



# Dunton News

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**Edition 8**

**Christmas 2016**

*ChenisseMarie*



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janice@themarchharedunton.co.uk or jules\_wrangles@yahoo.co.uk**

**Editors Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills**

### **Editorial**

Welcome to the Christmas 2016 edition of the Dunton News. Please continue to support this local magazine by advertising with us and emailing us your local photographs and articles to make your village magazine even more interesting and informative to read.

The photograph on the front cover was taken by our resident photographer, Chenisse Marie Matthews, depicting true autumnal colours that herald the cooler evenings, warm soup and a cosy fire to come. What signifies autumn to you?

There are social organisations in Dunton which hold weekly or monthly meetings, including exercise classes, the Women's Institute and Dunton Community Gardening Group. Now that we are in the middle of the cold months of winter, why not give one of these a try or set up a new group?

Village activities during December include the Church Christmas Fayre, a folk concert in the church and Carroll Singing round the village. Of course there is the Wassail in January 2017. Did you know that 'to make a toast' comes from the toast that was often served on the top of a wassail bowl? Get yourself along to one or more of these great events!

If you are arranging a Dunton event and you would like others to know about it, please email us details. The submission date for the next edition is on this page.

Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills

**All copy and advertising for inclusion in the  
March 2017 edition must be emailed to**

**janice@themarchharedunton.co.uk or**

**jules\_wrangles@yahoo.co.uk by 6.2.2017**

## **Dunton Recreation Ground**

The recreation Ground off Horseshoe Close was established over 45 years ago when the field was purchased by a group of village residents. A lot of work was needed to remove stones from the soil and establish a good grass surface suitable for a variety of sports.

The facilities were set up in trust with the Charity Commission and continue to be maintained by a small committee of elected trustees, assisted by a number of volunteers. Changing facilities, a small reception area and kitchen were built to accommodate Dunton Football Club, which in the 1980s had a successful team in the Bedfordshire Premier League, plus a reserve senior team and three youth teams.

The Pavilion has since been extended in stages over the years to provide the current facilities with kitchen and bar area plus a clubroom suitable for parties of up to 40 people, with full disabled and baby changing facilities. Currently these are used by the AFC Dunton Football Club who run a Saturday Team in the Bedford League, plus a Sunday team. AFC Biggleswade Youth Teams also use the pitch and changing area during the week for training. Improvements to the flood-lighting are planned to enable a larger part of the pitch to be used for evening training of football and other sports.

The clubroom is also used by a few village organisations for evening meetings and has a regular coffee meeting every Tuesday at 11-00 am to which all are welcome. The Clubroom is further available for hire for parties, meetings etc with special rates for Parish organisations, residents and families of only £6.00 for the first hour, and £3.00 per hour thereafter.

For the younger generation a play area was established on the north side of the ground which was considerably improved 10 years ago to provide a variety of equipment suitable for children of all ages.

More recently Central Bedfordshire Council laid hard core footpaths linking Fen Reach and Horseshoe Close with the Village Hall. To make the walk along these paths more pleasant a programme of planting of shrubs and flowers has been undertaken with the results hopefully providing good scenery for future years.

The committee wish all residents to make good use of and enjoy the facilities in the Recreation Ground but do request that they do not leave behind mementos of their visits. So all can enjoy themselves in safety we also request that the area not be used as a tip for domestic rubbish or as a canine toilet.

*Arnold and Eileen Bone*



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## Useful tips for buying at auction

If you're planning to buy anything at auction, you must remember that you always buy as seen. So the golden rule is do your research and inspect the goods thoroughly before bidding.

The auction centre is open for viewing all day Friday and Saturday morning, so you have plenty of opportunity not only to browse, but to check for any damage and make sure it's working.

Peacocks' staff are there to help so don't be afraid to ask. Choose the items you want to buy, note the lot numbers, and decide how much you are willing to pay, not forgetting to add the buyer's premium.

On the day of the sale make sure you have registered, either on-line or at the reception desk or you can't join in. If you want to bid for an item, let the auctioneer know by raising your hand or your numbered bidding card. Don't be put off by the myths of scratching your nose or raising an eyebrow being taken as bids. Peacocks' auctioneers are very experienced and know if someone is a serious bidder. Above all, stick to your budget. It's very easy to get carried away with the excitement

So remember:-

- Check the goods before buying
- Register before the auction starts
- Set your maximum budget
- Make your intentions known
- Enjoy the experience

Buying at auction is not as daunting as you may think and once you have experienced the thrill of the auction, you will soon join the growing band of fans who visit every week searching for and bidding for things they've always dreamed about.

*Peacock Auctioneers, Bedford and St Neots*

## **Have you been inside Dunton Memorial Hall?**

I imagine many of Dunton residents will have visited the hall at some time, either to access the Pre-school or to attend WI, an exercise class, Youth Club, a party or a village meeting. You may well have noticed that the date on the front of the building is 1925 and some of you may have attended our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party last year. But how much do you know about its history?

