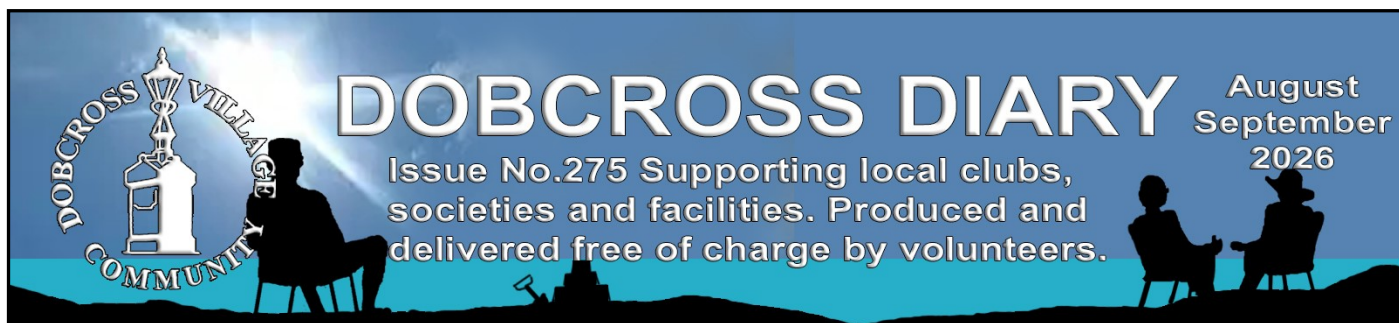




An appreciation of Paul Clegg, DVC Superstar

The DVC and many villagers were saddened recently to learn of the death of our former Chairman, Paul Clegg, who passed away peacefully at home on June 27th. I feel sure that all who knew him send their love and best wishes to his wife Pat and their extended families.

Paul was a part of the DVC for about 30 years, as Chairman more than once, and more recently as Treasurer. For many years he represented Dobcross at Parish Council Traffic and Transport Committee meetings, informing them of relevant issues of concern to the village.

Much of Paul's work was done largely unseen by the rest of us which was just the way he liked it. He was heavily involved in the provision and maintenance of the defibrillators and the red phone boxes that house two of them. Paul turned entertainer at several DVC fundraisers, was an affable "mine host" dispensing mulled wine at the Christmas Lights switch-

on and was a main player in the Dobcross contribution to the successful Oldham entry into the Britain in Bloom contest. He took charge of the boiling water supply as a Coffee Shop volunteer and looked after all of the cafetieres. He was very involved with the ongoing attempt to replace the footbridge near to the garden centre and, together with Pat, was a well-deserved recipient of the "Above and Beyond Award".

Paul was always a team player, his premier assistant being Pat (who will not thank me for saying it but it must be acknowledged). I know that in turn she welcomed help from Paul especially by proof reading the Diary and selecting photos for the calendar.

The DVC will need to recruit just to fill the roles that were Paul's own. Thank you Paul. You will be greatly missed.

John Warham



Put this in your diary!

Following the sell out of tickets for the last DVC fundraiser, Frankie Valli, our next event will be a Robbie Williams Tribute at Dobcross Band Club on Saturday October 17th. Tickets will be on sale from 1st October, but please contact Sue Skinner in advance to express your interest on(07938 826989).

Dobcross Calendar 2027

There's still time to send me your photos of and around Dobcross. If they get selected you get a free calendar and the knowledge that someone will be looking at your artistic picture for a whole month!

Landscape format is preferable because of the shape of the page and the photograph needs to be of good resolution for printing, but don't let all that put you off and send them to diary@dobcross.com.

Paul

I knew Paul for well over 40 years and we had been together for most of them. We moved into the village in 1991 and we soon made friends and felt we were part of the community. I am touched on his behalf for all the things that John has written about him above. We both genuinely believe that most people do something towards keeping Dobcross a lovely village to live in, but I hadn't realised how much Paul's contribution had been appreciated. On a personal level, he was a kind, helpful and loving man.

Thank you for coming to the last Coffee Shop where over £1200 was raised for McMillan nurses, one of his favourite charities. Thank you to Dobcross Silver Band, who played 'Abide with me' during their rehearsals, for him. Thank you for over £720 donated to pancreatic cancer after his funeral. Thank you for the many cards and lovely flowers I have received in the last few weeks. And thank you for all your kind words and concern for his children, stepchildren and myself. It has been overwhelming in the nicest way possible.

