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WILLIE BIRD RETIRES FROM CHEVIN GOLF CLUB

Chevin Golf Club are sad to announce that, Willie Bird, their Golf Professional for the past 38 years has retired at the end of March.

It is a fact that for many Chevin members the name of Willie Bird and Chevin Golf Club have become synonymous. Obviously after 38 years, many of those members have never known any other Club professional.

Initially he arrived to attend an interview, prior to which he had been advised that he was wasting his time as the selection for this post had already been



decided. Notwithstanding this, following a successful interview, he was appointed

Head Professional at Chevin Golf Club in May 1980.

Born on 5th December 1952

he was christened Benjamin William Bird. He began playing golf when he was 12 years old at Coxmoor Golf Club, where his father was a member and 1970 Captain. Coincidentally Willie turned professional that same year 1970 when he joined Notts Golf Club, Hollinwell, as assistant to Brian Waites. In 1976 Willie was appointed the Club Professional at Shirland Golf Club.

Regarded by himself as the best decision he ever made, Willie married Mary in 1976, and later the couple had two ... continued on page 14



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CYCLE CHALLENGE FOR THE GOOD HOPE SCHOOL IN MALAWI

My name is Aidan Crowson and I am a 14-year-old pupil at Ecclesbourne School. This year, on Monday 23rd April, I will be doing a sponsored cycle as part of my fundraising for Educate Africa.

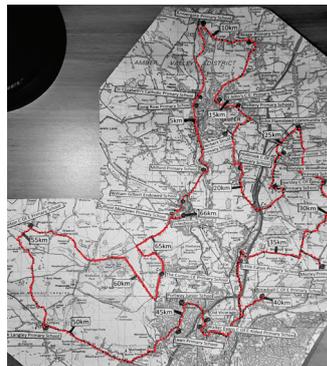
As the school is located in Area 25 of Lilongwe I have set myself the challenge of cycling around 25 schools in Amber Valley on a 66km (41 miles) route starting in Duffield.

Educate Africa is a fundraising project for the Good Hope School in Area 25 of Lilongwe, Malawi. The school provides an education to 730 deprived children, 1/3 of whom are AIDS orphans. It was founded in 2007 by Reaper Ministries, a Duffield-based charity (Charity Number 1161632). The charity still provides administration for the school and all monies I raise this year are ring fenced for the school project. My primary school Duffield Meadows has had a longstanding link with

the Good Hope School as one of the teaching assistants is a trustee and founder of the charity. The charity has a stable financial base with regular giving funding the ongoing running costs of the school.

Malawi is the 6th poorest country in the world, with over 55% of the population living in poverty. Only 11% of Malawian children complete primary school and although education is free, parents have to pay for uniform and stationery, which many can't afford. This means that a lot of children are unable to attend school. The Good Hope School has only 19 teaching staff which means that a lot of classes are very cramped, with around 40 children squeezed into a relatively small classroom.

The Educate Africa project was founded in 2017 to raise funds for the school by Joe McDermott, now in Year 11. He raised sufficient funds to



build a new classroom. Joe visited the school in person during his work experience week in July to see how the money he raised was spent – and I intend to do the same (self-funded). Our involvement has been to fund capital costs, improve sustainability and enhance the children's lives.

The long-term goal of any aid project is to move away from aid dependency towards self-sustaining growth – and with this in mind, this year the funds I am aiming to raise will help the school move further

towards that goal. The school has good links with the local Safeguarding team and police department but currently has no perimeter wall which is an essential for keeping children safe.

My fundraising target is £6000 which will provide for an array of projects ranging from desks, stationery, sports kit to a perimeter wall.

I am also organising a pop and rock concert at Ecclesbourne taking place on Tuesday 26th June. The evening will feature a variety of groups and soloists, showing off the musical talent at our school. For more information, times and tickets or if you would like to sponsor me please visit: www.educateafrica.co.uk.

Please consider supporting the project fundraising as every penny will go directly to the school. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope that with your help we can make a difference to many lives in Malawi.

