



DUFFIELD SCENE

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IT'S GAME ON AGAIN FOR RACKETS PLAYERS

Flood water from the River Ecclesbourne ruined all courts, inside and out, at Duffield Squash and Tennis Clubs during Storm Babet last October. The site was evacuated when several hundred thousand tonnes of water swept into the premises, ruining the gym, changing rooms and offices as well as all the squash courts and outdoor tennis courts.

But less than five months later, members are again enjoying superb playing facilities. While there is much still to do, six tennis courts and three squash courts have



been restored to pre-flood conditions, and the club is welcoming returning and new members.

Led by members Nigel Williams and Andy Page, a recovery group was set up straight away to tackle the

huge task, from the immediate salvage and pumping out operation to dealing with the insurance claim and then liaising with the vital professional companies needed. Before any restoration work could begin, specialist firms were appointed to strip back walls, sanitise and dry out the clubhouse ground floor, cut, roll and dispose of sodden tonnes of contaminated tennis carpet, clean outside areas, and check out and repair floodlighting.

Within three weeks, tennis players were able to return, ... continued on page 5.



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MUSIC AT DUFFIELD – IGNAS MAKNICKAS

In July 2021 Ignas Maknickas received “The Queen’s Commendation for Excellence” as the highest-scoring graduate of the Royal Academy of Music. He has taken First Prize at the XIX Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Youth in Szafarnia, First Prize at the XX Piano Competition “Young Virtuoso” in Zagreb, Third Prize at the Aarhus Piano Competition and, in 2021, was the semi-finalist of the Vendome Prize.

Ignas has appeared with the Aarhus Symphony, Alicante Philharmonic, Dartington Festival Orchestra, Lithuanian National Symphony, Lithuanian State Symphony, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players and Royal Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra.

2023-24 highlights include Mozart K. 467 with London Mozart Players in London, Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto

No. 2 with Bloomington Symphony Orchestra in Indiana and solo recital at the Wigmore Hall in London.

Born in California in 1998, Ignas was raised in Lithuania. In 2017, graduating from the National M.K. Čiurlionis School of Art in Vilnius, he was honoured by the President of Lithuania, H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė. With his sister and three brothers the talented Maknickas Family Ensemble has represented Lithuania on National Television and at State Occasions.

Ignas completed his Bachelor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music on full scholarship under Professor Joanna MacGregor. In September 2021 he commenced the Master of Arts Programme with Professor MacGregor, also on full scholarship. He is a recipient of the Julien Prize, the ABRSM Scholarship Award, the Imogen Cooper Music Trust Scholarship,



Ignas Maknickas (piano) Programme

Chopin: Nocturnes Op. 27
Schumann: Fantasie in C, Op. 17
Schubert: Sonata in B-flat major, D. 960

Venue and Tickets

Saturday 27 April 2024.
This concert is at St. Alkmund's Church, Church Drive, Duffield, Derbyshire, DE56 4BA.

Munster Trust Mark James Award, Robert Turnbull Piano Foundation Award, Tillet Trust and Colin Keer Trust Award and Hattori Foundation Award. He is an Artist of the Munster Trust Recital Scheme. He has attended masterclasses with Dmitri Bashkirov, Dame Imogen Cooper, Christopher Elton, Stephen Hough, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Marios Papadopoulos, Menahem Pressler, Geoffrey Simon, Tamás Ungár, Arie Vardi and Ilana Vered.

The venue is suitable for the disabled and there is a free car park. Please note that the doors will open at 7.00pm and all seats are unreserved. Individual tickets: Adult £18, Concession £17, Student £8, available at the door, from Caroline Morgan (tel: 07977 091171) and online through the website (no booking fee).

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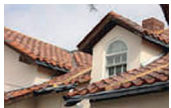
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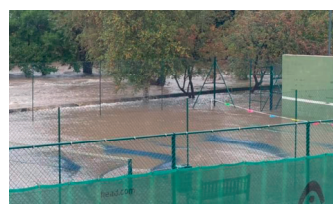
IT'S GAME ON AGAIN FOR RACKETS PLAYERS

From the cover...

albeit playing on jet-washed tarmac bases which had been quickly marked with tennis lines until new carpet could be laid in two stages in the New Year. Squash members were not so fortunate, as the long dry-out period for the ground floor held back restoration of squash courts, and also the gym, until February and March respectively.

