



## Thanks . . . .

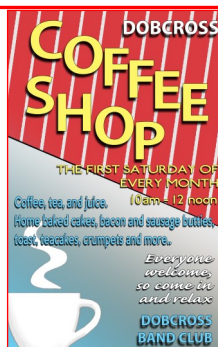
To the Whit Friday committee and all the volunteers for arranging a thoroughly enjoyable day again.

## Coffee Shop Update

*Huge thanks to all our volunteer cake bakers and also to our customers. We had promised the profit from our June event to the Whit Friday Committee and were delighted to be able to send them over £500 thanks to your generosity.*

*Our popularity is such that you may have encountered longer queues than usual in the last few months. We regret this and are trying to improve the situation but are not finding it easy. When so many people turn up at the same time it puts pressure on the kitchen and the rest of the team so if we could find a way to spread the arrival of customers that would be a great help. We are there until noon and recently have been twiddling our thumbs after 11am (washers-up excepted). Please don't forget that we are all volunteers and are doing our best to meet your wishes.*

*Many thanks for your loyal support. John Warham*



## DOBCROSS BOWLERS

We have just gone through a very interesting period in that the League results are posted on BowlsNet, a more or less national website that holds match records, fixtures and player information, and it crashed. All the data was lost, and it could not be recovered so team captains throughout the country have had the task of re-entering all the match data again from the start of the season. Apparently, it was a central error and not a cyber-attack!

Our inter-team competition has continued, and the 6 teams have been whittled down to 4 for the semi-finals and final on Sunday, 29 June, so the results will be in the next Diary. This competition is a new initiative and has been appreciated by the participants so could be repeated next year.

In July, we will revert to our usual Club competitions, starting on Sunday 6 July with the Graham Hill Trophy, and this will be followed by the Atherton Malone Trophy in August.

**Kevin Lawton – Chairman 07929 892 657**

## November will be here before we know it!

**So save these dates in your diaries....**

The DVC's autumn event will be on Saturday 1st November with a tribute Madonna act. These are always popular nights with money raised going to Dobcross. Tickets will be available soon so please phone Sue Skinner on 07938 826989 to register your interest.

Then, the Band Club is extremely excited to announce a very special guest who will be performing at the club. We have been successful in booking former lead singer from the Stylistics, Eban Brown, who will be putting on a fantastic show on Saturday 8th November. Ticket prices and details coming very soon. If you would like to reserve your tickets prior to going 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.

## Photographs please

A reminder that one or two of your pictures could be selected for the 2026 Dobcross Calendar. Hopefully, we will soon be putting one together for next year. Photos of and around Dobcross are very popular and calendars are sent far and wide!

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.

So please send them to us at [diary@dobcross.com](mailto:diary@dobcross.com)

## WE WANT YOU!

The Dobcross Village Society needs new members, this store can only run with your help and assistance and we need other villagers to get involved. You don't need to give much time, the hard work has been done by the original crew, but if you can spare some time, have lots of ideas, or simply want to be part of something wonderful then we need you.

To find out more ask in store or email us at [members@dobcrossvillagestore.com](mailto:members@dobcrossvillagestore.com)



## FOOTPATH AND FOOTBRIDGE UPDATE

For the last 3 years I have been involved firstly in the formalities to get the footpath through the garden centre site dedicated as a public right of way and then to explore all the options for both a temporary and permanent solution to the crossing of the River Tame. This resulted in monthly update reports in the Diary, but I am afraid that this will be the last one for a while!

I had a very amicable meeting with Mr Dad, Oldham's Director of Environment, in May but was unable to get his agreement to Oldham accepting the maintenance and liability for any of the temporary bridge or steppingstone options. We cannot go ahead with a proper standard accessible bridge because Newbank Directors will not allow access – and don't even want the bridge replacing. Whilst Mr Dad's response was disappointing, it was not unexpected. However, he recognised the strong community involvement with this project, and he promised that Oldham would start the formalities for replacing the bridge, including negotiating with Newbank, next financial year instead of 2027/28. This would give a realistic chance of installing the bridge in 2027/28 and was the minimum I had hoped for as it should stop Newbank creating further delay to the project. However, despite assurances from Mr Dad, I am not yet convinced that Oldham has the legal powers to force Newbank to allow access onto their land to carry out the work. Oldham does have power to enter into a voluntary agreement, but let's see what happens.

