



DUNCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

JUNE 2019

ISSUE 3

Dunchurch Fete

Fairy Tales
Scary Tales...

Saturday 15th June

Procession 12.30pm

Gates open 1.00pm

Dunchurch Village Hall



DUNCHURCH IN BLOOM JUDGING FRIDAY 19TH JULY

PRODUCED BY FRIENDS OF DUNCHURCH SOCIETY

www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org

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FODS News – Welcome

Welcome to the third issue of our FODS village magazine packed with interesting historical items and more details of FODS Neighbourhood Watch scheme and Dunchurch in Bloom. On this subject, we would love to showcase the talents of the youngsters of the village and invite youth groups and individuals to make a 'Guy' for display outside Guy Fawkes House on judging day, **Friday 19th July**. Be as creative as you like and the one judged to be the best will receive a



£10 FODS book voucher. Register your interest for this and receive 'drop off' information by emailing us.

In the meantime, don't forget to go along and support the DFG village fete on **Saturday 15th June**. Offers of help on the day would also be appreciated by the organisers. Contact Rob on 01788 817307. See you there, we've ordered the sunshine!

FODS Fundraising

In March, we held an auction of promises to raise funds in support of our entry into Rugby in Bloom and the Heart of England in Bloom initiatives. The evening which was entitled Prosecco, Puddings, Promises and Performance delivered on every level as fizz flowed, delicious desserts were devoured, promises were bought and a performance by the ladies of Dunchurch Voices entertained. Compere and auctioneer for the evening Mr Neil Stevenson brought a splash of colour to the occasion as he 'flew the flag' for FODS by dressing in a very stylish Union Jack jacket. Using a mixture of dry wit and repartee together with just a 'smidge' of wonderful sarcasm, Neil teased and cajoled folk

into relieving themselves of hard-earned cash as every item on offer was sold.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who donated items for the auction. However, final thanks must go to Carol Seager and her team who worked so hard to make the event such a success and in the process, raised £2,467 for funds.

Stay Informed

Don't forget, if you want to join us or just receive our regular newsletter, visit our website www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org or just pop in to the Village Green Hotel and register your interest. We will also be running a stall at this year's fete so please stop by, say hello and find out more about FODS. More about the fete on page 9.

FODS Goes International!

Question. What does our village have in common with Ontario, Canada?

Answer. We both have a village called Dunchurch.

Just before Christmas, we sent a letter of friendship to Mayor Chris Armstrong of the Municipality of Whitestone, Canada and have been delighted to receive his response, two small paragraphs of which are below.

'It is not by accident that our little village got its name. The founders of our village were George Kelcey and his wife Lucy Ann Manning, both of whom had been born in Rugby, Warwickshire, England.

George was appointed Post Master on 1st

October 1875. It was he who changed the name of the new community from Newcombe to Dunchurch after his ancestral home.'

Mayor Armstrong's letter gives a fascinating insight to the founding of Dunchurch, Canada, and may be found in full on our website. For now, we leave the final words to Mayor Armstrong. 'We truly wish the Friends of Dunchurch Society every success in your many ventures. We look forward to an ongoing association with your Society.'



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Copy Deadlines

September edition	2nd August
December edition	1st November



*Looking good!
Bench repair arranged and funded by the Parish Council.*

Magazine Pickup Points

We are most grateful to the following who have agreed to be a regular pick up point for our magazine: Post Office, Rugby Road Newsagents, Dunchurch Garage, Methodist/Baptist Church, Lime Tree Village, Library and Village Hall. This makes us accessible to even those from outside the village.

Friends of Dunchurch Society Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

by Keith Brushett, NHW coordinator

FODS is slowly growing in membership and helping to bring the community together and by the end of November 2018 it became clear that it would enhance the organisation's aims of a safer and friendlier community by joining a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Application was made to join the National and the Rugby Borough NHW group of which we are now a part. This includes links with the local Warwickshire Community Police team, Warwickshire crime reports and Warwickshire Rural NHW from which local crime



information is received and circulated, together with crime prevention advice, details of internet scams and issues concerning the local community. This is done by email, Facebook and on the dedicated NHW page on the FODS website.

This year FODS and the NHW group will be attending the Dunchurch Fete on Saturday 15th June. Rugby Borough NHW will provide a stand and trailer display with information on NHW, crime prevention and security advice together with stickers and leaflets, plus there will be useful security devices on sale.

In the future, the NHW section plans to hold an open meeting for residents in partnership with Rugby Borough NHW and the local police to talk about NHW and crime prevention matters.

To keep fully up to date, please visit FODS website or Facebook page whenever you can.

If any members have questions in relation to NHW or crime prevention please visit the NHW page on the web site, post your comment on the facebook page, or email fods.nhwatch@friendsofdunchurchsociety.org

Cross Roads Modification

The Parish Council inform us, 'We have been in negotiations with the Ashlawn Road developers to discuss their proposals for the modifications to the Dun Cow crossroads. Although there is still considerable ground to cover, importantly for Rugby in Bloom, we have agreed with the developers in the interim to modify their schedule of works and delay the proposed start on the crossroads which was late June or early July to September or October.'

Obviously, this is good news and the absence of roadworks will help to make the centre of the village as attractive as possible for the 'In Bloom' judges, and as the Parish Council also points out, will not impinge on the fete day procession.

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Opening hours are Monday - Friday 9.00-4.00 and Saturday 10.00-1.00. See items for sale on our ebay site rugby-bareboards-trust

Dunchurch in Bloom

The excitement is really mounting now as we head towards Friday 19th July, 'judgment day' for our entry into Heart of England in Bloom. You may have seen our volunteers out and about in their FODS yellow high viz jackets, all armed with a variety of items to help litter pick and generally tidy the village. We would like to express our thanks to them and to the traders and village centre residents who have signed up for over 70 fabulous RIMO hanging baskets, all of which will help make Dunchurch bloom. We are also grateful to the Dunchurch Festival Group and the Pantomaniacs who have donated £500 and £250 respectively to this project and to several village organisations (including the residents of The Sands on Daventry



Road) who are also supporting us by providing planted wheelbarrows which will be placed at strategic places on the judge's route. (It's not too late to join in and plant your own wheelbarrow. Contact Tony or Sue Kember at friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com for further information.)

