



DOBCROSS DIARY

October
2026

Issue No.276 Supporting local clubs,
societies and facilities. Produced and
delivered free of charge by volunteers.

Team Dobcross: Saddleworth Village Olympics 2026

What a fantastic Saddleworth Village Olympics season 2026 has been for Team Dobcross!

We are incredibly proud of every single one of our children who has taken part this year. Whether competing for the first time or returning for another year, they have represented Dobcross brilliantly, showing determination, enthusiasm and, most importantly, an amazing sense of team spirit.



We have already celebrated some fantastic results and an incredible collection of medals, but the Olympics is about so much more than medals. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves, supporting and encouraging their teammates, making memories and proudly representing our little village. The famous Dobcross team spirit has certainly been out in force!

None of this would be possible without our wonderful Dobcross volunteers, the parents, carers and grandparents who generously give up their time to coach, organise, chaperone, umpire, cheer on our teams and help everything run smoothly. A huge thank you to every one of you.

We would also like to say a very special thank you to our fantastic sponsors, **D. Hughes Demolition, KM Global and Manor House Barn**, whose generous support has helped make this season possible, and to the people of Dobcross village for their incredibly kind donations and continued support of our children and Team Dobcross.

Most of all, congratulations to all of our young Olympians. You have yourselves, your families and Dobcross proud. Thank you.

Kymerli Spratt - Team Dobcross Village Lead

(The Dobcross Olympics Celebration Event will be at Dobcross Band Club On Sunday 4th October between 1pm-6pm)



The next DVC event will be a Robbie Williams Tribute at Dobcross Band Club on Saturday October 17th. Tickets cost £18 and are available from the 1st October.
Phone Sue Skinner on 07938 82698, to buy tickets or to reserve a table for the upcoming November Quiz (see poster inside).

See inside for news from the Dobcross Village Store with details of how to get your personal Loyalty Card on page 4.

Save the dates in your diary for future events listed.

News from bowling, our Brass Bands and more.

This edition of the Dobcross Diary is kindly sponsored by Dobcross Logs



NET BAGS: KINDLING OR LOGS

MINI BULK BAGS OF
SEASONED LOGS

TRAILER LOAD
OF SPLIT LOGS

COAL BRIQUETTES (25KILO)

BULK BAGS OF
SEASONED LOGS

PHONE: 0730 5795232



Dobcross Youth Band

Sunday 26th July saw the departure to St Ives Cornwall, of a party of 44, for the bands annual musical tour. After a very uneventful journey the party arrived at the familiar Cohort Hostel early afternoon and everyone settled into their allocated rooms. On Monday the Band played their first concert at the Lands' End Experience. After some very nice publicity on Facebook by the Lands' End Company and playing to a large audience, the group walked to Sennen Cove for games on the beach before returning to the hostel for one of Gillian's super evening meals.



Tuesday morning was free for beach activities followed by the second concert on Smeatons Pier, again with a very enthusiastic audience. Wednesday saw everyone enjoying surfing school.

On Thursday we went on the very popular Falmouth River Cruise with a pizza supper and disco dancing later.

On Friday, our last day, many went back to the surf school for another session, followed by the last concert on Porthminster Beach, before having a sunset BBQ on Porthmeor Beach.

The weather was very kind all week if a bit on the warm side, with plenty of sun cream used and all the band had a great week. Enormous thanks to those adults who gave up a valuable week of their annual holidays and especially Gillian and her team for producing great breakfasts and evening meals throughout the week.

Rehearsals during August were sparsely attended due to annual family holidays, and also at the start of September, as we had the usual absentees, due to the Village Olympics.

September sees the start of the Brass Band contesting season and the Youth bands first Contest is on Sunday 27th September, the Red Admiral Entertainment Contest, to be held at St, Michael's High School Chorley.

We are already seeing our Winter calendar filling up, with a busy time ahead, when we look forward to entertaining you in our own community of Dobcross.

Sue Crook, Chairman.



This Diary is distributed free to every home in Dobcross and also available via email. It is now also available to read on the Dobcross Shop website, together with a welcome pack: dobcrossvillagestore.com

We try to include all village events. If you have any articles for the next issue, please contact Patricia on 01457 878814 or by emailing diary@dobcross.com.

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

Please contact diary@dobcross.com

Dobcross Silver Band

As I write this the Band is rehearsing for two exciting concerts coming up. In late September we present a Movies and Musicals concert at the Band Club and on 16th October we perform once again at the lovely Playhouse 2 theatre in Shaw. Hoping to see lots of our friends attending these concerts, as you always do.

We have also been invited to play for the Mayor of Oldham, Pam Byrne at her Civic Service at Oldham Parish Church, another proud moment for our Band!

