



# DUNCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE 20



PRODUCED BY FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY

[www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org](http://www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org)

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FRIENDS OF  
DUNCHEURCH  
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 in, work in and visit.

Village Green House, The Green, Dunchurch, CV22 6NX Telephone: 07837 182114 Email: [friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com) 

## Welcome

Many of us will have heard the phrase, 'no man is an island', but did you know it comes from a poem written in 1624 by Englishman John Donne? Perhaps a modern day interpretation might read 'we are stronger together' or 'we need the support and help of others to thrive.' This is certainly true of the community groups in the village. The fete in June, organised by the Dunchurch Festival Group, was a triumph and the result of amazing teamwork, and the same can be said for FODS and the wonderful village blooms. Imagine the chaos if all of our community group achievements were left to just one person. It would be impossible to enjoy the process and almost certainly, the high expectations and aims would be unachievable.

These are just two examples but we are a village of many varied groups who rely on the support of others to deliver for our enjoyment. Whether it

be child focused like Girlguiding, Scouts, school PTAs, or other groups like the WI and churches, they all benefit from the help of volunteers. In return, you can expect companionship, a sense of achievement and a feeling of being valued by those around you. If you feel any of this would be of benefit to you, take a look at our list of community groups at the rear of this magazine and reach out with an offer of support. You will surely be welcomed most warmly.

### FODS and Supporters

'Teamwork makes the dream work.' Our grateful thanks to everyone who has supported our efforts to make Dunchurch Bloom this year.

**Sandford Way Trough** This stunner has been sponsored and planted by Craig and Linda Beech.



*Horse Trough Transformation in Sandford Way*

### Lord Scott Planting

Last year, FODS removed the old 'woody'



*New lavender around the Lord Scott monument; and a beacon of colour amid the green*

lavender and funded the replacements which are now back to looking their best. For some years, Sue and Tony Kember have sponsored the planting of the four stone pots.

### **The Beacon**

Flowers at the base of the beacon have been sponsored by an anonymous neighbour and really bring a vibrant splash of colour amid the green.

### **Hanging Basket Tree**

The Dunchurch Pantomaniacs have sponsored these on the corner of Rugby Road and Cawston Lane. They definitely provide a bit of floral drama!



*The Dunchurch Pantomaniacs providing drama by the basketful!*



## **The Square Car Park**

How much better this looks with the baskets sponsored by the Dunchurch Festival Group.

## **Plant Donation**

A colourful corner at Vicarage Lane; thanks to Smith's Garden Centre of Baginton for donating the flowers.

## **Blooming Barrows and Tantalising Troughs**

Many community groups and individuals have planted up FODS troughs and wheelbarrows, enabling floral displays to be enjoyed all over the village. They make a further

*A festival of colour by the DFG brightens the car park at The Square*



65 fabulous floral decorations.

## **Large Troughs**

Plug plants purchased by FODS from Barby Nursery were nurtured by volunteers before planting out. They really help to brighten up the pathways in the village.

## **Small Hanging Baskets**

42 were planted by volunteers using Barby Nursery plug plants. Upon maturity, they were



*A curve of colour on Vicarage Lane*



*Blooms a plenty provided by troughs of all shapes and sizes*



*A trio of barrows for Adkinson Avenue*



*Large troughs made from recycled wood*

sold to individuals and to village businesses upon request.

### **Lamppost Baskets**

Plants and labour funded by FODS, these 32 hanging baskets, about £45 each, were planted and cared for until maturity by Chloe and Erin of Smith's Garden Centre, Baginton. If any individual, family or business would like to sponsor a basket for next year, please



*Pretty in pink - one of the 42 small hanging baskets adorning local shops and houses*

email **friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com**.

Your support would be much appreciated.

### **Litter Pickers**

We would also like to acknowledge those individuals who, although not affiliated to any particular organisation, regularly pick up litter when out on their walks. Thank you. Your efforts are noted and applauded.

It has been heartening to hear the positive comments about the improvement to the appearance of the village. Hopefully, by continuing to maintain the central green areas and by providing extra flora, we can encourage visitors and the patronage of the wide variety of shops and businesses we enjoy. Thank you everyone for your help and continued support.



*Chloe and Erin of Smith's Garden Centre nurtured our lamppost baskets*

### **20 Not Out!**

The Dunchurch Village Magazine publishing team would like to thank all of our article contributors and our advertisers for your support. This issue is our 20th magazine edition and we couldn't have done it without you.