Pat (Editor)

This Diary is distributed free to every home in Dobcross and also available via email. It is now also available to read on the Dobcross Shop website, together with a welcome pack: dobcrossvillagestore.com We try to include all village events. If you have any articles for the next issue, please contact Patricia on 01457 878814 or by emailing diary@dobcross.com.

We print 1000 copies each month so if you would like to sponsor an issue of the Diary, to help with the printing costs, we ask for a donation of £120

Dobcross Youth Band

The beginning of July was very busy for all Band members. Along with the last 'O' and 'A' level exams, end of term exams, visiting new schools, universities, village Olympics, as well as several engagements with the Band.

On the 3rd of July we held our annual Summer Concert. This year we had to move to the church, a wonderful venue, but unfortunately we had a much smaller audience. Was it the lack of bar facilities, who knows? But we do wish the couple whose reception was at the club all the happiness in their new life together. Each group gave a superb polished performance. The enthusiastic Beginners group with the direction of James ended their brilliant set with a rousing version of The Three Lions. Next on stage our Training Bands programme included the programme they will perform at the Music For Youth finals at the Birmingham Symphony Hall. Another superb and polished performance, thanks to Steve and the growing talent within this group of future stars. Finally the Youth Band concert was a showcase of the talents of our leavers who each played a solo in this their farewell concert. Freddy, solo cornet, who is off to pastures new, George, trombone, hoping to study Chemistry at Manchester Met. and Peter, solo cornet, off to study Bio-Chemistry at Leeds. Ava who plays tenor horn, hopes to study Environmental Studies at York. Eve plays baritone, and is going to do English at Manchester Met, and Amelia is hoping to go to Kings College London to study Bio-Chemistry. We wish them all the very best and a successful journey to their futures. Our annual awards were also presented. The Chairman's Cup, for musical development, commitment, good behaviour, attendance and appearance, was awarded to Carys and James. The Committee Cup, awarded to the player who has consistently supported team mates, members of the Training Band, attends regularly; this year's recipient is Jamie. The Lynne Howard Award is presented to the player who has shown kindness, friendship, and care to fellow Band members and was awarded to Beth. We also acknowledged Faith and Joseph achieving their Grade 5, and Carys and Mia in becoming Head Girl at their respective schools.



The Training Band played at the Antrobus Village Fete the following day and on the Sunday the bands took part in the Brighthouse March and Hymn Contest where we came away with 2nd Best Youth, and Best Youth department prize.

The Training Bands highlight of the year was the trip to Birmingham for the Music for Youth finals. Along with Steve and several Youth Band players the band set off on Saturday for the long trip to Birmingham, full of excitement and anticipation on appearing on the largest concert performance space in Britain the Symphony Hall. The Band played late in the afternoon, next to the last performance. The mentors gave their feedback which included remarks 'great stage presence; felt an emotional connection to every piece; dynamics excellent; great euphonium solo; cherry on the cake was 'Eventide''. 'For me Dobcross Youth Band are right up there as the best Youth Brass Training Band I have ever heard. Steve is giving the young people music in the right way, helping and supporting them to be musicians first who play a brass instrument'. Wonderful words and well deserved. A special thanks to Naomi on trombone who played with a broken wrist, only discovered the following day!

We are now winding down for the Summer break and our music tour, this year back to our favourite place in England, St Ives, for a week of fun, sun, surfing and concerts. What ever your plans are for the Summer, enjoy every minute, and our heartfelt thanks to the community of Dobcross for your continued support.

Sue Crook, Chairman.

Newbank Footbridge

I have now received a response from Oldham that the budget for a new footbridge is still there for 2027/28. This is good news as far as it goes, but I haven't had confirmation of a timetable for them to start negotiations with Newbank to get permission to put the footbridge in. This is a vital element to ensure a reasonable chance of actually installing the bridge in 2027/28.

Railway Footbridge

I referred in the May 2026 Diary to my involvement with the Public Inquiry into the Transport and Works Act Order to improve the railway line from Stalybridge to Diggle. The Inquiry took place over four weeks and finished on the 10 July with final Closing Submissions during the week after. My particular involvement was to object on behalf of walking organisations to the closure of the Moorgate level crossing without a suitable alternative. A footbridge was preferred and Network Rail (NR)

did have planning consent for a footbridge in 2022 but then abandoned the idea citing costs of £4.5 million. I was able to dispute the validity of this cost and to question the conclusions of the technical witnesses employed retrospectively by NR to justify the safety of the alternative route. NR was still making changes to its proposals during the Inquiry. Oldham Council also formally objected to NR's proposals as did Saddleworth Parish Council and other objectors. Nobody was against the upgrading of the line. It is the implications of the temporary and permanent changes that are the issue. Now we have to sit and wait for the Inspector to make his report and the Secretary of State for Transport to confirm what is in, and not in, the confirmed order – this could be up to 6 months off.