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DUFFIELD AND DISTRICT HERITAGE FEATURES – MODERN



It would be wrong to point the finger at Kevin McCloud, or more precisely the ever popular *Grand Designs*, for the current passion for building unadorned ‘boxes’. Many contemporary designs utilise some form of timber cladding, light cement render, a flat roof and vast amounts of glass; designed to capture the light or a view. I sense, however, that we have been here before, and I’m certain we all know examples of where an uncompromising modern look has spoiled an otherwise traditional building or street-scene.

Even Kevin has described one ‘grand design’ as “*brusque, unyielding and less than pretty....!*” The Co-Op in Town Street built in the 1960’s is surely a prime example of a building out of harmony with its surroundings. Prince Charles got it about right when describing a proposed ugly extension to the National Gallery as, “*a carbuncle on the face of a much loved friend*”.

Villages, like Duffield, are characterised by buildings where massing, scale, proportion and a uniform roof-scape present a degree of harmony and have stood the test of time. Although we needn’t slavishly copy the past there will be some cases where a skilful ‘pastiche’ that reflects the vernacular (local traditional detailing and materials) may be more appropriate than a strident modern design – take for example the re-developed gap in Town Street from Fletcher’s

to Birds built in the 1980’s. Other buildings in harmony include 2 King Street, 30 Castle Hill and the Weston Centre.

Over the centuries architects have made an impact by pushing the boundaries of design and influencing public taste. In the 20th Century these included Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Mies van de Rohe and Frank Lloyd Wright. In England Maxwell Fry developed the ‘International Modernist’ movement of the 1920’s and 30’s when white concrete ‘cubes’, large horizontal metal ‘Crittall’ windows and flat roofs first appeared. A good example of this style stands at the corner of Duffield Road and West Bank Avenue in Derby. Outstanding examples are the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea, The Homewood, Esher, Surrey (NT) and some buildings that featured in *Poirot!*

One of Duffield’s buildings with echoes of the ‘Modernist’ Movement is the library; built in 1962 by JW Haynes of Belper to a design by Grey, Goodman and Associates. Its construction was overseen by Frank Shaw, an architect living in Duffield at the time. I first became aware of the library as a student in 1965 when I took particular note of the new Branch Librarian. I found many reasons to request, and renew, more books than I could read in the time out on loan!

The current Branch Librarian, and contributor to the *Scene*, Carole-Ann, pointed out that this simple little building

had won an award from the East Midlands Architects, Surveyors and Builders Consultative Board for outstanding craftsmanship. I wasn’t surprised. The original is in the library.



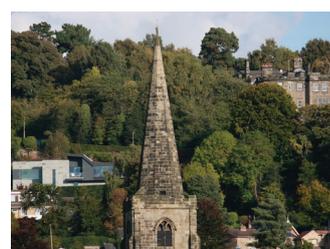
Perhaps because it’s located on a corner, its rectangular design doesn’t challenge its setting. It appears to ‘float’ above its recessed concrete plinth and made to feel lightweight by the quantity of glass. It’s also pleasing from the inside with a light and airy feel and 360 degree outlook. As a last gasp of ‘Modernism’ it seemed ground-breaking stuff; as did the Telephone Exchange on Derby Road but that doesn’t seem to have stood the test of time. On the other hand the ‘cubes’ on Golf Lane are an early example of the current fashion for timber cladding. What goes around comes around!

Today’s architects are entitled, and actively encouraged by Historic England, the Government’s statutory adviser on the historic environment and arbiter of taste, to ensure that architecture is not stuck in the past but allowed to move forward. However, it’s generally recognised that there’s a right and a wrong place, and the need for an exceptional or ground-breaking design, for this to succeed. These additions to homes in Heage and Lime Avenue are good examples of current architectural freedom. As my elderly aunt might have said, “*They don’t half belt out at you!*”

A recent example of contemporary architecture



is this eye-catching design with an ‘apex’ window sitting cheek-by-jowl with a ‘polite vernacular’ house in the conservation area on Hazelwood Road. Another, illustrating old and new, is a striking ultra-modern dwelling in polished stone, slate and glass clinging to Eaton Bank contrasting with the C14 St Alkmund’s Church Spire and Edge Hill House (1818).