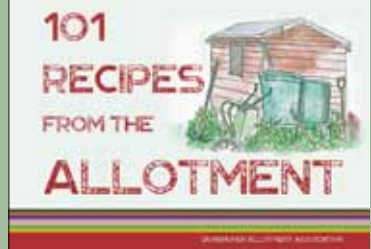
Judging day will begin with a brief reception for the judges at the Dun Cow (thank you to the manager and staff for being so hospitable) and will include a visual display of a year in the life of our village as well as historical photos. The judges will be escorted at 9am to the Alms Houses to see the fabulous yarn bombing created by the WI, floral displays and a wonderful FODS recycling



The FODS gardening group has been doing sterling work around the village in recent weeks

project created by a local artist. They will listen to interesting facts delivered by children from the village schools about the history of the war memorial, the Old School House, St Peter's Church and Guy Fawkes House. (We understand that Guy Fawkes himself will be making an appearance!) From here, the party will cross to The Square, past the decorated Market Cross to the stocks green to see more floral displays, recycling projects and a surprise or two. Please excuse the pun but we want to keep our 'powder dry' to add to the excitement of the occasion! However, there will be much on offer to see and enjoy and it would be wonderful if residents would come along between 9 and 10am and show support

for our efforts. We are so fortunate to live in a beautiful, historical village with such a vibrant and active community and we want to showcase it all to the judges on the day. Green fingers crossed everyone for an award-winning outcome.



Look out for this cookbook inspired by all the wonderful fruit and vegetables grown on the Dunchurch allotments.

On sale at the fete and various outlets in the village from 15th June.

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Dunchurch Festival Group History

For many years now, the DFG has been bringing a variety of events to the village and in doing so, raised many thousands of pounds for the benefit of the community. It has given life to other organisations such as the Dunchurch Pantomaniacs and the Dunchurch Players, and we are pleased to focus on the group in support of their work and forthcoming village fete. Our thanks to Paul Smith and Ann Wright for their help with this feature.

The Dunchurch Festival Committee was founded in 1975 by local businessman Geoff Mousley. Previously, all local organisations had their own fundraising events. Geoff's intention was that all the organisations should combine and have a week-long festival and then divide the proceeds among themselves. The first fete was opened by Bill Maynard and the second by Chris Tarrant. Although some were doubtful about paying a celebrity to do this, Geoff always thought big, and generally was proved right.

At that time there was no hall large enough to host the events so a marquee and portable toilets were hired and placed on the sports field. A huge amount of work was involved in setting up the marquee, electrics, installing fridges and freezers, collecting and erecting staging, tables, chairs, and the bar. The

week's events included a very popular jumble sale, the famous Dunchurch Disco and the Ladies fashion show. The week finished with

the procession, fete and evening dance. Each event needed to have the marquee set up, dressed and then stripped down at the end ready for the next day. Very tiring work! It is little surprise then that some years later it was largely Festival members, led by Marilyn Greenwood, who took on the challenge of building a new village hall. A temporary change to donations was made giving 75% of funds to the village hall campaign and 25% to other organisations. This ceased once the hall was built.

Ann Wright remembers some of the highlights from those earlier years. 'The procession rivalled Rugby Carnival, as most of the village organisations entered a float. We always had a marching band along with vintage cars, motor bikes and farming equipment. Always colourful, always noisy, always great! Starting at the junior school it wound its way to the sports field. Common sense prevailed and although we had some very excited children on the floats, we always took

Fun at last year's fete



precautions to ensure they were safe. It is such a shame that regulations have stopped that from happening now.

Sadly, due to cost and time restraints, we had to reduce the Festival to just the fete day held at the junior school, and other village sites for events scattered throughout the year. However, this ensured the continuation of Festival and once the village hall had been built, we were able to move back on to the sports field.'

For some years the festival group also organised the bonfire night Festival of Fire, involving a 'wifty lantern' procession through the village to Done Cerce playing field where on the first occasion, a huge structure in the shape of the Houses of Parliament was burned! Ann remembers, 'Before the event we held workshops at the old Youth Centre in Daventry Road, where we made the lanterns and shadow play puppets. (We were fortunate to have an excellent Area Youth Leader in the village, Frank Redfern, who was invaluable with his help and contacts.) On the day, we had to strip the turf from the playing field where the bonfire would be built from pallets. These were covered with cardboard and painted before burning. Fireworks, soup and hot dogs followed. The following days we returned the field to its former state using a magnet to pick up any nails and then relaying the

turf. It was sad when we were unable to continue but it became too expensive and again Health and Safety and other regulations made it too difficult.'

Over the years, the format for Festival may have changed but the ethos remains the same. It promotes social cohesion and provides entertainment and funds for village groups. Current Chair Rob Collings and his team work hard to maintain the group's success and are determined to maintain the spectacle of a roadway procession, so have trained some of the team to comply with current regulations and have obtained permission for a short Rugby Road closure.



Dunchurch Fete
Fairy Tales
Scary Tales...
Saturday 15th June

Procession 12.30pm Gates open 1.00pm

Dunchurch Village Hall

Admission
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 Children age 5 - 12 years 50p
 Under 5s and anyone in fancy dress FREE

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Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall

By Paul Smith

Dunchurch Sportsfield in Rugby Road was conveyed to a charity of that name by Baron Waring on the 2nd March 1929 for sporting purposes. It was administered by three trustees, two nominated by the owner of 'White Lodge' in Vicarage Lane and one by the clubs who used the field. (White Lodge was occupied by Baron Waring's daughter until about 1970.) In 1987 the Charity Commission made a new scheme to govern the sportsfield and under it the field was to be administered by a committee which had representatives from the Cricket and Football Clubs and the Parish Council.