*Thank you from Sue, Barbara and Janet*

## Photographic Competition

With modern mobile phone technology, almost everyone has access to a camera now and some of the results shared on our Facebook page have been nothing short of stunning. Inspired by Andrew Rix' photo of Daven-try Road, as shown on the front cover, we are running a competition and invit- ing folk of all ages to take photos of nature or a scene of Dunchurch. There will be a £25 prize for the best one, chosen by the Dunchurch Photographic Society, and



an opportunity for it to be used as the front cover of a forthcoming edition of the village magazine. So, snap away and please submit your photos by email to **fodnews1@gmail.com**.

In the meantime, check out the information and some of the brilliant photography by the Dunchurch Photographic Society on page 10. This showcases some of the pho- tographic work that most of us can only aspire to!

*Another stunning photograph, this time by Barrie Lambert*



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The Friends of Dunchurch Society  
are happy to announce the return of

**DUNCHURCH  
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WONDERLAND**

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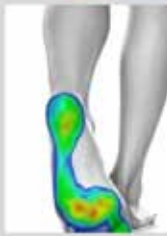
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# Dunchurch Festival Group

**By Guy Watt, Chairman of the Dunchurch Festival Group**

**A**s we hang on to the edges of summer, the nights are getting colder and a little darker but we

have memories of the year gone by.

It has been a fruitful summer. Dodging the rain, we came together in early May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, and in late June the Dunchurch Festival Group put on a hugely well-supported and successful village

fete, the planning of which began at the end of 2022. June 25th gave us one of the hottest fete days in a long time. From the procession to the dog show or Punch and Judy to Thea Watson who was the fete's closing act, laughter and enjoyment appeared to be as evident as patches of sunburnt skin.

As we move into autumn and winter, we are already planning for next year's events along with the Christmas festivities and more.



On behalf of the Dunchurch Festival Group, thank you for your support. Many local people will benefit from your generosity.

Find out more about the DFG at [www.dunchurchevents.org](http://www.dunchurchevents.org)

*(From top) Carl was just clowning around!, Rob leading the procession, Teddy Roosevelt looking for a new home*



## Dunchurch Photographic Society

**By Graeme Webb,  
Committee Member**

**S**ince it was founded in 1976, Dunchurch Photographic Society has met at the Dunchurch WI Hall on every Wednesday at 19:45 during its operating season, from September to April.

DPS caters for the greater Rugby area, but if you are willing to travel from afar we will not discourage you!

*From top: Canary Wharf by Ian Maxwell, Garden spider by Terry Mann, Grand Prix by Graeme Webb*



We cater for all types of photographer, whether your interest is portraiture, sport, still life or landscapes, all are welcome. All you need is a camera, and the one on your phone is a great place to start. Don't worry about being a 'newbie,' all levels of ability are encouraged equally. Advice can be given to newcomers with anything from camera choices, advising camera settings to encouraging the taking part in club activities.

The entertainment at our weekly meetings ranges from independently-judged competitions to 'show and tell' lectures given by invited experts. During the summer months we have a number of photographic walks.

The internal competitions coming up for the 2023/2024 season include subjects such as 'Motion', 'Table Top Photography', Portraiture and our Summer Challenge 'Pubs'. At the end of the season our annual Awards Dinner is always fun. Other evening activities include a lecture on Table Top Photography and a 'Show and Tell' where members are invited to discuss their own images.

We also have challenges with other clubs from the area. As good natured as these



*Top: Power in the Air by David Cunnane, bottom: The Shard and Tower Bridge by Mark Ellis*

meetings are, they are also educational. It's great to learn from other clubs and their members' efforts.

If you are interested in joining, rejoining, or attending any of our meetings, please contact our secretary via [secretary@dunchurchps.com](mailto:secretary@dunchurchps.com). We would love to hear from you. Further information may be found on our website. <http://dunchurchps.com/dps-wp>





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## Coronation Chairs

*There was a tenuous but important link to Dunchurch at the King's Coronation. Neil of NEJ Stevenson lives in Dunchurch and this is the story behind those fabulous blue chairs that were at the front of the congregation at Westminster Abbey.*

**By Nicola Lafayette, Marketing Manager,  
NEJ Stevenson Ltd**

There is a rich tradition of Coronation chairs being used by the great and the good of society during the ceremonies. In the main these chairs were of simple design as they were only intended to be used once and for a relatively short period of time. During the 20th century the guests were invited to buy the chair they had used as a way to recoup some funds.

As the cabinetmakers to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we were approached to design and manufacture one hundred chairs to carry on the tradition and we were delighted to be asked. Unfortunately, time was not on our side as it was not until mid-February that we received the go ahead to manufacture, giving us and the Royal Household upholsterers only eleven weeks to complete. The design was deliberately simple in form to aid

production, utilising a square seat frame and simple tapered legs.

