

Village Contacts

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Village Pump Dingley

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Next issue: June 1st

Submissions by May 1st please



Dingley Village Pump

March 2024

Editor: It's a quiet time of the year, but still the village hall hosts some convivial events. The whisky tasting went down well, though I notice from the photographic evidence that most of the participants were men. I draw no conclusions.

By the time you get this, it is almost Spring. I think every year, I look at the snowdrops and aconites on the Hall drive and remark that they are better than ever. Looking forward to the daffodils now. I

suppose the weather could have been worse; as yet no snow to speak of, and here in Dingley we aren't affected by the terrible floods we see elsewhere. So as the better weather approaches, take a few photos of our lovely surroundings that we could share in the next Pump.

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Village Hall News

We had a great turnout for the Christmas Party in the Village Hall directly following the Church Christingle in December – big thanks for all the contributions of food and also for Jen and Pete for running the bar.

Freedom of the Parish

At the Christmas party, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee took the opportunity to surprise Richard and Anne Knight with the well-deserved award of Freedom of the Parish for their contribution and support to the Village over many years. There has only ever been one other such award so this is indeed a great honour – many congratulations to Richard and Anne.

Richard and Anne were presented with a framed scroll confirming this award. We have also a copy of the scroll in the Village Hall for all to see.



28th April – Non-Eucharistic service at the church 10am to 11am followed by refreshments.

Alpha Course

Is there more to life than this?
Is there really a God?
What is the purpose of my life?
How can I grow as a Christian?

7.30pm – 9.15pm on Monday evenings Feb 26th to May 13th (inc a break at Easter) at St Giles Community Centre in Desborough. To book your FREE place email Rev Jo Giles rev.jo.giles@gmail.com by 14th Feb.

We hope to see you over the spring and Easter period – a time of hope and new life.

Grace and Peace
Jamie



Pub night with Whisky Tasting

On 26th January, the Village Hall hosted a pub night with Whisky tasting which was organised and conducted by Dave Whewey. Dave – with help from Linda – had decanted 7 different whiskies into smaller, unlabelled bottles, and put together a tasting sheet (known as a tasting wheel) and a scoring / comments sheet. In small groups, we were then asked to taste each whisky and to capture our own opinions, aided by the tasting sheet. The tasting sheet suggested 8 different groups based on aromas and flavours, for example floral, peaty, cereal, feinty, etc.



Dave then unveiled each whisky in turn – all but one (a sneaky addition of a cheap Northern Irish whiskey) were Speyside or Highland whisky. Opinions on each whisky varied which led to some robust debates on the merits or otherwise of each.

Not everyone present was a seasoned whisky drinker with some just wanting to know a little more about the fabled ‘drink of the gods’. This, along with Dave’s excellent hosting, made it a very enjoyable, entertaining, and educational evening.

Given these whiskies all came from one region of Scotland, there is clearly an opening for a sequel, ‘a trip round the Western Isles’ perhaps? Or a different drink perhaps – gin, rums, etc. – hosts welcome!

Our thanks to Dave for his organising and hosting, but also thanks to Jamie for the food (including some very good haggis sausage rolls with firecracker sauce), and to Anna and Gary for running the bar. Anna also organised a raffle which, along with an auction of the remains of each of the whiskies, raised some much-needed additional funds for the Village Hall.

Quiz night in the Village Hall

Friday 2nd February saw the ever-popular Quiz Night return to the village Hall with 7 teams competing for the honour of being 2024 quiz champions.

The quiz started with some quick-fire questions which were followed by name the movie, alive or dead, service station or cheese, food and drink, and the ever-popular picture round.

A tightly fought contest saw the Alfie Boe Fan Club and Niwaki beaten into joint second place by the winners, the Jackeens – many congratulations to them. They won the very valuable trophy, a bottle of fizz and some chocolates, all kindly donated as prizes.

There was a wooden spoon award, but the less said about that the better.

Thanks to Jo and Moira for running such an excellent quiz, and to Anna and Bruce for running the bar. Another fun event.



The Winners!

Church Notes



Come and enjoy the sense of Christian fellowship with friends and neighbours at All Saints Church, Dingley. We hold a communion service on the second Sunday of every month at 10am in the church followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. Plus, we hold a

Non Eucharistic service on the fourth Sunday of every month either in the village hall or the church between 10am and 11am.

