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APRIL 2021

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PROJECT CHEER 'MYSTERY' BOOK SWAP

We're trying something different and hope you'll join in if you can? Firstly a big thank you to the members of the Duffield WI Book clubs and other WI members' who have already donated a great array of books so we can do the first Cheer 'Mystery' community book swap - an idea that hopefully will catch on and we can repeat in the future.

Do you or your children have book(s) you've read that you'd be willing to donate - could you take a few minutes and write a note to go inside the book for the next reader - finishing with the request that they pass it onto



someone else who might enjoy receiving it? You can drop off the book(s) you're donating at the following places from 16th

April - 30th April 2021. Look for the box marked Mystery Community book swap. Just drop your book in at:

Duffield News, Town Street, DE56 4GD.

Duffield Library, Wirksworth Road, DE56 4GH. (Open Monday 9.30-1, Wednesday 2-5, Friday 9.30-1 and 2-5, Saturday 9.30-12.30).

21 Tamworth Street, DE56 4ER
The books will be collected, wrapped and isolated. Then on Sunday 9th May 2021, come along to the Weston Centre on Tamworth Street between 1-4pm, choose a mystery book parcel. Take it home and enjoy the surprise of unwrapping it and then hopefully enjoying reading it. Below is the list of ... continued on page 8.

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MUMMY BAKES DELICIOUSLY GOOD CAKES

Nothing beats the wonderful smell of fresh baking. Whether it's tea with zesty lemon drizzle, packing chocolate brownies for a long walk, or sharing a scrumptious sponge with our loved ones, cake is a simple pleasure that brings joy to our everyday lives. It's no surprise, then, that Mummy Bakes Duffield has

thrived since Helen Ackroyd launched the business early in 2020. Helen started with a mixer, a shed load of determination and over twenty years' experience of baking cakes for family and friends. Today she offers a wide range of sponges, tea-loaves, traybakes, biscuits and scones, many of which can be tailored to suit any occasion.

"I love the way cake brings a smile to everyone's face," says Helen, whose tasty treats have received overwhelming support from customers across Duffield and beyond.

Helen has lived in the village for fifteen years with husband, Sam, and their sons, William, Charlie and Arthur. She originally came from North Yorkshire where she fell in love with baking as a young girl in her Grandma's kitchen. "The whole family would compete to show off their bakes," says Helen. "Dad's proud of his perfectly-shaped biscuits, my sister does wonders with chocolate, and mum's lemon meringue pie is a family legend." Some of Helen's personal favourites include traditional Yorkshire recipes for Grandma's Teatime Parkin and Ginger Digger biscuits.

It was after a career break to focus on caring for the boys that Helen realised how much she enjoyed sharing her love of cake. Friends' enthusiasm for her ability to bring out the understated flavours of authentic home-baking gave her the confidence to turn her talent into a business.

Mummy Bakes gained its name when William enthusiastically explained his mum's skills to a friend. "My boys are my Chief Tasters," says Helen proudly, "although Arthur still struggles to understand why we can't keep all the cakes!"

It's been a challenging year to establish any new business, and Helen has had to juggle the demands of family life with



learning the ropes of being self-employed. What's kept her going has been the appreciation for local suppliers and her role in helping families stay connected. She launched a delivery service during the pandemic, and now offers a gifting subscription for customers to surprise loved ones with traditionally-wrapped treats. As one lady put it, "you must never underestimate the joy of gifting cake."

With Easter around the corner, the boys are happily testing Helen's mini-egg brownies while she whips up a range of celebration cakes for the Spring. The future looks bright, with a selection now available from Anthony Andrews Butchers, plans to extend the delivery service and a new product list available via Facebook, Instagram @mummy_bakes_duffield and by emailing mummybakesduffield@gmail.com. And, as if there were any need to confirm whether Mummy Bakes delicious cakes, Helen recently received feedback from a five-year-old customer. "Are they good?" his mum asked, to which he replied, "they're way better than good." Telephone: 07557 054848.



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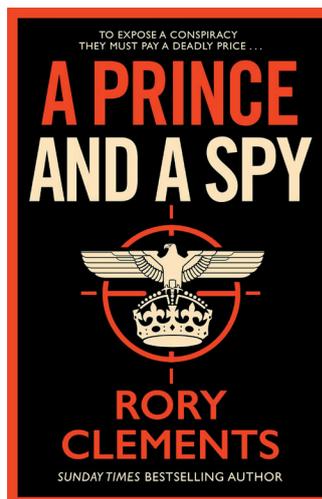
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DUFFIELD LIBRARY NEWS FOR APRIL

As I write, the plan for reopening the library is beginning to take shape. In line with government restrictions, I will be able to resume a browsing offer in the library from Monday 12 April. Numbers permitted in the building will be restricted to 3 adults in our adult section and 1 family in junior at any one time. As a result queuing may be necessary at busy times and customers may be limited to 15 minutes of browsing time if people are waiting. Request charges, audiobook charges, and overdue charges will be reintroduced from that date and the usual borrowing limits of 24 items will return. Items are currently all due back on Tuesday 4 May. It will be fabulous to reopen and I am really looking forward to taking away the black barrier. The crates for returned items will remain in the foyer and I will continue to quarantine all items for 4 days before discharging them off the tickets.

