



# DUFFIELD SCENE

## FEBRUARY 2021

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## DRAFT VILLAGE ACTION PLAN PUBLISHED

Every five years the Parish Council prepares a Village Action Plan (VAP). It defines what facilities and other changes residents would like to see in future. It sets the direction for the village and gives everyone the opportunity to comment and provide their input. The last plan was published in 2015 and covered the period 2015 to 2020.

Early in 2020 the Parish Council started the process of preparing a new plan. Initial consultations were held with residents but the process was interrupted by the pandemic,

**Duffield  
Village Action  
Plan to 2025**  
**DRAFT: January  
2021 Consultation**



which made it impossible to have face to face consultations and diverted effort into more urgent actions.

A draft Village Action Plan has now been prepared based on those early consultations, and our intent is to refine

the plan through an on-line review process.

The Parish Council is therefore now inviting feedback on the themes and content of the draft plan and would like to know in more detail how we develop these themes and move forward into the next 5 years. If you want something to be improved in the village, this is an opportunity to say so.

All residents are urged to complete the survey, since the results will be much more persuasive if a high percentage of the village has completed the survey.

... continued on page 5.

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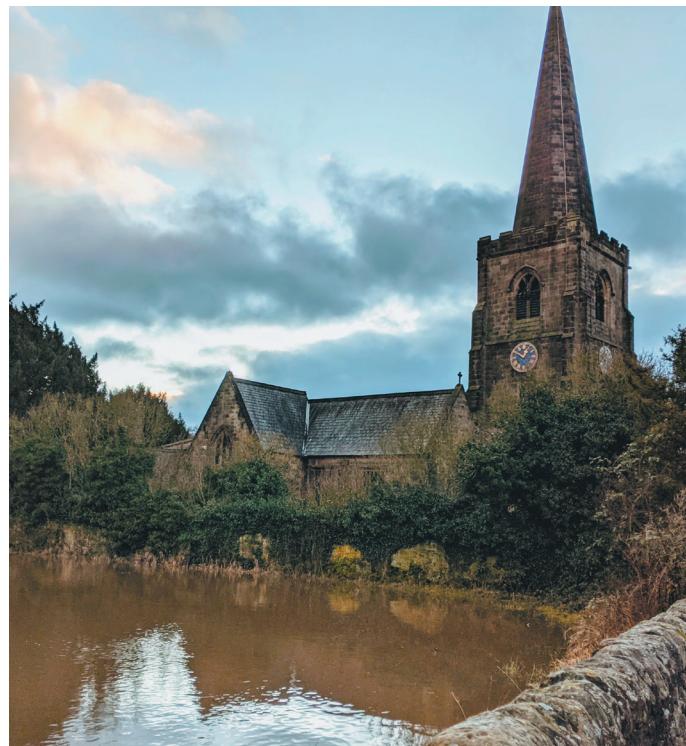
# THE FUTURE ENVIRONMENT OF DUFFIELD

The Parish Council has launched a consultation on the future of Duffield. It is a chance to think seriously about issues that concern us all. Some of the decisions we take as a village may have implications for many years to come.

Looking to the future, climate change will have increasing impact, even if the world starts to take serious action to limit change. Extreme weather events will be more likely, which will probably mean hotter and drier periods in the summer. During those periods our trees and plants will be stressed, and it is important to select plants that can survive these periods, and to consider where to plant them.

The hotter summers may make tree cover very attractive when walking. Do we need to consider planting trees to provide shade, especially over our walking routes and seating areas? Hotter countries often use trees this way. Since trees take many years to grow, we need to plan ahead.

Extreme weather in winter is likely to mean more prolonged heavy rain. Duffield lies on the flood plains of both the Ecclesbourne and Derwent, and has been subject to flooding in the past, so we may be affected. Our trees and



plants may need to be able to withstand flooding.

If the rate of climate change is to be controlled, global carbon dioxide emissions must be cut. I think that everyone has a part to play in that. A school run in Duffield might burn a wine glass of fuel, and it all adds up. Carbon dioxide, once released, will stay in the atmosphere for many years. Most of us have to drive sometimes, but the less we drive, the less we pollute, and the better our future.

There are those who say that

what we do as individuals, or as a village, is irrelevant. In my view that's defeatist talk. If our grandparents had thought like that they wouldn't have volunteered in the last war. They could have said that their personal contribution would make little difference. They could have said that the war was lost anyway unless other countries joined in. Instead most people wanted to do their bit.