To give the upholsterers a head start we manufactured the seat frames first so that the preliminary upholstery work could be started. The first batch of chair frames was delivered to Windsor on the 21st March with subsequent deliveries over the next two weeks. This was an amazing achievement from the staff who exceeded all expectations in giving the upholsterers as much time as possible to complete the work with a week to spare.



The chair frames are made from English oak and finished with a hard oil applied by hand. The fabric is blue velvet with embroidered cyphers. The seats are webbed on a plywood frame with foam padding providing a comfortable place from which to watch the Coronation.



We are finally open! As a new local independent business, we look forward to welcoming visitors from Dunchurch and the wider Rugby community to our cosy and inviting coffee lounge, where you can relax and enjoy your coffee or tea (and treats!) with friends, family and colleagues.

We are excited to introduce you to our new premium coffee experience and to serve you with directly-traded coffee as well as sustainably-sourced teas.

Sourcing produce from local suppliers, we are developing our food and drink menu and welcome your ideas - what's your favourite ?

Thank you for welcoming the Cuppa team to the Dunchurch community.

We hope to see you very soon ! ☕



# Dunchurch Allotments

By **Paul Sanders**

In early July I visited the Homestead View Community Design Event in the village to ascertain to what extent the planned developments in the area would impact on the allotments. Homestead View is the name given to the large housing and infrastructure development planned for SW Rugby and is bordered by Dunchurch, Bilton, Cawston and the A4071.

I was pleased to see there is a plan for green open space between the allotment eastern boundary hedge and the new spine road. This will be accessible to residents with grassland, footpaths, trees and possibly open water. This will mean the

housing development will not run up to the allotment boundary. I was also pleased to see the magnificent oak tree which currently sits in the middle of this field will be retained, with the new spine road passing to the east.

The public footpath which currently runs west to east towards the large oak is likely to be rerouted and follow the boundary hedge southwards to Coventry Road.

The biggest change affecting allotment holders is the re-routing of traffic out of Dunchurch onto the new spine road. Vehicles will no longer be able to drive along the Coventry Road from Dun-

church heading to the A45 in a straight line but will be required to follow the road which will bear right near The Elms and join the spine

*Showing some love for the ancient oak, spared from destruction by the building of the new spine road*







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*Homestead View map*

installed for vehicles turning into Windmill Lane.

The SW Rugby Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document adopted in 2021 indicates that 6.22 hectares should be allocated to new allotments. There are currently no plans for their location and the concern is that

road a few hundred yards further on. The spine road will rejoin Coventry Road by the eastern allotment gate.

I expressed my concern to a representative of Homes England (who are managing the development of Homestead View) about access to the gate considering the likely increase in traffic. A possible adaption suggested could be the installation of a central reservation area for vehicles turning right into the allotment site. This would be similar to the one currently

the allotment allocation will be divided up into small pieces of land and dotted around the whole area. While this has its benefits in terms of proximity to homes it is unlikely to create a strong allotment community and the support required for their development.

*The allotment gates, access to which is currently along the Coventry Road*



## Remember this day?

By Sue Turner

### Sapling planting at St. Peter's Church

**T**he saplings recently had a visit from Andrew who works for The Woodland Trust.

This was to assess the saplings and the area in which they were planted.

FODS is happy to report that the comments from Andrew are all positive and he is very happy with how the saplings have been planted, the growth they have put on, the position of them and very impressed with the sapling blessing given by Rev Pat!

Thank you everyone who took part.



### Wildlife Wander

By the time this magazine is published Dunchurch Allotments will have opened their gates to villagers once again – but this year the hunt wasn't for scarecrows but for many beautifully painted creatures hiding in plain sight on many of the plots. Look out for a full report in the next issue.



### Jane Archer - Artist

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## Art in Dunchurch

Colourful flags and banners flying in the centre of Dunchurch announced the opening of seven days of Art in Dunchurch as part of Warwickshire Open Studios Arts weeks. Twenty artists were showing their work in the gardens of Inglenook and Fosse House Gallery. This was a hugely successful village event attracting 1356 visitors. Those who came from the village said how much they looked forward to this annual event and word has now spread with new visitors coming from further afield.

This year, a wide variety of art was on display with new artists showing photography, jewellery, ceramics and painting along with well-regarded local artists, and all were delighted by the interest shown in their work and the great feedback given. Comments included 'truly inspiring collection of exhibitors' and 'even more amazing than last year'.