New books this month include a non-fiction copy of Jet Man by Duncan Campbell-Smith, a fascinating history of Frank Whittle, RAF pilot, mathematician of genius, inventor of the jet engine and British hero. We also have a copy of Do This For You by Krissy Cela, a personal action plan for building your best life, this coaching manual will help you grow into a stronger, more confident you. In fiction we have a paperback copy of This Winter Promise by Rosie Goodwin, set in 1850 Opal Sharpe has found herself and her siblings suddenly orphaned, destitute and separated. Desperate to reunite her family Opal makes a promise to reunite them all one day, how they make their way back to each other makes a great read. We have a copy of Silent Voices, featuring DI Vera Stanhope by Anne Cleeves, first published in 2011 this paperback edition is another cracking detective novel.



I've read A Prince and A Spy by Rory Clements, another

fabulous read and one I really enjoyed. Tom Wilde is sent to Scotland to investigate a plane crash. In 1942 in Sweden, two old friends meet, they are cousins. One is Prince George, Duke of Kent and the other is Prince Philipp von Hessen, a committed Nazi and friend of Adolf Hitler. The Duke's plane crashes on the return journey, the official story is that it was an accident but Tom is not convinced. What he discovers has grave consequences not only for Britain but for the entire world. Happy reading
Carole-Ann

TREASURER NEEDED

The Duffield Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust needs a new Treasurer due to the retirement of the current incumbent. It is a volunteer opportunity for anyone who has an interest in the Reserve and who may have some financial

expertise. Training is available and the job description is available from Di Hancock who will also have a informal chat about the post to anyone who might be interested. Contact: di.2013.hancock@gmail.com or 07511230320.



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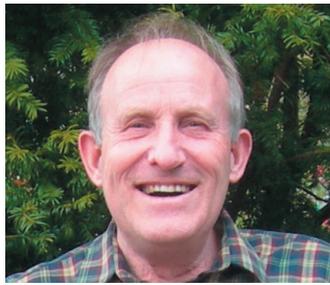


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Peter Zimmermann 1958 – 2020

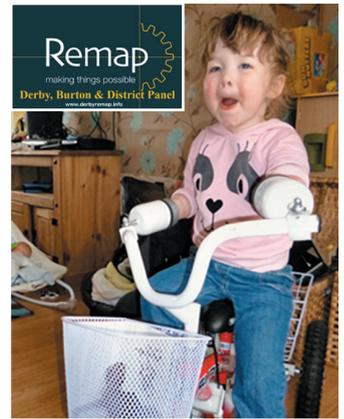
As we all begin to emerge from lockdown our lives will be all the poorer for the absence of this one man – Peter Zimmermann. He was great company, funny, witty and intelligent interested in everybody and everything. Peter thrived on the company of others and, on his daily walk with his one-eyed dog, Frankie, he had the uncanny ability to meet someone and take the conversation to deeper levels – political, spiritual, historical. His spiritual home was Emmanuel Community Church and through them he was part of the ‘Open the Book’ team bringing the Bible to life weekly in Duffield Meadows School. So many young people would greet Peter in the street with the words – ‘Hello Mr Open-the-Book!’ Peter was also passionate about the churches in Duffield serving the community together and was an influential figure in the ‘Churches Together’ group. Wherever there was a community event, there Peter would be! He thoroughly enjoyed singing in Duffield Singers where his loud voice and larger-than-life personality will be greatly missed. He also raised £20,000 for the refurbishment of the scout hut,



because he believed that scouting is a fantastic opportunity for young people to grow and develop. He sat on youth offending panels giving young people opportunities to make amends rather than enter the prison system. And his kindness reached many ex-offenders in Derby too as he mentored individuals to rebuild their shattered lives after prison. Peter had time for everyone, from the most disadvantaged people in society to his great sense of community here in Duffield. Last September, his photograph appeared on the front page of Duffield Scene as he and his wife, Maggie, began to create a wild flower meadow the front verge outside their house. Many of you will remember Peter in your own way – he will be greatly missed by many.

CHARITY PLANT SALE

Remap's local branch of this nationwide charity will be aiming to raise funds with a Duffield Plant Sale during the first weekend of May (1st – 2nd). There will be a range of vegetables and flowering plants available in small pots and trays ready for planting out. Payment will be by donation on a first come basis. All funds will go directly into Remap's local projects. Plant stocks will be limited. Customers will need to be aware of whatever COVID-19 precautions are in place at that time and act accordingly. **Plant stock will be arranged for sale from 10am on the front garden of 8 Granville Close, Duffield, DE56 4FY (donations of unwanted plant stock will be gratefully received).** Remap's dedicated volunteers use their ingenuity and skills to invent, design or modify equipment, to help people living with disabling conditions, aiming to provide them with greater independence or to allow them to enjoy leisure opportunities previously closed



to them. All Remap projects are funded by donations and all the special equipment they make is provided free to the people that need it. New clients and volunteers are always welcome. Zoom Talks on our work can be given to interested parties visit <https://www.remap.org.uk>. Further information re seeking help or volunteering; Derby, Burton & District – Tel 01332 841486 or visit www.derbyremap.info. Zoom Talks & Duffield Plant Sale organiser; Tel 07909512884 or email nicholas.holberton@gmail.com.

