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SCARECROW TRAIL IS A RECORD BREAKER

This year's Duffield Scarecrow Trail proved to be our most popular yet, with over 100 scarecrows on display across the village – making it officially a record breaker!

The theme for 2022 was 'Our Favourite TV or Radio Programme' and families, neighbours, community groups and businesses all came together to showcase their favourites and make this year's Trail a truly brilliant spectacle!

Children's TV programmes proved to be particularly popular, with Bob the Builder, In The Night Garden,



Paddington, Hey Duggie and Horrible Histories all making an appearance. There

were also some 'blasts from the past', with Bagpuss, Bill and Ben, The Clangers and

The Wombles just some of the characters bringing a nostalgic feel to the Trail.

Visitors were able to come face to face with some iconic TV presenters, including David Attenborough, Richard Dimbleby and Ant and Dec! And of course, there were plenty of family favourites, such as Call the Midwife, The Great British Bake Off, Strictly Come Dancing and Dr Who.

The feedback from visitors has been phenomenal, so a huge thank you to every single one of our scarecrow makers.

... continued on page 11.



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THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL DUFFIELD

Ecclesbourne must solve safeguarding issues – but let’s be careful what we wish for.

Like many of Duffield Scene’s readers, I have an extremely personal connection with Ecclesbourne School. Not only did my children all attend the school, but I also served on the PTA, and I was Chair of Governors for many years, and chaired a campaign to save the school’s sixth-form, which was what inspired me to enter national politics.

So, I was as shocked and saddened as anyone to read the headlines from the latest Ofsted report into Ecclesbourne. It revealed safeguarding concerns which automatically graded the school inadequate, despite the school achieving its strongest ever results this summer.

I have since been in touch with local Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted officials, who have informed me that one option they are actively considering for Ecclesbourne to rectify these concerns is to join a large

‘Multi-Academy Trust’ (MAT). I firmly believe that this would be a bad move for Ecclesbourne and for the whole of Duffield and beyond. I was Chair of Governors when Ecclesbourne went Grant Maintained, a decision taken to escape the dead hand of an arms-length, poor local authority. However, at the very least, the local authority was democratically elected by local people. It would be even worse to join a MAT based in Derby, where the factors the school leadership must take into account, such as student outcomes, city centre safety, and many others are all completely different from the circumstances at Ecclesbourne, and furthermore there is no accountability to parents. The school’s independent leadership and unique circumstances are some of the reasons for its academic success, and they must be preserved. The MAT could sack the entire senior management team and the school governors would be

extremely weakened because the MAT would be in charge. Of course, the safeguarding concerns raised by Ofsted are incredibly serious, and I am pleased that the leadership of the school have recognised this and committed to resolving these issues immediately. Whilst I think it would be an overreaction to compel the school to join an unsuitable MAT, I do agree with Ofsted that learning from other schools about how to improve safeguarding is a good idea. Therefore, I support Ecclesbourne’s provisional plan to operate a one-year partnership agreement, far short of a fully-fledged MAT, where Ecclesbourne’s leadership remains in place but takes advice and best practice from a number of other schools. This seems a much more proportionate response to the concerns than fundamentally changing the governance of this incredibly successful school. I fear that allowing the DfE to use this single Ofsted report

to force Ecclesbourne into an inappropriate MAT would lead to reduced academic performance and student outcomes, with consequential impacts on local house prices and on the community as a whole. It would be a classic example of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Therefore, we need to communicate the desires of the community to the DfE. If you have strong feelings about the school and a proposal to incorporate it into an unsuitable MAT, please do express these views to the DfE Regional Directors for the East Midlands, Kate Copley and Carol Gray, at the following address: RG.EM@education.gov.uk If the local community is unhappy with things as they are, they should and can currently get involved by standing for election to the governing body and therefore work from within. That is exactly what I did all those years ago.
by **Pauline Latham OBE MP**

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NEWS FROM THE WESTON CENTRE



Tom Brooksby

On Saturday 26th November Tom, front man in Bruce Springsteen tribute band 'Glory Days' and celebrated solo performer will be bringing his acoustic show to the Weston Centre. Tom regularly sells out larger venues and will perform a set of well-known Americana. This is one not to be missed so get your tickets early.

