



# DUFFIELD SCENE

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## ANOTHER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN DUFFIELD

Work is expected to start in the next couple of months to demolish all buildings on the 2.69 acre site of Derbyshire County Council's former Highways Depot on the A6 to make way for a multi-purpose housing development. Thirty-eight dwellings, a mix of apartments and houses of varying sizes, will be built on the area which runs alongside the A6.

The planned development is the latest in a series of in-fill projects - the Sunlight site, the former Scarsdale Pub area in New Zealand Lane, current work at the end of Holloway



Coming down... one of the many buildings on the site.

Road. new dwellings in the grounds of the former Derbyshire Building Society site etc which have boosted

Duffield's population to well over 5,000. It is now one of the largest villages in the Amber Valley District.

The village has been fortunate to be able to fulfil obligations to the pressure for more homes with these in-fill developments as Duffield enjoys the protection of conservation areas, flood plain and green belt restrictions.



An artist's impression of the site when completed (see above).

Story continued centre pages.

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## DUFFIELD SCENE

All information, letters, news, articles, diary

Established August 1992 events, photographs and suggestions should be

marked "Duffield Scene" and sent to:

Duffield News, Town Street, Duffield.

Contacts: Barrie & Diana Eccleston

Telephone: 01332 841948

Email: [info@duffieldscene.co.uk](mailto:info@duffieldscene.co.uk)

[www.duffieldscene.co.uk](http://www.duffieldscene.co.uk)

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**SILVER LEAVES**

**Feb 7:** Songs from David John  
**Feb 21:** Music from Shake a Leg  
**Mar 7:** Cake and Quiz evening  
 All events held at the Methodist Schoolroom, King Street, Duffield 7-9pm.  
 All welcome.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

Friday **24th February** at 7:30pm Duffield Parish Hall  
 An established annual event to raise funds for Christian Aid. Ticket price includes a two course meal served during the interval. £13 (£6.50 under 18s). Bar & raffle. Contact Clare on 841615 for tickets and more information.

**POLICE SURGERIES**

meet **PCSO Paula Bennett**  
 PCSO Paula Bennett is again running police surgeries in Duffield and the surrounding areas to meet residents.

**Village Jottings**

Between 9 and 9:30 on the dates below, Paula will be available in Duffield (Ecclesbourne Close) where residents can discuss their concerns.

- Monday 13th February**
- Wednesday 15th March**
- Monday 10th April**
- Tuesday 2nd May**
- Monday 5th June**
- Friday 7th July**
- Tuesday 7th August**

**DCA AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Duffield Community Association will be held on Thursday **9th February**, at 7.30pm in the Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.  
 This year's speaker will be Di Hancock on "The Oral History of Duffield". This meeting is open to everyone followed by refreshments.

**DUFFIELD**

**GARDENING CLUB**

**Saturday, 4th February**  
 Our Speakers will be Graham and Judy White "Creating an NHS Garden".  
**Saturday, 4th March**  
 Our Speaker will be Danny Wells "Joseph Paxton – The busiest man in England"  
 Events held at 10 am at the Weston Centre. All welcome, non-members £2.

**Duffield Squash & Racketball Club February Half Term Holiday Club**  
 for juniors for all standards  
**Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February**, 10am - 2pm.  
 See back page for details.

**AMBER PAINTING GROUP**  
 Demonstration on **Fri March 3rd** entitled ' Contemporary Acrylics on Canvas ' by local artist Sandy Hillyer from 1.30 to 3.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, King St.  
 Non-members welcome.

**ECCLESBOURNE THE BIG 60**



**This year Ecclesbourne School will celebrate its 60th year.**  
 A reunion will be held for all pupils and their partners who attended the school between 1957 & 1960. This will take place at the Allestree Club, Cornhill, Allestree.

For further information, please contact Patrick White  
 Email: taxi75pw@aol.com.  
 Tel: 01773 827370.  
 Mobile: 07887 961967.

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# STREET LIGHT OUT? REPORT IT, SAYS PARISH COUNCIL

Duffield Parish Council wants to keep our village safe and part of that is keeping it well-lit. In recent weeks, the Parish Council has received a number of reports of street lights that are not working.

Derbyshire County Council has a dedicated online reporting procedure which is easy to use, simply visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and click on "report a fault with a street light". Then follow the steps shown.

Each light has a unique identification number stencilled on it, as seen in the picture. If possible, give the number as this will help to identify the light.

The Parish Council has contacted DCC, who said that they currently have a backlog of lights to repair, but that they are fixed strictly in order of reporting, so the sooner the light is reported the better.

Alternatively, to report a streetlight by phone, call 01629 533190 (Derbyshire County Council's Call Derbyshire service or text 86555, quoting the light's reference number.

For more information visit: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)



**Street light fault reporting form**

Choose from the following options to report a light, sign or bollard that fault:

**Street lighting fault reports**

We are working as quickly as we can to fix street lights, but repairs may take some time. We apologise for any delay.

Street lights    Amber warning lights    Illuminated signs    Illuminated bollard

**Street light fault reports**

We are working as quickly as we can to fix street lights, but repairs may take some time. We apologise for any delay.