So - should walking be encouraged? Should the condition of our footpaths

be improved? Should cars go more slowly so that children feel safer walking to school? Should the bottom of Wirksworth Road be changed so that children don't have to walk so close to fast traffic? Should cycling be made safer, for example along the Derwent Valley? If we want those changes, are we prepared to fight for them by writing and lobbying, because money is scarce and follows those who shout loudest, and changes are always resisted. If governments take effective action against climate change, that is likely to mean travel limits so that we will need to spend more time in Duffield. The covid lockdowns have taught us some lessons.

A great example of what can be achieved by community action is the Millennium Meadow. What a wonderful asset that has been during the last year. It has given us variety and interest within the boundaries of Duffield. What else should we be doing? The Consultation on the Village Plan is your chance to have a say.

by **Cllr John Shoesmith** - Lead for the Environment Theme of the Village Action Plan. The views in this article are mine and not Parish Council policy.

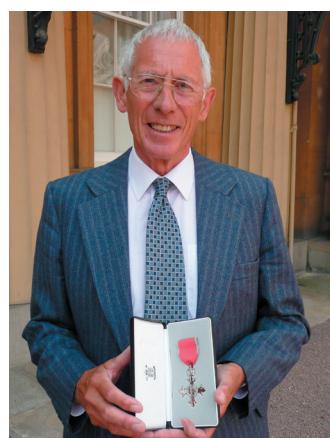
## REMEMBERING JOHN RAYMOND WHITE MBE

John passed away on 27th December 2020 after a valiant battle with cancer. He was born in Ealing on 6th April 1937 to Yvonne and Eric and was younger brother to Ralph. John attended Ashby-de-la-Zouch grammar school before studying dentistry at Birmingham University graduating in 1960. He completed National Service in the Royal Navy in 1964 and for the remainder of his career was a Dental Practice Partner in Matlock until retiring in 1993.

He met his wife to be, Pauline

Drew, at junior Wimbledon in 1951 and they married in 1960. In 1965 they established their family home in Duffield. Their first son Simon was born in 1967 and two years later Kevin arrived.

John was a racket sports enthusiast and joined Duffield Squash Club in 1957. In 1965 John became Secretary of the squash club and for the next 33 years he was the driving force in turning the single court club into a thriving five-court club that is renowned throughout the country. England Squash recognised his achievements



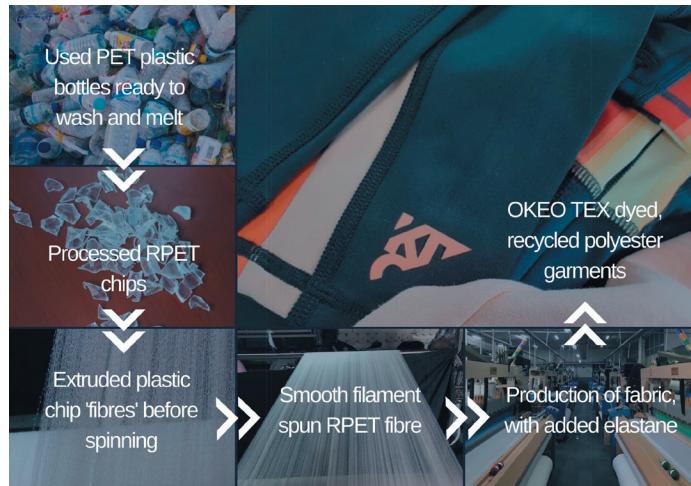
with the Hawkey Award in 2000. In 2008 he was awarded an MBE for Services to Squash by the Queen.

John won the Derbyshire County Squash Championships 13 times, represented England Squash at Masters level as well as winning 9 County Tennis titles. Latterly, John found a new passion in golf and he was a single-figure handicap golfer even in his 80s.

John was a faithful, loving husband and a devoted, caring father and grandfather. His energy and selflessness will be greatly missed.

John is survived by Pauline, Simon, Kevin and brother Ralph.

# KIT CHANGE LAUNCH SUSTAINABLE ACTIVEWEAR



**Business partners from Duffield have launched a new line of sustainable activewear as an antidote to the wasteful practices prevalent in the modern clothing industry.** Emily Hutchison and Victoria Windle spent their careers working for some of the high street's most recognisable brands, including Topshop, John Lewis, Next and New Look, both in the UK and Asia. Emily attended both William Gilbert and Ecclesbourne Schools before moving to London to carve out a career in the fashion industry. She then moved back to Duffield with her family in 2010.

Vicky spent much of her career based in Hong Kong and relocated to the village at the same time as Emily. The pair, who both live on Ecclesbourne Avenue, quickly realised they had a lot in common and soon struck up a friendship before then starting to work together. But after becoming disillusioned by fast fashion's throw-away culture, they have set up Kit Change, a stylish and environmentally conscious sportswear brand.