European Film Cub

Our next screening on Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm will be the award winning French film *The Beat that My Heart Skipped* – *De Battre Mon Coeur S'est Arrêté*, Classification 15. Tickets are available for a donation of £4 and drinks can be purchased from our bar. Check our website for news of future films and dates.

Christmas Quiz

Following the great success of our Supper Quiz we are looking forward to an early festive opportunity on 3rd December when David will challenge us with a range of questions on a festive theme. Why not bring a team, decorate your table (and yourselves!) and enjoy your favourite nibbles by bringing your own Christmas foodie treats? Our bar will be open for you to purchase further Christmas cheer!

Film Club

Why not to start the festive season with the warm feelings of loveliness the fabulous film 'It's a Wonderful Life' evokes? This stars James Stewart, Donna Reed and Lionel Barrymore and will be shown on Thursday 1st December at 2.00pm. Tickets are available for a donation of £3.00 and drinks can be bought from our bar.

Memory Café

We are excited to report that we now have a kind volunteer to lead a monthly Memory Café for people living with dementia. This will take place at the Weston Centre one Friday afternoon each month between 2.00 and 4.00pm. We

are still looking for volunteers to assist so please get in touch if you can offer help or support. Please contact Sarah on sarah.sdm@westoncentre.org.uk or 01332 840349.

Cannasta

Would you like to learn to play this intriguing and unusual card game? David is eager to set up a group at the Weston Centre and share his love for and expertise in the game. If you are interested please contact us and we will pass on your details.



Bill and Ben

Did you meet our two cheerful scarecrows? We were pleased to support this year's excellent scarecrow trail and want to thank both Sandras and their team for her excellent creation.

See our website for all our latest news www.westoncentre.org.uk



Duffield Helping Hands

We are chuffed to bits to be able to announce our success in attracting the support of Big Give Champion the Reed Foundation for our campaign to set up and run Duffield Helping Hands. They have promised £1500 which, along with local pledges of a further £1500, mean that the first £3000 of online donations secured between 29th November and 6th December will be doubled. We will be publicising details of how you can donate to this worthy cause in the coming weeks so please look out for details and check our website www.westoncentre.org.uk.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Are you able to help us transport people to and from our Lunch Club one Monday a month? If so, please contact Sarah on sarah.sdm@westoncentre.org.uk or 01332 840349 for further details.

COLONEL

Grant Kerr, whose parents James and Jeanette, live at Philips Croft, Hazelwood Road, has been promoted to the Rank of Colonel.

Grant has close associations with Duffield, having been a pupil at the William Gilbert School before moving on to the United World College of South-east Asia, Singapore. Then on to Gordonstoun in the Scottish Highlands, world-renowned for its tough, rigorous, demanding regime, for his higher education.

Whilst at Gordonstoun he came to the attention of The Parachute Regiment who invited him to their Barracks and Training Grounds at

GRANT

Aldershot during school breaks. This continued throughout his four-year involvement with the City of Edinburgh University Army Cadet Corp.

Upon graduating from university, he entered the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, for one-year Officer training. Having been awarded a Queen's Commission at the Sovereign's Parade, within two weeks of joining his Regiment, he was deployed in Kosovo as a Troop Commander at the height of the Balkan's conflict. Assignments followed in Northern Ireland, Kenya, Cyprus, UK based Instructor, two-year exchange to Australia, Germany, a Gurkha Command,

KERR

then multiple tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan where he served with distinction in both war zones

He now relinquishes his present responsibility as Lead Infrastructure Staff Officer supporting UK Chief of Staff Operations within the Permanent Joint Headquarters. Colonel Kerr relishes his visits to Duffield where he can pursue his usual runs over the Chevin with his dog, Hamish. Also, he eagerly awaits the reopening of the Patten Makers Arms so that he can partake in a few pints of the immaculate Real and Cask Ales therein and, of course, to have an expert haircut at David James.