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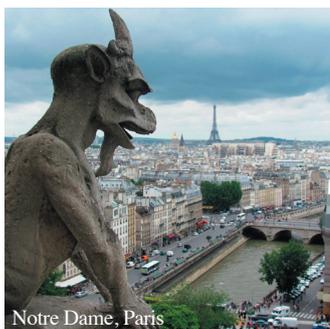
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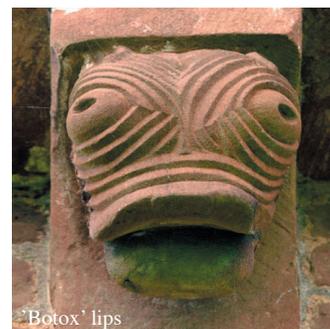
DUFFIELD & DISTRICT HERITAGE FEATURES – GROTESQUES



Notre Dame, Paris



Kilpeck's imagery



'Botox' lips

The dictionary definition of a grotesque includes a comically distorted, or repulsively ugly, image. Architecturally speaking, a grotesque is a carved human, or animal face or demonic figure projecting from a building designed to ward off evil spirits. Perhaps the most famous grotesques are those atop the twin towers of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Grotesques also take the form of a gargoyle that acts as a decorative spout designed to spew water clear of a wall so as to preserve the stonework below. Their name derives from the old French word *gargouille*, meaning throat or gullet, but which coincidentally describes the gurgling sound of water as it flows or enters a downspout. Gargoyles are always grotesques, but not all grotesques are gargoyles! In time the two nouns have become interchangeable whether carved on the inside or outside of a church.

As nightmarish figures they act both as a reminder of a bedevilled world peopled by monsters, demons and strange beasts, half-man, half-monster, warning that hell awaits those who sin, and to ward off other devils or demons, thus protecting the sanctity of the building within.

Also in Europe a somewhat unusual, and rude, gargoyle adorning Freiburg Minster cathedral in Germany is that of a 'mooning' figure - with the spout where you'd expect it to be! Not for publication here I'm afraid but you can always Google it. There are many examples of mooning grotesques and gargoyles not far from here in Rutland; especially on churches clustered around Stamford, such as Ryhall, Easton-on-the-Hill and Oakham.

However, the Norman St Mary and St David's Church in Kilpeck, Herefordshire dating from 1140 probably has the greatest and most inventive collection of grotesques in the whole country. The **corbel table** (projections supporting the eaves) and door surrounds contain abstract, figurative, and mythical carvings. Pagan images combine with Christian symbols in a riot of dragons, warriors, monsters, animals and humans including an explicit **Sheela-na-gig** (earth-goddess/mother) and a grotesque with Botox lips!. All the life of a busy and bawdy Herefordshire village is depicted on this church, with no respect for decorum or piety.

A stone grotesque of a man putting his foot in his mouth can be found on the wall of

the ruins of Rufford Abbey in Nottinghamshire, while in the Peak District there are a series of grotesques on the crenelated tower of All Saint's Church, Bakewell - providing protection for the worshippers within!

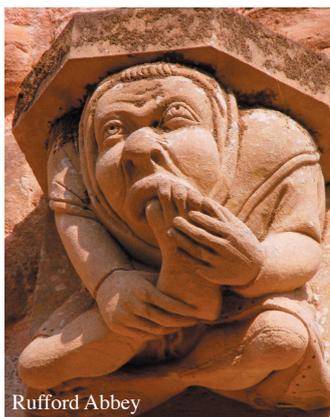
Realistically, we shouldn't be surprised or shocked by medieval art that illustrates this kind of coarseness and ridicule but rather we should appreciate the wonderful sacred and stylistic work, and laugh at the bawdy, profane and monstrous. Designed to cock-a-snook at the devil, and to ward off the evil eye, somehow to the medieval mind there was nothing unusual in adopting monsters to ward off other monsters.

In nearby Kedleston a gargoyle spouts rain-water into a hopper-head and downpipe from the roof slopes of All Saints Church; saved when Nathaniel Curzon razed the village to the ground in 1759 to make way for the adjacent Kedleston Hall. One of numerous examples of a 'mouth-puller' grotesque, this

one sprouts wings. Apparently these represent Satan who was often shown sticking his tongue out at his victims. Just below this gargoyle and set within the architrave to the west door are a series of grotesque figures known as 'beak-head' ornament; a common feature of Norman 'Romanesque' architecture.

Also at Kedleston high up on the external east wall of the chancel are two figures of a 'skull and crossbones' - both wearing a crown of laurel leaves! Can there be anything more grotesque than these images illustrating our own mortality staring down at us?

