



FRIENDS OF
DUNCHURCH
SOCIETY (FODS)

Dunchurch

V I L L A G E M A G A Z I N E

March 2026

Issue 30



Produced by Friends of Dunchurch Society (FODS)

www.friendsofdunchurchsociety.org

Registered Charity No. 1203193

Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome to our first magazine edition of 2026.

Regular readers will notice that our magazine has a new look and we warmly welcome Mark as our new Graphic Designer.

We must start by giving credit to the Dunchurch elves who once again, did us proud with their seasonal transformation of Lord Scott. Emerging with great stealth from their secret location, our honourable, philanthropic gentleman was cleverly transformed into Chase, a popular children's character. Thank you elves. Your community spirit is much appreciated and brings great joy.

Speaking of community spirit, 2026 is a milestone year for the Dunchurch Festival Group (DFG) who will be holding their 50th village fete. This is no mean feat and over the years, considerable 'red tape' has been navigated and changes made to ensure the show goes on. Fifty years is a great achievement and the committee deserve our thanks for their continued support for the village. The money the DFG raise is given back to the community and many of our village groups have benefited from their generosity and we thank them. Make a note in your diary and join in on Sunday 28th June as the DFG mark this historic occasion.

On the subject of history, it was whilst we were researching for the 2025 special edition magazine, (commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII), we first became aware of another tragedy



Chase from the popular children's show, Paw Patrol.

that may have happened over the skies of Dunchurch. Having already included details of the Halifax bomber crash which claimed 5 lives, it was noted that Pilot Sergeant John McEwan Wright, aged just 21, died when his Hawker Hurricane crashed close to Dunchurch Lodge and we were able to include this also. However, we came across some further, very sketchy information about a 3rd crash involving the death of Flight Lieutenant Archibald Reader. At that time, we did not have enough information to print and needed to investigate further. We turned to our good friend Theo Classen who is the current custodian of the Halifax

Bomber memorial and you can read his very interesting article on pages 18-19. We thank Theo for his help in unearthing more details about this tragedy.

Finally, on a happier note, as spring approaches, join in with our sunflower give away by picking up your **FREE** packet of seeds. You will find full details on page 14. Why not plant the seeds at the front of your home so everyone can enjoy these cheery giants? We look forward to seeing these beautiful blooms standing tall around the village. Let's hope they bring the summer sun they so love to flourish in!



Wanda

It was with deep sadness that we heard in December that Wanda had died.

For many years, Wanda had been such a beacon of light in our community. Always so supportive of village organisations whilst also raising thousands of pounds for her chosen charities, Cancer Research UK and Myton Hospice and all this while running a successful business.

Always cheery, Wanda served us well with great professionalism, integrity and a delightfully cheeky humour.

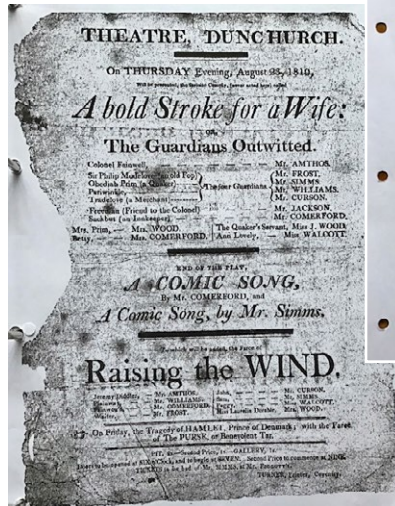
Wanda will be greatly missed and we know you will want to join us in sending love and condolences to Wanda's family, especially daughter Paula who continues to serve the Dunchurch community in the same way her mum did. Thank you.



Bringing Theatre to Dunchurch Village in 1810

By Freda Bennett

A programme and poster of a production probably performed by a 'travelling' theatre group who played for a week or so, often in an inn, before moving on.



Theatre, Dunchurch 1810

6 programmes printed by Turner, Coventry.

Pl 26 Second price 1s Gallery 1s
Doors open at 6 o'clock to begin at 7. Second price to begin at 9.
Tickets to be had of Mr. Simms at Mr. Piggott's.

Friday Aug 17th The Castle Spectre
The Weathercock

Saturday Aug 18th The Wonder
The Farm House

Monday Aug 20th Pizarro (Sheridan)
All the World's a Stage

Wednesday Aug 22nd Jane Shore
The Irish Widow

Thursday Aug 23rd A Bold Stroke for a Wife
Raising the Wind

Friday Aug 24th Hamlet (Shakespeare)
The Poets

Comic songs by Mr. Comerford and Dancing by Miss Simms & Miss J Wood

Cast for all plays,

Mr. & Mrs. Amthorn	Mr. Frost
Mr. Simms and Miss & Master Simms	Mr. Mason
Mr. Williams	Mr. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Comerford	Miss W alcott
Mr. Curson	Mrs. Wood and Miss Wood

The Theatre was obviously a travelling one for, in 1807, an advertisement appeared in the Coventry Mercury of February 23rd giving notice of the last performance of the Theatre Dunchurch which was performing "Pizarro". On March 30th a notice appeared in the same paper -

"The Dunchurch Theatre closed on Friday. The greatest mark is due to the Manager (Mr. Hamblett) in keeping forward such a number of acts, and more excellent pieces, and the Performers in so long supporting the characters, some of whom would do better to the London Stage. Should it be convenient for Mr Hamblett to return at some future period, our future enquiries will again meet with the encouragement from his numerous friends, which he has hitherto so highly deserved."

Several weeks later, an advertisement for the last performance of Hamilton's "Pizarro" at Colehill appeared. The troupe obviously had stops of two to three weeks.



Dunchurch & Thurlaston WI

By Anne Gilbert

We would like to welcome new members. We offer a friendly atmosphere, the chance to learn new skills, get involved within the village community and take part in a wide range of activities arranged not only by us but other WI's

in Warwickshire and neighbouring Northamptonshire. We have a varied programme for 2026/27 with interesting speakers and demonstrations. We enjoy various outings and hold clubs for New Age Kurling, knit and natter, book club, Mah Jong, Scrabble etc and a walking group. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm. The WI Hall is available to hire at sensible rates for parties/events.
Contact: annegilbert1@hotmail.com or marion.gordon@btinternet.com

Join us at friendsofdunchurch@gmail.com



EXCEPTIONAL BRITISH MADE KITCHENS

THE KITCHENS INC
WARWICKSHIRE, ENGLAND

thekitchensinc.co.uk | info@thekitchensinc.co.uk

01788 220 206

New Defibrillator for Dunchurch



Photo Right, Naomi from the OurJay Foundation with Graham, Julie and Jo at the site of the new defibrillator in Sandford Way

Losing a loved one is surely the most painful feeling we experience in life. It is therefore not surprising that we try and honour those we have lost by creating something positive. This is what Naomi and her family did when they created the OurJay Foundation in memory of their much-loved son Jamie and in January 2026, they unveiled their 326th defibrillator, with bleed control kit. A truly remarkable achievement.

Working with the OurJay Foundation and funded by Graham, Julie and Jo, husband and daughters of the late and much missed Jean, this defibrillator has been installed by the rear entrance of Dunchurch Infant School, in Sandford Way. (Thanks must also be given to Paul and Ann for agreeing to have this life saving equipment on their garden wall and for funding the electricity for the cabinet.)

A message on the Our Jay Facebook page from Jean’s family reads, ‘There is no better way to mark the 1st anniversary of losing our wonderful mum/wife than

installing a defibrillator for the Dunchurch School and Sandford Way community. As a family, this means so much to us and represents a glimmer of light under such difficult circumstance.’

We thank Jean’s family and the OurJay Foundation for their support and care for our Dunchurch community.

You can find out more about the OurJay Foundation by visiting ourjay.org.uk

We now have 5 defibrillators in Dunchurch:

- Sandford Way, (outside the rear entrance of Dunchurch Infant School) CV22 6ND
- Kitchens Inc, The Square, CV22 6NU
- Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall, Rugby Rd, CV22 6PN
- Dunchurch Baptist Church, Coventry Rd, CV22 6RF

Please note: At the time of going to print, the 5th defibrillator at the Dunchurch Community Hub and Library, is currently out of action.



THE RUGBY MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL



THE DUNCHURCH MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL

“Free the child’s potential, and you will transform them into the world.”

- Maria Montessori



To request our prospectus, please contact:

TEL: 01788 877010

TEL: 01788 811218

EMAIL: nurseryoffice@rugbymontessori.co.uk
Vicarage Road, Rugby, CV22 7AJ

EMAIL: nurseryoffice@dunchurchmontessori.co.uk
Cawston Lane, Dunchurch, CV22 6QE

www.rugbymontessorinurseryschool.co.uk

Live life the way you want to



At Dewar Close care home, you can carry on doing the things you enjoy and decide what your day looks like.

Need your hair or nails done? Pop into our salon. Want coffee and cakes? Visit the café.