With the first floor unaffected, the bar could re-open fairly quickly, initially with reduced hours, and with some much-needed and morale-boosting social events added in time for Christmas.

October's disaster is now being viewed as a potential opportunity to create a modern and welcoming community club for the future, with more flexible space, while maintaining the core sports of squash, racketball and tennis. Feedback from members is helping to shape possible alternatives to a simple restoration of the existing building. But built into any scheme will be flood mitigation measures to help as much as possible to protect a fantastic village asset for the years ahead.



Surging river water breaches the flood wall, lifting carpet on the nearest tennis courts



The car park under water



The gym under water



Water in the clubhouse



The sorry sight before pumping out begins



Not Ghostbusters, but (from left) head tennis coach James Grindell, members Tago Taylor and Richard Brown and tennis coach Oil Storr in full protective gear start the clear up inside the clubhouse



Ruined flooring being dismantled on one of the squash courts



The second phase of court re-carpeting gets underway



Work on the squash show court which now includes underfloor heating.



Recovery team leaders Nigel Williams and Andy Page have the first squash game on a restored court



Tennis activities are bursting back to life with more than 30 adult and junior teams participating in the Derby area summer leagues after Easter, along with a huge coaching programme catering for all ages and standards 7 days a week. The club is back on its feet. Duffield Tennis Club can boast a rich history of producing many County juniors with 16 current junior members representing Derbyshire this year alone. Approximately 150 adults take part in regular coaching and over 200 compete in team matches, making Duffield the biggest club in Derbyshire for participation.

Highlights for 2024 will include LTA Recognised Venue status that gives the club "academy" status for quality along with being awarded LTA Prime Girls

initiative allowing for specific girl groups to be established and developed encouraging girls to become active in tennis and tennis leadership. Many teenagers have benefited from the leadership pathway assisting with coaching and tennis activities either through their own initiative or the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. For details please contact Head Coach - James Grindell 07068 058383, james.grindell@btinternet.com. www.duffieldtennisclub.co.uk To join the Tennis Club please scan the QR code:



Squash activities are also getting into full swing, with teams matches now being played back at Duffield. The internal squash and racketball leagues and Club Championships are underway with the Finals' Night on 24th May, held in conjunction with our ever-popular Beer Festival.

Squash coaching is also back. Led by our professional coaching team, junior 'after school' sessions are available throughout the week alongside our Saturday morning squash. We also offer adult and women's coaching sessions. For further details contact Finlay Stott on 07732 761618 or finlaystott1@gmail.com. Duffield Squash has a proud history of achievement in terms of producing professional players such as Paul Hargrave, Millie Tomlinson and our latest rising star Matt Gregory. If you are new to the sport or want to 'roll back the years' then please join and have a go. To join the Squash Club, please email membership@duffieldsquashclub.co.uk.

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SJP Approved 13/03/2024

THE CHANGING SEASONS ON THE MEADOW

Remember when you would send off your film to be developed and back would come the pack of prints - some of which will be of subjects you had long forgotten or that wonderful family moment? I have four very large plastic boxes - the ones you get from IKEA in which to store things - full of these treasures. Gathering together other random packets of prints, I rummaged through and came across the print you see below. It dates from many years ago when the Wirksworth Railway line bridge was having its surface replaced and the removing the tarmac layer of the A6 revealed what was underneath. As you can see one side of the road at a time was being worked on. What made me want to take the picture was because I realised it was an event that would not happen very often and I was intrigued to see what the traffic was passing over every day. What is beneath our feet has been of much concern over the past few months as we observe and worry about the sodden ground. Normally we do not think too much about the ground beneath our feet unless it is muddy or we have been advised not to compact the soil of our vegetable patches in winter by walking on our gardens. This last winter many of us have had to take much more