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Aesthetics by Millie May

I THINK AUTUMN IS MY FAVOURITE SEASON

The wonderful colours of the leaves on the trees, the bounty of fruit and nuts strewn upon the ground, the light of the sun throwing long, low shadows and the squirrels' antics as they stock up for winter. Autumn is also full of memories. Playing conkers with nuts collected by throwing a stick up into the tree to knock down the biggest ones; making bonfires in the garden with curls of smoke rising into the air; collecting cobwebs from the hedge with a piece of stick to play field hospitals; scrunching leaves underfoot; fabulous sunsets in the darkening skies - and home made soup.

These childhood adventures affect how we see the world as adults. When I was about 10 years old we went pony trekking during the summer holiday on Dartmoor with a group of pupils from Derby school - organised by my father.

One day we were trekking in single file along a small stream bed adjacent to a wall unaware of the beehives on the other side to which a steady flow of returning bees were flying. I suddenly found my **long hair had a number of angry insects in it** - one buzzing right next to my ear and which I had to remove with my bare hand. This experience rendered me frightened of flying insects (especially harmless moths!) for the next 30 years until we bred exotic, dinner plate sized silk moths at home.

My stomach flipped for a moment the other day when

I accidentally walked full tilt into a face height orb spider's web. Surprised by the strength of the threads, I was suddenly aware of something in my hair moving at cheek height and as I brushed the spider from my hair, I was momentarily transported back in time. Many people have **arachnophobia** and find Autumn difficult as we have our annual view of some of the 650 British spiders!

The largest spider found in the UK is the Cardinal Spider (*Tegenaria parietina*). Male examples have been recorded with an impressive *12 cm leg span*. By comparison the smallest species of 'Money spiders' (family Linyphiidae) have a leg span of little more than 2 mm. The name 'cardinal' was appropriated from a legend that dates back to the 14th century when Cardinal Wolsey was scared by the spider at Hampton Court. The spider is **fairly rare**, but is most commonly in the south of England.

It is often that large house spider with which people have a problem. These harmless but rather menacing-looking spiders are a real autumnal feature in the UK. They head out and about to mate at this time of year and can make for a rather startling combination of large, chunky, brown

bodies (from a centimetre up to 1.6mm) and unexpected bursts of speed - up to half a metre in a second! One of the fastest we have in this country, they prefer to live inside and often appear from under the sofa or bookcase running alarmingly quickly across the living room floor. You might also see them stranded in your bath tub. Across the countryside (and our gardens) we

are treated to the beautiful orb webs of a garden spider (*Araneus diadematus*) with its host in the centre waiting to catch a passing flying insect. These webs are often in hedges or suspended between two upright plants and can look spectacular when glistening with morning dew or frost.

The Walnut orb-weaver (*nuctenea umbratica*) spider can also be found near trees. Brown in colour with a lightly flattened body it spends daytime hidden in crevices in tree bark and emerges at night to spin its web.

While varying in colour - yellow, green, orange, red or brown - **four spot orb spiders** have visible spots on their abdomen. The females can reach up to 15mm in size which makes them one of the biggest spiders in the UK. They are usually found

in tall grasses, bushes and hedgerows. These spiders feed on small insects by catching them in a thick web.

One relatively recent and significant addition to our spider population is the Wasp spider (*Argiope bruennichi*). It has a very distinguished look, with black and yellow marks on its abdomen, resembling the pattern and colour of wasps and spins a common orb-web but with a single zig-zag pattern of silk running through the centre.

A common species that can be easily identified is the zebra spider (*salticus scenicus*) with its distinctive black and white 7mm long striped body. These do not spin webs but rely on ambushing insect prey by jumping on them. They can jump and impressive 14 times their own body length!

