



# DUNCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

MARCH 2023

ISSUE 18



PRODUCED BY FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY  
[www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org](http://www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org)

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email [friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com)

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)

## Welcome

**H**appy New Year and welcome to our first magazine issue of 2023 in this Chinese New Year of the Rabbit.

At last, we need wonder no more! The Dunchurch Elves did us proud with their Christmas transformation of Lord John as the topical character Pinocchio. Once again, this annual tradition drew the attention of the media who came to share in the delight of the makeover by broadcasting on the BBC. Thank you secretive Dunchurch Elves for spreading your own special joy during the festivities.

However, when it comes to Christmas spirit, Dunchurch is certainly not left wanting. Events we enjoyed included the open-air nativity organised by the village churches, FODS Winter Wonderland, a spectacular, illuminated, cavalcade of tractors (thank you Ross Carlton and friends) and courtesy of the Dunchurch Festival Group, Santa took time from



*Pinocchio*

his busy schedule to ride his sleigh through the village collecting a wonderful £510 in donations for Myton Hospice. This has been gratefully received and used for the purchase of eight portable radiators.

Now with the winter festivities behind us, we can look forward to another



*A sizeable crowd watched on at the open air nativity*

*Tractor cavalcade*

village and we send them our thanks for giving so generously of their time and for providing such pleasures for us to enjoy throughout the changing seasons.

fun-packed year brought to us by a variety of village organisations. We made a good start in January with the return of the village panto and you will find more details of this and other planned events in this magazine, so have your diaries at the ready for saving the dates.

We are so fortunate to have a variety of groups and their volunteers in the

### FODS News

**Winter Wonderland** The weather was suitably cold and crisp but thankfully dry as many turned out to enjoy the games on the stocks green and visit the trade stalls in the social club, (thank you Sandie for all your help). Hot chocolate and mulled wine gave folk an inner glow and helped to warm cold hands while Santa in his cosy cabin (the thatched bus shelter) listened to excited children regaling their hopes for presents on

Christmas day. In the background, you could hear the wonderful tones of the Dunchurch Band and Dunchurch Voices who braved the cold and came along to provide



(above) Even Santa needs to take a break sometimes! (right) Santa back at work in his Winter Wonderland cabin



some seasonal entertainment. In just two hours, a little over £700 was raised for village projects and we thank everyone who gave up their time to come and support the event.

**Staddle Stones** In time for Winter Wonderland, the staddle stones at The Old Holt were transformed into stunning works of art and admired and photographed by many visitors to the village. This is just one of the creations, but you will find the other six displayed throughout the magazine. We wonder if there will be any created for the King's Coronation?

**King's Coronation** Although it appears there will be no National beacon lighting ceremony, we couldn't let this auspicious occasion go by unmarked and you will find full details of the Dunchurch beacon event on page 21.

His Royal Highness King Charles III is using his Coronation as an opportunity to promote volunteering and the following is a statement on the Royal UK website: 'In tribute to His Majesty the King's public service, The Big Help Out will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.



*Staddle Stone 1, created by Kate and Linda*

The aim of The Big Help Out is to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.'

There are many groups in our village who rely on the goodwill of volunteers and any would be grateful to hear from you. FODS is no exception and if you are

interested in helping us, please give Sue Turner a call on 07983 345381 or email us. Thank you.

**Dunchurch in Bloom** After the successes of last year, we are considering entering the Heart of England and Rugby in Bloom events so watch out for more information on our Facebook page and on our website. In any event, you can look forward to seeing some lovely floral displays in the village and maybe, just one or two new additions!

**Thank you DPC** Our thanks to Dunchurch Parish Council for funding 32 Amberol hanging baskets and a new mobile water bowser. One of the real trials of providing more blooms for the village is the continuous effort it takes in keeping them hydrated. The bowser will make life a little easier, but



# NEW KITCHEN IN 2023?



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we would really appreciate some more volunteers to join our water angels. (As well as hydrating the plants, we tend to enjoy hydrating ourselves in one of the hostelrys after our working gatherings!) Contact Sue on 07983 345381 if you want to lend a hand. Thank you.

**Spring Fair** Keeping on top of village projects takes time but also requires financing and we will be holding a variety of fundraising events, the first of which will be our Spring Fair. You will find further details on the opposite page. Please do come along and participate. At the same time, why not treat yourself to a bacon roll breakfast from our 'Tip Top' Tea Room?

**Virtual Balloon Race** We will be repeating this fun, environmentally friendly, fund-raising event. By purchasing a balloon, you can track its progress online and maybe, even be first past the winning post. It's great fun for all ages and you can find out more information on page 8.

**Fashion Show** Coming in November. Further details to follow.

We look forward to bringing you more news in our June issue but in the meantime, you can keep up to date with Dunchurch news on our Friends of Dunchurch Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/283143168981777](https://www.facebook.com/groups/283143168981777) or simply

search for **Friends of Dunchurch Facebook** in Google.

Don't forget, if you advertise in our magazine (we distribute 1,700 copies every quarter) you may also promote your business on our Facebook Thankful Thursdays. You will find our advertising rates on page 41. Thank you for your support.

