



DUNCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JUNE 2024

ISSUE 23

Two exciting events in June – the gateway to summer!

Dunchurch Fete

Sunday 23 June

Village Hall and Sports Field

see page 6



Art in Dunchurch

22, 23, 26, 29, 30 June

Inglenook Garden

see page 11



PRODUCED BY FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY

www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org

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FRIENDS OF
DUNCHURCH
SOCIETY (FODS)

Formed by like-minded 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 

Welcome

Who says nothing ever happens in Dunchurch? If June is anything to go by, you couldn't be more wrong. As you can see from our front cover, June has two main events for us to attend and even a possible third. At the time of going to print, we do not have details from the Parish Council about the 6th of June Commemorations of the D-Day Landings, but keep a look out for more details which they are likely to publish soon.

Over the past few years Art in Dunchurch, which showcases local artistic talent, has become a favourite on the annual village calendar along with our long standing and outstanding fete organised by the Dunchurch Festival Group.

One of the advantages of having a village magazine is that it serves as a documentation of these events and other aspects of our present-day life and as a reference as recollections may fade. Take for example, a Dunchurch article that appeared in a 1977 publication of *Warwickshire and Worcestershire Life* informing 'community



Chris Tarrant with one of the 1977 Dunchurch Fete prize winners. Do you recognise yourself as the baby in the photo?

spirit appears to be on the increase. For the second year running, the Dunchurch Festival was held in the first week of July. A real village effort, it was arranged by representatives from various local organisations.' This concurs with our own publication about the history of the DFG in our March 2019 issue and suggests that the DFG was formed in 1975, the first fete following the year after.

Front Cover. Our thanks to Jaine Thornton Weeks for the fabulous DFG posters. Jaine will be displaying her own unique artwork at Art in Dunchurch

This means next year, the DFG will be 50 years old, a great achievement and surely an occasion to celebrate! This may have gone unnoticed if not documented.

We also know the first two village fetes were opened by celebrities, the first being Bill Maynard and the second Chris Tarrant. You would have to be a certain age to know who they were but a quick search on the internet will give you answers. These days, we have our own local celebrity to open the fete, our Dunchurch Youth Ambassador, but whoever has this honour, you can be sure that this event will provide entertainment and fun for all.

For more information on a variety of subjects and to see all back copies of the village magazine, visit the Friends of Dunchurch Society website. In the meantime, thank you to all volunteers past and present who organise all village events so that we may enjoy life in Dunchurch.

Magazine Pick-up Points

Never miss out! Extra copies of the Dunchurch Village Magazine may be collected from the following pick-up points:

- Anne-Marie's Florist
- Baptist Church
- Library
- Post Office
- Rugby Road Newsagents
- Village Hall
- Wanda Fashions

Blooming Barrows and Tantalising Troughs

Coming soon. Look out for these on display throughout the village. All funded and planted by FODS volunteers and other village organisations/groups, they create such a welcoming display of colour and originality. If you would like to plant one of the five remaining troughs either for this summer or winter, email fodnews1@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who contributes.



Red, white and blue planting by the Doctors' Surgery, and a gem from last year's display

FODS Treasurer's Report

By **Jane Le Poidevin**

Hello everyone and welcome to an updated Finance Report, following both the end of year (January 2024) and a change in Treasurer.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to Barbara Harris who has just finished as both a Trustee and the Treasurer for FODS. Our handover has been seamless and there are now three of us doing the role she was doing!

Julie Young is looking after the advertising for the village magazine, I look after the financial transactions and bank account and Paul Le Poidevin has taken on all the other admin roles!

As I write this our first major fundraising event, our April Spring Fair, is fast approaching, and preparations are well underway for the wonderful floral displays that adorn our village each year.

In terms of finances, we ended the financial year with £6,631.09 in the bank. This is up by £400.00 when compared with last year. What I have discovered is

Welcome Julie

We are delighted to welcome Julie Young to our village magazine production team. Julie will be taking on the role of Advertising Manager and can be contacted on fodsads1@gmail.com Our full advertising rates can be found on page 39.



