



# DOBCROSS DIARY **May 2026**

Issue No.272 Supporting local clubs, societies and facilities. Produced and delivered free of charge by volunteers.

## The Dobcross Village Community AGM

At the recent AGM Carole Bell resigned from her position as Chairperson after serving for three years and was followed into the role by myself, John Warham, with Sue Skinner volunteering to be Vice-Chairperson. All other "Officers" and members agreed to continue in their various roles. Many thanks Carole and all the other volunteers.

You may be aware that the team at the Dobcross Village Store are trialling a monthly draw with half of the proceeds going to the winner after the winning ticket is drawn at the monthly Coffee Shop in the Band Club. A quarter of the proceeds goes to a second winner in the form of shop loyalty points and the final quarter to the DVC to aid their initiatives in the village and beyond. If you have ideas of any projects, in the village particularly, that deserve our support please let us know (via the Diary or any committee member) and we will give them careful consideration.

In case you are unaware, we meet monthly at 7pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday for up to an hour in the room inside the entrance to Holy Trinity Church on Woods Lane. All are welcome and the option to become a regular is entirely yours. We are a friendly lot and welcome new blood.

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*During the discussions at the AGM, it was shown that income was generated mainly from the events held during the past year and profits from selling the Dobcross calendar. That allowed several donations to be made, including FODS (friends of Dobcross School), all three Dobcross Bands, A Whit Friday prize, help towards buying new benches for the Band Club and a donation to the Salvation Army from a raffle held at New Year.*

*There are also extra costs involved in printing this diary, welcome packs and maps, general gardening and other miscellaneous items including raising some cheer when Father Christmas comes to Dobcross!*

## Dobcross Calendar 2027....

Talking about calendars, now is a good time to remind people to take photos while they are around and about the village for the next one.

Please make sure that your pictures are of a good resolution and are landscape to fit the shape of the month pages.

(Sorry, you'll have turn your phone sideways!)

Then please send them to [diary@dobcross.com](mailto:diary@dobcross.com). Thank you.

This edition of the Dobcross Diary is kindly sponsored by the Whit Friday Committee

## WHIT FRIDAY, 29th May 2026

The Dobcross Whit Friday Committee is proud to sponsor this issue of the Diary and would like to thank the Dobcross Village Community for their support for the Whit Friday events. We hope everyone has a wonderful day on Whit Friday 2026 and please join in.



- ❖ Whit Walks
- ❖ Lunch for the children of Dobcross
- ❖ Afternoon sports day
- ❖ Dobcross Band Contest



[dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com](mailto:dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com)

## DVC Village Fundraiser

Featuring Daniel Winters as Frankie Valli, will be on Saturday 6th June at Dobcross Band Club, with Big Jim's Disco.

Tickets cost £18 and will be on sale from 1st May.

Call Sue Skinner 07938 826989 for tickets and information.



## 200 CLUB HTD

April 2026 to March 2027

Thank you to everyone who purchased one or more shares in this year's 200 Club.

Winners are announced in Dobcross Diary and posted on church noticeboard.

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

**Full information about times and traffic restrictions on the day are inside.**

## DOBCROSS BOWLERS

The 2026 season is now underway with league games on the green most evenings of the week. So why not come along and support your local club whilst enjoying a drink (or two) from the bar. Bring a warm coat for now but hopefully the weather will warm up soon!

Our first competition of the year the Green Opening/Easter Cup was held on Sunday 12 April. Club President Terry Lawless officially opened the green by bowling the first bowl of the season. Some initial rustiness was superseded by a beautifully smooth delivery from Terry finished off with a classic bowling pose. He'll deny it but has he been fitting in some quiet practice?



The competition itself was a straight knock-out competition with no handicaps. A typical cool April day featuring a mixture of strong winds, rain, sunshine and a couple of hail showers

saw a great turnout of 32 competitors vying for the trophy. Despite the lack of handicaps some brilliant bowling in the early rounds from our newer bowlers resulted in wins over more experienced players - well done to you all! As the showers stopped and the sun came out the semi finals were both closely fought games with Mark Regan and Stan Matley falling at that stage to Chris Marsden and Mike Lucas respectively. In the final Mike started strongly to pull away into a commanding lead only for Chris to claw his way back into it with some excellent bowling. In a tight finish Mike just edged it to claim the win.