See the Community Directory on pages 42 and 43 for information about societies and organisations in Dunchurch

## More Staddlestones



*Nativity scene  
created by  
Sue P*



*Albert the  
Robin created  
by Sue K*

Friends of Dunchurch Society

are holding a

# Spring Fair

at Dunchurch Village Hall  
on Sunday 26th March 2023  
10.00am till 1pm

Woodcrafts  
Bespoke Clocks  
& Gifts  
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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 Telephone: 07837 182114 Email: [friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com)



# Incredible Murmurations

*Murmuration of starlings seen from Waring Way. For a whole month from a few days before Christmas, villagers were treated to this fantastic display each evening. After an aerobatic show lasting over an hour, the starlings swooped noisily into nearby trees to roost. Photos by Dave Watson*





## 2023

### FRIENDS OF DUNCHEURCH SOCIETY

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Our membership team is always happy to help - email [membership@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:membership@gardenorganic.org.uk) or call us on 02476 308210.

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**[www.thurlastonmeadows.com](http://www.thurlastonmeadows.com)**

## Dunchurch Festival Group

**By Rob Collings**

### **£8,600 give away**

It was on a bright, sunny day at the start of December that Father Christmas came to Dunchurch to help Dunchurch Youth Ambassador, Sophie Thomas hand out donation cheques totalling £8,600 to other organisations in the village. This money will go towards projects and activities to assist the recipients achieve their goals in 2023. Those receiving money were the Allotment Association, Art in Dunchurch, Baptist Church, FODS, Guides, the Schools, Scouts, St Peters, W. I. and Rainbows. The DFG raised this money by putting on events throughout the year, but the majority was raised at the village fete in June where Sophie officially opened the fete before running her own stall giving away flower seed bombs.

Sophie has been a wonderful Youth Ambassador and again helped on Sunday 4th December by switching on the lights at the village Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Following the big 'switch on', there was a nativity play performed by the schools and churches. The village band also played and carols were sung.

### **Santa collection**

Members of the DFG went around the village on the 12th and 13th of Decem-



*An early Christmas present: grateful recipients received a total of £8,000 from the DFG*

ber helping Santa collect for Myton Hospice. Santa was in his sleigh and gave a few lucky children a quick spin, telling them he was unable to fly as his magic reindeer were resting up for the big day! Thanks to Santa's helpers, £500 was raised over the two nights and donated to Myton Hospice.

### **Chair Rob Collings takes a back seat**

'I am now stepping back after 12 years of leading the DFG and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for all their support over the years whilst I have been in the "hot seat". It was pointed out to me that during this time, the group has raised around



£80,000 and that has all been given away to local good causes in Dunchurch. I am proud of this achievement but also proud of our members who have worked hard to achieve this excellent result.

There are a few people who the DFG and the village could not do without. Fiona our treasurer has been my right hand, Mike with his drive and enthusiasm, Phill who works so tirelessly behind the scenes and last but not least, my wife Wendy who has always supported both myself and the group throughout. I hope, like me, we can all continue to support the new chair Guy Watt and the new Secretary Julie Peters with the same enthusiasm and commitment. My last thanks is for the people of Dunchurch who have supported the Festival Group over the years and I will look forward to seeing you all at the next DFG event.'



### A few words from new chair Guy

'I have recently accepted the role of Chairman of the Dunchurch Festival Group. I have lived in Dunchurch for nearly 30 years and I am married with two grown-up daughters.

Professionally I am an independent mental health advocate. I was involved with the Dunchurch Pantomime for a number of years and look forward to my new role in the village.'

### Myton Hub

The photo shows Rugby Myton at Home nurses Jacquie and Nikki with DFG member Fiona Stevenson and one of eight mobile, oil-fired heaters bought with donations from Dunchurch residents.



Are you interested in volunteering? Myton Hub Manager Tracy is looking for volunteers to help run a block of six to eight craft/cooking/art sessions for those at end of life or for patient carers.

Anyone interested, contact Tracy or Amanda on 01788 550085.

Dunchurch Festival Group presents

## QUIZ NIGHT



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



TICKETS  
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For a team  
of 6

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To book contact

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# Dunchurch Parish Council

**By Gill Peacock, Temporary Parish Clerk**



Hello and Happy New Year to everyone (albeit a bit late !). I have now returned from South Africa and my husband and I have bought a cottage in Chipping Norton. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I have agreed to help out the DPC as a temporary Clerk and will work from home most of the time. However, I am happy to meet with anyone if they have any issues that I can help with so please get in touch via email or phone. If you would like to get in touch with an individual Councillor direct, all of their email addresses are on the DPC website on the link below – or you can contact me.

**[www.dunchurchpc.org/download-category/declarations-of-interest/](http://www.dunchurchpc.org/download-category/declarations-of-interest/)**

One of the most important tasks of the DPC is considering a variety of planning applications. The DPC responses can be seen on each application via the DPC website and the Rugby Borough Council Planning Portal **<https://planning.agileapplications.co.uk/rugby/search-applications/>**

During the last year the DPC has partly or fully funded many projects, enhancing Dunchurch as an outstanding area to live or work in. These include:

- Organising the purchase, installation and removal of the Christmas tree in the centre of the village (£600

pa), and the purchase, installation, decoration and removal of the 117 smaller Christmas trees (about £2,500 pa – excluding the cost of the trees which residents fund);

- Funding the beacon for the Queen's Jubilee (£3,800) and supporting Art in Dunchurch (£700);
- Funding 32 hanging basket brackets on 16 lamp columns on the judging route for the Britain in Bloom;
- Refurbishing the war memorial surround (£942) and instigated the renovation of the Stocks and several benches in the village;
- Funding various grants for community organisations in Dunchurch, (£19,175), with more funds available for further grants this year;
- Arranging the complete refurbishment of the thatched bus shelter, (£30,519) and providing new bike racks in the Square (£2,500).
- Paying for the provision of a weekly youth club at £3,400 pa.