In addition the Court Yard Café was, as ever, a great attraction serving drinks and homemade cakes, and visitors were entertained to live music

on a couple of days.

Adding great interest to the event, the new café canopy was adorned with a wonderful selection of over 60 paintings in the style of artist Georgia O'Keefe by Year 4 pupils from Dunchurch Boughton Junior School. Funds raised have gone to two local charities and to support girl's education in South Sudan.

Thanks go to the support of volunteers, local businesses and organisations who have helped make this such a great success and now established as a community event for Dunchurch.



*Every picture tells a story! It's clear, the exhibitors at Art in Dunchurch had a fabulous time*





# Anya Court, New Nursing Community

Anya Court is one of the best-regarded care homes in Rugby, and we are pleased to welcome residents into our new nursing care community. The luxury 70-bedroom home also provides the highest standard of residential and dementia care.

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# Pantomaniacs

By Sue Protheroe

## Our Jay Foundation

**T**he Our Jay Foundation confirms that further funding has been found to add to our own

donation of £1,200. The combined funds will be used to install three accessible



defibrillators in the village. The first is already fitted and operational at Dunchurch Baptist Church and will be followed by others at Dunchurch Garage and the Junior School.

The story behind the founding of the Our Jay Foundation is a sad one, the pain of which every parent could relate to. However, the subsequent story is inspirational and highlights the power of a mother's love for her child and the strength of human spirit. Since 18-year-old Jay's death from a cardiac arrest in the early hours of New Year's Day 2022, the Foundation, supported by family and friends, has fitted an amazing 65 accessible defibrillators in and around the Rugby area with another ten waiting to be fitted. A further ten portable defibrillators have also been purchased.

We wish Jay's mum Naomi every success in her campaign and if you would



like more information about the Our Jay Foundation go to <https://ourjay.org.uk/why-we-fight>

## Pantomime Auditions

We look forward to treading the boards again at the village hall in January 2024. If you are interested in joining us, be it front of house, backstage or indeed on stage, contact our Director Paul Le Poidevin by emailing [paul.lepoidevin@btopenworld.com](mailto:paul.lepoidevin@btopenworld.com).

We are a community group with a great team spirit and you will be most warmly welcomed.



*Pantomaniac musical director Barry Nicholls (right) handing over another donation of £500 to Paul Tolley, CEO at New Directions*

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## Dunchurch Village Hall

**By Keith Protheroe, Trustee**

In June, during the day, travellers moved onto the village hall sports field whilst the hall was in use, driving through and destroying a wooden fence to gain access. The cost of repair to the fencing is still to be established. Sadly, it was necessary to cancel all hall and sports field bookings for the remainder of the week, incurring losses of £700 and more importantly, inconveniencing hirers. Further damage was caused to the cricket nets and heavy roller incurring losses of £400 for the cricket club. Following a clean-up operation by 15 volunteers, (we are most grateful to them for their help), rubbish was removed by RBC at a further cost of £150.



*Rubbish left by the travellers was collected by volunteers and bagged up within two hours of their departure*

The Trustees regret the inconvenience caused and following a meeting with the crime prevention officer, are investigating a variety of preventative options. In the meantime, thank you for your patience while we do so.



## Rugby Borough Elections

**C**ongratulations to recently elected Councillor John Keeling who joins Cllr Deepah Roberts and Cllr Howard Roberts in representing the Dunsmore Ward. Cllr Keeling lives and works in Ryton on Dunsmore as an accountant and recently attended his first Dunchurch Parish Council meeting. He may be contacted by email at [john.keeling@rugby.gov.uk](mailto:john.keeling@rugby.gov.uk)

*Cllr Keeling stopped by to admire the work of the FODS yarn-bombing group*





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## FODS Make A Difference Team

By Sue Turner

**Y**ou may have seen us around the village in our FODS hi-viz vests! We are the Making a Difference team (MAD). These fabulous volunteers have been meeting since Spring 2019. We get together most weeks, for about an hour to sweep, weed, edge, litter pick, clean, deadhead and water to help keep the centre of Dunchurch tidy and beautiful. This is an area we can all enjoy and the main part visitors come to see. However, if you would like to join us, we could apply our MAD work to other areas of the village as well!

These are a few comments from our volunteers:

'Being part of FODS gives me a sense of warmth, makes me feel very proud and lucky to be part of a lovely community that creates and maintains the beauty of Dunchurch.'

'Joining the group has helped me meet a wide variety of people and to get involved in various activities. One activity leads to others and getting involved can be very inspiring and I think gives people a sense of community spirit.'