Lamppost hanging baskets funded by FODS

that FODS raise £10,000 per year which covers its activities.

Half of this fundraising comes from the advertising which allows for quarterly printing and distribution of the village magazine. The remainder is from the great FODS fundraising events that happen throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who supports us and to those who help keep our village looking so beautiful. We receive many appreciative comments for which we are very grateful.



We are offering an additional 10% discount
to residents of Dunchurch village
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Dunchurch Festival Group

Village Fete – Sunday 23rd June from noon to 4.30pm

D is for Dunchurch! This is the theme for this year's fete. Why not dress up in your 'D' themed costume and join the procession congregating opposite the Dun Cow at 11.45am? March along to the village hall accompanied by the wonderful sound of The Sambassadors of Groove.

On arrival, (admission is free), you can be sure there will be plenty of fun and entertainment to keep you amused. The sportsfield will be buzzing with live acts, packed with a wide variety of stalls and

the air will be filled with fabulous smells from the BBQ. Sit back and enjoy a drink from the tea rooms or licensed bar as you meet up with old friends and make new ones.

This is the DFG's biggest fundraiser of the year and the money raised goes back into village projects. For more information or to volunteer your help, email juliepeters91@hotmail.co.uk. A grateful and warm welcome awaits you.

Do you know?

Who links this statue in Stalybridge, Greater Manchester, to Dunchurch?

Answer on page 27.



Rob leading last year's procession to the sportsfield



Our mystery man and a World War I soldier in Trinity Street, Stalybridge



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FODS Spring Fair

We hoped for a good turn out and we were not disappointed. A variety of 25 stalls offered wonderful gifts to buy and an opportunity for some fun games. Clearly, there are some very gifted artists and enterprising small businesses nearby and it was encouraging to see so many people coming to support them.

There was a constant stream of folk enjoying refreshments from the Tip Top Tea Room, many having been encouraged to visit by the tantalising smell of bacon that wafted through to the main hall. An impressive display of homemade cakes provided something for those with a sweet tooth and thanks must go to all who took time to bake them.

The success of the event did not come by chance and there was a wonderful



supporting team that made it happen. We are so grateful to them for giving up their

time on a Saturday morning and thanks to them and the good folk who came along to browse and buy, the Spring Fair made an impressive £750 which will be used for FODS village projects.

Finally, thank you to everyone who donated a prize for the raffle, especially Joe and Jimmy from The Green Man who gave a £50 voucher. The winner was delighted and will be popping in soon to enjoy a meal and a bevvy or two!



Pantomaniacs

By Sue Protheroe

As always with these drama makers, the AGM was a lively and entertaining event with lots of positive comments received about this year's production and plenty of constructive ideas for the next.

Income was up slightly on last year and expenses were down. Allowing for £2,250 which was retained for improvements to sound and lighting, a further amount of £3,900 was donated to other charitable organisations/causes. These were: Rugby Rotary £250, Leam Valley First Responders £500 (they attend every pantomime performance and cover any medical emergencies), Air

Ambulance
£500, New

Directions (formerly Rugby Gateway Club) £500, Rugby Myton Hospice £500, Arden Cancer Care Centre £500 and £720 designated to provide non-essential extras in a new birth bundle for babies born to mothers at Dunchurch Park.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our production of *Treasure Island*. We look forward to bringing more music and fun to the village hall stage with our next production in January 2025. Look out for more information in due course.



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2024**



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Art in Dunchurch

For six days from 22nd to 30th June Dunchurch will be celebrating the work of 18 artists as part of Warwickshire Open Studios Arts weeks. A wide range of work from photography to painting, weaving and ceramics and much more will be on show in the beautiful garden setting of Inglenook, right in the centre of the village. Come and be inspired by the work of these talented artists and enjoy refreshments in the lovely courtyard cafe or come to our Jazz and Cocktail night for an inspiring evening of music and art.



We look forward to giving you a very warm welcome.