Any other issue    Light bulb    Column    Lantern    Part night lighting



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## Duffield Parish Council

# Gray Recreation Ground: What would you like to see?



Gray Recreation Ground, situated off Snake Lane in Duffield, currently has a playground and goal posts. The Parish Council is investigating adding other equipment, for use by local young people and adult activity groups.

We want to know what you would most like to see installed. Please look at the images below and give up to four preferences rated from 1 - 4 in order of preference (where 1 is your top choice). Leave blank for any items of equipment you would NOT want to see installed. Add any comments in the space provided. (Please note that images are shown as examples of the type of equipment that might be considered and are not definitive).

**Trim Trail**



Rating

**Basketball / Football Multizone Play Area**



Rating

**Skate Park**



Rating

**Zip Wire**



Rating

Something else? (write in!) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Return your survey to Duffield Parish Council at the Weston Centre (drop off in the letterbox) before the end of February, or email your answer to [adminassistant@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:adminassistant@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The survey is also available online at [www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk).

# DCA CHRISTMAS WISH TREE SUCCESS

The DCA (Duffield Community Association) would like to thank everyone who took the time to place a wish upon our Wish Tree at Wirksworth Rd Corner. There were 43 wishes made, and we sincerely hope that they will all be granted! Wishes came in many different guises, from requests for toys, a plea for a job and messages to loved ones no longer with us. We hope it brought both joy and comfort at this special time of year. Our thanks go to Gérard Varin for making the tree, which we hope you agree looked fantastic.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Christmas volunteers who came to attach lights to the village Christmas trees, and then remove them again in the New Year. The DCA provide these trees and have invested in the new LED lights over the last few years.

We are only able to bring things like this to the village because of the support of Duffield residents, either by supporting the Carnival, or through our annual membership scheme. Monies raised allow us to support local organisations like the Scouts, Ecclesbourne Valley Railway and the Guides who have all benefitted recently.

Our memberships run for a year, due in February annually. They cost a nominal amount, starting at only £3 a year for individual membership, little more than a cup of coffee! If you are already a member, you will automatically receive a renewal envelope with your February newsletter, but if you are NOT a member, a membership form is attached below with details of the annual fee involved, and where to send your application. Please join us now and help us to continue to enhance life in Duffield for everyone.



## DCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Individuals: £3 a year

Senior Citizen households: £3 a year

Families: £5 a year

Organisations: £9 a year

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Please make cheques payable to Duffield Community Association and return with the form above to: Sally Lloyd, 3 Duck Island, Duffield. DE56 4EZ.

Please state your name, address and which membership option you are applying for. Thank you in advance ☺

### DCA Christmas Trees

Many thanks to Gerard Varin and the volunteers who installed, and later removed all the Christmas trees and lights, which so brightened the village over Christmas and New Year.

### DCA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Duffield Community Association will be held on Thursday **9th February**, at 7.30pm in the Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.

This year's speaker will be Di Hancock on "The Oral History of Duffield". This meeting is open to everyone followed by refreshments.

### DCA Help Needed

We are looking for a volunteer to deliver sixteen DCA Newsletters in De Ferrers Court (Tamworth Street). If you are willing to help please call sally on 840334. Thank You.

### Duffield Carnival 2017

Carnival Week this year is **19th - 25th June**, with the Carnival itself on **Sunday 24th June**. The theme this year is "Musicals" - which should produce some creative float decorations! If you would like to be part of the Crew (beware, it does involve work) and help at this year's Carnival email: [duffieldcarnival@gmail.com](mailto:duffieldcarnival@gmail.com).

# TIM RUNNING AGAIN FOR CHARITY

**When I'm Sixty-Four (and Still Running)... The famous Beatles song asks "Will you still feed me, will you still need me?" and goes on to suggest "We can rent a cottage on the Isle of Wight if it's not too dear". It doesn't say anything about running The London Marathon! Yet, just as he turns 64, that's what Tim Wilmshurst from Duffield is planning to do. More than that, he's aiming to run for Duffield-based charity Hope for Tanzania – [www.hopefortanzania.org](http://www.hopefortanzania.org).**

Tim was born in West Africa, and in his twenties taught for three years in Dar es Salaam, then Tanzania's capital. Here he learnt passable Swahili, and most of all grew to love the country and its people. Now he's delighted to have the chance to link this love of Tanzania with a charity so close to home.

Tim ran his first marathon at a sensible age, back in the nineties. While the world's oldest marathon runner (Fauja Singh) was over 100 years old when he completed his final

marathon, Tim admits that it doesn't get any easier as you get older. "It's quite lonely setting off through Duffield on a cold, dark winter's morning on yet another training run" he admits. The reward comes in running the marathon itself, rounding the Cutty Sark, crossing London Bridge, and finally turning into The Mall to cross the finishing line.

Hope for Tanzania was set up by Duffield residents Martin and Philippa Grosvenor, inspired by a Tanzanian couple they met on holiday in Tanzania, who had given up their own home to establish a primary school. Fellow Trustees are Peter and Maggie Zimmermann from Duffield. Says Martin "We are delighted that Tim is sponsoring our charity. Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries, yet one of Africa's most stable ones. Tim's backing means that we will be able to fund buildings at Tuishime Primary School and help people set up their own small sustainable businesses to support their families". Please sponsor Tim



Tim finishes Nottingham half marathon 2014

and help people in Tanzania achieve their full potential - by visiting <https://my.give.net/timwilmshurst>.

