



DRAYCOTT AND CHURCH WILNE PARISH COUNCIL - Annual Parish Meeting - Community update booklet, April 2020 (V2)

Compiled by Sheena Butcher

DRAYCOTT AND CHURCH WILNE PARISH COUNCIL draycottpc@gmail.com
www.draycottparishcouncil.org



Contents

Introduction	2
Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2019	2
Annual Parish Meeting 2019 tracking sheet	5
Reports from Statutory Bodies / Charities	5
Report from Derbyshire County Council	5
Erewash Borough Council	9
Draycott Parish Council	9
Draycott Millennium Green Trust.....	10
Risley Educational Trust	11
Reports received from Community Groups and Organisations within the Parish ...	11
Draycott Community Primary and Nursery School	11
Draycott Methodist Church	13
St. Mary's Church Draycott and St Chad's Church Wilne.....	15
Elephant Rooms	16
Rotary Club of Church Wilne	17
Draycott and Church Wilne History Group.	19
Draycott and Wilne Women's Institute.....	20
St Chad's Fishing Club.....	20
Draycott and Long Eaton Table Tennis Club	21
Erewash Ramblers	24
Draycott Detachment Derbyshire ACF (Mercian)	25
Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust	25
DVF & DiB Activities during the year 2019-2020.....	26
DiB COVID-19 Support	27

Introduction

As we are unable to host the Annual Meeting of the Parish this year due to COVID-19, we have produced this community group update booklet for members of our community to see what amazing events and activities happen around our parish.

The council hope that you all stay safe and well

Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2019

DRAYCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH HELD IN THE PARISH ROOMS
ELVASTON STREET, DRAYCOTT ON TUESDAY 19 February 2019 AT 7.00PM

Present: Chairman – V Clare

Councillors – J Fletcher, T Scott, A Wilson, B Rogerson, D Gelsthorpe, D Dundas, M Alexander, B Timberley, Robert Parkinson (DCC)

Police – No

Members of the Public – 41

Mrs S Butcher - Clerk and RFO

228/18 Apologies- Cllr A McCandless (no apologies received)

229/18 Minutes– The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 17 April 2018 as circulated were confirmed as correct

230/18 DCC Councillor Robert Parkinson – explained that the report in the APM 2019 booklet (as circulated) was adopted from a statement provided by Cllr Barrie Lewis, the leader of DCC. Cllr Parkinson explained that Borrowash Library was to become a community-run facility and if anyone was interested in volunteering to please visit the DCC website. He took questions from members of the public that focussed on pot holes and poor pavements. He encouraged the residents to note any issues onto the flip charts provided and the clerk confirmed that she would pass this onto him for action

231/18 EBC Cllr Val Clare – asked residents if they had any questions based on the reports as circulated in the APM booklet from the Borough and Parish council sections

232/18 Consultation with residents – Cllr Darren Gelsthorpe explained the format of the consultation and encouraged all residents, businesses and groups to use the flip charts to write down their opinions of the different responsibilities of the Parish Council. If people agreed with an opinion already noted, they were to add a tick / smiley face in support, if they did not agree with an opinion already noted they were to add a cross / unhappy face. The feedback is as follows:

- a. **Christmas Lights / Tree**
 - i. Lights both sides of the market square (6 in support)
 - ii. Larger Christmas Tree (10 in support)
 - iii. Parish Council to help with DVF policing of the Dickensian Evening (7 in support)
- b. **Draycott Cemetery**
 - i. Cost of keeping headstones upright when they have been deemed unsafe and have been laid flat (4 in support)
 - ii. Paths and slabs very uneven (5 in support)
 - iii. The watering can keeps being stolen / goes missing – can the PC keep a check on this and replace more frequently (1 in support)
 - iv. Large wooden compost bin with lid and better signs saying what its for – including the red recycling bins (2 in support)

- v. Information panel on the two commonwealth war graves (5 in support)
- vi. Make the cemetery grounds more attractive (4 in support)
- c. **Hopwell Road BMX Park / Playing Fields (both sides)**
 - i. Dog agility course or enclosed dog exercise area - ideally both (7 in support)
 - ii. Skate park with possible CCTV (2 in support)
 - iii. Skate park and youth club for teenagers – no facilities for teenagers, concern over young girls getting in cars / litter around army cadets hut (1 in support)
 - iv. Improve path around the playing fields with a better surface (3 in support)
 - v. Can the stream that runs down the side of the playing field be tidied up as it seems to be full of plastic and rubble (5 in support)
 - vi. Instructional signs for exercise equipment around the park (4 in support)
- d. **Children’s Play Area at Draycott Playing Fields**
 - i. CCTV to help promote better behaviour of users (2 in support)
 - ii. New play equipment – extended to grass area (1 in support)
 - iii. The new kids play equipment is very good – kids love it because it isn’t so tame – well done! ((1 in support)
- e. **Leisure Green**
 - i. More parking – everyone parks on the grass anyway (3 in support)
 - ii. Tennis court
 - iii. Removal of teen seat completely to reduce the area to congregate. Last year the anti-social behaviour was terrible, cars selling drugs, congregation at the teen seat, move it to somewhere cars cannot get to (2 in support)
 - iv. Linked to the removal of the teen seat – pay for the police to crack down on drug abuse / issues in the area (5 in support)
 - v. A fenced off square / rectangular part for dog training next to the scout hut to help teach people about looking after their dogs (Scout hut is used for dog training all day sat and mon night – would be good to train outside too) (4 in support)
 - vi. Removal of conifer trees on the corner of Derby Road and Garfield Avenue to be replaced with more aesthetically pleasing trees (4 in support)
 - vii. Replace those lovely Hawthorne Bushes that were chopped down (3 in support)
 - viii. Remove small children’s play area – it is never used and is in bad condition (2 in support)
- f. **St Chad’s Water LNR**
 - i. More educational information boards (2 in support) in different locations (2 in support)
 - ii. Recycling rubbish bin (1 in support)
 - iii. Interactive children’s nature trail (3 in support)
 - iv. Brass rubbing plaques around the lake / tree identification
 - v. Memorial benches (12 in support) that are in recycled materials not wood (2 in support)
 - vi. More attractive interpretation boards (2 in support)
 - vii. A platform for pond dipping (4 in support) memorial plaques on the platform floor to pay for the new platform
 - viii. Dog poo bins around the lake (4 in support)
- g. **Businesses in the Parish**
 - i. Why only a Christmas Market? Spring, summer and Autumn Events - Happy to contribute (4 in support)
 - ii. You are here Map
 - iii. Monthly newsletter
 - iv. Quarterly meeting
 - v. Carnival (picnic in the park)
 - vi. Publicity campaign for local business, involve local business, 50/50 funding, PC meet with local business, cannot totally rely on locals – we need to draw in people from the wider area (5 in support)
 - vii. Draycott Traders Association – social media (3 in support)
 - viii. Inclusion of all local businesses (1 in support)
 - ix. Parish Council to facilitate (1 in support)
 - x. More businesses that attract visitors (2 in support)

