



Your Village Store

With its new signage and lovely repainted front Dobcross Village Store and Post Office is a great addition to the village scene. It's thanks to all those who backed the scheme and wanted to get behind preserving the only shop in our village that one year on we can look back with pride to a successful transition to community ownership.

On Wednesday October 9th we are celebrating our shareholders. All those who are members of the Dobcross Village Society are invited to come along to the Swan at 7-7.30pm to collect share certificates, membership cards, and to get an update on progress at the store and plans for the future.

We look forward to welcoming you all there.




Band Club News - Dobcross Beer Festival

The Band Club is going to run a beer festival over the weekend of 16th & 17th November. Five breweries will be showcasing their guest ales, with Holts, Lees', Millstone, Phoenix & Ossett breweries all on board.

We shall be marketing this as a Beer Festival / early Christmas Market, so stalls will be up for grabs if we have any local producers of crafts / food that would be interested in selling their wares?

If they could again contact me directly to discuss that would be great.

Pop up to the club or phone me on 07734 257 634.

Music and entertainment will also be featuring over the weekend but finer details to come in next month's issue....plus we can always update members throughout the month as details become finalised.

Adele Taylor



DVC November Quiz

Saturday 2nd Nov. at 7.30pm

Dobcross Band Club
Teams of up to 6

Entry £2 per person

Please contact Sue Skinner
to reserve a table **07938 826989**

Raffle, with prizes kindly donated by
The Old Toll House, The Navigation and The Swan

All money to DVC

We are delighted to announce that Paul, the fab quiz master at the Swan, will be quiz master for our annual DVC quiz at the Band Club, a bit earlier this year, on Saturday November 2nd. Great raffle prizes too. Please contact Sue per poster to reserve a table. We hope to have Tunnel End pies to buy at the bar. Hope to see you there for a fun evening to raise money for village stuff.

Disappointing delay but nearly there

We have been informed that the start of work to upgrade the playpark in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Park near Holy Trinity School has been delayed.

However, the equipment is ordered, and the next step will be the coordination of the subcontractors which dictates the timescale. It will likely be the start of November by the time they can get to the site. Hopefully a fixed plan and start date will be confirmed soon and we'll let you know.

This edition of the Dobcross Diary is kindly sponsored by Dobcross Village Store



a community co-operative
run by the village for everyone

- open 7 days a week
- fresh local produce
- banking & cash withdrawals
- postal services 

so much more than just a village shop



Tel: 01457 872104
dobcrossvillagestore.com



Friends of Dobcross School,

with support from Dobcross residents created a magical fairy garden trail this summer.

The trail gave an opportunity for people to

wander around and explore Dobcross village, as part of a low cost family-friendly experience.

More than twenty displays were on offer for families to view and use the clues on the trail sheet to guess each fairy story.

Some of the Traditional Fairy Tale display themes including Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, The Gingerbread man, Hansel and Gretel, The Ugly Duckling and Teddy Bears Picnic

Trail maps were sold across four Dobcross business including the Lime Kiln Café, Dobcross Village Store, The Swan pub and Dobcross Band club. The trail was designed for all ages, young and not so young and people could wander along looking out for fairy signs, doors, homes and more. The support and enthusiasm from Dobcross residents to produce displays was tremendous; the time, effort and creativity that went into the displays produced was fantastic, with help from local resident Martin Luke, who as a member of Men in Sheds produced many of the signs and wooden creations and the community came together as it always does.

Fairy fans taking part in the trail helped to raise £445.34 for the charity. The trail is just one part of FODS fundraising effort. Feedback from people taking part has been incredible. People love it, and kids love it too. Comments included;

- We really enjoyed completing the quiz as we walked around

- It was delightful, thanks to everyone that worked so hard. It was the first time I walked around the village, and I really enjoyed it. I spoke with lots of people who were really enthusiastic about their village and history.

- This was fabulous! What the community did was amazing.

- Can highly recommend, we did it today and my granddaughter loved it.



The success of the event in money raised, showcasing the village and bring the community together will see the trail return next year with a new theme.

Watch this space.....