**Interested in learning about the game?** We will be holding a Crown Green Bowling Taster Session on Saturday 2 May between 11am and 1pm. if you are new to the game and want to learn about Crown Green Bowling then this is for you! We will take you through the basics of the sport, provide tuition on technique and give you the chance to have a game. All equipment will be provided. Please wear suitable flat footwear (no open toes). If you are interested please just turn up on the day at whatever time suits you between 11am and 1pm.

**Mike Lucas**

## Footpaths Update

Newbank Footbridge. I have taken Oldham up on the promise to give me quarterly updates and asked for confirmation that the budget is still there for 2027/28 and for a timescale for when they will start negotiations with Newbank to get permission to put the footbridge in. Assuming they are successful, this should give a good chance of actually installing the bridge in 2027/28. I await a response!

In relation to the closure of Moorgate level crossing, Network Rail has been given a 12-month extension of the temporary closure to 1 March 2027. There were 123

objections and 4 representations against the closure of the crossing, all wanting a replacement footbridge, and we are now progressing towards a Public Inquiry to be held at Uppermill Civic Hall starting 9 June this year. Nobody is against the upgrading of the line. It is the implications of doing the work that are raising concerns. Oldham has also submitted an objection to the closure of the level crossing as well as concerns about the implications of extended bridge closures - particularly the impact on access and trade at the main Saddleworth villages as well as events such as Whit Friday and Rush Cart. Final submission of documents to the Inspector has to be made by 12 May. **Kevin Lawton**

## 200 CLUB HTD

### April's winner!

The winner of this month's draw with share number 62 is:

**Judith Hughes.**

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

### Weekly events in Dobcross Band Club

**Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan.**

Contact Cathy for more info: [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 :9.30-10.15 & 10.30-11.15 Thursday : 10.30-11.15**

*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).*

## Happy Birthday to Us !

Our Community Store is now 2 years old and we continually thank everyone (and their doggies) for visiting and supporting our early years.

Big News...We have finally been able to launch a new share offer so that more people can be part of the co-operative. £25 shares are now available so that we can grow our membership and protect the store for generations to come. We would love to convert our loyalty card members into owners and see how much more we can achieve. The co-operative is owned and run by us, for us. Why not treat someone to a special birthday gift – a part in their very own village store and post office.

The Lucky Member Lottery has generated £1,240 in the 3 months so far this year; a surprising success story. We would like to give more, so whenever you call in, buy a ticket and trust your luck.

Whit Friday is a key day in our year, and we will be open on the Big Day for all the sweets and treats, pies and panini. And of course, a cold beverage or three. We will have sun-cream and ice-cream and plenty of optimism for a wonderful day. With thanks to the Contest organisers and volunteers and good luck to all the bands, especially our Dobcross favourites.

To give our wonderful staff and volunteers a break, we will be closed on the Bank Holiday Mondays coming up – but almost always open for all your essentials and our local specialities.

We are still looking for a Part-time member of staff. So, if you know anyone with time and talent to enjoy working in the most joyful shop on earth, encourage them to pop in to find out more.



## Nature Notes

Many of us enjoy putting out bird food to attract wild birds to our gardens, but it seems that we may actually be doing more harm than good. The RSPB has recently issued new advice about feeding wild birds in gardens, quoting research into the causes of declines in the numbers of common seed-eating birds such as greenfinches and chaffinches. This shows that the disease trichomoniasis can be passed between birds using feeding stations. It causes sores to develop inside their mouths and around their beaks, which prevents them feeding. They appear fluffy and lethargic, and eventually die from starvation. The disease apparently started in pigeons, and has also recently spread to goldfinches and bullfinches.

It is obviously important to keep seed-feeders clean and to move them around regularly, to avoid a build-up of droppings and spilled food underneath. However, the research appears to show that the disease is most likely to be passed on during the warmer summer months, and the RSPB now recommends we stop putting out seeds or peanuts altogether between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> October. This is the time of year when there should be plenty of natural food available, such as dandelion and thistle seeds, and in any case most finches actually feed their young on insect food, so the lack of extra food in seed-feeders shouldn't be a problem for them.