Also look out for the fun fund-raising events we will be running in Duffield before the marathon on 23rd April.

## ECCLESBOURNE VALLEY RAILWAY 'JOIN THE TEAM' VOLUNTEERING DAY

**Start your new hobby on Saturday 18th February 2017 - 10:00 - 15:30! The Ecclesbourne Valley railway is continually growing and we need your help.** All departments on the railway rely on the hard work and dedication of volunteers to continue to operate. From driving to trackwork and guarding to restoration work, there are many different roles which need to be filled. Our current volunteers will be on hand to chat to about various different roles and give personal accounts of their involvement. Without our volunteers, the railway could not operate.

The day includes: Displays and curiosities about the railway and the work our volunteers do.

Chat to our volunteers about their hobby.



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Volunteering can be very rewarding. The amount of time you put in is really up to

you but the more you put in the more you will get out. There's a great social base in all departments and many of the tasks are enjoyable and even fun! See our Volunteering page for full details on working for our railway.

For more information visit: [www.e-v-r.com](http://www.e-v-r.com).

# MUSIC AT DUFFIELD - 27th FEBRUARY 2017

**Sarah Bennett (flute) with Daniel King Smith (piano).** Sarah is studying towards a Masters degree at the Royal Academy of Music with Michael Cox and was previously at the RNCM with Richard Davis and Katherine Baker, where she graduated with first-class honours. Sarah freelances with several orchestras including the LSO. She is also on trial for Principal Flute of Northern Ballet and Sub-Principal flute of the Hallé Orchestra and Scottish Opera.

*Supported by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust.*

## Saturday 25 February 2017 Programme

Vivaldi - La Notte  
 Debussy - Syrinx  
 Bach - Sonata in E minor  
 Hamilton Harty - In Ireland  
 Takemitsu - Voice  
 Schubert - Trockne Blumen  
 Undine - Sonata  
 Hue - Fantasie

Music at Duffield concerts are held in the Main Hall at the Ecclesbourne School, Duffield, Derbyshire 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 or from John Norreys (tel: 01332 841503) and also online at [www.musicatduffield.com](http://www.musicatduffield.com).

School children under the age of 19 will be offered free entry if accompanied by a fee-paying adult. Members can bring a guest for £12.

For full details of concert programmes, venue and tickets please download the brochure at [www.musicatduffield.com](http://www.musicatduffield.com).



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## HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS

Once again Ecclesbourne School students have risen above expectations in the latest Department of Education figures relating to last year's examinations.

Progress 8 - a new method of judging the efficiency of schools - shows Ecclesbourne top of the chart in schools in the county. Progress 8 is made up a pupil's attainment score - their achievement across eight GCSEs including maths, English, three English Baccalaureate subjects such as sciences or languages and three others from an approved list, which is then converted to points. Also taken into account is an estimated Attainment 8 score and a formula to work out the final grade, represented by a number. An A\* is worth eight points down to a G being worth one point. The individual score of every pupil in the year group is added together and then divided by

the total number of pupils. James McNamara, head teacher at Ecclesbourne was a delighted with the statistics. "Our progress 8 score means our students made significant progress and strongly outperformed expectations based on their starting points." He added: "The attainment of good passes at GCSE level matters a great deal to children and her life chances and so we are very pleased that 90% of students achieved grades A\* to C in English and Maths. "The results mean that our pupils have made excellent progress and now have the qualifications and skills to move onto the next stage of their education or career." Ecclesbourne students were second in the percentage table (38%) of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate and highly place across the board in a breakdown into categories.

## DUFFIELD BOWLING CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!



The fundraising committee of the Duffield Bowling Club are trying to obtain a large funding grant and could really use some help. They need to raise £5000 to cover the administration costs incurred should they be awarded a £50000 grant from Biffa. This would at last mean they could create a bowling green on Eyes Meadow. They have been trying to bring this to fruition

ever since the club had to move from their site at Milford 2 years ago. The members have managed to keep the club going by playing at other greens throughout the area, but obviously this isn't ideal. If you have any experience of applying for funding, or have time to help them in their endeavours, or indeed could make a donation towards this sum please contact Linda Adey on 01332 841445

## BOOST FOR WIRKSWORTH HERITAGE CENTRE

Wirksworth Heritage Centre secures Heritage Lottery Fund investment Wirksworth, 17 December Wirksworth Heritage Centre has received a confirmed grant of £1,338,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to transform their three storey premises at 31 St John's Street into a new heritage centre, which will preserve, promote and make accessible the stories of Wirksworth and its people. Thanks to National Lottery players, the centre will be a new focus for Wirksworth offering an enjoyable and rewarding visitor experience, and delivering a programme of entertaining events and educational activities to bring the heritage of the town alive. The project will commence around March this year with the renovation, conversion and fitting out



of the building to make it accessible to all. The space created will facilitate a new interpretation of the town's heritage through creative use of the organisation's museum collection and the premises will offer a diverse programme of events, exhibitions and

activities. Ongoing financial support to the operations will be provided by a heritage café and retail shop using Fairtrade and locally made produce and products. The building, part of which dates from the 17th century, was bequeathed to the organisation by Mrs Webster in 2010. Joanna Faulkner, Chair of Wirksworth Heritage Centre,

said: "We are thrilled that the Heritage Lottery Fund has seen the enormous value of heritage to our town and given us this grant to secure the future." She added: "Our new centre will be another milestone in Wirksworth's development. Needless to say we are all absolutely delighted." For more info visit: [www.wirksworthheritagecentre.org](http://www.wirksworthheritagecentre.org).