Dobcross Band Club proudly presents

An evening of

Bavarian Music and Dance

featuring

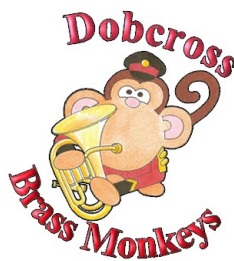
The Dobcross Brass Monkeys
a Charity Fun night in aid of



Sat. 19th Oct 8pm

Tickets: £10 (Bratwurst Sausage inc...)
from the Band Club 01457 873741

Bavarian costumes optional



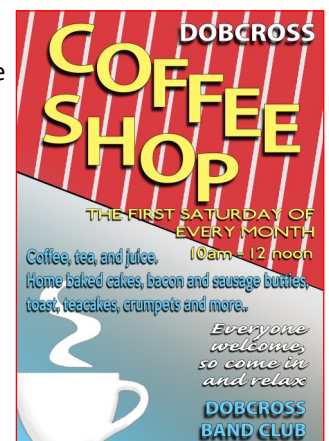
Dobcross raises funds for MNDA

Building on the success of last years Oktoberfest, the Brass Monkeys are holding a Bavarian evening of music and dance with no doubt a little drinking! The aim is to have a fun evening and raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. This Charity supports people who have MNDA and their families. The hope is that eventually a cure will be found for this devastating disease.

The Coffee Shop Team has also kindly agreed to donate the profits from the October coffee morning to MNDA. Please support these events and make this Dobcross fund raising a huge success.

Coffee Shop Saturday October 5th, 10am till 12 at Dobcross Band Club.

Bavarian Evening Saturday 19th October 8pm at Dobcross Band Club. Tickets, £10 available from the club.



Saddleworth Gardening Club

Monday October 7th 1.30pm

Uppermill Civic Centre

AGM and Plant and Cuttings Sale and Swap

(please bring your donations on the day)

Autumn/Winter programme will be available.

Light refreshments and raffle.

New members always welcomed.

Annual Subscription due and still only £10.

Any queries contact:

Lesley on 01457 871220 or 07784 793 410



A Few Tickets left....

The DVC event on 12th October has one of our best tribute acts returning with Joey Linden, as Freddie Mercury.

DJ Richard Longley will finish the night with a disco.

Some tickets are still available and cost only £15. You can book a table by phoning Jenny on 01457 870723.

FOOTPATH AND FOOTBRIDGE UPDATE

Firstly thank you to the local residents who have let us know of possible funding opportunities. Sadly I was subsequently advised by Oldham's Bridges Section Manager that he could not continue to have any further debate with me about a replacement bridge because of other commitments and priorities. He did however 'open the door slightly' to the possibility of accepting some private funding but that still wouldn't speed up the provision of the bridge.

Given this situation it would appear that we will have to go it alone and I started exploring what I called 'A Community Funded Interim Bridge', the idea being to raise funds locally for a minimum standard bridge that could be installed as soon as possible and then when Oldham have their funds in three years' time, or longer, they can decide to keep the bridge (it will have a 25 year life) or install their own. The proposed bridge would look like the one across the River Tame at Gatehead (behind Fresca) but be 2 metres longer.

Planning permission would be required and also a permit from the Environment Agency but more importantly Oldham would have to agree, as would the Newbank Directors as access over their land is required. However, as explained below the structural integrity of one of the existing abutments is in doubt and I believe that it is now unrealistic for the local community to follow up the option of an interim bridge. DVC has agreed with this assessment, which means that Oldham will have the task of sorting out all the issues, and seeking the necessary approvals and funding in three years' time!

The structural issues came to light following a meeting I had with the preferred bridge supplier on site in August. We found that the abutments were covered with soil and weeds, so armed with a spade and wellies I went back in the evening to clear them off and



to view them from the river. The one on the SE side (garden centre) looks fine but the one on the NW side has 'octopus-like' tree roots growing under it and has been slightly undermined. This could be the reason the bridge was closed in 2015 and although the abutment isn't showing any signs of movement I suspect that significant additional works will be required to strengthen it and to protect the river bank from further erosion. This would result in a project costing £20,000 just for the bridge and in addition, several thousand pounds more for the remedial works.