- xi. No more similar shops i.e. barbers (2 in support)
 - xii. No more shops returning to residential (1 in support)
- h. General Requests / Suggestions**
- i. Parish Hall to have a hanging basket (3 in support)
 - ii. DPC suggestion sheet for next year (1 in support)
 - iii. Listening bench to support loneliness and people with mental health issues (7 in support)
 - iv. Duck Race to raise lots of money (3 in support)
 - v. Crisp packet / cellophane / wrappers recycling scheme (walkers crisps are already funding these) to be based at the post office (1 in support)
 - vi. Community Police to be more visible in Draycott during the day / evening (5 in support)
 - vii. Youth Club and Youth Worker (10 in support) with pool table and climbing wall (3 in support)
 - viii. Power sockets under the pavement at the bus stop triangle for the Dickensian Fair (4 in support)
 - ix. Tree planting to obscure the Severn Trent Facility on Wilne Road (6 in support)
 - x. Better signage to indicate where the Parish Rooms are (2 in support)
 - xi. Agenda needed before Parish Council Meetings to people can read (3 in support)
 - xii. More 'welcoming' parish meetings – less bureaucratic
 - xiii. Why isn't the One Stop Shop responsible for tidying up rubbish from things that it has sold?
 - xiv. Bunting across the main road in summer – like in Ashbourne (2 in support)
- i. Issues to be referred to Derbyshire County Council via Cllr Robert Parkinson**
- i. Roads to Church Wilne require improving and high hedges need reducing for safety (1 in support)
 - ii. Removal of tarmac areas on the corner of Wallis Close (both sides) by the junction with Victoria Road – place shrubs and trees instead
 - iii. Pavements in the village poor in particular Lime Grove, Market Street. Wilne Road, Cleveland Avenue, Garfield Avenue (5 in support)
 - iv. A survey of pavements is required to assess the priorities (1 in support)
 - v. School parking / traffic / speeding is very bad – a child is going to be killed or seriously injured (1 in support)
 - vi. Public EV Charging point in Draycott (3 in support)
 - vii. Traffic / speed limits need reducing on Hopwell Road and outside the school (3 in support)
 - viii. Traffic lights on the Hopwell Road Bridge (3 in support)
 - ix. Pedestrian Crossing to both parks (could incorporate near the school to assist with school crossing)
 - x. KLM Lorries – more traffic when the canal cottages open
 - xi. Increase parking capacity at Market Square near the shops (1 in support)
 - xii. Parking restrictions to be considered around Market Street (2 hours) (4 in support)
 - xiii. Request to move the 3 tier planter on Market Street triangle to the other side of the lamppost – this is a temporary structure so will need checking with DCC Highways (DIB)
- j. Issues to be referred to Erewash Borough Council via Cllr Val Clare**
- i. Litter on Town End Road dreadful
 - ii. More litter bins please and recycling bins (1 in support)
 - iii. More strategic approach to dog fouling
 - iv. More weed treatments on pavements / paths / gutters that is bee friendly (6 in support)
 - v. Need to stop people parking on the grass on Cleveland Avenue, Sawley Road and the Green (5 in support)
 - vi. Dog Fouling – DNA registration / licencing (linked to chipping), fines for people not carrying poo bags (2 in support)
 - vii. Clearer signs on the bins to make it clear that it is Ok to put Dog Poo in them now that the dedicated bins have been removed (5 in support)

viii. More frequent emptying of bins – especially near the shops where they fill quickly (5 in support)

ix. Dog Litter bins on Derby Road from the Chip Shop to Lime Grove (1 in support)

233/18 Cllr Darren Gelsthorpe thanked everyone for attending, explained that the feedback would be collated and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on the 9th April, 7.30pm at the Parish Rooms and invited all to attend. He explained that the Parish Council budget for 2019-20 has been set and that certain items on the feedback were already budgeted for and that where the Parish Council as an entity agreed, (via voting) they would look at sources of funding / grants and or look to plan items into the following years budget.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting 2019 tracking sheet

The suggestions provided by the residents for improvements and changes to the Council owned facilities were collated onto a tracking sheet and we have worked on the list throughout the year (where appropriate) this can be viewed on our website news section <https://www.draycottparishcouncil.org/news-events/>

Reports from Statutory Bodies / Charities

Report from Derbyshire County Council

(Breaston Electoral Division)

(Borrowash, Breaston, Draycott)

(Cllr. Robert A. Parkinson)

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Obviously, coronavirus/Covid-19 dominates everything! Full updates on DCC services are on the Council's website: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk>.

Lowest council tax rise for 5 years

But see the Covid-19 effect below!

DCC approved the lowest council tax increase for 5 years. At 2%, the increase will be used exclusively on services for older people and, by making no additional increase for other services, the rise is the lowest in the country compared to similar authorities that have agreed their budgets.

The proposal was agreed at a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 5th February 2020 along with a budget for 2020 to 2021 of £560.2 million. This budget is 8% higher than last year, following extra Government funding, including extra money for children's and adult care services. Overall, this is the biggest rise in the DCC budget since 1997, putting it in a good financial position for the year ahead.

Council Leader Councillor Barry Lewis said:

“In the past year we have welcomed significant extra funding from the Government, which has led to our being in a much more solid and positive financial position. The strong budget we have been able to present allows us to deliver an ambitious plan for Derbyshire, including protecting high quality, vital services, growing our economy, bringing new investments to the county and working to ensure Derbyshire is a post-Brexit success story.

“While we welcome the additional funding, we have received from Government, it still falls short of what is needed to meet the ever-increasing demands on our social care services. That is why we are continuing to call for our fair share of funding. However, as an enterprising council we can do a lot with the budget that we have, especially if we work more closely with our colleagues in districts and boroughs and our communities, which is our aim.”

Investments for the year ahead include:

- An extra £20.7 million for children’s services to fund increased demand and costs including placements, support for care leavers, safeguarding, special educational needs and more social workers.
- An extra £18.9 million for adult social care to cover growing demand due to an ageing population, winter pressures and the implementation of a transformation programme to promote greater independence for older people.
- £4 million to develop measures to address the threat of climate change, with an on-going £200,000 each year to co-ordinate and plan activity to reduce the council’s and county’s carbon footprint.
- £15 million to build a new 40-bed residential care home on the former Bennerley School site in Cotmanhay, (looking to work with a housing provider to invest a further £15 million in extra care housing on the same site)
- £3 million for maintenance at residential care homes for older people.
- £6 million to support the building of new schools in areas with major new housing developments.
- £6 million to provide additional school places by expanding existing schools to meet local area demands due to new housing.
- £7.6 million to maintain and upgrade schools across the county including re-roofing, new windows, heating updates and re-wiring.
- £10.9 million to fund the disabled facilities grant scheme, for disabled people needing major adaptations to their homes so they can continue to live independently.
- £22 million for the Local Transport Plan, which includes support for major projects including the A61 Growth Corridor, general road maintenance and road safety schemes.
- An initial sum of £270,000 to begin planning to tackle ash dieback.

