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The Derwent Valley Cycleway is an aspirational project to create an off road cycleway between Derby and Matlock (approx 19.5 miles) following the course of the River Derwent as closely as possible.

The whole of the cycleway falls within the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site and links a number of significant population centres including Derby, Duffield, Belper, Cromford, Matlock Bath and Matlock.

At present there is an obvious gap in the National Cycle Network that the proposed



cycleway will address. Commuting into Derby from the north by cycle is not currently attractive and it is expected that the proposed cycleway will encourage increased cycle commuting.

The Derwent Valley Cycleway will be a multi-user, off-road path from Derby centre all the way up the Derwent valley to Chatsworth. Just north of Belper, the cycleway route goes along

the beautiful (but seriously pot-holed!) Wyver Lane.

The Derwent Valley Trust are aiming to re-surface the old and rutted Wyver Lane section of the cycleway this autumn. This project will contribute to the overall cycleway, and will give local residents a great route for cycling, walking and wheelchair use, with better access to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust bird reserve on the lane.

The trust have raised £13,000 already and need another £13,000 to complete the work. Visit derwentvalleycycleway.org.uk for more information.

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LOCAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN ACTION

Dawn and Geoff Narborough have been living in Duffield for over 20 years and community is at the heart of their ethos. Testament of this is Dawn's participation in WI in Duffield, organising the scarecrow competition and the couples' participation as shoppers for DuCS - the initiative of the Weston Centre to help those shielding and/or those unable to shop due to Covid-19.

After recently taking retirement, Geoff has taken the lions share in domestic chores around the home. Naturally, this meant Geoff took the lead in volunteering to shop for a local elderly resident in Duffield for the past two months. He feels the assistance was "not a huge effort", as it was encompassed in their own weekly shop, and particularly as Geoff and Dawn were already shopping for two other residents of Duffield who were close family friends of Dawn's late-parents. As part

of their weekly shop, Geoff would contact the DuCS client and take her list to the shops. With the additional items for their shopping visit, Dawn and Geoff felt disciplining themselves with a shopping list of their own, not only meant they didn't miss anything, but the inessentials remained on the supermarket shelves and not in their trolley! The assortment of items on their shopping list gave them the opportunity to do their weekly shop at different supermarkets, providing them with variety. The Covid-19 lockdown has meant a flourish in both the couples' garden and within their street. With Geoff's retirement coinciding with the Covid-19 restrictions, he has been making greater use of his "moderately" green fingers, by extending his gardening skills to grow a vegetable patch, with much success e.g. potatoes. The couple also participated in

the sun flower trail alongside their neighbours, with whom they have grown closer to during the lockdown. The street has collectively participated in the Thursday applause for key workers, followed by a zoom Quiz and Bingo; they have come together to celebrate milestone birthdays and the life of a neighbour who recently passed away; collectively they raised a toast on VE Day, all of which was done at a safe distance.

The gratitude of Dawn and Geoff's DuCS client towards the Narboroughs is reciprocated by themselves towards those organising the DuCS initiative. This initiative has ensured those that are shielding have the support they need, and that volunteers like the Narboroughs can take positive steps to ensure community life continues to thrive in Duffield during these difficult times.

by **Shamsa Hussein**

MUSIC AT DUFFIELD UPDATE

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, Music at Duffield has regretfully taken the decision to postpone our concert on the 28th November 2020 (Alexandra Ridout Trio), this is in addition to the postponed concert on the 10th October 2020 (Bemrose Bursary Recital – Luke Jones – piano).

Hopefully, we will start our concert series in the New Year on the 9th January 2021 (Trio Volant).

However, for the latest information on cancellations and re-arranged concerts, please visit the Music at Duffield website at www.musicatduffield.com.

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DUFFIELD'S TREES – THE GOLDEN RAIN TREE



Visit St Ronan's Avenue in summer and you'll meet a 'feast for the eyes'. It's a small tree displaying cascades of vivid yellow flowers and possibly the only example in Duffield of the stunning Golden Rain Tree.

Its scientific name is *Koelreuteria Paniculata*, the second word clearly derived from the panicles of brilliant yellow flowers, reminiscent of a bride's bouquet. Its other common names include Pride of India, Shrimp Tree and Varnish Tree. Native to East Asia, China and Korea the tree has become a popular landscape tree worldwide, introduced to Europe in 1747 and America in 1763; just in time to celebrate the American Declaration of Independence!