In October the Silver Band also returns to the Contest stage as we once again take part in the Rochdale contest at Wardle Academy on Saturday 24 October. Last year we were crowned 3rd Section champions, this closely following our win at the National Finals so we are hoping for further success this time.

On 15 November we travel to South Normanton by coach to take part in the North East Midlands Contest where

we will compete in both First and Second Sections, a real challenge for the Band.

We are always on the look out for sponsor support for the travel costs - if you can help please let me know. Also if anyone would like to travel with us you are most welcome.

Showcase Brass will return in October too, with Tintwistle Band, performing at our Club for the first time in many years. We had excellent audience numbers at the last concert for the visit of Middleton Band, please keep supporting the concerts!

The Silver Band remains in great shape and we look forward to seeing you all over the coming busy autumn period.

Andy Black (Silver Band Chairman) : phone 07907 635397

Playhouse 2
Shaw's Hidden Gem

**Friday 16th Oct
at 8.00pm**

DOBCROSS SILVER BAND



3rd Section National Champions 2025



**Tickets £10.00
On 17th Aug. Here, Online
or A Shaw Thing, Market St**



Father Christmas is getting ready to come to see all the children in Dobcross. He will be here on 28th November with treats for everyone!

It's Back!

Many of you will have seen this photograph of the much missed phone box arriving at the junction of Dobcross New Road and Ladcastle .

It has taken some time for all the necessary paperwork and insurance payments to be resolved but we now have a replacement for the original box, which was destroyed in a car accident. Luckily the defibrillator that was housed in it was saved and has spent the last few months in a garage.



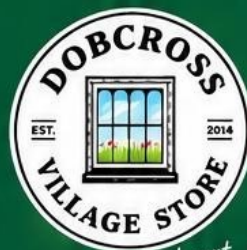
However, it will still take a little longer to get the defibrillator up and running, as it still needs an electrical connection. We will let everyone know when it becomes available again but let's hope that it won't be needed.

Meanwhile, the consumables of all three defibrillators presently in the village, including this one, will need to be replaced at the end of 2027, so expect more fundraising for this in the future!

Dobcross Village Store Loyalty Card

Shop Local • Earn Rewards • Support Our Community

More
than just
a shop...
♥



...at the heart
of our village ♥

1 Join – it's simple!

Just complete a loyalty card registration form in the shop (or online) and we'll issue you a Dobcross Village Store loyalty card with your own unique number.

Dobcross Village Store
Loyalty Card Registration

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone number:

Email address:

Quick
and easy
to join!

2 Earn points It all adds up!

You'll earn 1% of your till transactions as points.

For example:
**Spend £10
= 10 points**
(10p to spend!)



You can choose to use part of your points or all of them whenever you like.

Every
shop adds up!

3 Members draw Be in it to win!

As a loyalty card member you are entitled to take part in our members draw.



Great prizes and a chance to be rewarded for supporting your local shop!

4 Monthly bonus 500 points up for grabs!

We offer a monthly bonus of 500 points, chosen at random!



To be in the chance of winning, your card needs to have been used **within the past 6 months**.

5 Bi-annual hamper draws Fantastic prizes!

We also do bi-annual hamper draws, with brilliant prizes!



To be in the chance of winning, your card needs to have been used **within the past 6 months**.

6 Lost your card? Not a problem!

If you've lost your card or the magnetic swipe has stopped working, it takes our team of staff and volunteers less than a minute to add your points manually.

All we need is your name.

We're here
to help! ♥

7 Not got your card with you?

Again, we can add your points manually, or you can choose to donate your points to the 'shop charity card' where points accumulated are donated to a worthy cause. We encourage you to use them or donate them – every point can help make a difference.

Shop local ♥ Support local
Make a difference

Supporting our community

Last time we donated **over £200 of food** to **Oldham Food Bank** using points from the shop charity card.



**OLDHAM
FOOD BANK**
FEEDING A STRONGER TOMORROW

Find out more or join online

Scan the QR code or visit:



Scan
here!

dobcrossvillagestore.com/loyalty-card

A stronger Dobcross
together ♥

People • Community • Local Food • Brighter Tomorrows

Dobcross Village Store News!



September saw plenty of activity in the life of the Dobcross Village Store. Our Annual Members Meeting took place at the Band Club, an opportunity to update members on progress made through the year and on the plans ahead. It was a very productive meeting thanks to the engagement of the members and the discussions that their questions and insights created. Thank you to everyone who came along and contributed.



After the meeting we recreated the famous old Co-op photograph, which was a wonderful way to celebrate a little piece of Dobcross history and community spirit. It was fun to bring the photograph to life again; whilst there were fewer bonnets and straw hats several village dogs did manage to photo bomb the occasion.

