



# DUNCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2024

ISSUE 24



PRODUCED BY FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY

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

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FRIENDS OF  
DUNCURCH  
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](mailto:friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com) 

## Welcome

A warm welcome to the September issue of the Dunchurch Village Magazine. Judging by the number of articles we have been able to include in this issue, it has clearly been a very busy few months for you all.

It has certainly been a busy time for the staff at Wanda Fashions who recently celebrated 35 years of business in the village with a wonderful weekend of events, including a fashion show and an outdoor concert by Dunchurch Voices. There was plenty of 'bubbly' on offer for visitors and a special charity raffle raised £500 for Cancer Research UK and Rugby Myton Hospice. Congratulations to Wanda and Paula for achieving this wonderful milestone and our thanks to them for being such great supporters of our community.

Wanda's is just one of the attractions that brings visitors to Dunchurch and our history is another. Famed for many things, how often have we heard that something has 'put us on the map?' Our



*Dunchurch Voices sang an 'al fresco' medley of songs to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Wanda Fashions*

connection to Guy Fawkes, the decorating of our Lord Scott monument to mention just two and now, we can boast, we have our own village map! This beautiful addition to Dunchurch will adorn the notice board by the traffic lights and is the artistic work of Erica Milwain and Jaine Thornton Weeks. A detailed and tasteful portrayal of our village, it is a real eye catcher. Thank you both for your hard work and artistry.

Speaking of artistry, we also welcome a new business to Dunchurch., opening on 14th September. Hand-inc are illustrators, typographers and lettering

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*Front Cover. Our thanks to Barrie Lambert for this fabulous overhead photograph of our village fete held on the Rugby Road sportsfield*



*Welcome Hand-inc.  
We hope your arrival  
in the village is the  
start of a long and  
fruitful association with  
Dunchurch*

artists and we wish  
Amy and Steve every

success. We are indeed fortunate to have such a wide variety of businesses at the very heart of our community and all are deserving of our patronage.

Meanwhile, volunteers in our community have also been hard at work. In our last issue we appealed for knitted or crochet

poppies and you certainly answered the call. We received hundreds and these are now being used to create a new poppy drape for the November Act of Remembrance. Thank you to everyone who donated them.

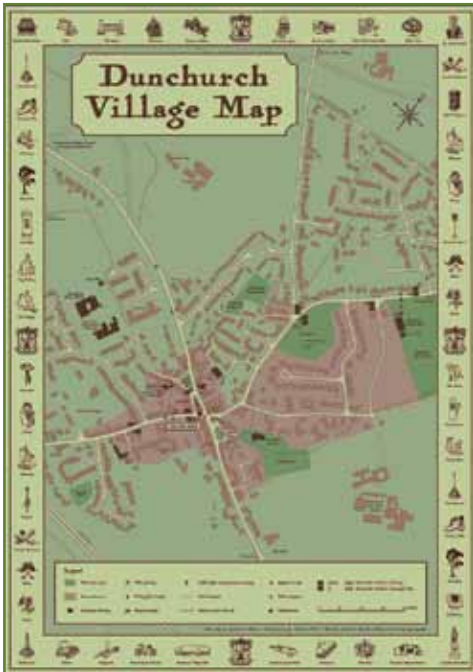
A familiar face for the past several years at our remembrance services

has been Reverend Pat Townshend who is now moving on to pastures new. It seems fitting that one of Reverend Pat's last duties was the opening of this year's fete. This brought Reverend Pat's time in Dunchurch full circle as this was one of her first duties when she arrived. We wish Reverend Pat well for the future and thank her for her support and pastoral care for our community.

We too can look to the future with some exciting news for next year's events. In May, there will be a national celebration of the end of WWII and plans are already being made for our own village celebrations. Led by Dunchurch Parish Council with the support of other village groups (so far, the Dunchurch Festival Group and FODS have



*Guy Watt, Chairman of the DFG with Rev Pat Townshend as she performs one of her last duties before leaving Dunchurch*



*Erica and Jaine have put Dunchurch on the map! A beautiful addition to the village*

expressed an interest), we will bring you more news in our future editions as detailed plans begin to formulate. If you or your village group would like to help in any way, please contact Cllr Ian Grogan [iangrogan7@gmail.com](mailto:iangrogan7@gmail.com) Perhaps you have your own plans? If so, we would love to hear about them.

These commemorations will be a wonderful community event, providing an

opportunity to celebrate the freedom we all enjoy and delivering an act of remembrance for those who endured and sacrificed so much for the benefit of others.

Finally, this is YOUR community village magazine. If you have any ideas for future issues that you would like to include, please do contact us on [fodnews1@gmail.com](mailto:fodnews1@gmail.com). We will do our best to follow up on them.

## Hari Clark – Topper Sailing World Champion

**13**-year-old Hari Clark has beaten 39 other young contenders from all over the world to win the Topper 4.2 World Championship, held in Mar Menor, Spain, from 22–26 July.

Dunchurch boy Hari has only been sailing for three years, and racing for just two. He started by taking a beginner's sailing course at Draycote Water Sailing Club, but quickly moved on to serious

racing after getting a boat of his own, competing in Midlands then National meetings all over the UK.

With a fellow Draycote sailor he decided to enter the 'Worlds 24', and his dad Rich-

ard drove him to Mar Menor, a saltwater lagoon in Murcia. Here he had five full days of intensive racing. By day four he had won nine of ten races, clinching the title, so his mum Nithiya, who had

stayed at home to look after the dog, hopped on a plane and got there in time for his last day, and to see him collect the winner's cup at the award ceremony.

Amongst the many sailing trophies proudly displayed in his house is one for winning a chess competition – in fact his eye for chess may be a key to his tactical skills when racing. A very talented young man!





## About us & what happens when you choose to shop local...



We have been open in Dunchurch for 2 years now. Since opening we have designed and installed around 100 kitchens in the area. We also have a second studio between Warwick and Leamington Spa that we opened in 2018.

We're a small family business with just 4 employees but over 50 years experience in the kitchen and furniture industry between us.

We have a gorgeous range of modern and traditional styles, and now we even offer a fully bespoke handmade range. Our prices are actually comparable with the high street suppliers, but we offer a higher level of quality and overall service.

People often assume that small independents are more expensive. This is just not the case. We don't have the overheads or restrictions of the larger chains so more often than not, independents offer better value for money.

Our own beliefs are firmly around supporting other local businesses and communities. Our main suppliers, and fantastic teams of trades and their families all live within 20 minutes of our studios.