Coronavirus could cost £50m

The extra costs involved in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic are expected to cost DCC at least £50m. It is initially estimated that the loss of income and the extra costs incurred as a result of coronavirus could cost at least £32m by the end of June. This is expected to rise to at least £50m later in the year.

The £32m does not include any losses due to people and organisations' not being able to pay council tax and business rates. The figure includes savings that DCC was planning to make this year but is now unable to do.

Extra cash has been spent on paying independent care homes more money to reflect their increases in costs, extra money to pay for PPE for front-line care staff, extra temporary staff taken on to work in the Council's care homes, money to pay for food for those who haven't had any and set up costs for the Community Resource Unit.

A total of £400,000 has also been given in grants to local businesses from the Hardship Fund which has been established, but as applications are still being processed this figure is likely to rise.

So far the Council has had £23m extra from the Government and is waiting to find out what its share of a further national amount of £1.6bn announced recently will be.

Derbyshire County Council Leader, Councillor Barry Lewis, said:

"We've incurred extra costs right across the Council's services as we try to do our best to support everyone affected by the pandemic. I am grateful for the extra support from the Government and expect that we will receive more funding to help us support those who need it most.

"Work is now underway to revise this year's budget to reflect the additional costs of the pandemic and our service priorities. I would expect to have some proposals in the next few months.

"A huge amount of work to help those in need has taken place in a very short period of time and I'd like to thank everyone involved. I've never felt prouder to lead the Council. Our employees, residents and businesses are all showing true Derbyshire spirit."

Revised Borrowash Library opening hours consultation

Results are awaited of a consultation about opening hours at Borrowash Library after an interested party working on taking it over for community management withdrew from the process. The Library is currently open for 32 hours per week and DCC says that it will need to reduce its opening times to 18 hours in line with the other 7 libraries where consultations have been held.

Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism Councillor Barry Lewis said:

“The changes being made are all part of the Libraries for Derbyshire programme and, as well as achieving necessary savings, they will ensure we have a library service which reflects people’s changing habits and use of new technology and is fit for the future.

“We were disappointed that the interested party we were working with on taking over Borrowash Library has withdrawn from the process, but we do expect this to happen from time to time and are not downhearted. We accept it is a complex process and requires a big commitment, and everyone

Briar Close House Care Home

An independent survey has found that some DCC older care homes need extensive work to bring them up to modern standards, including rewiring. This work could cost more than £34 million. Therefore, Cabinet agreed to consult on the closure of 7 older homes and to refurbish 3. No decisions will be made about the future of any of the homes until DCC has considered all the responses received.

One of the homes proposed for refurbishment is Briar Close House, Borrowash. As work would be disruptive, residents would be offered the opportunity to move out temporarily while the work took place **if they wish**. If they choose not to move out, they may still be required to re-locate within the home to allow work to take place in certain areas.

Floods cause £20 million damage to Derbyshire roads

The cost of fixing the damage to roads in Derbyshire caused by recent flooding is estimated to be more than £20 million. The damage caused was estimated to cost more than the council’s annual budget for road maintenance - which in the 2019/20 financial year was £17.5 million.

Large parts of the county were flooded, which at the time caused more than 100 road closures, with 116 businesses and around 300 homes affected. Around 125 miles of roads across the county were damaged.

The damage to roads includes several sites where the road surface was completely swept away, leaving utility pipes visible, multiple potholes, large patches of damage to the road surface, thousands of blocked drains and gully’s and 24 damaged bridges, retaining walls and culverts.

Role and title changes for Council Leader and Cabinet Member
Councillor Barry Lewis has taken on the role of Climate and Sustainability Champion in addition to being Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism. Councillor Tony King has a new title - Cabinet Member for Clean Growth and Regeneration. The changes reflect Derbyshire County Council’s commitment to tackling climate change.

Climate change summit reveals net zero carbon ambition

More than 150 people from local businesses, housing developers, councils and other public bodies gathered at an event organised by Derbyshire County Council on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 to explore how they can work together to help tackle climate change.

The event, held at County Hall, set out a vision for the whole of Derbyshire to become a net zero carbon county by 2050 - which means cutting carbon emissions from every area of everyday life to the lowest possible level and offsetting the remaining emissions through carbon absorbing measures such as planting trees

Appreciation

Finally, but by no means least, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the Clerks and Members of Breaston, Draycott and Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Councils for their continued help and support in my work as your County Councillor.

Erewash Borough Council

Cllrs Val Clare and Tim Scott

Again, this year sees Erewash Borough Council debt free, having secured savings of over £1,000 000 through staffing costs. The Council continues to seek further future savings to remain debt free.

This year's Council Tax increase was kept as low as possible by The Council with an increase of £5 for a Band D property, which in real terms is just 9p per week.

In the current situation with Covid-19, we have much to be proud of in Draycott & Risley. The rapid spread of volunteers and help groups within our communities has been a wonder to behold, and a huge help to those in need.

Things change around our situation all the time, and with regards to Erewash Borough Council, we would urge you to keep up to date via the EBC website.

The core strategy regarding local housing requirements remains open and is a vital opportunity for residents to have their say.

Currently, it has not been possible for the collection of Garden Waste due to the shortage of resources and crew, again because of the Covid-19 outbreak. This is however being looked at regularly and will be reimplemented as soon as possible.

Draycott Parish Council

This year has been very positive for Draycott Parish Council although there have been some difficult times. We have lost 3 Councillors during the year and I was very sorry to receive resignations from Councillors Ben Timberley, Darren Gelsthorpe and Sarah Gelsthorpe. They were all very able and conscientious councillors and have left the council in a stronger position for their efforts. We have added Councillor Andy Meakin to our ranks and are benefiting from his knowledge in several areas of the Parish Councils' responsibilities. We have had 3 applications for the 2 vacancies and will hold interviews when Lock Down comes to an end.

We held a very different Annual Parish meeting last year where we asked members of the public to suggest what changes parishioners would like to see. We have tried our best to achieve the most important of their ideas and are still working on many of the others.

You asked for a bigger Christmas Tree and Christmas lights in the trees on both sides of Market Street, everyone agreed that it did make a great improvement to the Christmas decorations.

We have responded by giving the cemetery a makeover and tidying the area next to the Scout Hut. We have replaced litter bins at the Muga and playing fields and created a circular track for walking or jogging round the playing fields. We have tried to encourage this use by putting up signs to inform users how far they are running on each lap.

We were successful in a grant application to install a water fountain and water bottle refill station on the pavilion wall at the Playing fields to encourage bottle reuse and we are currently trying to improve the toddler play area next to the Muga.

We have upgraded some of the paths at St. Chadds and are working hard to bring about more improvements but the extended period of flooding this year has meant this has had to be put on hold now until the end of this pandemic, but watch this space .

We have again had anti-social behaviour in the village and have fenced the area mostly used for this, around the cadet hut, to try to dissuade this happening.