Dunchurch Village Hall Charity owned the old village hall on Daventry Road. The site was donated on 6th March 1936 by The Dunchurch Lodge Stud Company which still exists but does not operate locally. The hall was of wooden construction and by the mid-sixties was little used so the trustees leased it to WCC for use as a youth club, although it remained available for hire.

Around 2000, Marilyn Greenwood with the backing of Dunchurch Parish Council formed a committee to investigate the possibility of building a modern



and practical village hall. Marilyn and a representative from the WCC Estates Department searched the village to find a suitable site. An approach had already been made to Dunchurch Sportsfield, but initially permission for a new building had been declined. The most likely site identified was the old County Council depot in Southam Road but the County Council would only sell at full residential value, about £500,000.

An idea formed to terminate the WCC lease of the Daventry Road hall and apply for planning permission to build two or three houses on the site to raise funds. The Village Hall and Sportsfield charities could then merge and use the money towards building a new hall and changing rooms on the Rugby Road site.

Dunchurch Cricket Club was the most active of the sports clubs, and had done a lot of work in maintaining the sports field and had erected a pavilion with changing rooms, but by 2000 these were in rather a sorry state. The trustees of the two charities agreed a merger

although there were some issues to overcome with the Cricket Club who would lose their facilities. However, they were persuaded to agree in return for improved amenities. The Charity Commission made a scheme on the 25th January 2002 merging the two charities and creating the Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall.

Raising funds was a challenge but selling the Daventry Road site raised £296,000, giving a good start. (The deeds relating to this site had a restrictive covenant against its use for any purpose other than that of a village hall but this was overcome by a technical point and a single premium insurance policy for £750.) Funds were raised by local appeals but the majority came from such bodies as County, Borough and Parish Council and Entrust, which distributed the Landfill Community Fund. The late Councillor Gordon Collett was most helpful in getting money from the local authorities, and phase I of the project started in January 2003 and was opened by Gordon Collett on 13th December 2003.



Main hall prepared for wedding reception

At this stage, the Cricket Club had lost their lounge but were still using their old changing rooms. Further fundraising took place to build the new changing rooms and the County Council gave £150,000 to build what is now the Club Room but was originally a room for the youth club. The new facilities were opened in May 2005 and the entire project erected without borrowing any money, at a total cost of about £750,000. The original budget included £10,000 to cover the initial running costs but this was never needed as the premises were well used from day one.

The current committee members are largely active retired people. About half were involved from the beginning before the premises were built. Most of the trustees are 'hands on' but are not getting any younger! If anyone is prepared to become a trustee and give a bit of time towards keeping this well-used facility going, please contact jane.bookings@dunchurchsports-andvillagehall.co.uk or 01788 522444. You can also get further information from the Charity's website on www.dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 519906

Look out for the next Dunchurch Festival Event

20th and 21st September, 'Whisking Eggs' by Jackie Lines – An all female cast perform this one-act adult-only play

Dunchurch Pantomaniacs

By **Paul Le Poidevin, Director**

January 2019 saw the 30th Anniversary performances of Billy the Kid – ‘a rooting, tooting wild west romp!’ Hundreds of people from far and wide travelled to the Village Hall to see this World Premiere written by Sue Protheroe, and messages of support were received from national treasure Joanna Lumley and local celebrity Arthur Bostrom.

A dedicated band of 60 people came together for four months to bring Billy the Kid to life to the enjoyment of all who attended. Laughter echoed around the hall when the bandits were ‘comically’ blown up and the effects of many baked beans were heard! Hearts swooned when the love birds became engaged and Dame Fanny Oakley was soon to become Dame Fanny Saddlesore!

A shadow play, lighting, sound effects, songs, words said with meaning, jokes, innuendo, similes, wonderful costumes, props, backdrops, voices from the sky – the panto had it all.

The after-show party saw the awarding of the traditional DAFTA’s – Dunchurch Amateur Footlights and Thespians Awards – a mix between the Oscars and the Raspberries.



The group welcomed a number of new people this year. New talent, both on and off stage, is always welcome. If you would like to know more about the Pantomaniacs, please email sueprotheroe@gmail.com or paul.lepoidevin@btopenworld.com. Look out for our stall at the Dunchurch Fete on 15th June. We especially welcome children and young people into the group.

The proceeds of this year’s pantomime were just over £3,000 and we continue to support charities or individuals associated with Dunchurch. Requests for assistance should be sent to paul.lepoidevin@btopenworld.com. All requests will be looked at sensitively and in confidence. We have been pleased to provide items in the past such as a disability scooter, wheelchair, equipment for hospital/doctor’s surgeries plus support for the Air Ambulance and other groups.

Please continue to support the Dunchurch Pantomaniacs by getting involved or coming to see the performances. That way we can look forward to another 30 years!

Montessori Method

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concentration and the development of relationships at all levels – all

essential ingredients for the successful development of the child. The practical life exercises will help them to cope with buttons, zips and laces and with pouring their own drinks, carrying trays, cleaning up spills and sweeping. They will learn to be independent and self-confident; your child's peg will be placed low-down so they can hang up their coat, activities are put out on low shelves, so they can take them out and put them back. We encourage each child to help each other; 'help me do it for myself' is one of Maria Montessori's most repeated sayings.

Our whole aim is to create a calm, happy environment where the children are free to develop, learn and grow at their own pace making sure that they are meeting their true potential.

