

# DUFFIELD SCENE

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## WILLIAM GILBERT HEADTEACHER RETIRES

A much-loved headteacher from one of Duffield's schools has stepped down after more than two decades in the post. Sue Whyld has actually taught at William Gilbert Endowed Church of England Primary and Nursery for over 30 years. She joined as deputy head in 1991, was appointed acting head in 2002 and took up the headteacher role full-time a year later.

The school has 243 pupils aged between four and eleven, plus a 52-place nursery. Ofsted inspectors rated it "outstanding" on their last visit in 2008.



Mrs Whyld (60) stepped down ahead of the Easter holidays, after deciding to take early retirement and to pursue her own "bucket list." Among the tributes paid to her on the final day of term was the performance of a special song by the school's choir. "Along Our Way" was about Mrs Whyld and written by musician Caroline Wedd. The choir were supported by ex-pupils Holly Hargrave and Grace Jackson who said their love of singing began under Sue's tutelage at primary school.

Mrs Whyld said: "The greatest memory I will take with me from William Gilbert is all the children and families who've made such an impression on me over the years.

... continued on page 3.



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# WILLIAM GILBERT HEADTEACHER RETIRES

"I was most touched by the number of messages I received from past pupils, many now in their twenties, who commented on what the school had done for them.

"Those messages had the most impact on me as I have never seen it as anything other than giving each child the best chance to flourish."

Scores of past pupils, including many now at Ecclesbourne, were among the large crowd to wave Mrs Whyld off on her final day. "I felt humbled and honoured," she said. Among Mrs Whyld's most enjoyable moments at the school had been all the music, concerts and special church services that had been staged.

The choir has previously performed at Birmingham Symphony Hall, The Royal Opera House Covent Garden and even for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Asked what has changed the most in education during her time in charge, she said the level of accountability and scrutiny of schools and their staff had increased. She added: "Had it

not been for the amazing staff here, I would not have been as successful. The school is in safe hands". New head teacher Helen Britten moved up from the role of deputy to headteacher after the Easter break.

At the same time Mrs Whyld went on holiday to Antigua with her partner Nick and has plans to meet up with family in Australia, where her youngest stepson lives with her grandson. She is also looking forward to spending more time with her daughter Alice, continuing with her dancing and fitness classes

and maintaining her own garden instead of paying someone else to do it. Other items on her bucket list, drawn up following her 60th birthday, include going to see comedian Peter Kay, a rock festival in Leeds, The Human League in Margate and several trips to her beach hut at Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Mrs Whyld said: "It's been a very emotional send off and I've been overwhelmed with all the cards and letters that I've received. I'd like to thank everyone for all their kind words."









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#### OUR WONDERFUL

I was thrilled when, travelling with my son on a recent cold, sleety Sunday afternoon near the Roaches, we were accompanied by a hovering kestrel - suspended almost motionless on the wind, head still and eyes scouring the ground for prey in the windswept grass and heather.

It took me back to a memory when my father first drove us as a family on the M1 motorway and how exciting it was. Started in 1959, the M1 was finished in 1999 and the novelty of having three lanes of traffic and the scary speed of overtaking vehicles was as vivid as it is today. However, there is one major difference between then and now. There are fewer kestrels. Along with the carrion crows and magpies that scavenge for roadkill, kestrels were a ubiquitous presence along motorways. They were the classic example of a bird adapting to the changing landscape by finding an easy food source in the mice, voles and shrews that colonised grassy motorway embankments. For many people they became the most recognised and familiar bird of prey.

The British Trust for Ornithology first revealed its downturn in fortunes back in 2010 when a survey found that the UK kestrel population had gone down by more than 20 per cent

since 1995. A reduction in numbers across farmland was blamed on intensive farming cutting the population of small mammals that account for most of its food, and chemical seed dressings

impacting on the fertility of their eggs. The RSPB has also studied their recent decline and included the increase competition for nest sites from magpies and jackdaws as well as the increase in rainfall due to climate change affecting small mammals.