Our opening times this year are:

- Saturday 22nd June 10.30am – 4.30pm
- Sunday 23rd June 10.30am – 4.30pm
- Wednesday 26th June 10.30am – 4.30pm
and Jazz featuring 'After Dark Jazz' 6pm – 8pm
- Friday 28th June 10.30am – 4.30pm
- Saturday 29th June 10.30am – 4.30pm
- Sunday 30th June 10.30am – 4.30pm



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Dunchurch Allotments

By **Paul Sanders**

It was one of those grey, dull February days when 24 allotment members stood expectantly around the white-boards propped up against the communal shed. What they had gathered for on that damp Sunday morning was a workshop on composting, how to do it well and why the product is so valuable.

We tend to think of home-made garden compost as a good thing to use but what is most unexpected is the multitude of benefits it can bring to the grower.

Participants were told of a range of benefits of composting and were asked to place them in an order of which were the most important from their point of view. These ranged from adding nutrients to the soil, improving soil structure and enhancing water retention. Other benefits included

maintaining soil pH and suppressing harmful diseases in the soil. Composting also helps to lock carbon in the soil, helping to mitigate climate change by storing carbon in a stable organic form.

Compost is simply organic matter which has been allowed to decay so what the clever composter has to do is create the conditions which promotes the decay.

The compost heap is a rich ecosystem of all types of creatures from those you can easily see like worms and snails to those you can't like fungi and bacteria, and umpteen creatures of all different

sizes such as beetles, woodlice, sprigtails, centipedes, millipedes, and mites.

So, what are the conditions that will make these creatures thrive?

Moisture – the material should not be totally dry, nor too wet but like a squeezed-out sponge. Cover to keep out the rain. If too dry add water.

Warmth – microorganisms work faster when they are





warm so keep heat in by insulating, use a lid, position heap in the sun.

Air (oxygen) –

Microorganisms require oxygen to operate and multiply so the clever composter has to ensure there are air spaces in the heap by adding some larger material, using crunched up cardboard and turning the heap over occasionally.

Organic matter – Organic matter can be classified as carbon-rich ‘browns’ (which organisms use for energy), or nitrogen-rich ‘greens’ (which organisms use for growth and multiplying species numbers). Best results are achieved if there are equal amounts of greens and browns.

The workshop participants were asked to classify material that would be put into the compost heap as green and brown. Choices ranged from grass cuttings, straw, cardboard, vegetable peelings, woody prunings and coffee grounds.

The session ended with a demonstration of how to use a mulching machine to cut up large garden waste into smaller pieces thereby reducing the time it takes for the material to be broken down.

It is expected that many more compost bins of all shapes and sizes will start appearing on allotment plots as members use their new composting knowledge.

Allotment Fairy Trail!

Don't miss this year's summer event on **Sunday 21st July**, when the allotment will be



filled with all sorts of tiny fairy houses, most of them made by local schoolchildren. See dunchurchallotments.org.uk for more details.

CALENDAR FOR 2025

By popular request Dunchurch Allotment Association is producing another calendar. The 2025 gardening calendar is beautifully illustrated with scenes from around Dunchurch painted by a talented local artist, and features check lists of monthly gardening tasks.



To order your copy for just £7 (same price as 2023!) please email dunchurchallotments.org.uk



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Dunchurch Community Library

**By Clive Cotton,
Volunteer**

Come and visit us in School Street, Dunchurch where you will find a refurbished and enlarged children's area; well-stocked shelves with a wide range of adult, teenage and graphic novels; a selection of non-fiction books on a range of subjects and always a friendly reception from enthusiastic and supportive volunteers.

Dunchurch library is a volunteer-led Warwickshire library managed by the Parish Council. It has access to the Warwickshire catalogue from which books can be reserved and delivered to Dunchurch. Books borrowed from other Warwickshire libraries can be returned to Dunchurch for repatriation.

The children's area has been enlarged and recently enhanced. Parents can sit on a settee, listen or read to their children or watch as children play with the toys. For budding creatives there is a selection of Lego bricks to build or artwork materials for colouring in or to satisfy that urge to create a masterpiece.