The online operation is based in Darley Abbey Mills and is aimed at women of all ages, sizes and levels of fitness. The range is designed using fabric made from used plastics recycled into premium polyester. It is now online - and hoping to attract local and national followers wanting to make a conscious lifestyle change. Emily said: "Kit Change was established with a simple goal: to develop stylish and sustainable activewear.

We were sick and tired of the traditional fashion industry and decided to create a new business that cares equally about the environment and the partners with whom we work. "As fitness lovers interested in a wide range of activities, we also felt there still wasn't a huge range of sustainable activewear out there from which to choose. Sports clothing is one of the largest users of manmade fibres, so there is an obvious need for change.

"Our aim is to do things the right way. We want to look after the suppliers we work with, be open about the processes involved, and offer the option of sustainability to an ever more thoughtful activewear buyer.

Vicky added: "As well as taking a proactive approach to our environmental impact, we wanted to ensure that Kit Change was open and accessible to everyone.

"We also encourage our items to be worn with existing activewear so that the 'buy new and dump old' culture starts to change. Kit Change is offering a leggings recycling service, so that old kit is not put into landfill or incinerated as the first option.

"What we promise our customers is that we will always use the best quality recycled or earth-friendly fabrics we can find. Our designs will be well thought out, fit for purpose and long lasting. It's about re-thinking, re-using and reinventing."

Visit their website to see the full range [www.kitchange.co.uk](http://www.kitchange.co.uk), or follow them on Instagram and Facebook @kitchangeclothing.



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## ACTION PLAN SURVEY

### From the cover...

We will close the survey at the end of March.

It should only take around 10 minutes to complete. To read the draft Plan, our consultation documents and to find the link to complete the on-line survey, please go to:

[www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/duffield-action-plan.html](http://www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/duffield-action-plan.html)

If you do not have access to the internet and would like to receive a paper copy of the survey, please contact the Clerk on 07719 103015 to have a survey posted to you.

## CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

Duffield Coronavirus Support (DuCS) continues to provide shopping for those who are unable to shop in person and with no other support. The Shopping telephone line is available every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am until midday. The number to ring is **07730 518121**.

Our Chat Line is taking a break, but you can contact us via the Shopping Line.

Alternatively, Amber Valley CVS operates a telephone befriending service.

Their office is open Monday to Thursday 9.00am till 4.30pm and Friday 9.00am till 3.00pm and can be reached on 01773 512 076.

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# DUFFIELD & DISTRICT HERITAGE FEATURES – FIRE

Sand buckets, Felbrigg Hall (NT)



**I and my family have good reason to be grateful to the Fire Service for once putting out a chimney blaze from a roaring open hearth fire. If like us you've ever had the misfortune of a house fire then you'll have been grateful for the assistance of a free County Fire Service. Not so in days gone by when buckets of sand or water, stirrup pumps or private fire services were the only, and not particularly effective, alternative.**

From the time man discovered fire, he's also battled to control the flames. Fire-fighting is recorded in 3rdC Rome and earlier in ancient Egypt. Britain's first organised fire-fighting followed the Roman invasion in AD43. Even then, fighting fires was limited to nothing better than buckets of water. As most buildings in the Middle-Ages caught fire easily, being constructed of wood and thatch, many towns simply burned down due to the lack of firefighters.

Before World War II and the firestorms created by the Blitzkrieg the greatest fire in the land was **The Great Fire of London** in 1666. Although there were few recorded deaths, estimates put destroyed property value at £10,000,000



Union Fire Brigade

(£1.5 billion today). Apart from the devastation there was a surprising outcome. From the ashes arose an unlikely development - the creation of **modern property insurance**. In 1667 the first insurance company, **The 'Fire Office'**, was set up by Nicholas Barbon, an economist and financial speculator; later becoming the **Phoenix** Fire Office after the Greek mythological bird that rose from the ashes. Others soon followed and by 1690 one in ten houses in London were insured.

However, by 1700 companies realised it would be cheaper to quench fires rather than pay for rebuilds, so began employing their own **fire brigades**. Given the inadequate municipal fire-fighting arrangements The Fire Office inaugurated its own brigade of '**thirty lusty able-body'd firemen**', most recruited from Thames Watermen. In consideration of their value all enlisted Watermen were exempt by Parliament from being 'press ganged' into the navy!

Eventually all companies organised their own brigades with distinctive livery and badges of office as portrayed by Hogarth. The companies had reciprocal arrangements whereby, if a fire brigade put



Great Fire of London 1666

out a fire at a building insured by another, that brigade's company would be reimbursed. It's a myth that competitive brigades allowed buildings to burn down.