Do you like getting out and about? Join us on regular, local Memory Maker minibus trips. Or you can enjoy life in the home, with weekly activities, music with our Community Musicians, and celebrations for special occasions.

Want to find out more?

Call in anytime:

📍 Dewar Close, 5 Beech Drive, Bilton, Rugby, CV22 7LT



Josephine Rugg

Our Trusted Advisor, Josephine, is happy to answer your questions about living in a care home, whether that's a WCS care home or one outside our group better suited to your needs.

Call us on 01788 811 724 and 'Press 1' to speak to Josephine.

Find out more



Registered charity no. 1012788

🌐 wcs-care.co.uk 📘 [wcscare](https://www.facebook.com/wcscare) 📷 [wcs_care](https://www.instagram.com/wcs_care)

Duke of Edinburgh Award

By Matilda Hughes

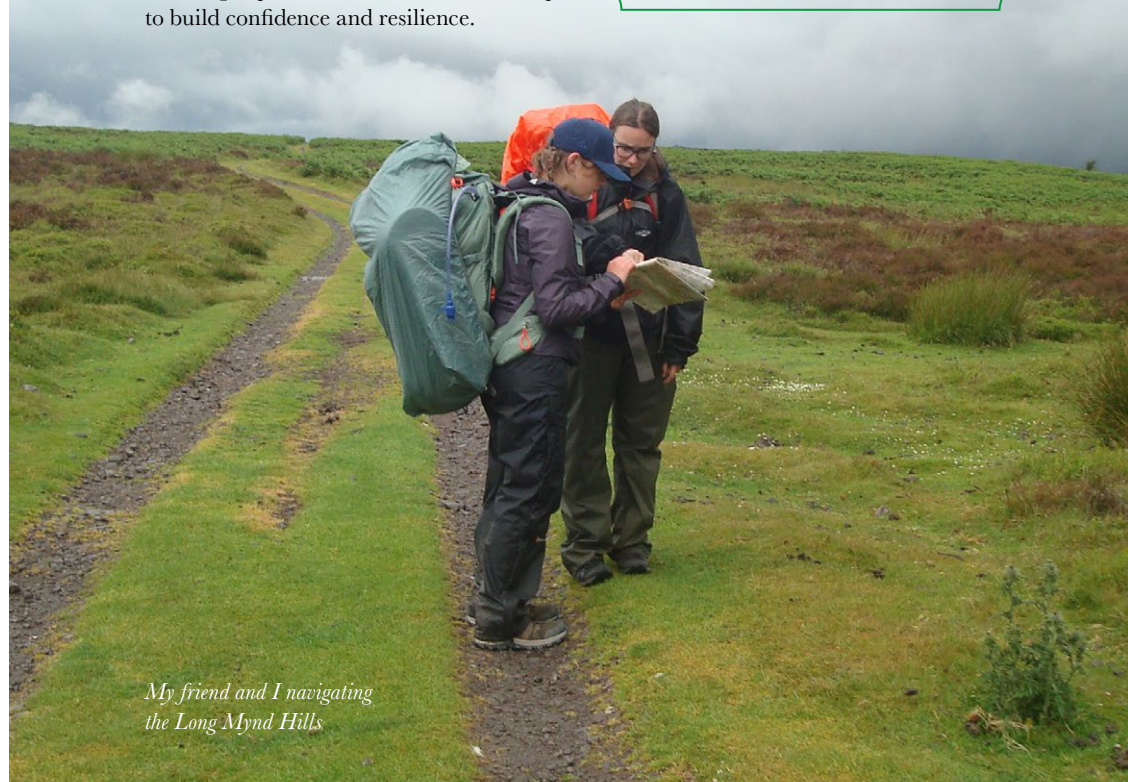
I completed my silver Duke of Edinburgh award with the help of FODS who allowed me to volunteer with them for six months. I had a fantastic time meeting new people of all ages.

My expedition was in Shropshire, where I spent three days traipsing across the Long Mynd Hills in the rain and sunshine while sharing stories and singing songs along the way.

I would highly recommend the D of E awards to any young person as it was an amazing experience and lots of fun. It helps to build confidence and resilience.

Did you know?

The Duke of Edinburgh Award programme was founded by Prince Philip in 1956 and caters for young people from the age of 14 – 24. With three levels of awards to achieve, bronze, silver and gold, it is non-competitive and aims to foster personal growth, teamwork and adventure and is recognized internationally by universities and employers, running in over 140 countries.



My friend and I navigating the Long Mynd Hills

ACTION FOR DUNCHURCH

What we've delivered:

- Secured green buffers in the Reg 18 Local Plan to stop Dunchurch being swallowed by surrounding developments.
- Successfully campaigned against Tritax 2 being built next to our ancient Cawston woods, backed by RBC
- SW Rugby already has 4,000 homes approved, A4D campaigned to stop further sprawl beyond Halfway Lane and surrounding fields.

DONE

- Helped lock in environmental protections for green buffers and the Rainsbrook Valley in new RBC policy (EN3, EN4)
- Won a £500 grant from the Dunchurch Festival Committee to fund banners, leaflets and community engagement.
- Brought Dunchurch and Thurlaston Parish Councils together to oppose damaging warehousing proposals.
- BBC C&W interview on Warehouse sprawl.
- Provided info for over 800 Facebook followers on RBC info and updates shared to other Facebook pages beyond Dunchurch.

What we're campaigning on now:

- Supporting RBC's new Local Plan into Reg 19 phase and preparing detailed evidence for the Planning Inspector on warehousing, wildlife and landscape protection.
- Opposing Taylor Wimpey's 'The Lodgings' development of 195 houses behind Cock Robin Wood
- Defending the Rainsbrook Valley and our own green buffers
- Continuing to challenge environmental harm from large-scale development across South-West Rugby.

What YOU can do!

- Follow us on Facebook
- Look out for the A4D Local Plan information on Facebook
- Get ready to take part in our short Reg 19 survey
- Find out what protections EN3 & EN4 offer Dunchurch and Rainsbrook Valley



Over 840 followers on Facebook - and growing... JOIN US!

Get in touch! e-mail us at: actionfordunchurch@gmail.com



Dunchurch Pantomaniacs

By Sue Protheroe

We have dealt with a variety of mishaps in the past but never have we come so close to cancelling our performances. By sheer fluke, on the morning of January 24th, the village hall Trustees were alerted to the hall alarm having been triggered and upon investigation, found that there was no electricity to the hall. This meant the security shutters could not be raised to permit access. Possibly connected to the burst pipe situation which had also knocked off some of the water supply, frantic calls were made to National

Grid and a battle against time ensued to have matters sorted by 1.30pm so our performance of Dick Whittington could go ahead at 2.30pm. Thankfully, a suitable generator was found, delivered at 1pm and up and running by 1.15pm. Access and lighting was restored. By the 'skin of our teeth' comes to mind! Full praise must be given to the village hall Trustees who went above and beyond to sort this for us and we are eternally grateful to them.

Dick Whittington, our 35th panto was well received and many said, it had been our ►



The first step in the adventure of life.

OPEN DAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Award-winning Pre-Prep

35 Scholarship awards to top UK senior schools in 2025

90-acres of grounds

25m pool, sports pitches, science labs & more

Huge range of co-curricular options



BILTON GRANGE

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

BOARDING & DAY FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 3 TO 13 · WARWICKSHIRE

Book now at:

biltongrange.co.uk/admissions/open-days

www.biltongrange.co.uk



► best panto yet. Two of our new members, Sophie Mack who runs Headliners Dance Academy and Toni Bentley our new Dance Captain, really elevated our performances with some fabulous choreography and even injected a little Hollywood glamour into our routines. Thank you both. We look forward to what you have install for us next year.

In all, we were delighted to welcome 10 new members to the cast, many of them children and another three, (George's mum, dad and sister) who joined our backstage crew. Our thanks to them for their invaluable help in installing our new lighting system.

Over the performances, we entertained 688 people, (including Madam Mayoress, Barbara Brown) whilst raising money for a variety of charities including Cancer Research UK and Myton Hospice. Both of these were favoured charities of our dear friend Wanda who sadly died in December and to whom, we owe a great debt of gratitude for being our box office and a constant supporter over the years. We will publish a full list of all of our donations in the June magazine edition once we have finalised our finances.

And so, onto the after panto party and our DAFTA (Dunchurch Amateur Footlight Thespians Awards). Whilst other awards may celebrate greatness, the DAFTA's tend to celebrate the ridiculous. Take for example the most problematic prop award, this year won by the Alderman's chain. Where was it? Who has it? Who needs it? Is that the fake one or is that the real one? Such was the confusion that it was given its very own script! Sue Turner triumphed in the voice of the week award having used it so often as prompt in the final dress rehearsal!