The Kitchens Inc sponsor five local childrens and adults sports teams, regularly support fundraisers as well as village and town events such as Art in Dunchurch. And We are also a very proud partner of the fabulous OurJoy Foundation.  
( more exciting news on this to come! )

Shopping local means when you buy a coffee and cake from Square Coffee or Cuppa you could actually be helping a family pay for school uniforms, children's dance lessons, or even just helping out with that ridiculous electric bill...

When you pop in the Green Man, The Dun Cow or The Dunchurch Social club, you are keeping people in your neighbourhood employed and even giving students the chance to earn while they learn.

Grab a take away from any of the fabuolus eateries we have in and around the village and you are literally putting food on their tables, as well as your own. What can be better than that?

And did you know that when you choose to shop local, around 65% of your money is spent right back in your community. Because small business owners, support each other too.

There are too many other fabulous local businesses in Dunchurch and the surrounding areas to mention that rely on your support, including ourselves.

**So thank you for continuing to support your amazing local businesses!**

# Dunchurch Festival Group Village Fete

By **Guy Watt, Chairman**

**A**fter weeks of checking the weather forecast for the 23rd of June, the day finally arrived and thankfully, so did the sunshine. Plans for the summer fete gather pace after Christmas and a huge amount of work goes into organising it so we are always looking for more volunteers to help. We especially like to showcase local talent and this year, we welcomed Seya Bhabra who closed the entertainment in the arena with some beautiful songs. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and join us, especially if you have a talent to share.

This year, the people of Dunchurch and surrounding areas turned out in large numbers and by the time this is published, the DFG will be carefully looking at which charities, local groups and individuals we



*Dr Dolittle and very smiley friend*



*Enter the Dragon*



*Storm trooper*



*Fancy dress parade*

will be supporting from our profits. With this in mind, I am delighted to announce, thanks to some amazing teamwork and your support, it looks as though the fete was a 'bumper' fundraising event!

Many thanks go to everyone who came along but especially, all the DFG helpers. We couldn't do this without you.



*Hot stuff on the BBQ!*



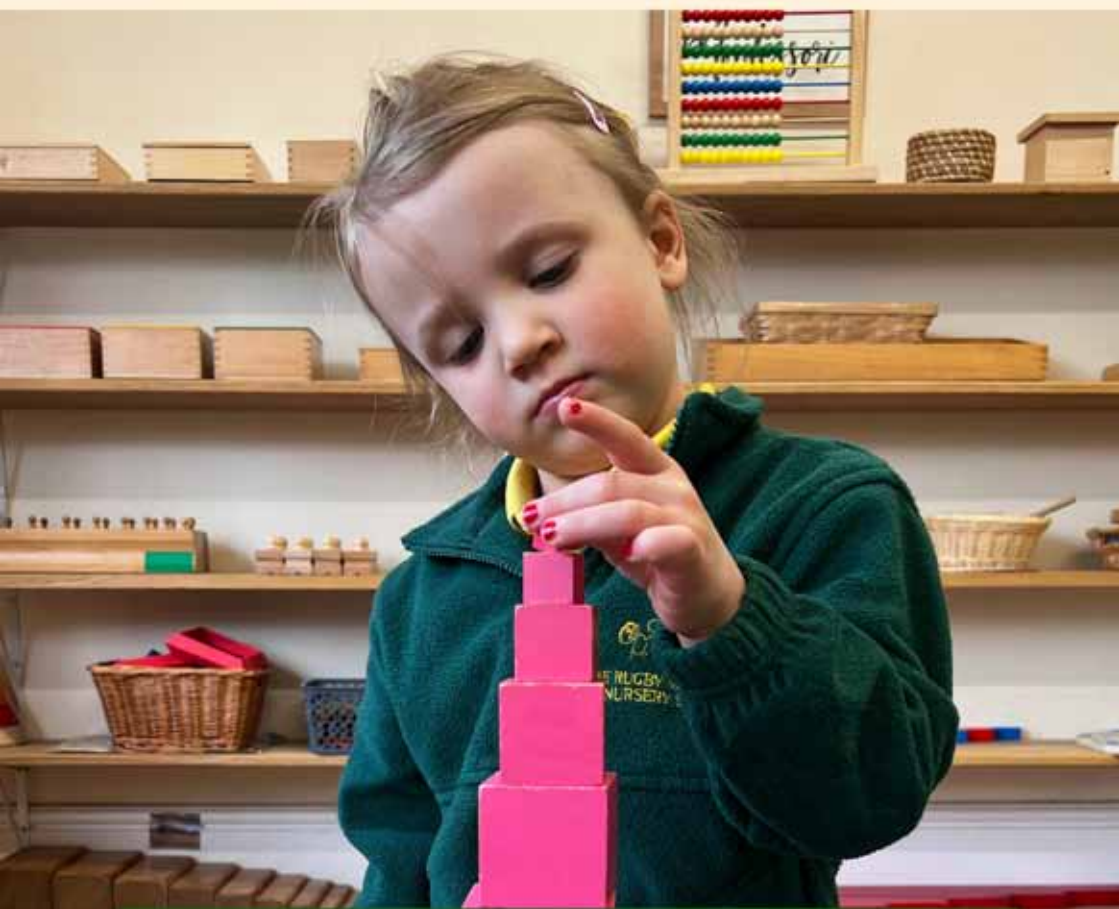


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# It was Mrs. Scarlet with a cake fork in the lounge.

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## 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the village D-Day commemorations

### FODS

**T**he seven knitted toppers on the Staddle Stones at The Old Holt received lots of recognition from passers by, radio and even a fleeting glimpse on TV. They also incorporated a children's quiz designed to educate about the D-Day Landings.

The memorial green and the war memorials were decorated with poppies and a stand-out trough made by Phill

### Dunchurch Festival Group



*An action-packed evening enjoyed by an appreciative audience*

An evening of entertainment with a home-cooked meal raised £877 for the village. Music from Dunchurch Voices, Dunchurch Band, and Pantomaniac Sam Diesch, plus a one-act play written especially for the occasion by John Dacombe and performed by the Dunchurch players, made up the evening.



*Latest staddlestone transformation*

### Dunchurch Parish Council

An act of remembrance on The Heath, organised by DPC reflected the solemnity of the occasion and included prayers, a reading, a lament by a piper and culminated in the lighting of the village beacon by the then DPC Chair Tracey Price.

*Our village beacon was just one of hundreds to be lit at 9.15pm to commemorate this milestone anniversary. (inset) A new commemorative bench on The Heath. Thank you Councillor Vaughan for organising this*



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## Art in Dunchurch

**B**lue skies and sunshine, spectacular artworks, music, delicious food and drink and all in the lovely gardens of Inglenook in the



dedicated team of volunteers over the six days all records were broken, with record visitor numbers and money donated to our three chosen charities – Hope 4

Rugby, Girl's education in South Sudan and CALM supporting mental Health.