You can report blocked drains, damaged footways, overhanging branches/trees, potholes, and lots more by using a simple online system **[www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)** which allows you to pin-point the exact location and nature of the problem and forward the issue on to the relevant organisation to sort out.

DPC continues to fund Dunchurch Community Library and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the volunteers for all their hard work, support and patience!

We would also like to thank Darren, our wonderful handyman and all of those people who help in making Dunchurch a wonderful and beautiful place.

This spring the DPC is embarking on a very exciting project – a complete refurbishment of Arkwright Recreation Area!

DPC is in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and we would love more people to get involved. If you can help for a couple of hours each month, in an area that you feel enthusiastic about, please contact me. When the NDP is adopted by Rugby Borough Council, it will be classed as a material consideration, which means that when planners consider planning applications, they must take more notice of what the DPC says (and your voice!).

I am also pleased to let you know that the DPC has a new Councillor, Simon Bailey, and a new Responsible Financial Officer, Becky Maoudis. We all welcome them to our small but friendly team. Talking of new Councillors, you may be aware that all of the DPC Councillors are due for Election in May 2023, and we have started preparing for this occasion. If anyone is interested in knowing more about becoming a Councillor please do not hesitate to contact me.

DPC meetings are generally on the second Monday of the month; a schedule of meetings is on the DPC website.

## Dunchurch Parish Council Community Grants

Applications for the Parish Council community grants are invited from community organisations in Dunchurch.

Applicants must be not-for-profit organisations with a constitution and a bank account, and which publish their accounts, where applicable. The grants applied for should show a benefit mainly to the residents of Dunchurch parish. **Applications not conforming to these criteria will not be considered.**

Please obtain an application form (which explains the criteria in more detail) from Gill Peacock: email: [clerk@dunchurchpc.org](mailto:clerk@dunchurchpc.org) or download a copy from [www.dunchurchpc.org/download/dunchurch-parish-council-grant-application-form-2022/](http://www.dunchurchpc.org/download/dunchurch-parish-council-grant-application-form-2022/) Applications will be considered at the next DPC meeting following receipt of the forms.

### To contact the Clerk or the Chair:

Clerk: Gill Peacock, 01788 817550 or 07474 705061 [clerk@dunchurchpc.org](mailto:clerk@dunchurchpc.org)

Chair: Tracey Price,  
[tracey.price@dunchurchpc.org](mailto:tracey.price@dunchurchpc.org)  
[www.dunchurchpc.org](http://www.dunchurchpc.org)

# Dunchurch Pantomaniacs

By Sue Protheroe



We finally performed the Pie Rats of Penzance after a three-year Covid break but we can certainly say, we returned with a 'bang'! In one of the best supported pantos for many a year, six of our eight performances were completely sold out.

In a first for us, we provided not one but two shows with meals. Our gala which celebrated Burns night complete with haggis, tatties and neeps and our fish and chip supper night, both had a waiting list for tickets.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of this year has been the plethora of new talent – folk of all ages, but mostly children; it has been a real delight to watch them as they grew in confidence throughout the rehearsal and performance process. This newfound confidence is something they can now take away and continue in their everyday life.

We had a very large cast of characters on stage but they would be the first to tell you that the real heroes of the hour are those folk backstage who really make it happen. The technical crew,



scenery, music, makeup, costumes, front of house, ticket sales, stage management, props, health and safety, child protection, advertising, programme design and bar. All are necessary to put on a production of this scale and we thank these good people for their unselfish and tireless contributions. However, a show like this still requires one person at the 'helm' to oversee and pull it all together and we have to 'herald' our Director Paul Le Poidevin for doing just that. A man of endless patience with a calm and friendly approach and King of the spreadsheets! Also with a passion for cooking, Paul cooked the delicious meals for our fish and chips and gala night and would be the first to thank Debbie Teixeira and his wife Jane (also our Stage Manager) for their invaluable help.

For now, everything has been packed away and the village hall returned to normal but thoughts are already turning towards October when we will start the whole enjoyable process again. If you think this is something you might be interested in, please do contact Paul Le Poidevin at [paul.lepoidevin@bopenworld.com](mailto:paul.lepoidevin@bopenworld.com) or me at [sueprotheroe@gmail.com](mailto:sueprotheroe@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.

*Our wonderful, younger cast relaxing between matinee and evening performance*





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# Coaching Days in Dunchurch and District - Part 1

**Compiled and written by Freda Bennett**

*We begin a historical look back at the importance of Dunchurch as a staging post for travellers throughout the centuries. Part 2 will follow in our June issue.*

**T**o London 79 miles; to Holyhead 178 miles', is inscribed on the tapered shaft of the 14th century cross in the middle of Dunchurch, where the London to Holyhead and the Leicester to Oxford roads intersect. Since the 13th century, the Holyhead Road became the main route from London to Ireland, carrying troops and supplies, and Dunchurch became a favourite place to stop for hospitality.