# COUNTY COUNCIL TO TURN AGED HIGHWAYS DEPOT INTO PLEASANT

The 38 dwellings comprise seven different designs. There are:

**Eight 2-bedroom duplex apartments.**

**First Floor: 48sqm Attic: 23.5sqm Total: 71.5sqm**

**Four 2-bedroom 2 Storey, Terraced houses.**

**Ground Floor: 32sqm First Floor: 27sqm Total: 59sqm**

**Four 3-bedroom ground floor apartments. Floor Total: 98sqm**

**Eight 3-bedroom, 3 Storey, Terraced House**

**Ground Floor: 37sqm First Floor: 32.5sqm Attic: 27sqm Total: 96.5sqm**

**Two 4-bedroom houses. 3 Storey Detached Houses with Single Garage. Ground Floor: 52sqm First Floor: 47.5sqm Attic: 39sqm Total: 138.5sqm**

**Eight 5-bedroom 3 Storey Houses with Integral Double Garage**

**Ground Floor: 62sqm First Floor: 70sqm Attic: 27sqm Total: 159sqm**

**Four 6-bedroom 3 Storey Houses, with Integral Double Garage**

**Ground Floor: 61sqm First Floor: 78sqm Attic: 27sqm Total: 166sqm**

The site area amounts to 1.09 hectares (2.69 acres). The development gives a housing density which equates to 35 dwellings per hectare (14 dwellings per acre).

With such small numbers it is not envisaged that the development will affect existing services and facilities within the area.

An initial meeting was held by County Council officers with Claire Thornton, Principal Planner at ABVC on 7 September 2016.

Agreement was found for the provision of new dwellings on the site, with no objection to the demolition of the existing former Highways Depot buildings, and redundant residential properties. A percentage of affordable housing was incorporated into the design.

The site is not within a conservation area, and the existing buildings on-site are not listed. There are no buildings on-site considered worthy of retention in the proposed re-development, and there are no built features within the existing depot of sufficient architectural interest to justify re-building / retention in the new scheme, in terms of architectural heritage.

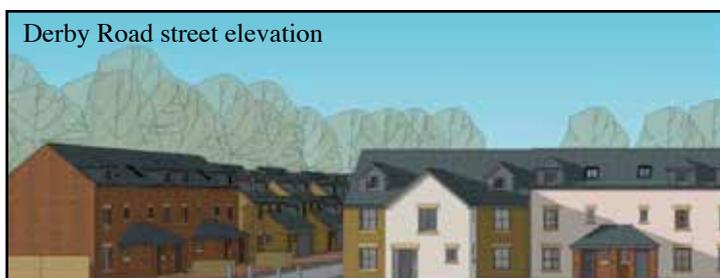
A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) was undertaken and their report summarised that although the site is located within a Flood Zone, the risk of actual flooding on the site is very minimal and should therefore not have a negative bearing upon the proposals which answers a requirement to market the dwellings at local people. Research of current new-build housing schemes in the area confirms a strong demand for housing of this type.

The massing of the new dwellings compares closely with that of the existing adjacent residential properties along the Derby Road. Existing adjacent residential development is essentially 'ribbon development' at this end of the village, ranging from fully detached properties to terraced blocks. The size, height and spacing of the houses is similar, and likewise the individual plot sizes compare reasonably with their immediate neighbours.

Full details can be found on the planning section of the Amber Valley Borough Council website at: <http://www.ambervalley.gov.uk> using application reference number: AVA/2016/1257.



Model view looking north east towards Derby Road



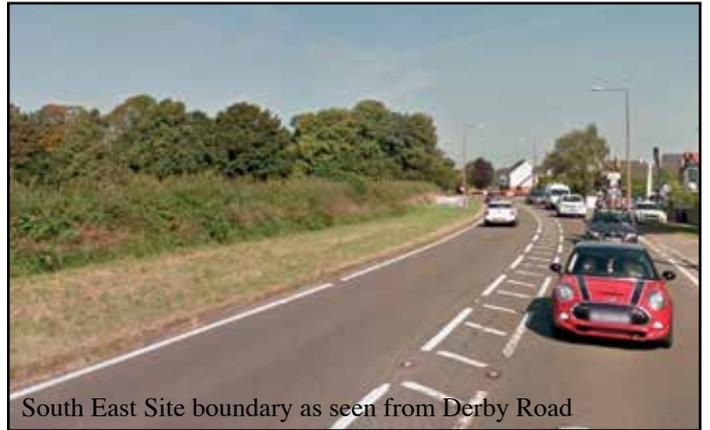
Derby Road street elevation



# ASING MIXTURE OF DESIRABLE RESIDENCES, LAWNS AND TREES



Derby Road (A6) looking north



South East Site boundary as seen from Derby Road



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If you would like to: volunteer, purchase a product (donated by others or new from our suppliers) or donate/gift-aid something to us (electrical / furniture items included) we would love to meet you.

Just drop in or call, whichever you prefer, on 01773 687930.

