



The Madonna Show 1st November

Tickets are now on sale...please contact Sue Skinner on 07938 826989. This promises to be a great evening, organised by Dobcross Village Community (DVC), with all money raised helping us to continue to put money back into the village; for instance, by contributing to the cost of publishing the Dobcross Diary, replacing the defibrillator consumables, planting colourful displays around the village, wine and treats when the Christmas lights are switched on and general donations to other village groups and projects.



Good luck to the Dobcross Team competing in the Saddleworth Olympics in September.

FODS FRIENDS OF DOBCROSS SCHOOL

After a fantastic debut in 2024 the Dobcross Fairy Garden Trail returns this Summer holiday! Running from Monday 18th to Sunday 31st of August, the theme for 2025 is Traditional Nursery Rhymes.

The event will, once again, see the Dobcross community transform our village into an enchanted fairy wonderland. Follow the map to find and name all our fabulous nursery rhyme themed displays. We want to encourage outdoor enjoyment with this fun, low cost activity for all the family, so come and join in the fun and see everything Dobcross has to offer!



Maps will be available from Dobcross Village Store, The Lime Kiln Cafe, The Swan, and Dobcross Band Club. You can buy maps on the day or in advance via the ticket link for collection from one of the sellers. Details of the ticket link will be shared via FODS social media, so please keep an eye out on their pages:

Facebook @friendsof Dobcrossschool and
Instagram @friendsof Dobcrossschool

It's not too late to get involved in having a garden display. If you would like to know more contact FODS at:



friendsof Dobcrossschool@gmail.com

This edition of the Dobcross Diary is kindly sponsored by Saddleworth Fuels



SADDLEWORTH FUELS

Order online: www.saddleworthfuels.co.uk or MOB: 07984 592649

DOBCROSS BOWLERS

Thanks to Mike Lucas, our Competitions Secretary, for the following two reports.

Inter-team competition

The semi-finals and final of our Inter-team competition were held on Sunday 29 June. The 4 teams which had battled through 2 qualifying days to win the right to contest for the trophy were Oldham Parks A, Dobbers/Tameside Vets B, Chadderton/Failsworth and Oldham Mens Vets/Tameside Vets A. On a very warm (too warm!) and sunny day the teams showed how evenly matched they were, both semi-finals being very close affairs with some superb bowling. No home advantage for anyone here! Eventually Dobbers/Tameside Vets B and Chadderton/Failsworth just won through to the final. This was also a real nail-biter going right down to the wire with the Chadderton/Failsworth team winning in the end by just 4 points. The team (well 5 of them who were still around at the end) are pictured with the trophy. Congratulations to all the teams who entered, with honourable mention to the Bees and Oldham Ladies Vets A/Ladies A teams who only narrowly missed out on reaching the semi-finals.



Graham Hill Trophy

Our most recent competition, the Graham Hill Trophy, took place in mostly dry conditions on Sunday 6 July. There were 20 entrants taking part with a mixture of regular bowlers and those who only bowl occasionally – annually for some in this competition! 3 round robin rounds saw some magnificent bowling from everyone especially some of the occasional bowlers. The semi-finals were both very tight affairs with Murray Hill and Richard Longley being defeated by Mark Regan and Chris Haslam respectively. In the final a late comeback from defending champion Mark was not quite enough with Chris winning in the end by 4 points. Isobel Hill and granddaughter, Edie, presented the trophy and Chris and Mark are pictured with it. Thank you to everyone who took part in or otherwise supported the competition and the raffle which together raised almost £500 for the British Heart Foundation in memory of Graham.

Kevin Lawton – Chairman 07929 892 657



Holy Trinity Church Services

August

Sunday 3rd	09:30am	All Age Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 10th	09:30am	Morning Praise (NPW)
Sunday 17th	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 24th	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 31st	09:30am	Eucharist (BCP)

September

Sunday 7th	09:30am	All Age Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 14th	09:30am	Morning Praise (NPW)
Sunday 21st	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 28th	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)

200 CLUB HTD July's winner!

The winner of this draw with share number 16 is:
Rita Chester

Promoter: Mr Peter J Whiffin, 22 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3 5AW)

FOOTPATH AND FOOTBRIDGE UPDATE

I expected the update last month to be the last for a while but here is another one! There were two issues that I referred to. The first was hoping for a quarterly update from Oldham when they start procedures next year and the Director of Environment has now promised that I will get that. The second was anticipating the completion of another footbridge at Brookdale Golf Course, Failsworth, and as shown on the photograph, Oldham have now completed it.

It crosses a low area and the River Medlock so is three times longer than we require, but it spans between pillars so each section is just what we want – which means the design work can be replicated! Oldham has used recycled plastic so I think we can expect that for Dobcross.