We are fortunate to have at least two regular birds of prey on the meadow - kestrels and buzzards. The resident kestrel on the meadow along with the buzzards, keep a regular lookout for small mammals in the long grass and the margins of the wetland. The larger buzzards have increased in population and are regularly seen circling above the reserve with their familiar mewing call, rounded wings and fanned tails. They also have favourite hunting perches but will also land and walk to seek out invertebrates. Buzzards are strongly territorial, and defend their nesting territory throughout the year. Where they nest is

### BIRDS

not due to food availability as they forage well outside of their nesting territory on small rodents, but also take birds, reptiles, amphibians, larger insects

> and earthworms. The trees on the skyline of Duffield Bank host buzzard and nests the birds above soar reserve the from these vantage points. About three quarters of young buzzards die of starvation before

reaching maturity but those that do can live for an average of 8 years. It was very pleasing to see two red kites recently fly over the meadow and were filmed by Nigel Hooker. They are a regular site from the Chevin to Milford and around the Kedleston estate from where the original pair were introduced a few years ago and which bred successfully. They are not a feature of the skies above the reserve and as buzzards are extremely territorial, it might be that they are not welcome! This magnificently graceful bird of prey is unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and deeply forked tail. It is bigger than a buzzard and was saved from

national extinction by one of the world's longest-running protection programmes. It has now been successfully re-introduced to England and Scotland is listed under Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside As more than 40 million birds have vanished from the UK in 50 years it is gratifying that we are providing habitat for a wide range on the reserve. The nesting season is well under way and the trees are full of a wide range of small birds. The wetland reed beds and trees are vital for warblers, mallards, wrens, tits and the ponds provide food for visiting herons and kingfishers. The mud at the margins of the ponds is used by house martins and swallows to build or repair their nests whilst the meadow provides flowers, grasses and trees for a wide range of insects on which any feed. By the time you read this the swallows and house martins may well have been joined by other masters of the skies swifts. Becoming ever rarer, we are hoping the campaign to provide nest boxes across the village will slow/ halt their decline locally. **Eniov** the apple hawthorn and blossom.

PREY

OF

by **Di Hancock** (Chair; Duffield Millennium Conservation Trust) 07511 230 320

cherry blossom.





## **DUFFIELD CARNIVAL - 100 YEARS OF DISNEY**



**Duffield Carnival would** like to invite you to join us on Saturday 24th June for a street procession followed by entertainment on Eves Meadow. As Mickey Mouse would say, 'All you need is a little bit of magic', and that's all you need for this year's theme of 100 years of Disney. We'll be looking forward to seeing your imaginative floats for our theme and remember, anyone can be part of our procession. So, grab a group of friends, your local club or neighbours and create your own display. It can be with a vehicle or on foot or any other mode you can think of. Register your entry so we can make space for you by emailing news.dca@outlook.com.

Come and enjoy local performers, music, fairground rides, stalls and an evening of live bands. Procession at 12.45pm from Avenue Road, through onto Eyes Meadow til 9pm.

This year our procession will be led by the Belper Boomers. They are a community samba group based in Belper. Their rhythmic beat and colourful presence will be sure to start our parade off with a bang!

The Women's Institute (W I) will be providing tea, coffee, and their superb cakes within the marquee. There will also be a BBQ by Anthony Andrews, Project D donuts, Ice creams from Mrs Whippy, Toastie the difference, Tipsy Trotter pulled pork, Elephant and

Peacock, El Capos pizza and many more. Gin and spirits bar by White Peak Distillery and Tollgate Brewery will be there to provide refreshments. We are pleased to welcome Dangerous Steve to the field with his daring and exciting show. Don't try this at home!! Around the field, there will be the ever-popular Circus Wunderbar who will provide a circus skills workshop and bubble fun as well as Donkey rides and Axceler 8 Hovercrafts. We will have a display of vintage cars and classic tractors, and the funfair and Dog show will return too. Derbyshire Archery Club will be joining us and there will be an opportunity to try football games, egg throwing and dressing up racing. This year we will be using the same format of pre-registration

for Tug-o-war teams so get together with your family or friends. Please email to register your interest to news.dca@outlook.com.

Duffield singers will be here to entertain as well as Derwent Valley Wind Band.

The evening music starts at 5.15pm with The Stanleys and our headliner act is Waking Vegas.

Waking Vegas are a band from Derbyshire who perform a wide range of music from the 60's to songs of today. Think the Temptations, The Monkeys and Van Morrison to Ed Sheeran, Kings of Leon and Sam Fender. There really is something for everyone.