notice of the extraordinary weather and farmers in particular are very concerned as they have waterlogged fields and have not been able to sow their normal winter/early spring crops. There will be consequences for food production this year and the ability of many people to make a living. Soil changes will also affect nature in general - including our reserve. Just a quick reminder - one teaspoon of soil can contain more microbes than there are people on the planet. There is one plant that more than relishes the wet although we would not want many more of them across our reserve because they set seeds prolifically. When the wetland was developed the one thing we did not bargain for was the appearance of many alder saplings (*Alnus glutinosa*) from the seeds blown into the area from the mature trees lining the Ecclesbourne. We did not worry at first assuming the rapidly growing tiny saplings would be easy to remove - unaware that the seedlings had very tenacious roots into the river gravels that formed the base of the

ponds making them almost impossible to dig out! This remarkable tree can survive in adverse conditions like poor soils as it has a symbiotic relationship with a friendly bacterium called *Frankia alni*. The bacteria are hosted by the Alder's root system, forming large knots on root nodules, and then they go about converting airborne nitrogen in to soil-based nitrates, which nourish the Alder.

Alders survive northern winters well although they can be short lived if grown in dry, stressful sites. As long as it has a moderate amount of water it can thrive even in heavily compacted soil. The outer bark contains reddish pigments and the inner bark yellow. When cut down the severed trunks are red/orange and the chemicals found in alders is used to tan leather. The wood of this common alder does not rot in water and has traditionally been used to shore up canals, piers, wharves and riverbanks for millennia. Most of the pilings that form the foundation of Venice were made from alder trees.

Benefits provided to the aquatic food web comes from the alder foliage which provides shade for salmon and brown trout with decaying leaves decomposing quickly in the water which in turn provide nutrients for larvae of caddisflies, stoneflies and water beetles. Catkins provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees, and the seeds are eaten by the siskin, redpoll and goldfinch. This tree has an honourable, useful history. In Celtic Astrology - an ancient Druid belief system - the year is divided into 13 lunar cycles, each symbolised by a tree. The Alder symbolises the **18th March - 14th April** and those born during this period are said to be path finders, adventurers, creators - with the tenacity needed to solve problems. **Is that you?** And the Alder has been around a long time. **The oldest fossil pollen that can be identified as *Alnus* is from northern Bohemia, dating to the late Paleocene, around 58 million years ago.** So whilst we might despair as the alder seedlings appear where we don't want them, the benefits of this tree outweigh the discomfort.

by **Di Hancock**
Chair; Duffield Millennium
Meadow Conservation Trust
07511 230320



DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN



Cllr Louise E Nelson

In May 2023 I began my role as a Parish councillor for Duffield. I was keen to be involved more locally and in particular with environmental initiatives. As fortune falls, I could not have joined at a more exciting time.

I grew up locally in Little Eaton, often walking to Duffield along the lanes to school. Having a deep personal connection with this area, I was delighted to join the Parish council environmental committee. Our monthly meetings cover a range of issues from flooding to footpaths.

A recent national objective called Biodiversity Duty has been announced for all local councils. The aim is to increase the range of flora and fauna within our village thus enriching the lives of us all.

Before I became a councillor, I was unaware of how much land Duffield Parish Council held - namely, Eyes Meadow, the

nature reserve, the cemetery and Greys recreational ground. In addition, subject to probate, the iconic historic pastoral land opposite Duffield Hall known as Parson's meadow has been bequeathed to the Parish. All these places create wonderful opportunities to improve and increase biodiversity.

Duffield is already so fortunate to have many beautiful green spaces and a caring community keen to volunteer in their upkeep. I draw attention to The Millennium Meadow Trust lead by the wonderful Di Hancock. The Duffield Community Association who fill our verges with wildflowers and the wonderful spring display of Daffodils. Mick Hardwick (Duffield Save Our Swifts) is dedicated to refilling our skies with these wonderful birds.

To begin the project for biodiversity duty and Derbyshire local nature

recovery strategy, we will be identifying areas of parish council owned land to plant trees, in particular fruit trees. I have been visiting local community orchards in neighbouring villages with my fellow councillor and committee member David Walton. It has been inspiring and encouraging to see how a small amount of only ten fruit trees can make a real difference. The trees' blossom supporting our pollinators, leaves capturing carbon and then, hopefully, in time, providing a feast of fruit for

people and wildlife to share. We can't plant and then forget about these trees. They will need some care especially in the first few years so we are on the lookout for some tree guardians to help our parish council staff. These trees will belong to the village to be enjoyed by all.