In Duffield the South Chapel at St Alkmund's, added in the 19thC by the Roland Smith family of Duffield Hall has a fearsome lion figure as a gargoyle, together with a splendidly repulsive grotesque projecting from the south-east corner of the nave. This appears to be a winged beast with claws, long fangs and tongue out-clearly looking towards Little Eaton!



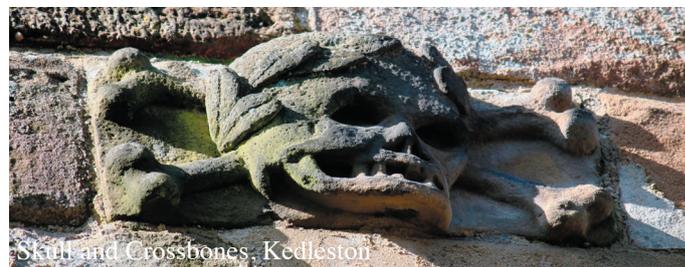
Rufford Abbey



All Saints, Kedleston

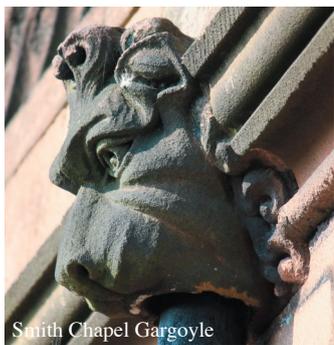


'Beak-heads'

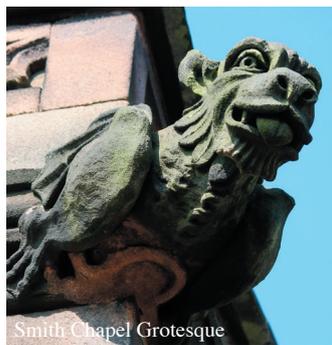


Skull and Crossbones, Kedleston

DUFFIELD & DISTRICT HERITAGE FEATURES – GROTESQUES



Smith Chapel Gargoyle



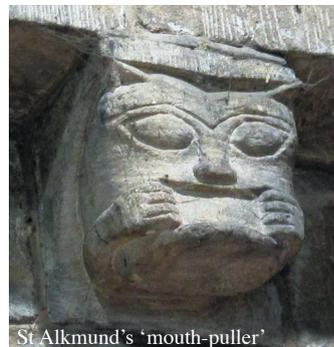
Smith Chapel Grotesque



St Alkmund's 'Romanesque' Corbel Table



The face of God?



St Alkmund's 'mouth-puller'

There is also a wonderful collection of ten grotesque heads located inside the church where as usual the local stone masons were given freedom of expression. These human images comprise the original external corbel table to the north wall of the Norman 'Romanesque' chancel. With

the church much modified and 'Gothicised' throughout the centuries they can be found within the North Chapel, now acting as a vestry, and may be viewed by appointment. One of these fearful figures is a great example of a mouth-puller.

Also inside the church is a primitive figure on the wooden tie-beam located above the chancel arch and looking down on the congregation in the nave. Thought by the late Dr James Mason, when a boy, to be the face of God, its origin is more prosaic and probably represented one W Jackson, a churchwarden in 1651. A modern interpretation

of a 'boggle-eyed', toothy grotesque can be found on the Chevin at the junction of North Lane with Sunny Hill, affixed to Tower Cottage.

So, how would you ward off evil spirits? Well, we've installed a traditional terracotta dragon on our Edwardian home just in case. However, looking like Julia Donaldson's character Zog in her story of a baby dragon, it's unlikely to be very effective. by **Robert Reid**



Tower Cottage



Zog!

PROJECT CHEER BOOK SWAP

From the cover...

the type of books we're looking for – and those we don't want!

Books wanted:

For Adults: autobiographies or memoirs, Derbyshire history, historical novels, science fiction, romance, thrillers and mystery, any 'classic'

Not wanted: self-improvement books, DIY, really 'old' cookery books, anything a bit too saucy or '50 Shades of Grey'!!

For Children and Teenagers:

Picture books, story books by classic and contemporary authors, Anthologies, natural history, environmental/climate change. If you're donating children's books please can you put a note on saying which age its suitable for?

Not wanted: Comics, magazines, quiz books, colouring books.

Please note: The books will be outside on a stall, please adhere to social distancing guidelines. Car parking at the Weston Centre and on Tamworth Street



is limited so it would be great if you came on foot wherever possible.

'There's perhaps half an hour each weekday when I could decide to use that time to tidy up, to tackle the chaos, or I could use it to read my book. I choose to read. Even a single half hour, whenever that time presents itself, allows images to grow in one's mind. 'Even a single half hour', the words are engraved on my heart.' (ND). Nicola Dalby (Cheer Chair).

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Duffield Parish Council

Newsletter April 2021



Village Action Plan Consultation

The online Survey ended 31st March, our thanks to all those who responded.

The responses will be considered by the Strategic Development Committee on 14th April and the Full Council on 5th May.