'Joining FODS has made me feel part of the village rather than just a



faceless person who lives here, and I have met some lovely people. Best thing I have done for ages.'

'I very much enjoy being outdoors with a lovely group of people who really enjoy living in Dunchurch and feel that it, and the spirit of its residents, deserve to be shown at their best. Whatever we can achieve, with a neat and tidy presentation, will reflect on our neighbours and environment and we are now overlapping with other groups such as the Pantomaniacs and the DFG and helping each other! Great community spirit!'

This group has been instrumental in taking Dunchurch to Gold award winning levels since 2019 in the two RHS competitions, Heart of England in Bloom and Britain in Bloom. An outstanding achievement by so few people in a short amount of time. Join our group and Make a Difference. Personally, I am so proud of them, amazed when they turn out to work and I feel privileged to know them!



## Coaching Days in Dunchurch and District – part 3

By Freda Bennett

**T**he decline in coaching began when the railways were built, but of course the introduction of the 'horseless carriage' made a greater impact and hastened the decline of the coaching days and with it, the trade of the inns. The railways were not welcomed in the rural communities. These smoke-belching monsters would poison the air and frighten the cattle, they said. Besides they would take away their trade. Thus, as in so many places, the railway line was kept as far away as could be and Dunchurch station is quite some distance from the village. The line from Rugby to Leamington opened in 1851.



The following is from *The Coventry Mercury*, April 10th 1897:  
Motor Carriages at Dunchurch.

*'Officials of Humber & Co. arranged for an excursion when approximately 50 horseless carriages and tricycles set off from the King's Hotel, Coventry at 2.30pm to rendezvous at Dunchurch. The people of Dunchurch were on the look-out and about a quarter to four the approach of the first 'motor' was announced by some lads who had a view of a good stretch of the old London Road. It was a tricycle of the 'Dion' pattern, driven by Mr. Roebuck. Five minutes later Mr. Webb came sailing in on a Bollee tricycle and in turning sharply into the yard at the Dun Cow, narrowly escaped running over a dog, which had failed to gauge the speed at which the new machines travelled. The other vehicles which followed included a yellow Panhard Wagonette, a hooded Phaeton, Phaeton with pneumatic tyres, commercial 'bus with six passengers and other vehicles propelled by petroleum, together with eight or ten ordinary Broughams, containing the remainder of the Humber officials and friends.*

*'Between four and five pm, motor carriages and cycles were running in all directions, giving the onlookers an idea of what the various conveyances were capable of doing. Some were treated to a short ride and*



*expressed themselves surprised at the ease and comfort with which the carriages moved.*

*'Horses do not take to the vehicles kindly and there were incidences during the afternoon when they could not be induced to face the motors and one accident happened which might have been attended with serious consequences. After sporting for about an hour or more, the excursionists and carriages were photographed in front of the Dun Cow. This was followed by a sumptuous repast and an enjoyable smoking concert at the Dun Cow Hotel'.*

A Parish Council minute from 1908 expressed concern at the speed of motor cars passing through the village and at the dust nuisance this caused. They sought a bye-law to reduce the speed to 8mph.

Could anyone have foreseen that with the advent of the petrol engine, these once-busy coaching routes would once again carry some of the largest volumes of traffic in the Midlands?

The inn with its Crown,  
Mother Red Cap so sly,  
The Lion so rampant and red,  
The sporting 'Green Man',  
with his gun shouldered high,  
The monstrous Dun Cow,  
that was killed by great Guy,  
And the Bell, whose last sound is now dead.

I remember the notes of  
the guard's merry horn  
(Ere the iron road  
stretched through the land)  
With sounds of 'bright  
chanticleer' hailing the morn,  
And loud on the echoes 'tantivy' was borne  
As the coach roll'd along through the sand.

*Two verses from 'Village Memories', Dunchurch, Warwickshire, by John Whiteman. Born in Dunchurch, he left for Australia in 1850, settling in Emerald Hill with his business in Melbourne. The poem is taken from his book 'Sparks and Sounds from a Colonial Anvil'.*

## Gateway Signs

Dunchurch is certainly being noticed. Guess who is using the FODS gateway planting to advertise their products? We were delighted to find this stunning photo on the Amberol website.



*Photo from the  
Autumn/  
Winter 2022  
Amberol gallery*



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## Dunchurch Schools Federation

**By Joss Andrews, Former Executive Headteacher**

**W**hat a year it has been across the two schools and nursery, with so much progress in many areas. We now have an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved.