However, by far the most popular winners of the night were Mike Judge who received a much-deserved long service award and Director Paul Le Poidevin. In a rare moment of seriousness, Mike was thanked for his invaluable 35 year contribution to the success of the Pantomaniacs and Paul was awarded a much deserved 'Super DAFTA' for having steered a happy and entertaining ship for a decade. Always encouraging, always calm and supportive, Paul received a long and heartfelt standing ovation.

So, that's a wrap for another year. Everything has been tidied away and the village hall returned to its former state but already, we are looking forward to January 2027. If you would like to be a part of our next production, email paul.lepoidevin@bopenworld or sueprotheroe@ymail.com You too could become part of this wonderful community group.



Decluttering Solutions

Cluttered living space?
Chaotic kitchen?
Overflowing wardrobe?

Wanting to reclaim your space and time but need help getting your home back into a manageable order?

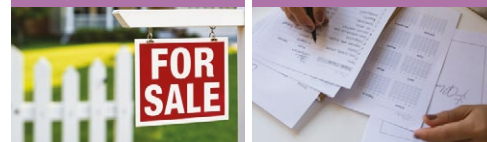
Relax, I'll get you sorted.

Room decluttering and staging



Selling your home

Paperwork & life admin



Scan for more info
sortedbywendy.co.uk
or call for a chat
07515 481980

  @sortedbywendy

Professional Organiser & Declutterer



WITH LOVE FROM FODS

Sunflowers are such a cheery flower and so synonymous with summer.

As the warmer season approaches, pick up your free packet of Sunflower seeds from the following pickup points. (While stocks last.)

Wanda Fashions
Anne Marie Florist
Dunchurch Library
Rugby Road Newsagents

Plant them, nurture them and watch the flower heads turn towards the sun.

Don't forget to take a photo and upload it to the FODS Facebook page.

Why not measure it and send details to fodnews1@gmail.com to be in with a chance of winning a prize for the tallest one?

Remember to leave your sunflower in situ over winter to provide food for the birds.

Happy sewing!



UNION CANAL CARRIERS LTD

Holiday Local

Over 55 years of hiring boats on the "cut"
You know you are in safe hands
& can cruise with confidence

"Union Canal Carriers aim to set standards that few hire fleets can match"

Hire this boat for a day
For up to 12 people

Ouzel II is fully equipped with a galley, sink, gas hob, toilet, seating for 12 & buoyancy aids on request

Great value! Great fun!

No experience required - Instruction given
Choice of scenic routes
Ideal for family or other social occasions
Have a canalside picnic or pub lunch

Monday - Friday £150.00 inc
Weekends / Bank holidays - £195 inc

Telephone - 01788 890784

NB. Dayboat excluded from Holiday Local Discount

10% Off Full Price Holidays for Local Residents **SCAN TO BOOK**

Union Canal Carriers - Braunston Pump House - Dark Lane - Braunston - NN11 7HJ

Tel - 01788 890784 Email - info@unioncanalcarriers.co.uk

www.unioncanalcarriers.co.uk  Follow us on Facebook  Follow us on Instagram 



Dunchurch Baptist Church

By Rev Alistair Jones

I suspect many of you will know the hymn "Amazing Grace." When I was young it reached number 1 in the charts. The hymn tells us of God's grace towards us. What is not so well known is the story behind the hymn. Back in 1772, a man called John Newton penned these words.

John Newton was born in 1725. Sadly, his mother died when he was seven years old. This meant that by the age of 11 he was accompanying his father to sea. Through a series of circumstances, he found himself involved in the slave trade. While at sea, Newton taught himself Latin along with geometry. This enabled his progress to the rank of master in charge of navigation.

One day, while steering the ship in a storm and fearing the worst, the faith of his mother came back to him. Seeing his prayer for safety answered, Newton became a Christian. He still continued in the slave trade, becoming a captain, until ill health forced him to find a different profession. He trained to become a minister in the Church of England. It was during his time as a minister, that

he reflected on his past life and the slave trade. In 1785 he met William Wilberforce and encouraged him in abolishing the slave trade.

Come and be excited by the dramatic retelling of the life of John Newton. The Oddment Theatre Company are coming to Dunchurch Baptist on Friday March 27th, at 7pm. The cast take the audience on a voyage of discovery as Newton, a man of no morals and a trader of slaves, battles the high sea, lost love and his own destructive self on his journey to faith. Tickets are £14 and available from DBC or by contacting Ali Jones on 07392 795735.

Other events at Easter.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Communion at Dunchurch Baptist on the 2nd of April at 7.30

Our Good Friday walk of witness (3rd April) will start at the Canadian Airmen Memorial at 9.45am

We will have a family service at the Baptist Church on Easter Sunday, 5th April, starting at 10.30

TEETH LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH US...



...and so will you. That's because we make sure your teeth and you feel comfortable all the way through your visit to us.

At Courtyard Family Dental Practice we understand how you can feel about going to the dentist, so we provide a welcoming and reassuring environment. This means we really get to know your teeth, so we can give them the best possible care. Why not book your appointment with us today?



COURTYARD
FAMILY DENTAL PRACTICE

 Denplan

GDC No: 68086

01788 519 831 www.courtyard-dental.co.uk r/o 4 Daventry Rd, Dunchurch, Warwks. CV22 6NS

Hawker Hurricane & another Dunchurch tragedy

By Theo Classen



In 1940, at the outbreak of the Second World War, the Hurricane was the main fighter in service with the RAF, later followed and very much overshadowed by the Spitfire, even though it was more numerous in the Battle of Britain.

At the start of the Battle of Britain, No.32 Squadron RAF was one of the squadrons assigned to the battle which started on 10 July of 1940 lasting till 31 October 1940.

In August 1940, RAF 32 Squadron was taken off charge and their Hurricanes were moved from their base at RAF Middle Wallop in Hampshire to RAF Acklington in Northumberland to rest the crews following their involvement in the Battle of Britain and to have their aircraft serviced and repaired.

On 4th of November 1940, the return move to RAF Middle Wallop was



instigated and although the move was officially completed on 15 December 1940, some movements continued for reasons of redeployment, maintenance or training slightly beyond that date.

The event of Friday 27 December 1940

On Friday 27 December 1940, Sgt John McEwan Wright RAFVR, aged 21, lost his life in the Dunchurch area when his Hawker Hurricane suffered engine problems in flight, stalled, crashed in a forced landing and was destroyed by fire. Sadly, Sgt Wright did not escape prior to impact.

He had taken off from RAF Acklington in Northumberland to fly to RAF Middle Wallop in Hampshire. The actual reason for Sgt Wright's flight may have been recorded somewhere in RAF records, but does not appear to be in the public domain. Presumably the aircraft had been under maintenance at the time the squadron moved back to Hampshire and Sgt Wright, perhaps on a family visit, might have been tasked to fly the Hurricane, registered N2458 GZ-H, back on his return to duty.

Sgt John Wright was born near the fishing village of Amble on the beautiful Northeast coast and was the son of Archibald Craig Wright and Susan Wright of Amble Junction in Northumberland.

He was laid to rest in the Chevington Cemetery, near Morpeth in Northumberland, close to where his parents lived.

RAF Church Lawford & another Dunchurch tragedy

By Theo Classen

This aerial picture from the South East by W A Baker shows the classic RAF A frame runway layout.

During World War II, RAF Church Lawford was part of the RAF Flying Training Command 23 Group and it operated from 1941 to 1955. It was planned as a bomber station, provided with three concrete runways covered with tarmac. Church Lawford was provided with ample hangarage, one large aircraft shed, six Bellmans and later ten Blisters. The airfield opened in the Spring, and just 18 days later, became home to the No 2 Central Flying School training instructors.

The event on 7th September 1941

On this day an instructor pilot and his pupil had taken off from RAF Church Lawford for a local training flight. The aircraft was an Avro 61 Tutor serial number K6110, belonging to No 2 Central Flying School.

The instructor was Flight Lieutenant A W H Reader and the student pilot was Pilot Officer HA Mudd. The instructor

was born in 1914, held a commission in the RAF Volunteer Reserves and a reference in his obituary appears to indicate he was associated with the RAF Chaplain Branch, meaning he also served as a chaplain.

There are no clear records of the direction into which the aircraft had taken off but what is known is that after an hour of flight, the instructor tried to demonstrate an unauthorised manoeuvre to his pupil. This resulted in the aircraft's elevator, the horizontal tail surface that controls pitch, i.e. climb or descend, to fail. That would have made the aircraft impossible to control resulting in the subsequent crash landing in the Dunchurch area.

Flight Lieutenant Reader aged 27 was killed and laid to rest at Inverness (Tomnahurich) Cemetery in Scotland. Pilot Officer Mudd was injured but survived.

The Dandelion Dilemma: Weed or wonder

Rethinking a familiar plant beneath our feet

By Leanne Warren, *Wild Routes, Local Forager*

Most of us are familiar with the humble dandelion – usually spotted as we are reaching for the trowel or muttering about weeds. With its large jagged green leaves, originally named ‘Dent de Lion’ after the French for lions teeth.