Kevin Lawton

Village reflections

These are some recollections of Stephen Battersby who was born at 6, Church Fields in 1944 and who attended the old school on Platt Lane until 1955. Stephen posted this on Facebook and I have tried and failed to gain his permission to use his words. I hope he doesn't mind.

"Sledged down Woods Lane (The Fold) pretty much every winter. Swam in the "top res" (behind Bar Meadow) every year, once at Easter! Every Friday in my last year at Platt Lane school my father treated me to lunch at The Nudger. It was 9d (old pence) for 3 courses....home made soup and roll, main plus two fresh veg then a whopping desert with gradely homemade custard (without lumps). The landlady was Ada Holt, a smashing old lady who I know had a soft spot for me. Dobcross at that time was a cottage industry conurbation: - 2 butchers (Wrigley's and Littlewoods), 3 grocery/provisions, a bakery, post office, milliners, 2 cobblers, a chippy, a farrier, a chimney sweep, Tory Club, liberal Club (up the ginnel, film shows every Wednesday, admission tuppence (2 old pence), 2 joiners

shops, 1 petrol Station and garage, 3 engineering works, 4 pubs, the band club (which was an ex-RAF Nissen hut) and, lest we forget..... a shabine/speakeasy!!! The Yellow Cat in Wool Road!!! \a pop cart came around every Thursday evening selling 1 gallon stoneware flagons of ginger beer, lemonade and the wonderful dandelion and burdock. They cost 11 pence. There was even a guy who came around every week in a pony and cart who took away your potato peelings and waste food for his pig farm (up Streethouse Lane). In those days my parents would go up to the Band Club at weekends and in summertime, not only did they not lock the door, they would leave it wide open. Wow! How this world has changed."

I hope this piece stirs some memories and if so I would love to hear from you for possible inclusion in future editions of the diary. I think that lots of us enjoy these quirky tales that are in danger of being forgotten. If you also have some memories, please email : diary@dobcross.com

John Warham

DOBCROSS BOWLERS

Summer has arrived at last! Of course we are never fully happy about the weather so now it is too hot a lot of the time!

Fortunately there was a cooling wind for our latest competition, The Graham Hill Trophy, which took place on Sunday 12 July. A beautiful sunny day saw 30 competitors taking part, quite a few of them bowling for the first time. This included a couple of our esteemed bar staff. I thought they were sneaking off work but then I saw that our steward Adele was playing too! Gladly they made sure someone was behind the bar at all times to supply much needed liquid refreshment.

The competition began with three round-robin games. There was excellent bowling from everyone (especially well done to the newer players) and some very close games. The top 8 then qualified for the knockout stages, the bespoke handicapping system ensuring that this was a mixture of newer and more experienced bowlers. As the pressure mounted experience began to tell, though well done to Keith Wright who fought through to the semi-finals on his competitive debut. Alas just like Arthur Fery at Wimbledon the dream was not to be and Keith along with David Deighton were defeated by Craig McKernon and Scott Longley respectively. The final started cagily before Craig got into a great run of form to build a commanding lead. A late rally from Scott was not enough and Craig got that all important final point. He is pictured being presented with the trophy by Isobel Hill and helpers. Thank you to everyone who took part or otherwise contributed to the day raising over £500 for the British Heart Foundation in memory of Graham.



Our final competitions of the year will be the Merit Cup on Sunday 6 September and the Floodlit Pairs on Friday 18 September. Details of how to enter will be on the club website nearer to the time.

Finally we are looking for people who might be interested in joining a new team next season to play on Saturdays. The team is specifically for people who are new to the game though there will be some more experienced hands around to provide guidance. If we get enough players to start the team home games would be on Saturday mornings with away games in the afternoon. If you are interested please message me on 07746 876947.

Mike Lucas

Dobcross Village Store News!

It's been a busy and positive few months for Dobcross Village Store, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful community for continuing to support your village shop and Post Office.