From the 1710's distinctive embossed **Fire Marks** were created in order to identify which buildings were insured by which company when the brigade arrived. Fire Marks were mostly cast in lead, and displayed either a painted or engraved policy number. A wide variety of **symbols** or **emblems** were employed for fixing to the front of buildings. The first Fire Mark was issued in 1708 by the Exchange House Fire Office; using the blazing Sun symbol it became the **Sun Fire Office** in 1710, and today is the Royal and Sun Alliance. By 1720 insurers had

underwritten 17,000 policies—enough to cover the cost of property destroyed by the Great Fire.

In all there were 150 Fire Offices issuing marks; some with many **variants**. The oldest known Fire-Mark is that of the **Friendly Society** (1683-1790) with a symbol of arrows and serpent intertwined – derived from the arms of a promoter. Hands were of great importance in fire-fighting and were adopted as symbols, including the **Hand-in-Hand** (1696-1905) showing clasped hands with crown above. The **Union** (1714) became known as the '**Double Hand in Hand**' and merged with the Commercial Union in 1907. The **Westminster** (1717) used the Black Prince's Feathers and the portcullis; here providing



Sun Fire Office



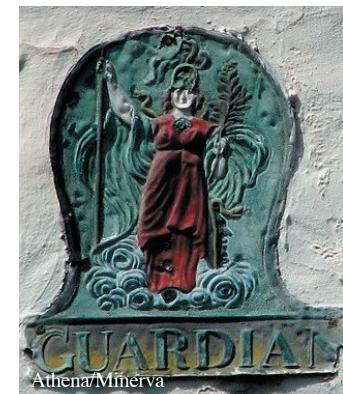
Friendly Society



# DUFFIELD & DISTRICT HERITAGE FEATURES – FIRE



Phoenix, Pickering



Athena/Minerva



Norwich General

protection for a thatched house! In 1782 the sugar bakers and refiners of London, established the **New Fire Office** adopting “Phoenix Rising from the Flames”; one of the most widely used fire marks.

Early marks of The **County** (1807-1906) show Britannia holding a shield. The **Royal**, established in Liverpool in 1845, incorporates the cormorant from the city’s crest (aka the Liver Bird) with seaweed in its mouth. The **Hope** (1807) was the first to adopt an anchor as its emblem. The **Guardian** (1900-1930) depicts the Graeco-Roman goddess

The **Norwich General** (1792) adopted a castle above a lion to depict ‘strength’, while **Norwich Union** (1797) issued 21 variants; mainly ‘Justice with Scales’.

Thankfully for Duffield’s heritage, a rare survivor of an early Sun Fire Mark is actually located high on the once ‘stuccoed’ front elevation of 44 Tamworth Street. Showing a face within a blazing sun and insurance number 734315 stamped below, this

shape became known as a ‘keyhole’ mark.

From the beginning of the 19thC fewer companies used fire-marks but instead issued highly-coloured pressed-out metal sheets called **Fire Plates**.

These were thin copper-plate, or tinned sheet-iron; often highly-coloured and employed almost exclusively as an **advertisement**. A Fire Plate can be found high up on a building in West End Wirksworth, advertising The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire and Life Assurance Company (1835-1869). Interestingly a collector’s Fire Plate of the **Birmingham** (1805-67) is a rare example of a fireman with engine symbol. It is displayed as ephemera on The Park, Tamworth Street.

Individual companies couldn’t keep a brigade in every town and village so contributed proportionally to another company, civic fire-fighting services or volunteers. By the mid-19thC, even after amalgamations, and realizing the efficiency of a unified force, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade

was formed; thus setting the pattern for municipal brigades. By the end of the 19thC, with co-ordinated fire-fighting and identifiable addresses, the fixing of marks, or plates, became obsolete.

By WW II about 1,500 small municipal fire-brigades were absorbed into the National Fire Service (NFS) whose fire-fighters Churchill held in high esteem calling them “*angels with grimy faces*”! After the war the NFS was taken over by County/ Boroughs Councils with later amalgamations; some becoming independent Fire Authorities. Thankfully the village has its On-Call fire-station, within the National Fire & Rescue Service, whose volunteer firemen continue a noble tradition of bravery and sacrifice.

I’m proud to say that my Great Grandfather was Captain of Belper’s fire brigade in the early 1900’s. I mention this because his cast iron identity plaque, as Fireman No 7, is still attached to a house in Bridge Street on the A6 near Strutt’s East mill.

All these Fire-Marks and Fire-Plates are fine examples of domestic archaeology which thankfully have been saved as heritage features. So, having read the above, I trust readers will check their buildings are well insured, smoke alarms have full batteries, and chimneys are regularly swept. Stay safe - believe me, you don’t want to hear the fearful sound of a chimney fire!