*Athene Noctua*

## Dobcross Silver Band

*As we look to the month of May our thoughts once again turn to Whit Friday and what is sure to be another memorable day in our village. As always the day will start with a gathering in the Band Club, climaxed by what is always an emotional mass band rendition of the hymn Silver Hill. We then keep fingers crossed for fine weather as last year for the spectacular morning processions. Later in the day the Silver band will compete in the village contests as a Second section Band following our promotion last year.*

*On 17<sup>th</sup> May the Silver Band will be performing a concert in the Band Club for our friends and supporters and the Showcase Brass concerts will recommence at month end - further details on this to come shortly. In June and July we always compete in the regular March and Hymn Tune contests, including those at Brighouse and Meltham. In July we once again hope to perform on the village green for Brass on the Grass (19th July) having been forced to play indoors by inclement weather in recent years.*

*We currently have vacancies in the Band for baritone, tuba and percussion players. This would be a fantastic opportunity to join a great bunch of people at the height of our success. The Silver Band is in a great place as we look forward to another wonderful Whit Friday experience. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.*

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

## DIARY DATES : COFFEE MORNINGS 2026

**Dobcross Band Club**

**10.30 am - 12.00**

**(All in aid of Dobcross Elderberries)**

**Saturday 23rd May**

(Come and book for Settle and Morecambe trip)

**Saturday 15th August**

(Come and book for Buxton trip)

**Saturday 21st November**

## TRIPS 2026

**SETTLE AND MORECAMBE - 23rd June**

**BUXTON - 15th September**

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2026

**(Elderberries)**

**Date and Venue to be confirmed**

For further information contact

Pat 07973 690817

Email: patsykes321@gmail.com

Richenda 07971201064

Email: elderberries.rw@gmail.com

## Dobcross Youth Band

The Band has had a very busy month, all three groups entered The National Youth Championships held at St Edwards School in Edgbaston Birmingham. A very early start for the Training Band and Beginners saw us leaving Dobcross at 6.45am. (We start them young!) The Youth band had a lie-in as they didn't depart until 11.45am. The school setting was lovely and we were looked after well by the support team. All three groups put on a fabulous performance in their class and came away with Highly Commended for Beginners, Silver for Trainers and Bronze for the Youth Band. A very satisfactory day.



On Good Friday we held our Easter Concert and Easter Egg Draw. The bands all performed their programmes from the National Youth contest, pleasing for parents unable to attend the contest. We didn't manage to break our record of 152 eggs to raffle but our capacity audience were very supportive in the purchase of draw tickets. The proceeds from this concert, annually, ensure we can afford to hire the coaches,

pay the entry fees and purchase musical scores for these contests. A big thank you for all your support. By Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April we will have taken part in the St Georges Day Parade in Manchester, hopefully with no April showers.



We have been invited by BBC Radio 4 productions who are recording a programme exploring the tradition of Whit Friday and what it means to the local community, to be broadcast on Trinity Sunday, two days after Whit Friday. Holy Trinity Primary School Choir, Saddleworth Musical Society and the Youth band will take part in recording the five hymn and 'Hail Smiling Morn' for this special programme. You may also see the recording team out and about on Whit Friday morning.



June brings a visit from the Skodvin Skolemusik for a joint concert on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, please look out for publicity nearer the time and come along to listen to a much varied musical programme.

Possibly the best date in the banding calendar will soon be upon us, Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> when our Saddleworth villages will echo with music from morning to evening. The start here in Dobcross is the Blessing and short service in the band club when all our Dobcross banders join together playing the moving hymn 'Silver Hill' for all absent friends.

May you all, whatever you may be doing, or wherever you may be, love it or hate it, have a lovely day, filled with love, memories, family, friends, old and new and wonderful music.

**Sue Crook, Chairman.**

## The Month of May

May is a month many of us look forward to in Dobcross. The days are longer, the air feels warmer, and there is new life all around us. After the quiet months of winter, it is good to see people out again, gardens growing, and the village feeling full of life.

For many in Dobcross and across Saddleworth, one of the most special days this month will be the Whit Walk on 29th May. This is a day that means a great deal to our villages, and it is a tradition that continues to bring people together year after year.

Each year, as Whit Walk approaches, I feel a real sense of pride and joy. There is something deeply moving about seeing children and adults carrying banners with care. Each banner has a story to tell, and hearing the sound of brass bands filling the air is always special. It is one of those moments that can make you feel emotional, as you see faith shared openly and community life at its very best.