In the 18th century the turnpike roads dictated the route taken. In 1775, an account of a Mr Ashley's expenses from Cockermouth in Cumbria to London shows that the journey took 11 days. It cost a total of £16.18.8d, which included payments for the turnpikes, boys and ostlers, servants, porters, coach, lodging, extra horses and chaise payments. Interestingly, his most expensive part of the journey was at Dunchurch which also included expenses to Rugby of 2s.1d. Costs for breakfasts, teas, dinners and suppers were not included in this total.

The *Coventry Mercury*, August 3rd 1807 printed the following advertisement: (The Star was situated next to the Dunchurch Cow on the Coventry Road).

'Superior Travelling – DUNCHURCH and LONDON – Genteel and Elegant Light Coach called the ACCOMMODATION (to carry Four insides only) Sets out from The Star Inn, DUNCHURCH, every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday morning, at six o'clock and arrives at the GOLDEN LION, St. JOHN'S STREET, LONDON at 5 o'clock the same evening. Leaves LONDON every Monday, Thursday and Saturday morning at 5 o'clock and arrives at DUNCHURCH at 6 o'clock the same evening. Places taken and Parcels booked by Mr John Worth at the Star Inn, Dunchurch, who respectfully informs the Public he has good Beds, with every other accommodation to make them comfortable. Performed by Rich Davis & Co.'

## The Great Frost of 1814

'All over England the roads were effaced and hardly any landmarks left. Everywhere upon the plains of snow lay moored wagons, carts and coaches deserted by their masters until the thaw came. On the borders of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, the snow was of a vast depth. At Dunchurch the drifts rose to a height of 24 feet.'

The memorable winter of 1814 was recalled by C.J. Hume of Meonstoke Rectory, Bishops Waltham:

*'A heavy snowfall so completely blocked the great London to Holyhead Road that all further progress in the direction of London was held up at Dunchurch. It was just before a meeting of Parliament. MPs on their way to town were unable to proceed and they, with other travellers of every description, were brought to a standstill. The wide, open space in the centre of the village became thronged with vehicles, the carriages of Noblemen and commoners alike were involved with no respect of persons and no priority possible. Pickfords' luggage wagons stood in a sort of republican equality and fraternity with coronets and heraldic blazonry.*

*The far famed 'Dun Cow' was thronged with those arriving first. 'The Star' and 'The Bell', considerable inns on a road of immense posting and coach traffic, were alike crowded. The later arrivals from the north went to the 'Mother Red Cap', the 'Red Lion', the 'Crown' or the 'Green Man and Still', till every crevice was full which the inns could offer. The finding of spare beds for unsheltered strangers brought a rich harvest to the inhabitants and any tolerable accommodation commanded a guinea a night.*

*Those famous stage coaches of the period, 'The Liverpool', 'Holyhead', 'Chester Mails', 'The Balloon' from Birmingham, the lumbering old 'Heavy Liverpool', the 'Tally-Ho' and a dozen more, all drawn up in close order, awaited, while rustic engineers with shovels*



*and carts, were cutting a way through the enormous hummocks of snow piled in a drift at the foot of Dunchurch Hill.*

*At last the road was open. The carriages, stage coaches and baggage wagons were disentangled, the horses harnessed and put to. Then the mails with posting bags for London taking the lead, the long procession moved off. The whole village turned out to see this multiform cavalcade as it passed between the high walls of cut snow along the curved avenue of elms below the village. When the excitement passed, all beds were empty and all houses cleared, a strange silence came upon Dunchurch.*

*Sixty four years have passed away and there is probably no inhabitant now surviving, who remembers with more vivid distinctness than the octogenarian writer of these lines, a winter so remarkable that it ought to have been preserved among the archives of our village.'*

**February 14th 1878**

# Dunchurch Allotments

By **Paul Sanders**

**W**alking around the allotments it becomes evident to the casual visitor that everyone has their own way of managing a plot. Experienced allotment holders will over time, start to categorise their fellow plot holders into certain gardening types as they observe their cultivation practises. There is no



hard and fast division between the types but there is a definite mindset as to how they operate their gardening practice.

The Traditional Gardener follows the gardening practices laid down over generations. Digging their plot over at the end of the season, applying liberal amounts of manure and fertilizer, treating pests and diseases with all sorts of chemical treatments and growing a limited range of vegetable varieties. It is these gardeners who have been the backbone of allotment sites for decades.

The Floral Gardener tends to be the outlier on allotment sites. Preferring to fill their plot with all sorts of flowering plants, these allotmenters have a passion for colourful angiosperms. Their plot tends to be less rigid than the typical veg plot, looking more like a house garden with mixed border of both annuals and perennials laid out like National Trust borders.

The Seasonal or Casual Gardener really gets into gardening when temperatures warm in the spring. They are passionate, for a while anyway, with lots of frantic clearing, digging and planting.

*The Scarecrow Gardener – what type is he?*





But the novelty of gardening wears off as temperatures warm and the plants demand constant upkeep. The plot is then taken over by weeds and the vegetable plants so lovingly planted disappear into the developing mass of green carpet.

The Exacting Gardener lies at the other end of the scale to the Casual Gardener. On their plot not a weed can be seen, the plants whether veg or flowers are generally laid out in neat rows. Lines of plants are meticulously spaced to the nearest millimetre. The most important tools for the Exacting Gardener are the ruler and set square enabling the spacing and arrangements to lie well within tolerable limits.