We are delighted to share that work is now underway to implement a programme of important Health and Safety upgrades to the store. These improvements will help us ensure that our employees, volunteers and

customers can continue to work, volunteer and shop in a safe and welcoming environment. We are extremely grateful to the Tanner Trust for their generous support and for helping us invest in the future of the store.

The Fairy Trail was another great success and brought lots of enjoyment to all who took part. A huge thank you must go to FODS for all their hard work, creativity and effort in making the trail such a wonderful community event. We really appreciate everything that went into making it happen.

Thank you again for supporting your village store. Your continued custom, involvement and enthusiasm make a huge difference.

If you haven't already done so, why don't you consider having a loyalty card for the shop.

Details are on the opposite page.

FODS would like to Thank the Community for Supporting the Dobcross Fairy Garden Trail 2026

A huge **thank you** to everyone who supported and attended the **Dobcross Fairy Garden Trail 2026: Favourite Children's Storybooks**.

The event was a wonderful celebration of imagination, creativity and community spirit. Families enjoyed exploring the village, discovering the beautifully decorated fairy gardens inspired by beloved children's storybooks, and spending quality time together outdoors.

We are incredibly grateful to all the residents, volunteers, and local businesses who helped bring the trail to life. The time, effort and creativity that went into creating each display made the event truly magical and created lasting memories for so many children and families.



It was fantastic to see so

many smiling faces throughout the summer, with families embracing the trail, sharing their favourite stories and enjoying everything that Dobcross has to offer. The positive feedback we have received has been overwhelming, and it is clear that the event was enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

Thank you once again for your support and helping to raise much needed funds towards our playground redevelopment. Events like these are only possible because of the enthusiasm and generosity of our wonderful community. We look forward to welcoming you back for another magical Fairy Garden Trail in the future.

**From all of us at FODS,
thank you for helping
make the Dobcross Fairy
Garden Trail 2026 such a
memorable success.**

FODS
FRIENDS OF DOBXCROSS SCHOOL

DOBCROSS BOWLERS

The nights are drawing in and alas the summer bowling season is drawing to a close. Where did the time go? By the time you read this our final competition of the year the **Floodlit Pairs** will already have been held (details of how that went in the next edition). The bowling green is due to close for the winter on 5 October. However some bowling continues. We have 2 teams who are brave (foolhardy??) enough to take part in outdoor bowling on an artificial surface in Chadderton over the winter. And for those of you who want to stay warm and dry we expect to be running indoor bowling at the club starting in October – look out for details on the Bowling pages of the club website.

In the meantime we held our latest competition the Merit Cup on Sunday 6 September. 28 players decided to take a tilt at winning the coveted trophy in this straight knock out competition. The early rounds saw excellent bowling from everyone with some really close games including three absolute cliffhangers which were decided by a single point. As the early heavy rain showers thankfully faded away, the competition began to take shape. All four quarter finals were really close games with Irene Stafford, Bec O'Brien, Craig McKernon and Derek Stafford being the unfortunate ones to be on the losing side of their games.

On to the semi-finals where the competitors, freshly energised by the fantastic pies supplied by Tony, put on a great show. Hard-fought games saw Chris Haslam and Tim Lynch fall at this hurdle to Mike Lucas and David Deighton respectively.

The final was nip and tuck in the early stages with nothing to split the players at the half-way point, the score at 11-11. Mike's pie must have contained more energy than David's though, as he put a great run together to open up a lead which he was able to maintain to cross the finishing line. Mike is pictured being presented with the trophy by Kevin Lawton (along with David looking rueful about his choice of pie perhaps).



Mike Lucas

New Bowling Team 2027

We would like to form a new team to play in the Fourth Division of the Oldham Vets League. The League plays its matches on Thursday afternoons and is for men who are 60 or over.

The team would be ideal for new bowlers with little or no experience, along with current bowlers who might wish to play at that level.

If you are interested please contact :

John Lockwood on 0778 8640795 or jlock6crib@aol.com

Dobcross Calendar 2027

The Dobcross Calendar 2027 is on its way to the printers and will be back very soon. As always it is full of photographs sent in from local people showing the various sights and scenes from Dobcross.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures but we can only choose thirteen for the year! Thanks also to the sponsors who each took a month.

It will be available from several outlets in the village including the shop.

Saddleworth Gardening Club



October 5th
1.30-3.30pm

AGM plus table top sale of plant cuttings and sundries.

To brighten the afternoon we also have an entertaining half hour of humour and song from **Rob Mason**, a Lancashire comedy folk entertainer.