I will therefore have to wait until next April to start chasing Oldham officers again and hope that by then they will be able to give me quarterly progress reports.

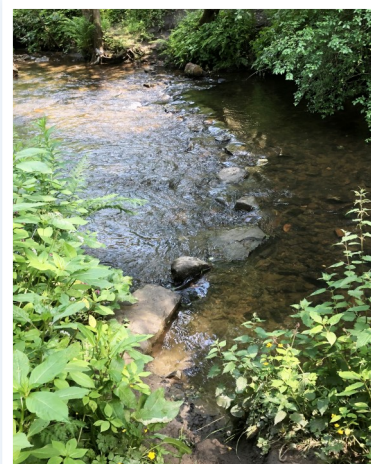
I therefore record my thanks to all the bridge designers, contractors, material and equipment suppliers who have given me such help to develop the various proposals and particularly to the Environment Agency who were prepared to waive the usual licence requirements.

There is of course a spin-off for DVC in that they will not need to make funding bids or seek planning permission!

I still keep an eye on the site and noticed that an unofficial steppingstone crossing had appeared. It was washed away at

New Year but is back again as the photo shows. It looks a bit 'iffy' and I would think that wellies are essential!

Finally, I will also be keeping an eye on another footbridge being dealt with by Oldham at Brookdale Golf Club, Failsworth. This crosses the River Medlock and Oldham will be using Polydeck recycled plastic as an alternative to timber. This bridge is years behind programme (allegedly due to issues that don't apply at Dobcross!) and is due to be installed in July. Recycled material could be an option for Dobcross but when I checked prices it was a bit more expensive, although this would be offset by reduced maintenance. **Kevin Lawton**



*Do come and visit our Open Garden at no. 5 Crib Lane, Dobcross, OL3 5AF on the weekend of July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> between 1pm -4pm. There will be tea or coffee and cakes to buy and enjoy in the garden; fingers crossed it will be a lovely sunny weekend. It is £3.50 for adults, children free.*

*We garden for wildlife so bring your binoculars, find a peaceful spot to sit down and watch the many species of birds that visit.*

*There will also be an art exhibition to enjoy. All proceeds go to the varied charities supported by NGS.*

*There is some parking but if you are able, walk up the lane to the garden.*

*We look forward to seeing you, Helen and Tom Campbell*

## 200 CLUB HTD June's winner!

The winner of this draw with share number 7 is:  
**Richard Wooding.**

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

## Holy Trinity Church Services in July

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	09:30am	All Age Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	09:30am	Morning Praise (NPW)
Sunday 20 <sup>st</sup>	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)

*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](http://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](mailto:diary@dobcross.com).*

# Dobcross Youth Band

What a wonderful day Whit Friday 2025 turned out to be! Glorious weather, Saddleworth looking its best, lots of summery colours and a multitude of flowers, and of course, the music. The sunshine on the sparkling instruments, smart uniforms, and wonderful traditional marches that sound so much better outside on a lovely sunny day.

The morning starts for all members of the Dobcross Bands to gather along with families and clergy in the band club for a short service and to remember absent friends. A particularly poignant occasion this year as we remembered Rosemary Whiffin, Ian Eastham and Margaret Redfern, James Atkins' Grandma who passed away on Monday. You may have noticed the members of the Youth bands were wearing buttonholes of a sprig of Rosemary and a rose in Rosemary's honour. Thank you to all our mums who made them up and donated to the band. We also have a dedication to her memory on our new set of march pads, recently completed by Rosemary. There were tears as usual during the playing of 'Silver Hill'.

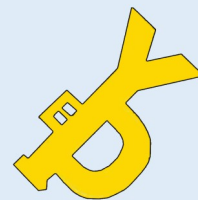
The Youth Band left Dobcross at 3.00pm to play their first contest at Grotton. But where was the Training Band coach? Apparently, stuck behind an abandoned car in Delph. Oh no! Not another "coachgate". Friday 13<sup>th</sup> was living up to its reputation! After much discussion

about what to do the coach team decided to play in Dobcross (thank you to the contest organisers), The band were really uplifted by the tremendous welcome and huge round of applause they received. The coach had arrived over an hour late and they were off to play in 6 contests.

The Youth Band also had a really good evening, winning Best Youth at Scouthead, Second Best Youth and soloist prize here in Dobcross. It's always very special to me when the Youth band win the soloist prize in Dobcross as the trophy presented is in memory of my parents. There are hundreds of wonderful photos reflecting the day on Facebook and other social media sights, well worth a browse. Another year, another wonderful occasion so supported by our community.