Thank you to all our supporters from Dunchurch, Rugby and

further afield – we are building our reputation as a centre for art in this area of Warwickshire.

centre of the village, Art in Dunchurch 2024 was again a wonderful success. Thanks to the amazing artists and the support of the



[janearcher8@gmail.com](mailto:janearcher8@gmail.com)

[f Jane Archer Artist](https://www.facebook.com/janearcherartist)

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*Jane Archer - Artist*

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*Studio visits welcome by appointment.*



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## Pantomaniacs

By Sue Protheroe

In the words of Monsieur Le Grande Bouche, the town crier of the fictional village of Funchurch – ‘Oh yea, oh yea, oh yea, what news have you today?’ The Pantomaniacs are delighted to announce that our January pantomime will be Beauty and the Beast.

This popular children’s classic was originally written and published in 1740 by French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve and over the years, it has been adapted many times, most recently by Disney. However, The Pan-



*Pantomaniac member Ann Wright recently handed over a cheque for £500 to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance*



tomaniacs will be performing our own, very original script with all the madcap, mayhem and humour you have come to expect from a village panto. Can’t wait to find out more? Tempted to be a part of it? Don’t wait, email Director Paul Le Poidevin – [paul.lepoidevin@btopen-world.com](mailto:paul.lepoidevin@btopen-world.com) or Assistant Director Sue Protheroe – [sueprotheroe@ymail.com](mailto:sueprotheroe@ymail.com) Bring your talents or a willing pair of hands to help. In whichever capacity you come along, you will be most welcome.

### Donations

We are pleased to have made a recent donation of £222 to Cawston Greenway/ Dunchurch Bridleway. This has enabled them to buy a strimmer, hedge trimmer and batteries totalling £172, with a further £50 for bird boxes.

## hand-inc

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# Dunchurch Allotments

By Janet Beaumont, Treasurer

It was an unexpectedly dry and sunny day when local families came to participate in the latest allotment summer event. This year there were no scarecrows or wildlife signs; instead the allotment was taken over by dozens of acorn people (all made by just one talented allotment holder) and the houses they lived in.

Children (and some adults too) followed a map to guide them around the site.

Along the way they found all sorts of tiny houses lovingly made by allotmenters and children from local schools.



Branches, logs, birdboxes, wellies, flowerpots, saucers planted with gardens had been converted to desirable residences (one featuring an outside loo!), a church and a school.

Musicians, mums and babies, schoolteachers, snowmen, fight-

ers, a happy couple getting married, and many more acorn people were waiting to be discovered by the explorers. To show that the children had found the houses, animal stickers were left in a bag by each house for the children to collect and stick on the reverse of the map.

After completing the trail there was more excitement – fairy doors to paint, and tea, cakes, and cold drinks under the gazebo, plus of course prizes!

To see more pictures of the amazing acorn people, go to our website [www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk](http://www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk)

*Thanks to the members of the committee who work tirelessly all year to maintain common areas of the site, run the shop, grow plants to sell at the fete, organise fundraising events and much more*



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## Dunchurch in Bloom

### Blooming Barrows

**Y**ou must have noticed the wonderful, planted wheelbarrows appearing once again throughout the village. Most are the originals provided by FODS but financed and planted up by volunteers, and we thank them wholeheartedly for their continued support. However, it is lovely to see others are now joining in with their own barrows, beautifully planted and displayed on public view – it would be great if others would join in. If you do and would like to be kept up to date with our Blooming Barrow scheme, email [fodnews1@gmail.com](mailto:fodnews1@gmail.com) and we will add you to our mailing list. You will become a part of our growing community who are taking a real pride and interest in promoting Dunchurch at its best.



(left) The Bundies raised the bar with their Olympic themed trough; (above) Poppy and Rosy putting the final touches to their fairy garden troughs

**Tantalising Troughs** Again planted by volunteers, these troughs provided by FODS and now dotted around the centre of the village, are bringing much colour and originality with their decorations. We have more! If you would like to join in and plant a trough, email the above address and we will drop one off for you. In the meantime, we thank the management at The Green Man for allowing us to use their carpark for the trough gather and also Barby Nurseries

who lent us two trolleys to transport them. One final vote of thanks must go to everyone who either planted or joined a rota to keep the troughs watered. Your help has been much appreciated.



(left) Some of the amazing troughs brought along to the trough gather; (above) The Freeman troughs. Thanks Tony for growing the geraniums

## Dunchurch Social Club

**By Sarah – Stewardess**

**S**ince reopening in April, the club has more than doubled its membership.

If you haven't been in the club before, we have two rooms, the lounge and the main room we call the Sports Bar. Both are available for hire. It's free for members and £50 for non members. There's also a lovely sun trap courtyard garden at the back.



We are gradually filling up our diary with regular entertainment, from monthly coffee and cake mornings, Fun Art Classes every Tuesday to live music at weekends – and we'll be bringing back bingo on Sunday evenings in the autumn too!

There is so much going on here. All of our events can be found on Facebook and on our notice board at the entrance of the club. Or pop in and have a chat with one of our lovely team – Shannon, Laura and Dayle. We would love to see you soon!

Dates for your diary:

- 14th September – Solo ELO Tribute
- 27th September – Solo Beatles Tribute
- 12th October – Synthmachine 80s band
- 14th October – Mark Yves Psychic Night
- 8th November – Susan Cadogan & Friendly Fire reggae band (Ticket Only)
- 30th November – Skawaddy 2tone band
- 7th December – The Imposters (local band)
- 14th December – Neil Diamond Tribute
- Plus many more!!!

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**memory loss**  
**but everyone is welcome!**  
**Dunchurch Social Club**  
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**Hoping to run this event monthly**  
**More information from [ann@annchristinacoomber.co.uk](mailto:ann@annchristinacoomber.co.uk)**



# Volunteering at Dunchurch Library

**By Clive Cotton, library volunteer**

I volunteer at Dunchurch library because I think that it is important to have this amenity here, on the doorstep. I am particularly keen on encouraging children to read. We know from research done by The Reading Agency that a reading habit is key to unlocking the curriculum, to encourage independent learning and to provide a lifelong skill that can bring us a great deal of pleasure.

We need to widen our pool of volunteers to ensure that Dunchurch keeps its library open. Anyone can be a volunteer; no special skills are required and the necessary functional abilities can be learned 'on the job' by assisting our current volunteers. We are a very friendly group from many backgrounds and origins and we'd happily help you become a volunteer too.