The Eco Gardener has been making an appearance in recent years. These gardeners like to think of themselves as leading the charge to a better future. They will use terms like mulch, organic, green manure and companion planting when discussing their gardening approach. You are also likely to observe unusual procedures and lots of experimentation as they try out the latest findings from obscure publications and scientific journals.

Whatever the approach, the allotments in Dunchurch continue to be the place where friendly and neighbourly behaviours are practiced and camaraderie in a common pursuit experienced.



**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

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# Dunchurch and Thurlaston WI

By Anne Gilbert

**D**unchurch & Thurlaston WI is thriving with more village ladies joining us at the start of 2023. All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm. There are also many activities that take place in the WI Hall for the public to join, including Pilates, Pop-Mobility, an exercise class, a sewing group, the Silver Band and Dunchurch Photographic Society. Childrens' parties are welcome. We take an active part in village events such as the Festival and the Friends of Dunchurch Society.

For any enquiries contact  
Anne Gilbert on 01788  
811837



## Programme for WI 2023/24

13th April	My time in Office as National Chair of WI
11th May	Coronation Celebration
8th June	Transforming Lives with Practical Action
13th July	Summer Flowers Demonstration
10th August	Summer Outing
14th September	Zoe's Place – Baby Hospice
12th October	A Detective's Tales
8th November	AGM + Entertainment
14th December	Christmas Party
11th January	My Experience as a Travel Agent
8th February	Jane Austen's Warwickshire family
14th March	Partners of Prime Ministers

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## Dunchurch Oak Line – Ten plus One

**By Mike Judge, Trustee and Organiser**

**S**ince planting last year and receiving the devoted attention of ‘The Oak Gang’ during the hottest weather and consequent drought, the ‘Oak Line’ is, I am glad to report, in good shape.

We have benefitted from some expert guidance and support of new-found friend Gavin Callard from nearby Onley (former Arborist with Warwickshire County Council) who has checked the health and care of the trees and suggested and provided material for a much larger and deeper mulch collar around the base of each tree enabling us to water once per week in the drier season (albeit 25 litres for each tree)! Gavin plans to return in the spring to advise on pruning and any upkeep. Meanwhile, he has already assisted on the location of our latest project, ‘The Charles III Oak’, the addition of which will be a perfect complement for our existing ‘Dunchurch Oak Line’.

Permission and helpful advice has also been sought from David Gower (no, not the cricketer but our

Rugby Borough Council tree expert) and Rob Collings has very kindly dug over the site. As you walk along the footpath from the village towards Waring Way, you will see the area adjacent to the WI Centenary Acer, approximately 20 metres across from the beacon.

I am liaising with our collaborating FODS colleagues who are organising an eve of the Coronation event, and plan for the sponsor of the tree to wield the ‘Golden Spade’ as part of that celebration.

Preparations are very well advanced and a bare-rooted oak tree has already been received and planted along with hormone rooting compound, in a very large and protected terra cotta container. The tree is currently preparing for the growing season which commences in a few weeks time, in anticipation of a fully-leafed tree ready for the planting on Friday, 5th May.

Be there for a wonderful historic occasion!

*A misty morning Oak Line*





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core skills and trying new things like camping, leadership and first aid.

There are even awards they can earn, like the Rainbow Bronze Silver or Gold awards and the six Theme awards, that show their commitment and encourage pride in their achievements.

Rainbows are supported by a group of highly trained, inspirational leaders to explore, challenge themselves and have fun.

There are a whole range of exciting events – locally and nationally – that Rainbows can enjoy.

### The next step in her guiding journey

When a girl nears the end of her time at Rainbows, she can continue her adventure at Brownies – our section for girls aged seven to ten.

For more information go to **[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)**

### Dunchurch & Bilton Cricket Club

We are holding indoor net sessions ahead of the 2023 season. These are on Friday nights at the Collingwood Centre, Rugby School CV21 5EB and they run until 24th March 2023. Any prospective new players aged 14+ are very welcome to come along.

Matches take place from April on Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons at the Dunchurch Village Sportsfield.

For more information and contact details please see **[www.dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com](http://www.dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com)**



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## Doctors in Dunchurch, Part 17: Approaching the 2020s

*By Dr John Airlie Hunter, Dunchurch GP 1963–1998  
and Dr Ian Czerniewski, Dunchurch GP since 1991*

**T**he end of the decade brought another change in the partnership. After 28 years as a highly respected and much-loved Dunchurch GP, Dr Elizabeth Roberts decided in 2019 to join her husband in retirement and a life of travel and dog training! She was well known as a caring and kind doctor with excellent clinical judgement and a calm and unflappable manner. She developed her interest and skills in women's health and for many years provided a local Family Planning service. Dr Roberts was also responsible for overseeing staff welfare and latterly took on the unglamorous but essential task of writing, updating and presenting practice protocols to ensure compliance with the regulations of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which monitors and inspects GP services. She presented this data with her typical calmness and aplomb and impressed the inspectors.

Her retirement coincided with the completion of training of Dr Laura Harris, one of the outstanding GP registrars who trained at the practice, who has now succeeded Dr Roberts as a partner. They are seen here together at Dr Robert's (left) retirement event.



The year 2019 was also when the Practice joined the other 11 practices in the Rugby area to form a PCN (Primary Care Network). PCNs have been created all over England to serve populations of 30,000 or more patients (Rugby's has over 110,000) to provide ancillary staff such as occupational therapists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, counsellors, etc who can be employed by the PCN and provide services across several practices. Individual practices often do not have sufficient patients to justify employing such staff. The process has since gradually developed, and we now have a physiotherapist who visits the practice weekly and access to other staff such as dieticians and so on. The PCN also provides extended hours clinics which our patients can access.