Doctors in Dunchurch 1930–1940

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

Dr Reginald Edmondson replaced Dr Powell in 1930 to become the 'Country Partner' of the Rugby medical firm of Hoskyn, Wheeler, Roche, Lloyd & Edmondson. While the others were physicians and surgeons at St Cross hospital, Dr Edmondson was an ENT surgeon in Coventry where he operated each week as well as providing medical care to Dunchurch and the surrounding villages. There was a morning surgery in Dunchurch six days a week and visits to the other villages. He was also permanently on call.

The morning surgeries were held in a room at his home, Dunsmore House in Dunchurch, originally The Bell, a former Georgian coaching inn on The Green. The venue flourished during the 1930s, but the war changed everything.

On the evening of 19th November 1940, at the height of the Coventry bombing raids, Dr Edmondson stood at the front door watching formations of German planes sweeping towards the blazing city. The sky was bright with parachute flares and puffs of smoke from anti-aircraft salvoes. Suddenly he heard the unmistakable whine of a bomb



Dunsmore House (3 storey, centre) 1930s, (inset) the ruined house after the bomb, 1940

coming down and threw himself flat in the passage. The bomb hit the house and the blast demolished two thirds of the building behind. He was rescued from the wreckage but emerged smiling and immediately went to help rescue men buried in the working-men's club opposite his own shattered house. His wife and two-year-old son, Philip, and a nurse were in a reinforced old stone meat store at the back which resisted the explosion and were also unscathed. His wife recalled that rather than the blast of the bomb, the worst experience was the subsequent sound of crumbling and collapsing masonry all around.

The next morning with the house in ruins and the front door hanging half from its frame, a patient raised the knocker and politely enquired at what time the surgery would be held that day!

The answer will follow in the next instalment...

With sincere thanks and acknowledgements to Dr Philip Edmondson.



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Who's on the phone?

Imagine it is 2006 and you are sitting at home when the telephone rings. Your husband answers and tells you 'the MP Roy Hattersley is on the phone for you!' 'Pull the other one' would most probably be your response but indeed, Roy Hattersley did want to talk to Freda Bennett about her fabulous booklet *A Glimpse into the Past – A Brief History of the Village of Dunchurch*. The following article which appeared in the *Daily Mail* in September 2006 is as a result of that telephone call and a subsequent meeting between Freda and the MP who visited Dunchurch to meet her. The article brings us right up to date by describing eloquently what FODS is once again trying to achieve for our village, especially with our Dunchurch in Bloom project. Freda's booklet which was published by the Dunchurch and Thurlaston WI is once again on sale in the village post office and the Rugby Road Newsagent priced at £3.50.

FODS is grateful to Lord Hattersley for giving permission to print his article in full.



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Daily Mail, Tuesday, September 12, 2000

ersley ENGLAND

Princess, a plot and or's death



DUNCHURCH in Warwickshire, an ancient village which was built around the crossroads where the highways from Holyhead to London and Leicester to Oxford meet.

Public houses, which were once coaching inns — The Dun Cow, The Green Man and The Bull — are what remains from the good old days, when every house in the centre of the village offered bed and breakfast — and some of them a good deal more.

Now the village — although regularly disturbed by the articulated lorries that follow the routes stagecoaches once travelled — is proper as well as prosperous.

During the 1990s, it was twice voted Best Kept Village in England (large village class) and last year it was the regional champion. Parish minutes recall that 'Councillor Millar deserves praise for being a major moving force' behind the efforts that secured the title.

Now Dunchurch almost unnaturally free from litter and festooned with fierce signs about the iniquity, as well as the penal consequences, of dog fouling — waits and hopes for another tribute to its pride. While it waits, it celebrates its past.

Dunchurch takes its history very seriously. It is so determined to maintain its venerable appearance that some of its recently-built houses have been given thatched roofs. And the maypole, which must at least be a contender for the title of tallest in Britain, was still swaying in the breeze last week.

Dunchurch looks, and is, expensive. It is hard to imagine it welcoming a posse of Sunday afternoon bikers or catering for the Saturday night disco trade.

Yet although it is sedate, it is certainly not stuffy. Like all proper English villages, it has a statue of its major benefactor — Lord John Douglas Montague Scott — on its green.

AND every Christmas, Lord John is dressed up to look like a famous figure of the moment. In his time, he has played Harry Potter, a Wembley and Martin Johnson, the captain of England's World Cup-winning rugby team.

All in all, Dunchurch is the sort of village in which the Women's Institute thrives. But the local branch (organised in cooperation with nearby Thurstleton) is living proof that the WI does more than make cakes and arrange flowers.

Freda Bennett, the retired headteacher of a primary school who is described as The History Group Member, has written a brief history of the village.

It ends with a note on the WI. Its forte used to be glove-making — gloves with flaps which could be lifted so that wristwatches could be consulted, and gloves, between the wars, for the Queen of Spain and

the Prince of Wales. Few villages in England can boast the history which is set out in Freda Bennett's *A Glimpse Into The Past*.

Dunchurch is recorded in the *Domesday Book*, and the conspirators who planned the Gunpowder Plot met under cover of a Dunsmore Heath hunting match to wait for news from London that the King and Parliament had been blown to eternity.

Their plan was to abduct the Princess Elizabeth from nearby Combe Abbey, spirit her away to France, marry her to a Catholic prince and declare the throne of England loyal to the Pope and Rome.

They received the news of the plot's failure in what was then the Red Lion Inn — now called Guy Fawkes House. The conspirators died traitors' deaths and Princess Elizabeth met a barely better fate.

HAVING been touted around Europe as the prospective bride of heirs to royal houses which might make alliances with England, she married Frederic of Bohemia.

Because she accepted the indignities with good grace, she became the first Queen of Hearts.

Dunchurch's pride in its long list of distinguished visitors leads it to regard the village smithy — now a private house — as a literary landmark.