The Youth bands are now preparing for Grappenhall Walking day on Saturday 21 June; Weatherby Drovers March and Hymn contest on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June; our Annual Summer Concert on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July in the band club, when we will be recognising our young people who will be leaving us; the Brighthouse March and Hymn contest on Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>, before their trip to Tossa de mar in Spain on Friday July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Sue Crook, Chairman**



## July in Dobcross

It's July, and summer is well and truly here. The flowers are blooming, the evenings are long, and there's a lighter pace to village life. The school holidays are just around the corner, families are enjoying more time together, and there's a general sense of ease and warmth in the air.

Last month's Whit Walks were, once again, a real highlight. It was such a joy to walk through the villages with friends, neighbours, and brass bands, all under blue skies. It reminded me just how much community matters, and how proud we are to be part of this special place.

As summer unfolds, I hope there are moments of peace and joy in the mix, whether you're heading off on holiday, catching up with loved ones, working in the garden, or simply enjoying a quiet cuppa in the sunshine. These slower summer days can offer a bit of breathing space; however we spend them.

At Holy Trinity Church, our doors remain open through the summer, for anyone who needs a space to breathe, reflect, or pray. You don't have to have all the answers or even be sure where you stand with faith, just come as you are.

The Bible is full of stories about ordinary people trying to live well in the middle of real life. Some got things right, others got things wrong, but through it all, God walked with them. Maybe this summer is a good time to dip into one of those stories, on your own or with someone you love.

Wishing you a joyful and restful July, **Rev. Sachin S Awale**

# HTD

Holy Trinity Church

## Congratulations

You may have seen in the local press that Sue, who sends this Diary the news about the Youth Band has received the British Empire Medal in the recent honours list. It was given for services to music and the Dobcross community.

As founder of the Youth Band 35 years ago, her commitment to and support given to all the children in that time has been amazing and this award is well deserved.





## Dobcross Silver Band

Another memorable Whit Friday in Dobcross! A massive thank you to the Dobcross Whit Friday Committee and the team of volunteers for making it happen once again. The morning processions are such a wonderful spectacle and each year the numbers watching seem to get bigger and more enthusiastic. It certainly fills me with pride to be part of it and to see the brass band movement continuing to flourish in Dobcross, best shown by the amazing numbers of enthusiastic and talented young players in the Youth and Training Bands.



On the Contest stage the Silver Band once again showed what a high quality Band we are becoming, winning the 'Best 3rd Section' prize in six of seven Contests entered! We managed to save the best till last too, with a superb performance under the lights on Church Fields.



At Dobcross we were placed 15th out of 61 Bands – a superb result! Overall, Whit Friday is a unique experience, which each year showcases the very best of Saddleworth, its people and traditions.

A week earlier we won the 3rd Section title at the Meltham March and Hymn Contest which, in contrast to Whit Friday was held on an afternoon of rain and strong winds. Our next engagement is at the Brighouse March and Hymn Contest; always a special event in a brass band heartland, which I can recommend to anyone for a day out with us on 6th July. We follow that on **Sunday 20th July with the annual Brass on the Grass concert on Church Fields**. We are particularly looking forward to staging this popular event once again, it having fallen victim to the weather in each of the last two years.

The Silver Band continues to perform extremely well and we are already starting to work on the Test Piece for the National Finals in September. I would like to extend a massive thank you to the members of the Dobcross Village Community and also the Coffee Shop Team who have both recently provided donations to help us meet various items of expenditure relating to the trip to Cheltenham.

As I write this we are preparing to host our friends and neighbours, Delph Band in concert at our Club for the first time in many years, under the Showcase Brass initiative. This will be followed by the Marsden Band on 27th July to continue the series of high quality visiting bands who regularly seek to play in Dobcross.

As always thank you for your support. Our 150th year has already featured memorable concerts and great contest successes. Long may this continue!

**Andy Black (Silver Band Chairman) on 07907 635397**

## Nature Notes

During the warm, dry weather in April this year, there were quite a lot of white butterflies on the wing. There are four common species in this area, two of which are quite easy to distinguish: the orange tip, although it is only the males which have the orange tips to their wings, and the green-veined whites, which do indeed have green veins on the undersides of their wings. (The English names of butterflies and other insects tend to be predictable – I recently discovered a rosemary beetle, living on – yes – a rosemary bush!)