There are many advantages to being a volunteer. It gets us out of the house and collaborating with others. We can learn about other people who volunteer giving us the opportunity for interesting conversations. We can meet customers, young and older, and gain satisfaction by being able to help them. We can meet with the super

young people who use their volunteering at the library to help them gain their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and who are always a delight to talk to and learn about. Mixing with people helps to keep us mentally active and well. Volunteering at Dunchurch library helps to keep the library open for the people of Dunchurch and its environs.

We are open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 5pm, and on Saturday mornings from 10am until noon. Shifts are split: 10am to 1.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm. Most volunteers do one shift per week. Saturday morning counts as one shift.

I have been volunteering at the library since the then Parish Council took it on from Warwickshire County Council who were going to close it to save money. My motivation for doing so was and still is the same and I'm proud that with the help of the current and past volunteers we still have a Warwickshire library in Dunchurch. Come and join us to help us keep this amenity alive.





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## Dunchurch & Thurlaston WI

By Anne Gilbert

In June, we took part in the Dunchurch Festival Fete, running a successful human fruit machine game. Participants won fruit if they gained three fruits on a pull and if they were very lucky, won a golden fruit, either a pineapple, melon



or a bunch of bananas. So popular was the game that we have been asked to attend other fetes and we are also featured in the Warwickshire WI magazine.

Coming up, we are holding a jigsaw and book sale (with a stall dedicated to British Steam Railways) at the WI Hall on 21st September from 10.00am. Refreshments will also be available. Do come along.

If you would like to book the WI hall for your own event, contact Anne on 01788 811837



## Girlguiding in Dunchurch – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Help all girls to know they can do anything! Come and join us! Girls have a great time at Rainbows, Brownies and Guides experiencing crafts, games, and our fascinating programme.

Volunteer with Girlguiding! You'll be helping girls have fun, build their confidence, have adventures and learn new skills. Also a great way of meeting new people, taking a break from your daily routine and building your own skills – encouraging girls, devising activities, becoming

a first aider. Whatever it is you're looking for, there'll be something in it for you.

Join your daughter and/or volunteer with us by filling in your details on the website and a member of your local volunteer team will be

in touch. [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

*Guides with their biodiversity blooming barrows*



# Wanda Fashions



Wanda Fashions@TheGreenDunchurch

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## Knowing Stillness Meditation Group

**E**ach Wednesday morning, despite the arrival of the refuse-collection lorry, a sense of peace and tranquillity descends in one corner of Dunchurch, as the Knowing Stillness Meditation Group meets at the Community Library from 10 to 10.45 am.

‘Knowing Stillness’ is an inner journey. It is the stilling and harmonising of body and mind. In this busy, chaotic world, we need to take time to simply be still with ourselves. Participants are invited to let go of any control and manipulation in their practice, so that a state of harmony, balance and awareness can be generated. ‘Being present’ can consolidate good things in one’s life. Also, importantly, the group cultivates a sense of community.

Jim helps people to settle, and introduces the meditation, leading into an extended period of silence. As the sound of the singing bowl ends the silence, the participants may be invited to share any insights received or may leave without comment in a quiet and relaxed way. But the sense of community is continued as they re-assemble at ‘Square Coffee’ for a drink.

Occasionally, other members will lead and at two sessions, we have been



privileged to settle to the improvised music of professional musician, Simon Beck.

Sessions are relayed to people, near and far, who are unable to attend in person and are recorded for use by anyone later in the week. A second weekend retreat is being planned for October.

Newcomers can be assured of a warm welcome – just turn up, no agenda, open-minded and awake to everything! No-one is an expert; we simply practise, practise, practise and learn together. There is no charge, but small donations cover costs.

Quotes from attendees:

***“Meditation has given me a whole new perspective on life and helps me find much needed inner stillness – and a wonderful community of fellow meditators!”***

***“My breathing is now so much smoother and more relaxed.”***

# Dunchurch Photographic Society

by Robert Hughes



**D**o you love taking snapshots, landscapes, action shots, even camera phone shots when out about with friends and family? Do you get a buzz - a rush of excitement when a stranger hands you their prized mobile phone and says "could you take a pic of us please"? I certainly do! There's no feeling like it - the quick interaction, and knowing the shot you just took could be an image they come to treasure.

Photography has never been so popular or so accessible as it is today. Taking photos isn't about having the latest technology, but being able to spot a great shot and exploit your camera's potential. You may have a preference for a classic 35mm film camera, a more modern

digital SLR, a mirrorless model, drone or a mobile phone.

At the core of Dunchurch Photographic Society, or DPS for short, is a friendly group of photo enthusiasts of all levels and abilities, whose objectives are taking great shots and welcoming and encouraging new members, regardless of their level of experience or what they use to take pictures.

DPS which was established in the mid-70s, is made up of members from all over the Rugby area. Between us we have a diversity of photographic specialities and interests. Whether it's portraiture, landscape, seascape, transport or sports photography you are keen to learn about, we are sure to have like-minded members who can help and give advice.

The weekly club meetings are in the heart of Dunchurch and run from autumn to spring. However we remain active during the summer months with local informal 'photo-walk' meet ups. We usually finish off with a brief pub visit to talk about our experiences over a drink. Newcomers are



*Californian Burrowing Owls by David Bray*

always welcome to join us.

Run by the members, for the members, we offer mentoring for novices, advice with technical issues such as camera settings, editing, printing and more. We have ses-

sions where we can try different genres of shooting (members only need to bring a camera along, as the additional equipment and props are provided).

We can offer guidance relating to suitable

equipment and help you find the best deals. We have photo competitions and your images can be judged and critiqued by qualified photo experts. We have visits from specialist guest speakers and lecturers. Professional photographers inspire us with their own pictures, offering us guidance and advice.

This coming season we are even planning an informal member's 'Photographic Faux Pax' evening where our members can



*Orange Head by Warren Strickland*



*Walking in the Shadows by David Cunnane*

show and tell us about their personal photographic disappointments and blunders with the accompanying amusing tales and resulting photos! Lessons learned by getting it wrong can be invaluable - every

photographer can relate to that one!

Please don't feel excluded if you have not been taking pictures for very long – every one of us starts a photographic journey for the first time.

We'd love to

hear from you if you're just starting out, experienced, or just getting back into your old hobby after a break of a few years. What truly unites us is our passion, enthusiasm and commitment.

If you feel you'd like to learn more about our club and introductory special offers for new members, feel free to contact our Chairperson through our Facebook page (Dunchurch Photographic Society) or <https://dunchurchps.com>.