I do not presume to judge the merits of any of these new buildings - that’s for the observer to decide. They may have been built of today, but whatever we think of them, tomorrow they become part of our heritage.

So what, you may wonder, became of my interest in the branch librarian? Well, I eventually plucked up courage and managed to take her out - on permanent loan! However, I still have to pay the odd fine.....

By Robert Reid

MUSIC AT DUFFIELD - ASTARIA STRING QUARTET

Inspirational and innovative, the Astaria String Quartet were awarded an 'Arts4All' Grant from the National Lottery to study with the distinguished chamber musician Gábor Takács-Nagy in Geneva and were also awarded a bursary to attend the prestigious 'International Musicians Seminar Prussia Cove'.

They have recorded their first album, 'Fiesta', a celebration of Spanish and Latin American music, which includes compositions by Turina, Villa-Lobos and a first recording of the 'Tango Ballet' by Piazzolla for string quartet. Most recently they have also recorded music by Clement Jewitt.

Programme

- Turina: The Bullfighters
Prayer
- Bloch: In the Mountains
(Two Sketches)
- Haydn: The Seven Last
Words of our Saviour on the
Cross (complete).

DE56 4GS. The venue is suitable for the disabled and there is a large free car park in the school grounds. Please note that the doors will open at 7.00pm and all seats are unreserved.

Individual tickets: Adult £15, Concession £14, Student £7, available at the door and online at www.musicatduffield.com.

This concert is in the Main Hall at the Ecclesbourne School, Duffield, Derbyshire,




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MON

Babies and Bouncers*
10.00am - Parish Hall

Rotary Club of Belper & Duffield
6.30pm for 7.00pm, The Lion Hotel,
Belper. John Horwood 01773 853813

TUE

Traditional Prayer Service
9.15am - St Alkmunds Church

Seedlings Toddler Group*
9.30am - 11.30am
Emmanuel Community Church

Boys Brigade & Girls Association*
6.15 - 7.30pm, New members welcome.
£2.00. Ages 5-11. Baptist Church Hall.
01773 689983

CHAT (Come and Have Afternoon Tea)
Baptist Church 2.00 - 4.00pm
Various activities for all age groups.
Come and join us for tea and a chat!
Keith Powney 841736

Yoga Class
1pm - 2.15pm, £4 bring a blanket.
Julie 07817147167 or 01332 884166
Methodist Church Hall, King Street

WED

Duffield Baby & Toddler Group*
10.00-11.30am
£2.50 per child & £1 for under 1s.
Methodist Church Hall, King Street

Explorers Club*
3.00-5.00pm, no charge.
Emmanuel Community Church
Primary children, Creative Fun, Crafts,
Cooking, Puppets, Games, Drama.

Duffield Singers
7.45 - 9.45pm
St. Margaret's Church, Hall Farm Road.

FRI

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Massive*
4.00 - 6.30pm (years 7-9)
7.00 - 9.30pm (years 10-13)
Emmanuel Community Church
No entry charge. Food & tuck for sale.

SUN

"Blast" Club
10.30 - 12noon
Emmanuel Community Church
Creative fun, games, crafts, stories,
learning about the bible in an exciting way.

*term time only

MONTHLY CALENDAR APRIL

2 Silver Leaves
7.30 - 9.00pm - All welcome.
Easter Bonnet competition.
Methodist Schoolroom, King Street

4 Appletree Carers' Forum
1.00 - 2.00pm
Duffield Surgery

7 Duffield Gardening Club
10am, non-members £2.
The Weston Centre - All welcome.
Our Speaker will be David Thornton
"Growing better vegetables".