Our ambition is to combine with local education, business and our community for the benefit of all. Susan, a mother of two children, lives in Duffield and has been a voluntary worker at Mind for the past year.



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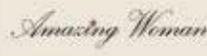


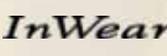













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# ECCLESBOURNE VALLEY RAILWAY'S TRAIN RESTORATION



One of the two railcars when first converted in the early 2000s

## The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's train restoration team has won a £5,000 award from the Aviva Community Fund.

The award will allow volunteers to restore to operation a railcar that had been converted in the early 2000s to act as a rescue vehicle for the Severn Tunnel which connects England to Wales.

Replaced several years ago by road/rail vehicles, a pair of specially-converted railcars had remained in store in South Wales until purchased by volunteers at

Wirksworth. Their potential for use as support vehicles for the railway's track team was recognised because they are equipped with loading ramps and internal storage ideal for moving equipment to a work site.

"We are delighted" commented Eric Boulton, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's projects director who led the railway's bid for funding. "This kind award by Aviva recognises the track record our team at the EVR has in restoring trains and making real use of them rather than creating mere museum pieces"

he added.

The Aviva Community Fund finances over 800 projects across four different fund levels and six categories, spreading our awards to communities throughout the UK. One major feature of the fund is online participation by the public to vote on applications and help the judges decide which should go forward for consideration.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to our supporters and members of our community who banded-together and voted for our application" commented Neil Ferguson-Lee, the EVR's

Vice-Chairman. "We appealed for support through social media and it came through: enthusiasts, people living close to the railway, families and friends all responded positively to our appeal and it is to those people that we express our deep gratitude. Thank you!"

The generous funding by Aviva will allow the railway's restoration team to buy materials and hard-to-find spare parts to allow the train to operate once more. It is hoped that it will enter service in 2018.

Visit: [www.e-v-r.com](http://www.e-v-r.com).



The same unit at Wirksworth after sandblasting. The indented section on the side holds a foldable ramp that can be used to move equipment from track level.

## CROOTS FINALIST IN FAMILY BUSINESS UNITED AWARDS



**Derbyshire farm shop Croots has been named a finalist for the Midlands Family Business of the Year Award 2017. The farm shop and café near Duffield, run by husband and wife team Steve and Kay Croot, is one of 12 family firms shortlisted for the accolade.**

“We are delighted to learn that we’ve been chosen as a finalist in this award. It’s great news for Croots Farm Shop and all the wonderful, hard-working staff we have on our team,” said Kay Croot. “The farm shop was launched at my parents’ farm in 2008, and has gone from strength to strength.

“It’s very much a family business, with our staff being part of our extended family. We have some people that have been with us at Croots Farm Shop since the start and are incredibly loyal and amazing with customers. We

have shared our progress with them, they understand what we are striving to deliver, live the same values and we look after them and treat them like part of a big family.

“I’d like to thank them, as well as all our suppliers and customers, for helping this family business to grow and to get to a stage where we have been named a finalist of the Midlands Family Business of the Year Award 2017.”

The Family Business of the Year Awards are organised by Family Business United, the award-winning magazine and resource centre that champions and celebrates the family business sector. Now in their fifth year, the awards recognise the diversity, strength and depth of family firms across the UK and seek to highlight the contribution that family firms make to the UK economy.

Open to family firms of all generations, sizes and sectors, the awards recognise some outstanding family firms and really help to put family businesses on the map.

Paul Andrews, founder and managing director of Family Business United, said: “We are delighted to be able to pull together such a vibrant bunch of family businesses, some that have succeeded for numerous generations and continue to thrive, and others that are relatively young but have great values at the heart of what they do.

“Well done to Croots Farm Shop & Café on being named a finalist.”

Sian Steele, head of family business at PwC, sponsors of the award added: “Any one of those shortlisted would make worthy winners and ambassadors for the sector.

We are looking forward to finding out more about each of them and I am sure that the decisions to determine the winner will not be easy. Previous winners of this award include Penny Hydraulics, Cropwell Bishop and Fracino so the 2017 winners will be following in the footsteps of some incredible family firms.”

The awards process concludes at a gala reception and awards ceremony that takes place in London at the prestigious May Fair Hotel in London on June 8 where the winners will be crowned. Croots Farm Shop, based at Farnah House Farm, Wirksworth Road, is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm (Shires Eatery until 4.30pm) and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays. Croots runs Fresh Fish Thursdays between 9am and 1pm on Thursdays.

For more information, visit [www.croots.co.uk](http://www.croots.co.uk).

# SPOOKY, FRIGHTENING SOUNDS FROM NATURE

**A scream like a child being murdered sent chills down my back and made my heart race. Then another followed by an awful silence. Was this the set of some modern horror movie or worse still, the scene of some dreadful murder, the results of which would only emerge after sunrise? What or who could be making such a sound in the dead of a February night on the Millennium Meadow? Holding my breath, a loud rustling sound in the nearby bush settled it and I ran to the safety of the gate and home!**

There are few mammals about in winter. Hedgehogs hibernate after spending autumn eating earthworms and slugs to put on as much body fat as possible. Curled up in sheltered piles of leaves, they remain snug until the weather breaks. On the odd warmer days they will wake to seek water or food but should the temperatures get too low, they will also wake then to shiver to keep warm. All this takes massive amounts of energy so it is better for the winter to be consistently cold so they can stay in hibernation where their body temperature can be very much below the normal 37C, the heart rate slowed to two or three beats per minute and their breathing rate is a breath every two minutes or so.