Maybe in a few years we'll be eating apple crumble and making our first Duffield cider. Hopefully in many more years there will be large fruitful trees to provide shelter and shade for our children and grandchildren.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Neighbourhood Watch launch event is on Saturday 27th April, 10am-2pm at St Margaret's Church and the Scout Hut on Hall Farm Road. It will be opened by Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Jim Grievson, with guests including the Police and Crime Commissioner, Angelique Foster, and Deputy Commissioner Robert Flatley. We will be hosting the regular Cuppa with a Copper with our local PCSO's and there will be various information sessions and talks during the day covering topics

such as cyber crime. Local organisations and groups will be on hand such as the DCA, the Scouts, representatives from Millenium Meadows and local sports clubs, to provide information on how you can get involved in community events and activities. The Scouts will be providing refreshments, teas, coffees and cakes, along with some activities to keep the younger visitors entertained! We still have many exciting guests to confirm so keep an eye on the Parish Council website and social media for further details...

Duffield Neighbourhood Watch Launch

Duffield Parish Council are launching a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Duffield. We hope this will help to improve safety and connections within our community.



Being part of Neighbourhood Watch can:

- Reduce/prevent local crime and disorder;
- Reduce fear of crime;
- Address issues relating to antisocial behaviour;
- Build community spirit and cohesion amongst all age groups;
- Create safer neighbourhoods;

- Reassure members of the public;
- Enhance partnership working with other community groups;
- Assist in the detection and apprehension of criminals;
- Improve the quality of life for members;
- Improve the local environment.

The Parish Council will be the Area Coordinator for the village, but we encourage residents to sign up to be members of the scheme and we will be looking for volunteers to be Lead or Assistant Coordinators for their immediate area/street.

Further information and details on how you can become involved will be available at our Launch Event, which will be held on **Saturday 27th April 2024, at St Margaret's Church and the Scout Hut on Hall Farm Road** between 10am-2pm so please do drop in!



Duffield Parish Council



Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Launch Event

The Parish Council Launch Event for the new Duffield-wide Neighbourhood Watch scheme will be held on Saturday 27th April 2024, at St Margaret's Church and the Scout Hut on Hall Farm Road between 10am-2pm so please do drop in!

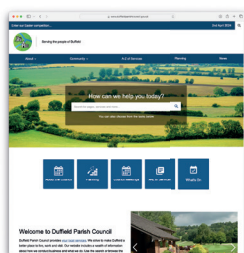
The Parish Council will be the area coordinator for the village, but we are looking for individuals to be lead or assistant coordinator for their area/street.

Please see further articles/ad in this month's Scene or the Parish website for further information.

Dogs at Cemetery

We have recently received complaints that visitors to the Cemetery or the neighbouring allotments have been exercising their dogs off the lead.

Please be aware that dogs should only be taken into the Cemetery or Allotments if you are visiting a grave or garden of remembrance plot and **must be kept on a lead at all times**. Please take your dog to Eyes Meadow for its daily walks – thank you.



Duffield Parish Council Website – New Design

Duffield Parish Council's website has recently been updated with a new look which will ensure it complies with accessibility guidelines and hopefully make it easier to use for all. Please visit www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk and let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for additions to the website. Email your website views to clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Easter Competition

Over Easter the Parish Council ran a competition to win an Easter Egg simply by sending a snap of you wearing a home made Easter bonnet in a village location to us at clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk . If you missed our posters in and around the village then it's not too late to enter – the closing date is 25 April 2024.

CCTV at Eyes Meadow

CCTV has been installed near the car park area at Eyes Meadow following a number of instances of antisocial behaviour. The CCTV will help to protect this valuable community space and everyone who uses the area. You can view the Council's CCTV Policy on our website and any questions should be directed to the Clerk.

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.