My first word is for the pupils; they are the reason we do our job, and with such passion. Over the year, the children have taken on every challenge, every learning opportunity and done so with such a positive outlook. It has been inspiring to see them achieve so much, overcoming their fears on residential, conquering their class learning or genuinely working hard to be as kind, patient and respectful as they can be. They are certainly building the skills required to be successful citizens of the future.

My own Dunchurch journey finished at the end of the summer term. I am moving on to another headship in Coventry. In my place, the schools each have their own Headteacher. At the Infant School and Nursery, Mrs Read and Mrs Marson share responsibility and at the Junior School, Mrs Miller is Headteacher. They are excellent teachers and leaders and have been the driving force behind the positive changes we have made. Each of them are true Dunchurch community members, so I am confident I am leaving you all in excellent hands!

Importantly, there are other significant departures. Mrs Beech, School Business Manager, and her therapy dog



*End of an era. Linda with school dog Woody retired at the end of term*

Woody, left us. Mrs Beech retired after 26 years at the schools. But she has confirmed she and Woody will be back to see the children – so watch this space for more updates!

Mrs Herbert, our nursery manager, also left after 11 years leading provision for our youngest pupils.

September 2023 sees the schools finally become part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi-Academy Trust, continuing our faith journey and that of further school improvement. The community will no doubt benefit from the additional support and expertise the Trust has to offer.

I would like to wish everyone well for the future. My time in Dunchurch, although short, has had a significant impact on me. It is a community full of hope and aspiration and one that supports one another through challenges and celebrates together also.

To the Dunchurch community, thank you for your support; it has meant a great deal.

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## Doctors in Dunchurch, Part 19: Vaccination

*By Dr Ian Czerniewski, Dunchurch GP since 1991*

**D**ecember 8th 2020. A milestone. The world's first ever Covid-19 vaccine was given in Coventry. The product of intense work by world-class scientists and a glimmer of light after nine months of fatalities, near fatalities, fear, anxiety, lockdowns, and toilet roll shortages!

Ten days later the vaccine arrived in Rugby, but with high global demand, only restricted quantities were available. The vaccine had to be stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius and there were strict protocols for preparation and administration of the vaccine. The vaccination area had to be ventilated through open doors and windows which proved a challenge in late December. The local solution was a dedicated vaccination centre at Locke House near the railway station in Rugby shared by all the Rugby practices over nine months. The doctors and

nurses from each surgery took turns to vaccinate their patients at the centre, initially supported by our own staff, then later by the many wonderful volunteers from the area, people of all ages and from all walks of life who stood for hours and helped process the patients for vaccination for months on end.

In December 2020 we started to vaccinate our oldest patients who were most vulnerable to the disease. The first Dunchurch session was carried out in freezing cold (ventilated) conditions with staff and nonagenarian patients wearing overcoats and scarves. Everyone was stoic, good natured and grateful. Blitz mentality!

This was not the end of the pandemic, but perhaps the beginning of the end?

*Our practice nurses at Locke House. Gold dust! Now prepare it and protect those patients!*



Dunchurch Surgery website has recently been updated and overhauled. It has the usual useful information about the

practice, prescriptions, appointments, and staff. In addition, it has information for patients on how to access several services

promptly and directly.

Please visit [www.dunchurchsurgery.warwickshire.nhs.uk](http://www.dunchurchsurgery.warwickshire.nhs.uk)





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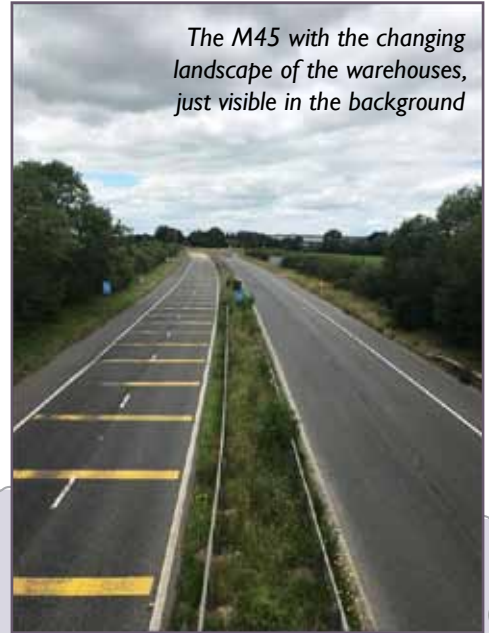
## Road Building in Dunchurch

Following on from the article in our last magazine, below is an abbreviated excerpt from the *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post* of Friday, October 30th, 1959, when apparently, the building of the M45 was comparable to the road building feat of the Romans and the engineering capabilities of Robert Stephenson. Praise indeed!