All of these changes were inevitably delayed by the biggest health crisis which the NHS has ever faced. The effects of Covid-19 on the practice will be discussed in the next instalment.

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# Dunchurch Schools' Federation – Learning Through Experiences

**By Joss Andrews, Executive Headteacher**



It is hard to believe that we are now in March and entering the Easter break very soon.

The past two terms have been a whirlwind in school and, looking back, it always amazes me just how many learning opportunities are available across the two schools and nursery.

With the world now such a technology driven environment, we have really committed to ensuring that all children have the chance to escape the classroom (and screens) and throw themselves into developing other skills and demonstrating their passions.

The infant school has been fortunate enough to attend the pantomime (to see *Stick Man*), have had the fire service in, visited a synagogue as part of their curriculum and were also able to sing to residents at Alma Lodge in December, and sing at St. Peter's Church as part of the Christmas celebrations. All of these opportunities provided our children with a chance to share their interests, learn new skills and bring their learning to the real world.

At the Junior School, we have enjoyed the chance to attend a number of

trips; from sports trips including tag rugby, football and cross country, through to singing and musical events, as well as year group trips to Blists Hill, Flag Fen and Stratford, and a residential visit to York. All of these opportunities have been met with the same high enthusiasm from pupils (and staff), leaving everyone with a real 'buzz' about what they have experienced – hopefully these will remain wonderful memories that they will cherish as they grow and move on.

To top this off, each school has a wonderful PTA, many of whom are Dunchurch residents, who plan and organise fantastic events throughout the year. Again, whether it's a welly walk in winter or an egg drop at Easter, we are so fortunate to have this brilliant team around the children, making their time at school as special as it can be.



To all the pupils, we learn by trying new things, so keep trying 😊

To all those who support us, thank you for providing the children with the chance to grow!

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# Time to get Walking!

By John Harris



**W**ith spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Warwickshire ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk/warwickshire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/warwickshire)) has loads of walks to download and print, for free. It also lists books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether



you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

*Most walks include detailed maps showing the suggested route*

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. 'Walking in Warwickshire' (part of the 'Walking in England' website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve plus miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

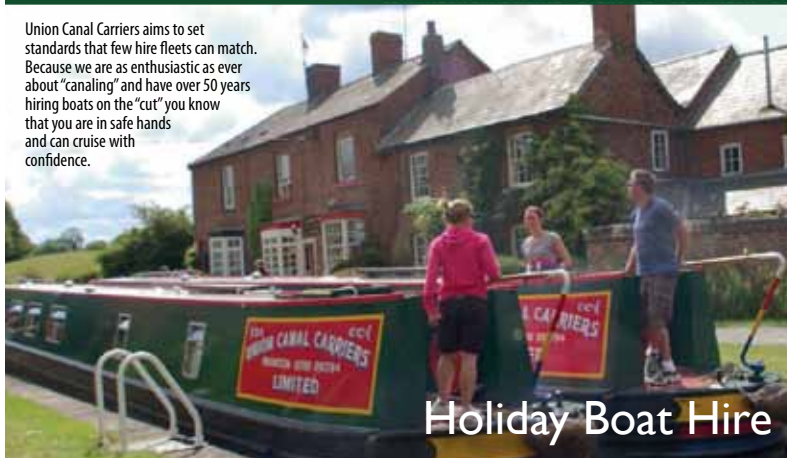
So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

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## Your Community Library

**D**unchurch is lucky to have its own community library, run by fantastic volunteers. The library is a warm safe space, with a great selection of books, both fiction and non-fiction. If you can't find what you want it is very simple to order online from the library catalogue and have your book delivered to Dunchurch – the friendly staff will contact you when it is ready to collect.

You can take out and return books at any library in Warwickshire, so if you've borrowed a book from another library you can easily return it to Dunchurch. The cosy children's corner has books for all ages, and the library takes part in events such as the summer reading challenge.

The library serves as an information centre for local events and organisations, with a large notice board and display shelves in the foyer. The light modern building is wheelchair friendly and has a customer toilet and baby changing area. There are even free books and a Jigsaw exchange!

To join the volunteers just ask at the library. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and you will be warmly welcomed, trained and supported.

The library is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 5pm. So please come along and find out what's on offer for yourself.




---

## The Dunchurch Band

**T**he Dunchurch Band is a very traditional village brass band with over 110 years of history of making music and entertaining in Dunchurch and the local area.

We would love to hear from any brass players or percussionists (kit or/and tuned percussion) who would be interested in joining the band.

Dunchurch Band rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the WI Hall on Southam Road in Dunchurch.

We are working towards a relaunch of our Training Band in the near future. If you are interested in learning to play a brass instrument please do contact us to register your interest, details below.

There are no age restrictions to joining our beginners' group and we have a range of different brass instruments that can be loaned free of charge to band members.

Contact Louise Balsom, email [dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com](mailto:dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com), tel 01327 361564, mobile 07548 276993



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## St Peter's Church

**By Rev Pat Townshend**

**B**y the time of publication, the church will be in the season of Lent. This is a time of reflection and reassessment in preparation for Easter. The word 'Lent' comes from an old English word meaning 'lengthen', as the days get longer after the darkness of winter as we look forward to the glorious light of the resurrection day.