All these creatures trap insects to feed on and form part of the balance in nature. Most will kill their tiny prey with a venomous bite and wrap the bodies in silk.

Fortunately most spiders' fangs cannot penetrate human skin so we are unlikely to suffer if bitten - or only mildly. AND spiders will not attempt to bite unless they are frightened or in danger. Look and admire their architectural skill safe in the knowledge you are not in danger.

Enjoy Autumn - winter will be upon us no time.

by **Di Hancock**
Chair; Duffield Millennium
Meadow Conservation Trust
07511230320



YOUR GREEN COUNCILLORS IN DUFFIELD

With winter on the way and energy prices on all our minds, we wanted to share some news on energy this month.

The Team's Actions On Energy

We're very pleased that Green campaigner and historic buildings expert Eva Long has joined us. Along with architect Alison, she's advised residents on energy efficiency. Dave and Alison asked the Council to make sure new homes in Amber Valley are built with more insulation and solar panels.

Our Politics and a Pint evening included a talk from Transition Belper's energy expert. For energy advice and a thermal camera survey, contact its energy group via www.transitionbelper.org.

Dave and Alison visited Citizens Advice and found out lots of information to help with energy bills.

Gez and Dave are involved in attempts to set up a Community Energy Project.

Alison, Gez and Dave met Marches Energy Agency which provides Derbyshire residents with free advice and home energy visits. www.mea.org.uk
Call: 0800 677 1332

Property Advice To Reduce Energy Use

- Maintain the building. A faulty gutter or high external ground levels can lead to damp walls in period homes, making them colder.
- Draught-proofing is one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy. Use heavy curtains or well fitted thermal roller blinds.
- Place caps on old, unused fireplaces. Chimney balloons are a cheap way to prevent cold downdrafts.
- Extra loft insulation is a quick way to greatly improve the energy efficiency of your house.
- Upgrade heating systems and controls – Intelligent thermostats or thermostatic

radiator valves control heating levels in different rooms.

Local resident Caroline Stalker, pictured (left) with Alison and Eva has insulated her home after advice from Alison and Eva and is pleased with the results so far.

What Citizens Advice Told Us About Energy Bills

You can talk to an energy advisor on Citizens Advice Derbyshire District Advice line 0808 278 7954 .

- Understand your energy bill. Understanding it can help you get to grips with your energy use at home. www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/costs-your-energy-bill
- Check your heaters and meters are set up correctly. <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-a-better-energy-deal/save-money-on-your-gas-and-electricity>



- Take a look at these quick tips to reduce energy use. <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/>
- Check what grants and benefits exist to help with energy bills. www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- Get a smart meter or an energy monitor to help you understand what you're spending on gas or electricity. Most people can get a smart meter for free. Find out about energy monitors on the Centre for Sustainable Energy website. www.cse.org.uk/advice/advice-and-support/energy-monitors.

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Duffield Parish Council



Duffield Remembrance Parade – 13th November 2022

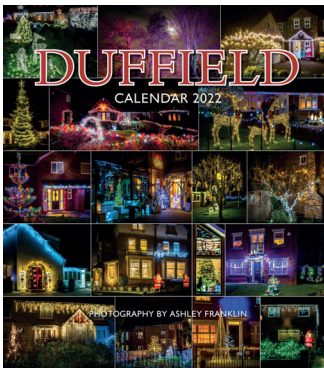
The Remembrance Parade will still take place on November 13th and in 2022 this will begin at Eyes Meadow Changing Rooms at 10:30am and continue along Donald Hawley Way along to the War Memorial outside the church, with the Memorial service taking place at 10:55 – 11:15am and a church service to follow. Please be aware that Donald Hawley Way and Church Drive will be closed to traffic between approx. 10am and 11:30am to allow the Parade and Service to take place. If you are taking part in the Parade, please use the pedestrian entrance along Cockpit Lane (footpath alongside Appletree Medical Practice) to access the Meadow.