### Opening of New Motorway

Completion of Huge Task – Heavy Traffic on First Day – Scenes at Crick and Thurlaston

At 9.56am on Monday, traffic moved on to the M45 from the traffic roundabout between Dunchurch and the Blue Boar in the parish of Thurlaston. The same thing happened at the end of the M1 between Crick and the Halfway House. Thus was inaugurated, as far as this



*The M45 with the changing landscape of the warehouses, just visible in the background*

district was concerned, the greatest feat of roadmaking since the Romans laid the skeleton of the map of England. The motorway's construction is comparable with Robert Stephenson's building of the London – Birmingham railway in the 1930's.



### Dunchurch Pantry

'Please give what you can, take what you need.'

Sadly, there seems to be an even greater need for this facility in the village.

The Dunchurch Pantry operates during library opening times.

*A fully stocked 'pantry'*

These are:

Tuesday	10am-5pm
Thursday	10am-5pm
Friday	10am-5pm
Saturday	10am-12noon

## Halifax Memorial

After posting on FODS Facebook page and his own, Theo Classen was delighted to raise 75% of the funds needed for the important restoration of the Halifax Memorial on The Heath. The remaining amount was raised thanks to the generosity of the Rugby Aviation Group,

their members and friends.

Next year is the 80th anniversary of this tragic event and a rededication of the monument is being considered. Further details will follow when available. In the meantime, thanks are given to all who contributed.



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## Girlguiding

**G**irlguiding in Dunchurch is thriving – lots of girls but not enough leaders.

Dunchurch Rainbows enjoy crafts, games and more. Dunchurch Brownies enjoy games and challenges and also go on village walks, day trips and sleepovers. Dunchurch Guides work well together sorting out and carrying out their programme, going on camps and attending lots of special events.

Have we interested you? We are looking for extra adults to support our thriving guide, brownie and rainbow units that



*1st Dunchurch Guide Unit proudly displaying their FODS wheelbarrow*

meet on Wednesday evenings. If you are able to give your time to support the unit and help us continue to give great experiences to the girls please email [dunchurchguiding@gmail.com](mailto:dunchurchguiding@gmail.com).



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Registered charity number: 306016



Girlguiding contact information:

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**Rainbows**

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# Dunchurch and Thurlaston WI

By Margaret Haywood



**T**his fabulous coronation post-box topper has been hand crafted by the WI 'knit and natter' group and submitted into a competition that is open to all WI groups in Warwickshire. The winning entry will be 'crowned' at the Annual Federation Meeting.



Our local WI group meet

regularly at the WI Hall in Dunchurch for great conversation, cake and activities and if you would like to come along, a warm welcome awaits you. For more information contact Anne on 01788 811837.





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# St Peter's Church

**By Rev Pat Townshend**

**B**y the time this is published, the summer will be drawing to an end and autumn will be around the corner. There is an inexorability to the seasons. Whatever may happen in the world around us – wars, disease, tragedy, financial struggle – the sun always rises and the seasons arrive at their allotted time. It is a world ordered by God, who is so much greater than anything we can visualise. Whatever happens in the world, God is there with us. In the scriptures, Isaiah writes of God saying to us, 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.'

Tragedy may happen, disasters may occur, struggles may come, but God is with us as we walk through them. His presence is as sure as the seasons and he walks with us to support us and comfort us.

We are coming up to the busy season at St Peter's and look forward to our annual blessing of the animals service when we invite people to bring their beloved



animals – whatever they may be – to be blessed. It is a lively service and one we really enjoy every year, so please bring your pets! This will be on 1st of October at 10:30am.

Our commemoration service is on 5th November at 3:00pm, a time when we remember those whom we have loved and lost. All are welcome

and there is an opportunity at the end of the service to light a candle in memory of the departed.

The Beech Tree coffee shop, in the church on the first Tuesday of each month, is going well and you are invited to come and have a chat and refreshments. Also, Junior church on the 4th Sunday of the month and the Parents and Baby group at the vicarage on the 3rd Friday continue and we welcome newcomers. The latter is purely social: if you have a small baby and need company, please come, whatever your faith or none. Just phone me (01788 461987) for details.



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**Crystal Chinese – Takeaway**  
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# Dunchurch Baptist Church

By Eleanor Holdsworth

**D**id you know – Dunchurch Baptist Church lies on National Cycle Route 41? When it's complete, the 132-mile route will connect Rugby with Bristol, via Warwick, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Gloucester. So this autumn Dunchurch Baptist Church opens the doors to the first regular session of our Route 41 Community Café. The café will open on Tuesday 19th September from 9:30am to 12 noon, and on every third Tuesday of the month af-

ter that. All are welcome to come along whether you're cycling or not!