Members of the community can borrow



The newly refurbished children's area

the library for organising events like knit and natter, Lego club, health and wellbeing, baby and toddler group; if you have an idea and would like to organise a group then please apply to the Parish Clerk for advice. clerk@dunchurchpc.org

We are always looking for volunteers to help run the library. This is a delightful opportunity to meet people, to spend a morning or afternoon serving the public, to meet children and parents using the new children's area, to learn about and speak with other volunteers and to help keep a vibrant library in Dunchurch. If you are interested, then pick up an application form from the library and ask the volunteers about their experience.

The library is open from 10am until 5pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 10am to 12pm on Saturday morning.

Dunchurch Voices

By Barbara Davies

In December, Dunchurch Voices were asked to be special guests at the Rugby Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert and in return, received £100 from RMVC for our support. As the concert took place in aid of the Mayor's Christmas Charity, (Rugby Myton Hospice), we were pleased to donate the £100 to the hospice.

So far, other charities supported this year by Dunchurch Voices are Rugby Dementia Support and Target Ovarian Cancer. Both of these are very dear to our hearts and each have received £200.

Recently, we were delighted to receive an invitation to attend an event at the Mayor's Parlour where Dunchurch Voices were presented with a Special Appreciation Award – a lovely and most unexpected surprise in recognition of our charity concerts.

We do not charge a fee when we are invited to sing for any organisation but are very glad to receive contributions to the charities that we are supporting at the time.



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Dunchurch Band

By Louise Balsom

Dunchurch Band rehearse on Tuesday evenings at the WI Hall on Southam Road, Dunchurch from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We welcome new members and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining our group.

We are on the lookout for a Bass (Tuba) player (E_b or BB_b) and a drum kit player; whether you have played with bands before or just fancy trying something new.

Alongside our rehearsals, we offer the opportunity to perform as part of the band at a variety of events and concerts throughout the year and to belong to a friendly and welcoming musical community.

Dunchurch Band are excited to announce that we will be launching our new Training Band in September. There will be opportunities to be involved in some pre-launch events – more information to follow. However, in the meantime if you or someone you know would like to learn to play a brass instrument, we would love to hear from you. We can provide low cost tuition



The band are regular attendees at the Dunchurch Village Fete

and instruments so please do get in touch to find out more.

For more information about the band or to contact us please visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/dunchurchband or contact Louise by email dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com or by phone 07548 276993.

Easter Bunny



Forty of these cute hand knitted bunnies, together with a note, were placed around the village for children to find over the Easter weekend. Thank you to the FODS volunteers who knitted them.





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Dunchurch Bridleway

By **Paul Hayden-Hart**

The Dunchurch Bridleway has been opened up where the Symmetry Park warehousing spine road cuts through it. This new road will take the public right-of-way to Cawston with a couple of connections to the old railway line. I have written permission from RBC to keep the bridleway cut back and open.

So I have a couple of questions:

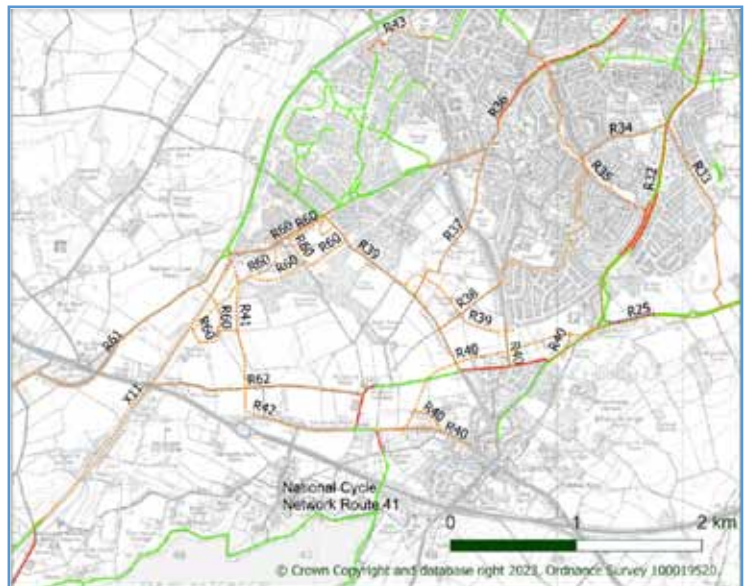
1. Would anyone else be interested in joining me for a once-a-month, two-hour work-day to help keep it cut back, and develop a biodiversity-rich habitat for wildlife?