These meetings will be conducted remotely by Cisco Webex. For anyone wishing to attend, joining details will be issued with the agendas a few days prior to the meetings.

Please see the Parish Council website www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or the Weston Centre noticeboard.



Bees

The Parish Council has two areas which are available for beehives, one at Snake Lane and one at the allotments in Hazelwood Road. If anyone is interested in keeping a hive, please contact the Clerk: clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ecclesbourne Meadow

The Parish Council is working with volunteers, Amber Valley Borough Council and the Groundwork Trust to prepare draft proposals for woodland planting on the Meadow this Autumn. Local residents will be consulted once we have received a draft plan from Groundwork. Watch this space!



Footpaths

We are very grateful to our Footpath Wardens who do a great job in walking our footpaths and identifying any problems that arise. If you notice any difficulties when out walking, please report direct to Derbyshire County Council using the online form which can be found at: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights-of-way/rights-of-way.aspx

Administrative Assistant Post

We are seeking a part time administrative assistant - 12 hours/week. For more details, contact the Parish 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: **Extraordinary meeting of the Strategic Development Committee April 14th 2021. Parish Council AGM and Full Council Meeting 5th May 2021.**

Meetings begin at 7pm and will be held remotely – please see our website for details. All are welcome to attend.

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

The Parish Office

Cemetery Lodge, 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield, Belper DE56 4DQ.
Telephone 01332 842740.
To contact the Clerk email: clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07719 103015.

The Cemetery

For all Cemetery enquiries please email assistantclerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Borough Councillors

Chris Short - 07970 741483 and Dave Wells - 01773 821982

County Councillor

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



@DuffieldParCoun



Duffield Parish Council



www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - APRIL 2021

The Parish Council has seen some changes and challenges in the last 12 months. The Coronavirus pandemic meant that all our Council meetings continued but had to be held via video link and several of our planned activities had to be cancelled. We did however manage to adapt to keep as many services and facilities open and running as possible.

Additionally, our Clerk Kath Gruber retired in August and she was replaced by Jane Terry following a successful handover. Our thanks are due to Jane for settling into her new role so ably. At the same time, we decided to create a new role of Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) to strengthen the control of our finances and enable the Clerk to spend more of her time on other important issues in the village and we were fortunate to be able to appoint Sabrina Doherty as RFO from August to end November on a shared basis with Belper Town Council. We appointed David Melsome on a permanent basis on 1st December. Our thanks are due to Kath and Sabrina for their commitment and hard work and we wish them well for the future.

Last year, it was with deep regret that we reported the death of our Chairman Colin Thompson on 5th April 2020 and we decided to honour his memory with a memorial stone at the cemetery.

Following Colin's death and after taking advice from the Amber Valley Borough Council Returning Officer, we followed a Co-option process for a replacement Councillor. We received applications from three candidates and on a majority vote, appointed Jan Thompson as a Councillor. The Council is now made up of 6 Lib Dems, 1 Lab, 1 Green and 4 Conservatives.

RJ Weston Duffield Charity ("Weston Centre")

The Parish Council has continued to provide funding for staffing and operational costs for the RJ Weston Charity whilst it changes its trustee status, and this may continue in 2021/22 at a reduced level until the Weston Centre becomes self-financing.



We helped fund the Good Neighbour project in 2020, allocating £1000 for the group which works to improve the lives of older people in Duffield and promotes good neighbourliness in the community. Good Neighbours organised the Project Cheer initiative to provide nearly 140 hampers delivered by the DuCS volunteers to elders, mostly living on their own but also to some couples at Christmas. A lovely array of goods was donated by individuals and local businesses, members of the three WIs, children from Duffield Scouts and Brownies, pupils at William Gilbert School & Lower School at Ecclesbourne, the Trefoil Guild, and members of St Alkmunds Church. Funding was also provided by DCA.

Grants

The Parish Council awarded £200 to the Brownies, wildflower seeding at the Cemetery and resolved to grant £200 to DCA for wildflower seeds along highway verges once DCC approval has been received.



New Duffield Action Plan 2021 – Consultation event and survey

The new 2020 Village Action Plan, is being prepared and will be presented at the 5th May DPC Annual General Meeting. This sets the priorities for improvements in the village over the next 5 years. The Parish Council launched a market consultation in 2020 consulting with residents to find out their views. A draft Plan has been prepared using the feedback received and was followed up by a further online survey in February / March 2021. We also carried out a survey of residents' concerns regarding parking along Chapel Street, Ecclesbourne Avenue, Wiltra Grove and Town Street and Derbyshire County Council has been requested to look into parking restrictions along these roads as well as looking more widely at parking across Duffield.

The revised plan will be issued after the Full Council meeting in May 2021. To read more, visit <https://www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/duffield-action-plan.html>

This survey will be further extended in the springtime to assess the views of residents regarding Supporting Vulnerable People, one of our key themes for the new Village Action Plan.

DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - APRIL 2021

Events

The Coronavirus pandemic severely curtailed our plan for summer events and unfortunately, we were unable to stage the open-air theatre and cinema events or hold our traditional fireworks display in November. We did manage to hold the annual Act of Remembrance on 11th November 2020 and have run a photography competition, judged by well-known local photographer Ashley Franklin. The winning entries will be publicised on the website and in Duffield Scene and the overall winner will be included in next year's Duffield Calendar. We are hopeful that, with the gradual easing of lockdown measures, we will be able to hold the Illyria Outdoor Theatre performance of The Adventures of Dr Doolittle on 25th July 2021 and Outdoor Cinema on 10th September 2021.



Cemetery

We have continued to maintain this precious asset, despite the pandemic. There were 22 burials in the Cemetery and 9 in the Garden of Remembrance during the year, which is about the same as last year.

Floral Hanging Baskets

Floral displays were installed along Town Street in the summer.



Plastic Free Duffield – Climate Change

The Parish Council declared a “Climate Emergency” in 2019/20 and has pledged to decrease our own CO² emissions and encourage others to do the same. The council pledges to take climate impact into consideration in relation to all its decisions and actions. The Parish Council is fully supporting the community group “Plastic Free Duffield”, who are working towards obtaining a Plastic Free village status for the village by raising awareness on reducing the amount of single use, throwaway plastics that cause environmental damage and create litter in the village.

Duffield Community Speedwatch Group

We have reinvigorated the Duffield Community Speedwatch Group: a speed gun and PPE for the teams have been purchased, training carried out and a schedule of our first surveys is being put together for when lockdown easing allows.

Ecclesbourne Meadow

We have started to plan for a tree planting scheme and an aspirational masterplan for the remainder of the Meadow. Consultation will take place through an online survey to be issued around Easter 2021. The land is currently owned by Amber Valley Borough Council but due to budget restrictions, they have been unable to progress any work for next year, so the Parish Council has stepped in to expedite the process of what could become a significant open space asset for the village.

We are also supporting the Wild Trout Trust in its efforts to obtain grant funding for the creation of salmon and trout ladders along the nearby River Ecclesbourne, which would enable spawning further up-river.

Gray's Recreation Ground

The playground has remained open since July 2020 with advice on covid secure use and the children's roundabout was replaced in February 2021.



Anti-Social Behaviour

In common with many neighbourhoods, the village continues to experience intermittent issues with anti-social behaviour, and the Council continues to work with the Police and others to present a united front in tackling these issues. Community Walks were set up by the Council and Neighbourhood Watch have now taken these over. In addition, the Council has installed further CCTV cameras and continues to employ a private security firm to make patrols and give feedback on problem areas where necessary.

**DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - APRIL 2021**

Budget for 2021/2022

The annual budget for next year was set in November 2020 at £254,743 expenditure of which £42,000 is for projects to be undertaken during 2021/22. General reserves were set £80-90,000 within NALC recommended limits (42-50% of the overall precept) and £20k specific reserves have been earmarked for specific projects in future years, equipment replacements, footpath maintenance, building maintenance and car park tarmacking for future years. Our income is raised through the Annual Precept (approx. 85% income), cemetery burials and income from renting out the Eyes Meadows playing fields and, exceptionally this year, we received a £10,000 grant from AVBC due to the pandemic. Staff costs equate to 37% of expenditure.

We decided to replace our internal auditor for 2021/2022 in accordance with good practice. Our thanks are due to Brian Wood who has audited our accounts for the last 7 years. We welcome Jo Taylor to her new role.

We have some exciting projects planned for the coming year, including an outdoor gym at Gray Recreation Ground, replacement goalposts at Eyes Meadow, various environmental projects, tree planting on Ecclesbourne Meadow and a new grounds maintenance vehicle for the groundsman/village warden to better serve the community.

Coronavirus

The Council has found different ways of working to ensure it continues to support the village. Please keep safe and well and we look forward to welcoming you back to Council Meetings in person soon. In the meantime however, please continue to join our remotely held meetings if you can.

THANKS.....

- To everyone in Duffield who continues to support the objectives of the Council, and particularly the village volunteers: the many individuals who carry out litter picking, keep an eye out for elderly neighbours, run village clubs and organisations, help coach sports activities, or volunteer for the Carnival Committee; to members of the DCA, the flood warden Luke Heaton, our footpath advisers, Community Speedwatch volunteers, Ecclesbourne Meadow working group, uniformed organisations and others, our sincere thanks.
- My fellow Councillors for their tireless work on behalf of the community.
- To the Council staff:
 - Jane Terry, Parish Clerk, for settling into her new role so efficiently and her service to the village, giving her commitment and dedication to the ever varied and demanding role of Parish Clerk;
 - David Melsome, Responsible Finance Officer for taking over the accountancy reins in December;
 - Jackie Clements, our Assistant Clerk, who manages the Cemetery, keeps the communication channels open and informative and coordinates the lists of planning applications;
 - Michael Forkin, Village Warden, who continues to work very hard ensuring that our village, grounds and Cemetery look their best;
 - Antonio Hutchinson who joined the Council in February 2020 as Village Grounds Worker and is ably assisting the Village Warden with his work; and
 - Claire Gillman, our Apprentice shared with Belper Town Council and who completed her apprenticeship with us during March.