Unfortunately, many view the dandelion as a pest, something to be dug out, sprayed or glared at disapprovingly. For years I have stepped over this incredible little plant and not really taken notice of what it has to tell us. Its bright yellow flowers brighten the spring landscape and provide an important and early food source for bees and other pollinators. And did you know that every part is edible?

The leaves are considered very nutritious and can be eaten fresh in a salad or as a steamed green, though best picked before they develop their full bitter ‘character’.

The bitter components do support bile production, gastric flow and digestion and the leaves are packed full of vitamins and antioxidants including folate, calcium, iron, potassium and manganese.

The flowers can add colour to a salad, be made into a syrup and also make an



excellent dandelion wine, perhaps one of the more surprising talents of a plant we are so quick to dismiss. The roots can also make a pretty decent coffee alternative but are best known for the dandelion and burdock fizzy drink.

Dandelions have also been used traditionally for many medicinal purposes, and were once thought of as a cure all, known as the ‘elixir of life’ for its ability to cleanse the body of negative energy. They are thought to be good for liver detoxification and digestive health and have been used to reduce cholesterol and blood pressure. An old wives tale used to warn children not to touch dandelions or they might ‘wet the bed’. Research has found that dandelions have mild diuretic properties, suggesting that, once again, the old wives may have known a thing or two!

Dandelions are very good for soil health with a deep tap root that helps to loosen hard soil and draw up nutrients such as nitrogen, enriching the earth and supporting other plant communities around them. They are highly adaptive plants, found growing in many



inhospitable areas from cracks in the pavement to neglected corners of wasteland. They are a quiet symbol of resilience, thriving where they are least expected and asking for very little in return.

So, before you pull the dandelion up or reach for the weed killer, I ask you to pause and rethink your view of this little wonder. Enjoy its quiet beauty, leave it as a snack for the bees, add a leaf or two to your salad, or simply blow on a dandelion clock and make a wish. And if you did, what would your wish be?



Wombles Wheels

EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE HIRE

9 YEARS EXPERIENCE • CRB CHECKED

07979 032 068 or
01788 811 723 (9am - 5pm)

Email: robin.woerner@hotmail.co.uk

**Need to
get to the
airport?**

AIRPORTS • CRUISES • DAY TRIPS • THEATRE TRIPS
CORPORATE BUSINESS WELCOME

R. Woerner Trading as Wombles Wheels, specialises in long distance work but short trips can be considered. Mini bus number available if needed.

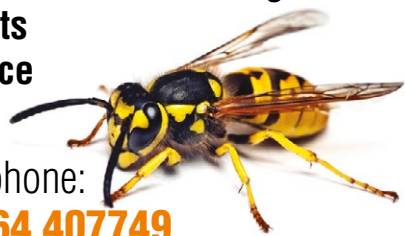
PEST CONTROL

IAN GALL PEST CONTROL

Local & Independent

Home and Large Scale control of:

- Moles
- Wasps
- Ants
- Rats
- Mice
- Rabbits
- Fleas
- Bed Bugs




Telephone:

07764 407749

Facebook/iangallpestcontrol

www.iangallpestcontrol.co.uk

Steve Roberts



Chimney Sweep

- Fully insured
- NACS Trained
- Good Rates
- Open fires, log burners & stoves swept

Call 07825 136 453

Dunchurch Training Band

By Sue Turner

Learn a new skill and make friends in a fun, informal, no pressure atmosphere! Improve memory, breathing, concentration, self esteem, hand/eye coordination and posture.



The Dunchurch Training Band is suitable for children aged seven and above and adults!

Instruments can be provided and friendly tuition given by experienced band members.

Here are some words from some members of the training band:

Katherine (adult learner) – I grew up playing the piano but secretly harboured a desire to be part of a band. Childhood came and went then marriage and children. I witnessed my children thrive as they started their own musical journeys. I was determined that they wouldn't make the same mistake as me so they learnt "sociable" instruments and were able to play in many music groups. But every time I attended a school concert, that burning desire to learn an instrument grew! When they flew the nest I wondered what to do with my spare time. Scrolling through Facebook I saw an advert for Dunchurch Training Band. Time to seize the moment!

Everyone was so friendly and welcoming, I absolutely loved it. I came home with

a tenor horn and the inspiration to learn. Seven months later my playing has improved so much that I have played in several concerts and the band has given me so much confidence. It's so amazing to be part of such a special community, I can't recommend it enough! My husband has also caught

the brass band bug and just started to learn the tuba!

Jacob – Hello, my name is Jacob and I'm 12 years old. I first played the cornet in a music lesson in year 5 at school. I enjoyed playing it so much that I asked my parents if I could get some lessons, as there were some available in school. When I left primary school my music teacher asked if I would like to play with the Dunchurch Training Band. My dad took me to a taster session where I met other people learning to play. I really enjoyed playing with the band and was amazed different instruments playing together made the music sound so good.

The adults that run the band are so friendly and always help with their experience in all the different instruments. This is my second year with the band and I look forward to Monday evening practice and the occasional mini concerts.

Dee (adult learner) – I'm a Paediatric Emergency Nurse Practitioner and I've always loved music. I played the violin as a child but I have a fascination with the ►



Join us for
PAINT & PROSECCO
at
DUNCHURCH SOCIAL CLUB

Visit www.njoyart.co.uk/events/




nJoyArt ★★★★★
Painting for Fun 5* Rated

- Relax & enjoy some downtime, you deserve it!
- Sociable & friendly, no experience necessary
- Guided with easy step-by-step instructions
- Light-hearted, fun, group sessions for adults
- No pressure!
- Everything provided for you**

nJoyArt.co.uk
01788 288855
07307 200 868
@njoyartuk











▶ trumpet. When I saw an advert for open rehearsals at Dunchurch Band I decided to give it a go and I'm so glad I did! I started on the cornet (the closest thing to a trumpet in the band) and thought I'd never manage a note. With the encouragement, patience and brilliant guidance from the team I quickly found myself not only playing one note, but whole pieces of music! The band is incredibly friendly, welcoming and passionate about helping the training band develop. I love the camaraderie and learning new music alongside my fellow trainees and I would genuinely recommend anyone, of any age or experience, to come along and give it a try. It's great fun and you might just surprise yourself!!

sit and watch and gain some confidence before trying an instrument? Come along to the W.I Hall on Southam Road on a Monday from 7pm-8pm.

If you have any questions please contact **dunchurch.band100@yahoo.com** or call Louise on 07548 276993

Alternatively, if you are looking to return to playing or looking for a band to join come along to the main band practice on a Tuesday 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the W.I Hall, Southam Road. Come and meet the conductor, Mr. Paul Whitmore and have a chat with band members. Instruments can be provided but if you have your own bring it along and come and play!!

Do you feel inspired to come and have a play? Why not come along to a rehearsal,

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

ALEXA STEELE

EXPERT IN BESPOKE FAMILY & LUXURY TRAVEL

With almost 10 years in luxury travel, I create thoughtfully tailored holidays for those who want something truly special. Whether it's a relaxed beach escape or an unforgettable adventure, I partner with trusted suppliers to deliver seamless, stress-free travel from start to finish.



WHY BOOK WITH ME?

- £ Same price as major online travel sites – no hidden fees
- Strong supplier relationships mean better perks
- Personal support before, during & after your trip
- Stress-free planning with expert guidance
- Financially protected with ATOL and TTA bonding

Get in Touch! - Let's Plan Your Dream Holiday

@Travels.with.Alexa +4420 3657 0565

alexaswordstravel.co.uk

alexasteeluxurytravel.my.canva.site



John Chard

Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall

Sadly, in December, John Chard, our fellow Trustee and friend died following a short illness.

From the very early stages of planning the hall, John was our Project Manager, continuing right through the building process until completion and the opening of the hall in 2003. John then continued as a Trustee and our very hard-working secretary until the time of his death.

We owe a great debt of thanks to John for his steadfast work in helping to provide the village with this much used facility.

We send our deepest condolences to John's wife Sheila, his son Philip and family.

Thurlaston Meadows Care Home



First class, family run residential care home where residents, staff and residents family are all treated as one big family ...



Services include:

- Day Care (Including Taxi Service*)
- Residential Care for Adults Aged 65+ Including Dementia
- Respite Care - One Week or More

Lonely? Need someone to talk to? Does your regular Carer need a break?

We provide **Elderly Day Care** 7 days a week including a home cooked, hot meal, snacks & refreshments, activities and entertainment. Transport can also be provided in our own electric taxi with wheelchair access (*a charge may apply).



Facilities include:

Spa Bath | Bar | Orangery
Library | Daily Activities
Regular Outings | Events
Themed Restaurant Nights
Our Own Taxi for Outings & Appointments | Regular Outside Entertainment



SCAN ME



Tel: 01788 522405
www.thurlastonmeadows.com



Thurlaston Meadows Care Home

We provide first class residential care for elderly residents within a homely and relaxed atmosphere.