The next best option is to put **stepping stones** in as a temporary measure to open up the footpath route, at least for able bodied walkers, until Oldham have the resources and budget to put in a permanent bridge. The cost of stepping stones at about £6,000 is significantly less than a bridge and has much less risk.

There are stepping stones just downstream near Limekiln and also in Uppermill. This option will still require various approvals but DVC has agreed that I follow it up, but with the proviso that a bridge is still the desired objective.

The two most important initial requirements are that Oldham agrees to maintain the stepping stones and access paths, and that Newbank Directors agree to this temporary route on their land. A formal submission has been made to Oldham and we await their response.

As an interesting footnote, Oldham's Bridges Section has recently arranged the reconstruction of a small bridge over the Wall Hill Brook, on Brook Lane near Brook Cottage, Tame Water.

Kevin Lawton





Dobcross Youth Band



What a week that was! The Youth Band music tour and holiday in St. Ives and Cornwall was a resounding success. Great accommodation at the Cohort Hostel; in house catering by our own Gillian was superb and plentiful. Audiences at our three concerts, Land's End experience, St. Ives Harbour and Porthminster Beach, were large and appreciative. Beautiful beaches and lovely blue sea, perfect for swimming, surfing and paddle boarding. The weather, amazing, too hot for uniform jackets, so the band played in the band official t-shirts and shorts. Lovely feedback from happy children, appreciative parents, and our concert hosts, who all hope we are returning next year.

We returned home to a two week break, when all band members involved waited nervously for GCSE and A Level results. (All results very positive, well done!)

The Training Band is now looking forward to their short break

in Whitby in October. Rehearsals are now in full swing in preparation for the Youth Band's entry in the fourth section of the North West Area contest in Blackpool and both Youth and Training Bands to the National Youth Championships, as well as various concerts in between. There have been sightings in the library of Christmas music and several jobs are already on our calendar. Due to the cancelation of some outdoor events because of the inclement weather, the charity fundraising was put on hold last year and the band has agreed to continue with the chosen charities, MNDA and The Teenage Cancer Trust again this year. Meetings for next year's musical tours are already in the planning stage, but we know now the band have a lot of hard fundraising to do to supplement the trip. We are very grateful for all the support you give our young people in their endeavours. Thank you.

Sue Crook

Thoughts over Autumn



As we step into autumn here in Dobcross, I find myself reflecting on the shifting seasons, not just in nature but in our lives as well. The summer, I hope, gave you all a chance to slow down, enjoy some family time, and perhaps experience moments of peace. Whether you were gardening, walking through the village, or just sitting in the sun for a while, summer has its own way of nourishing us.

But now, as the leaves begin to turn and the days get shorter, autumn is inviting us to pause and take stock of where we are. There's something about this season that encourages reflection—not only on the past months but also on the months ahead. This is the time when nature reminds us that everything has a cycle, a purpose, and that change is part of growth. In our Christian faith, autumn can be seen as a season of gratitude. We often speak of the harvest, but beyond the literal gathering of crops, it's a reminder to appreciate the blessings we've received in our own lives. Whether it's time spent with loved ones, the support of our community, or simply the gift of health, we are called to recognise and give thanks for these moments.

At the same time, autumn is also a season of stewardship. Just as farmers care for their fields, we're encouraged to care for what's been entrusted to us—our families, our relationships, and our faith. This might look like offering a helping hand to a neighbour, volunteering at a local event, or simply being present for someone in need. These small acts of kindness reflect the core values of our faith, reminding us of Jesus' call to love and serve others. As the cooler months approach, let's make time for both rest and reflection. In the quiet moments of autumn, whether in prayer or conversation, we can find new strength and purpose. I hope this season brings you peace, gratitude, and the chance to reconnect with what matters most.

Revd. Sachin S Awale

Nature Notes

There have been very few butterflies about this year. The cold, wet spring meant few tortoiseshells or peacocks survived their winter hibernation to lay eggs for the second generation, and the only species which seems to have been successful locally was the ringlet.