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## Reg Calvert

**By Tom Long**

**L**ate in 1961 I was about 16. All the kids then were either pop music mad or wannabee pop stars. It was then I first started hearing about this magic place Clifton Hall and some local musicians going there to audition. About a year later, Reg Calvert secured his Wednesday night tenure of the Benn Hall and we started to see and hear it all in the flesh. It was a revelation. His bands were really good and there were usually about 5 on each Wednesday. Reg was keen for any local talent to audition. I spoke to him and found him to be very approachable. Everything gradually ramped up until I was in a proper band and we were fully under his management.

Reg cut a slightly strange figure. He would bowl into the Granada to watch his acts, throwing popcorn in the air and catching it in his mouth. He always wore a 3 piece suit and carpet slippers!

His wife Dorothy loved Clifton Hall and went out of her way to keep the mortgage in good shape but by the start of 1966 she discovered that Reg had secretly hocked it up



*Reg Calvert in 1964 in Nuneaton having announced Pinkerton's Assorted Colours to stage*

to the eyeballs to fund Radio City. Although the radio station was doing well, they couldn't rescue Clifton Hall and it had to be sold. As a

result of this they ended up living in Macbeth Close on Woodlands. So, when Reg died later that year, Dorothy was able to have him buried in Dunchurch. As ever, we were just that bit late for his funeral. We were intending to follow the hearse but ended up rushing to Dunchurch, only a little late. It was as nice as funerals go under the strained circumstances. Apart from family, there were just a few show biz people there. His agent Terry King, some agency staff and I think we were the only full band there but his close friend David (Screaming Lord) Sutch was there with his dog. The afters were at the Thatched Cottage. Away from

performing, David Sutch was a quiet thoughtful person and I left the Thatched Cottage for a while to accompany him



*The final resting place of Reg Calvert, who was shot and killed by a former owner of an offshore radio station and later acquitted of his murder*

walking his dog around The Square, quietly chatting.

A lot of years later, Reg's widow Dorothy died and despite having lived in Tile Hill Village and Nuneaton, Dorothy was walked into Dunchurch in a lovely white horse drawn hearse and buried with Reg. He was after all the love of her life, as she was his.



*Dorothy's funeral*

A great deal has been written about Reg's life. He was forever coming up with madcap schemes to court publicity and was regarded by the established music biz as a maverick. There was even a tenuous link via David Sutch, to the Sex Pistols. Reg would have loved their antics

with one big exception. He never swore. His lasting legacies are the disciplines he installed into his bands and musicians such that most of those still alive are still performing. He also persuaded David Sutch to stand for parliament. R.I.P. a great man and his wife, resting in St Peters graveyard.

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## Stepnell – Commitment to Social Value

Recently, FODS accepted an invitation to meet with Natasha Heritage, Social Value Manager at Stepnell. Natasha explained, as part of the work they are carrying out at Bilton Grange School, they would like to offer some weekend 'man' hours to help in the community. After discussion, FODS suggested St Peter's Church Gardening Group would benefit from their assistance, as the upkeep of the churchyard is a heavy and ongoing task which falls upon the shoulders of a small but dedicated group of people and carries great responsibility for the protection of the grave environment.

Natasha explains, 'Employees from Stepnell and their subcontractor, R O Donaghey, joined forces for a volunteering day at St Peter's Church in Dunchurch. This social value activity was undertaken in collaboration with the Friends of Dunchurch, an organisation dedicated to preserving the local heritage and community spaces. The primary goal of this volunteer effort was to clear away overgrown bushes and ivy that had obscured many of the graves, allowing these historical markers to be seen and appreciated once more. The team worked diligently, carefully removing the dense vegetation that had accumulated over the years. As the work progressed, the once-hidden graves began to emerge, restoring a



*Before and after*

sense of reverence and respect to this important part of the church grounds. In addition to clearing the overgrowth, the volunteers also installed edging to create a dedicated space for crematorium memorials. This thoughtful addition will provide a serene and orderly area for families and friends to honour and remember their loved ones. This initiative was more than just a day of physical labour; it was a testament to the power of community and collaboration.'

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In thanking the Stepnell team, Chris Sarson of St Peter's Church wrote 'I and several of our gardening volunteers came to watch during the course of the day and we are so grateful that you have done in a few hours what would have taken us much longer. Your work has enhanced the churchyard environment at St Peter's, an asset much loved and used by our local community. One of my volunteers was heard to say "can you come back next year?"'

### **A guided tour of Bilton Grange School**

As a further collaboration, three members each from FODS and St Peter's Church were invited to be guests of the school for a tour followed by a light lunch. The guests were able to see the current building work to construct a dormitory for 84 children as well as seeing inside the beautiful original building that nestles within stunning countryside. Expressing a wish to become more involved with the local community, the school will keep FODS updated on forthcoming events.



FODS and St

*Representatives from St Peter's Church, FODS, Bilton Grange and Stepnell*



*Construction of a new cremation plot*

Peter's Church would like to thank all of the staff that we met both from the school and the contractors for their help and hospitality.



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## Halifax Bomber Update

**By Theo Claassen**

In 2019, at the 75th anniversary commemorations of the Halifax MZ920 crash in Dunchurch, we were supported by the Air Cadets of 29F Squadron Rugby.

In that same year, the squadron was given the components of an aircraft (Skyranger) by the British Model Aircraft Association (BMAA) for them to build and fly. After that it would be handed back to the BMAA for sale.

That build is coming to an end and the aircraft will be taken to Sywell Aerodrome in Northamptonshire for test flying before it will be sold by the BMAA. The actual handover, despite the aircraft not being complete, was done at the RAF Cosford Airshow on the 8th of June 2024. Following the handover, the aircraft was moved back to Rugby for completion.

You may wonder why it has taken so long for the Air Cadets (six of them, under supervision) to complete? At first Covid lockdowns made it impossible for the Air Cadets to meet. Now when they do meet, which is twice weekly for a couple of hours, they have to do their square bashing and other jobs before they can spend time on the aircraft.



*The cockpit with Royal Canadian Air Force 434 squadron badge*



*Skyranger, almost completed*

Earlier this year I was contacted by their Commanding Officer asking if I would agree to an idea by one of the Cadets to register the aircraft as G-WEPW, these being the first letters of the surnames of the Halifax crew that perished in 1944. I was more than happy to give the idea my stamp of approval. The UK registration of civil aircraft always starts with the letter G, that being for Geoffrey Grant, fortunate, but also fitting. The others are W (Wood), E (Ewing), P (Parsons) and W (Ward). The aircraft also carries the 29F Squadron Badge, the RCAF 434 Squadron badge and a plaque in the cockpit (just visible in the picture) of the Halifax crash main details.