The spreading chestnut tree which stands beside it is said to have inspired Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem about the blacksmith with 'large and sinewy hands' and 'muscles of his brawny arms'. Are strong as iron bands?

Nobody seems to know what brought Longfellow to Dunchurch. But the village boasts, with admirably indiscriminate pleasure, about the galaxy of famous figures who have tramped its streets.

Princess Diana rates alongside Dick Turpin, and Winston Churchill is on par with William Webb Ellis, who, 'by picking up the ball and running with it', created the game to which nearby Rugby School gave its name.

The Stevensons — father and son — celebrated the completion of the Birmingham to London railway in The Dun Cow, a hotel which once had stabling for 40 pairs of horses.

It is named — perhaps inappropriately for such a hospitable public house — after a monster which terrorised the village until slain (monsters are never just killed) by Guy of Warwick. The variation on the George and the Dragon theme is not original.

But the Dunchurch lampposts are unique. Cast-iron flowers twine around them from top to bottom. Perhaps more than anything else about the village, they represent its blend of pride in the past and confidence about the present.

Last Friday, when the Women's Institute book was launched in the local library, the village was clearly — and with much justification — feeling very pleased with itself.



Roy Hattersley outside the Dun Cow with Freda's booklet



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Our Aim

Our aim at The Rugby Montessori Nursery School and Bambinis Pre-Nursery is to provide a totally happy, child-centred environment, where we make each child feel special, secure and valued. We have a strong, knowledgeable and supportive team that is totally committed to providing a high level of care and Montessori education, keeping the needs of each child at the heart of everything we do.

Places from
JULY
2019

We acknowledge that every child is unique and offer babies and young children the opportunity to explore, experiment and make choices through the Montessori learning environment both indoors and outdoors using the beautiful grounds we are situated in. Providing a place for our little ones to play, learn and discover, whilst building trusting relationships and keeping them safe, happy and healthy.

The Rugby Montessori Nursery School and Bambinis Pre-Nursery recognises the importance of parents as partners and working in partnership with the community.

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A warm, caring environment in a beautiful setting



Places from
SEPTEMBER
2019



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For children aged 2-2.6yrs

&

DAISIES

For children aged 2.6-3.6 yrs

A happy, homely atmosphere introducing the children to the early Montessori Method of Teaching and equipment, preparing them for the two pre-school rooms – Yellow and Stepping Stones.

STEPPING STONES & YELLOW ROOM

For children aged 3-5 years.

This is where the children are free to discover and learn using the Montessori Method and teaching equipment. Our aim is to give each child the confidence and skills to prepare them for an easy transfer to big school.

- We participate in Nursery Education Funding for 3 and 4 year olds.
- We are an Ofsted outstanding setting.

"It is the aim of our school to create a happy, caring, structured environment where our children are free to learn, to play, to discover and to grow."

Jane Garland Head Teacher

Call 01788 811218 for more information and a prospectus. Book a visit today.

For children from 6 months to 5 years



Open Studios

This June will see local artists from Dunchurch and the surrounding area gather to show their work during Warwickshire Open Studios fortnight. With 26 artists signed up for the event in the centre of Dunchurch, it promises to be a great venue to visit. This will be a chance to meet the artists, see them at work and get inspiration from the wide variety of art forms on display. Displaying in three venues right in the centre of the village – The Old Post Office, Fosse House Gallery and Inglenook – for 7 days in June: Saturdays 15th, 22nd, 29th, Sundays 16th, 23rd and Wednesdays 19th and 26th, from 10.30 am to 4.00pm. Everyone welcome.

DUNCHURCH LIBRARY NEEDS YOU

Dunchurch Community Library is open for the benefit of all residents and is manned by a rota of volunteers. Dunchurch Parish Council is looking for more volunteer helpers to add to the rota and share the workload. Anyone able to assist in this great village facility please email the Clerk to the Parish Council clerk@dunchurchpc.org, ask in the library or phone 07474 705061.



Looking Back

The following items are extracts from a Rugby Advertiser article from 10th May 1935 and tell of the village celebrations for the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary. Also included in the day's events were sports for children and adults. Furthermore, 'Three hundred children were entertained to tea, every old age pensioner received a voucher to the value of 2/-, and Miss Darlington, of Toft Hill, provided the six occupants of the Alms Houses with tea. The day was brought to a close by a whist drive and dance in the Daventry Road Hall.'

Crowning the May Queen

In the morning the traditional May Day crowning took place on the Village Green. The 'royal' cortege left the school, preceded by the Band, and Betty Smith, seated on a florally decorated 'throne,' was crowned with a garland of forget-me-nots by her predecessor, Nancy Pratt. The children, the girls in snow white and the boys in peasant smocks, had been excellently trained by Mrs. Penrose, Miss Kimber, and Miss Hill and they gave a greatly appreciated display of country and maypole dancing.

Tree Planting at Dunchurch by the High Sheriff of the County

Utilitarianism was effectively combined with gaiety and ceremony at the May Day and Jubilee festivities of Dunchurch, where a Jubilee tree was planted by Major H. S. Cayzer, High Sheriff of Warwickshire.

A few weeks ago, the Heath Pit at the junction of Cawston Lane and Rugby Road was an offensive eye-sore and the cause of frequent complaints. Then someone conceived a happy idea, and now it is a level piece of ground, shortly to be covered with grass and surrounded by an asphalt path. The villagers, though they were drawn in their hundreds to the crowning of the queen in the morning, seemed to think that the main item in the day's proceedings was that at Jubilee Corner.