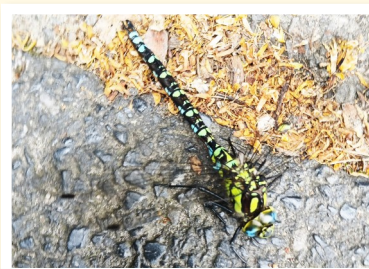


This meant there were few caterpillars around in May and June for young birds to feed on. Young bluetits in particular always suffer when there is a shortage of caterpillars, and very few from the first brood survived. There can be nine or more chicks in a brood so the parents don't usually lay a second time, but this year there have been one or two more successful later broods.

We notice moths less than butterflies as so many species are nocturnal, but anyone who has been out driving late on a warm summer evening will have noticed that they see very few moths in the headlights these days. However, I did find four large caterpillars feeding on the leaves of a plum tree in August, which I was told were probably from an Eyed Hawk-moth.



On the plus side, there is a large species of dragonfly called the southern hawker which has been spreading northwards due to climate change and I have seen several around Dobcross this summer.



They have green, blue and yellow markings on their bodies, and unlike most dragonflies they can be seen away from water. As the name 'hawker' suggests, they feed on

smaller insects which they chase and eat on the wing

Athene Noctua

DOBCROSS BOWLERS

As I missed two of our competitions due to holidays I am grateful to Mike Lucas for the following reports:

Our competition in August was the Atherton Malone Trophy held on Friday 9 August. There were 24 entrants, again a mixture of bowlers and non-bowlers. On a warm but windy evening two round robin rounds were played by everyone with some excellent performances especially from some of the "non-bowlers" - not sure this is the right description given the standard of play! The top 8 made it through to the knockout stages. David Deighton and Mel Chamberlain fell at the semi-final stage leaving Tim Lynch and Tim Rainey to contest the final. A close battle between the two

Tims ended with Tim Lynch being victorious to add to his Charity Cup win earlier in the year. He is pictured being presented with the Atherton Malone Trophy by Marjorie Malone. Many thanks to all who entered



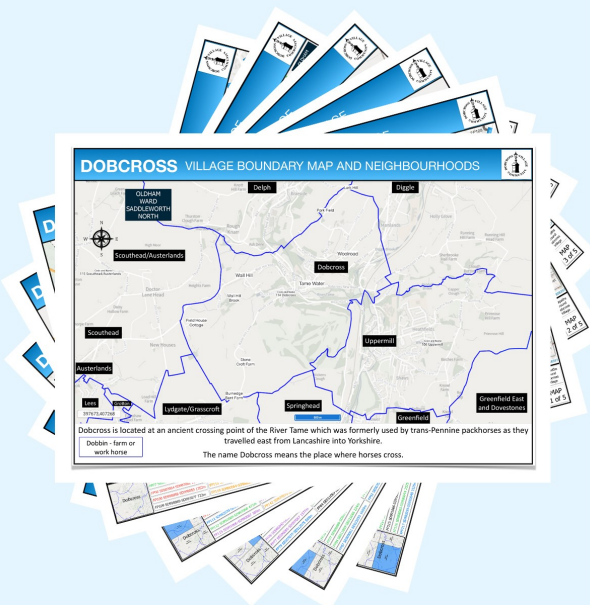
and those who helped organise the competition, raffle and food (the pies were lovely).

Our penultimate competition of the year, The Merit Cup, took place on Sunday 8 September. On a drizzly day 24 competitors took part in a straight knock out. The drizzle created difficult conditions but all coped well with some excellent bowling. David Deighton (for the second competition in a row) and Mike Lucas got knocked out at the semi-final stage by Cameron Mason and Chris Marsden respectively. Cameron and Chris provided a superb spectacle of a final with a very tight contest until Chris eventually pulled away to seal a 21-14 win. Chris (on the left) is pictured being presented with the trophy by the two organising captains Chris O'Ryan and John Moulton, with runner-up Cameron on the right.



Our final competition will be the Floodlit Pairs on Friday 20 September and I will report on that and the end-of-season results next month. This year we had increased the bowlers' subscriptions in anticipation of the need to purchase a new mower and guess what? The 'old' one did break down last month but was expertly repaired by our greensman, Chris Marsden, with parts off the internet. And we have now bought the new mower!
Kevin Lawton – Chairman 0161 624 0010

Fancy some bracing walks around the village?