Forthcoming meetings – The next **Full Council Meeting** and the **Annual Council Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at the Weston Centre. There are two Committee Meetings in April to be held at the Cemetery Lodge meeting room; the Outdoor Management Committee on the 17 April and the Finance and Management Committee on the 24 April (change of date from 3rd April). Meetings begin at 7pm and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting Agendas and Minutes can be viewed online at www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Office

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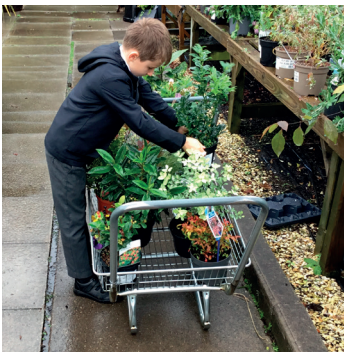






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WILLIAM GILBERT SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS



William Gilbert School are thrilled to share that we have now achieved the Green Flag Award with distinction! Our Eco-School values and our approach to environmental issues have been commended and it was recognised that our theme-based immersive projects are testament to how staff members have used this environmental focus to enrich learning in our school. The proactive Eco-Committee members, who are pupils elected by their peers, were praised for the way they keep our school community up to date on our progress and achievements. This is done

through school assemblies, newsletters, posters and by collaborating with members of the local community and the Green Party. Councillor Alison McDermott came and met the ECO committee and gave them lots of excellent advice and support. We have been extremely fortunate to obtain funding from the DCA to develop our KS2 Quiet Area which is located next to the junior playground. Historically this area has been used as a place for our children to chat and read quietly, away from the busy playground. Over time it had become weathered

and damaged making it a redundant space which was unusable for the children. So, at the start of the summer, we liaised with the DCA to discuss ways in which we could make the plot more environmentally friendly. After submitting plans, we received a grant, and the Eco-Committee enjoyed a trip to Hudson's Plant Centre to purchase plants and shrubs which will support biodiversity. The KS1 Gardening Club loved planting the flowers and shrubs during their after-school club! We are now researching canopies and seating to make this area even more inviting as the warmer weather approaches.

01332 840 395 and a member of staff will come out and collect your recycling from you to drop into the relevant boxes in school.

The Recycling Hub currently accepts the following items:

- Pringle tubes
- Cheese packaging (any brand of flexible plastic cheese packaging, nets and pouches, any brand of sliced cheese protective plastic film, any brand of individual plastic cheese wrappers, labels from Cathedral City Minis packs of 6, any brand of plastic nets for mini cheeses)
- Warburton bakery recycling (Any brand of plastic bread bags and closure tags, any brand of bakery plastic packaging, (e.g. plastic trays, zipper bags, plastic packs, etc.)
- Biscuits and snacks packaging (all brands of non-savoury biscuit wrappers, all brands of cake wrappers, all brands of cracker wrappers)

You can find out more about the Terracycle recycling schemes and find a local drop off at terracycle.com.

Community Recycling Hub

We're excited to share some fantastic news with residents of Duffield and the wider community. William Gilbert has started to recycle with TerraCycle®'s Green School Project.

Recycling some of your hard-to-recycle rubbish at our Recycling Hub will mean it will not end up in landfills and incinerators. This is better for the planet and an opportunity to help teach the next generation of recyclers. Recycling at the TerraCycle Recycling Hub at William Gilbert School not only helps the community but also helps to raise funds for their pupils. The Recycling Hub is situated in the entrance to William Gilbert School and can be accessed between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday – Friday. Accessibility issues? Once you are outside the school, call the office on



YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS IN DUFFIELD



later. Quick fixes just waste taxpayers' money. We have launched a petition to demand that Derbyshire improve their pothole repair standards. If you want to get your voice heard on this issue then sign the petition, using the QR code below. If you see potholes in your area then go to the Derbyshire County Council website to report them to the council.



Green Councillor Gez Kinsella has been working hard to bring the issue of potholes to the attention of Derbyshire County Council. He has asked the council to keep a record of the number of potholes that have to be fixed again within the year. Derbyshire has one of the worst pothole records in the country with many roads in need of urgent repair. Gez is pushing the council to 'get it right first time' - making sure the road doesn't need repairing again months



Councillor Alision McDermott has really enjoyed being involved in the amazing work of the Eco School at William Gilbert. She has advised

the headteacher on sources of funding, so the children continue their initiatives to promote sustainability in the school and the community. It's fantastic news that they have joined the Green School Project and have set up a community recycling hub that takes hard to recycle items such as cheese packaging, pringle tubes and snack wrappers. William Gilbert School is on the lookout for resources to further develop outdoor

learning. If you have any of the following items spare, then please consider donating them to the school.