Raffle, Tea and biscuits

Members £3 Visitors (always welcome) £4

Civic Centre, Lee Street, Uppermill

queries - contact Lesley 07784 793410

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

Thank you, Pat - Editor

Email: diary@dobcross.com

What's on

Saturday 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Shop. Dobcross Band Club. Donations to Oldham Food Bank welcome.

Sunday 4th 1.00 - 6.00 Dobcross Olympics Awards Ceremony. Band Club.

Saturday 10th 7.00 Dobcross Brass Monkeys Oktoberfest. Bavarian dress optional. Tickets available to purchase at Dobcross Band Club, £10.00, includes a Bratwurst Sausage.

Monday 12th 7.00 DVC Meeting. Holy Trinity Church. All welcome.

Tuesday 11th Dobcross Ladies. Meal at Old Bell for those that have booked. Meet 7.15pm.

Saturday 17th 7.30 DVC present Robbie at Dobcross Band Club Tribute by Matt Byrne followed by Big Jim's Disco. Tickets £18 each Contact Sue Skinner on 07938 826989

Sunday 26th 2.00-4.00 Showcase Brass with Tintwistle Band. Tickets £6 each, available to purchase over the bar or on the door.

Weekly events

Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm Creative writing, in The Swan. Contact Cathy for more info: cathy-crabb@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

Holy Trinity Church Services

Sunday, 4th October
09:30am All Age Eucharist (CW)

Sunday, 11th October
09:30am Harvest Festival

Sunday, 18th October
09:30am Eucharist (CW)

Sunday, 25th October
09:30am Eucharist (CW)

200 CLUB HTD

July's winner!

The winner of July's draw with share number 202 is:

Christine Bowden.

August's winner!

The winner of August's draw with share number 153 is:

Lisa Phethean.

September's winner!

The winner of September's draw with share number 7 is:

Beverley Wooding.

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

DVC Autumn Fundraisers and Beyond

We would love to see you at our events, as all funds raised helps put money back into the village, by contributing to the cost of publishing the Dobcross Diary, planting colourful planting displays around the village, wine and treats when the Christmas lights are switched on and general donations to other village groups and projects, such as the one recently to Dobcross Olympics. If anyone has any ideas on future fund raising events or like to help with the DVC with organising them, please call Sue Skinner on 07938 826989.

So please do come to the DVC events at the Band Club, reserve a table for the November Quiz, and all the other things that will be planned for 2027. The dates will be in the Dobcross Diary!

DOBCROSS BEER FESTIVAL

MUSIC FOOD CRAFTS & MORE BEER!

14/15 Nov. 2026 12noon - late
Dobcross Band & Social Club

FREE ENTRY

For information call

01457 873741 or 07734 257634



MILLSTONE



DOBCROSS
BAND & SOCIAL CLUB



For films at Denshaw Cinema. See moviola.org

Dedicated booking number. Please text (preferred) 07845698551

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

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



DVC November Quiz



Sat. 21st Nov. at 7.30pm

Dobcross Band Club

Teams of up to 6

Entry £2.50 per person

**Raffle with prizes kindly donated by
The Old Original, Old Bell Inn
and Old Toll House**

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

All money to DVC

Nature Notes

In the bird world, autumn migration starts as early as August when some birds set off on their journeys south to warmer countries.

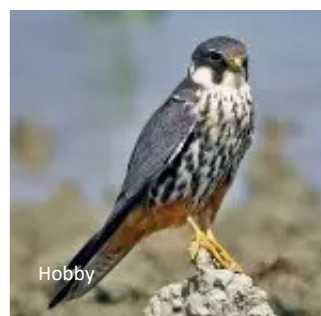
Ospreys seen at Castleshaw on several occasions may have been failed breeders, or newly independent juveniles on their way to West Africa for the winter. Other young birds, like the little egret which spent several days there was probably a juvenile from a nest on the Dee estuary, exploring the area. The warm weather saw plentiful supplies of insect food and there seem to have been good numbers of swallows and house martins moving south, and even a couple of hobbies with them - small migratory falcons which feed on dragonflies in the spring but then turn to prey on the hirundines, insect eating birds, such as swallows and martins.



Osprey



Little Egret



Hobby

Thanks to the reader who contacted me after the last issue of the Diary, about the RSPB advice not to provide seeds and peanuts for garden birds over the summer months. This was an attempt to reduce the spread of infectious diseases among seed-eating birds, particularly finches, when they

congregate at bird-feeders. By reducing the concentration of birds in gardens at a time when there is natural food available in the wider countryside, it was hoped that the survival rate would improve, though it may be that in more northerly areas like Saddleworth, where plants flower and set

seed later in the season, it would have been helpful to continue feeding throughout May. It will be interesting to get feedback from the RSPB when data on breeding success and survival become available.

Athene Noctua