Further info online at www. duffieldcarnival.co.uk
Facebook: 'Duffield Carnival'
Twitter: @duffieldcarnival
news.dca@outlook.com.



## YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS IN DUFFIELD

April has been a busy month for Green candidate Eva Long, Green councillor Alison McDermott and their team of volunteers who have been knocking on hundreds of doors ahead of the local elections on May 4th. Thank you to everyone who took the time to speak with them.

Ecclesbourne Assembly Green volunteer, Alex McDermott, returned to Ecclesbourne School to show 6th Formers how to register to vote, to talk about the new rules for ID at polling stations and to explain why young people should vote if they want policies that meet their needs.

Light pollution Several residents have contacted us about light pollution and how it causes problems for

neighbours and wildlife. Lighting that is excessive and causing an unreasonable nuisance can be reported to pollution officers by phoning Amber Valley Borough Council but we would always encourage people to speak to neighbours first.

Allestree Park Although the rewilding of Allestree Park is a Derby City project, Green county councillor Gez Kinsella has been pushing for the scheme to include a much needed crossing on the A6 at Burley Hill where he's been trying to improve safety for some time. He's also asking for improvements in the cycle networks along the Derwent Valley. Following local concerns about plans for fences and barbed wire



in the park, the project has been paused so that a public consultation can take place over the summer. Please look out for this and express your views.

Community Lunch Green candidate Eva Long enjoyed

volunteering with Green councillor Alison McDermott at the community lunch at St Margaret's Catholic Church, see picture. The event is always very popular and April's lunch raised £200 for charity.



# Duffield Parish Council

#### **Election Uncontested – New Parish Councillors Elected**

The Parish Council election which was due to take place on Thursday 4th May was uncontested, as only 11 candidates were nominated for 12 Councillor positions.

Therefore no election was held and the new Council consists of six returning Councillors, Cllrs Kevin Burke, Jim Grieveson, Roger Harrison, John Shoesmith, Mark Spilsbury and Jan Thompson, who will be joined by Councillors Gregory Broadbent, Steven Knee, Louise Nelson, Pippa Rowen, and David Walton.

Departing Councillors are Yvonne and Paul Greenwood, Shamsa Hussain, Joe Martin, Nick Storer and Alice Vincent; we wish them well and thank them for their service.



#### **Dates for Your Diary**

June 24th – Duffield Carnival at Eyes Meadow, preceded by Duffield Carnival week including the Family Treasure Hunt on 18th June, Duffield 5 on 19th June, BBQ on 20th June and Carnival Express on Ecclesbourne Valley Railway 25th June. For more on all the Carnival week activities visit www.duffieldcarnival.co.uk. June 25th – Illyria outdoor theatre – "Robin Hood" at Eyes Meadow – 4pm – tickets now available at www.illyria.co.uk or via the Parish Council website or Facebook page.

July 7th- 9th – The Eyes Have It music festival, see - www.theeyeshaveit.co.uk for more info. September 13th – 17th – Scarecrow Trail across Duffield – themed 'Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales' – find out more at www.duffieldartsfestival.com

November 3rd – Fireworks display at Eyes Meadow – organised by Duffield Community Association November 12th – Remembrance Parade through Duffield (Town St)



#### **Installation of Speed Indicator Devices**

An aim of the last two Village Action Plans has been to reduce the speed of traffic going through the village. To help us to do that the Parish Council is in the process of purchasing two 'speed indicator devices'. These are the devices that most of us will have seen in other locations. As vehicles approach, they monitor that vehicle's speed and then flash up a sign either thanking drivers for keeping to the speed limit or asking drivers to slow down. They are not 'speed cameras', taking photos and keeping information on individual vehicles. We are advised that these are most effective when they are used in different locations as it stops drivers getting complacent about them being there. We have identified 4 locations where drivers enter the village and where we would like vehicles to be keeping to the speed limit. These are on the A6 at either end of the village, on the Wirksworth Road entering the village at Broadway and on Hazelwood Road by the cemetery. The devices will be installed and then moved around these locations at regular intervals. This project is part of a Derbyshire-wide pilot initiative which will be looking at assessing the impact of these devices. We are hopeful that these will contribute to slowing down the minority of drivers who come through the village at excess speeds.