Punctually at 2.30 p.m. Mr. A. L. Adkinson, J.P. the Dunchurch representative on the County Council and chairman of the Parish Council, walked to where the tree, a copper beech, was standing in the hole ready for the ceremony. He gave a brief history of the recent improvements in the village and spoke of the amenities yet to come. There would be placed at various points, especially by bus stops, seats with

commemorative brass plates and at Jubilee Corner shrubs would be planted. He expressed thanks on behalf of the village to the County Council, Rugby Corporation, the Parish Council, Mr. J. H. Dew, their clerk, those responsible for the May Day spectacle, and to all who had helped in the organisation of the festivities. Before calling on Major H. S. Cayzer, High Sheriff of Warwickshire, to plant the tree, Mr. Adkinson stated that Rugby Town Council had offered to present a guard, to which would be attached a suitably inscribed plate, which would be erected round the tree.

The High Sheriff expressed pleasure at performing the ceremony and threw a few spadefuls of earth into the hole.

Mr. J. H. Abbott, a member of Rugby Rural District Council, proposed a vote of thanks to Major Cayzer, and Mr. Dew seconded. Mr. Dew stated a telegram had been sent to Their Majesties at Buckingham Palace. It read, "Hearty congratulations on your Silver Jubilee. Loyal greetings and every possible good wish from your people at Dunchurch, near Rugby."

The function ended with the Dunchurch Band, conducted by Mr. G. Elkington, playing the National Anthem.

Wanderings Around Dunchurch

It is so easy to take our surroundings for granted. How many times have you seen something in Dunchurch for the first time and yet it has been there for years? In this regular item, we will be bringing you some items or places of interest that you may not have 'spotted' or known too much about. The following humorous but heartfelt message can be found on the St Peter's notice board and shows that all are welcome.

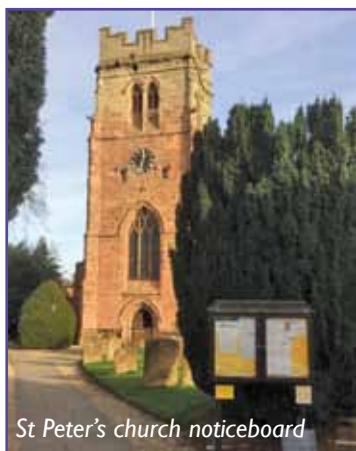
'We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced or widowed, gay, straight or confused. We welcome the filthy rich, comfortably-off, the dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are skinny as a rake or could afford to lose a few pounds. We welcome you if you can sing like Pavarotti or Katherine Jenkins or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're just passing, browsing, just woke up, got out of prison, got lost with the sat-nav and arrived by mistake or came because grandma is visiting and wanted to go to church. We

don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or have never been in church before; if you've had religion shoved down your throat or don't like organised religion. We've been there too! We extend a special welcome to crying new-borns, those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, to teenagers who are growing up too fast and to lively children. We welcome keep fit mums, football dads, couch potatoes, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians and junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps. If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to

those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work and can't spell. We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer NOW. We welcome tourists, locals, seekers, sceptics and doubters, those on cloud nine and those in pain and ...you!

Welcome!



St Peter's church noticeboard

St Peter's Church History – Standing Room Only?

By Freda Bennett

Like other very early churches, the nave of our church probably had an earth floor, strewn with straw or rushes. There would have been no seating and the only furnishings existing then were likely to have been the baptismal font and a large, simply made chest.

Gradually, the church would be rebuilt, enlarged and a tower added. Seating began to be added with ornate furnishings filling the space. Many of the medieval pew ends were carved with scriptural scenes, moral folk tales and portrayals connected to specific donors. Dunchurch church became very well known for its richly carved furnishings.

A gallery was erected above the north aisle providing for the residents of Cawston and another built over the south aisle. Permission was granted in 1767 to erect a gallery at the west end for staff and pupils of the Boughton Endowed School. A portion of the expense was borne by Rev Bromfield, then Master, with a view to accommodating his own boarders. A singing gallery was built behind this with an organ above, completely blocking the west window. Galleries, it seemed, were the way forward. The four galleries around the church must have stolen considerable light from the building. The church was filling up!

Many of the early, beautifully carved pews were taken out and burned in the late 18th and

early 19th century and replaced with high-backed deal box pews. (Three of the original carved bench ends survived and still exist today, two on the priest's stalls and one on the lectern.)

The accumulations of galleries and box pews were gradually removed by major restorations in 1840 and 1907 and the result is basically what we see today, with only a few minor changes. In 1908, the east end of the north aisle was extended to better accommodate the organ. A slight rearrangement in 1972 was made to correspond with the position of a new organ in the south aisle, the space left by the old organ being used as a meeting room.

In recent years, permission was granted for the removal of pews in the north aisle to enable more flexible use of that space. For larger congregations, chairs fill the space; for music groups it can be emptied and for social occasions tables can be added.



School News *by Ian Dewes, Executive Headteacher*

Dunchurch Boughton Junior School

Just before the Easter holiday, we held our annual egg drop event. Children designed packaging that they hoped would protect a hard boiled egg from breaking when dropped from the roof of the school. While not all eggs survived the fall, the children had a lot of fun making their designs and seeing them thrown off the roof into the quad area.

Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery

On Saturday 4th May, we hosted a special event to mark the schools 90th birthday. A big thank you to my colleagues and the Parent and Teacher Association for their help in putting the event together and for volunteering on the day. It was lovely to see such a mix

of current and former pupils in school and interesting hearing from previous pupils how the school had changed.

Finally, as the days get longer, we are faced with the perennial challenge of local teenagers coming onto the school grounds at weekends and in the evenings. Recently, two basketball hoops were damaged and in the past, we have found empty alcohol bottles on the school field together with other discarded items. I would be grateful if parents would monitor the whereabouts of their children and ask them not to trespass on the school grounds. Thank you for your co-operation.



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Junior FODS

There is no Walter the crow this time. Instead, from 19th – 31st July (just in time for the school holidays) there will be nine colourful wooden flowers and vegetables placed around The Green and The Square. Each has a letter and all of the letters make up a word. Find out what the word is and email us your answer together with your name and age by Friday 23rd August and

you will be entered into a prize draw for a £10 book voucher courtesy of the Dunchurch Pantomaniacs. The items are made from recycled panto props in support of FODS entry into Rugby in Bloom 'Year of Green Action'.



