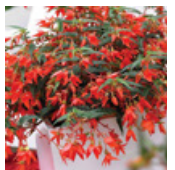
WHEN WILL YOU RECEIVE YOUR SUMMER HBs

Subject to growing conditions, around end of May, early June, they will be delivered and hung with Security wire by a FODS volunteer.

WHO WATERS THE PLANTS?

This year we will be using recycled water saving materials and devices in all baskets/containers which could save up to 80% water consumption and watering time. Property occupiers are responsible for watering but if you need help with watering contact our gardening coordinator, Sue Turner, pastures68@gmail.com Tel 07983 345381 who may be able to find a FODS volunteer to water for you.

HOW DO I ORDER? Complete the order form attached and return it together with your payment to Barbara at Village Green House, The Green, Dunchurch, CV22 6NX info@vghrugby.co.uk Tel: 07837 182114



Trailing Begonias



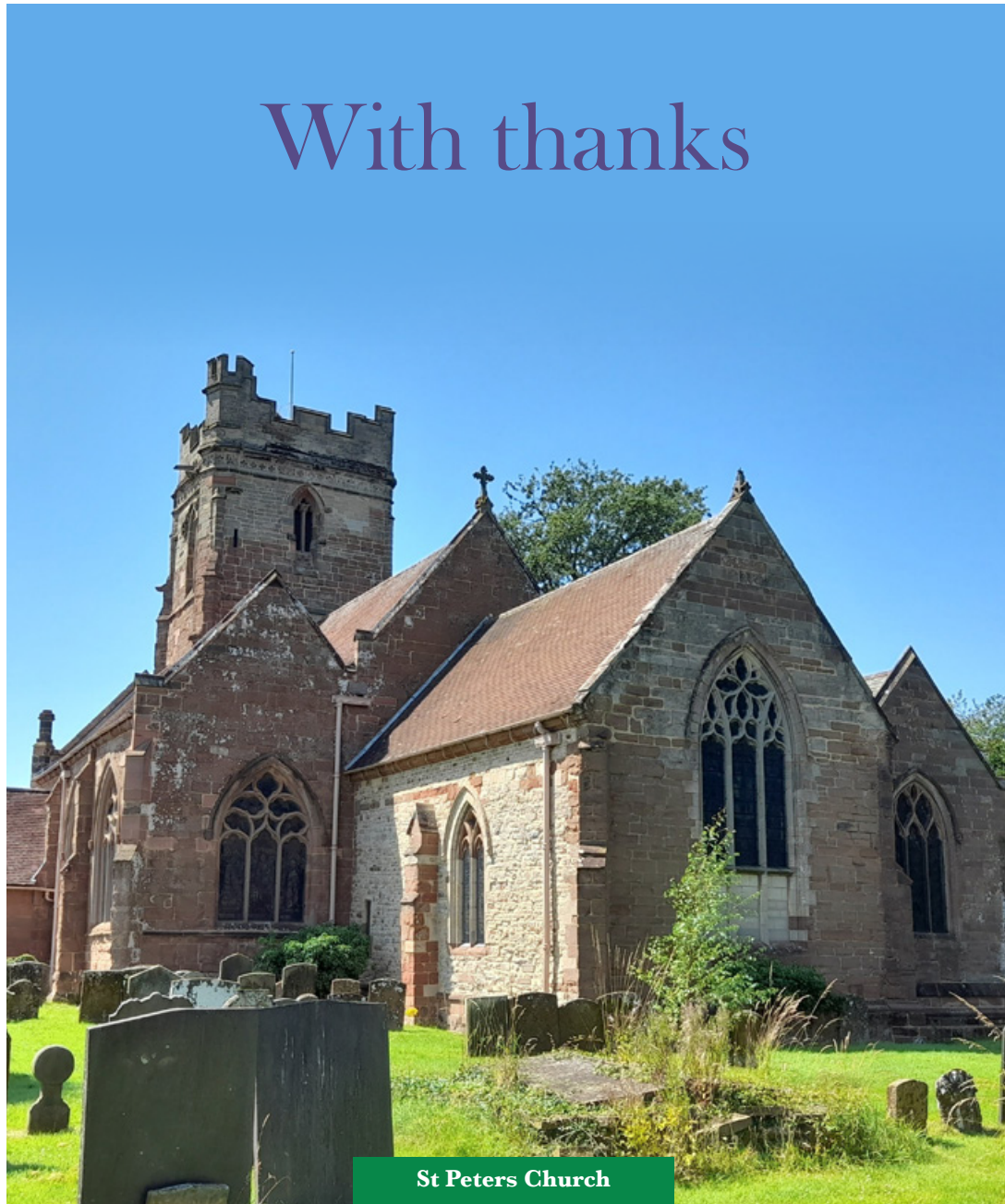
Trailing Petunias

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Funding

- ❁ Advertising revenue from our village magazine
- ❁ Grants from Dunchurch Parish Council and our Local County Councillor
- ❁ Edible seed grant from Rugby Borough Council
- ❁ Fundraising activities including a Virtual Balloon Race, Winter Wonderland Christmas Market (postponed 2020 due to COVID restrictions)
- ❁ Sales of hanging baskets grown by members
- ❁ Grant from Dunchurch Festival Group
- ❁ Grant from Dunchurch Pantomaniacs
- ❁ Grateful Residents