There are lots more things around the village that the council has done or supported which you will see if you look.

I would like to thank Madam Clerk for her expertise, support and advice, and her team of maintenance workers for ensuring that Draycott facilities always remains clean and safe for our use., and I thank all the councillors for their help and support.

Val Clare

Draycott Millennium Green Trust

The trust successfully obtained grants totalling £3515.62 from;

- The Drinking Fountain Association £2000.00
- Erewash Borough Council £750.00
- The Rotary Club of Church Wilne £765.62



This enabled the trust to purchase and install the outdoor Water Bottle refill station and signage that was installed outside of the Football Pavilion. Unfortunately, the first sign was vandalised, so we purchased another sign. The remaining balance of the grants was £281.98 which was donated to Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council towards the ongoing costs for the water refill station. The ownership

of the Refill Station was also transferred to Draycott and Church Wilne Parish Council.

Risley Educational Trust

I agreed to again become Draycott's representative on this Trust board on the resignation of Cllr. Sarah Gelsthorpe. I have only attended one meeting before the Virus Lock Down, so cannot give the usual figures of the numbers of grants awarded to Draycott residents.

I would urge any young person living in Draycott and Church Wilne hoping to attend university or a further educational establishment to apply for financial assistance for books they will need for their course to the trust. For more information, please visit <http://opencharities.org/charities/702720>

Val Clare

Reports received from Community Groups and Organisations within the Parish

Draycott Community Primary and Nursery School

I am proud to represent the staff and children of our local school and nursery as the Chair of Governors.

Over the last year, our children have enjoyed a variety of activities and learned new skills. Our new Science Room sees a lot of activity. In particular, Year 3 enjoyed making volcanoes erupt.

The main learning emphasis this year revolves around reading. The new Golden Ticket initiative has led to a remarkable increase in standards of reading and we are delighted that many more children are enjoying the wide range of new books which

have recently been purchased. The prize of a special book for the Golden Ticket award is wonderful. The staff are confident that an increased level of reading will also help the other target area of improved vocabulary.

The children continue their learning adventures in the Wonder Room. This is a special classroom which has been decked out as a black, blank canvas for all sorts of drama, music and artistic activities. All children enjoy this space and it is especially useful for self-awareness and expression.

The children are encouraged to carry out regular, daily exercise. The children have access to staff from several organisations who bring their varied knowledge to our school. We thank Derby College and Derby County Football Club. The staff at the Draycott Table Tennis Club also welcome our children. Their ability to include the abilities of EVERY child is superb and we are very grateful for the opportunity to use this very local facility. The introduction of the new House teams and colours continues to prove popular with the children.

Our new Creative Council allows the children to voice their artistic plans towards the learning adventures. Our very active PTA support the learning and ethos of our school. Their fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated and very necessary to help provide necessary resources for our lessons.

Our artistic Teaching Assistants once again allowed the children to produce an Advent Window for the village. This academic year has come to an abrupt halt due to the Government guidelines following the Coronavirus outbreak. I am proud to say that Claire Evans, our Headteacher, and all of her staff, rapidly put together a home learning pack for the children. There are also on line lessons and help for them. The staff continue to open the school to provide care for the children of our Key Workers during this challenging time.

We are proud to be able to have a well-used Breakfast and After School 'Kidspace' session. If you would like further information regarding this facility, our office staff will be able to help.

We all look forward to hearing where the Learning Adventures take our children and ask you all to support their efforts in any way you can.

Kris Bingham
Chair of Governors

Draycott Methodist Church

This is a very strange time to be writing an annual report when the entire country, including the churches, are in lockdown because of the Coronavirus. It is difficult to think of 'normal' times.

Looking back to last year's report much is the same, but we have had some changes. Rev Colin Emerson remains our minister, but he has also taken on more responsibility in the wider Derby Circuit, so since September we have been pleased to have a Lay Worker, Judith Neal, assisting in the ministry of Colin's three churches (Spondon, Borrowash and Draycott). Judith is a great asset and has involved herself fully in supporting the life of the church, undertaking pastoral visiting and helping to plan and run our Messy Church sessions as well as leading services and meetings. We have also appointed a new Church treasurer, John Hill, and we are very grateful that he was willing to take on the role after the sad death of Colin Beniston.

The church has continued to meet and work in the village enthusiastically during the year. As for many years working closely with our friends from St Marys. Working together we helped the village to raise £731.00 during Christian Aid week and during the winter/Christmas period £441.00 for the Derby Churches Nightshelter. It is sad that because of national circumstances we will not be issuing Christian Aid envelopes to each house this year, but it is hoped that we could encourage people to make donations digitally during Christian Aid week this year (May 10 - 17). We have been very grateful in the past to Draycott Chemist, The One Stop Shop and Dundas Butchers for having buckets in their shops to receive people's donations. It has always been a wonderful village team effort.

Until March Messy Church continued to meet monthly for families in Draycott, but we have been concerned that in recent months the numbers have dropped. This seems to be because of the busy lives of so many children, and the re-arrangement of meeting days for Brownies and Gymnastics. Some thought may be given to this during the summer.

The Draycott Guild which meets fortnightly between September and May has been continuing with some excellent speakers on a variety of entertaining, informative and inspiring subjects. These numbers, too, have dropped, this is more to do with the aging membership of the group. We do know of others who would attend but have no transport and we now have limited members who drive and are able to bring people to meetings. We are hoping that we will be able to re-open in September and will be planning a new programme shortly. This is a very welcoming social meeting, not just for churchgoers, and an excellent way to make friends and keep your mind active, so we would welcome any new members on a Wednesday evening. Please look out for the posters around the village giving more information.

We continue to hold two services each Sunday, in the morning at 10.30 a.m. and in the evening usually at 6.00 p.m. However, for the second year we held our evening service at 4.00 p.m. during the months of December, January and

February which was a help to those who do not like the dark nights. Our most popular service is our informal morning 'cafe style' meeting which is on the second and fifth (if there is one) Sunday of each month. Here there is more opportunity for discussion and a generally relaxed atmosphere. Once again, at times we are having trouble helping some of our elderly friends to get to the services they wish to attend. If you think you can help with transport, please contact David Murden (873388).

At Harvest time, in October, we were pleased to be able to welcome over 100 children from Draycott School, coming in class groups, to learn about the variety of different Harvests and why and how Harvest is celebrated.

As usual, Christmas was a busy and joyful time in our church. We donate toys to the Derby Salvation Army for distribution and had our usual Carol Service with candles. If you have never been inside the Methodist Church during the Christmas period, then you have missed something wonderful. As well as our big Christmas tree our plain windows are transformed by Breny Leeds' impressive artwork. Each window looks like stained glass and shows a scene of the Nativity. This year the Churches Together Christmas Eve Midnight Communion was held in the Methodist Church and was very well attended.