Any questions or queries about the installation of these please 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** – The next **Full Council** meeting and the **Annual Council Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 17th May 2023. At this meeting the new Council will meet for the first time and the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the respective Committees will be decided. Meetings begin at 7pm and all are welcome to attend.

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

**The Parish Office** Cemetery Lodge, 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield, Belper DE56 4DQ.

Telephone 01332 842740.

Contact the Clerk clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07719 103015 (emergency contact).
 Cemetery Enquiries contact the Assistant Clerk at assistantclerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07514 871801.



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Duffield Parish Council



www.duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

# MUSIC AT DUFFIELD - FLUTE & PIANO



Meera Maharaj (flute) and Dominic Degavino (piano) on 20 May 2023 at St. Alkmund's Church

Meera Maharaj is currently a Tunnell Trust, Countess of Munster Recital Scheme and Live Music Now artist, alongside pianist Dominic Degavino. Since 2013, she has performed with guitarist James Girling, as the Meraki Duo. Competition successes include first prize in the Royal Academy of

Music Flute Competition and Dutch International Flute Competition. graduated with Distinction in her Masters, studying with Michael Cox at the Royal Academy of Music. In 2017, she graduated from the RNCM studying with Wissam Boustany and Laura Jellicoe. Meera enjoys a diverse performing career and has played at the Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall Kings Place.

#### **Programme**

Bach: Flute Sonata in B minor, BWV 1030

Schubert: Variations for flute and piano on 'Trockne Blumen'

Arrieu: Sonatine for flute and piano

Still: Songs for flute and piano Reinecke: Flute Sonata, 'Undine'

At St. Alkmund's Church, Church Drive, Duffield, Derbyshire, DE56 4BA.

The venue is suitable for the disabled and there is a free car park.

Please note that the doors will open at 7.00pm and all seats are unreserved.

Individual tickets: Adult £16, Concession £15, Student £8, available at the door,

from Caroline Morgan (tel: 07977 091171) and online at www.musicatduffield.com.

#### **OUR 'FAB FORGETFUL FRIENDS'**

In response to requests from members of the community, we're excited to announce that Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre is now OPEN.

A key aim of the group is to provide a friendly, safe space where people living with Dementia and their caregivers can have fun, make friends, network and share information and experiences.

Held bi weekly on Friday afternoons, 2-4 p.m. at the

Weston Centre; anyone living with Dementia and their caregivers can attend, meet others, chat over a cuppa (and of course cake!), socialise and choose to participate in (and design) any activities on offer they're interested in.

Dates for your diary: (All Fridays 2-4 p.m) May: 5th, 19th. June: 2nd, 16th. July: 7th, 21st. 01332 840349. nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk.



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## **WEEKLY EVENTS**

#### MON Coffee Morning

10.00am - 12noon, Emmanuel Church Opening so people have a warm place to go for free coffee, cake and a chat.

#### Walking for Health

Meet at 9.45am, The Weston Centre for supervised walk 10.00 – 11.30, round Duffield and beyond. All welcome. Chris - 07977 140415.

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

#### WED Ignition Youth Group\*

7.30- 9pm. St. Alkmunds Church Hall, School years 10-13. Relaxing with a hot drink and cake, games and thinking through a section of the bible.

#### **Duffield Singers**

7.45 - 9.45pm St. Margaret's Church, Hall Farm Road. theduffieldsingers@gmail.com www.duffieldsingers.org

#### Time Out for Toddlers and carerS (TOTS)

10.00am - 12 noon St Alkmund's Church Hall A new free group. Come along to play, chat, join in the fun and make new friends. Snacks; coffee and tea on tap.

#### Chairobics

Suzanne, a practising physiotherapist, runs a friendly chair-based exercise class. Why not join her to get fit, have fun and make friends. Book with Suzanne 07810 023 743.

Amber Painting Group 1.30-3.30pm - Methodist Church Hall. amberpaintinggroup@yahoo.co.uk

4.00 - 6.00pm (years 7-9) 7.00 - 9.30pm (years 10-13) Emmanuel Community Church

#### **TUE-** Coffee Morning

The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street.
Coffee, tea and biscuits. £1 for a
bottomless cup. Volunteers will ensure you
are made welcome.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR MAY

#### Film Screening

2:00pm, 'Florence Foster Jenkins' The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street. We ask for a donation of £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.