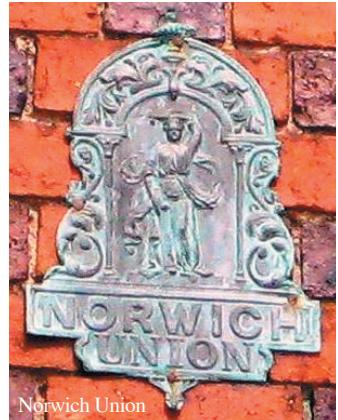
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Uniform through the ages



Bridge Street, Belper



Norwich Union



Tamworth Street Fire Mark



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# NEWS FROM CHRIS SHORT LOCAL COUNCILLOR

## Duffield and COVID-19

I wish to emphasise to all residents that I am available at any time during our current COVID-19 crisis. Please feel free to contact me to resolve your problems. I am always available. Please see below for contact details.

## A38 Roundabouts Decision

As you will recall from my various statements over the last two years or so, the A38 Derby Junctions Scheme promoted by Highways England was subject to the submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Secretary of State for Transport in April 2019. An Examination in Public was held between November 2019 and July 2020 on the DCO by a Panel of Inspectors who, following closure of their Examination Hearing Sessions on 8th July 2020 made their



recommendation on the DCO Scheme to the Secretary of State on 8th October 2020. This is to inform you that the Secretary of State issued his decision on the DCO on Friday 8th January 2021 and has granted a Development Consent Order for the scheme. The Secretary of State's decision, detailed decision letter and the report of the

Panel of Inspectors can be viewed at the link below.

<https://infrastructureplanninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/>

## Amber Valley Borough Council Funding Concerns

We are still waiting for the Labour declaration to the external auditor as to how they believe they can make your Borough Council financially viable. I will report back once I have received further details.

## William Gilbert School

As promised previously, the repainting of road markings around the school has now taken place. This will increase the safety of the residents and children during the start and end of the day.

As previously stated, I am in the process of arranging an online meeting with interested parties regarding

further opportunities to increase safety.

## Duffield Parking Consultation

Recently, Duffield Parish Council decided to carry out a consultation with areas of the village to ascertain the feasibility of resolving car parking issues in the village. I have been informed that the results have been returned and I look forward to working with the Parish Council on potential solutions regarding this issue. I will keep you updated as matters develop.

**Please take good care of yourself and others in our drive towards the resolution of the COVID-19 lockdown.**

## Chris Short

Duffield Village Resident  
07970 741483 / 01629 536055  
[chris.short@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.short@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## FIGHTING

### We would like to invite you to join us in fighting for the hedgehogs that live in Duffield.

Hedgehogs are being lost at an alarming rate of 5% per year. That's the same rate as tigers are being lost globally.

The single most important thing we can all do is connect up our gardens. Hedgehogs roam 1-2 kms a night foraging for food and love all different types of gardens.

All it takes to connect our gardens is to make a 13cm x13cm hole in fences or walls.

## FOR HEDGEHOGS IN

Our mission for 2021 is to set up a Duffield Community Hedgehog Group and to have at least one Hedgehog Champion per street in Duffield.

The aim of the Hedgehog Champion will be to engage and support neighbours in making the street hedgehog friendly.

If you are interested in being a Hedgehog Champion, visit [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org) where you can register if you wish, Or please get in touch with me, Eva, via email or text at [evaroselong@gmail.com](mailto:evaroselong@gmail.com) or

07436 774979 for more information.

### Small changes can make a big difference for hedgehogs

- Let plants go wild
- Build a log pile
- Make ponds safe
- Check before strimming
- Check before burning bonfires
- Stop using chemicals
- Make hedgehog homes for hibernation
- Provide food and water

If you do see a hedgehog

## DUFFIELD

out in the cold weather, it could be sick. If you are concerned about a Hedgehog that you suspect may be sick or injured, please contact your Local Derby Hedgehog rescue on 01332 381315.

Please join us by helping with the Hedgehog Street Campaign in Duffield today. By working together, we can secure a future for our local hedgehogs.

Thank you for your time,  
Your local Hedgehog Champions,  
**Eva and Sandra**



Link your garden



Hibernation



Providing food

# DUFFIELD LIBRARY NEWS FOR FEBRUARY

**Due to COVID restrictions I am unable to open the library for browsing. At present, we offer a book and borrow service by appointment only.**

To use Book & Borrow, you will be asked to:

- Ring or email the library you want to collect books from to make an appointment. You will be given a date and time for a collection slot. If you email please include a phone number so you can be called back to arrange a time.
- Provide the name and library card number for each person who wants to borrow books, plus a contact phone number.
- Give information on the type of books you would like – i.e. genre, examples of authors, format, or they can opt for a ‘lucky dip’. Maximum 10 items per person for each collection slot.
- Bring your library cards or card numbers for all the people you are collecting for, when visiting for your pre-booked slot
- Bring your own bags.
- Wear a face covering, as you would in a shop, unless you are in one of the exempt groups.