The Coronavirus came as a big shock to us all as it did to everyone in the country. How are we coping as a church? Well, it was a very strange Easter without our usual Good Friday procession through the village and our Easter Sunday morning dawn service at Chad Water as well as missing all our other services. We thank God for the internet and the telephone. The Pastoral system that is ongoing in the Methodist Church is a great help. We have five Pastoral Visitors (ordinary members of our church) and everyone linked with our fellowship is connected to one of these people. They have been keeping in touch with their group and encouraging them to pray for and contact others. Rev Colin Emerson and Judith Neal have been issuing regular news bulletins which are circulated to our fellowship. If you would like to receive one of these, contact either Colin (670587) or David (873388) and we can E mail a copy to you. Since Palm Sunday Rev Colin has also been leading services on 'ZOOM' every Sunday at 10.30am which has been very successful. We are told that these services can now be accessed by those without the internet, just by their ordinary phone (obviously audio only). For further details contact Rev Colin Emerson. During Holy Week, Rev Colin also led an evening reflective service each evening. Palm Crosses were left on the church steps and on the Lime Grove public notice board for people to help themselves, as a sign of Hope this Easter. We are pleased to say that over 60 Palm Crosses were taken by people in the village.

We were also pleased to have some of our members involved in the setting up of the Village Community Coronavirus helpline. It is frustrating for those who have always been there helping others to be now told that because of their age they need to take a step back, but we are very grateful for all that so many in the village are doing to help those in need in Draycott. We pray that it won't be too long before village life can resume, meanwhile we thank God for the friendships in

Draycott and the different opportunities that this time is giving us. Our thoughts and prayers go to all those affected by the virus or have lost loved ones. If you are in need of any help or support please contact Rev Colin Emerson (670587), Judith Neal (832108) or David Murden (873388). God bless you all.

Mary Murden: Church Council Secretary

St. Mary's Church Draycott and St Chad's Church Wilne.

St Mary's church continues to work closely with the Methodist church in the village under the title "Draycott Churches Together".

Children's groups and children's work are done together. The children meet in St Mary's church hall at 10.30am on the 3rd Sunday of the month and join the congregation in church towards the end of the service.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the 2nd 4th and 5th Sundays of the month - the 4th Sunday being a Family Communion service with liturgy and music which caters for younger people.

There is a children's corner in the church with books, quiet toys and activities for children who may be too young to participate throughout the whole service.

Sung Evensong with choir, alternates with St Michael's in Breaston and is generally on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at St. Mary's (St Chad's Wilne during the summer months)

Although all church work within the buildings have suspended.

"Sunbeams", is a pre-school group that is held every Friday morning during term time in the church hall at 10.30am, and includes games, activities, singing and a simple Bible story. These sessions have proved very popular.

This has continued during the 'lockdown' with Facebook activities.

At the Friday morning session, parents and carers are able to enjoy a time together over tea and homemade cakes while the children play. There are currently 24 children on role with an average attendance of 18. All are welcome from birth to 5yrs.

Throughout the year we have held a series of events -Sports day, Teddy Bears' picnic, our own Harvest Festival and Nativity play. All are welcome to come and support these events.

A discussion group meets on Tuesday evenings in St. Mary's at 7.30pm and is open to all ages and anyone wishing to explore the Christian faith in a warm relaxed and cordial atmosphere.

Coffee Mornings with Tabletop Sales are held on the first Saturday of each month, the next Coffee Morning will host members from Long Eaton Silver Prize Band. All are welcome to have a "sit down" and chat during busy weekend shopping. Again, these activities have suspended until after the pandemic.

St. Mary's together with The Methodist Church is involved in the whole breadth of village activities. We hold charity stalls for the Village Christmas Lights Switch-on.

Remembrance Day, again, was marked by a service at the village War Memorial, is a very well attended service with some 250 people coming along. The clergy also assisted at the Memorial Garden, on South Street, during which children from Draycott primary school placed decorated pebbles to mark each Draycott life lost.

A difficult report to write considering the present circumstances.

We pray everything will be back to some normality quickly.

Rev'd Gary Dundas

Elephant Rooms

Elephant Rooms is a Community Interest Company (CIC) with the vision:

To provide a diverse range of natural therapies, classes and workshops promoting health and wellbeing for the local community



Elephant Rooms has established a therapeutic space in which a range of classes, workshops and therapies focussed on physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing are delivered for the local community. The primary business is room rental the profits from which are used to offer therapies that are affordable for all.

Community Interest Companies are not obligated to the local community rather than shareholders. Elephant Rooms actively encourages and promotes opportunity and participation for all through the courses, workshops, classes and therapies that it offers.

The centre is host to:

- Over 30 professional therapists providing counselling, massage, shiatsu, reflexology, reiki and hypnotherapy.
- Around 20 classes per week including Pilates, various forms of yoga, Qigong, and meditation.
- 2 to 3 workshops a week on a diverse range of topics including yoga, crafts, creative writing, sound emersion, training and mediation.
- Between 250 and 300 members of our local community per week use the facility

During the past year the business has been increasingly able to deliver its aspirations for affordable therapies particularly with a developing portfolio aimed at mental health including Capacitar (toolkit for life), creative writing, ecotherapy, trauma yoga as well as hosting the Derbyshire Peer Support Group and expanding the psychotherapy offerings. Elephant Rooms offers free, 'pay what you can' and donation events including Meditation,

Mindfulness and More, Wellness Hubs where taster sessions of therapies are available. In addition, well over 200 concessions were given for classes and therapies.

Elephant Rooms seeks to support local activities and took an active part in Draycott Open Gardens and Breaston Gala in 2019. In support of the Parish Council and the Draycott Village fund Elephant rooms has prepared a programme of health and wellbeing activities at the local nature reserve St Chad's Water for 2020 and taken on a plot at the village community allotment.

In March 2020 the coronavirus virus crisis resulted in suspension of the majority of activities at the centre however we are maintaining talking therapies primarily by phone and online classes. Working with the Draycott Coronavirus Support Group Elephant Rooms is staffing a loneliness and mental health service talk line throughout the crisis for those struggling with the isolation and the impacts and strains arising from the crisis.

We are fortunate that Elephant Rooms is financially secure, and we believe we can weather this crisis. We look forward to being fully open again with renewed vigour as soon as circumstances allow.

Rotary Club of Church Wilne

The Rotary Club of Church Wilne has been part of the communities of Draycott, Borrowwash and Ockbrook since its formation in April 1985.

It meets weekly on a Monday evening at the Royal Oak in Ockbrook and it is one of the largest Clubs in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

In the last 12 months it has raised over £20,000 for charity and has made donations to the Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance and Treetops Hospice Care as well as to local groups and individuals.

It held the annual Senior Citizen's Tea Party & Dance in May 2019 attended by residents from Draycott as well as those from Borrowwash and Ockbrook. Unfortunately, the Party planned for this year has had to be cancelled.

Rotary Clubs around the world help to plant millions of purple crocuses every year to raise awareness for efforts to end polio. In June 2019, the Club donated approximately 2,000 Crocus Corms to the Draycott Village Fund for these to be planted in the village.