All are welcome.

Thank you for your support over the Christmas period. The Christmas concert, Christingle and Christmas eve services were all very well attended and helped create a wonderful spiritual feel to such a special time. Your support and feedback has been excellent. Thank you also to the PCC and contributors for all their hard work.

Services at All Saints

- 11th February – Holy Communion Service at the church, 10am to 11am followed by refreshments.
- 25th February – ‘Lectio’ Service at the village hall, 10am to 11.15 starting with pastries and coffee/teas.
- 10th March - Holy Communion Service at the church, 10am to 11am followed by refreshments.
- 24th March - ‘Lectio’ Service at the village hall, 10am to 11.15 starting with pastries and coffee/teas.
- 29th March – Good Friday, service of reflection 12 to 1pm
- 31st March – Easter Sunday Service at the church 10am to 11am followed by refreshments.
- 14th April - Holy Communion Service at the church, 10am to 11am followed by refreshments.

"I am sorry but we can't do that. There is no data protection transfer contract between the two authorities so we will have to start again".

"What...another two hours?"

"We could do it like that, but we have volunteers in libraries who will do it with you. Where is your nearest library?"

"Market Harborough, I can arrange to go there."

"Oh sorry that library is in Leicestershire. You have to go to a library in North Northants. Could you go to Corby?" And in Corby it was done. Phew!

Where am I? Am I alone in not knowing? No. A helpful member of staff at a store in Corby is particularly pleasant and tells me that he was going to visit his Grandma in Dorset.

"Oh, that is a lovely place for you to go."

"Yes, but the only trouble is that it is much colder there in the North." Does he know where he is?

And does the daughter of a neighbour at a previous house know where she is? Having enjoyed holidays on the Costa Brava and the Costa Blanca previously, she perused the brochure and booked another lovely sunny holiday. Enjoyed it very much, but was surprised at the length of the flight to Spain.....she hadn't expected it to last over four hours. She had been to Costa Rica! So she didn't know where she was.

I don't know where I am. Do you?

Krw (somewhere in England)

Future Village Hall events

Date	Event
1 st March	Rebel Intent (band concert)
5 th April	Dingley Does
3 rd May	Village AGM & Fish'n'chip supper
7 th June	BBQ
June	Open Gardens
5 th July	Christmas Night
6 th September	TBC
4 th October	TBC
1 st November	Bonfire night event
15 th December	Christmas Party from 7pm

If you have any suggestions or preferences for future Village Hall events, please let one of the Committee know.



Other

Thank you to everyone who is doing their own litter pick – this is really helping the keep the village clear of rubbish so is very welcome. The annual Village big litter pick will be in the next couple of months before the vegetation starts to regrow – details to follow.

Village Communication

Besides the Pump, we have two other forms of communication in the village, an email list and a WhatsApp group. If you want to join the email group, please email dingleyvillagenews@gmail.com, and if you want to join the WhatsApp group, please message Mark on 07849 669754.

The Village Welcome Pack is available on the Parish Council website, www.dingley-pc.gov.uk. If you have any amendments to the Welcome Pack or know of any new resident, please contact jolyon.ingham@talk21.com.

Dictionary Corner

We hear a lot these days about the word 'woke'. It's used to label anything that seems excessively 'correct'. It's an odd word, and how has it suddenly become common? I didn't know the answer to that, so did a bit of checking.

'Woke' comes from America, from the African-American dialect of English. It means to be generally 'aware', but it came to prominence in about 2010 as a term used in protests against racial discrimination, with the message 'stay woke' – 'be aware' (of prejudice). It soon became more generally used for any kind of prejudice (race, gender, politics etc), and then as a term of contempt for people or ideas seen as too liberal. A good example is Donald Trump's remark that 'Florida is the state where woke comes to die.'

We're surrounded by examples of, and complaints about, 'woke' language. They vary from the reasonable to the extreme. We all have our views on these. Here are some examples – what do you think? I've put them in order from 'reasonable' to 'extreme':

Abandon words such as 'actress', 'manageress' – they should all be 'actors' or 'managers'

Pronouns – should we use 'he/him' 'she/her' or always use the non-gender plural 'they/them' even if for one person?