At St Peter's, in many ways, we seem to be emerging from the darkness of Covid and entering a time of regeneration. We sadly said farewell to some much loved parishioners, Bob Fricker who died suddenly and Steve and Siân Cook who have moved to Norfolk.



On the other hand we have re-started Junior Church which is going well and our parents and babies group meet on the third Friday of each month. This group is particularly aimed at people who are feeling lonely at home with a new baby and who need a cup of coffee and a chat with others in the same situation.

Newcomers are always welcome – just contact Pat on 01788 461987 for details. We are also hoping to restart Beech Tree coffee shop at the church in April. Watch out for further information!

### Our Easter services are as usual:

#### **Palm Sunday 2nd April**

St Edmund's: 9:00am

St Peter's: 10:30am

#### **Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th**

Compline at St Edmund's, Thurlaston:  
6:00pm

#### **Maudy Thursday 6th April**

St Peter's: 7:30pm (together with the Baptist Church)

#### **Good Friday 7th April**

Procession of witness from the Heath to the War Memorial followed by the raising of the cross and a service together with the Baptist church: 9:45am

St Peter's: Last hour at the cross 2:00pm

#### **Easter Sunday 9th April**

St Edmund's: 9:00am

St Peter's: 10:30am (with Easter egg hunt!)



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# Dunchurch Baptist Church

**By Eleanor Holdsworth**

It barely seems like Christmas has gone and yet here we are, looking forward to our Easter celebrations. We watch from the darkness of winter as the light of spring gradually creeps up on us, and remem-

ber the joy that Jesus brings us through his life, love, sacrifice and resurrection.

And we certainly have lots to celebrate this year! We've been in our amazing new building for nearly a whole year and almost know how everything works! As we've shared the building with our community in Dunchurch we've made some changes, discovered and sorted snags and rearranged a lot of cupboards.

Every week we enjoy meeting more and more new friends from all over the world (and from Dunchurch too)!

Our fundraising for the last few bits of the new building continues, although we've had to postpone a couple of fun events.

Easter will not be postponed, however!

Our first Easter event will be a theatre production of Road to the Cross on



Friday 24th March. It's a contemporary stage show with lighting and special effects, telling the story of Jesus and his disciples as they journey from Palm Sunday to Pentecost. Tickets will be available closer to the time – visit our website to find out more.

Please do join us for this and our other Easter celebrations, listed below:

April 2nd 10:30am

Palm Sunday and a café style service

April 6th 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday Communion service with St Peter's Church

April 7th 10:00am

Good Friday Open Air service

April 9th 10:30am

Easter Day – All age service

**[dunchurchbaptist.org.uk](http://dunchurchbaptist.org.uk)**



## And Finally...



*Gingerbread house created by Wendy*



*Pingu the penguin and friends created by Julie and Linda*

### Advertising rates

Professionally delivered to every home and business in Dunchurch Parish including Toft, Lime Tree Village, Dunchurch Hall, Lime Tree Avenue, Tilia Park, Poets Meadow and Fernwood Estates. Over 1700 copies distributed each quarter, with an estimated readership of 3000.

Digital advertising included free of charge: advertisers can have, if required, a post on FODS Facebook Group page once a week on 'Thankful Thursday' – a useful update message for you and an effective opportunity to advertise for staff vacancies etc locally at no cost.

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To place an order call Barbara on 07837 182114 or email [info@vghrugby.co.uk](mailto:info@vghrugby.co.uk)

Deadline for June 2023 issue: 30 April

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# Dunchurch Community Directory