**Cllr Roger Harrison,
Chairman, Duffield Parish Council**



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON NATURE

Apparently our summers are already 20% longer than they used to be. The concern is that if the climate crisis continues unabated, by the year 2100 summers in the northern hemisphere could cover nearly half the year or twice as long as those of the 1950's.

Researchers have used historical climate data to measure how much our seasons have changed already and found that the average northern hemisphere summer grew from 78 to 95 days between 1952 and 2011 whilst winters have shrunk from 76 to 73 days. The expectation is that by 2100 the average summer could last 166 days and will have squeezed out other seasons with winters shrinking to 31 days. The effects on human health and well being, agriculture and the environment and wildlife will be far reaching.

Today, in the face of very cold winds and occasional sleet, it is sometimes hard to have confidence that warmer days will return. Easter is a fickle time for weather. When hitchhiking (a lot of years ago!) one early April to see a school friend who had moved to a remote area between Inverness and the Kyle of Localsh – the trip started in sunshine, then torrential rain followed by bitter cold NE winds and ended by being snowed in at my friend's cottage.

We do not live in a large country but the temperature variation between north and south has traditionally been

reflected in the flora and fauna. If you possess old, treasured nature identification books and look at when to expect different flowers and animals to appear in spring – the information may no longer be accurate, as, over the past 50 years, climate has changed. Gradually plants' and animals' range has moved north as winters have become less severe.

We comment on the arrival of snowdrops and daffodils as indicators of spring but also notice when they are out earlier than we expect due to unusual warm days. The problem for our insect population is timing their emergence to coincide with this first available nectar and pollen. Too early and they may find nothing to eat and may not survive the returning cold e.g. butterflies like peacocks and tortoiseshells. Similarly, migrant birds may find that their preferred food sources are not as predictable as before and even our native birds like blue tits can be fooled into breeding but are out of kilter with the emergence of food sources such as caterpillars with which to feed their young.

However, a supporter reported a welcome sound signifying spring - the song of a returning migrant – the **Chiffchaff**. This

small olive green bird belongs to the warbler family and has a very distinctive insistent two-note call unlike any other and from which it gets its name. Chiffchaffs usually overwinter in southern and Western Europe, southern Asia and North Africa and migrate here in late March/April to feed on insects amongst the trees and to fly up and snap them out of the air.

It has been noted that a small number have remained here year round and the RSPB suggest this trend will only increase if the climate change continues. Similarly, the timing of the emergence of insects will have to change in order to sustain this relationship.

A small warbler that we associate with warmer weather is the **Blackcap** which normally arrives in late spring from its overwintering in southern Germany or Spain. However, this small bird with its distinctive black head feathers has been observed throughout winter in recent years and it is thought that climate change and our habit of feeding birds through the winter has contributed to this change of habit. Another insect eating bird that can be seen on the meadow is the **Spotted Flycatcher**. These birds nest in the copses and

near the river where they rear young in nests made in small holes or cracks in the bark.

If the weather is warm enough, the first **House Martins** and **Swallows** will arrive. These will have overwintered in Africa and their arrival usually signals that we are well on the way to summer. The old saying that “one swallow doth not make a summer” indicates that freak warm spells can encourage a few birds north but only sustained warmth and hence insect hatch can really sustain a large population. One bird in sharp decline is the Swift – mostly due to lack of breeding habitat and the decline in insects overall. Unfortunately, recent studies show that globally insect populations are in decline due to climate change, pollution and loss of habitat caused by human activity.

The **spring equinox** signals when the days become longer than the nights. Usually, this should coincide with an ever-increasing abundance of insects on which our returning migrant and native birds can feast. **All is not doom and gloom.** If you wonder why we have a nature reserve that is worthy of support? Not only is it beautiful – and **about be awash with wonderful blossom** – but it is a small **but important contributor** to habitat for insects, birds and mammals. Enjoy!!

Di Hancock
Chair; Duffield Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust
07511230320



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DUFFIELD CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT (DuCS)

What a year this has been. This time last year we were watching the news and wondering what we could do in the face of the worsening pandemic. Thanks to a wonderful, combined effort, DuCS been able to support people ever since we received the first calls on 26th March 2020.

Future Arrangements

Whilst a number of our dedicated volunteers have continued to shop for people, we have received very few calls for support since October. For this reason, and the fact that it is anticipated that over 70s will soon have received both COVID jabs, **DuCS will cease operations from Thursday 27th May.**

Enormous thanks go to the 130+ volunteers who signed up to help others and who have remained on call ever since. The RJ Weston Duffield Charity certainly could not have run DuCS without them. Please drop a note into the Weston Centre on Tamworth Street, or call on 01332 840 349, if you have any comments about DuCS.

Please note, the Centre is not staffed full time, but we will return your call as soon as we can. We will reopen the Weston Centre in line with the easing of national restrictions for indoor hospitality on 17th May. A warm welcome awaits everyone over the age of 60. Why not pop down and see what's on offer? We look forward to seeing you.