- Children's umbrellas
- Wellies (3-4-year-olds)
- Waterproof jackets and trousers age 3-7
- Plastic crates
- Guttering, piping or tubing
- Tyres
- Bark chippings
- Tree stumps for sitting on
- Compost bin
- Watering cans
- Cable reels.

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DE1 1SY t. 01332 349285
huntersfurniture.co.uk



WEEKLY EVENTS

- MON** **Coffee Morning**
10.00am - 12noon, Emmanuel Church
Opening so people have a warm place to go for free coffee, cake and a chat.
- TUE** **Walking for Health**
Meet at 9.45am, The Weston Centre for supervised walk 10.00 – 11.30, round Duffield and beyond. All welcome. Chris - 07977 140415.
- Yoga with Pilates**
1pm - 2.15pm. Bring mat & blanket. Beginners welcome. Julie 07817 147167. Methodist Church Hall, King Street.
- Boys Brigade & Girls Association***
6.00 - 7.30pm, New members welcome. £2.00. Ages 5-11. Baptist Church Hall. 01773 689983
- WED** **Ignition Youth Group***
7.30- 9pm.
St. Alkmund's Church Hall.
School years 10-13. Relaxing with a hot drink and cake, games and thinking through a section of the bible.
- Duffield Singers**
7.45 - 9.45pm
St. Margaret Clitherow Church, Hall Farm Road.
theduffieldsingers@gmail.com
www.duffieldsingers.org
- FRI** **Time Out for Toddlers and carers (TOTS)**
10.00am - 12 noon
St Alkmund's Church Hall
A new free group. Come along to play, chat, join in the fun and make new friends. Snacks; coffee and tea on tap.
- Chairobics**
Lunchtime, The Weston Centre.
Suzanne, a practising physiotherapist, runs a friendly chair-based exercise class. Why not join her to get fit, have fun and make friends. Book with Suzanne 07810 023 743.
- Amber Painting Group**
1.30-3.30pm - Methodist Church Hall.
amberpaintinggroup@yahoo.co.uk
www.fb.me/amberpainters
- Massive***
4.00 - 6.00pm (years 7-9)
7.00 - 9.30pm (years 10-13)
Emmanuel Community Church
- TUE-FRI** **Coffee Morning**
10.00am - 12noon
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
Coffee, tea and biscuits. £1 for a bottomless cup. Volunteers will ensure you are made welcome.

*term time only

MONTHLY CALENDAR APRIL

- 4** **Film Screening**
1:30pm, 'Showboat'
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
£3 suggested donation. Tea, Coffee and bar available.
Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.
- 11-13** **Twin Peaks Diesel Gala - Two Railways**
Ecclesbourne Valley Railway & Peak Rail.
www.e-v-r.com. 01629 823076.
- 11** **Art and Craft/Model Making Group**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
1.30-3.30pm. All levels and experience are encouraged to our friendly, informal group.
- 15** **Chevin Probus Club**
Makeney Hall Hotel, Milford. 10.15am. Coffee followed by Mr David Widdows, his topic is entitled Alpine Incident. Peter Robinson - 01332 705554.
- 18** **Art and Craft/Model Making Group**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
1.30-3.30pm. All levels and experience are encouraged to our friendly, informal group.
- 19** **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk
2-4pm. 01332 840349
- 24** **Euro Film Club**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
£4 suggested donation, doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm show.
- 25** **Art and Craft/Model Making Group**
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street
1.30-3.30pm. All levels and experience are encouraged to our friendly, informal group.
- 27** **Neighbourhood Watch Launch Event**
The Neighbourhood Watch launch event is on Saturday 27th April, 10am-2pm at St Margaret's Church and the Scout Hut on Hall Farm Road. See page 8.
- Music at Duffield - Ignas Maknickas (piano)**
7pm, St. Alkmund's Church Duffield. See page 3.
Adult £18, Concession £17, Student £8.
www.musicatduffield.com, 07977 091171.