In October, a Buddy Holly's Winter Dance Party was held at St Mary's Church Hall to hear and to dance to all the classic Buddy songs performed by the musicians who also performed at the 2 Buddy Musicals and the previous Buddy Concert. The total sum raised by the Club during the last 3 years from the 2 Musicals and

the 2 Concerts was £24,000. The monies raised at the Winter Dance Party was £1,641 and a donation of £547 was made to St Mary's Church Hall.

In December, the Club paid for all the 180 seats in the afternoon family pantomime performance of Hansel & Gretel at the Duchess Theatre in Long Eaton. The Club distributed all the tickets to families in the Draycott, Borrowash and Breaston areas after receiving help from local primary schools and local charity organisations.

The Club members were very busy in the local community in December with its Santa's Christmas Sleigh. There were 15 outings in total including 2 trips around Draycott and at the Draycott Lights Switch-On.

The Hot Roast Pork Stall at the Lights Switch-On was run by Club member Gary Dundas and the profit of £765 was donated by the Club to the Draycott Millennium Green Trust.



Also, in December the Club paid for the cost of the coach for the trip by the Draycott Group 'Tea with Friends' to Worcester Victorian Christmas Market.

The Club makes an annual donation to the Friends of St Chad's and also pays for the Christmas tree in St Chad's Church.

In January, the Club donated £300 to the Draycott Village Fund towards the running costs of the defibrillator.

In the previous year members of the Club, with help from the school children, built the Eco Greenhouse at Draycott Primary School and created a wooden potting bench. In February, the Club gave vouchers for £250 from Collyer's Nursery to buy plants for the Eco Greenhouse.

For several years, the Club has supported Joshua Johns, the very talented and successful local young wheelchair tennis player.

All our activities are published on our comprehensive website <https://churchwilnerotary.org.uk> and in various local papers and magazines. In January we published the following "Church Wilne Rotary would like to recognise an individual or group within our community and present them with a Rotary Community or Citizen Award. The award shines a spotlight on those working selflessly to give back to the community in which we live. We are talking about any activity, big or small, from all kinds of people or organisations".

The Club has decided to make the Rotary Citizen Award in 2020 to two Draycott residents Ken Moreton and Robert Carter. A Presentation will be made as soon as the Club is able to resume its weekly meetings.

Roger Graham

Draycott and Church Wilne History Group.

We are an eleven strong study group dedicated to researching all aspects of the history of the parish. We normally meet every two months or so in one another's houses to discuss our latest findings and to plan our research.

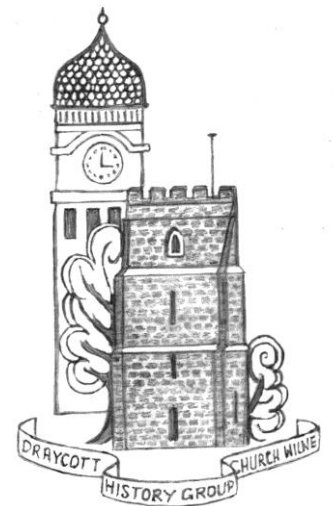
Every August Bank Holiday we hold an exhibition in St Mary's Church Hall looking at different aspects of the history of Draycott and Church Wilne. Last year's exhibition took as its theme "Draycott on the Move". We described the key transport developments affecting the village, from the canal in the eighteenth century and the railway in the nineteenth century, to the growth of road transport including the bikers of the "52 Club" in the 1960s. We even had film of the bikers in action which proved very popular with visitors who identified with that era.

Since then we have been researching the growth and development of the village through maps, aerial photographs and an age of buildings survey. Another major project has taken us back to 1764, which was a significant year for Draycott. Farming changed from the medieval "strip system" to an enclosed system with land divided into fenced off fields and the loss of the common land. An Act of Parliament was passed to enable this to happen and we have been able to turn the words into an amazingly detailed map.

Because of Covid-19 we have not been able to meet together since the beginning of the year, but the work has gone on, and if we are able to have our usual exhibition at the end of August you will be able to see all we have done.

We publish booklets relating to the history of Draycott and Wilne and the many characters who inhabited the parish in the past. We have produced ten booklets to date, and more are in the pipeline. They can be bought from Dundas the Butcher and Wilson's Chemist in the village.

We welcome contributions from anyone, especially the more senior members of the community who we know from experience always have good stories to tell. Anyone who has information, documents or pictures relating to Draycott or Wilne



is very welcome to contact us through Clive Wilkinson on 01332 873 926 or email: - alesi4@sky.com

Draycott and Wilne Women's Institute

Draycott & Wilne WI has a membership of 14 members who meet on the third Thursday of each month in our Methodist Church Hall. We make a point of keeping our tradition of singing Jerusalem every month.

We make our programme as varied as possible and especially attempt to incorporate 'traditional' WI activities such as cookery, craft and flowers. This year, several of our members joined with the Craft & Chat group to make bags for the personal hygienic protection of girls in Kenya. This always enables them to carry on going to school. This also, once again, links with the WI ethos of educating women.

In line with our craft and cookery skills, we had plans in place for our entries into the Derbyshire County Show. This event has been cancelled this year, but our plans will be held over for next year. Our Facebook page continues to keep members and the public up to date with our meeting information. We also, through the hard work of our Secretary, advertise our events more visually in the village.

We would love to welcome new members to our Institute and all ladies are encouraged to come and visit us. You can attend for 3 consecutive meetings before making the decision to join, so come and enjoy our hospitality and not forgetting tea and cake. If you would like to come and meet us or would like further information, please email draycottandwilnewi@hotmail.com Alternatively, come along to our meetings at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Market Street on the third Thursday of the month excluding August and December when the dates vary.

St Chad's Fishing Club

St Chad's Fishing Club is a club for residents of Draycott and Church Wilne. We are committed to continually try to improve the fishing by having a restocking programme, we have £1000 worth of carp on order and they will be introduced to the lake as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted our normal stockist is Jon Wall.

Membership is from £35 per year starting on 1 April 2020, Juniors under 16 free as long as they are with an adult member, ages 65 to 70 £15, over 70's free. We have not issued any licences so far this year due to Covid-19, but once the fishing restrictions are lifted we will do so. If you would like more information regarding the club, please contact John Reynolds at reno07@hotmail.co.uk

Draycott and Long Eaton Table Tennis Club

2019-20 season

This year the draycott and long eaton TTC were the 2019 Winners in the derby telegraph Derbyshire sports awards , category girls team of the year Winners and finalists as Junior boy ,club of the year and Coach of the year

Community

The club fosters community use in the “Whittaker Hall.

The current users are: -

Draycott Tae kwondo club - Sunday evenings - 15 members

Exercise for the heart - Tuesday and Wednesday mornings - over 50 members

Draycott Primary school - Thursday 14:00-15:00 (this is provided free of charge)- 30 pupils at a time these also run two after school sessions Tuesday and Thursday 15:30-17:00

Participated in the best in bloom

Partnering with Firfield school in Breaston with outreach coaching in an after-school session on Thursdays

Over 50's section

The over 50's club is a thriving club for people from 50 to over 80s. We have quite a few over 80s who love to come and play for the exercise and social side too. Our 2 eldest are 87! It opens up opportunities for the older person to enjoy table tennis and good company.