2. A few people expressed an interest in having a couple of benches installed along the bridleway. Is this still the case and if so, I would need to crowdfund about £115 for two benches (purchase and installation). You can see the bench style and the work that we do on the old rail-



way (where the bridleway paths connect to) on www.cawstongreenway.co.uk

Please contact me paul.hart@gmx.co.uk if you are interested and wish to find out more.



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80 Years On

By Theo Claassen

In October 2019, the village of Dunchurch was festooned in the flags of the UK and Canada, as we remembered our five heroes who were so tragically killed on 14th of October 1944 when their aircraft crashed just outside the village.

That day will forever be etched in the memories of the many people who attended the event but most of all, the family members of Donald Wood and Bill Ewing, the pilot and navigator, who attended from Ottawa and Winnipeg in Canada. The generosity and support of the people of Dunchurch was overwhelming to our Canadian friends and to David George and Roger Higgerson, the founders of the memorial and myself.

This year sees the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and with special commemorative events in the UK and on the continent. Up to 12 Douglas DC-3/C-47 transport aircraft, used during WWII to transport troops and supplies, will make the journey again from the US to take part in the various events. It may be the last time that the commemorations on this scale will



be held. Because of this, I have been in contact with both Stuart Wood and John Ewing to discuss my plan for an 80th anniversary event on Sunday 13th of October 2023 and found positive responses there as well as from David George and Roger Higgerson. So, I am launching a new project for this year's event.

In August 2023, my friend and artist Graham Henderson repainted the 434 Squadron badge and the image of the Halifax on the memorial stone, so it is ready to be the centre piece of the commemoration this year.

The Canadian families want to join us again as well as Roger Higgerson. Unfortunately, David George is unlikely to take part due to ill health, but he will be with us in thought.

Will you take part and support what could be the last time, other than Remembrance Sunday, we remember our Halifax crew?

I would love to hear from you.

t.claassen@sky.com





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More Than a Gesture

By Theo Claassen

At the commemoration and rededication of the Halifax Memorial, the 29F Squadron Air Cadets from Rugby supported us both in church and at the memorial. Recently, Flying Officer Howard Jones wrote the following in an email to me.

I may have already mentioned to you about the Rugby Air Cadets' project to build a SkyRanger aircraft? The cadets came up with the great idea to dedicate the aircraft to the memory of the Halifax bomber crew members who lost their lives at Dunchurch. The CAA have issued the registration G-WEPW (Grant, Wood, Ewing, Parson, Ward), and we have the 434 Sqn logo as part of the aircraft livery. There's a plaque on the instrument panel summarising the story (see photo). The story of the aircrew is now embedded with the aircraft, so hopefully will be retained as a memorial when the completed aircraft is returned to the owners – the British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA). Our intention is to complete the build in time for the RAF Cosford Airshow on



The aircraft, its registration as well as the RCAF 434 Sqn badge on the lower fuselage

9th June. We will have a static display of the aircraft at the Airshow (having taken it there by road) and use that occasion to formally hand it back to the BMAA.

This is more than a gesture from the cadets, who have worked and still are working hard on this build to complete

it. One of the key points is that they have worked out that the five-letter UK civil aircraft registration could be made up by using the first letters of the crew that lost their lives. A most thoughtful gesture.



The plaque created and mounted inside the aircraft

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Did you know?

The statue on page 6 is of Jack Judge who wrote and first performed 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' in 1912. Jack was the grandfather of Mike Judge MBE, a member of this parish. Although written during the great war, it still remained popular during the second world war. It will doubtless ring out again across the country as we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings.



Plaque dedicated to Jack Judge



Thank you Mike

At the recent AGM and after 25 years of hard work, Mike Judge MBE has retired as a Trustee of Dunchurch Village Hall. Involved from



the very early stages when the desire for a purpose-built village hall was first muted, Mike secured the majority of the £750,000 funding to make the dream a reality. Dunchurch now boasts one of the best village halls in the area. Mike's contribution to the community was acknowledged in 2016 when he was awarded an MBE.