10 New Yoga Class Starts
1pm - 2.15pm, £4 bring a blanket.
Julie 07817147167 or 01332 884166
Methodist Church Hall, King Street

16 Chevin Probus Club
Coffee at 10.30am, followed by "All About
Robins". Pete Robinson 01332 705554
p.robinson@btinternet.com
Lion Hotel, Belper

17 Silver Leaves
7.30-9.00pm - All welcome.
Lynn Smithaid - singer
Methodist Schoolroom, King Street

21 Music at Duffield
Astaria String Quartet
7.30pm, Ecclesbourne School - see page 6

23 Baha'i Discussion Group
7.30pm at 53 Broadway, Duffield
All Welcome, whatever your background.

26 Community Lunch
12.30pm, no charge
Emmanuel Church - All welcome.
An opportunity to go out, socialise with
others and make new friends. The simple act
of sharing a meal and spending time together
is underrated so come and join us.
01332 841386, admin@emmanuelduffield.org.

MAY

1 Silver Leaves
7.30 - 9.00pm - All welcome.
Belper musical group.
Methodist Schoolroom, King Street

5 Duffield Gardening Club
10am, non-members £2.
The Weston Centre - All welcome.
AGM.

**MON-
FRI**

Coffee Morning
10.00am - 12noon
The Weston Centre. Coffee, tea and
biscuits 50p, (refill 20p). Volunteers will
ensure you are made welcome.

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The Weston Centre

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*The continued existence of the Weston Centre
is now dependent on more volunteers*

THE CHANGING SEASONS ON THE MEADOW

At last! The sun was warm enough for me to sit out in the garden - sheltered by the open shed door - and have my breakfast, read the paper and almost feel the vitamin D being produced as my face appreciated the almost forgotten sensation from the rays. As if to prove my point, a large bumble bee suddenly buzzed near my ear and then flew off in the direction of the only blossoms available- daffodils, snowdrops and primroses. The wind had an edge on it that suggested my optimism may have been misplaced but the birds singing around me seemed to have had the same feeling as me and were searching underneath the plants for nesting material and food, quarrelling over the sunflower seeds in the feeders. A robin was romping round my feet finding the odd earthworm and probably hoping I was going to start digging over the veg patch. Many of the smaller birds on the meadow like blue tits and long tailed tits cannot lay down fat reserves to keep them warm in the winter so need to forage for at least 80% of daylight hours. For a blue tit that weighs about 11g it means it will have to find the equivalent of 300 caterpillars per day (or about 10g of food) to survive the freezing night. Sparrows can increase by as much as 70% due to increase in their downy plumage to keep warm. The terrible freeze and snow from "the Beast from the East" storm

certainly took its toll of small animals and as I write, we are in for another blast this coming weekend so the birds will have to keep feeding non stop to avoid succumbing to the cold.

Where are the frogs?

They have been recorded as early as the third week in February in some years and if you have a sheltered pond site in your garden, you may have them already along with frogspawn. There was no sign when I went down the meadow a few days ago. The flooded wetland area becomes "frog and toad central" once the conditions are right. Frantically chasing the females, male frogs jump on their backs -sometimes 3-5 at a time driven by the urge to breed - and they can become so heavy that they cannot come up for air and she her suitors drown. The worry about this fickle weather is that the warm spells will encourage them to spawn but as frogspawn initially floats, the coming frosts will kill it. Toads behave in the same way and it can create writhing balls of frantic bodies as the males ride the larger females in the hopes of siring the next generation. Their spawn is laid in long strands attached to underwater weeds so is less in jeopardy from the cold

weather.

The unusual cold weather this spring includes episodes of flooding. The water levels in the wetland area on the meadow generally go up and down with the water table. When the River Ecclesbourne and the River Derwent are in full spate following heavy bouts of rain or melting snow, the rise in their levels is reflected after a short while in the wetland as the underground water table rises. Thus this enormous hollow (which was dug in 2013/14) unwittingly acts to prevent flooding across the meadow site as it accommodates much of the water that would usually ingress across the grassland as the ground becomes sodden and the rivers overflow their banks.