The bad news is that it has taken Oldham 8 years to provide this bridge so it is vital that the same does not happen with ours!

Kevin Lawton

Dobcross Youth Band

The Wetherby Drovers and the Brighouse March and Hymn Contests are now behind us. Our band's performances at both contests were excellent but no trophies this year. We send our congratulations to the Silver Band for their successes. Before the Drovers Contest we were invited to submit a nomination for a band member who was our 'Unsung Hero'. Our secretary, Jenny wrote a lovely statement nominating Kiera Bardsley for the award. During the whole of Keira's time with the band, she has supported her lovely mum, Cassie, and her sister Hannah, through Cassie's ongoing battle with cancer. Keira always works hard on her music, is cheerful, helpful at rehearsals, and full of giggles with her many friends. She has also kept up an excellent record of attendance and has recently been promoted to the Youth Band. Congratulations Keira, you won! And your beautiful new tenor horn, courtesy of Geneva Instruments is on its way to you.

The highlight of the last few weeks was our Summer Concert, held in the Band Club on Friday July 4th, when we present our annual awards and recognise the commitment and membership of our leavers.

I was very proud to present for the Whit Friday Committee, the Albert and Dorothy Memorial Trophy, in memory of my parents, to our principal cornet player for Best Local Youth Soloist here in Dobcross.

The Lynne Howarth Award, introduced last year by three former members and great friends of the late Lynne who wanted to honour her memory in this annual award for the band member who has demonstrated the qualities Lynne had; kindness, understanding, helpfulness and true friendship. Members of the Youth Band were asked to nominate a first and second choice they thought deserved the award. Many names were put forward, but the person who came out with the most votes with reasons including, 'she always says "Hello"', 'asks if we have had a good day', 'helps her neighbours with the music' and checks we are ok, was Ava O'Connell. Very well deserved Ava.

The Committee Cup is awarded to two trainers to hold the trophy for 6 months each. Not difficult as they are sisters and live under the same roof! Izzy and Isla Moorhouse received the award for their progress and musical development and high levels of attendance, even though they live the farthest away from Dobcross. The Chairman's Cup was presented to Sophie Clayton for commitment, attendance dedication, appearance on jobs, and mentoring younger players.

We then honoured our leavers this year. Seren, who wants to concentrate on her Drama. Euphonium player, Emma Naylor, on her way to First Section Diggle who have qualified for the National Championships finals which will be a wonderful experience for her. Harvey Harrison is hoping to study Engineering at Salford University. Thomas Couch is hoping for a place at Durham to study Physics and Philosophy. Amelie Popplewell is taking a gap year to further her Drama experience before University. Sophie Clayton is hoping for a place at York University to study Maths. All of them are nervously waiting for their exam results. We wish each of them well and every success in their chosen paths, we will miss you all. There will always be a red jacket for you any time here in Dobcross. These awards all took place during a stunning concert with sterling performances from the Beginners and Trainers and a wonderfully musical set by the Youth Band featuring solos, duets and ensembles from all sections.

The Youth Band are now looking forward to their music tour to Tossa de Mar, northern Spain, a place the band have visited over many years. We are then having a well-earned break for James and Steve until the middle of August. We wish all our supporters a fabulous summer wherever you may be and whatever you may be doing.

Sue Crook, Chairman



Nature Notes



The weather this spring was difficult for Himalayan Balsam plants. They are annuals, so last year's seeds start to grow when the weather starts to warm up, but March and April were relatively cold so

they were late germinating. The young plants need a lot of water, but April and May were unusually dry so the seedlings' development was slow. Eventually the limited amount of rain which fell in May and June allowed the young plants' growth to accelerate. The mixture of warm sun and just enough rain has meant that a few plants growing in damp, shady situations have reached heights of over two metres, but most are much shorter. The first few started to flower by the end of June.

Himalayan Balsam flowers are attractive in many different shades of pink, and they are popular with bees and therefore with bee-keepers. However, it becomes a problem because each plant produces a huge number of seeds, which are ejected from the seed pods to many metres from the parent plant, and the resulting seedlings out-compete other vegetation. With enough manpower and perseverance it should be easy to eradicate by simply pulling up the plants and letting them dry out. In wet weather it is essential to make sure the stems are broken, which stops the plants re-rooting themselves. The parent plants die before the winter, so if they can be prevented from producing seeds, there will be no more Himalayan Balsam next year.

Of course this is much harder than it sounds, because of the large areas affected. Invariably there will be some plants which survive, and so the cycle continues.

Athene Noctua

Dobcross Silver Band

Another superb performance by the Silver Band at the annual Brighthouse March and Hymn contest saw the Band achieve 5th place overall in a high class field of 19 bands. We also were awarded the following prizes:

- Best 3rd Section Band.
- Best Soloist – Soprano - Keith Russell pictured left.
- Best Trombone Section - pictured below.