Requests are still being processed and an appointment will be needed to pick up the books. All items are due back 1 March 2021. Please ring on 01629 533919 for more information.

During the current lockdown the library is open Monday 9.30-1 Wednesday 2-5 Friday 9.30-1 2-5 Saturday 9.30-12.30.

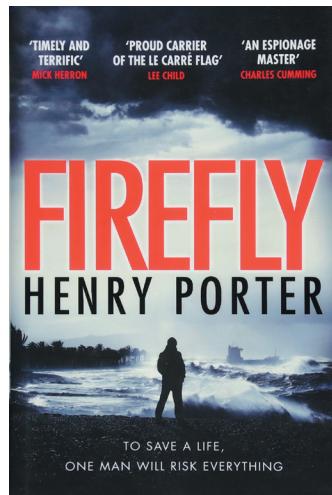
We are still receiving new books which is lovely to see. Nora Roberts has a new novel titled The Awakening. It is the first in a series the Dragon Heart legacy, featuring Breen Kelly. Breen had always been a rule follower. So, when her father left when she was twelve years old, promising to return, she waited. Now, more than a decade later, she's working at a job she hates and is tired of the life that playing by the rules has dealt her. It's time to make a change. Breen makes a leap into the unknown with a summer trip to Ireland - her father's homeland. Little does she know how much of a leap until a walk in the woods leads her through a portal into another world - Talamh - where Breen will find magic, family and a destiny she could never have dreamed of. Jodi Picoult's latest novel, The Book of Two Ways answers the question, who would you be, if you hadn't turned out to be the person you are now? Death doula, Dawn, survives a plane crash and re-evaluates her life. She finds herself thinking not of the perfect life she has but the life she was forced to abandon fifteen years before, when she left a career in Egyptology.

We also have a large print copy of Captain Tom's autobiography, Tomorrow will be a Good Day, where Captain Tom Moore tells us not only of his long life but how his never-give-up attitude inspired a nation to believe anything is possible.

I love to find new authors. Henry Porter is a name I wasn't familiar with but have started reading his novels on recommendation by a library user. I started with Firefly, the first in a series.

From the refugee camps of Greece to the mountains of Macedonia, a thirteen year old boy is making his way to Germany and safety. Codenamed 'Firefly', he holds vital intelligence: unparalleled insight into a vicious ISIS terror cell, and details of their plans. But the terrorists are hot on his trail, determined he won't live to pass on the information.

When MI6 become aware of



Firefly and what he knows, the race is on to find him. Paul Samson, ex-MI6 agent and now private eye, finds himself recruited to the cause. Fluent in Arabic thanks to his Lebanese heritage, Samson's job is to find Firefly, win his trust and get him to safety. I enjoyed it very much and have put Henry Porter on my reading list.

Happy Reading  
Carole-Ann

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# LIFE

# AMONGST

# THE

# TREES

It was too much to hope that this winter we would escape the wet ground and muddy paths that so blighted last winter when the flooding rivers made such havoc of the Meadow. Most plants have their roots in the top 50cm of soil so the grass struggles as the waterlogged ground and well-trodden mud prevents the plant from flourishing.

Grass is the most commonly found plant in the world and has a reputation as a strong, resilient species but the continuous muddy conditions can prove too much for even this strong survivor. Waterlogging prevents the roots from transporting nutrients and the trodden mud destroys any new growth so the leaves cannot photosynthesise. However, as long as this spell of wet weather does not continue for months, the paths will recover as the ground dries out and a lot of the grass will regenerate.

The phrase “**bio-diversity**” is one I often use and which appears in much of the literature about nature reserves. It is a catch-all phrase and it pays to be observant in order to appreciate exactly what it means. For instance, by coppicing the hazel trees in the first copse, we have temporarily deprived a number of creatures the bounty these trees normally provide. They will be more abundant as they re-grow.

Near the top of the trees there could be the pupae of the **Buff arches** moth overwintering before emerging around June

- attracted to the light and the sugars. If we see the **pearl-bordered fritillary** butterfly it will indicate the regime of coppicing - coupled with flowers like violets in the understory for it to feed on - are working well.

