

**'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.'**



**FRIENDS OF  
DUNCHURCH  
SOCIETY  
(FODS)**

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018

His Worshipful Mayor of Dunchurch, Chris Armstrong

Greetings from the UK.

*Please excuse our forthrightness but we were delighted to discover that we appear to have something in common. We too live in Dunchurch although a considerable number of miles away from the beautiful country of Canada!*

*Dunchurch, England is a historical village with a medieval history situated in an area known as the Midlands. (The latter name reflects our position on the UK map.) At our last census in 2011, we had a population of 2,938 and our closest town is Rugby, the birthplace of Rugby Football (or as is more commonly known here, rugger).*

*Our only knowledge of Dunchurch Canada is the following which we were delighted to discover on the internet.*

*'In 1873, the community was given the name Newcombe. To avoid confusion with similarly named places in the province, in 1877 postmaster George Kelcey renamed it after his [birthplace](#) in [Warwickshire](#), England.'*

*As George Kelcey was your local postmaster, we have sent a similar letter to your post office as this seemed another appropriate place to reach out to make contact!*

*We have just formed a new community group in our village called the Friends of Dunchurch Society and we would love to extend an invitation to new friends in Canada to make contact with us. We have just distributed our first issue of a new magazine which is delivered free to every household in our village and it would be wonderful if Dunchurch Canada would submit an item about the history of your own town or indeed anything that you feel would be of interest. You will find a copy of our magazine and lots more information about our village by visiting our website at [www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org](http://www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org)*

*Sadly, we do also have another most poignant connection to Canada and each year in November, we remember the Canadian crew of a Halifax bomber who sadly crashed in our village with loss of life. Next year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this tragedy and we are currently working with our local aviation group to organize a re commemoration of the memorial (photo attached).*

*We do hope you find this e-mail of interest and would be most grateful if you would give consideration to responding with a message that we may insert into our next magazine which will be issued in March. (We are working to a 7<sup>th</sup> February deadline for print and issue.) As Christmas approaches, it does seem an ideal time to reach out and 'offer the hand of friendship' and we feel that this could be only the beginning of a wonderful connection between our two countries.*

*We look forward to a reply but in the meantime, send Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year from all in Dunchurch UK to those in Dunchurch Canada.*

*Sue Protheroe*

*On behalf of the Friends of Dunchurch Society*