WE NOW PROVIDE A DAY CARE CLUB IN OUR COSY LOUNGES

Lonely? Need someone to talk to? Does your regular Carer need a break?

- We provide Elderly Day Care 7 days a week including
- Home cooked hot meal
 - Snacks & refreshments
 - Activities & entertainment
 - Also transport can be provided, see below -



Tel: 01788 522405
www.thurlastonmeadows.com

Dunchurch Boughton CE Junior Academy

By Emma Darragh, Headteacher

At Dunchurch Junior Academy, we are proud of the school's history of sporting success, and we continue to build on this legacy by encouraging participation, enjoyment and excellence in sport. This autumn term saw pupils enthusiastically embracing a wide range of sporting competitions, festivals and participation events. Throughout the term, children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship while representing the school with pride.



table – an outstanding achievement driven by hard work, skill and fantastic team spirit.

The girls' football team also enjoyed success at the local schools' tournament at Kilsby Lane. Playing on a cold

winter evening, the girls produced determined performances, losing one match, drawing two and winning two, which secured them an impressive third-place finish overall. Their resilience, positivity and commitment were evident throughout the competition.

In September, Year 3 and Year 6 pupils attended the Tag Rugby Festival at St Andrew's Rugby Club. This popular event provided pupils with the opportunity to develop their Rugby skills, build confidence and experience competitive play in a supportive, fun-filled environment.

Football featured strongly throughout the term. The Year 5 boys' team competed in a tournament at Bloxham School, where they showcased impressive teamwork and resilience. After a series of closely fought matches, the team secured victory in the 3rd/4th place play-off following a tense penalty shootout. Meanwhile, the combined Year 5 and 6 boys' team has been competing in the Winter League at Kilsby Lane. Now just past the halfway stage, the team remains undefeated after 12 fixtures and currently sits proudly at the top of the

Other highlights of the term included Sportshall Athletics, Speed Stacking, Dodgeball and Indoor Rowing. Both the Year 4 and Year 6 athletics teams finished first in their heats, while the Year 4 Speed Stacking team also claimed first place in their competition and went on to play in the finals. The Year 5 Dodgeball team excelled, also progressing to represent East Warwickshire at the Level 3 School Games competition, winning every match across two events. The Year 6 Indoor Rowing teams also impressed, with the girls finishing third and the boys qualifying for the Level 3 finals.

Looking ahead, pupils will prepare for spring and summer events including Cross Country, Rounders, Swimming and Athletics. With such enthusiasm already shown, the coming terms promise to be just as successful and memorable.



Always a Warm Welcome

Mon-Sat 9.00am to 4.00pm
Sun 10am to 3pm

Scan Menu



4 Daventry Road, Dunchurch
www.cuppadunchurch.co.uk

cuppadunchurch



SomeWhere
Special
TO STAY

Village Green House

ACCOMMODATION SOLUTIONS

Short or long stay for professionals



ROOMS AT FULLY INCLUSIVE RATES

**FURNISHED DOUBLE & SINGLE ENSUITE ROOMS
AVAILABLE TO WORKING SINGLE PROFESSIONALS**

Our Room rates are inclusive of:

WiFi – Housekeeping & Linen Change – Use of Laundry Room,
Kitchen and Communal Spaces

Professionally managed by us

NO OTHER BILLS

Viewing strongly recommended

Village Green House, The Green, Dunchurch, CV22 6NX
Contact Barbara, Tel 07837 182114 email: info@vghrugby.co.uk



THE RUGBY FLOOR COMPANY
DUNCHURCH SHOWROOM
open by appointment
01788 815700
 PARQUET | WOOD | KARNDAN | LAMINATE | RENOVATION



Beautiful floors for beautiful homes
 3C SOUTHAM RD | DUNCHURCH | CV22 6NL



Jane Archer – Artist
 Original watercolours, prints, cards and cushions. Workshops and demonstrations to local groups. Studio visits welcome by appointment.

NEW WORKSHOPS FOR SPRING
 See website for details and booking

janearcher8@gmail.com
 Jane Archer Artist
 @janearcherartist
 www.janearcherart.co.uk

My Journey into Art

By Ray Spence

I never set out to be an artist. In fact, in school I never studied art and was most definitely a scientist. The natural world was my interest and I ended up studying microbiology at University College London. It was here that I met a fellow student, Paul, whose father was a member of a photographic society. Paul inspired me to buy a secondhand camera and I set up a darkroom in my student room. There was no turning back. I learnt to really see the world around me through the lens of the camera. As I learnt more, I became involved with amateur clubs and the Royal Photographic Society, eventually gaining a Fellowship of the society.



After graduating I became a Biology teacher but after 12 years, photography was winning the battle and I took a leap of faith and switched to lecturing in photography full time at FE and HE level. At the same time, I opened a commercial studio in the Jewellery Quarter of Birmingham. However, it was apparent to me that my heart was inclined more to the fine art area of image making.

I began to exhibit my work in the UK and abroad, even being invited to go to Saint Petersburg to show my work at the Manege Gallery. I was also writing articles and books on various aspects of photography which mainly came from my experience from teaching.

After retiring I was able to devote my time entirely to my own work and explored my creativity in new areas. In the past I had worked in film, digital, and what are known

as “alternative processes”. These are mainly unique handmade processes going back to Victorian times, such as cyanotype, salt printing and platinum printing. However, another moment of chance occurred when I was judging a photographic exhibition in Sheffield. One of the entries was a very small portrait on a piece of glass. This turned out to be what I now know was a wet plate collodion image invented in 1851. I now work almost exclusively in this process.

For the past three years I have been part of Art in Dunchurch. A group of wonderful artists who show each summer in the heart of Dunchurch and last year, I bought a house in Dunchurch and it was one of the best moves of my life.

www.rayspence.co.uk

Give the gift of flowers...
Mother's Day



Anne-Marie Florist
Mothering Sunday 15th March
Open 11am - 1pm
 Delivery available all day Friday 13th & Saturday 14th
 Sunday 15th morning - Limited availability

Established for 39 years and situated in the heart of Dunchurch village
 Email: amflorist1@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/AnneMarieFlorist
[am_florist_dunchurch](https://www.instagram.com/am_florist_dunchurch)

01788 521 881
www.amflorist1.wixsite.com/website



Jaime Hailstone Funeral Care

“One family caring for another”

Independent Family Funeral Directors Serving the Community of Rugby & Surrounding Areas

- Professional and caring team under the supervision of Jaime Hailstone.
- Available 24 hours a day.
- Home visits by appointment.
- Private arranging suite & chapel of Rest.



Jaime Hailstone Funeral Care
63 Overslade Lane, Rugby, CV22 6ED.
01788 533 519

info@hailstonefunerals.co.uk
www.hailstonefunerals.co.uk



Dunchurch Nature Watch is a fairly new volunteer led community group with a simple aim: keeping an eye on our local wildlife and green spaces and helping nature thrive right here in our village.



screening and talk by local naturalist Simon Watts – The Secret Migration, bringing together the community to learn more about the hidden journeys of our wildlife and the importance of the places they depend upon.

Since the last village magazine, volunteers have taken part in a litter pick in Cawston Spinney, helping take care of this beautiful, local, green space.

We are always delighted to see growing interest in local nature and look forward to continuing our work throughout the year. If you'd like to get involved or simply follow what we are up to, keep an eye out for future updates.

We've also enjoyed working with Dunchurch library and the local school to create a big garden bird watch display, in line with RSPB event, celebrating the birds that share our village and encouraging residents of all ages to take part.

Please join our new Facebook page for information about Dunchurch Nature Watch.

facebook.com/profile.php?id=61582552310286

More recently we have organised a film



Registered charity No. 506989

Rugby Talking Newspaper

Help us to grow, so we can help more people

We help local blind and visually-impaired people to stay in touch with their own communities. For nearly 50 years we have been helping to counteract the possible effects of social isolation by sending them an audio version of the local news, every week, for free.

“Without it I don't know what is going on in my hometown”

“I look forward to getting my copy every week”

“Some weeks it's the only local voice I hear”

We want to grow our listener numbers, and that is where you could help.

In editorial, production, reading, and admin, we are looking for volunteers to bring fresh energy and ideas to ensure we grow successfully.

For more information, email Simon at enquiries@rugbytalkingnewspaper.org

Slow PC?

Hi, I can come to you to fix your Windows PC or laptop. I can speed it up, sort out wireless broadband or email issues, remove spyware, install printers, retrieve lost passwords, recover or transfer data, repair hardware etc. I also do a PC or laptop Healthcheck for £79. I can also set up mobiles & tablets. I charge a fair price, have over 35 years experience and accept most payment types. Google me or check my website to see my many 5 star reviews.

Why struggle? Why not call me!

Alan Howarth Computer Support 01788 877265
www.ahcomputersupport.co.uk or 07973 409549

Celebrating the Year of Reading

Did you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading?