This waterlogging will not be good news for those animals that live in the soil, evidence

of which was strewn across the pavement at the base of the large stone wall opposite the housing on Castle View. Over a dozen dead earthworms had been drowned and washed out of the soil in between the stones. Earthworms can struggle to survive when the land is flooded; many can find air pockets in which to wait out the wet, many more are driven to the surface by the rising water levels in the soil and become welcome food for passing hedgehogs, badgers, birds, birds of prey and are followed to near the surface by underground moles - hence the lines of molehills.

The odd warm day may also trick insects to take to the wing but there is little for them to eat yet on the meadow. The blossom is still tightly held in furred buds waiting for even warmer days; the new leaves are yet to emerge on the beech, oak, ash, birch and hornbeam trees although they too can be ready to do so in a matter of a few days once the warmth is more constant.

by **Di Hancock**
Millenium Meadow Chair
07511230320.



PLEASE HELP!

Please help to save me from one of my worst nightmares! My son has challenged me to get fit, lose weight and to prove it by climbing Scafell Pike on or before my 70th birthday on the 9th May - and I foolishly shook hands on the deal.

It is not the climb that worries me (yes it does!) - it is the **penalty** if I don't do it.

A TATTOO of HIS choice
ANYWHERE on my body - again his choice!
Did I say that I do not like tattoos?

So I am going to the gym, have climbed up Kinder Scout and Ingleborough (in Yorkshire) and so far have lost one and half stone.

This is Scafell Pike - 978m
I need another incentive.
Please will you help me raise money for the **Millennium Meadow** by sponsoring me to do this challenge?



Please send cash or a cheque payable to Duffield Millennium Meadow c/o Hugh Wylde, 11a North Avenue, Darley Abbey DE22 1EZ and/ or contact me and I will give you a gift aid form for your donation!

Thank you. Di Hancock
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Duffield Parish Council

Newsletter April 2018

Fly Tipping at Eyes Meadow



A local company has been found to be using the Parish Council trade waste bins behind the changing rooms at Eyes Meadow to illegally dispose of their business waste. This is under investigation. If anyone has any information about this, please contact the Parish Council. Please be aware that these bins are for parish council use only.

ASB

A formal request has been made to AVBC Community Safety Partnership to implement a public space protection order (PSPO) prohibiting the consumption of alcohol at Wirksworth Corner and Gray Recreation Ground and this is being progressed with their legal department.

New Large Waste Bin Installed



The Parish Council has installed a new waste bin outside Duffield Meadows school. The bin will be emptied weekly by the Parish Council Warden.

Council Policies

A number of council policies are being updated to make certain rules clearer and to ensure the Parish Council complies with new data protection laws coming into force in May 2018. The revised policies concern the Cemetery and Memorials, Data Protection and a new Social Media and Electronic Communication policy. The revised policies will be published on the Parish Council website at www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public to attend to listen or address the Council on any Parish issues. Correspondence from Parishioners is also reported to the meetings.

The Parish Council's Full Council Meeting will take place on the 11th April at the Weston Centre.

Agendas, Committee Reports and Minutes can be viewed on line at
www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contacts

The Parish Office The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street, Duffield, DE56 4ER,
Open to the Public - 10am to 12noon Mondays - Thursdays.
Telephone 01332 842740. Email - clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Cemetery 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield. Telephone - 07912 090644.
Email - cemetery@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Borough Councillors Chris Short - 07970 741483 and Steven Evanson - 01332 842333

County Councillor Chris Short - 07970 741483. Email - chris.short@derbyshire.gov.uk



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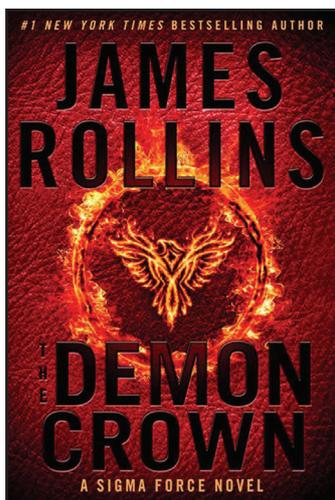
AMG WEALTH
MANAGEMENT

DUFFIELD LIBRARY EVENTS FOR APRIL

Our usual **storytime** sessions continue on **Fridays** throughout the school holidays at the usual time of **11am** for half an hour of stories and simple crafts for pre-school children and their carers. Just call in, no pre-booking is required.