Another great day at the office for the Silver Band, keeping up our

rich vein of form as we continue to prepare for our forthcoming 3rd Section Nation Finals appearance in September!

The week of the 15th July, we were proud to play at the funeral of our former Vice President and good friend Trevor Platt. Trevor spent many happy times with us, never more so than on Whit Friday morning, marching proudly in front of the Band.

As I write this we are rehearsing for our annual Brass on the Grass concert, casting a wary eye at the weather forecast. We are already looking forward to our Gala Concert at the Civic Hall alongside the Dobcross Youth and Training Bands and also the Brass Monkeys. This will be a landmark event to climax a memorable 150th Anniversary year for the Silver Band.

We are currently preparing to host our friends and neighbours from Marsden Band in concert at our Club for the first time in many years, under the Showcase Brass initiative, to continue the series of high quality visiting bands who regularly seek to play in Dobcross.

As always thank you for your continued support. It really is appreciated

Andy Black (Silver Band Chairman) on 07907 635397

P.S. We are also requesting community donations to make up hampers for an ongoing raffle at the club to support the Cheltenham trip. We are seeking vouchers, bottles, chocolates, or any other items you can offer toward the cause. Your contributions will greatly support our efforts, and your support is much appreciated.

Please contact Adele on 07734 257634 if you can help. Thank you so much for your continued support!

More photographs please

Very soon we will hopefully be selecting some fabulous photographs of and around Dobcross, to put into our 2026 Dobcross Calendar. In this age of everything being recorded and kept on our mobile phones, it is nice to have a colourful 'diary' on the wall as well.

The calendars sell well and provide extra income for the DVC to use for the donations it gives out and for general expenditure on the village. Indeed many calendars leave Dobcross to be sent to friends, family and to people who have left the village, to be reminded of old haunts.

However, to keep the calendar as popular as always, we need a good supply of photographs to go in it and maybe one or two of your pictures could be selected.

As we asked last time, please aim for a high resolution and a landscape format, as that's the best shape for each month's page. However, if the picture is suitable, we may crop it to fit.

We expect to send the calendar off for printing at the end of August, so please send them well before then, to us, at diary@dobcross.com Thank you



DOBCROSS SILVER BAND

ESTABLISHED 1875

150th Anniversary

Gala Concert

Uppermill Civic Hall
Saturday 22nd November 2025
7pm

With special guests:



Dobcross Youth Band
&
Dobcross Training Band





Dobcross Brass Monkeys

Tickets £8
Under 16s Free Admission
Available from Dobcross Band and Social Club and
Dobcross Village Store.

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.

What's on

August

Saturday 2nd 10.00-12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Denshaw Cinema. 'Wicked' (PG). Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) or phone 07845698551

Sunday 3rd 5.00-8.00 The Live Lounge Open Mic Event.

Call Chris Bell on 07840 219401 or email him on

Chris.ct.bell@gmail.com if you are interested in performing.

Looking forward to our second month and welcoming new acts. Band Club.

Friday 8th 4.30-9.30 Atherton Malone Bowling Trophy

12.30pm onwards: Regional CAMRA Awards Club of the Year Presentation

Come along and show your support; CAMRA members are welcome.

Saturday 9th 4.00 Welcome back the Silver Band from their combined 150-mile sponsored walk around Dovestones Reservoir in aid of the National Finals to Cheltenham. Food will be available.

Monday 11th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 12th 7.00 Dobcross Ladies summer drink at The Swan. Do come and join us to find out more.

Saturday 16th Denshaw Cinema. 'Kes' (U). Booking above.

Saturday 23rd 10.30-12.00 Elderberries Coffee Morning.

Everyone welcome! And book for Elderberries trip to Harrogate or contact Pat 07973 690817, Richenda 07971 201064 or email elderberries.rw@gmail.com

4.00 approximately, Rushcart arrives in the village.

Saturday 30th Denshaw Cinema. 'Juror#2' (12A). Booking as above.

Sunday 31st 2.00-4.00 Showcase Brass featuring Yorkshire Imperial Band

September

Friday 5th Elderberries trip to Harrogate.

Saturday 6th 10.00-12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Sunday 7th 12.00 Open Bowling - Merit Cup

5.00-8.00 The Live Lounge Open Mic Event.

Monday 8th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 9th 7.00 Dobcross Ladies. Meal at The Old Bell. Booking required. Details by e-mail/at August meeting.

Saturday 13th 7.30 Mikron Theatre

presents Operation Beach Hut, A Musical Adventure. Tickets: £15.00, available from the club, Dobcross Post Office, or online at mikron.org.uk. Dobcross band Club.