The overwintering pupae of these moths and butterflies are what the great tits, blue tits and tree creepers assiduously peck for in the winter trees. If you are following the high pitched “peep” of a **nuthatch**, do not be surprised to see this little blue grey bird with a cream chest going headfirst down the tree (before running back up again). It is the only of one of our native birds to do so and would have been feeding on a half nuts wedged into crevices in the bark. The hazel nuts themselves are food for both **squirrels** and **wood mice** (and dormice but we do not have any of those on our site). Very few nuts ripen to the familiar brown colour as the immature, pale green specimens are eaten well beforehand. The discarded shells on the ground indicate which animal has eaten them - squirrels will have enjoyed those it has broken in half with their strong teeth but wood mice nibble a small hole and eat the kernel through it. The squirrels

also bury nuts for eating later and the wood mice do not hibernate and can be seen retrieving fallen nuts from under the trees.

The discarded shells provide safe places into which small insects like **ladybirds** can tuck

themselves away from the winter weather. They may well have spent much of their life feeding on the aphids that would have populated the tree during the spring and summer.

This useful food source and habitat supplied by hazel trees fades into insignificance when compared to Oak trees.

**Oaks** are generally regarded as having more associated species of wildlife than any other native **trees** in England. These organisms range from bacteria to fungi, lichens (fungi in symbiosis with algae), free algae, mosses, vascular plants, invertebrate animals, birds and mammals.

They are host to hundreds of insect species, supplying many birds with an important food source. In autumn, mammals such as squirrels, badgers and deer feed on acorns. Flower and leaf buds of English oak are the food plants of the caterpillars of **purple hairstreak butterflies**.

The soft leaves of English oaks break down with ease in autumn and form a rich leaf mould beneath the tree, supporting invertebrates such as the **stag beetle**, and fungi, like the **oakbug milkcap**.

Holes and crevices in the tree bark are perfect nesting spots for the pied flycatcher or marsh tit. Bats also roost in old woodpecker holes or under loose bark, as well as feeding on the rich supply of insects in the tree canopy.

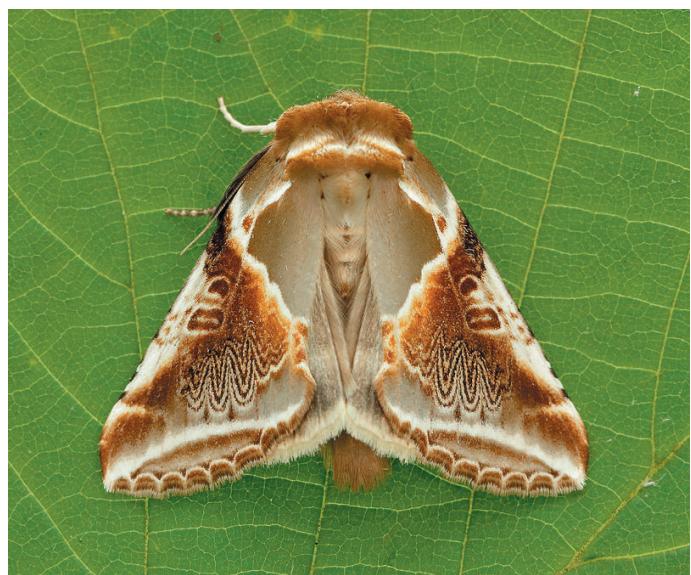
It is well worth spending time examining any of our Oak trees – of which we have many. Stand under the spreading branches and examine the bark on the trunk; carefully observe the branches higher up; stand still and watch and listen for any birds using the trees; observe black birds turning over the leaf litter with their beaks to find small creature such as woodlice, beetles and worms.

Finally, trees are the ultimate carbon capture and storage machines and play a vital in helping to prevent **climate change**. Like great carbon sinks, woods and forests absorb atmospheric carbon and lock it up for centuries through photosynthesis – releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

Everything planted on the reserve contributes to bio diversity and is also to helping the planet. Enjoy!

## Di Hancock

Chair; Duffield Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust  
07511230320



# Hunters

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# DUFFIELD HOME GUARD DURING WWII



This is a photograph of the Duffield Home Guard taken sometime during the Second World War. My father Lawrence (Lol) Rodgers stands third from the right on the third row from the front, next to his friend Freddie McLoughlin on his left. Also, in the photograph, is my grandfather, William Rodgers, who stands 5th from the right on the back row. My father (sadly passed 1999) did tell me a few stories of his time in the “platoon”, some of which are printable, and whilst you think some of the stories from the TV show “Dad’s Army” may seem farfetched, believe me, that isn’t the case! The

leader of the platoon (Captain William Valentine Ball - as referenced by Duffield resident Simon Hare in his 2010 BBC article “Duffield’s World War II defence plans are discovered”) did (allegedly), have to stand on a soapbox in order to address the troops so not too dissimilar to Captain Mainwaring!