The date of the next Annual Members Meeting is 13th September at the Band Club at 1pm - put it in your diary. Also... just before the meeting members are invited to join us in recreating the famous old Co-op photograph, a wonderful chance to celebrate a little bit of Dobcross history and community spirit. See pic featured, hats are optional. 😊

Have you visited our Community Corner? Whether you're popping in for a coffee, reading the paper, or catching up with friends, there's always a seat waiting for you. As a community-owned shop, we're proud to have a space where everyone is welcome. Whether you've got five minutes or an hour, why not stop by and stay a while. We'd love to see you. We are also happy to hear feedback on what you would like to see here next. Watch this space for further news on the Community Corner.

And finally, a reminder that we've recently changed our Membership rules - shares are now just £1 each (Minimum investment: 25 shares, £25). This will hopefully open the doors for even more villagers to get involved and help secure the future of our much-loved community Post Office & Store.

To find out more, pop into the store or go online at: dobcrossvillagestore.com/shares-and-donations

Thank you again for supporting your village store, we look forward to seeing you soon.



Dobcross Silver Band

As I write this article we are preparing for the ever popular Brass on the Grass concert, confident that this year at last the weather will be fine and allow us to perform on the Green once again.

Looking ahead to the Autumn, we plan to return to performing at the Club in late September with another new programme of music which we know you will enjoy. We are so grateful for the magnificent support that you always give to the Band at these concerts and this is never taken for granted. This signals the start of a very busy period leading up to the end of the year including further concerts at Shaw Playhouse 2 and of course at our own Club. We also return to the contest stage in October when we have the annual Rochdale contest at Wardle Academy, followed by a visit to South Normanton to compete in the North East Midlands own choice Test Piece Contest. At

the latter event the Band will compete both in its own Second Section and also in the First Section with a separate Test Piece. This will be a significant challenge for which the Band are already preparing.

The Showcase Brass season continues on 30th August with the visit of our good friends from Middleton Band returning to our Club once again this year. Always great afternoon entertainment, please continue to support these events. This is another prosperous year for the Silver Band, having established themselves firmly in the Second Section and looking to progress further. We still have vacancies to fill on cornet and especially for percussion players. A great time to join a superb group of musicians who are really lovely and welcoming people too!

Andy Black (Silver Band Chairman) phone 07907 635397

Nature Notes

Since I followed the RSPB advice to stop putting seed out for the birds in my garden over the summer, the number of birds visiting has reduced massively.

Most of the tits and finches have disappeared. There is still an occasional visit from a great tit calling 'teacher, teacher' - it's hard to resist whistling back to him! In the winter I will check whether there has been a nest in the nest-box, but I never noticed much activity round it. The chaffinches disappeared completely, but the goldfinches are still around twittering in the tops of the trees, and occasionally coming for a drink from the water dish. I've heard greenfinches too. The robins and blackbirds have moved away now - after the blackbirds stole my best strawberries, I saw one feeding on the bilberries on Wharmton. I've had one or two rare visits from a house sparrow, which may prefer less competition from other birds,

but the regulars at the moment are jackdaws and wood pigeons.

However, it has been an excellent year for butterflies, and there have been as many as eight species at a time feeding on a large patch of marjoram. They also like buddleia, and then the sedum and golden rod which will come into flower a little later - old-fashioned plants which are really good for pollinators. Unfortunately there have been rather too many white butterflies and I have had to resort to removing some of the caterpillars from the broccoli - caterpillars which in previous years the blue tits would probably have controlled for me. There are lots of ladybirds too, which are helping to control the aphids.

Athene Noctua



FODS Fairy Garden Trail Returns This Summer
Our much-loved Fairy Garden Trail is returning for the summer holidays, bringing a little magic back to the village for families to enjoy.

Residents and visitors are invited to follow the trail, discover the enchanting fairy displays, and explore the village while supporting fundraising for our school. The trail will run from **Monday 17 August to Wednesday 2 September**, offering plenty of opportunities to take part during the holidays. Keep an eye on the **FODS Facebook page** for full details, trail information and updates.

Facebook
@friendsofdocrossschool
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1CaDuECRAg/?mibextid=wwXlfr>
and Instagram @friendsofdocrossschool

We look forward to welcoming the community for another year of fairy-themed fun and adventure!



Holy Trinity Playground Redevelopment: Phase One is Underway!

FODS are delighted to share that, thanks to the incredible support of our school and wider community, Holy Trinity has successfully secured the funding needed to begin **Phase One of our playground redevelopment project**.