With thanks

St Peter's Church



The Rugby Borough Mayor
Cllr Deepah Roberts

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Sponsors, Funders & Supporters

Dunchurch Pantomanics
 Dunchurch Festival Group
 Dunchurch Social Club
 Dunchurch Parish Council
 Rugby Borough Council
 Mr and Mrs A Redfern
 St Peters Church

Dunchurch Baptist Church
 Dunchurch Voices
 Dunchurch Boughton Infants
 & Junior School
 Dunchurch Allotment Association
 Dunchurch Rainbows
 Dunchurch Park
 Warwickshire County Council

Warwickshire County Councillor
 Howard Roberts
 Mayor of Rugby Cllr Mrs Deepah
 Roberts
 The Dun Cow
 Village Green House
 All our advertisers in the
 Dunchurch Village Magazine

And many more ... THANKS TO ALL!

By working together FODS have demonstrated that we can

Make Dunchurch a better place to live in, work in and visit



Fabulous FODS Public Spaces Group

Portfolio

Our Dunchurch in Bloom Journey

Key people involved in the community's transformation of Dunchurch

Many people in our community have given their time, support, enthusiasm and involvement to Dunchurch in Bloom and without them Friends of Dunchurch would not continue to be a success.

Janet Beaumont	Tony Denton	Mike Judge	Les Pearce	Margaret Sedgley
Linda Beech	Dunchurch Litterpickers	Wendy Keany	Gillian O'Connell	Jane & David Weeks
Craig Beech	Simon Evans	Sue Kember	Keith Protheroe	Jaine Thornton Weeks
Keith Brushett	Alison Farmer	Tony Kember	Sue Protheroe	Jeanne Townend
Lynne Brushett	Phill Freeman	Barrie Lambert	Glynis Rees	Mark Udall
Rob Collings	Barbara Harris	Thelma McKerlie	Paula Twigger	Darren Williamson
Karen Dent	Sylvia Hinde	Eve Miller	Claire Siddaway	The Lady residents of The Almshouses
Roger Dent		Nicholas Marsh	Sue Turner	

Dunchurch Gateway Sign



Memorial in The Square



Pipewell Court



Snaps around our village



Rugby Road Planters



The Almshouses



The Old Forge

Vicarage Road Entrance



View of the Village Green



Amberol Hex Planter on the Memorial Green



Snaps around our village



Bicycle Planter at The Dun Cow



Dunchurch Thatched Bus Shelter



The Old Halt

Memorial Green



Memorial Green Tourist Information Board



Village Green House



Snaps around our village



Floral Tree



Blooming Barrow and Stocks



Rocks Around the Stocks

Rocks Around the Stocks



Annual Decoration of Lord Scott's Monument



Snaps around our village



Winter Wonderland Windows



Winter Wonderland Windows



Memorial Green at Christmas

Rugby Road



Blooming Barrow at the Dun Cow



Winter Wonderland Windows



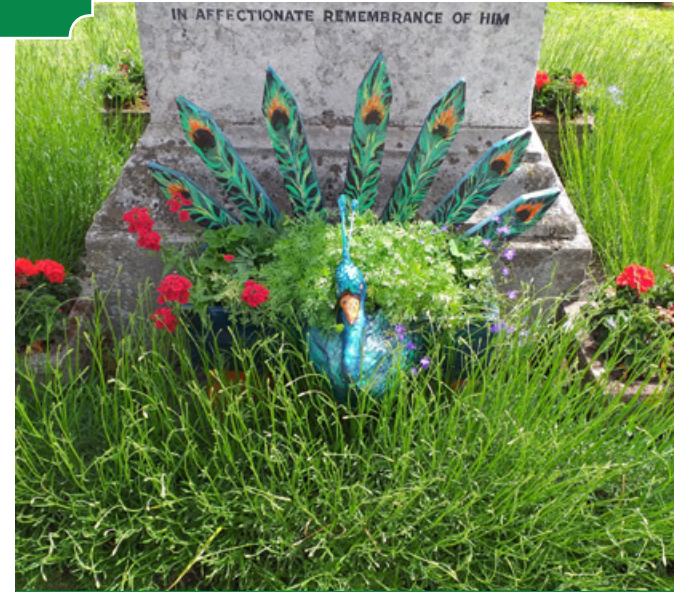
Snaps around our village



Coventry Road Planter



Floral Trough



Peacock in the Sunshine

Blooming Barrow



The Thatchings



Snaps around our village

Library Planter



Floral Bike



Volunteers Raising the Flag





friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com
www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org