Whit Walk is not only about tradition. It has its roots in the Christian celebration of Pentecost, when the followers of Jesus were given courage to go out and share hope with the world. In our own way, walking together through the village is a sign

of faith lived out in public, reminding us that faith is something to be shared, not hidden.

For many people, Whit Walk also brings back memories of earlier years, walking as children, standing proudly with friends, or watching from the roadside with family. Now, a new generation takes part, and the tradition continues, linking past and present in a very special way.

In a time when the world can sometimes feel uncertain, days like Whit Walk remind us of the strength of community. Seeing neighbours gather, hearing familiar music, and watching children take their place in this tradition gives a deep sense of hope for the future.

We are grateful to everyone who helps make this day possible, the organisers, schools, churches, bands and volunteers who give their time and energy so that this much-loved tradition can continue.

As we look ahead to 29th May, whether you are walking, helping, playing, or watching, may it be a day filled with pride, joy and thankfulness for the life we share in this village.

**With every blessing,**

**Revd. Sachin S Awale**



Holy Trinity Church

## Let the Fun Begin: Whit Friday 2026!

Whit Friday on May 29<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching and it is time to plan for the joy as well as some of the challenges the event brings. Once more the co-operation and support of residents is central to the success of the event. Please help us keep everyone safe.

### Order of Events

<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Parking Restrictions</b> are in force
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Road Closures</b> are in force
<b>9:30</b>	The <b>Procession of Witness</b> forms at 33 Platt Lane (clergy, banners, flower carriers)
<b>9:45</b>	The Procession (with bands) marches to The Square for a short service
<b>10.30</b>	The Procession leaves the village via Woods Lane and Dobcross New Road to Uppermill
<b>12:00 noon</b>	The Procession returns via Wool Road and Sugar Lane and disbands in The Square
<b>1:00 to 4:00</b>	Road closures are suspended but there may still be significant road disruption in the Saddleworth Area. Parking restrictions remain in force
<b>3:00</b>	Early bands may start arriving by coach via Sugar Lane
<b>4:00</b>	<b>Road closures are in force. The Band Contest</b> begins on Churchfields
<b>10:00</b>	The last opportunity for bands to book-in to compete
<b>12:00</b>	The latest the contest may close

### Traffic and Parking Restrictions

Vehicular movement around Saddleworth will be disrupted by the morning Processions (9am to 1pm) and again for the Band Contest (4pm to 12am). During these times road closures will be in operation and apart from emergency vehicles and coaches (in the evening), the centre of Dobcross will be a no-go area. There will be 'no-parking' restrictions already in force on the main roads and movement in and out of Dobcross will be restricted. Please see the information below. This means that The Square, Churchfields, Chancery Lane, Crib Fold and parts of Woods Lane, Sugar Lane and Platt Lane are not accessible at all during the published times. Southgate/Sandy Lane/Long Lane/Crib Lane are accessible but not via Platt Lane.

### Road Closures From 9am to 1pm and 4pm to 12 Midnight

The Square from Sandy Lane, Sandy Lane, Woods Lane, Platt Lane
Woods Lane from Dobcross New Road to The Square
Platt Lane from before Barmeadow to The Square
Sugar Lane from Wool Road to The Square
Sandy Lane from Southgate to The Square
Crib Fold /Crib Lane at the junction with Platt Lane

### 'Access-to-Property' Passes

'Access-to-Property' Passes will be delivered to the properties below during the House-to-House Collections between 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May. If you need additional passes, please email [dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com](mailto:dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com) or telephone Pam Rose 07779 274834. Passes are provided for those properties where it is possible to gain access without undermining the coach one-way system or the safety of pedestrians. Access must be via the nearest road closure point and by production of the Pass. If you have agreed that family and visitors may park at your property, please ensure that vehicles do not impact on your neighbours' properties.