And here's a couple of extremes (genuine examples). A UK maternity hospital has ruled out 'breast feeding' and 'pregnant women' and replaced with 'chest feeding' and 'pregnant people'. And an America university has ordered its departments to 'drop the term "fieldwork" because it could be seen as offensive to descendants of slaves.'

Our language is always evolving, and often we don't like these changes. But the rule is always the same: we call it 'usage' - if enough people use it, it becomes 'correct'.

Bill Jones

I wonder when pushed to a sticking point, in reality, how I would decide what the right thing is if I have to decide between two that oppose each other. Assuming they are of equal importance to me I rather suspect I will duck a conscious decision.

The only decision would be which of the two right things would be heads and which tails, toss a coin and see how it falls. Or would I? Perhaps I might do the same thing twice more and go with the best of three. Who knows, I certainly don't.

Just a few rambling thoughts on Doing the Right Thing. I am not sure I know sometimes.

Next time you are faced with Doing the Right Thing I hope you will remember the right thing is personal to you. Given different circumstances you might come to a different conclusion.

Jean Strutt

Where am I?

If Doctor Who enters, launches and lands the Tardis the place of arrival is not known.

Where is this? The Doctor asks "Where am I? I have no idea."

The Doctor isn't alone in thinking like this. There are times when I don't know where I am.

I had to apply for a Blue Disability Badge. Oh dear.....probably harder to achieve than a Blue Peter Badge. Applications can only be made on-line. OK on-line it is. It took near enough three hours to complete the many, many questions. BUT... when it came to SUBMIT nothing happened!

Looking for help I saw that the on-line information gave a phone number to contact a North Northants Blue Badge Team. This Team was contacted and a very helpful Team member went through all the questions again. This took another two hours and the last question was..... "What is your postcode?"

Answer....."LE16 8PJ".

"Oh dear, you are talking to West Northants and you need to deal with North Northants".

"But the number given on-line was specifically for North Northants.....can you transfer me to North Northants? "

So where am I? Transferred to North Northants?

A man says that he will help.

"Excellent", I say, "I have given all the answers to West Northants, please arrange for it to be transferred to North Northants".

Doing The Right Thing

We are constantly being entreated to do the right thing. On the face of it easy to make a positive response. After all we all know what the right thing is. Don't we?

But is my right thing the same as your right thing? What about those charity entreaties to donate to their special cause. All very worthy. Those heartrending images of children needing treatment for eye disease to prevent blindness, the Smile Train to deal with cleft palates amongst others. Was it the right thing to do to cut foreign aid to these poor countries? After all the NHS is struggling to cope with our own health needs.

More and more questions

My guess is that in a large group of people it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that few would make the same choice. Inevitably we would be taken by the hand or more painfully by the nose in the direction of our personal experience.

For example, two people from the same impoverished childhood might take completely opposing attitudes to charitable giving to relieve childhood poverty. Both have done well and are comfortable off. One acknowledges the help and luck that got them where they now are. This one gladly contributes to relieving poverty. The other refuses absolutely to give to such a cause. Hard work got them where they are. If they can do it, then so can everyone else. Good fortune played no part. Just their own character.

Food for thought.

Doing the right thing might be more complex than it seems at first.

The decision to adopt a Vegan lifestyle depends on a personal view. One aspect of the right thing is animal welfare. Keeping domestic animals purely to feed them to human beings is simply not right. Every decision to remove something from your life may in result in lost livelihoods. In this example animals may have a happier life. What about farmer struggling to make ends meet and provide the rest of us with food. Why keep animals at all.

More food for thought.

The more I looked at doing the right thing the less sure I became of what right things are.

Diary Date

Friday 1st March 2024 at 7.30pm

Dingley stakes its claim to be at the centre of the burgeoning East Midlands underground music scene, boasting not one but two bands. Word is spreading fast, and this gig presents your opportunity to see "**Rebel Intent**" up close and personal before they are just distant dots on the O2 Arena stage. Amaze your friends and family by saying "I was there!"