The tree comes from the family *Spindaceae*, a group of flower bearing plants themselves belonging to the Soapberry family which include Horse Chestnut and Lychee. It can grow to a height of about 8 to 10 metres (25 to 35 ft.) at an approximate growth rate of 300 - 600 mm (12 to 24 ins) in a single growing season; potentially reaching its full height in as little as 13 years or so.

The Rain Tree is sparingly branched with a perfectly balanced rounded shape, flattish canopy and a gnarled

appearance. It tolerates dry spells and casts little shade because of the open growth habit. With its umbrella-like appearance this elegant medium-sized deciduous tree, has become both a shade tree, and a specimen tree. Like the Laburnum, it is one of the few yellow-flowering trees in the landscape.

Its **foliage** is comprised of large serrated pinnate leaves 5-10 cms (2-4ins.) long emerging in spring flushed with red, fading to mid-green in summer, later turning to red and then bronze to gold in the autumn. These are borne on branches that droop at the ends creating a slight weeping effect and are held on the tree until quite late in the season. Interestingly, the leaves fold up before rainy weather; hence the name rain tree. Likewise the leaves close up before sunset which is why it's called the Pukul Lima Tree in Malay, which means 'five o'clock'.



Leaves



The magnificence of the Rain-tree, however, is seen in summer during July when it produces these chains, or panicles, of bright yellow flowers giving it a truly golden glow.

Autumn is when the tree has more surprises in store, producing large clusters of 'papery', 'bladder-like', hanging **seed pods** of lime-green fruits. Looking rather like Chinese Lanterns these capsules later turn a leathery bronze and contain a cluster of shiny round black seeds.

When mature the scaly grey-brown bark develops furrows while winter shows up the skeletal nature of the tree.



'Chinese lanterns'



Seeds



The tree is considered a city tree due to tolerance to air pollution and ability to withstand drought, heat and alkaline soils; perfect for urban planting. It also makes an attractive patio tree, creating light shade although its brittle wood can break easily in windy weather. Being deep rooted the tree grows in a variety of soils and is generally pest and disease free; altogether every reason for you to get out and plant one. However, if you do, please note that all parts of the tree are poisonous. If my first attempt, as shown here, is anything to go by they're very easy to propagate from seed. I've presented some to friends – appropriately enough to three couples who in 2019 celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries; including David and Di Hancock.

by **Robert Reid**



Hunters



Our new Duresta studio launches this October. Showcasing some of Duresta's most popular models in their luxurious new fabric collections. Shown here, the elegant Blakeney sofa in Laliq Plume.

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Duffield Parish Council



Covid-19 Information

Staff working arrangements:

The office at Cemetery Lodge is currently open, with social distancing measures in place (dependent on the current Covid advice – if the office has to be closed, staff will work from home).

If you would like to visit the office during opening hours from 10:30 – 12:30 Mon/Tues or 2-4pm Weds, please contact the Parish Council on 01332 842740 beforehand if at all possible, or email clerk@duffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk, to ensure there will be someone available to meet you. Hand sanitiser is available.

Cancelled Events

The annual Fireworks display will unfortunately not take place in 2020 due to the Covid outbreak, we apologise for any disappointment.

Regretfully, the Remembrance Day parade due to take place on the 8th November has also had to be cancelled but we hope that the outdoor service at the War Memorial will still be able to take place, with participant numbers restricted. To ensure this can be seen by all, we are looking into live streaming this event on social media. Further details will be available on our website closer to the time.



Gray Rec Playground - Repairs

We are sorry to have had to close the playground recently due to the seesaw being damaged. In cases where one piece of equipment is damaged we have to close the playground in the first instance due to safety regulations. The seesaw has now been fenced off and will be repaired as soon as possible.

The Parish Council is looking at replacement of the roundabout that is still fenced off as it had become uneconomical to repair. This will be decided at the October Outdoor Management & Development Committee meeting.



Wirksworth Road - New Bench

A new bench has been installed by the Parish Council on Wirksworth Road, alongside Ecclesbourne School by the bus stop, to replace the bench that was broken last year.