A note about the route change: We are aware that some residents have expressed dissatisfaction via social media with regards to the route change. This was a decision that was taken some time ago, after consultation with Scout and Guide leaders and other groups involved in the Parade. It was becoming impossible for the Parish Council to safely close all the various roads involved along the usual Town Street route, without support (especially after the loss of Jane Terry, our Parish Clerk, in August). This is a trial of a new route that is safer both for the young people involved, and for our staff who marshal the road closure. Please be supportive of the Scouts, Guides and other organisations taking part and join us at Eyes Meadow, watch the Parade go by and follow along Donald Hawley Way. No decisions have yet been taken about the route for 2023; however, should you be interested in joining a group of volunteers to support the event in the future, please send an email expressing your interest to clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Duffield Fireworks Display at Eyes Meadow – 4th November 2022

We announced in the Duffield Scene in September that owing to the loss of Jane Terry, the fireworks evening in November would not take place. Following this announcement, the Duffield Community Association very kindly offered to step in and run the fireworks evening. Our sincere thanks go to the DCA for helping out in this way and we hope that the event is a great success. Tickets are available from Duffield News.



Duffield Community Calendar – Available Soon!

The photos for the 2023 Calendar showing ‘Duffield through the Seasons’ have now been selected, and the Calendar will be available to purchase at Duffield Town St newsagents for £9.95 by mid-November. Makes a great Christmas gift! Any profits made after the design and printing costs will be donated to a local charity (to be decided).

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 will be the 11th January 2023 meeting at the Weston Centre. **Committee Meetings:** Finance & Management Committee Meeting 16th November 2022, to be held at the Cemetery Lodge meeting room. 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.

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



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SCARECROW TRAIL IS A RECORD BREAKER

From the cover...

We held a Celebratory Scarecrow Tea for everyone who had made a scarecrow, where we all got together for a cuppa and cake, competed in a special fun quiz and awarded prizes. The winning scarecrows for 2022, as voted by visitors to the trail, were:

Your Favourite Scarecrow:

Family / Individual winner: Strictly Come Dancing by The Singleton Family

Group / Business winner: Strawstonbury by The Broadway Broadcasting Collective (BBC)

Most inventive scarecrow:

Family / Individual winner: Bluey by Jennifer Curran

Group / Business winner: The Simpsons by Ecclesbourne Reach

Most Entertaining Scarecrow:

Family / Individual winner: Wallace and Grommit by Emma Lound

Group / Business winner: Strictly Come Dancing by Lime Avenue Does Strictly **Committee's Choice:**

Family / Individual winner: Button Moon by Nicola Dalby
 Joint Group / Business winner: Minions by Duffield Dairy and The Magic Roundabout by Claire's School Solutions

A huge thank you again to everyone who made a scarecrow, to PFL Mortgages for sponsoring this year's Trail, to the outlets on Town Street that sold brochures and maps and donated raffle prizes, to the teams who provided refreshments round the route, to everyone that helped on the Scarecrow Hub and at the Scarecrow Tea and to everyone who came along and took part in the Trail. We can't wait to do it all again next year!!

Lisa, Dawn and Jonathan



CHRISTMAS STREETS 2022



Let's join together and light up Duffield this December!

Duffield Community Association would like to invite you to create a Christmas display in your front garden or window. It can be a traditional Christmas tree, a window display or something different.

A map of locations will be printed in the December issue of the Duffield Scene. If you would like your display to be included (no names will be shared), please register via

the link below or scan the QR code by 15th November.

Use this link to register your Christmas display: www.duffieldscene.co.uk/christmas. Please be ready to light up your windows and trees from dusk every evening throughout December.

To add to the festive atmosphere, DCA volunteers will be decorating Town Street in the centre of the village with a display of Christmas trees and lights on Saturday 26th November.

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