The workmanship, which is checked locally but also by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is outstanding and a credit to the six Air Cadets who realised the project.

It is hoped that the new owner will keep the aircraft as it is delivered, in honour of our Halifax boys. Once the test flying starts, I will take some pictures and report back in a later issue of the magazine



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## Rugby Sports Day for the Disabled

By Mark Furber and Bernard Purdy



**H**eld for the past 40 years and organised and run by the three Rotary Clubs in Rugby, 174 competitors took part this year, some being physically disabled but the majority having learning difficulties. Sports included boccia, new age kurling, table tennis, darts and pool but we also ran over eleven sports on a have-a-go basis. This gave those taking part something to enjoy all day.

There were also field sports such as javelin and the long jump and a very popular, throwing the Rugby ball event which attracted nearly 100 entrants. We also had a swimming gala with 22 events and over 40 swimmers.

Medals are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. and in total over 300 were given

out at the end of the day.

The winners are very proud of their medals and those who don't win applaud those who do.

We rely greatly on the support of so many volunteers. and this year welcomed Ali, Glynis and Margaret from the FODS Make a Difference group. We thank them and all of our volunteers. We are also very grateful for the support of The Rugby Benevolent Fund who have financed this event for many years.

The joy and enthusiasm of those taking part in the sports is a wonderful reward for those organising and running the day.

For more about volunteering or donating, email [info@rugbysda.org.uk](mailto:info@rugbysda.org.uk)

### 1st Dunchurch Scouts – Jim Reid

The 1st Dunchurch Scout Group was founded in December 1950 and in 1995, the group found themselves homeless when their hut was demolished as part of the redevelopment of the Dun Cow Hotel.

The scout committee of the day, headed by Chairman Jim Reid, faced the mammoth task of trying to find a new home and raising the considerable funds to build

it. Four hard-working years later, the new scout building in Done Cerce Close was officially opened on the 19th of September 1999 by Jim and Angus-Critchley Waring, the grandson of Lord Waring, who was a founding member of the scouts movement and past Dunchurch resident. The following month, Jim was awarded the Chief Scout's



Commendation for Good Service in recognition of his tireless work to bring the new build to fruition.

Sadly, Jim died in April of this year, just short of the 25th anniversary of the official opening but he has left a considerable legacy for the village and a lasting tribute to his hard work and that of his supporting committee.



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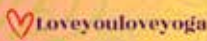
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## The Dunchurch Oak Line

By **Mike Judge MBE**

**G**ood news. Our oaks joined in the spring spectacular and suddenly the winter-bare branches were covered in fresh green leaves and the odd acorn and oak apple. They continue to flourish.

Recently, I had a meeting with Dunchurch Parish Council and the Oak Line Book is now available to view in the library in order for villagers, sponsors and supporters to read it and let me have their comments. With over 100 pages of photographs and text, it tells the story of the oaks and other significant trees in our village.

In addition, and thanks in particular to the work of Eric Ewington, we are pleased to announce the creation of an electronic version of the book which is now available and free to view on the FODS website under the archive section.

Meanwhile, take a look at the oak line on The Heath, from one end to the other and you will see the developing crescent we envisaged from the outset. Very exciting!



*Mike Judge and Cllr Jan Gee-Russell seated, library volunteers left, Ann Coomber Chair of DPC, and Jane and Eric Ewington*

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## FODS Make a Difference Group

By Sue Turner, Trustee

**T**he Friends of Dunchurch Society Make a Difference Group continue to meet nearly every Sunday to tidy the centre of the village. We work hard for about an hour and then enjoy refreshments and a catch up.

Joining the MAD group is a great way to meet new friends and a free way to keep fit! All that sweeping is good for the waistline and being part of the group gives people a sense of pride and satisfaction in keeping their village centre tidy. (Please note, you're not expected to come out with us every time!)

If you're not able to join us but would like to help, monetary donations are always gratefully received and we use this money to buy plants, plant food, compost, paint, water bowsers, food and drink for events, hall hire, Christmas lights... the list goes on!

Some people ask why we don't tidy in other parts of the village?

If we had more volunteers in our group we could do that. If you would like to join us

*Keeping public areas weed free and benches clean*



you would be made very welcome, no experience needed, you don't even need your own tools, although a pair of gloves and a rubbish bag is useful. For now, we concentrate our efforts on the centre of the village, the area we can all frequent and enjoy for

leisure and the part that is most visible to visitors or those passing through.

We thank the litter pickers seen on their walks around the village. Please help them by putting dropped litter in a bin, there's plenty of them around the centre of the village.

FODS first started tidying the centre of Dunchurch in spring 2019; we would like to continue doing so but we need to swell our numbers to keep the village looking beautiful for the benefit of those who live in, work in and visit Dunchurch.

Please email [fodsinbloom2019@gmail.com](mailto:fodsinbloom2019@gmail.com) for further information.

Thank you.



*It has been our privilege to host young people who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards under the guidance of our adult helpers*



*Just two of the 32 lamppost hanging baskets purchased with money from our fundraising events. To sponsor one please email the address below*

## Dunchurch Band

**D**unchurch Band rehearses on Tuesday evenings at the WI Hall on Southam Road, Dunchurch from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. New members are always welcome. If you play a brass instrument or have done in the past why not come along to a rehearsal?

### Dunchurch Training Band

If you are looking for a new hobby or have always wanted to play in a brass band we have a great opportunity for you. Our brand-new Training Band will start in the autumn school term. The Training Band is suitable for both adults and children 7 years of age and over, players grade 1–4 (or similar standard) and complete beginners. Please contact us for more information and to register for a place in the Training Band.

No instrument? No problem, the band has instruments available for members and Training Band members.

### Summer events

Dunchurch Band has had a busy summer. We enjoyed performing at Dunchurch Fete in June and were delighted to be asked to perform at Pershore Midsummer Brass Band Festival on Saturday 6th July. This is a prestigious event in the Brass Band calendar with 35 bands playing for 12 hours at four

*The band enjoying their music at the open rehearsal*



different locations around Pershore.

The band had two very successful pre-launch Training Band Taster Sessions, in June and July, attended by learners and beginners who enjoyed the events. In July, we held an open rehearsal at the village hall with lots of information and history about the band, instruments to try, guests invited to join in, and some delicious cakes.

### Autumn dates

Dunchurch Band's next performance will be at Abington Park in Northampton on Sunday 29th September 2024. The Band will also be playing in a concert at Dunchurch Baptist Church on Saturday 5th October 2024.