Information for Dog Walkers at Eyes Meadow

A report was received in September of a large dog being walked off-the-lead at Eyes Meadow attacking another dog. The incident was reported to the police.

Please be aware of your responsibilities as a dog walker, it is against the law for a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place. If there is any possibility that your dog could be a risk to either people or other dogs, keep your pet on a lead.

Find out more at www.gov.uk/control-dog-public

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: **Full Council Meetings** on **Wednesday 7th October** and **4th November**; **Outdoor Management & Development Committee** on **14th October**; **Strategic Development Committee** on **21st October**. Meetings begin at 7pm and will be held remotely – please see our website for details. All are welcome to attend.

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

Contacts

The Parish Office

Cemetery Lodge, 43 Hazelwood Road, Duffield, Belper DE56 4DQ.
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Chris Short - 07970 741483. Email - chris.short@derbyshire.gov.uk



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Many thanks,
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DAVE'S UPDATE – YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR

Development Sites – protecting Duffield's Green Belt

We are fortunate in Duffield to be surrounded by beautiful countryside that makes for a pleasant place to live and creates a wealth of wildlife habitats. So, like you, I am concerned by any proposals for building on Green Belt sites and am always ready to step in and challenge these.

One such proposal involved a development on Derby Road near the fire station. I requested that it be brought to the Planning Board for a vote, and planning permission was refused.

Elsewhere in the village, I've been continuing to support local residents to protect the Cumberhills Road and Wirksworth Road greenbelt sites, which has most recently involved looking into Tree Preservation Orders.

Some of you may have been alarmed that these sites are to be considered for inclusion in the new Local Plan, so I thought I'd take the opportunity to explain the process.

The Local Plan is the main planning document for Amber Valley. You might remember that last year the new council did not agree with taking sites out of the Green Belt so that they could be built on, and so the whole Local Plan process had to be started again.

The first step is to put out a "call for sites". This, it seems, can result in all sorts of speculative suggestions. It will be no surprise that these two Duffield sites were put forward.

All the potential sites are then carefully assessed by the council, who decide which to include in a Draft Local Plan. This is published - spring 2021 was planned, before Covid struck. We can all send in responses, which are taken into account in producing the final Local Plan.

Please do keep an eye open for more details – and be ready to help protect your local Green Belt. You will find details on the Amber Valley Borough Council website, but I'll also be keeping you up to date through *Duffield Scene*,

my Facebook page and our local newsletters. I'll also be supporting the work of local people and groups such as Protect the Duffield Green Belt.

School Streets

If you have read previous issues of *Scene*, you'll know that I've been working with Derbyshire County Council and governors of William Gilbert school to create traffic-free zones around the school. The idea is to reduce congestion and pollution and make the streets safer from traffic and Covid at the beginning and end of the school day.

Progress so far has been slow, with the Council's Highways Department identifying a number of obstacles

I've been asked by the Cabinet Member for Highways to involve your County Councillor, Chris Short and have contacted him again to ask for his support. I hope to be able to update you further on this in future issues of *Duffield Scene*.

Wilder verges

In last month's *Scene*, I mentioned that I'd supported Maggie and Peter Zimmermann who wanted to let their verge grow rather than being cut. The picture shows the results. "We're really pleased with it," says Maggie. "There are always so many insects on it." One piece of advice Peter would give is: "Check first with your neighbours to make sure that they would be happy too." I think that's great advice and hopefully will result in even more verges being turned into wildlife havens.

Councillor surgeries

Under COVID restrictions I've been unable to run my surgeries, but I've still been pleased to help with all manner of queries, from speeding to overhanging hedges. As things progress, I will be reviewing when and indeed whether to start surgeries again. In the meantime, please do get in touch with any issues or questions.

dave.wells@ambervalley.gov.uk
01773 821982



DUFFIELD LIBRARY NEWS FOR OCTOBER

As I write this I am busy getting the library ready for reopening, the building looks very different and it will take me a while to get used to working behind a screen. I am glad to be going back and offering a physical library presence in the village.

Unfortunately, I am unable to offer any activities or events at the current time, I am hopeful these can resume soon in a manner safe for us all. We will not be taking any newspapers for the foreseeable future. All items on loan have been renewed until Monday 19 October, after this date fines will begin to accrue. Requests can now be submitted as normal.