Badminton Group	Dunchurch Village Hall, Monday 7.30pm	<a href="mailto:judge.patricia@googlemail.com">judge.patricia@googlemail.com</a> Pat Judge 01788 810253
Beavers	Boys and girls aged 5¼ – 8 Mondays & Tuesdays, Scout hut, Done Cerce Close	<a href="http://www.dunscout.org.uk">www.dunscout.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:join@dunscout.org.uk">join@dunscout.org.uk</a>
Cubs	Boys and girls aged 8 – 10½ Wednesdays at the Scout hut, Done Cerce Close.	<a href="http://www.dunscout.org.uk">www.dunscout.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:join@dunscout.org.uk">join@dunscout.org.uk</a>
District of Dunchurch Brass	Wednesdays 7.45–10pm, Band Room, 15 Rugby Road, CV22 6GP	Lorraine Goodacre 07963 144704 Gary Smallwood 07876 688210 <a href="http://www.districtofdunchurchbrass2006-web.info">www.districtofdunchurchbrass2006-web.info</a>
Dunchurch Allotment Association	Situated on Coventry Rd	<a href="http://www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk">www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:admin@dunchurchallotments.org.uk">admin@dunchurchallotments.org.uk</a> Secretary Paul Sanders 01788 811744
Dunchurch Bellringers	St. Peter's Church. Sunday Service ringing 9.50-10.30am, Practice, Wed 7.45-9pm	Mike Bennett, Tower Captain, 01788 814304 <a href="mailto:mbennettmss@gmail.com">mbennettmss@gmail.com</a>
Dunchurch and Bilton Cricket Club	Based as Dunchurch Village Hall Rugby Rd.	<a href="https://dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com">https://dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com</a>
Dunchurch and Thurlaston WI	Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month, 2pm, WI Hall, Southam Rd.	Anne Gilbert 01788 811837 <a href="mailto:annegilbert1@hotmail.com">annegilbert1@hotmail.com</a>
Dunchurch Band	Senior and training band	<a href="http://www.dunchurchband.co.uk">www.dunchurchband.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com">dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com</a>
Dunchurch Baptist Church	Baptist Church, Coventry Road.	<a href="http://www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk">www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk</a> Elders, Chris Tabor 07899 841279, Katie Wederell 01788 842736, 07515 472578, <a href="mailto:Katie.w@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk">Katie.w@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk</a> church secretary Sarah Coulon <a href="mailto:Sarah.c@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk">Sarah.c@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk</a>
Dunchurch Boughton C of E (VA) Junior School	Primary education situated in Dew Close	<a href="http://www.dunchurchjuniorschool.org.uk">www.dunchurchjuniorschool.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:admin3391@welearn365.com">admin3391@welearn365.com</a> 01788 811028
Dunchurch Community Library	School Street Open Tues, Thur, Fri 10am - 5pm	<a href="http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dunchurchlibrary">www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dunchurchlibrary</a> <a href="mailto:dunchurchcommunitylibrary@btconnect.com">dunchurchcommunitylibrary@btconnect.com</a> 01788 811355
Dunchurch Festival Group	Organise fete and other events. Meetings third Monday of each month 7.30pm at the village hall	<a href="http://www.dunchurchevents.org">www.dunchurchevents.org</a> Chair Guy Watt <a href="mailto:gwattdfg@gmail.com">gwattdfg@gmail.com</a> Secretary Julie Peters <a href="mailto:juliepeters91@hotmail.co.uk">juliepeters91@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Dunchurch Health Walks	Tuesday 2pm, Friday 10.30am Meet at war memorial	
Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery	Nursery children are taken from aged 2yrs 9months. Other year groups, Reception, year 1 and 2	<a href="http://www.dunchurchinfantschoolandnursery.co.uk">www.dunchurchinfantschoolandnursery.co.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:office@dunchurchinfants.co.uk">office@dunchurchinfants.co.uk</a> 01788 810292

Dunchurch Pantomaniacs	Organise and perform village panto in January. Rehearsals begin October.	paul.lepoidevin@btinternet.com sueprotheroe@ymail.com
Dunchurch Parish Council	PC office based in the Library. Open Tuesday and Thursdays 10am – 1.00pm	clerk@dunchurchpc.org 01788 817550 or 07474 705061
Dunchurch Photographic Society	Meetings held at WI Hall, Southam Road	www.dunchurchps.com secretary@dunchurchps.com
Dunchurch Surgery	Dunsmore Heath (off Rugby Rd)	www.dunchurchsurgery.warwickshire.nhs.uk 01788 522448
Dunchurch Village Hall	Rugby Road	bookings@dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk 01788 522444
Dunchurch Voices	Ladies choir meet Wednesdays, 7.30pm at the infant school.	Barbara Davies 07890 659857
First Dunchurch Scout Group	Fun, challenge and adventure for boys and girls aged 10½–14. Done Cerce Close on Thursdays	www.dunscout.org.uk join@dunscout.org.uk
Dunchurch Girlguiding including: 1st Rainbows 3rd Brownies 1st Guides	GirlGuiding girls have fun, adventure and space to discover their potential Age 5 – 7 yrs. Wed 3.45 – 4.45 pm Age 7 – 10 yrs. Wed 5.00 – 6.30pm Age 10 – 14 yrs. Wed 6.45 – 8.15pm	www.girlguiding.org.uk is where parents/ carers may express their daughters' interest in joining. Adult volunteers welcomed.
Friends of Dunchurch Society	Organises Britain in Bloom and Winter Wonderland Produces the village magazine	info@vghrugby.co.uk 07837 182114 fodnews1@gmail.com
Knowing Stillness Meditation	Dunchurch Library 10am Wednesday	Jim Hesketh 01788 891066
Rugby About Turn	Newsletters on local development	richardallanach@aol.com
Rugby Village Bridge Club	EBU Affiliated. Four pairs sessions and three practice sessions weekly Courses/ teams occasionally. Held in club room, Dunchurch Village Hall.	www.rugbyvillagebridge.co.uk rugbyvillagebridge@gmail.co.uk 07710 467023
St Peter's Church	Vicar: Reverend Patricia Townshend revptownshend@gmail.com, 01788 461987 Churchwardens: Celia Jones 01788 314564 / 07712 936355 Kathryn Fowler: 07780 116024 / 01788 311118 Thurlaston Deputy Churchwarden: Brian Bowsher: 01788 812094 churchwarden@stpeters-dunchurch.org	

To make any amendments or to add your Dunchurch-based, non-commercial club or organisation, please email  
[friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com)



# Contented Soles



Podiatry clinic & Shoe Fitters for all foot types

Degree Qualified HCPC Registered Podiatrist/Chiropodist

**We are Rugby and Bilton's premiere podiatry/chiropody clinic and footwear specialists. We pride ourselves in being friendly and approachable and will only offer advice and treatment that is in your best interests to help you.**



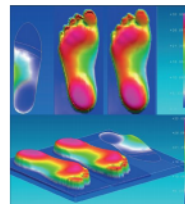
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- Ear Syringing/ Irrigation
- Home visits available

**General Podiatry and Chiropody services including:**

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- Home visits



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