*Hopping Mad!
Dozens of FODS Easter Bunnies appeared around the village over the Easter weekend. These youngsters were happy to give them a good home.*

Youth Club Reminder

Don't forget, every Monday during term time, 5–6.30pm, there is a free youth club (funded by Dunchurch Parish Council) in Dunchurch Methodist Church on Cawston Lane.

The club is supervised by qualified Youth Workers from Rugby Borough Council and is for children aged 3–13 years (children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.)

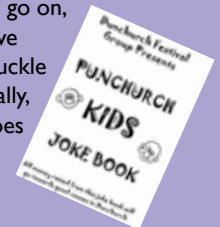
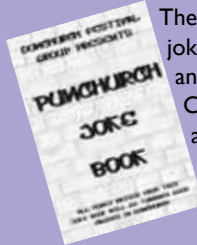
Fairy Fun

If you walk around the village you may notice some strange things watching over you. There are over 20 fairies hidden in the trees around the village. Thank you to the members of the DFG for creating this little bit of Dunchurch magic.



Punchurch!

The DFG has created two joke books, one for adults and another for children. Copies costing only £1 are available from the post office or Wanda's, so go on, give your chuckle muscles a treat! Naturally, all the money raised goes to good causes in and around Dunchurch.



Janet Watson Art



warwickshire
open studios

Warwickshire Contemporary Artist

Free Entry Art Exhibition

Parish Church of All Saints

Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby,

CV23 9NA www.janetwatsonart.com



My work is a mixture of unique art all out my own head. Abstracts, flowers, seaside, horses, poppies, landscapes, bulls & cows, owls, trees, caves, etc. Looks fantastic on any wall in your home or business. Thank you for reading :)



Opening dates & times: Sat 15th, Mon 17th, Sat 22nd, Sat 29th- June 2019-10.30am till 4.30pm. The church is on a hill. Parking is on the hill road. A walkway from the road leads to the door. Card payments accepted, Commissions welcome, Family Friendly, Raffle, Parking, Refreshments, Toilets



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Focus on Business

A recent article in the Daily Mail, 'The Boutique is Back' praised the revival and importance of village shops, and in particular focused on the village boutique. We are very fortunate to have one such boutique in our midst and in June of this year, Wanda Fashions celebrates 30 years of successful trading – congratulations Wanda! We are grateful to daughter Paula Twigger for her input.



Wanda and Paula in their shop

line, preferring to try on clothes and receive good advice. We are competitive with online prices and often cheaper. Our Italian corner is a one-sized range in a selection of colours, not found in the High Street. We have collections from casual to wedding or special occasion outfits and matching accessories.'

Wanda Fashions (30 years!)

Wanda and Paula opened Wanda Fashions in June 1989. For many years, Wanda had been running 'Wanda's Parties' around the Rugby area with over 500 hostesses holding parties. But it had always been Wanda's dream to have a shop and when she spotted two empty shops on either side of Coventry Road in Dunchurch, she had to choose between them. Paula recalls, 'I remember Mum phoning me one day with a question: "Will our customers cross the road to visit us or would it be better to stay on the side of the car park?"' We settled on the car park side and so 'The Old Bank House' was transformed into the new home of Wanda Fashions.

'Our customers range in age from 25 to 90 and are ladies who want something individual but don't want to buy on-

Throughout its time in the village, Wanda Fashions has been a great support to a variety of village organisations, acting as a box office for many events, including the annual pantomime. Also, Wanda and her team have been holding charity fashion shows helping to raise thousands of pounds for many local and national charities such as Cancer Research and Save the Children. Both Wanda and Paula are happy to help any charity organisation to raise money. Just contact them at the shop on 01788 522021 for more.

The final words are left to Paula. 'Over the years, Wanda Fashions has become more than just a popular village clothes shop. We have become a place that ladies can rely on for good advice, pop in for tea or coffee or just a friendly chat, and with the support of new and existing customers we hope to continue for many more years to come!'

The Village Maypole

There are differing versions of when and where dancing around the maypole first began. Some historians believe it was brought to this country by invading marauders but many can agree, the ritual was first performed in Roman Britain over 2,000 years ago. Originally, a tree was decorated around which soldiers would dance to thank their goddess Flora for the arrival of spring. However, by the arrival of the 19th century, the tree had been replaced with a maypole and ribbons were added for a more theatrical feel. These days, the maypole is synonymous with the term 'Merrie England' and although dancing around

the maypole does not hold the same pagan connotations it once did, it is still frequently used in some villages as part of the spectacle for the 1st of May celebrations.

It is difficult to date exactly when the first maypole appeared in our own village but from the attached photograph, we can assume that there was one in use at the early part of the last century. (There may even be someone reading this who performed at the maypole as a child. If so, we would love to hear your stories about it.) We are led to believe that the original village maypole was stored in St Peter's churchyard where at some point, it disappeared until the late 1990s when the Traders

Association generously funded a replacement and donated it to the village.



Finding an artist to paint the traditional and very intricate,

red, white and blue twisting design was not easy but fortunately, a Hillmorton craftsman, John Bromley was found and commissioned to carry out the work. The cost of the project was approximately £2,000 and in 2012, the maypole was removed and once again, expertly painted by John in readiness for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee when children delighted folk with a traditional maypole dance. Sadly, John has since 'passed away' but the excellent condition of the maypole is testament to his craftsmanship and his memory lives on with the addition of the memorial plaque which can be found at the base of the maypole.