Representatives from the Dunchurch Festival Group, the Friends of Dunchurch Society and the Dunchurch Pantomaniacs who also attended the AGM add their thanks to those of the Trustees for Mike's tireless work on behalf of the village hall and the greater Dunchurch community.

Mike receiving a gift and the grateful thanks of Chairman Phill Freeman on behalf of the village hall Trustees

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Girlguiding

Girlguiding in Dunchurch is thriving with all three units meeting on a Wednesday – Rainbows at the Village Hall, Brownies at Dunchurch Baptist Church and Guides at Thurlaston Village Hall. All units take part in the Girlguiding Programme which was created by girls for girls so that they would have fun, adventure and variety. Girls are encouraged to take part in a variety of new things,



Wheelbarrows and troughs the girls planted last year

build core skills, like first aid, map reading, recycling and of course problem solving.

All sections are very active and enjoy playing games, inside and outside, doing crafts, making dens/building shelters, outdoor cooking, wide games, nature walks and are also involved in upcycling /biodiversity to protect our planet. As well as the guiding programme we also do various challenges such as Thinking Day, First Aid, RSPB bird watch, 2024 Olympics in Paris challenge or Taskmistress challenge. All ages enjoy earning badges and all girls are given the opportunity to do this, whether it be for improving fitness or reviewing a book as part of the interest badges we have. All three units will be planting a wheelbarrow for Dunchurch in Bloom and running fundraising stalls at Dunchurch Fete.

All units would welcome new girls and leaders – go on the Girlguiding website and express your interest!



www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Send us your thoughts

If you would like to see new topics or would like to submit an article for inclusion in the magazine on any aspect of local interest please email the editor on

fodnews1@gmail.com

Dunchurch Girls' and Infants' School

Our thanks to Freda Bennett for this 'snapshot' of Dunchurch school life in 1900



The school was situated in the churchyard southeast of the church. It was built about 1840

Attendance

48 on roll

Mistress: Alice Louisa Dennis

Teacher: Amelia Cooke

Reasons for non-attendance

February 16th: Snowy weather

March 16th: Registers marked 10 minutes earlier to allow the girls to attend the memorial service for Lady John Scott

July 4th: Attendance very low this afternoon owing to a bicycle fete in Rugby.

October 5th: Attendance lowered this week through the wet weather on Thursday

November 1st: Registers marked at 9am to allow children to leave school at 11 o'clock for the service in church (All Saints Day).

Object lessons

- January 10th: A river
- January 22nd: A lake
- March 8th: The shape of the earth
- April 5th: The wind
- May 17th: Cotton
- June 21st: Lead
- June 28th: The Reformation
- July 5th: A sailing ship
- September 14th: An island and the seaside
- September 20th: Tin
- October 1st: Cotton, linen and sailing ship
- October 12th: Fossils and cotton
- November 9th: Spring;
- November 16th: Summer & Autumn
- December 14th: Liquids, Solids, Hard & soft bodies.

Visitors

January 8th: Rev. Rigby-Jubb, (Vicar of Dunchurch).

February 7th: School visited by Dr. Unwin and the Rev. W Earle. The latter

looked at the writing the girls were doing and expressed himself pleased with it.

October 24th: The parents of the children came up to the school during the last lesson and saw the girls' drill. They also saw the needlework which had been done and seemed interested.

Holidays

February 20th: Half-holiday, Lady Scott's Annual dinner held.

March 2nd: A whole holiday given today on account of the Relief of Ladysmith, March 1st 1900.

May 1st: A holiday given today, it being May Day.

July 16th: A holiday given today for the 'Wake'

July 20th: A half-holiday given this afternoon as the school was required for a tea.

November 22nd: School commenced at 1.45pm so as to allow children to leave earlier during the winter months.