For more information contact Louise Balsom on **dunchurch.Band100@yahoo.com** or tel: 07548 276993

# VEGETABLES

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# Dunchurch Boughton C of E Infants Academy and Nursery

**By Suzanne Marson, Headteacher**



**A**t the time of writing, we have just finished the 2023–24 school year. The staff and children have worked really hard and it is now time to reflect on the year and have a well-earned rest!

We have a lot to celebrate from the last academic year. The children have been their usual amazing selves and continue to embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity. Along with day-to-day learning, opportunities for the children in the summer term have included trips to Warwick Castle, Coombe Abbey and Mini Meadows, and a visit into Rugby to take part in the Festival on the Close. The year two children ended the year with an amazing play, which left many parents (and staff!) with a tear in their eye. They then celebrated their time at the infants with a maypole event. There are already exciting trips planned in the autumn with year two planning to take part in a Victorian Christmas at St John's Museum, and the whole school visiting Warwick Arts Centre at Christmas.

We are developing a new library space within school and hope that it will be completed over the next term. A huge thank you to the Boughton Trust and our PTA for helping with fundraising and donating funds.

With the support of Helen Bryant, Trust Chaplain, we have created a new school vision 'Roots to grow. Wings to fly.' to represent our aims for the children. The vision is based upon the parable of The Mustard Seed. In the parable, the mustard tree grows and many birds rest in the branches, representing a welcome home for all, just as we aim to be for all children and families. The mustard seeds start from small beginnings and grow into large bushes, as our children who join us as small nursery children grow over their time into our older children, who are then ready to spread their wings and fly onto their next stage of education at the juniors.

At the end of this academic year, we need to say thank you to many people. Thank you to the children – it is always a privilege to be a part of a child's educational journey. Thank you to the staff who always go above and beyond and are part of what makes Dunchurch Boughton C of E Infant Academy a special place to be. To our parents and amazing PTA and Governor volunteers, thank you for your never-ending support. Last but not least, thank you to everyone within the Dunchurch community who supports the school and enables our children to grow and flourish. We really do appreciate it.

## Second World War Memorial Book

In St Peter's Church is a memorial book for men from the Parish of Dunchurch & Thurlaston who were killed in WW2. It was presented by Mrs Mary Miller in memory of her husband, Colonel Alexander Miller, Royal Artillery & RAOC, who lived from 1912 to 1992.

It opens with bible verses from John, Chapter 15:12,13, 'This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'

Along with the dates on which they died, there are photographs of these men: Edward Henry Colledge, Thomas Sullivan, Albert Packer, Denis Roy Miles, Stanley Brett, Desmond Mitchell, Peter Joseph Gray, Rowland James Borton, Alfred Matthews, Arthur Bernard Commons, Joseph John Hirons, Donald Price and

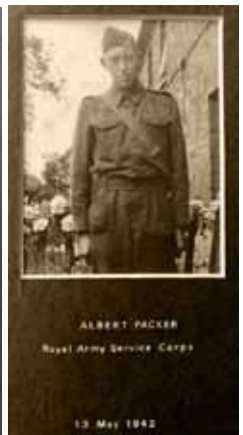
William George Walden.

However, also named in the book are Donald Bell, Clifford Fulsher, William Sims and John Henry Warren, but sadly there are no photographs of them. We find that Donald served in the Royal Engineers and died on 29th September 1947 and John in the RAF, dying on 19th September 1939.

If anyone could supply photographs of these four men, or dates of death for Clifford and William, Chris Sarson would be grateful to receive them at St Peter's, so that the memorial can be more complete.

Pop into the church any day between 10am and 4pm to have a look at the book which is displayed in a glass case in the North Nave.

*Below, just a small selection of photographs of those who gave their lives*



## St Peter's Church

**By Nicky Lowe, Joint Churchwarden**

**O**n 14th July we said goodbye to Vicar Pat in an emotional service celebrating her seven years as our priest, and wishing her and her husband Graham a very happy retirement in Malvern. The church was packed with well-wishers, and the church social group laid on a splendid home-cooked lunch.

While Pat, and Graham who was also a tower of strength as a church volunteer, will be sadly missed, the team at St Peter's is gearing up to running the church's functions during the process of appointing a new Vicar.

All spiritual needs will continue to be met with communion services and special events such as weddings, baptisms and funerals presided over by a rota of local retired vicars. Indeed, St Peter's is blessed with two already as members of the congregation: the Revds Hilary and Rosemary. That also means that home visits to administer communion and to offer much-needed comfort in times of illness and bereavement will continue.



There is a committed lay team of volunteers at St Peter's who will also continue to keep the life of the church going. Even if you are not a



*Some of the volunteers who keep the church running*

churchgoer, you may have met

some of us already: the social group who run the Beech Tree Café in the church on the first Tuesday of each month; the churchyard gardening team; the stalwarts of the bottle stall at the fete; the organisers of the fund-raising concerts in the church (the next Espresso Concert is on Saturday 14th December!). You will have heard St Peter's superb bell-ringers.

Weddings, baptisms and funerals in the church, and ashes' interments will continue, as will the Remembrance Sunday service, and other events in the church calendar. Liaison with our Dunchurch schools will also continue.

There has been a church on the site of St Peter's for 1000 years, and in medieval times the churchyard hosted the lively village market until it got too lively! The two churchwardens (Celia Jones and I), the Parochial Church Council and all the helpers mentioned above regard it as a privilege to be part of its ongoing history.

If you'd like to contact us please email on **[dunchurchstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:dunchurchstpeters@gmail.com)**

# Dunchurch Baptist Church

**By Reverend Alistair Jones**

Life is continually changing. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was the grandchild being spoilt by my grandmother. Now I am the grandad spoiling my grandchildren. In that time, governments have come and gone, houses have been built and village life changed. As we consider the changes that have happened in our lifetime, some of them have been for better, while others we consider for worse.

In all these changes, there are things that are unchanging. A verse in the Bible puts some of these things in the context of a promise from God. It says 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.' While this summer may not have been very good, it was still a British summer with the longer light evenings. For those who are gardeners, the time of sowing and planting has past and we are now in the season of harvest. We are reaping the fruit of our labour, thanks to the promise of God to His creation.

Nowadays, the season of harvest is not celebrated in the way it was when I was a child. There are several reasons behind this, one of which is that not so many people are involved in farming these days. As we benefit from efficient machinery



*Changes – Dunchurch Baptist Church then and now*



doing a lot of the hard work, farming is no longer as labour intensive as it was. Yet we still give thanks for the food in the shops and God supplying our daily bread. Therefore, we will be holding our harvest thanksgiving service on the 29th September, 10.30 am at Dunchurch Baptist Church. It will be a family service and all are welcome to come and celebrate the faithfulness of God displayed in the harvest.