Bats find a sheltered spot out of the way of the prevailing weather such as a cave, a tree hollow or a roof space and hibernate by wrapping their wings around themselves to regulate their body temperature. They too will wake on warmer days and try and seek food.

Hedgehogs do not find many snails and slugs active during the cold winter months. Snails' bodies are mostly made of water so they cannot allow their bodies to freeze. Instead they seal the entrances to their shells with tight fitting lids made of their own slime

having first tucked themselves into a crevice in a dry wall, into a hollow plant stem or deep inside the leaf litter/brash piles to await warmer days.

With green blood, water absorbing slime (which makes it hard to wash off hands) and 27,000 teeth, slugs have been around in the British Isles since the end of the Ice Age and individuals can live for up to 6 years. Slugs are basically snails without shells but will be active as long as the temperatures are around

5C when, those 5% that are usually above ground at any one time, may be fooled to venture out in the hopes of finding fresh food.

Badgers tend to sleep through the very cold parts of the winter but foxes are very active from December through to March finding mates with which to breed - accompanied by barks and screams. On their menu would be any small rodents (field voles, mice and shrews) traversing their tunnels under

the snow or in the grass - their bodies too small to fully hibernate and in danger of being detected by the fox's superior sense of hearing and smell. Even better for the fox would be a rabbit.

In the depths of winter, rabbits still come above ground to forage and evidence of them nibbling the sweet bark off trunks and low hanging branches can be seen every year in the copses on the meadow. During the harsh, snowy winter of 1947, when the snowdrifts near Turnditch were so deep only the tops of the telegraph poles showed where the roads were - evidence of the rabbits having chewed the bark off the top most branches of trees was easily seen. Similarly, in the new piles of brash - home to lots of hibernating insects and snails - the bark soon disappears when the winter sets in.

Despite their snug burrows, rabbits need to come above ground to feed during the winter and means they become the food of choice for predators - including hunting owls and foxes. In daylight, I found the scene of the "crime"- the tuft of fur and the spots of blood where a rabbit had met its end. It may be a surprise that these furry, benign looking creatures can make such a loud, spine-chilling scream when extremely frightened or in the throes of death but it must have evolved as a defence mechanism - hoping to surprise the predator into abandoning the attack.

It is wise to know the sounds of the Meadow as well as the sights as we watch the catkins shake out their pollen - even though the temperatures indicate it is still winter. Before long, the buzzing of the early pollinators will be with us to greet the newly emerging flowers of spring and with it, the warm sunshine.



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# CRAFTS, GROUPS & NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

Our children's craft sessions continue on Saturday 4 February at 10.30am for craft and stories around a different theme each month. The theme for February will be Gods and Goddesses. There is no need to book, just call in if your or your child is interested.

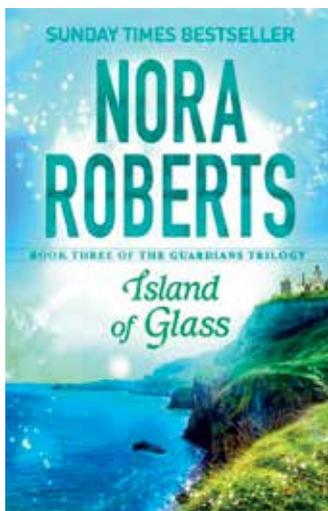
The library continues to be a donation point for the Hope for Belper charity, a local volunteer run food-bank helping our neighbours in Belper and surrounding areas. We have a food crate in the library where non-perishable food can be donated.

The Chatterbooks reading group for children aged 7-11 will be meeting on Wednesday 15 February from 4.30pm until 5.15pm, if you love reading why not join us?

The 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.

Our usual story time sessions

continue on Fridays at the usual time of 11am for half an hour of stories for pre-school children and their carers. Just call in, no pre-booking is required.



New books in the library this month include Island of Glass by Nora Roberts, the last in the Guardians trilogy, which sees six friends face their final challenge against the evil Nerezza as the battles reaches its dramatic climax

on the wild coast of Clare, My Grandmother Sends her Regards and Apologies by Fredrik Backman, seven-year-old Elsa's granny is not crazy or eccentric, she is a superhero with the ability to story tell of a mysterious series of letters which come to life in ways Elsa has never imagined, this novel is a tender tale of the relationships between grandmothers and granddaughters, Keep Me Close by Lucie Whitehouse in available in large print format tells of the quest by Rowan Winter to explain the death of her friend brilliant painter Marianne Glass. Rowan discovers some secrets are best left buried and some are lethal. This is the next must-read for fans of The Girl on the Train.

I have recently read House of Shadows by Pamela Hartshorne. A very atmospheric novel set in Yorkshire. Kate Vavasour wakes in hospital



remembering nothing about the family gathered around her bedside. When her memories start returning the are not her own, they belong to Isabel Vavasour, who lived and died over four hundred years earlier. Kate struggles to uncover the mysteries of the past at the same time as she tries to regain her own memories. A twisty turny sort of novel but highly recommended.