#### Flower Demonstration 13

St John's Church Hazelwood Invite you to a Flower Demonstration by Cathy Godwin of Riverbank Floristry Followed by Afternoon Tea (Included). 2pm prompt. Venue: St John's Church Hazelwood DE56 4AL Tickets: £7 available from church or Elaine Clarke: 01332 367025 elaine@johnaclarke.com Eileen Chadwick 01773 550063 jwechad@btinternet.com

#### **Chevin Probus Club** 15

Lion Hotel, Belper, 10.15am. The meeting will differ in May, as our Ladies will be joining us for Lunch. No charge. Peter Robinson - 01332 705554.

#### For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends' 19

Duffield's Memory Cafe at the Weston Centre. nicola.memorycafe@westoncentre.org.uk 01332 840349.

#### **Music at Duffield** 20

Meera Maharaj (flute) and Dominic Degavino (piano) St. Alkmund's Church see page 8. www.musicatduffield.com

#### **JUNE**

#### Film Screening

2:00pm, 'Made in Dagenham' The Weston Centre, Tamworth Street. We ask for a donation of £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee. Phone Sandra on 01332 928577.

#### 2 For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'

#### CHAT (Come and Have Afternoon Tea)

Baptist Church 2.00 - 4.00pm. Various activities for all age groups. Come and join us for tea and a chat! Keith Powney 01335 372153.

#### 16 For all our 'Fab Forgetful Friends'

#### **Duffield Carnival Week** 18-

Sun - Family Treasure Hunt 25

Mon - Duffield '5' Fun Run

Tue - Community BBQ

Wed - Sports Spectacular **Duffield Singers Concert** 

Thu - Tennis & Squash Club Open Day Meadows PTFA 'Happy Circus'

Fri - Duffield Dynamo's Presentation Evening

#### Sat - CARNIVAL DAY

Sun - Duffield Parish Council Open Air Theatre Carnival Express Train

#### www.duffieldcarnival.co.uk

#### **Chevin Probus Club**

Lion Hotel, Belper. 10.15am. Reverand Canon Alan Haydock – Confessions of a Country Vicar. No charge. Peter Robinson - 01332 705554.

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# FEMALE FOOTBALL COACHES PURSUE THEIR GOALS

Female professional football coaches Sarina Wiegman CBE and Emma Haves have commanded respect and admiration for their abilities and achievements. They have shortterm and long-term objectives to improve performance levels and win football matches! Doubtless football clubs around the country, both professional and amateur, have similar intentions and those goals (if you will excuse the pun) are managed in different ways. At Duffield Dynamos club there is understandably an interest in winning but with regard to girls playing football, female coaches have volunteered because they support the notion that 'girls can' and wish to enrich the experiences and outcomes of others, despite having their own challenges to overcome. The four female coaches at the Duffield Dynamos are keen to succeed and learn from others; two of whom offered to share information on their 'football coaching journeys'. I wish to thank coaches Phallon Symcox (who appears in the photograph) and Rachel Humphries for their responses and willingness to help.

PW - Paul Wiggins PS - Phallon Symcox RH - Rachel Humphries

# PW - What or who inspired you to become a female coach at Duffield Dynamos?

PS - My daughter started training with the U9s Dynamos team back in October 2022 with the hope that an U8s team would form. Coaches Alex, Dan and Simon already had some U8s girls training with them and managed to arrange a local friendly. Having seen how fantastic the girls played as a team for the first time, with smiles on their faces, we were keen to get them entered into a league.

Coach Tom had said he would be happy to train the girls but needed an extra pair of hands.

Seeing how much the girls enjoyed that first friendly, I stepped forward and agreed to help out.

I grew up loving and playing football. Seeing how much the girls' and women's game has



grown and having a daughter of my own wanting to play football, I felt it was important for me to add a female coaching presence to the team.

PW - As a coach of the platewinning under 8s football team, how did you and the girls prepare for the final and in what ways will 'winning' develop and improve your role?

PS - The plate final game was my first match coaching the girls. Coaches Tom, Alex, Dan and Simon should take all the credit for preparing the girls with the fantastic training sessions they put on and, of course, the girls for all the effort they put in each week. We will continue to join forces with the U9s team at training as this is great in terms of development for the U8s. We base everything on the girls having fun win or lose as long as they're enjoying themselves. Enjoyment is the most important thing at this age group but also developing their skills at the same time.