MAY

- 1** **Film Screening**
1:30pm, 'Stan & Ollie' - Moved to Wednesday
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
£3 suggested donation. Tea, Coffee and bar available.
Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.
- 3** **For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'**
Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre.
nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk
2-4pm. 01332 840349



Meadows Laser Light Spectacular

Meadows School PTFA recently put on a laser show on Eyes Meadow in order to raise funds for the school. The event was an amazing show of light and the DCA were really pleased to help out. Chair Maggie Matthew-Higgins, Executive member Craig Stubbs, and DCA volunteer Luke Gardiner all helped out on the gate scanning tickets. The children at Meadows School have had a tough few years beginning with lock down due to the covid-19 pandemic and more recently having to vacate the school due to the floods. The pupils' tenacious and warm attitude towards their school supported by parents, teachers and staff has been truly inspirational; we wish all the pupils a speedy return to Meadows School. We would like to make an extra special mention to those pupils at Meadows who are currently in Year 6 who will be sitting their SATS next term. Given that their time at school has been so disrupted, all the DCA executive will be keeping their fingers crossed for every child to do well.



Millenium Meadow Bench

The Millenium Meadow has been in receipt of a brand-new bench following a funding request sent into the DCA. Di Hancock, who runs the meadow, put in the funding request following the disappearance of one of the benches by Storm Babet. The old bench now lies somewhere down stream in the Derwent. Volunteers at Millenium Meadow have spent most of the winter, supervised by Groundworks, and fed by Thailicious, clearing up the fallout of the October flooding event. Although on Parish Council land the Millennium Meadow trust ensures the upkeep of the meadow under Di Hancock's watchful eye. The new Millennium Meadow bench was installed by volunteers Keith, Ed and Colin.

DCA Subscriptions

The DCA is funded partly through the village events it puts on, but also through the subscription donations it receives from household and organisations. We are constantly seeking and gaining new affiliates and households to ensure that when we apply for funding for projects within the village, we are representing as many people as possible. We would like to call on all those members who would like to renew their membership to do so and furthermore to encourage their neighbours to sign up. £5/year will give you a voice at the table during our AGM and council meetings, in order to sound out projects you may be interested in, and that the DCA should consider. You can join us by scanning the QR code. With so many projects in the pipeline the DCA now more than ever would like as much community support as possible.



DCA Projects Update

Chair Maggie Matthew-Higgins and DCA Volunteer Ed Jones, have been busily preparing the ground opposite the old Derbyshire Building, for wildflower sowing. The DCA has an ambitious programme of daffodil and wildflower planting on top of the 15,000 bulbs the DCA has already put in the ground. If you know of a verge and would like some wildflowers or daffodils planting, please get in touch. Spring is the season when there is a shade of hope, an optimism about the coming year, and a touch of colour puts a smile on everyone's face!

The Carnival Crew has been busy planning the coming Carnival Week and Carnival Day itself. The bands are lined up, the treasure hunt prepared, and Duffield 5 are all set to go. We are looking for a strong show of floats from the village. Both Meadows and William Gilbert primary schools, in the past have put on an amazing display and we are hoping for more of the same. If you live on a road, and your local neighbours want to put on a float, don't be afraid to join in the procession. If you are not sure how to get involved, you can get more information on the Duffield Carnival Facebook page.

DCA Meet and Greet

The DCA will be hosting a stall at the Parish Council "Neighbourhood Watch" launch event on the 27th April between 10 and 2 at St Margarets Church Duffield. We would love for as many people as possible to attend this event and come over and say hello. Various local groups including the police service, fire service, Derbyshire Neighbourhood watch and hopefully the police and crime commissioners will all be in attendance.

Meet the DCA Executive

As part of our commitment to stay open and honest about who we are we would like to introduce Nigel Hooker (DCA President). We sat down with him and had a chat.

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I grew up in rural Cornwall and have an ingrained need for the countryside. Paradoxically work took me from there to 2000m below ground in the Notts coalfields.

How long have you lived in Duffield? My other 60% came from Duffield, after a 20-year association with the village we moved here in 2000.

What is your favourite thing about living in Duffield? The people (most of them), the location, the local amenities and easy access to those further afield.

What would you change about living in Duffield? Apart from moving it closer to the coast? Access to Eyes Meadow via the rail station bridge. Less duplication of commercial enterprises, rather a wider range. A significant sized Employer based in the village or Business Park. I would like to see the Ecclesbourne School to participate more in the community; I may be out of touch, Ecclesbourne lives off the village but for all the assets it has, what does it give back? Perhaps 'give' being a key word.