Led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, this campaign was created in response to a decline in reading enjoyment across the UK. It aims to reconnect people of all ages with reading as something relevant, rewarding and fun.



Alongside these events, don't forget our regular activities. Watercolour Painting happens every first and third Thursday of the month 1pm – 3pm and is free to attend with no booking needed and Lego Club meets every Saturday at 10:30am.

The best way to keep up with events is to

Here at Dunchurch Community Library, we're proud to join in the celebrations. We've already welcomed a children's author for an exciting storytime and activity session and there's plenty more planned throughout the year.

follow Dunchurch Community Library on Facebook, where we share events and updates.

We also rely on our wonderful volunteers to keep the library running. If you can commit to at least one shift per month, we'd love to have you join our team. It's a rewarding way to meet people and support a vital community space.

What's coming up in the next three months?

In March, for World Book Day, Hunt's Pop-Up Book Shop will bring a fantastic selection of books for all ages.

In April, Peter Rabbit joins us for a themed arts and crafts session.

In May, "Stories in History" will feature the moving story of a young girl living through the Blitz.

Your library is more than just a place to borrow books. It is a valued community asset and by supporting Dunchurch Community Hub & Library, you help ensure it continues to thrive and remain accessible to everyone in the village.

"When in doubt, go to the library."
– J.K. Rowling

With so much happening, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether it's discovering a new favourite story, exploring history, or sharing a book with your children, the library is a place to connect with reading in a fun and meaningful way.

Let's make 2026 a year where Dunchurch truly falls back in love with reading.

THURLASTON MEADOWS ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW

THURLASTON VILLAGE HALL
 Church Lane, Rugby CV23 9JY

18TH APRIL 2026 12PM-2.30PM



Free Antique Valuation Event!

Bring along your old, unusual, or intriguing items and let expert valuers from Gildings Auctioneers uncover their stories.

Food and refreshments available to buy.

All proceeds support our Residents' Activities Fund.

For more information please contact
 Thurlaston Meadows
 Contact Lyn Tel: 01788 522405
 Email:
 catering@thurlastonmeadows.com



Sponsored by
Thurlaston Meadows Care Home

Belly rubs come as standard.

We know certain things make home feel like home.

So if you've got a four-legged friend you'd like to bring along, we'll do everything we can to make them feel welcome too.



Every moment.



Residential, nursing and dementia care.

Learn about life with us at

hallmarkcarehomes.co.uk | 01788 462 000 | Hallmark Anya Court, Rugby, CV22 6JA

St Peter's Church

Hello everyone, it hardly seems possible that we are already well into the year — time really does fly when life is full! I hope the year has begun well for you and that the lighter days of spring are starting to lift your spirits.

Here at St Peter's Church, we are very much looking forward to the months ahead. We have some exciting ideas and plans taking shape, all aimed at welcoming the wider community and creating spaces where people can come together, connect, and feel at home.

We recently enjoyed a wonderfully fun Pancake Party, a joyful afternoon filled with laughter, conversation, and (of course!) plenty of pancakes. Moments like these remind us how special it is to gather and how much warmth there is in our village when we share time together.

As we now look ahead to Easter, for Christians, the most important time of the year — you would be very welcome to join

us at one of our services as we celebrate Jesus rising from the grave, bringing ultimate hope to the world. At the time of writing, our Easter service dates have not yet been confirmed, but please do check our Facebook page or website for details. We would love to see you, especially on Easter morning or at our Easter Experience, a family-friendly and fun event for the whole village.

Finally, as a church we take great pride in keeping St Peter's looking loved and cared for at the heart of our community. At present, however, we are struggling for helpers. Could you spare just 1–2 hours, four times a year, to help with church cleaning? We would be very grateful to welcome new volunteers onto the cleaning rota this year. If you can help, or would like more information, please speak to Karen Gregory or email karenandrich2@tiscali.co.uk.

With every blessing,
Rev Ian Sweeney



Our new crèche area! – for those wanting to join our services with little ones.



MONDAY

Dunchurch Village Hall

Rugby Road, Dunchurch, CV22 6PN
4.15pm
Call Kelly on 07777145560

THURSDAY

Rugby Borough Football Club

Kilsby Lane, Rugby, CV21 4PN
5.30pm & 7pm
Call Kelly on 07777145560

real food, real support, real results

Rheams (Plumbing and Heating) Limited

Tel. 01926 428752

FAMILY RUN BUSINESS ESTABLISHED IN 1967

- GAS SAFE REGISTERED ENGINEERS
- 24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK
- RUGBY BASED ENGINEERS
- FREE INFORMATIVE CONSULTATIONS
- LARGE/SMALL SCALE RENOVATION
- NEW BUILDS
- BOILER REPLACEMENTS/REPAIRS (natural gas, LPG and commercial)
- LANDLORDS' CHECKS
- POWERFLUSH SERVICE
- BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS
- ALL GENERAL PLUMBING

email: info@rheams.co.uk

Community Café/Tea Rooms

We are lucky to have a variety of community café/tea rooms operating in the village and one such, is Route 41 run by the Baptist Church. At each one, besides other delicious cakes, you can try their scone of the month. The following recipe, made by Lesley Mawby, was for January and absolutely delicious!

Goat's Cheese, Pear and Walnut Scones

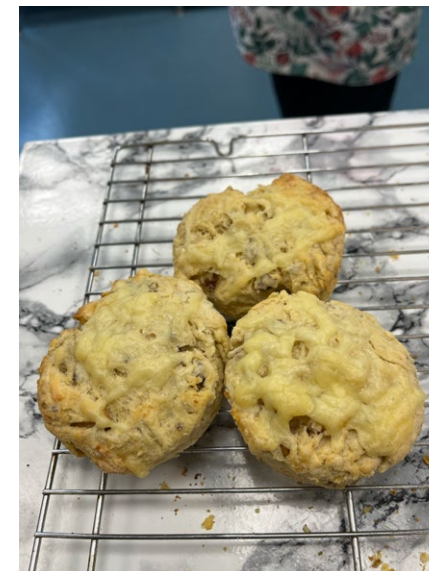
Preheat oven to 190c
Line baking tray

- 450g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 115g butter
- 130g crumbled goat's cheese
- 80g cheddar cheese
- 1 pear peeled and diced
- 60g chopped walnuts (leave out for nut allergy sufferers)
- Pinch of salt and ground black pepper
- 1 beaten egg
- 200ml of milk

Sift flour, baking powder and sugar. Add butter and rub it in until it forms fine breadcrumbs. Stir in cheddar, pear, walnuts and seasoning with most of the goats cheese, reserving a little for the topping. Add egg and enough milk to form a soft dough.

Turn out onto floured surface and roll to approx. 4cm thick. Cut out with 7cm cutter. Brush top with milk and sprinkle with goats cheese.

Bake for 15 – 20mins until golden.
Devour and enjoy!



Community Café Diary Dates

Dunchurch Baptist Church, Route 41
Community Café every third Tuesday of the month, 9.30am to noon

Cake & Craft on the third Friday of each month, from 10am till noon.

Dunchurch Social Club, Coffee and cake charity event every last Friday of the month, 10.30am – noon

Live Music Memories every second Friday of the month noon – 2pm (with bar)

St Peter's Church, The Beech Tree Coffee shop, first Tuesday of every month
9.30am – 12.30pm

At each one, you will find a warm welcome, companionship and an opportunity to make new friends and perhaps reacquaint with old ones, so do go along and give them a try.

Wanda Fashions



Wanda Fashions@TheGreenDunchurch

The Old Bank House, The Green, Dunchurch CV22 6NX
T: 01788 522021 E: paula@wandafashions.com www.wandafashions.com

Dunchurch Parish Council

Proposed Submission Local Plan Consultation

Rugby Borough Council is consulting on its Proposed Submission Local Plan, which sets out where and how development will take place across the borough up to 2042.

Residents can view the plan and supporting documents online at: www.rugby.gov.uk/proposed-submission-local-plan

Hard copies are available at Rugby Library, Dunchurch Community Library, Wolston Library, and Rugby Borough Council offices.

Comments must be submitted using the official Representation Form by 5:00pm on Friday, 13 March 2026. Details of how to respond are available on the website.

Any other queries can be sent to the Parish Clerk: clerk@dunchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

Extra copies of the magazine available at:

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

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.

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

Size	Dimensions	Price
Full page	137mm x 197mm	£100
Half page landscape	137mm x 97mm	£50
Half page portrait	66mm x 197mm	£50
Quarter page	66mm x 97mm	£25

To place an order email fodsads1@gmail.com
Deadline for June 2026 issue: 30 April



An award winning salon in the heart of Dunchurch village

TREATMENTS WE OFFER

- 3D Hydro2 Facial
- 3D Dermaforce (Microneedling & RF)
- Guinot, Geneo & Oxyjet Facials
- Jan Marini Chemical Peels
- Laser Hair Removal
- Laser Red veins & Pigmentation removal
- Electrolysis & Skin Tag Removal
- Specialised Waxing
- Eyelash Tinting & Perming
- Nails Gel & Acrylic
- Fat Dissolving
- Pedicures & Medical Grade Pedicures
- HD Brows

BOOK NOW 01788 817070
www.anewaesthetics.co.uk

3a Southam Road, Dunchurch, Rugby CV22 6NL
Mon - closed, Tues 11am-7pm, Wed 9am-6pm, Thur 11am-8pm, Fri 9am-6.30pm, Sat 8.30am-1pm



NEW PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE TO LOCAL LANDLORDS

Landlords – Do you want to spend less time worrying about the management of your property and your tenants?