Inspectors' reports 1900

January 15th: Government report: This school is conducted with a very fair measure of success, but the girls are inclined to be talkative, and should take more interest in their work. The higher grant under article 101(b) of the code will not be again recommended

unless there is an improvement in this respect. Alice Constable has passed 'well'.

February 9th: Have examined the school this week. Results are on the whole satisfactory. Spelling is weak in standard IV. Arithmetic needs attention in Standard I. Geography shows improvement. Needlework good.

April 10th: Examined Standards III and IV. Writing is good on the whole. Spelling fairly good. Arithmetic very fair indeed. Reading shewed improvement. Papers are neat.

May 29th: H.M. Inspector visited on Tuesday. Recitation was heard in Standards III, V, VI and VII. Needlework specimens shown.

End of year: Decided progress has been made. The increased interest of the scholars is especially manifested in the Class subjects.



Dunchurch Social Club

Thankfully, following the forming of a new committee, the Social Club has once again opened its doors and new members are being encouraged to join. Although members will benefit from discounted prices, non-members are

also welcome. Email thedsc@outlook.com for more information.

Let's raise a glass (in the Social Club) as we wish the new committee every success.

OPENING HOURS	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	18:00 - 22:00
Wednesday	18:00 - 22:00
Thursday	18:00 - 22:00
Friday	14:00 - 23:00
Saturday	12:00 - 23:00
Sunday	12:00 - 23:00
thedsc@outlook.com	

Poppies Galore

Do you knit or crochet? Some of the poppies that FODS put out for remembrance

occasions are looking a little tired and we would appreciate some new ones. Any shade of red, any thickness of wool and any size (but the bigger the better for ease of sewing together for a

display). Thank you.

Our thanks also to FODS Trustee Anne-Marie, the village florist, who has agreed to be a central collection point for your donations.



Snowdrops a Plenty

The wind blustered and the rain fell but the planting of snowdrops around the Oak Line and the Kings Oak tree went ahead. Thank you Mike Judge for donating them and FODS volunteers for weathering the storm and helping to plant them.



FODS Make a Difference Group

Recently, the 'MAD' team moved from their weekend outdoor pursuits to give the inside of the village hall a spring clean. Swapping their usual hi vis attire for rubber gloves, curtains were removed, washed, ironed and rehung and as can be seen from the photos, barely an inch of the village hall was left untouched! A fabulous team effort which included two girls who came along to help as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Thank you Matilda and Claudia, your help was much appreciated.

Did anyone ever look more glamorous than Ali while cleaning a toilet?



Margaret makes a clean sweep of tidying the entrance hall which brought Glynis to her knees!



This was the second time the group had given the village hall a

deep clean, the first just after panto, and this time, just after the main floor in the village hall had been sanded and re-varnished – a necessary maintenance job to keep the hall in tip-top condition but one which creates a significant amount of dust.

FODS are grateful to the hall Trustees for a donation totalling £440 (£200 for each deep clean and £40 for curtain laundering) in recognition of their help.



Matilda and Claudia lending a helping hand as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme



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Dunchurch Boughton Church of England Infant Academy and Nursery

Leamington Hastings Church of England Academy



By Suzanne Marson, Headteacher

This academic year is whizzing by and we suddenly find ourselves within the summer term. There have been exciting events happening in school such as world book day, topic days and author visits. We were very lucky to have been visited by iSing Pop in April. We had seen the artists on screen, and it was great to meet them in person! They taught the children about Pentecost through song and drama, which was all shared in a celebration event at the end of the day. Many children ended the day wanting to become iSing Pop stars! There are many exciting trips planned in the summer term, such as a visit to Warwick Castle for our year 1 children.

Over this academic year, we have significantly improved our extra-curricular offer, enabling our children to access clubs and activities that they might not otherwise be able to join, expanding their interests and learning new skills. Children can join clubs such as Lego, Spanish, gymnastics and dance. The children are all really enjoying accessing the clubs and we hope to be able to continue to expand these in the term to

come.

Our PTA continue to be as fabulous as ever, supporting the school and raising money through events such as sponsored walks and hot chocolate Fridays. There has been a significant contribution towards books, EYFS (Early Years Foundations Stage) resources and leavers' gifts for the children this term. We are truly grateful for everything they do.