The library continues to be a donation point for the **Hope for Belper** charity, a local volunteer run food-bank helping our neighbours in Belper and surrounding areas. We have a food crate in the library where non-perishable food can be donated.

The library craft group continue to meet on **Mondays** at 10am for a couple of hours to work on craft projects, so please come along if you are interested. The meetings are very friendly and relaxed and no experience is necessary. Currently the group is working on a number of displays for us to use later in the year. If anyone has any spare red fabric or wool they would



like to donate to the group then please drop it off at the library. Many thanks.

The most popular crime writer, as voted by our library users and part of our Dagger in the Library Award 2018 nomination, is PD James. A display of some of her titles can be found in the library. We also have a display of titles on the theme of suffragettes and women's emancipation.

New books, or titles on order to arrive soon, include Need

to Know by Karen Cleveland; in pursuit of a Russian sleeper cell CIA analyst, Vivian Miller stumbles across a devastating piece of information, one which will threaten her family and all she holds dear. Described as interesting and informative, it is impossible to put down. In Clive Cussler's latest novel The Rising Sea, an alarming rise in the world's sea levels sends NUMA operatives to the South China Sea to investigate, there they discover a diabolical plan to upset the Pacific Ocean balance of power. The NUMA team must risk everything to prevent the oncoming catastrophe. The Year that Changed Everything by Cathy Kelly is another best seller. Set in Dublin this novel tells the story of three women all reaching milestone birthdays, Ginger Callie and Sam as they all experience a year that changes their lives.

I have been reading The Demon Crown by James



Rollins, another Sigma Force novel, featuring Gray Pierce. Gray and his colleagues must make a devil's bargain as they join forces with their most hated enemy to stop an ancient threat and save mankind's future. As usual with James Rollins, this story is a very readable blend of action, history, adventure and science.

**Happy reading
Carole-Ann and the Team**



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WILLIE BIRD RETIRES FROM CHEVIN GOLF CLUB

From the cover...

sons, Jonathan and Thomas. Apart from his outstanding success as a Club Professional, he has notable achievements as a Professional player: -

- 1973 - runner up in the Midlands Assistants Championship;
- 1976 - won the Notts Alliance Assistants Championship;
- 1984 - won Derbyshire Professional's Championship by 6 shots;
- 1985 - appointed Captain of the Midland PGA and served on the committee for over 20 years;
- 1986 - had a hole-in-one on the 4th hole at Kedleston

Park Golf Club in the Derbyshire Constabulary Pro-Am;

- 1991 - won the Derbyshire Professionals' Championship at Kedleston Park Golf Club shooting 68, and 69. This was a life times best day recording 13 birdies and one eagle;
- 1991 - made Captain of Derbyshire PGA in the first year it was formed and went on to serve on the committee for the following 20 years;
- 1992 - runner up in the Derbyshire Professionals' Championship, missing out by one shot but including making a course record of 65 in his first round;

- 1995 - runner up in the Derbyshire Professionals' Match play Championship to Carl Cross at Erewash Valley Golf Club;

During his professional career, Willie has played with 8 Ryder Cup players; Henry Cotton*, Ralph Moffitt, Peter Butler, Brian Waites, Bernhard Langer*, Mark James*, David Gilford, and Ian Woosnam* (all players with * have been Ryder Cup Captains).

One memorable achievement was holing his second shot on the par 4 5th hole at Cavendish Golf Club, at Buxton, on two consecutive years playing with the same club.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to

the Club, unusually for a Club Professional, in 2011 he was invited to become the Vice Captain going on to be the 2012 Chevin Club Captain.