Local Dobcross resident, Ken Smith, is Peak and Northern Footpaths Inspector for Saddleworth and leader of the Ramblers Clearance and Maintenance of Footpaths for Saddleworth and Oldham.

He is also a member of the DVC committee and with his expertise in mind the DVC wanted to raise local awareness of the footpaths in and around Dobcross.

Ken has created six pages of footpath maps detailing these footpaths.

Using the maps makes navigating the roads, streets and lanes easier by the fact they are all named and mapped. Although most footpaths are mapped, they may not be named. However, they are numbered, this makes it easier to remember them and hence walk them.

These will be published soon and will be available for purchase, at a nominal charge to cover printing costs, from Dobcross Village Shop & Post Office or downloaded from their website in PDF format for free.

<https://dobcrossvillagestore.com>

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.

Painted Red in Dobcross

We reported some time ago on the refurbishment of the defibrillator BT box at Ladcastle. A new door, paid for by Saddleworth Parish Council, was fitted by Teddy Royle (who several years ago when aged eleven, installed the defibrillator) and his dad Jimmy, before the complete exterior was expertly repainted by Jayne Gibson, pictured right.

This new lease of life meant that, by comparison, the defibrillator BT box at the Swan



was looking rather worse for wear. Up stepped David Deighton, pictured left, who performed what might be termed as a ground up refurbishment, removing all the windows before sanding and repainting all the metalwork.

As a result, Dobcross now has two of the best looking defibrillator "phone" boxes anywhere in the country.

In addition to the two phone boxes, our two pillar boxes, one at Ladcastle and the other outside the Dobcross Village Store and Post Office, are also looking very perky. Thanks to David for also painting the benches, bin and tidying up the memorial garden.

All residents who volunteer to undertake these jobs on behalf of the community are a credit to the village.

What's On

Monday 30th-7th Oct 'Curtain Up'. Fast paced comedy.

Saddleworth Players at Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Saturday 5th 10.00-12.00 Coffee Shop. Band Club.

7.30 Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel. Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Sunday 6th

Monday 7th 7.30 Saddleworth film Society 'The Taste of Things to Come'. French film. Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Wednesday 9th 7.30 Saddleworth Historical Society. Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm. Followed by an Illustrated Presentation by Mike Buckley entitled "The Manor of Saddleworth, 1200-1834." Members free, non-members £3. Saddleworth Museum.

Friday 11th 7.30 Evening with International Medium, Pauline Montgomery. Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Saturday 12th 7.30 DVC Fundraiser. Joey Linden as Freddie Mercury. Band Club. Phone 01457 870723 for tickets.

Denshaw Cinema. 'Kind Hearts and Coronets (PG). Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) or phone 07845698551

Saturday 12/13th 7.30 Saddleworth Musical Society. 'Your Favourite Things', music from Rodgers & Hammerstein.

Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Wednesday 16th 7.30 Saddleworth Concert Society. Jim Muirhead Jazz Quartet. Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Friday 18th 7.30 Saddleworth Film Society, National Theatre Live: Noel Coward's 'Present Laughter.' Starring Andrew Scott. Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Saturday 19th Dobcross Brass Monkeys Bavarian Concert of Music & Dance. A charity fun night in aid of MNDA. £10 from the club

Sunday 20th 2.00 Band Club Half Year Meeting.

7.30 Hancock's Half Hour. 3 of the missing episodes recreated. Millgate Arts Centre Delph

Saturday 26th Denshaw Cinema. 'Wilding' (PG). Based on Isabella Tree's memoir. Booking as above.

Weekly

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

Natasha's Morning Classes at the Band Club:

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

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. phone Natasha: 07852 576 107

Pilates:

Monday	Thursday
9.30-10.15	10.30-11.15
10.30-11.15	

Tuesday 9.30 Tone & Stretch, 10.30 Breathing & Relaxation

200 CLUB
September's winner!

HTD

The winner of this month's draw with share number 111 was:

Andy Raymer

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

Holy Trinity Church Services

OCTOBER

Sunday 6th	09:30am	All Age Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 13th	09:30am	Harvest Festival
Sunday 20th	09:30am	Baptism at the Eucharist (CW)
Sunday 27th	09:30am	Eucharist (CW)