Village Green Property Solutions are pleased to announce the launch of our new Property Management Service for private residential landlords in the local area.

We have developed a bespoke management service, which until now has only been available to selected private landlords, and includes the following:

- Tenant liaison and management
- Tenancy agreements and renewals
- Advice on maximising rental returns
- Managing all aspects of property maintenance
- Ensuring landlords statutory obligations are met
- Marketing of properties
- Finding suitable tenants for your property
- Collecting your rent and paying you immediately by same day payment
- Providing all necessary documentation for your accounting needs

The Advantages of our Service

- Single point of contact – available daily
- Proactive service – benefiting landlords and tenants
- Comprehensive tenant management
- Making landlords life stress-free
- Low costs – 10% monthly management fee

For more information regarding our services email Barbara Harris info@vghrugby.co.uk or call 07837 182114

Village Green Property Solutions 2 The Green Dunchurch CV22 6NX



Tried Everything and Still in Pain?

We know how frustrating pain can be. It stops you from doing the things you love.

Too often, we hear the same story:

"I was told to rest. Given painkillers. Told it's 'just my age'. But it hasn't gone away."

If that sounds like you, you're not alone - and we can help.

WHAT WE CAN HELP WITH:

- ✓ Back Pain
- ✓ Neck Pain
- ✓ Knee Pain
- ✓ Shoulder Pain
- ✓ Foot & Ankle Pain
- ✓ Hip & Groin Pain
- ✓ Sports Injuries
- ✓ Sciatica
- ✓ Headaches
- ✓ Plantar Fasciitis
- ✓ Osteoarthritis
- ✓ And lots more



07778 022 033
www.evolution-physio.co.uk
info@evolution-physio.co.uk

★★★★★

"After the hour session I was bending as if there had never been a problem, it really was amazing how fast the treatment worked."

★★★★★

"20+ years. I have suffered with pain. Top consultants & GP's didn't help, but after one simple appointment I now have a plan to fix my problems."

★★★★★

"After the first appointment, the pain has improved dramatically. I can't recommend Evolution-Physio enough."

Allotment Association

In Search of Alternative Useful Vegetables

By Paul Sanders, Secretary

Winter is the season when gardeners pause to take stock — celebrating successes, learning from failures, and planning with renewed optimism for the year ahead. The past summer will be remembered for its exceptional dryness, with barely a drop of rain during the crucial weeks when vegetables should have been racing away. Watering cans and buckets were pressed into service far more often than usual, and even the most reliable rainwater butts were drained to the last drop.

Yet what stood out was not the struggle, but the resilience. Many crops clung on through the drought, and some even surprised us with generous yields. My butternut squash, for example, seemed to revel in the heat, producing a handsome crop of large, pale fruits that are still storing beautifully well into winter.

A stroll around the allotments revealed another quirk of the year: heaps of uncollected apples beneath the trees. It was a classic “mast year”, when many species synchronise to produce an overabundance of fruit and seed. Anyone who wandered under oak



trees last autumn will remember the acorns rolling underfoot like marbles. It was, in every sense, a bumper year for fruit.

With the new growing season approaching, many gardeners will be thinking about diversifying their plots. Last year I experimented with a few less familiar vegetables, with mixed but intriguing results.

First on the list was samphire, a plant more commonly found in coastal salt marshes and mudflats. I grew it in a pot from seed, giving it the occasional splash of salt water to mimic its natural habitat. Fresh, it added a crisp, briny bite to salads; flashfried, the tender tips became a crunchy, salty treat.

The year before, I had planted tubers of *apios americana*, a climbing vine traditionally foraged by Indigenous peoples of the Americas. With its attractive pink flowers and nitrogenfixing abilities, it's a charming and useful plant. The tubers can be boiled like potatoes, but I opted to slice and fry my modest harvest into something resembling crisps. The



flavour was underwhelming, but I'm not giving up on it yet.

Another curiosity was skirret, a medieval favourite that fell out of fashion once the potato arrived in Europe. It produces clusters of slender roots that look rather like chunky bindweed. Boiled whole, skins on, skirret has a pleasantly sweet flavour somewhere between carrot and parsnip. Its only drawback is a tough, fibrous core that develops in older roots.

Perhaps the most striking plant I grew was amaranth, or Love Lies Bleeding, better known as an ornamental than a vegetable. The young leaves are excellent in salads or cooked like spinach, while the dramatic crimson flower heads produce a tiny grain. Extracting it is a labour of love — winnowing is essential — and even then only a fraction of the grains will pop like miniature popcorn. Boiled, they form

a mild, porridgelike paste, though they are reputed to be highly nutritious.

Not everything thrived. My tall winter brassicas — sprouts, kale and kalettes — struggled badly in the prolonged dry spell and produced very little. One exception was Taunton Deane perpetual kale, which shrugged off the drought and continued growing well into winter. Its flavour is a little sturdier than more familiar brassicas, but perhaps a more robust cooking method will bring out its best.

As climate change brings increasingly unpredictable weather, the search for resilient and alternative food plants is becoming ever more important. Experimenting with unusual crops not only broadens our culinary horizons but may also help futureproof our gardens. After all, every season offers a chance to discover something new.

Staddle Stone Toppers

This year, the seven Christmas toppers were pantomime themed. We also featured the Dick Whittington topper as the subject of the previous (December) magazine cover. Just for fun, can you name them all?

There are more toppers planned for June so keep a look out.



The Green Man

Serving superb freshly cooked quality food at wonderful value-for-money prices

COME AND JOIN US

Open every day from 12 noon to 11pm



THE GREEN MAN
DUNCHURCH

Daventry Road
Dunchurch
CV22 6NS

Easy parking to rear



STEAK DEAL FOR 2

Two steaks and a bottle of house red, white or rosé starting from £39.90

Choose your steak
8oz Rump
8oz Sirloin
10oz Ribeye
Mixed Grill

All supplied by butchers Joseph Morris from local farms • Quality Assured



Reserve a table 01788 810210

email: thegreenman@splendidpubgroup.co.uk

[facebook.com/greenmandunchurch](https://www.facebook.com/greenmandunchurch)

www.thegreenmandunchurch.co.uk

The Early Years of Bilton Grange as a School

By Jayne Brumpton
Humanities teacher and Archivist

Rev. Walter Earle was a teacher and a housemaster at the senior school, Uppingham, under the headmastership of the Rev. Edward Thring. Thring had many innovative and original ideas about education, including the broadening of the traditional 'classical' education to include modern languages and science and, especially, music. The Clarendon Commission of 1864 reported on the running of nine leading public schools in England, including Rugby. The Commission was critical of younger boys being educated at such establishments, and so the idea of a Preparatory (Prep) School, for boys younger than 13, became more popular. Walter Earle started his own prep school in 1873 at Yarlet Hall near Stafford, and incorporated many of Thring's ideas. The school grew and prospered. Initially, the majority of the boys in Earle's school went on to Uppingham. By the 1880s, however, Rugby School was becoming more popular as a destination senior school.



The South Lawns 1890s

In 1887, the lease of the Yarlet school buildings expired, and the owner wanted to renew the lease at four times the previous rent. There was nothing for it but to move elsewhere. At that time, it happened that Bilton Grange, with its 175 acre estate, was on the market. Rev. Earle visited the Dunchurch estate and at once realised its possibilities as a school. Its proximity to Rugby School may well have been an influencing factor. His friends told him that it was madness to consider purchasing such a large place, but Rev. Earle possessed both vision and energy, and so he borrowed the money – £28,500 – and made the purchase.



Boys' group 1899 (note the uniform)

The Easter holidays were spent in the strenuous work of removing the school from Yarlet, and Bilton Grange came into being as a Prep School in the Summer Term of 1887. Rev. Earle at once set to work on a large scheme of alteration and construction to adapt the house to his requirements. ▶



FUN music classes for under 5's



Rugby - Coventry - West Northants

Book your session today
rhythmtime.net





The outdoor swimming pool 1890s

► In quick succession, the Chapel, the Sanatorium (now the Bursary), the outdoor Swimming Bath and a new classroom block were built. Later, there followed the Lecture Hall (now Room 15 and the studies behind it), and the very large conservatory (now the Art Department) was altered to allow for a Carpenter's Shop and a Shooting Gallery.