The other two white butterflies are called, even less imaginatively, the large white and the small white. I find these two difficult to distinguish unless one of each helpfully settle next to each other, so that I can see the difference in size. Because they both lay their eggs on plants in the cabbage family, gardeners tend to lump them all together as 'cabbage whites'.

Back in April I had a couple of large broccoli plants in my garden, which had overwintered from last year. One day I noticed a colony of a few dozen tiny caterpillars on one of them, which soon grew into much bigger caterpillars. They were greyish green, speckled with black, and stayed clustered together as they munched though one leaf at a time. In the interests of biodiversity, and because I was already growing new broccoli plants, I decided to sacrifice the affected plant and see what happened.

I'm happy to report that in a couple of weeks, the caterpillars had disappeared and the plant had been robust enough to survive. I don't know whether the caterpillars had gone off to pupate somewhere, or whether some hungry bird had enjoyed a feast, but I may discover later in the summer if a new generation of white butterflies emerges.

**Athene Noctua**

## Dobcross Post Office Brings the World Closer with its Travel Services



If you're off travelling this summer don't forget to pop into the Post Office for your holiday essentials and make use of the convenient travel services on your doorstep just in time for the summer holidays. As well as remembering to stop your papers, cancel any bread or veg order, or even buy any last minute toiletries and essentials (who does not like a cup of Yorkshire tea when they are away? ) you can also get foreign currency, with Euros in stock, order any other foreign currency, and also purchase a travel money card.

### Travel Money

It's quick and easy to get Euros, there are great rates, a refund guarantee (should your trip get cancelled) and no commission. We can order your foreign currency and you can collect it right here (usually on the next working day). Over 60 currencies available.

- Great rates
- Easy Ordering
- Click and Collect
- Instant access
- Buy back – if you don't spend up, then there is a buy back option



### Keep it local when you travel the world

In addition the Post Office offers travel money cards which are undoubtedly safer than carrying cash and usable worldwide. One resident who recently used the services said: "I used to dread going into town for these things. Now I can do it all just down the lane. It's made planning my trips much less stressful."

### Travel Money Cards

These can be preloaded and are a convenient, contactless and secure way to pay, they can be used just like a credit or debit card and used in shops, bars, restaurants and ATMs worldwide. Pick up a Travel Money Card instantly at Dobcross Post Office. Bring a valid passport, UK driving licence or valid EEA card as ID. It's a safe-to-use, prepaid, reloadable, multi-currency card that's not linked to your bank account.

- Manage your cards 24/7
- Check your balance and transactions
- Control of your spending
- Safe and secure
- Can freeze it anytime if it's lost or stolen
- Able to move money between currencies



For those unsure about what they need for their trip, staff are ready to assist, simply pop in store to find out more.

Travel services are available during regular Post Office hours, Monday to Saturday. For specific currency orders, residents are encouraged to call ahead or visit the website [www.dobcrossvillagestore.com](http://www.dobcrossvillagestore.com)

## What's on in July

**Friday 4th 7.00-9.00 Youth Band Summer Concert** featuring our talented young musicians. Don't miss out!

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

**7.00 Local Legends Charity Event** supporting Prostate Cancer. Dobcross Band Club.

**Denshaw Cinema. 'Maria' (12A).** Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) or phone 07845698551

**Sunday 6th 12.00. Graham Hill Trophy Bowling Competition.**

**5.00-8.00 The Live Lounge Open Mic Event.** Band Club.

Call Chris Bell on 07840 219401 or email him on [Chris.ct.bell@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.ct.bell@gmail.com) if you are interested in performing.

**Tuesday 8th 7.00 Dobcross Ladies** summer walk with drink in local pub. Meet outside church.

**Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th.** Garden Open - see inside.

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

**Friday 18th 7.30 Rhythm & Song. Saddleworth Singers** with guest band New Horizons Trio. Mossley Methodist Church. Tickets: Victoria 07773 951956 or on the door.

**Saturday 19th 6.00 - 9.00 Dobcross Primary School Leavers' Party** In the Band Club.

**Saddleworth Gardening Club** Visit to RHS Wentworth Woodhouse. See inside for details.

**Denshaw Cinema. 'Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy' (15).** Booking as above.

**Sunday 20th 2.00 Brass on the Grass.** In the Band Club if it is raining.

**Sunday 27th 2.00-4.00 Showcase Brass** featuring Marsden Band in the Band Club.

### Weekly events:

**Wednesday 7-8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan.** Contact Cathy for more information: [cathycrabb@gmail.com](mailto: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	

## Dobcross Whit Friday: A Village Effort to Be Proud Of

If you were in Dobcross on Whit Friday this year, you'll know just how the village came alive with music, colour, laughter and that unmistakable sense of tradition. But how do we manage that, year on year? Because of you, of course!