Our other big news is that we've now got our public access defibrillator in place, with grateful thanks to the donors who made this possible. This defibrillator helps close the gap in the network of community devices designed to help save lives. (If you want to see where all the others are, go to [defibfinder.uk](http://defibfinder.uk)).

And finally, on Sunday 3rd September at 10:30 we're

## Route 41

Community

Café

at Dunchurch Baptist Church  
Coventry Road



Open 3rd Tuesday  
of every month

9.30 - 12 noon

for tea, coffee & light  
refreshments



Children's play space  
available

Everyone welcome - do pop in!

[www.facebook.com/DunchurchBaptistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/DunchurchBaptistChurch)

delighted to hold another baptism service. Come along and see what happens at an adult baptism!

This autumn we've got a good variety of events in addition to our usual Sunday morning services (10:30am at our Coventry Road building):

- Messy Church, Saturday 7th October, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Christmas Craft for 4-12-year-olds, 11th November, location tbc
- Board games afternoon

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

## Cake & Craft at DBC

Every third Friday of the month, 10am - 12noon  
at Dunchurch Baptist Church, Coventry Road

tea/coffee and cake provided; bring your own craft ☺  
suggested donation £3

Bring whatever crafty project you are working on - knitting, crochet, patchwork, weaving, embroidery, sugar work, needle-felting, card making, origami, quilting, painting, anything! - and enjoy the opportunity to chat and share your hobby with other crafters.

And eat cake, of course...



## Making an Entrance

*One of the wheelbarrows planted by the St. Peter's Churchyard gardeners for Dunchurch in Bloom*



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Deadline for December 2023 issue: 1 November

Deadline for March 2024 issue: 1 February 2024

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# Dunchurch Community Directory

Badminton Group	Dunchurch Village Hall, Monday 7.30pm	judge.patricia@googlemail.com Pat Judge 01788 810253
Beavers	Boys and girls aged 5¼ – 8 Mondays & Tuesdays, Scout hut, Done Cerce Close	www.dunscout.org.uk join@dunscout.org.uk
Cubs	Boys and girls aged 8 – 10½ Wednesdays at the Scout hut, Done Cerce Close.	www.dunscout.org.uk join@dunscout.org.uk
District of Dunchurch Brass	Wednesdays 7.45–10pm, Band Room, 15 Rugby Road, CV22 6GP	Lorraine Goodacre 07963 144704 Gary Smallwood 07876 688210 www.districtofdunchurchbrass2006-web.info
Dunchurch Allotment Association	Situated on Coventry Rd	www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk admin@dunchurchallotments.org.uk Secretary Paul Sanders 01788 811744
Dunchurch Bellringers	St. Peter's Church. Sunday Service ringing 9.50-10.30am, Practice, Wed 7.45-9pm	Tower Captain Simon Benton, 07890 325434 simon.j.benton@gmail.com
Dunchurch and Bilton Cricket Club	Based as Dunchurch Village Hall Rugby Rd.	https://dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com
Dunchurch and Thurlaston WI	Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month, 2pm, WI Hall, Southam Rd.	Anne Gilbert 01788 811837 annegilbert1@hotmail.com
Dunchurch Band	Senior and training band	www.dunchurchband.co.uk dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com
Dunchurch Baptist Church	Baptist Church, Coventry Road.	www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk Elders, Chris Tabor 07899 841279, Katie Wederell 01788 842736, 07515 472578, Katie.w@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk church secretary Sarah Coulon Sarah.c@ dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk
Dunchurch Boughton C of E (VA) Junior School	Primary education situated in Dew Close	www.dunchurchjuniorschool.org.uk admin3391@welearn365.com 01788 811028
Dunchurch Community Library	School Street Open Tues, Thur, Fri 10am - 5pm and Sat 10am to noon	www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dunchurchlibrary dunchurchcommunitylibrary@btconnect.com 01788 811355
Dunchurch Festival Group	Organise fete and other events. Meetings third Monday of each month 7.30pm at the village hall	www.dunchurchevents.org Chair Guy Watt gwattdfg@gmail.com Secretary Julie Peters juliepeters91@ hotmail.co.uk
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	www.dunchurchinfantschoolandnursery. co.uk, office@dunchurchinfants.co.uk 01788 810292

Dunchurch Pantomaniacs	Organise and perform village panto in January. Rehearsals begin October.	paul.lepoidevin@btinternet.com sueprotheroe@gmail.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 meets Wednesdays, 7.30pm at the Baptist Church, Coventry Road	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)



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