We regularly have over 40 members playing on a Monday afternoon and Friday morning and that's only a third of all our members! We have over 110 in our club and it's still increasing. We have two tournaments in respect of past members, and you have to be quick to enter as they fill up quickly. We also play against other clubs and in the winter, we play one adult and one junior from our fantastic junior club which everybody enjoys and brings the different sections together.

It's an extremely good way for people over 50 to get some good exercise and social activity. Several of our members play in a local league as well so there is plenty of opportunity to get better and have a really good competition.

Junior section

The Draycott Club's Junior Section has continued to increase its numbers over last year rising from 60 to almost 70 young players with at least 40 of them playing table tennis a minimum of three times per week.

The Club attracts over 50% of the membership from Draycott and surrounding areas and caters for complete beginners right through to an Excellence squad in accordance with its aims of both having participation and a performance section.

This Club has maintained a Coaching structure headed by Phil Vickers one of the highest qualified coaches in England along with a team of 8 other qualified coaches.

On a Monday and Friday nights we run the new starters and Advanced Squad from 17:50 - 19:20 and the Excellence Squad group from 19:30 - 21:30 and this year we have successfully run a 4-2-7 squad which now has about 12 young players in regular attendance aged 4 to 8 years old.

Jon Bayliss also runs a session on a Thursday afternoon for our Local Draycott Primary School and players filter from this into our 4-2-7 squad.

Our current Excellence squad of about 22 players now boasts 15 players in the top 15 for their age in the country and continues to produce some of the top players in the country and currently has a number of National Champions as detailed below:

U/13 Girls Singles - Anna Green

U/13 Boys Singles - Connor Green

Cadet Boys Doubles - Poww Boonyaprapa

Cadet Girls Doubles - Erin Green / Helena Dicken

Junior Boys Doubles Champions - Naphat Boonyaprapa

National Girls Team Champions - Erin Green / Helena Dicken

Junior British League - Div. 3 Boys - Champions

Naomi Coker - 3rd Place National U/11 Girls

Connie Dumelow - 3rd Place National U/12 Girls

Junior Boys Masters - 5th Place

Cadet Boys Masters - 4th Place

Cadet Girls Masters - 5th Place & 9th Place

Rankings:

England No.1 @ U/14 Girls, U/14 Boys and Cadet Boys

England No. 4 @ Junior Boys

England No. 1, No.2 & No.5 @ Cadet Boys

England No.5 & No.9 @ U/16 Girls

England No. 9 & No.11 @ U/13 Boys

England No. 2 & No.3 @ U/13 Girls

England No.2 @ U/11 Girls

England No.3 and 5 at U/10 Girls

England No. 1 @ U/9 Girls

England No.3 @ U/9 Boys

Senior & local league

The club has over 105 members who regularly play in the Derby, Nottingham and Loughborough leagues. Keeping competitive grass roots tables tennis alive. It is well supported by our O50's and Junior players

No's of teams as follows: -

Derby league - 9

Nottingham league - 4

Loughborough league - 6

Match nights are Tuesday and Wednesday, and anyone is welcome to come and watch

We are the current Premier division winners of all three leagues this was the first time in our history that we have held all three at the same time along with various other division champions

Representative sides in the National and British leagues

The club provides a pathway for all its members to play in the highest leagues in England against all the other strong English and British clubs.

No's of teams as follows: -

British league

Junior boys- 2 (prem & div 3)

Junior girls - 2 (Prem, D2)

Seniors - 5 (Div. 1a 2a 1b 2b 3c)

Women's - 3 (prem div 1,2,)

Vets (O40) - 5 (prem, 3a,3b, 4,5)

National Junior leagues- aimed at non-British league players

Under 18's - 3 (div1,2,3)

Under 15's - 4 (div1, 2,4)

Weekend events

The club continues to host over 15 weekend events a year with a dedicated team of volunteers. It regular hosts some of the most prestigious events on the Table Tennis England calendar with many internationals playing at the club at both senior and para and junior level

International

We again entered the Riga Youth cup to continue to foster our Latvian connections we took 13 junior players and 12 coaches and parents

Poww our no1 boy had a great season and despite being only 14 represented England at the recent schools 6 nations u15 event. winning the boys team and singles titles, Giorgio and Poww went to the Oman ITTF junior and came r/u in the cadet boys' doubles (the first time a Draycott player has made an ITTF Final. Poww also made the quarter finals, Poww is now ranked 24 in Europe and 43 in the world rankings at u15 level.

Poww, Erin, Gorgio Connor and Anna also represented England in the Swedish open with Connor making the quarter finals.

Erewash Ramblers

I organized and lead 9 walks in the Draycott/Breaston areas, one of which started in Draycott and two others passed through Draycott. These walks had a total of over 300 people walking. I also lead a dozen or so walks all over the Derbyshire Area (in normal circumstances) I also managed to walk 1000 miles last year for the third year in a row.

The Breaston Macmillan Walk to Draycott for Coffee and Cakes etc raised £700. For Macmillan. Many thanks to all who took part.

I have finished straightening up the footpath between Cleveland Avenue and Garfield Avenue after digging out the nettles and the brambles that cross right over the path, which makes it easier to maintain by strimming.

I have been working on the footpath between Lodge Street and the river (Wilne Lane), digging out nettles and the brambles that cross right across the path - the Coronavirus has put paid to any more work at the moment.

All my walks have so far this year have been cancelled due to the Virus, don't know when we might get started again, then it will be back to the dreaded MUD again.

If anyone would like more information on our guided walks, please visit the Erewash Ramblers website <https://www.erewashramblers.org.uk/programme.html>

Brian Marshall

Draycott Detachment Derbyshire ACF (Mercian)

A short message from the Detachment Commander of Draycott Detachment Derbyshire ACF (Mercian) PI James Whitehouse.

During the current Covid-19 restrictions imposed by the Government all Army Cadet Force (ACF) activity has been suspended. In an effort to maintain the interest of existing members of the ACF the decision was made to continue cadet activity with 'virtual ACF activities' online.

As an organisation we have moved our regular parade nights online, building an online community for the existing members of Draycott Detachment. We have engaged with our Army Cadets via our secure internet portal where we can see those involved in lessons, communicate and essentially keep the 'Flame Alive' during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Each cadet has been able to continue with their training while still being able to socialise virtually from home. Academic Videos have been created that cadets can use to track their progress; these can be used in their daily exercise time and evidence submitted.

A strong Army Cadet community has been created, while new skills and friendships have been made.

All ACF activity is currently suspended until at least 31 May 20. However, as soon as Government restrictions are lifted it will be business as usual at your local ACF Detachment with the restarting of regular parade nights, weekend training activities and hopefully Annual Camp 2020.

Once we are able to parade again, why not join your friends and aspire to achieve!