Our opening times have changed during lockdown, the amended times are -

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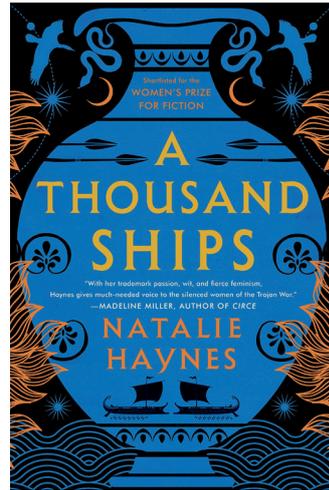
Wednesday 2-7

Friday 9.30-1 2-5

Saturday 9.30-12.30

Longlisted for the women's Prize for Fiction for 2020 A Thousand Ships by Natalie Haynes retells the story of the Trojan War from an all-female perspective.

In the middle of the night, Cruesa awakens to find her beloved Troy engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of brutal conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over, and the Greeks are victorious. Over the next few hours the world she has known will turn to ash. The devastating consequences of the fall of Troy stretch from Mount Olympus to Mount Ida, from the citadel of Troy to the Greek islands and across the oceans and sky in between. These are the stories of those women embroiled in that legendary war and its terrible aftermath, as well as the feud



and the fatal decisions that started it all.

Powerfully told, this novel gives a voice to women, girls and goddess who have, for so long been silent.

I've been continuing the Maisie Dobbs series, still not finished it, only three more titles to go. And I'm also re-reading Daniel Silva's novels as I eagerly wait for his new

title The Order.

There are loads of new books around at the minute. At this point I'm not certain which we will be getting in our library but they can all be requested. I'll be looking out for *Troubled Blood* by Robert Galbraith, the fifth in the Cormoran Strike series, *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman, and the first in the series. I've heard great things about this novel. Also the fourth in the Kingsbridge series, *The Evening and the Morning* by Ken Follett, has recently been published. At 832 pages it's a hefty tome. I'll have to go back to the series once I've finished it.

It's fabulous to be back, happy reading. Many thanks for all the good wishes.

Carole-Ann

Reader's Letter

I would like to thank Councillor Chris Short for his change of heart on the green spaces development proposals around Duffield. After the devastating news last year that he had voted for the original plan despite the massive campaign against it, the decision being carried by only one vote, it is a relief to know that if this proposal does in fact rear its ugly head again then both our current AVBC councillors Chris Short

and Dave Wells will be voting against it.

There is however a point that I do think needs raising about the articles Chris has submitted over the past two months, which is that they seem to have started to descend into party political point scoring instead of being purely informative. This worries me hugely as Duffield Scene is a friendly community magazine aimed at the whole community and should not be used as a

campaign resource. One of the biggest problems with this is that information becomes partial and only reflects one perspective and also, as was seen in the last two months, can lead to total misinformation being promulgated leading to a humiliating climb down and apology. I am referring of course to the actually libellous allegations made against Councillor Dave Wells. Also the re-igniting of the concerns about the green belt being under

threat is actually premature as, at this stage the council has just asked for nominations of areas to consider and these areas have been flagged up again, but this does not mean the AVBC will actually propose to include them, although that always remains a danger, which as we now know will be fought against by Chris Short as well as Dave Wells and so back to my first point.

Yours faithfully

Linda Potter

DUFFIELD CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT (DuCS)

The level of demand for the Duffield Coronavirus Support (DuCS) shopping and chat services has steadily reduced over the past few months as lockdown has eased. We know that some of our volunteers continue to help older residents, while others remain available even though they have had nothing to do yet. We thank all our volunteers for the great community spirit that they have shown.

Recent developments have included the Rule of Six and rising infection rates, and there are hints of more severe lockdowns ahead. It is possible that DuCS services will be required over this coming winter, so DuCS will be ready for operation.

Those who suddenly find themselves shielding or quarantined for any reason and have no other means of support, can still call us. We

now operate just one line, which is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 until 12. The number to call is 07730 518121.

Looking to the future, it is likely that some older people in the village will be feeling sad during the coming few months, especially over Christmas when normal family contact may be limited. The infection rates are rising and further government

clampdowns are possible. We are looking for innovative activities or events that will maintain some form of contact and cheer them up.