Willie has an amazing ability to instantly remember members' names as they walk into his shop, which for a Club with over 700 members is quite a talent, but coupled with this he makes everyone feel that you are a particular friend, which is reciprocated in the way in which so many of Chevin Golf Club members feel they are about to lose not just the Professional but someone they regard as a very special friend.

Enjoy your retirement dear friend.

ALL STARS CRICKET RETURNS TO DUFFIELD



The excitement is building as a new cricket season approaches, and there's lots of fantastic opportunities for children and families to get involved at Duffield Cricket Club this summer.

The award-winning Duffield All Stars Cricket programme will return to Eyes Meadow on Friday evenings, from May 11 at 6-7pm, and will provide an exciting and fun introduction to cricket for children from 5-8 years old. "All Stars is a fantastic soft-ball programme introduced by the England & Wales Cricket Board in 2017, and we had over 100 children

involved in the Duffield programme last summer. It was great fun for the kids, and it was brilliant to see so many of their families and friends starting their weekend at Eyes Meadow." said Giles Brown, the All Stars Cricket coordinator at the club. The 2017 programme was so successful that Duffield was recognised as the All Stars Centre of the Year for the whole of the East Midlands. "This year our new pavilion will make the club even more family-friendly, and we'd love to see lots of boys and girls getting involved again."

said Giles.

A highlight of the programme last year was the number of girls who tried cricket for the first time. "The enthusiasm of the girls has been brilliant," explained Sonja Ljubojevic, the Club's Women & Girls Coordinator. "We've had more than 20 girls who have continued with an indoor cricket programme over the winter. We've already got a new girls team called Duffield Kingfishers, and we've secured generous sponsorship from Hague Print, a print solutions provider, and we'd love it if even more girls

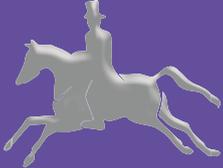
decided to give cricket a try this summer."

For those children in Year 4+ interested in trying soft-ball cricket, there will be a Kwik cricket programme that will also run on Friday evenings at the same time as All Stars, between 6-7pm. The Kwik cricketers will also have the chance to play in friendly cricket festivals with teams from other local clubs.

There are also lots more opportunities for everybody in the family to get involved at the club. The thriving junior section has 8 teams from Under 11 through to U19, the club is fielding 4 senior teams for the first time this summer, and the very popular Prosecco Cricket sessions will run again on Friday evenings for any women interested in trying cricket, without taking it too seriously!

More information on All Stars Cricket and details on how to sign-up can be found at: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/At/duffield>.

To find out more about opportunities to get involved in any of the programmes at Duffield Cricket Club this summer contact the club at: duffieldcc@googlemail.com or <http://duffield.play-cricket.com>.



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BEAST FROM THE EAST DEFEATED



The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's Spring Diesel weekend on March 20th was saved from the sudden and severe winter storms and snow that hit the UK over the weekend.

As the railway's first gala of 2018, large number of visitors were expected, especially as it featured several rare visiting locomotives including a 57-year-old 'Warship' class, built to run from London to the West Country in the pre-Beeching age.

"Our team of volunteers worked as one throughout the weekend and made sure we delivered a gala that ran to time and had no cancellations despite bitterly cold weather" remarked Leigh Gratton, Commercial Manager. The gala was well-received by the

line's visitors and comments on a number of national forums were extremely positive:

"A few of us made the journey up from Sussex yesterday, this was our first visit and we'll definitely return. A decent run through lovely scenery.....

Many thanks to all concerned for making this event happen and top marks on the loco line up."

"Excellent day and amazing dedication from the volunteers in the bitterly cold conditions. Crossing keepers and blockmen had little or no shelter all day long and the wind was cutting. Always have a good day on this line even on non-gala diesel running days. I hope you will pass onto all the staff the appreciation from everyone on here for seeing the job through despite the weather." www.e-v-r.com.



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