NEWS FROM CHRIS SHORT LOCAL COUNCILLOR

The image is of me at the new Ada Belfield retirement facility and the new Belper library. The official opening will take place when Covid restrictions allow. This is part of a £29 million investment that your County Councillors have been working on in Belper. This facility will benefit all of the local community. It also includes a cafe and outdoor seating. These impressive buildings are based in Derwent Street. Please take the opportunity to have a look.



William Gilbert School road safety issues. Invitees have been informed by officers that a further online meeting will

take place soon.

I have been in discussions with your MP Pauline Latham regarding funding for regeneration of the Belper Mills Heritage Site.

This has suffered a great deal in recent times and the visitor economics even more so as a result of the pandemic. Funding is available from the Government Levelling up fund. I believe we need to continue to campaign and champion further investment in Amber Valley.

I was recently informed by Duffield Parish Council that a recent party leaflet recommended that if you have issues with footpaths in your area to contact their candidate for resolution. This is not the case, if you have any issues with footpaths/rights of way etc please go to the following Do it Now website

<https://apps.derbyshire.gov.uk/applications/do-it-now/road-maintenance.asp> or contact myself as your elected County Councillor.

The Duffield Community Association have been continuing with their Duffield defibrillator project and I am pleased to say they have now received the funding of £2k to place a unit on Ecclesbourne Meadows. I would like to take this opportunity to thank this community group for all their hard work for our village.

Chris Short

Duffield Village Resident
07970 741483 / 01629 536055
chris.short@derbyshire.gov.uk

DAVE'S UPDATE – OUR GREEN COUNCILLOR

Protecting our Green Belt

It's important that Green Belt land is protected from development. As a member of the Planning Board, I have voted consistently to protect the Green Belt and I support Save Duffield Greenbelt. Two years ago, I voted to withdraw the Local Plan which included 16 Green Belt sites, unlike the Conservative councillor here. However, we do need to use the correct processes. At a recent Council meeting to review the progress of the Local Plan, the Conservative group submitted an amendment to remove all Green Belt sites from the 'call for sites' – where people put forward sites for development. The proposal was submitted without prior consultation, and the Council's Legal Officer advised us that doing this without assessing sites could jeopardise the whole plan. This wouldn't protect our Green Belt at all, and, therefore, I

voted against the amendment. The way to protect Green Belt sites is to ensure that they are not included in the new Local Plan. The consultation on this will be taking place later this year, after it was put back. Please add your voice – look out for updates from me or visit Amber Valley Council's website.

Amber Valley Ward changes

Every few years the Boundary Commission reviews how many councillors we need and adjusts boundaries so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of people. There will be 42 councillors in Amber Valley, three fewer than at present.

I was asked my views about Duffield. I feel Duffield is a great community with its own identity, and it's better staying as one ward with two councillors than being split in two. However, to make the number of voters up to the right



amount, other communities may need to be added to the Duffield Ward.

The Commission wants to hear your views; a consultation on the proposals will run until 3 May. Find out more on the Council's website or call them on 01773 570222.

Updates from Gez Kinsella

The County Council elections are coming up in May. You can register to get a postal vote if you're worried about going to the Polling Station, or would just find it more convenient. The deadline to register is Monday 19th April, whether

you want to vote by post or in person. Find out more at www.ambervalley.gov.uk

More space for walking and cycling

Most of us have cars, but we also want to be able to walk and cycle safely, and not to be stuck in traffic when we're driving. So if we could all use our cars less, and drive slower in residential areas it would be better for us all.

One way to achieve this is through a '20's Plenty' campaign. Reducing speed limits on residential roads has proven benefits, including safety, noise reduction and air quality. Derbyshire now has a '20's Plenty' campaign which has written to all Parish Councils asking for their support. I'd encourage you to find out more, and I'm interested to know what people in Duffield think – email me on gez.kinsella@ambervalley.greenparty.org.uk.



R J Weston Duffield Charity
 (CRN 1188669)
The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street,
Duffield, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 4ER

Employment Opportunity

The R J Weston Duffield Charity Trustees are looking to appoint an **Administration Assistant**. This is a part-time role for one year, renewable by agreement.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will work 12 hours a week, spread over three or four days, from the Weston Centre. The rate of pay is £9.50 per hour.

For further information and an application form please contact Sarah Brooksby by emailing sarah.sdm@westoncentre.org.uk.

The **closing date for applications is Monday 12th April 2021**. It is anticipated interviews will take place during the week commencing 26th April.

The R J Weston Duffield Charity is at an exciting point in its development. It runs The Weston Centre and a community minibus. Our charitable object is 'to relieve the charitable needs of older persons in Duffield and the surrounding area, in particular by the provision of a day centre'.

The charity is committed to:

- safeguarding and ensuring the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment. The suitability of all prospective employees or volunteers will be assessed during the recruitment process in line with this commitment.
- providing equal opportunities in employment and to avoiding unlawful discrimination.

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Call us for a friendly chat on
01773 880055