Sunday 14th 1.00 Annual Members

Meeting of Dobcross Village Store. Band Club.

Saddleworth Gardening Club visit to Arley Hall. See below for details.

Friday 19th 4.30-9.30 Bowling Flood Lit Pairs

Friday 19th & 20th Saddleworth Film Society. 'Inter Alia'

National Theatre Live. Millgate Arts Centre

Saturday 20th 12.00 until late: Dobcross

Band Club will host a bar at the local Beer Festival held at Boarshurst Band Club.

Saturday 27th-4th Oct Saddleworth Players. 'Waiting for God'. Millgate Arts Centre Delph.

Sunday 21st 2.00-4.00 Showcase Brass featuring Milnrow Band.



Weekly events:

Wednesday 7-8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan. Contact Cathy for more information: 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	Thursday
9.30-10.15	10.30-11.15
10.30-11.15	

SAVE THE DATE AT THE BAND CLUB

The Club is extremely excited to announce a very special guest who will be performing at the club later in the year. We have been successful in booking the former lead singer from the Stylistics, Eban Brown, who will be putting on a fantastic show at the club on Saturday 8th November. One of our local legends, Andy Lee, will also be performing and getting the party started from 7pm.

Ticket prices are £35.00 each, and these will be going on sale in mid-August.

If you would like to reserve your tickets before they go on sale, please contact Adele on 07734 257634 asap to avoid disappointment as this will be a huge event for the club with limited ticket numbers available.

Saddleworth Gardening Club Summer Trips - Visitors Welcome

Autumn Plant Hunters' Fair at Arley Hall

Sunday September 14th

Over 30 exhibitors selling plants and garden related items. The Gardeners' Kitchen Café will be open. Admission includes access to the beautiful gardens at Arley Hall. Amongst the finest in Europe, the Gardens have been created over the last 270 years by successive generations of the same family.

Entrance - Pay at the gate £5 (includes full access to the gardens and the plant fair).

Coach - Member £20 Visitor £23 Pick-up Uppermill 9.45am/ Grotton 10.00am

Booking - Contact Irene on 07861 620142
Closing date-Sept 5th

Have your say at the Village Store

Annual Members Meeting



Dobcross Village Society is delighted to invite all members, supporters, and residents to its Annual Members' Meeting (AMM), taking place on Sunday September 14th at 1pm at Dobcross Band Club.

This is a key event in the community calendar, offering a chance to reflect on the store's achievements over the past year, share exciting plans for the future, and strengthen the vital connection between the store and the people it serves. It's also a chance to find out how you could become a part of the success story by being part of the management committee.

"The main focus in our first year has been ploughed into getting the store and post office up and running - the everyday day to day details that go with running a business. With the grant secured and refurbishment done, as a committee we are looking forward to welcoming anyone with new ideas who wants to be a part of the DVS success story," said Chairperson, Nathan Beckwith.

" 'Committee' is not as formal as it sounds, we're basically a group of individuals who want to keep the store and post office at the heart of the village and share our interest in Dobcross. No matter what your skills set, retail, IT, management, HR, accountancy, communications, or simply managing a busy home life we would welcome others from the Saddleworth community giving their time, enthusiasm and thoughts and being part of the behind the scenes group that helps keep the doors open.

"With all the policies, business plans and assessments done and dusted it's now the fun bit and time to welcome new points of view," added Nathan.

The meeting agenda will include:

- A review of the store's financial performance
- Election of management committee members
- Updates on community involvement and initiatives
- Future strategy and goals

Refreshments will be provided, and all are warmly welcome—

whether you're a long-time member, a new resident, or simply interested in supporting your local store. The AMM is a key part of the organisation's governance, ensuring transparency and accountability to its members.

"This is your store, and the AMM is your opportunity to have a say. Members can also use this opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and participate in decision-making processes, such as electing board members or voting on motions," said Nathan.

"We hope to see as many members of the community as possible, now the store is saved we are looking at reducing the minimum purchase price of shares to broaden and deepen membership within the local community, something we will discuss with members; we need to ultimately grow turnover to ensure that the Store and Post Office remain financially viable," added Nathan.

"Still only a minority of households in the village have a member in the society so clearly there is the opportunity for considerable expansion of our membership base and I'm sure there is the experience and ideas out there to help keep the store at the heart of village life – we look forward to seeing you all in September."

In other DVS news:

About 600 customers have loyalty cards which offer money off in the shop and there is an instore charity card which has amassed almost £100 for the Oldham Foodbank, alongside food items donated by shoppers.

- The store has recently received a 5* food hygiene rating
- There are almost 30 regular volunteers in store and the group is always on the look out for other helpers.
- Check out www.dobcrossvillagesociety.com