With the expansion of the nursery funding scheme, we are seeing more and more parents interested in children attending the nursery. If this is something you are interested in, please do get in touch with us so that your place can be reserved. The Nursery Manager, Lauren Madeley, can be contacted via the school office, 01788 810292.

Thank you to everyone who supports the school and enables our children to grow and flourish. We really do appreciate it.



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St Peter's Church

By Rev Pat Townshend

All good things come to an end. It has been a great joy to me to be vicar of Dunchurch for the last seven years. It seems only yesterday that I arrived and opened the fete on an extremely hot June day. I was introduced to the Stig and had to judge the fancy dress, a daunting task for someone new to the community and indeed the country! Since then, I have got to know many people in Dunchurch and grown to love the community. It is with a heavy heart that I will leave.

What will follow? We don't know who will be appointed to St Peter's or when but I pray that it will not be a long interregnum like last time. What I do know is that the church which has stood here for 1000 years will not die but, with God's direction, will continue to thrive and be a focal point for the community. The area is changing and I suspect that if I were to return in a few years, I would not recognise the place but I'm sure the same can be said of many vicars in the past as the area has developed and changed over the centuries. I am however, convinced that the ethos of joy and love which permeates the village can



remain and strengthen in the years to come.

My thanks to you all for the last seven years.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen

Churchyard

Help is needed for churchyard mowing, weeding and general maintenance



St Peter's Churchyard is a valued village amenity maintained by local volunteers. All are welcomed, churchgoers or not.

If you can help, please call Chris Sarson on 01926 632408 or just join us on any of the Saturdays below between 9am and 1pm

Coffee and doughnuts served at 11am!

Help is required on the following dates (but you are very welcome to help at other times):

June 8th, 22nd

July 6th, 20th

August 3rd, 17th, 31st

September 14th, 28th

October 12th, 26th

November 9th – Final tidy of war graves

Thank you

Dunchurch Baptist Church

By Reverend Alistair Jones

Where is the warm weather of spring? In April, my wife and I had a few days in the Lake District, only to have snow falling on the hills around us. By now, we normally expect the weather to be warmer than this, with rain becoming less of a constant feature. Things may have changed by the time you read this, but at the moment, we do not seem to see an end to the wet and chilly climate.

Easter normally heralds the start of spring, with the expectation that the weather will improve and we can enjoy some warm sunshine. So far this spring, those expectations have not been fully realized. There has been the odd day of sunshine, but in general it has remained quite cold.

This reminds me that for Christians, Easter heralds Jesus Christ's victory over death and the grave. With that victory, we have the expectation that all should now be ok in the world. The Kingdom of God has come. Yet, we see all around us war, famine, and strife. Where is this victory? What difference has Easter made?

Following Easter, the Church calendar moves on to Ascension, (where we remember Jesus returning to heaven), and Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit). Between these two events, we as a



Despite the inclement weather, the signs of spring are still evident in the new growth of plants

Church have spent time in prayer, joining with the international event of Thy Kingdom Come, where Christians around the world unite in 11 days of prayer, seeking God's Kingdom.

While we think spring is a long time coming, the flowers are already up, birds are nesting, and chicks are being born. In the cold and the rain, the signs of spring are still here if we look for them. Likewise, in all the gloom of the news, the reality of Easter means the Kingdom of God is here. It should be present in the lives of all who follow Jesus Christ, bringing hope to the world. As a Church, we try to live this out too as we endeavour to support village events like the village fete and offering our building for community use. We will have our Route 41 Café open on the 18th of June, and our cake and craft morning on the 21st of June. All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments as well as good conversation.

Directory

With so many interesting articles to publish this month we have had to leave out the directory pages for this issue. But don't worry, you can see the full directory on the Friends of Dunchurch Society Facebook page.

To make any amendments or to add your Dunchurch-based, non-commercial club or organisation to the directory in the next issue, please email friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com.

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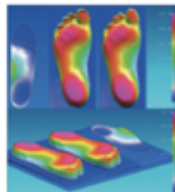
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