Our House-to-House Collectors are the first of our band of volunteers to step out for Whit Friday, consistently raising similar amounts each year, which is amazing considering our ever-increasing cashless society. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this key part of our fundraising efforts, and to those who didn't have the cash but donated to our GoFundMe page.

Next up, the Whit Walks crew: Paul Wooding and his Holy Trinity team organising the traditional Whit Walks with sometimes military precision. After their return from Uppermill, the children and helpers are treated to lunch at the school, which for the last time this year was organised by Pat Sykes. Pat, who was on the very first Whit Friday committee when it was set up by Henry Livings in 1967, is handing over the reins to her daughter, Zoe, who will be joining the Whit Friday committee. In the afternoon, Julie Roberts and her helpers are down on the sports field organising activities for the children of Dobcross.

Then came the Band Contest: setter-uppers, taker-downers, meet and greeters, booker-inners, stewards, board carriers, radio teams, music runners, and the Holmfirth Scouts, supporting us for over 20 years. Huge thanks to Helga who has been co-ordinating and managing this volunteer workforce for many years and is now passing that on to Sue Skinner. .

A huge thank you to Gavin Roberts, who began the tradition of livestreaming the Dobcross contest a few years ago. This year, it reached new heights, with viewers tuning in from around the world and chatting live throughout the evening. It's a wonderful way to include those who can't be in the village, and it turns our small village green into a global stage. The new playing

order list and the bands waiting information was managed throughout the evening by our new Bandstand Crew.

Thanks to all who bought a programme (and if you didn't, we can still get one to you!). Special thanks to our local businesses and advertisers, and to those who contributed articles. The Whit Friday programme remains an important fundraiser—and a lovely memento.

We're also grateful to those who kept everyone refreshed, with the Dobcross Youth Band BBQ getting a special mention as the best stop-off on the Whit Friday circuit.

Our bands: Dobcross Silver, Youth, Training and Brass Monkeys played all day with spirit and stamina with the Silver Band capping it off by playing last on the green, and picking up Best Third Section Band in Dobcross - no mean feat on such a long and tiring day!

Though not village-based, we owe thanks to Oldham Council for stewarding, traffic management, toilets, first aiders, and even switching on the tree lights and cutting the grass on Churchfields and Queen Elizabeth fields.

This year was a time of transition for the Dobcross Whit Friday Committee, with new members joining the team. We said a warm thank you to Andrew Hill Wilson, who stepped down as Contest Secretary after several years of dedicated service. Andrew devised our "Meet and Greet" system—a clever method for giving arriving bands their wait time with near-military precision. He now passes the baton (no pun intended) to Cathy Heaven, who is already showing she's more than capable of leading us into the next chapter.

We might be biased, but we think this is the best Whit Friday venue in Saddleworth. And with a new committee, steady hands, and plenty of good humour, we'll keep it that way. **See you next year!**

### Saddleworth Gardening Club Summer Trips - Visitors Welcome

**Sunday 20th July**

**RHS Show at Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham**

A day out with unique gardens, talks and tips, children's activities, stalls and lots of food and drink to enjoy. Inspirational gardens, planting combinations and the latest landscaping trends. Check the website for details and to order your tickets in advance.

Just search **RHS Flower Show Wentworth Woodhouse 2025**

**Entrance Book your own ticket** Advance ticket booking RHS Member £26.85 Public ticket £33.85

**Coach** Member £23 Visitor £26 Pick-up Grotton 9.45am/Uppermill 10.00am  
**Booking** - Lesley on 07784 793 410 Closing date – July 12th

**Future Date: Sunday 14th September - Autumn Plant Hunters' Fair at Arley Hall. Booking - Irene on 07861 620142 Closing date – Sept 5th**

# FODS

FRIENDS OF DOB(CROSS) SCHOOL

FODS are excited to bring back their fairy garden trail.

We are looking for Dobcross residents to take part this summer. Please contact FODS



via email

[friendsof Dobcrossschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsof Dobcrossschool@gmail.com)

if you would like to get involved.