How did you become a member of the DCA? I was brought onto the Carnival group to counteract an overzealous individual who was putting others off; we are all volunteers when working together we need to accept each other's pace and contribution. Over time I became involved with other DCA activities.

What is your favourite thing about the DCA? Working (and laughing) with like-minded individuals who care for the wellbeing of the village.

What is your favourite village event? Carnival Week. Unlike many committees the Carnival Crew has a very specific set of objectives with an immutable deadline; this creates a very positive mindset within the Crew making it good fun despite the hard work. On Carnival Day it's very rewarding to see so many people from the village coming together and enjoying themselves.

How do you relax? Being in the countryside be it in the Peaks, on the coast, in the UK or abroad; and if there is a pint or an ice cream involved so much the better!

Whilst you have been President of the DCA, what has been the biggest challenge for you? The DCA recently turned 50 years old, I would like to see it continue to flourish. Along with the rest of the DCA Executive I am encouraging the organisation to evolve in order to remain relevant and to respond to today's 'village needs'; integral to this is to increase DCA membership in order to represent the community.

What is the one DCA event that you would encourage everyone to get involved with? Duffield Carnival Week. The DCA takes the lead on this series of events, but it is the individuals and groups in our village that deliver the goods. We don't have to follow the same formula, the DCA is open to supporting new events and will assist where we can. And please everyone don't forget Carnival Day, particularly in the evening when your Carnival Crew is flagging...half an hour of your time to help clear up would be greatly appreciated!

If you are encouraged by what the DCA does and would like to get involved, we would like to hear from you. You can get involved in many ways, through volunteering at some of our projects we have running in the village, joining the Carnival Crew, helping on Fireworks night. Everyone in Duffield is also invited to become a DCA member, £5 p.a for households, £10 p.a for affiliated organisations. Please visit www.duffieldvillage.co.uk for more information.

DCA Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th April - the Chevin (Belper) Probus Club will meet at The Makeney Hall Hotel, Milford.

We gather at 10.15am for coffee and a gossip followed by our speaker on the day, Mr David Widdows, his topic is entitled an Alpine Incident. This is followed by a short meeting, after which we retire to the bar for lunch and liquid refreshment. If this is of interest to non- members, you will be very welcome to attend. Any queries, please contact Peter Robinson on 01332 705554.

Saturday April 27th Neighbourhood Watch launch at St Margarets Church, Hall Farm Road.

Saturday June 29th - Duffield Carnival - This year's theme is Pirates!

Joke of the month - How did the hipster burn his mouth? He ate his pizza before it was cool.

Now our newsletter is included in the Duffield Scene any articles, letters, photos for inclusion will need to be with the DCA editor by the 13th of the month to be in the following month's Duffield Scene. Please send DCA News to Nigel Hooker e-mail: news.dca@outlook.com Tel. 07712 079730.



BRITISH PIE AWARD ACCOLADE

Popular Derbyshire farm shop Croots is celebrating winning an award at the annual British Pie Awards.

The new Croots Steak, Mushroom and Cracked Black Peppercorn Pie took the reserve champion award in the beef and vegetable pie category. Croots Farm Shop is no stranger to winning awards for its extensive range of home-made pies which it sells in its shop, based in Wirksworth Road, Duffield. This latest accolade was awarded during British Pie Week at the annual British Pie Awards, held in Melton Mowbray – the rural capital of food – and hosted by the Melton Mowbray Pork Pie Association.

Kay Croot, who runs the farm shop, said: “We were thrilled to win the reserve champion award for our new Croots Steak, Mushroom and Cracked Black Peppercorn Pie at the British Pie Awards, narrowly being pipped at the post by the Champion pie.



“The British Pie Awards are the crème de la crème of pie awards and we’ve previously won gold medals for our Steak and Ale Pie and Croots Mince Pies there. The Croots Steak, Mushroom and Cracked Black Peppercorn Pie is a relatively new pie but it’s fast becoming a big favourite with our customers, and we’re delighted that it hit the spot with the award judges too.”

The British Pie Awards are a national celebration of British pies in all their varieties and they have been running since 2009. For more information, visit www.croots.co.uk

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