Rebel Intent is a five-piece band which includes two members of our village, Dave "Rick Wakeman" Wheway aka 'Dingley Dave' on keyboards and Mark Shrives-Wright on drums - and features Nicci on vocals, Sean on lead guitar and Jools on bass. Re-interpreting classics by putting their own spin on a wide range of music from the 60's to the present day, their back catalogue (soon to be available to stream on Spotify) has something for everyone.

Interviewed by your editor, Dave said, "We're pumped at being able to play our hometown and have a great line up for everyone. It's going to be an amazing night: once I have worked out how to switch on my keyboards". Mark meanwhile promised that he would try to smile at least once whilst playing, clarifying that, "counting to four requires a lot of concentration".

Join us for an unforgettable evening – tickets are limited and can be obtained from Ticketmaster or Dave Wheway in advance at £5 per ticket – all proceeds to the Village Hall fund. Bring your dancing shoes. Contact Dave Wheway on 07794 291312, or dwheway@outlook.com



Friends of Dingley Park

For those that are not fully aware of the scheme, here is a brief synopsis: The owner of Dingley Park has continued to allow residents of the village permissive access to the parkland avoiding the shooting season i.e. from 1st February to 30th September.

The previous owner of the land and local resident for many years Ron Haylock devoted a considerably amount of time to planting out many specimen trees throughout the park, including the Millennium Wood. The parkland is also now being used for other country activities which you are more than welcome to come along and enjoy. It is a wonderful area to have on our doorstep and one that the current owner is happy for all of us to enjoy.

Obviously, there is a need to ensure that access to the park is controlled and therefore we are in a position where we can offer membership to the 'Friends of Dingley Park' via an annual membership pass. This will be £15.00 per household and will give you access to the park throughout the designated times of the year. The owner has also kindly agreed that the funds received from this scheme will be put back into the community. Local organisations are invited to approach the Parish Council with a request for a donation towards a given project. The Organisers and the Parish Council will distribute monies as they consider appropriate. There are several Terms and Conditions which must be adhered to so that each one of us can enjoy the parkland without putting at risk this wonderful opportunity.

If you would like to apply for membership, please do let me or the parish council know and we will provide you with the necessary form. May we also request that whilst you are enjoying the parkland and you see anything out of order, that it is reported back to us so that we can advise the land agent.

If you do have any questions regarding this scheme, please let me know. We do hope that you will take this opportunity to sign up and enjoy this wonderful park overlooking the Welland Valley.

Steve Dudson

Mob: 07748 918943 **Email:** steve.dudson@gmail.com

Tower House, Dingley Hall, Harborough Road, Dingley, Market Harborough, LE16 8PJ

space is available. Maybe try a new variety of favourite vegetables. Consider whether some are so good grown by farmers and available to stock your freezer. Peas are a case in point.



The beetroot-coloured shoots of peonies have been poking through for some time. Mulching is an excellent way to condition soil may inhibit peonies flowering if they are covered so keep them clear of it.

Some time ago I wrote about HotBin composters. Though they can do what is promised, reaching high enough temperatures to deal with cooked meat and bones. Compost was produced from garden waste in 6 months. However, it seems to have more in common with a pet dog than a composter. It has to be watered and fed with an exact amount of food every day, moist but not wet. Whilst it doesn't need to be taken for a walk it does have to be drained of excess liquid. I leave it to your imagination what part of walking a dog that alludes too. Then every six months it has to be emptied and restarted. A bit like resting an old dog and getting a puppy. The compost is extremely fine but the quantity small for the amount of effort involved. Facetiousness apart I know of someone who has had great success with the system.

Whatever you choose to do this spring I hope you enjoy your garden and sharing it with family and friends.

Garden Notes Spring 2024 from Jean



The last three months have been confusing to plants and gardeners alike. Unusually high temperatures followed by fierce freezing and strong winds. These conditions together with storms and torrential rainfall are predicted to be the norm as the climate continues to change. As spring turns to summer high temperatures and drought is on the cards. Now more than ever soil structure is the key to survival for treasured plants. Whatever your soil type, as suggested in previous articles, adding grit and humus will aid water retention and drainage. Essential to help plants to withstand both drought and excessive rainfall which are likely to be more frequent as are storms and strong winds.