Work will take place over the summer holidays and will include a new all-weather pathway, exciting trim trail equipment, a new climbing frame, and a multi-use games area (MUGA) for sports and active play. This exciting milestone would not have been possible without the generosity of our parents, carers, staff, local businesses, community groups and supporters. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the **Roger Tanner Trust**, our principal supporter, whose significant investment in the project has been instrumental in helping us reach this stage. Their generosity has provided a major boost to our fundraising efforts and helped turn years of planning, ambition and hard work into a reality. Their support has been truly transformative and has played a leading role in making Phase One possible.

We would also like to thank **Saddleworth Round Table** and the many local organisations, businesses and individuals whose contributions have helped us reach this important milestone. The strength of community support has been remarkable and demonstrates what can be achieved when people come together for the benefit of local children.

While we celebrate the start of Phase One, our vision for the playground is not yet complete. We are now fundraising for **Phase Two** to continue developing an inspiring outdoor environment where our children can learn, play, explore and thrive.

If you would like to support the next stage of the project, please consider making a donation using the **QR code below**. Every contribution, however large or small, will help us move one step closer to creating the outdoor space our children deserve.

Thank you for helping turn this dream into reality and for supporting the future of Holy Trinity.

**Holy Trinity C Of E School
Dobcross**

Phase One

Trim Trail
Climber Stack
Surfacing
Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

If you wish to make a donation to our playground initiative, please scan the QR code below. Thank you.



"Learn to Love and Love to Learn"

What's on

August

Saturday 1st 10.00 -12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Monday 10th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 11th 7.30 Dobcross Ladies. A social drink in the Swan.

Monday 17th FODS Fairy Trail until Wednesday 2nd September. See article inside.

Saturday 22nd 10.30 -12.30 Elderberries Coffee Morning. Dobcross Band Club. Everyone welcome, not just elderberries! Come to book for the Elderberries trip to Buxton on 15th Sept.

Sunday 30th 2.00-4.00 Showcase Brass with Middleton Band. Tickets £6.50 available from Band Club..

September

Saturday 5th 10.00 -12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

7.30 The Abberettes. £18 Tickets available at the bar, Band Club.

Saturday 12th 7.30 Mikron Theatre - Top of the Wold. Tickets £15 only available online from www.mikron.org.uk Band Club.

Sunday 13th 1.00-3.00 Dobcross Village Store AGM.

Monday 14th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 15th 7.30 Dobcross Ladies. Talk by Marilyn McNeil : my Saddleworth life. Holy Trinity Church.

Friday 18th 4 pm start. Floodlit Pairs Bowling Match

Sunday 21st 2.00-4.00 Showcase Brass TBC.

Weekly events

Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan. Contact Cathy for more info: cathycrabb@gmail.com

Natasha's Morning Classes at the Band Club: 07852 576 107

£8 per session (£14 for 2, if taken in the same week)

Pilates: Monday: 9.30-10.15 & 10.30-11.15 **Thursday:** 10.30-11.15

For films at Denshaw Cinema. See moviola.org

Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) 07845698551

For events at **Millgate Arts Centre** in Delph.

Look up <https://millgateartscentre.co.uk>

Holy Trinity Church Services

Sunday 2nd August

09:30am All Age Eucharist (CW)

Sunday 9th August

09:30am Morning Praise (NPW)

Sunday 16th August

09:30am Ordinary Eucharist (CW)

Sunday 23rd August

09:30am Ordinary Eucharist (CW)

Sunday 30th August

09:30am Choral Communion (BCP)

Sunday 6th September

09:30am All Age Eucharist (CW)

Sunday 13th September

09:30am Morning Praise (NPW)

Sunday 20th September

09:30am Ordinary Eucharist (CW)

Sunday 27th September

09:30am Ordinary Eucharist (CW)

The
ABBERETTES

Tom Morris
as host

DJ playing the best party hits all night long!

Saturday 5th Sept
Dobcross Band Club - Oldham OL4 5AD
Start time 7:30pm
Tickets £18
Buy tickets direct from the club or call this number: 01457 873471

The Dobcross Silver Band

Proudly Presents

SHOWCASE BRASS!

Sunday 30th August 2026 – 2.00pm

The Middleton Band

I have a list of regular contributors to the Dobcross Diary every month, which I am very grateful for. But if there is anyone else who has any news or ideas that may be of interest to the rest of the village, please let me know.

Thank you, Pat - Editor
Email: diary@dobcross.com