<b>Access-to-Property Passes Available for:</b>	<b>Access via:</b>
Barmeadow and Platt Lane up to (but not including) The Band Club	Gatehead Road (opposite Old Bell Inn)
Nudger Green/Treetops/Sycamore Cottages and Woods Lane (up to Fold Cottages)	Woods Lane (Old Woolpack)
Sugar Lane up to Sandy Lane	Wool Road and Sugar Lane
<b>N.B Where a no-parking restriction is in force you may only access your property if you have off-road parking.</b>	

*Continued overleaf*

## No Parking Restrictions 8.00am - Midnight on the following roads:

Churchfields	Platt Lane from 33 Platt Lane to The Square
Dobcross New Road	Sugar Lane
Delph New Road from the 'Woolpack' to junction with Wall	The Square
Hill Road	Woods Lane

For residents without off-street parking or an 'Access-to-Property' Pass or who arrive back in the village during the road closure periods and are not permitted to pass a road closure point, the car park at Dobcross School is available. Blue Badge holders may park at the vicarage.

Please take note of the advance parking and road closure notices that will appear in the weeks leading up to the event. Think through the implications for you and access to your property and plan accordingly.

### Access For Carers and Health Visitors

Residents who are expecting visits from carers/health visitors should advise them of the above restrictions so that alternative arrangements can be planned for or suitable access arrangements agreed if this can be managed. Please think about neighbours who might need help in managing this support. Advice is available via [dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com](mailto:dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com) or by telephone 07871 277386.

### Volunteers

Many thanks to those that have offered to help. We would be delighted to hear from you if you have an hour or two to spare. Please contact Sue Skinner on 07938 826989 or [purplesue23@gmail.com](mailto:purplesue23@gmail.com). There is a volunteer meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30 at The Swan.

### House-to-House Collections

As part of our fundraising, we will once more be knocking on doors and asking for donations between 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May. Collectors will have official collection tins for cash donations. If you prefer you can make a donation on our gofundme page using the link here.

### Further Information

Updates may be posted on Facebook (DobcrossWhitFriday), on X (@DobxWhitFriday) and on Instagram (dobxwhitfriday).

Saddleworth band contest updates can be found on [saddleworthwhitfriday.co.uk/dobcross](http://saddleworthwhitfriday.co.uk/dobcross).

If you have any concerns or questions about the arrangements for Whit Friday, please email [dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com](mailto:dobxwhitfriday@gmail.com) or telephone 07871 277386.

Let's work together to make Whit Friday 2026 safe, joyful, and unforgettable.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. ENJOY WHIT FRIDAY!**



## What's on in May

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

**Sunday 3rd 12.00 Atherton Malone Inter Team Bowling Qualifiers.** Band Club.

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

**Tuesday 12th 730 Dobcross Ladies.** Ray Brown: UK & international bird photography. Holy Trinity Church.

**Saturday 16th 7.30 Mikron Theatre 'Wensleydale Whey, The Grate Cheese Quest'.** Tickets £15.00 available to purchase over the bar at the Band Club, Dobcross Village Store or Mikron.org.

**Wednesday 20th 7.30 Whit Friday Volunteers Meeting.** The Swan.

**Saturday 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning - Elderberries. 6.30 Psychic Vision Clairvoyant Night** with Rachael Neate. Tickets £20 from : <https://www.psychicvionevents.com/event-details/dobcross-band-club-psyhic-show>

**Sunday 24th 12.00 Steward's Bowling Cup.** Band Club

**Friday 29th Whit Friday** Band Club open from 8.00am. From 4.00 Outdoor Bar - 'we are Wolf Brewing Company'. BBQ food from the Youth Band and club pies and scotch eggs!

**Sunday 31st 2.00 - 4.00 Showcase Brass** with Unite the Union Band £8.

## Holy Trinity Church Services for May

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> 09:30am Baptism of Children at Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> 09:30am Morning Praise (NPW)

Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> 09:30am Easter Season Eucharist (CW)

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> 09:30am Pentecost Eucharist (CW)

Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> 09:30am Choral Communion (BCP)

### Saddleworth Gardening Club

Summer Trips Programme is now available

Visitors are welcome to join us

Coach departs from Uppermill and Grotton

- 1) Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Renishaw Hall and Gardens near Chesterfield, Derbyshire
- 2) Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June: Bodnant Gardens, Conwy
- 3) Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chorley Flower Show
- 4) Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September: Ness Gardens

Queries or further information from Lesley 07784793410

For films at Denshaw Cinema. See [moviola.org](http://moviola.org) Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) phone 07845698551

For events at Millgate Arts Centre in Delph. Look up <https://millgateartscentre.co.uk>