Happy Reading  
Carole-Ann and the team



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# The Meadows Hidden Gems – Hoverflies

**Hoverflies are part of an attractive group of day flying insects. A lot of people enjoy seeing them in the countryside or in their gardens. A second look is sometimes needed as their ability to mimic bees and wasps is quite remarkable. There are over 270 named species in Britain and 70 of these have been recorded on the Meadow. They are all members of the family Syrphidae. The life cycle is in 4 stages which are egg, larva, pupa and adult. The eggs are laid in a variety of habitats depending on the feeding habits of the larvae. These include plants, roots, dung, rotting vegetation and decaying wood.**

In some species the larvae are totally aquatic and have a long tube through which they breathe. They are commonly known as rat-tailed maggots. The larval foods are varied and range from plant materials, aphids and tree sap. The adults feed mainly on nectar and pollen. They are one of the few families of flies whose mouth parts are capable of eating pollen. These flies can be seen hovering over flowers and have a distinctive darting flight. They are known to pollinate wild and garden flowers, grasses and trees. The males of some species are very territorial and can be seen chasing other males away from their chosen patch. Very little is known about the natural enemies of adult hoverflies but it is thought that birds are probably the main predators. Some solitary wasps catch and paralyse the flies and stock up their nests with them for their own young to feed on.

The first species for this month is the Large Narcissus Fly (*Merodon equestris*). This species is a fairly large

bumblebee mimic and is the only hoverfly of this genus in Britain. It is variable in colour ranging from beige to black with tawny, yellow and orange markings. The photo shows a male of the named variation *equestris*. The larvae feeds on bulbs such as daffodils, bluebells and can be a pest on onion crops. The adults prefer sunny sheltered spots and are fond of flowers such as dandelions. The males defend territories from low perches, or the ground, over flower beds or lawns. The average life span of adults is 17 days for females and 11 days for males. They can be seen flying from April to September with a peak in late May/June.

The second species is the Common Snout-hoverfly (*Rhingia campestris*). It's distinctive long snout and feeding tube allow it to reach



much deeper flowers than other other hoverflies cannot reach hence the nickname the Heineken Fly after the beer advert! The larvae are unusual as they feed on cowpats and probably other types of dung.

The adults can be seen flying along woodland rides and hedgerows between April and October peaking in May and again in August/September.

**Mick Ball (The Bugman)**





## Newsletter February 2017

### ► Playground vandalism

Duffield Parish Council was forced to close the play area at Gray Rec due to the vandalism which occurred at the end of November.

Playground inspectors have previously advised us that we cannot "tape off" single pieces of equipment as this is considered a safety risk.

We would like to apologise to residents for the length of time the playground has been closed.

The parts need to be manufactured to order and sent over from Sweden and this has taken longer than anticipated. The company has given a date of 15th February for the repair work to commence, and we look forward to re-opening the playground when these repairs are complete.

### ► Dog fouling

The Council has had several complaints about the issue of dog fouling in Duffield. Dog mess is not only a nuisance but also a health hazard; it can cause asthma and even blindness in young children. It's a legal requirement to clean up after your dog and offenders can be fined £80.

Concerned residents can obtain a sign from Duffield Library to remind dog owners to clear up after their pets, or to report an incident of dog fouling, contact Amber Valley Borough Council's Environmental Services on 01773 841335.

### ► Gray Recreation Ground

The Parish Council is investigating adding extra fitness/play equipment at Gray Rec, for use by local young people and adult activity groups. In this issue of the Duffield Scene you will find a survey which lists four examples of new equipment. The survey can also be found online at [www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Please email your survey responses to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) or drop them through the letterbox at the Weston Centre. We look forward to hearing your views.



#floodaware

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 **8th February 2017** at **7pm** at the Weston Centre.

Agendas, Committee Reports and Minutes can be viewed on line at

**[www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**The Cemetery:** 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield. Telephone 07955 307520. Email [cemetery@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Borough Councillors** - Chris Short 01332 843781 and Steven Evanson 01332 842333.

**County Councillor** - Stuart Bradford - 01773 550828

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**Dates for your diary - please see separate feature in this edition of the Duffield Scene**

# DUFFIELD: WHO CARES? WHO DARES...

We have just returned from a country where all its people, a communication system and a major city have been physically, socially and emotionally 'rocked' by devastating earthquakes. The people know 'quakes happen but they don't know when and they don't know their severity. They also have a danger we seldom think possible in our rainy climate – fires. Both have happened in the last two months, and both are top priorities in personal safety, government taxation, and insurance risk calculations. We in Duffield have a 'quiet life'!

An unceasing concern is having a constant and reliable supply of water. Power generation (H.E.P.), pastoral farming and vineyards and fruit orchards depend on them. Each is a pillar of its tourist industry, romantic for the rest of us but for New Zealanders they ensure economic and social survival.

It's not just living at the other side of the world that makes them tackle problems head-on'; if they don't rebuild Christchurch – its Cathedral is a spiritual, architectural and visual inspiration - it will be deserted and die. Councils, developers, people with businesses care...

and dare even if progress is slow, arguments ardent and businesses collapse. Some still operate out of steel boxes in "Container city". 'Sharing' has joined 'caring' to return life to nervous and proud city. Over sixty returning firms and government departments will infuse new life into a shocked body. What are Duffield's challenges?