In one instance, the platoon was having gun practice on the hillside between Duffield and Milford. In those days, the target would be set up high up the hill with trenches and sand bags in front so that a “spotter” could indicate to the troops below how accurate the shooting was. On one occasion my father was shooting and a voice echoed

down from the target area “Take number 12 off, he’s nearly shot me twice!” On another occasion, the troops were involved in an exercise where one of the buildings on Duffield railway station (long since demolished) was to be an enemy command post. My father and a friend thought it would be clever to go down Town Street, use the access road to Eyes (pronounced “Eases” then) Meadows under the rail line, and crawl through mud, nettles and brambles to the target. When they eventually got there, they began to lob “grenades” (little bags of sand tied up in cloth) at the enemy command post. On hearing the noise, an old gentleman

came out and shouted “What the heck is going off here?” My father responded, “We are attacking the enemy command post as ordered” to which came the response “That all finished half an hour ago, they’ve gone to the pub!”

I’m hoping that the photograph can be published somewhere at a high resolution so readers can see if they can identify any of the others in the Home Guard. I am also wondering if the photograph would be better stored for posterity in the Derbyshire Archives in Matlock or is it time Duffield had its own Local History Centre to collate these for future generations? by **Lawrence (Lol) Rodgers**

## CROOTS FARM SHOP ON AWARDS

Croots is kicking off 2021 with news that it has been shortlisted in the 2021 Family Business of the Year Awards. The family run farm shop has been named a finalist in the Midlands and Central region.

Croots Farm Shop is also in the running for the People’s Choice Award, which is determined by public vote and the team is appealing for customers to get behind its bid to win by voting at [www.familybusinessunited.com/2021/01/04/vote-for-the-midlands-central-peoples-choice-fbony2021/](http://www.familybusinessunited.com/2021/01/04/vote-for-the-midlands-central-peoples-choice-fbony2021/)

This is the latest in a long line of accolades notched up by Croots Farm Shop, which specialises in selling food and drink made by local producers in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire and other nearby counties. It features products from more than 40 suppliers within a 50-mile radius – supporting many other family run businesses - and also



sells a wide and expanding range of home-produced items made by the Croots team in-house.

Throughout the pandemic, Croots has kept its community fed – introducing click and collect services and delivering to its most vulnerable local customers.

Kay Croot, who runs the shop with husband Steve, said: “What a fantastic piece of news to start 2021, hearing that we have been shortlisted in the 2021 Family Business of the Year Awards.”

“Croots will always be a family

run business and we want the Croots team and our community of customers and suppliers to feel like they are part of one big family... we look after each other always. We also want Croots to feel like it’s a place for all the family to come and visit, once we get back to normal and after restrictions are lifted.

“We’re thrilled to have been named a finalist in the 2021 Family Business of the Year Awards.”

Croots Farm Shop is based at

## SHORTLIST

Farnah House Farm, the home of Kay’s parents Jim and Sue Yates, who have farmed there since the 1960s. With four generations and more than 100 years of farming experience, the team is passionate about producing and sourcing the best farm fresh foods and protecting the environment around the family run business.

The awards ceremony takes place in June with awards for various categories, sectors and regions. Croots Farm Shop has won numerous awards since it was opened in 2008, both for its products and for the business. It was successful in the 2017 Family Business Awards, taking the title of the People’s Choice Award for the Midlands.

Croots Farm Shop is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays. The café is currently closed in line with Government restrictions.

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

# The Spirit of Duffield: 2020/21

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Duffield Parish Council wants to see your photos of Duffield that sum up the last 12 months: images that bring to life the community spirit in the village over lockdown, family activities, Christmas displays, the weather or the changing seasons, the buildings, natural environment or green spaces.

Anyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Duffield can enter up to 5 photos taken at any time in 2020/21, up to the closing date of February 28th, 2021.



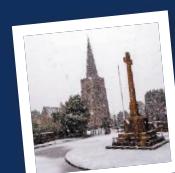
Judging the competition will be local photographer and creator of the annual Duffield village calendar, Ashley Franklin, alongside Parish Councillors Yvonne Greenwood and Jim Grieveson.

A £100 prize fund will be split between the winning entries in three age categories - primary school age, secondary school age and adult, with one winning image overall featured in Ashley Franklin's Duffield Calendar 2022.

All winners will see their photos displayed in Duffield Library (Covid permitting), on the Parish Council's website and social media pages and in the Duffield Scene.

For more info and to find out how to enter, visit [duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Duffield Parish Council, 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield DE56 4DQ - 01332 842740



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