We can't guarantee to pick them up - matters are to some extent out of our hands - but we will at least be prepared for if the opportunity presents itself. If you have any ideas please contact John Shoesmith on 07780 644707.

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NEWS FROM CHRIS SHORT LOCAL COUNCILLOR

News from Amber Valley Borough Council Bins and Recycling

Unfortunately the new bin contract appears to be having significant problems achieving the agreed protocol we are paying for, namely the current fleet of almost new lorries are constantly breaking down. The consequences of this are late collections.

When I contacted the relevant department to ask for a new recycling box they told me it would take 4-5 weeks. With the last contract it was 2-3 days. The current contractors have a current backlog of 1600 bin replacements. Is this the new efficient service we were promised?

Planning

Despite constant requests from me and my colleagues we receive no updates on site call ins and current status. Whatever happened to open government?

Green strategy

Myself and Dave Wells are about to attend a committee

meeting to discuss A.V.B.C. green strategy. I have had the opportunity to study the Council's proposals and have drawn the following conclusions. There is a wish list of what they want to achieve, however it lacks strategies as to how it will be achieved and does not detail where the finance is coming from.

The idea regarding tree planting, even though funds were allocated, which included Ecclesbourne Meadows will now not take place for the foreseeable future.

We asked the Council to reallocate the £50k set aside to refurbish the Council Chamber to Environmental projects instead which they refused. However we do not even know if the Chamber will be used again due to current circumstances.

News from Parish Council

The speed gun system which the Parish Council adopted after my original proposal has attracted a number of

volunteers. However we would still appreciate more. The commitment in terms of your time would be a matter of a few hours a year and would help community safety greatly. Please contact the Duffield Parish Clerk for further information.

News from Derbyshire County Council

With regard to the Derwent Valley Cycle Way, I am awaiting further communication from officers regarding this matter after the holiday period.

I am hopeful of arranging a meeting between officers and representatives of Derbyshire County Council, Duffield Parish Council and Ecclesbourne School to discuss Covid 19 implications to the local community resulting from the return to school.

I have been informed that the wall refurbishment on the River Ecclesbourne on Chapel Street will take place in October and I have made



the Duffield Community Association aware of this.

Due to recent reported antisocial behaviour in our village I contacted Derbyshire Police and explained the circumstances to them. They have responded informing me that there will be extra late night police car patrols throughout the village and Eyes Meadow.

Please take care.

Phone: 07970 741483

or 01629 536055

chris.short@derbyshire.gov.uk

Chris Short

Duffield Village Resident

DUFFIELD SINGERS PRACTICE TOGETHER ONLINE

These are tough times for many Duffield clubs, but few have found life quite as challenging as our community choir the Duffield Singers. They have been unable to sing together since March, but singing is very important to them and despite the problems they have not been deterred.

They have been meeting every fortnight on Zoom - the picture shows their latest session in mid September. Singing together as a choir has proved to be impossible because of the delay times locked into Zoom - even singing Happy Birthday proved to be entertainingly chaotic. The routine now is that each member mutes their microphone and sings along to the piano played by the choir leader Dana de Waal. It isn't a proper sing-song but it is the best that can be done. After singing the choir is updated on developments by



Avril Parkman, the Chair, then the members are put into small breakout groups so that they can chat for ten minutes. Each session ends with a song from Dana, who has a magnificent voice and rarely leaves a dry eye in the Zoom.

Looking to the future, we continue to follow Covid

guidance and hope to return to some form of singing in person soon. We'd love to be able to do something outdoors to make Christmas at Duffield feel normal. The Singers have demonstrated great resilience, and shown themselves to be caring and a great comfort to members in these difficult

times. We are sure we will be singing together in some form before too long. We are a community choir and anyone can join, irrespective of singing level or ability to read music. If you want to know more we are on Facebook and have a website, or for more information email theduffieldsingers@gmail.com.

Questions? Questions? Questions?

- › When should I retire?
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DON'T DO THIS AT HOME!

Lockdown and a restricted ability to venture out and about in the world has caused me to be especially thankful of having my garden – not least in these last few warm weeks – where sitting having lunch outside in the garden on a sunny, autumn day was something to be savoured.