Tender plants sheltered under cover need to be checked and dead or dying foliage removed. Spring sunshine through glass will heat the air in greenhouses and cold frames, check for red spider mite and white fly which will thrive. At the warmest part of the day vent the space to cool air and keep plants growing slowly. When signs of new growth appear watering can begin.

Hellebores are in flower. Cut down old leaves shows off the flowers to advantage. Hoe out unwanted seedling. Be very choosy. Keep those you particularly like. Remove any others. Though beautiful they are thugs left unchecked.

March is time for pruning and training roses depending on the type you have. Consult a reference book for how to deal with those you grow.

Seeds and bulbs are on display in supermarkets and garden centres with increasing interest in vegetable growing. Be selective; grow what you like to eat but exercise restraint. Keep in mind how much

Reminder: The Hall Drive

The Drive between the lodge house at the gate onto Harbourough Road and the Hall itself is private land. This includes the area of grass and woodland on either side of the tarmac road. It is owned by Dingley Hall Gardens Ltd, i.e. the residents of the Hall. Desirable as it would be to have entirely open access, the area has to be covered by public liability insurance, paid for by the Hall residents. There have been a few unfortunate accidents of which we must all be mindful. Residents of Dingley village (and accompanied guests) are very welcome to use the area from the church walk to the Harbourough Road gate to walk and enjoy the surroundings. But.... please be aware that the roadway is not a footpath, but a road with frequent traffic, therefore not entirely safe. Since Covid and lockdowns, the volume of delivery traffic has increased, and it has proved to be impossible to enforce or encourage a speed limit. For this reason, children must be accompanied, and dogs must be kept on a lead, even when not on the tarmac.

Please note that The Drive and the Park are separate properties with different owners. There is no connection between them. No payment required for access to the Drive; **payment to be a Friend of Dingley Park is a separate matter.**



Aconites on the Drive

Hedgehog and Moonlight

by Robert Hull

Out from under
Shrubs and plants

For a moonlight potter
That's mainly blunder

Sniffs and grunts,
Starting his half-hour

Stroll with a trundle
Round the dust-bin,

Busy legs doing
A rapid crossing

Of moonlit yard
And whispering gravel

Then wavering across
The grass towards supper,

In wait at the white tin
plate of milky

bread he treads in
nightly, till quietly

the moon goes in
while clinking

sounds of feeding
fill the garden.

Parish Council Report March 2024

There is not a lot to report for this issue of the *Pump* as the Parish Council has not met over the winter. Nevertheless, there has been progress in our activities. The most obvious is the installation of the 40 mph speed restriction signs along the approaches to the village in both directions. This goes some way to calming speeds along the A427 through the village, and I am told there is some noticeable effect. This does not of course solve all the traffic problems, one of which is the difficulty for heavy lorries to pass on the narrowest part of the road, which has on occasions led to a clashing of wing mirrors (and recriminations between drivers).

Related to the traffic issues is the plan for a foot/cycle path from the village to the Rockingham Road roundabout. We are very pleased to learn that a bid for funding towards the cost of this project was successful last October, and we continue to seek funds from any relevant source. The political climate is favourable for sustainable travel, and Market Harborough is planning a network of such routes. Our Cllrs Laura and Steve are leading on this, which has real potential to enhance our quality of life.

Member of the Friends of Dingley Park will have had a notice from Steve Dudson of renewing membership for 2024. Steve continues to improve the scheme, with the aim of all-year round access. This scheme is a great asset, as there is so little public open space in Dingley. Do make the most of it.

We still have an unfilled vacancy on the Parish Council. We are looking for a new member to complete our complement of five, who work with the Parish Clerk to maintain and improve the quality of life in our village. Dingley is a good and peaceful place to live, but as a small community we do have many matters to deal with, from the very local – for example the annual litter pick – to major issues of planning and the road traffic on the A427 and the lanes. We don't have a lot of power, but we work with North Northamptonshire Council, the Police and other official bodies, and our voice is listened to. We can apply for grants to fund village initiatives, and for work to be carried out on, for example, roads and verges. So do please consider getting involved in helping the community and making a difference. The Parish Council holds six meetings a year; meetings are open to the public, with the times and agendas on the Notice Board, so feel free to come along and see what we do. For more information, contact our Parish Clerk Justina Medwell (clerk.dingley@gmail.com).
Bill Jones Chair