The following Saturday, 5th October, we will be holding a 'Broadway and Brass Goes to the Movies' evening. It will start at 7.30pm and the cost of the tickets will be £7. Tickets are available on the door for both cash and card. This will be a fun evening listening to the Dunchurch band playing various hits from the movies. Refreshments will be served and I am confident that these will include cake in various forms. You will be very welcome at either or both of these events.



## CALENDAR FOR 2025

Dunchurch Allotment Association's 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.



Now available in local shops for just £7  
(same price as 2023!)  
or email **dunchurchallotments.org.uk**  
to order a copy.

### Magazine Pick-up Points

Extra copies available at:

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

## Advertising rates

Professionally delivered to homes and businesses in Dunchurch Village including Toft, Lime Tree Village, Dunchurch Hall and also Onley Park. Over 1400 copies distributed each quarter, with an estimated readership of 3000.

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To place an order email **fodsads1@gmail.com**

Deadline for December 2024 issue: 31 October 2024

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# Dunchurch Community Directory

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| Badminton Group   | Dunchurch Village Hall, Monday 7.30pm  | judge.patricia@googlemail.com<br>Pat Judge 01788 810253  |
| Beavers   | Boys and girls aged 5¾ – 8<br>Mondays & Tuesdays, Scout hut, Done<br>Cerce Close   | www.dunscout.org.uk<br>join@dunscout.org.uk  |
| Cubs  | Boys and girls aged 8 – 10½ Wednesdays<br>at the Scout hut, Done Cerce Close.  | www.dunscout.org.uk<br>join@dunscout.org.uk  |
| District of<br>Dunchurch Brass  | Wednesdays 7.45–10pm, Band Room, 15<br>Rugby Road, CV22 6GP  | Lorraine Goodacre 07963 144704<br>Gary Smallwood 07876 688210<br>www.districtofdunchurchbrass2006-web.info   |
| Dunchurch Allotment<br>Association  | Situated on Coventry Rd  | www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk<br>admin@dunchurchallotments.org.uk<br>Secretary Paul Sanders 01788 811744  |
| Dunchurch<br>Bellringers  | St. Peter's Church. Sunday Service ringing<br>9.50-10.30am, Practice, Wed 7.45-9pm   | Tower Captain Simon Benton, 07890<br>325434 simon.j.benton@gmail.com   |
| Dunchurch and<br>Bilton Cricket Club  | Based as Dunchurch Village Hall<br>Rugby Rd.   | https://dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com   |
| Dunchurch and<br>Thurlaston WI  | Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month,<br>2pm , WI Hall, Southam Rd.   | Anne Gilbert 01788 811837<br>annegilbert1@hotmail.com  |
| Dunchurch Band  | Senior and training band   | www.dunchurchband.co.uk<br>dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com   |
| Dunchurch Baptist<br>Church   | Baptist Church, Coventry Road.   | www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk<br>Elders, Chris Tabor 07899 841279, Katie<br>Wederell 01788 842736, 07515 472578,<br>Katie.w@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk<br>church secretary Sarah Coulon Sarah.c@<br>dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk |
| Dunchurch Boughton<br>C of E (VA) Junior<br>School                                | Primary education situated in Dew<br>Close   | www.dunchurchjuniorschool.org.uk<br>admin3391@welearn365.com<br>01788 811028   |
| Dunchurch<br>Community Library  | School Street<br>Open Tues, Thur, Fri 10am - 5pm and<br>Sat 10am to noon   | www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dunchurchlibrary<br>dunchurchcommunitylibrary@btconnect.com<br>01788 811355  |
| Dunchurch Festival<br>Group   | Organise fete and other events.<br>Meetings third Monday of each month<br>7.30pm at the village hall   | www.dunchurchevents.org<br>Chair Guy Watt gwattdfg@gmail.com<br>Secretary Julie Peters juliepeters91@<br>hotmail.co.uk   |
| Dunchurch<br>Girlguiding including:<br>1st Rainbows<br>3rd Brownies<br>1st Guides | GirlGuiding girls have fun, adventure and<br>space to discover their potential<br>Age 5 – 7 yrs. Wed 3.45 – 4.45 pm<br>Age 7 – 10 yrs. Wed 5.00 – 6.30pm<br>Age 10 - 14 yrs. Wed 6.45 – 8.15pm | www.girlguiding.org.uk is where parents/<br>carers may express their daughters'<br>interest in joining. Adult volunteers<br>welcomed.  |

|                                     |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Dunchurch Health Walks              | Tuesday 2pm, Friday 10.30am<br>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<br>01788 810292   |
| Dunchurch Pantomaniacs              | Organise and perform village panto in January. Rehearsals begin October.   | paul.lepoidevin@btinternet.com<br>sueprotheroe@gmail.com   |
| Dunchurch Parish Council            | PC office based in the Library.<br>Open Tuesday and Thursdays<br>10am – 1.00pm   | clerk@dunchurchpc.org<br>01788 817550 or 07474 705061  |
| Dunchurch Photographic Society      | Meetings held at WI Hall, Southam Road   | www.dunchurchps.com<br>secretary@dunchurchps.com   |
| Dunchurch Surgery                   | Dunsmore Heath (off Rugby Rd)  | www.dunchurchsurgery.warwickshire.nhs.uk<br>01788 522448   |
| Dunchurch Village Hall              | Rugby Road   | bookings@dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk<br>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<br>join@dunscout.org.uk  |
| Friends of Dunchurch Society        | Organises Britain in Bloom and Winter Wonderland<br>Produces the village magazine  | info@vghrugby.co.uk<br>07837 182114<br>fodnews1@gmail.com  |
| Heart of England Bridge Club        | EBU Affiliated. Three pairs sessions and one practice session weekly. Lessons and courses also offered. Held in club room, Dunchurch Village Hall. | www.heartofenglandbridge.co.uk<br>heartofenglandbridge@gmail.co.uk<br>07710 467023   |
| Knowing Stillness Meditation        | Dunchurch Library<br>10am Wednesday  | Jim Hesketh 01788 891066   |
| Rugby About Turn                    | Newsletters on local development   | richardallanach@aol.com  |
| St Peter's Church                   |  | Churchwardens:<br>Veronica Lowe 01788 815861<br>Celia Jones 01788 314564<br><br>St Edmund's Thurlaston Deputy Churchwarden:<br>Brian Bowsher 01788 812094<br>dunchurchstpeters@gmail.com |

To make any amendments or to add your Dunchurch-based, non-commercial club or organisation, please email  
**friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com**

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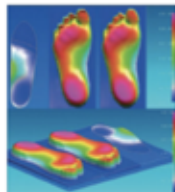
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