However, food on the table acted as a magnet for foraging insects and none was more persistent than the buzzing, yellow and black striped wasp that swooped around the plate avoiding my swatting hand. Assuming it would prefer a trouble free lunch, I placed my apple core on the other side of the table. Within a minute or two the ruse worked and the wasp began the task of eating. Bracing itself with its whole body and using its strong mandibles, it rasped away at the sweet juicy flesh of the fruit.

I was fascinated by the effort being exercised by this insect that alternated between eating or rolling up small balls of apple flesh and transporting them -held by its legs - across the garden to an unknown destination. It returned a minute later to resume its task. This relay carried on until dark and repeatedly over 5 days as the apple core almost imperceptibly reduced in size and gradually

dried and shrank. Admirable persistence.

There are some 9000 species of wasps in this country. Most of them are solitary creatures and some are microscopic in size but the ones with which we are most familiar are the “yellow jackets” –

(*vespura vulgaris*)

Each spring the fertilised queen wasps emerge from hibernation and look for suitable nesting sites for their colonies. This can be in an bird box, a shed, a loft, a chimney, a deserted mouse hole, rabbit hole or in the base of thick tussock of grass in a thicket - witness the one in the corner of the Eyes meadow that has caused one or two dogs a problem!

She begins construction by chewing up wood pulp, saliva and plant debris and makes a single layer outwards, attaching several cells to an anchored stalk. She lays eggs in these cells and raises them herself until they hatch into sterile females or workers. These then take over the nest building and the queen simply lays more eggs until

there are enough workers to take completely take over the maintenance of the nest and feeding of the eggs – usually by July.

During autumn, the eggs develop into males and fertile female wasps that then mate.

These fertilized females (new queens) then hibernate and wait until next spring to start the cycle again.

It is when all the eggs have been fed and developed that the foraging wasps begin to be a nuisance to us. Once their job is done they retain the foraged food for themselves and often get drunk on the fermented fruit on which they like to gorge during the last of their 20 day lifespan.

Eventually, the founder queen, the males and all the workers die – leaving the original nest deserted – never to be occupied again.

Another nuisance to us are flies. With windows wide open during the nice weather, they too can be difficult to deal with. **Ever wondered why is it so hard to swat a fly?**

All animals see the world as a continuous video but in fact are registering what they are seeing as a series of flashing images – the speed of which varies depending on the animal. Humans see the world in images of about

60 per second, a turtle at 15 and a fly at **250+**. This rate of translation of the image from the eye to the brain is called the **flicker fusion rate** (*the speed at which an LED flashing on and off can be perceived as a continuous light*)

How do we know? Professor Hardie from Cambridge University has measured the flicker fusion rate of flies by inserting tiny glass electrodes into the light sensitive cells of their eyes (photoreceptors) and measuring on a computer the tiny electrical impulses produced in response to a flashing LED light. Tests revealed that the **fastest fly** responds to flickering of up to **400 times per second** – over 4 times that of a human.

All this means that the fly perceives our “swatting hand” as if it is in slow motion so has ample time to avoid it!

A large group of house martins flew over as I wrote this – the last ones of this year’s broods to fly south for the winter after gorging themselves on flying insects drawn up into the sky by rising air currents.

It looks like we are going to have a beautiful autumn. I hope you manage to be out in the fresh air to see some of it and make the most of the sunshine and the daylight for as long as possible by walking on the Reserve.

Keep safe.

Di Hancock
Chair; Duffield Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust
07511 230320



HALLOWEEN SPOT THE PUMPKIN



We usually love getting dressed up and love Trick or Treating, however this year I'm not sure people will want random people knocking on their doors and diving into bowls of sweets. There have been lots of suggestions including sweetie slides and honesty boxes but we thought Duffield could do something similar to our rainbow windows...

Everyone can paint draw, paper mache a pumpkin in any design they like and pop it in their window. Another perfect excuse to show a little creativity without having to

cover houses in cobwebs and plastic tombstones. We can then see how many pumpkins children can spot as they go out over Halloween and half term the week before.

For every pumpkin spotted, parents could put a treat or sweet in their child's Trick or Treat bag.

Children would be able to do it at any time over half-term and this way they can Trick or Treat and get sweets, without knocking on doors and rummaging around in a pot of sweets.

We will be doing this and hope everyone will join in too!

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