Rev. Earle's faith in his new enterprise was justified. Within a few terms, the 70 boys who had come from Yarlet had risen to 100, and by 1893, the numbers had risen to the capacity limit of 120. This was extraordinary for the time. The average number of pupils in a prep school was 36 and only six schools existed which had more than 70 students. The pupils were all



The staff 1896

boys and most of them would have been boarders.

All the teachers – called 'Masters' – would have been men, and, as can be seen in the photo, all would have delivered their lessons in academic gowns. All very formal!

The Masters lived in the school, in the building called the Masteries, where each teacher would have a small single bedroom on the first floor and a study below. There were also many servants employed to help run the school. Many of these were local people, including Ernest Chettle, a footman from Wolston, kitchen maid Ellen Hands from Bilton, and housemaids Frances Smith from Braunston and Elizabeth Allen from Thurlaston [Source 1891 census].

Sport has always had a prominent place in the Bilton Grange curriculum and it is noteworthy that while the Bilton Record, which records all aspects of school life, wasn't started until 1902, the Bilton Log, recording the school's sporting prowess, was inaugurated in 1887, as soon as the school was established in Dunchurch. As its Warwickshire career started in the summer term, the first sport mentioned was cricket. The opening paragraph states, "We began our Bilton career under very bad auspices. The ground, though simply rolled, played very fairly, but our numbers were thinned by whooping cough." BG's first match was against Vecqueray's School. Vecqueray was a Prussian-born teacher at Rugby who established a prep school on the Dunchurch Road as a feeder school for Rugby. By 1870, needing bigger premises, Vecqueray moved to a purpose-built Victorian Gothic building on Barby Road called Hillbrow. The Bilton Grange boys were heavily beaten in that first cricket match, the Bilton Log admitting that



Mixed boys and masters cricket team 1887

"the less said on the subject the better." The following term, where football (soccer) was played, saw a more successful outcome against the local rival. After Christmas, the Easter Term saw the replacement of association football with the rugby variety, which was, apparently, "tolerably popular." Other local schools were added to the list of sporting opponents, including Orwell House (commonly known as

Eden's, after the Headmaster) in Clifton-upon-Dunsmore.

The staff were also keen sportsmen, and in the cricket season, would join with the boys to create mixed teams to play local opponents. The 1898 season records matches against both Bilton Village and Dunchurch Village.

During those early years, from 1887 to Rev. Earle's retirement in 1902, Bilton Grange won an enviable reputation in the prep school world, especially in the area of the teaching of music. Both E.J.Dent (President of the International Music Society and Governor of Sadler's Wells) and Sir Arthur Bliss (Master of the Queen's Music) were educated at Bilton Grange.

On Walter Earle's retirement, the Headmastership passed to his fourth son, Rev. Ernest Earle, who carried on his father's work until his own retirement in 1921.

FODS Winter Wonderland

Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event. It was a joyous occasion with fabulous music by Dunchurch Band and singing by Dunchurch Voices.

We raised **£700** so keep a look out for some lovely village blooms this summer.

Your support is much appreciated.



Dunchurch Festival Group – My Memories

By Ann Wright

My first involvement as a DFG committee member was in 1980 when we started a community playgroup. At that time the committee was made up of representatives from every village organisation and I was nominated to be the playgroup rep. We were trying to raise money for a village hall and back then, it was a week long event with the following basic structure.

Thursday: the marquee would be erected on the village sportsfield. Once it went up everyone knew Festival Week was imminent! We gathered all the equipment needed borrowing chairs, tables, staging from different organisations and halls all across the Rugby area.

Friday: The bar equipment was set up, bar, taps, barrels etc. and the electricity mains sourced and connected. Tables and chairs were added. Whilst this was being done, jumble was being collected door to door, (we had posted slips through village doors the week before) and it was then taken to the marquee to be sorted that evening.

Saturday: We were at the marquee bright and early, finishing the jumble sorting. The bar was stocked, (we were the only licensed jumble sale in the Midlands!) It was a large marquee and it was soon full of all sorts of items. The only things we said no to were livestock and children! Queues started to form, usually curling round to run along Rugby Road. Doors opened at 1.00pm.

We had a good reputation and some people would travel from Northamptonshire and further afield just to get a good bargain. Finishing about 4pm, we then set up for a music event, either a jazz or folk night or something similar.

Sunday: We had the famed Sunday morning fun run from Arkwright Field, along Alwyn Road, Coventry Road Cawston and back along Cawston Lane to Arkwright field. In the evening, we had Festival Praise in the marquee where the churches held a well attended service.

Monday: A quieter day! We had the whist drive in the WI Hall and the Young Miss Dunchurch competition in the Methodist Church Hall – usually with a celebrity judge.

Tuesday: We had children's sports with a DIY BBQ, or a sponsored knit-in in the marquee and then latterly a Gentlemen's Evening with a sportsman as a speaker and Bonzo and Doris as the entertainment. Great fun!

Wednesday: This was Quiz Night, usually with 50 teams. We provided a ploughmans for every entrant, so Wednesday afternoon was spent preparing 200 cheese and ham rolls! We had runners to take the answers to the quizmaster and also collect bar orders, these were usually our children.

Thursday: Ladies Night. Usually a fashion show perhaps with a hairdressing or make up demonstration. We then introduced menswear into the mix and this was very popular with the ladies. All of the models came from the village and were inexperienced. It was quite a lions den for some of the male models! I remember modelling hats, to a top hat and tails theme. Out came the fishnets!

The whole of Thursday daytime was spent setting up the marquee, i.e. building the cat walk, putting out chairs and fresh flower arranging. A long day and usually a very late night. At the end of the night the marquee was stripped down to prepare for Friday.

Friday: Latterly, we introduced a Snr Citizens Tea Dance in the marquee, where we served tea and had live music. We also held a junior disco in the WI Hall, very popular. However, the main event for Friday was the senior disco! Captain's Disco (Pete Thornley) ran this and drew youngsters from all over the Rugby area. It was heaving! To the extent that if you were behind the bar it was pushed onto you from the press of people trying to get a drink. Another late night to clear up to prepare for the REALLY BIG ONE!

Saturday: Everything was leading to this. We had the procession, fete and evening event with food and dancing. Similar to today, we had teams working on the field setting up the arena, stalls and restocking the bar etc. Lots of people who never came to meetings, just turned up to help and others were working on the procession floats. This was when the Dunchurch Festival procession was bigger than the Rugby town one! We usually had a marching band or 2 (Coventry Triumph Pipe Band and a Samba Band), floats, best dressed bikes, walking fancy dress. We set off from the junior school, along Sandford Way, Southam Road, across the traffic lights, Rugby Road, Cawston Lane, Bilton Lane, Northampton Lane, Rugby Road, Sportsfield.

When the procession arrived at the sportsfield, the fete could be opened. Everyone on the floats and walking fancy dress, took part in the fancy dress ►



Coventry Triumph Pipe Band

► competition. The arena had various demonstrations, dancing, the bands that had been in the procession, martial arts, fencing (with swords not wooden stakes!) and memorably some break dancers from Brownsover where we had to buy a piece of linoleum for them to perform on!!

As now we had many village stalls and private stalls, games, exhibitions, a bar and refreshments.

Around 4.30pm, we had to clear the marquee and set up with tables, chairs and dance floor for the evening event. This could be steel band, hawai'i'n, Bavarian band, school dinners night etc. All with themed food that had been prepared by the committee members.

At the end of this we had to clear and strip down the marquee and pack away everything as the marquee company usually arrived at 7.00am on Sunday to remove it. All the equipment we had borrowed was returned and the field litter picked.

As you can see, it was a very busy programme, hard work but lots of fun. Our closest friends now are those we made over those years on the Festival Committee. Festival was a family affair, we were at the marquee every day and night and the children came as well. It's where they made lifelong friends as we did and it is heartwarming to see that the same comradeship is still just as strong today with the present DFG committee. I add my congratulations and thanks to them for keeping the fete spirit alive on this, its 50th anniversary.

JKM Swim School



School Holiday

Swimming Lessons **NOW** Available

@ Bilton Grange School,
Rugby Road, Dunchurch CV22 6QU



3 Years to Pre-competition standard



Private lessons on a 1:1 or 2:1 basis



Teachers with considerable experience



National Teaching Plan stages 1:10



3-day crash courses available

Book NOW to avoid disappointment

School holiday lessons available

For more information please contact Debbie

07824 813156

e: admin@jkmwarwickshire.co.uk



Find us on Facebook:
JKM Swimschool

www.jkmwarwickshire.co.uk

Dunchurch Sportsfield & Village Hall

Four rooms for hire of varying sizes.
One with stage, sound system and large kitchen.
Two with kitchenette.

Children's parties

Adult birthday / anniversary parties

Weddings

Business meetings and training sessions



Disabled access and baby changing facilities.
Discounted rates for Dunchurch parishioners.

Contact us on **01788 522444** or email **bookings@dunchurchsportsandvhall.co.uk** for availability.