Since writing articles for the Scene I have received only two comments about them. The first recognised change; the second about the positive effectiveness of protesting about specific behaviour, but with a caution for consequences.

'If you complain about someone's behaviour and you contact (the Police) those you complain about will get their own back'. Dare we...?

The essence of a particular incident was that 'someone did something about it. They 'dared' and 'something was done about 'it'. Only if necessary and only the Police (PCSO Bennett) give identities. The effects are often not noticed and draw few compliments. In complaining, they may be acting as a 'good citizen' should, in protecting their and our freedom to live our lives without fear.



By this time readers with stamina may be asking about the point being made, if any. It is simply that perhaps there are problems in Duffield not being thought about or sufficiently threatening to cause worry. Or perhaps if there are, nothing can be /will be done about them by the community. Some 'problems' cause no disquiet (footpaths and street lighting); or a price paid (saturated car parking); or rejected (traffic speed limitations); or defy regulations (pedestrian crossings); or side-stepped (Works Depot property).

Easiest to spot are physical shortcomings. The decline in number, location and range of shopping and village (as compared to commercial), service facilities is experienced daily by some more than others. The absence of a ceremonial symbolic centre meeting needs is explained partly by the historic growth of the village responding to its small and increasing population over recent centuries. 'Growth by estate' has paused and 'social accommodation' is a sensitive issue.

Is 'change' such a threat?

The schools maintain their strong reputations, and property values remain among the highest in Amber Valley

and beyond. The churches offer regular, popular social and spiritual services. Nothing much to complain about then?

But have a look at the 'open spaces'. Are they being best used?

To many Duffield is a comfortable, convenient, sufficient, satisfying place to live, with a very wide range of well-supported voluntary organizations.

No earthquakes, no fires, no droughts! Can such an idyll have no problems?

A recent survey run by a political party not hitherto seen in Duffield, reported items known from a survey done at the time of recent Parliamentary elections.

Nothing new then! Look again, this time at those living in Duffield. Two groups are attracting real concern for different reasons. Their needs as people are evident, likely to increase. One group receives more blame than praise. The other, likely to increase in number, is already generating very positive responses.

We may care but do we dare to admit they affect us all?

No dare? – no win? - Watch this space!

**John Raw**  
**Jfraw364@gmail.com**



# THE IMPORTANCE OF GRASSROOTS

Grassroots football has continued to grow ever since the creation of association football in 1863.

Prior to this football was played across schools and at local parks where jumpers acted as goal posts and teams were picked by the eldest of the group.

Duffield Dynamos football club is the perfect example of what grassroots football clubs offer and aim to do. One of the most important roles grassroots football clubs play is the offering of physical activity.

While most children get their physical activity requirements met through the provision of physical education, for those that are older it is harder to get access to exercise that is both enjoyable and not overly expensive.

With men's teams reaching all the way to the inclusion of a senior team and the girl's teams age groups continuously on the increase, more and more players are getting the opportunity to stay active.

The Dynamos show themselves to be a grassroots club with good structure and the ability to accept new faces and therefore increasing the size of their community.

In conjunction to this, it is not only those who play for the club that benefit.

Parents, siblings and other family members get the opportunity to volunteer, coach and learn more about



by  
Holly Percival  
who, as you can see, has friends in high places

the pathways within football. As well as this, grassroots football helps children to gain confidence and make friends through the element of team work and communication. This is a key aspect that is

clearly implemented by the Dynamos to those of all ages to help them in everyday life. With being such a huge club, the Dynamos have also shown the clear stepping stones for the youth of the club in how

they can possibly progress to a higher standard of football such as academy level.

From this, grassroots football is evidently the starting line for those who want to get involved in football and the Dynamos show themselves to be a grassroots club that has a great community in which it allows both its players and parents to get involved.

If anyone is wanting to get involved, then contact Dave Abbott the Chairman on 07920820270 to find out more information about the club and what it and its community has to offer.

I currently play for the University of Derby Ladies football team in the position left back.

Prior to this I have played football for six years while also volunteering in football.

I have completed both refereeing and coaching qualifications as well as being a previous member of the Birmingham County FA Youth Council where I helped improve grassroots football in Birmingham.

Through being a PR for Duffield Dynamos I hope to learn more about football and for it to help me pursue my goal of becoming a football journalist, which I am currently studying at the University of Derby.

Picture shows Holly with England team manager Gareth Southgate.



# SQUASH HOLIDAY CLUB



England Squash Masters  
WO55 winner Lesley Sturgess  
with Sarah Howlett

**Duffield Squash & Racketball Club February half term holiday club for juniors for all standards from beginners to county squads.**

Including fun fitness routines and games, Squash / Racketball and Table Tennis Monday and Tuesday 13th / 14th February, 10am - 2pm. Cost £14.00 per day for members. £16.00 Per day for non members.

You will need:

- Drinks and lunch.
- Suitable clothing and non-marking shoes

Duffield Squash and Racketball Club has the England Squash & Racket ball Gold Charter and Sport England Club Mark Standard Squash Facilities, which ensures that strict child protection, equity and health and safety standards have been met.

Please book your place if you wish to attend the sessions by contacting Lesley Sturgess on 079413 12673 or lsturges@hotmail.com England Squash Level 3 licensed coach.  
www.duffieldsquashclub.co.uk



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