Join us on a Wednesday evening 7pm - 9pm at

Draycott Army Cadet Force Detachment.

New Street (The Leisure Green)

Draycott,

Derby,

DE72 3LZ

Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust

At the beginning of This year things looked very promising for the Canal company. Plans were coming together well, the Spondon and Borrowash sections were progressing. The Draycott Cottages being worked on regularly and volunteer help was growing.

Just before Christmas the weather turned very wet and to try to alleviate local flooding it was decided to excavate material out of the line of the canal, in the hope it would solve some of the problems. The spoil is still on site as many will have seen.

The windows for the cottages were sourced and making the building watertight became a priority. Planning permission sort and work was almost complete when Lock Down was declared

It was hoped to have the planned river trip boat, launched by September to give river trips on the river Derwent in Derby .This is another project held up by the lockdown, but will be an exciting new venture for the Trust and will hopefully increase the interest in the future renovation work on the Derby section and hopefully the planned boat lift which the Trust would like to install at Pride Park.

When things return to normal it is hoped the cottage restoration will be completed and we may see the Draycott stretch at last turned into a short canal.

Val Clare

DVF & DiB Activities during the year 2019-2020

DiB entered into the 2019 East Midlands in Bloom competition riding on the back of regional and national success in 2018, having won the small town category with its Suffragette themed entry and being entered to represent the East Midlands in this category at the national finals. In both the regional and national events Draycott was awarded a gold medal, the national presentation ceremony being held in Belfast during October 2018.

The outstanding form that Draycott has shown throughout all of its 'in Bloom' entries once again shone through and Draycott was again awarded gold for its canal art inspired entry which achieved the highest mark in category. Each year Draycott in bloom has managed to increase its overall points total in the competition.

Spring 2019 saw DiB work with East Midlands Homes to improve the area around the Christmas tree planter with significant work concentrated on the bench area where new paving was installed, the bench renovated and decorated, and two new self-watering planters installed. This has given the area a new lease of life and has become a much more popular area for the elderly to take a few moments rest.

Plans were underway for the 2020 East Midlands in Bloom entry under the theme of Health and Well-being which appeared most appropriate at the time with so much more awareness of mental health in particular. Unfortunately, with the outbreak of COVID-19 the competition has been cancelled but not before hundreds of plug plants were bought and potted-on at Broomfield College. It is hoped that there may be a relaxation of the lock-down to allow the team to recover the plants from the greenhouses and at least get some plants into the ground to brighten up the village later in the year. It would be a welcome sight after such a dreadful start to the year, the theme chosen proving to be somewhat apt.

DVF have also been busy with organising events around the village including the Yard Sale, flags, putting up of Christmas trees and the hugely popular scarecrow weekend at the end of August which regularly attracts visitors from the area and

further afield too. It has earned itself a reputation of scale, diversity and quality; the introduction of a children's quiz associated with particular scarecrows proved a popular addition. Along with the scarecrow weekend, the open gardens in June is the DVF's other most significant fund-raising event. The open gardens remain popular amongst local people but also continue to attract visitors and repeat visitors from Birmingham, Lincoln, Sheffield, Leicester and beyond. Several charities were supported by individuals with over £1000 being raised between them.

Following the marshalling problems at the Parish arranged Remembrance service in 2018 where DVF/DiB members offered their support, 2019 saw DPC and DVF work together to marshal the event which went without any problems with plans being made to improve the marshalling in 2020.

For the first time this year and at the request of the Draycott businesses the Christmas Fayre and light switch-on was organised and run by the businesses themselves with DVF running their own stall, tombola and raffle. Whilst there were some inevitable teething problems as the organisation of this diverse event was handed-over these were overcome and the businesses have identified how to plan for the next year. DVF were pleased with the result which again secured much needed income.

Father Christmas again asked DVF if they would take care of his post-box and help his elves collect all the letters from the children of Draycott.

DiB COVID-19 Support

Draycott 'Dibbers' aka 'Draycott Sewing Bees'!

I'm writing this article in mid-April, in the middle of what is a truly surreal and often frightening time for us all. I have no idea when you are likely to be reading this article, but hopefully, although life will not be back to normal, there is some positive news being generated at last.

Back in April, with normal activities on hold and being in the middle of "lock down", the Dibbers, who would normally be out and about in the village doing what they do best - creating wonderful planting displays - were not used to sitting idle. So, when the first request came in from a local NHS worker that they needed help, the 'Dibbers' were happy to do just that. Obviously, the help required was nothing to do with gardening but sewing, and a new group was formed to undertake whatever was necessary. This new group called themselves 'Draycott Sewing Bees' and set to work.

Drawstring uniform bags were the first request. These were needed so that medics could remove their "scrubs" at the end of their shift and immediately put them in a laundry bag ready for washing and therefore not have to handle them again. Then headbands were requested onto which face masks could be fitted to enable them to be worn more comfortably. This was followed by a request for knitted or crocheted hearts which could be given to patients in intensive care who were

unable to have family with them, often at what would be the end of their life. The idea was that there would be two identical hearts: one with the patient and the other with the family. A small but very meaningful gesture of support at an immensely sad time.

In addition, one local resident, Tim, made use of his 3D printer to create plastic head band extenders with hundreds being produced. And two other talented residents, Roger and Harry, set to work making wooden hearts to go with the knitted and crocheted ones being made.

Ultimately the group received requests from hospitals all around the East Midlands and even Scotland, together with Care Homes and Hospices. In total 47 volunteers were sewing and knitting and fulfilling the orders as quickly as they could.

An appeal was made for old pillowcases or fabric that could be made into the bags and headbands. Residents, not only from Draycott but also the surrounding villages, were incredibly generous with supplies of fabric, thread, buttons, elastic, wool and even a sewing machine! Even those who couldn't sew volunteered to cut up fabric or do whatever they could to help. Kaye Thurgood acted as Co-ordinator from her home and processed the requests, received and stored the donated materials, allocated materials to workers and distributed the finished items to the various units.

Some of the units that received items were the Cancer Ward, Maternity Department, the Children's Unit and Children's A & E Department at the Derby Royal, NHS workers in the village, Care Homes in

Long Eaton, Mickleover and Breaston, Treetops Hospice in Risley, the QMC Nottingham and Nottingham City Hospital and cleaning personnel on the Covid wards at the DRI, to name just a few.

In total 517 packs of bags and headbands were produced, so over 1,000 individual items, plus the 3D printed head band extenders and the hearts. It was truly amazing how the group worked together to get the items finished and distributed. It wasn't what the 'Dibbers' thought they would be doing at this time of year, but certainly no one involved would have wanted to do anything else. It was a small way of saying "thank you" to all the front-line workers who were risking their lives to help us and our loved ones.

Draycott is known for its community spirit and never more so than now. The village feels proud to have been able to support the NHS and wishes to say a huge "Thank You" to all front-line workers wherever you are and whatever you do and for the sacrifices you have made, and continue to make, for us all.

Teresa Batchelor