Winning the final was amazing for the girls' confidence having only joined the league in January. I feel the winning start will help develop my role as coach as the girls have grown in confidence, and are so eager to learn more and want to carry on with their footballing journey, I'm excited to be a part of. I'm hoping to pass on some of my knowledge and experience in football to the girls, and be the female presence to remind them always that 'girls can'. Next season the girls move to 7 a-side matches so we are on the lookout for any current year two or year three girls to come and join us.

PW - What personal attributes, skills and experience do you think the girls have appreciated your sharing with them?

RH - As the girls all started with us having played very little football before, it's been really important to help them develop a love of the game, and so I'm always conscious that I want them to have fun. I don't have a background in football, and didn't have the same opportunities to play as these girls do now, so my football skills are more limited than some of the other coaches. I was really conscious that I didn't want the girls only to have men as coaches though, and to see women getting involved in football too, so I hope that I'm a role model for them in some way. What I think has been important is to bring enthusiasm and encouragement, and I like to think that I've contributed to building their team spirit. The Under 10 girls have been incredibly successful this season, and are due to play in their cup final in May. Getting to this point has been about much more than the skills they have on the pitch, and I'm really proud to know that I've been able to support them in building their resilience, mental attitude, and drive to win. Kindness and the ability to listen to their worries has been equally as important as teaching them a particular skill with a ball. If the girls are worried about something, this shows in the results, and so it's all part of the bigger picture.

PW - As a coach for the under 10s alongside Nick Taylor, how is the training organised and has successful teamwork enabled you both to learn and gain experience from each other's contributions?

RH - We very much work as a team in training the girls. We've joined up with the Under 11 girls for training this season, and so our players really get to benefit from the different approaches that we all have as coaches. I think that our different personalities and attributes mean that we pick up on different things, and so we're able to discuss how to tailor the sessions to meet the needs that we've identified within the team. Training sessions tend to have short, focussed drills, where girls can intensively try out and develop their skills in a particular area. We split the girls into small groups so that we can work with them really closely, and then rotate them around the activities, so that they benefit from working with each of us, and never have time to get bored. We always end the session with a short game to give the girls chance to put their skills into practice. The wider coaching community is definitely a team too, and there are lots of opportunities to learn from each other. While I was chatting to Sam Griffiths (the Derby County Women's manager) about how to help players cope under pressure, she gave me lots of ideas to support the girls going forward into their cup final. It's really insightful to see that we all have the similar challenges in football, no matter what level we're playing at, and so there is a lot we can all learn from each other as coaches.

International Women's Day, Wednesday, March 8th, Derbyshire County Football Association announced launch of a Female Coaches Club which supports development in the role. I understand ladies from the Duffield Dynamos have expressed interest in this initiative as part of their on-going learning. Whilst all four coaches make a significant difference to girls' football at a local amateur level. they would be encouraged by any announcement of a woman being appointed manager of a men's professional football team. That would be a clear indication that 'women can'.

by Paul Wiggins

#### MY POSH AUNTY SALLY





My grandma was one of nine; seven girls and two boys. When I was growing up all the aunties lived in the Derby area except for one - Sally who lived in London. I never really met Aunty Sally until she retired and moved to a bungalow in Mickleover. All the other aunties said Sally had learned to speak "posh" when she went to London and indeed when I met her she said aarfter, parst, barth and parth. She also preferred her birth name of Sarah rather than Sally which was what her sisters called her and because she had never married her surname was still Ferguson. Aunty Sally gradually developed dementia, and after a fall my

mum and her sister moved

where she gained the name of

into Stanley House

"her ladyship", partly because she spoke "posh" but also because it was about the time that Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson. She gave the staff at Stanley house the run around and would click her fingers and demand tea and cakes for her visitors when we went to see her. She once told me, if it hadn't been for that "bloody Mrs Simpson" she might have married King Edward. She said she worked for the Duke of Norfolk in Westminster and had met many other Lords and Ladies, the staff smiled and asked if there was anything else her ladyship required?

When Aunt Sally (Sarah Ferguson) died we cleared out her house and found these.

by Maggie Hancock