Dunchurch Baptist Church

by Claire Siddaway

The demolition of our old building is complete and at the time of writing we have nearly finalised the contract for the first stage of building, which we hope can start this summer. This is a long-awaited big step for us, so we are getting excited. We are grateful for a grant from the Festival Group towards the chal-

lenge of raising funds. For the latest news see the display in the Joint Churches tent at the village fete or look on our website, www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk.

In the meantime, regular activities continue at the Methodist Church.



OPEN DAY
Saturday 29 June
2-5pm
Displays
Cream Teas
Games & Competitions
Something for all ages!
All proceeds will go to our Building Fund
www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk



Holiday Club 2019
at Dunchurch Methodist Church
Cawston Lane CV22 6QF
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WED: 7.00 - 8.30 PM	HENRY HINDE INFANT SCHOOL CV22 7JQ
THURS: 10.00 - 11.30 AM	DUNCHURCH VILLAGE HALL CV22 6PN
THURS: 7.30 - 9.00 PM	DUNCHURCH VILLAGE HALL CV22 6PN

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For further details please contact us or visit the website:

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Email: jane.bookings@dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk

Web: www.dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk

Rugby Road, Dunchurch CV22 6PN

Dunchurch Community Directory

Badminton Group	Dunchurch Village Hall, Monday 7.30pm	judge.patricia@googlemail.com Pat Judge 01788 810253 Carol Seager 01788 814178
Beavers	Boys and girls aged 5¼ – 8 Mondays and Tuesdays at the Scout hut Done Cerce Close.	www.dunscout.org.uk join@dunscout.org.uk
Cubs	Boys and girls aged 8 – 10½ Wednesdays at the Scout hut, Done Cerce Close.	www.dunscout.org.uk join@dunscout.org.uk
Dunchurch Allotment Association	Situated on Coventry Rd	www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk admin@dunchurchallotments.org.uk Secretary Paul Sanders 01788 811744
Dunchurch and Bilton Cricket Club	Based as Dunchurch Village Hall Rugby Rd.	https://dunchurchbilton.play-cricket.com
Dunchurch and Thurlaston WI	Meetings 2nd Thursday of each month, 7.30pm at the WI Hall, Southam Rd.	Maureen Melson 01788 810911 Marion Abernethy mariona@ntlworld.com
Dunchurch Band	Senior and training band	www.dunchurchband.co.uk dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com
Dunchurch Baptist Church	Currently meeting at the Dunchurch Methodist Church, Cawston Lane.	www.dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk Minister Dave Woods 01788 810132 davewoods@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk Secretary Claire Siddaway 01788 815752 secretary@dunchurchbaptistchurch.org.uk
Dunchurch Boughton C of E (VA) Junior School	Primary education situated in Dew Close	www.dunchurchjuniorschool.org.uk admin3391@welearn365.com 01788 811028
Dunchurch Community Library	School Street	www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dunchurchlibrary dunchurchcommunitylibrary@btconnect.com 01788 811355
Dunchurch Festival Group	Organise fete and other events. Meetings third Monday of each month 7.30pm at the village hall.	www.dunchurchevents.org Rob Collings 01788 817307 mashedspud1@gmail.com
Dunchurch Health Walks	Tuesday 2pm, Friday 10.30, 1st Sunday of month 10.30. Meet at war memorial	Pearl Bennet 01788 810367
Dunchurch Infant School and Nursery	Nursery children are taken from aged 2yrs 9months. Other year groups, Reception, year 1 and 2	www.dunchurchinfantschoolandnursery.co.uk office@dunchurchinfants.co.uk 01788 810292

Dunchurch Pantomaniacs	Organise and perform annual village panto in January. Rehearsals begin in October.	paul.lepoidevin@btinternet.com sueprotheroe@gmail.com
Dunchurch Parish Council	PC office based in the Library. Open Tuesday and Thursdays 10am – 1.00pm	clerk@dunchurchpc.org 01788 817550 or 07474 705061
Dunchurch Photographic Society	Meetings held at WI Hall, Southam Road.	www.dunchurchps.com secretary@dunchurchps.com
Dunchurch Surgery	Dunsmore Heath (off Rugby Rd)	www.dunchurchsurgery.warwickshire.nhs.uk 01788 522448
Dunchurch Village Hall	Rugby Road.	jane.bookings@dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk 01788 522444
Dunchurch Voices	Ladies choir meet Wednesdays, 7.30pm at the infant school.	Barbara Davies 07890 659857
First Dunchurch Scout Group	Fun, challenge and everyday adventure for boys and girls aged 10 ½ – 14. Done Cerce Close on Thursdays	www.dunscout.org.uk join@dunscout.org.uk
Dunchurch Girlguiding including 1st Rainbows 3rd Brownies 1st Guides	GirlGuiding girls have fun, adventure and space to discover their potential Age 5 – 7 yrs. Wed. 3.45 – 4.45 pm Age 7 – 11 yrs. Wed. 5 – 6.30pm Age 10 - 14 yrs. Wed. 6.45 – 8.15pm	www.girlguiding.org.uk is where parents/ carers may express their daughters' interest in joining. Adult volunteers welcomed.
Rugby Village Bridge Club	EBU Affiliated. Four pairs sessions and three practice sessions weekly Courses/teams of four events occasionally. Held in the club room, Dunchurch Village Hall.	www.rugbyvillagebridge.co.uk rugbyvillagebridge@gmail.co.uk 07710 467023
Save Dunchurch Action Group	Fighting over development and for an infrastructure to protect the village from increasing traffic.	www.savedunchurch.co.uk mabjudge@hotmail.com
St Peter's Church		Vicar: Reverend Patricia Townshend revptownshend@gmail.com, 01788 461987 Churchwardens: Steve Cook: 07501 461909 / 01788 521263 Kathryn Fowler: 07780116024 / 01788311118 Thurlaston Deputy Churchwardens: Brian & Jackie Bowsher: 01788 812094 churchwarden@stpeters-dunchurch.org

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



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