An application was made to The Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1945 and this was signed by Arthur Simeon Lee of Church Farm, Dunton, Farmer.

The aim of the charity was to be, '.....the maintenance of a Village Hall for the purposes of physical and mental training and recreation and social, moral and intellectual development, through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library, lectures, classes, recreations and entertainments or otherwise as may be found expedient, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Dunton, without distinction of sex or of political or other opinions'.

The Memorial Hall is still run by a committee made up of interested villagers and representatives of the organisations that use the hall.

The original representatives were from:-

- The Parochial Church Council of Dunton
- The members of The Baptist Chapel at Dunton
- The committees, acting jointly, of the Dunton Cricket Club and Dunton Football Club
- The Dunton Branch of the British Legion
- The committee of the Dunton Nursing Association

How times have changed!

The current committee are working extremely hard to ensure that the hall is a modern, environmentally efficient and pleasant 'Hall for All'. We always welcome new committee members and in particular we are looking for a secretary to take over from February. Could it be you? If you would like any further information, don't hesitate to email me at [mjilld Davies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mjilld Davies@yahoo.co.uk). *Jill Davies*

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## **Dunton Community Garden: End of Year Round Up**

I'm writing just after our Halloween event, which saw the poly tunnel and garden buzzing with activity. Children and adults alike joined in making lanterns, bats and spiders, tried pumpkin bowling on the grass and celebrated or commiserated with the most and least successful pumpkin growers in the competition that started at our May plant sale.

We aim to offer events throughout the year to appeal to a wide range of people and interests and 2016 has been no exception! Starting the year by providing hot food at the Dunton Wassail, we kicked off monthly coffee mornings soon after and welcomed many new and familiar faces to the garden.

Our May plant sale appealed to gardeners, including the very youngest who enjoyed digging and water play. The garden hosted the National "Big Lunch" in June as well as bacon butties after a guided bird walk, whilst in July we supported village events with stalls at Dunton Lower School Fete and the Dunton Fete. In August, we piloted a wild camping weekend at the garden which resulted in a flower pot lady becoming a new garden resident! We conclude our fundraising year in December with a festive stall at the Church Xmas Fair, adorned with wreaths, garden goodies and more.

Many thanks for the fabulous support that we've had from Dunton during 2016 and beyond. If you've still not visited the garden, please make it your New Year's resolution in 2017. It's open dawn to dusk all year. If you want to make sure someone is there when you visit, please e mail or call ahead on [info@duntongarden.org](mailto:info@duntongarden.org) or 01767 313898.

*Joy Osborn*



## The Missing Steeple at St Mary Magdalene

Records show that Dunton Church originally had a steeple. The tower and steeple must have fallen down during the mid 17th century because a record states that in 1669 Nicholas Flott was presented "for Carrying the stones out of the Church yard, which stones belongeth to the Church steple." Three of the five bells were damaged by the fall of the tower. Only the arch at the west end of the nave remains from this original tower.

In 1710 the parish obtained a faculty "to sell the broken bells, to erect a new steeple and to mend the west end of the Church." This was completed in 1712 and as can be seen in the watercolour by Thomas Fisher painted around 1815 it was a very meagre affair. Archdeacon Bonney in his historical notices of Churches (c1820-1840) noted *"The tower fell down before the memory of any person living at present and a bell hangs in a small wooden Cupola over the west end of the nave."*

The present tower was completed when the Church was reordered during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. *David Tant*

**Does anyone remember World War 2 evacuees?  
Do you have memories or photographs of Dunton in the  
50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s? It would be great to  
include them in future issues of Dunton News**

**Please contact the editors, Julie Hills and Janice  
Pritchett with your stories and photographs**

## **St. Mary Magdalene**

The Church at the heart of the Village

Vicar: Revd. Canon Lindsay Dew

Mobile: 07545 878082

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Email: [lindsay.dew@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay.dew@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.dewbenefice.com](http://www.dewbenefice.com)



### **Regular Sunday Services**

1st. Sunday	9.30 am Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday	8.00 am Sunday Praise Followed by continental breakfast
3rd Sunday	10.30 am Benefice Eucharist* *See notices or website for which Church
4th Sunday	10.30 am Sunday Praise
5th Sunday	10.30 am Benefice Service* *See notices or website for which Church

### **Christmas at St Mary Magdalene**

Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Fair from 11.30 am
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December – 6.00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – 6.00 pm Carol Singing round the Village
Christmas Eve - Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December - 3.30 pm – Crib/Christingle Service, 11.30 pm – Midnight Mass

*Full Details in Parish Newsletter, Website and Biggleswade Chronicle*

## **Traditional Events in Dunton This Winter!**

I wanted to take this opportunity to bring two fantastic events to your attention that are taking place around the Christmas holidays.

The first is the biggest and best concert of the 2016 concert series for Dunton Folk. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016 we have what will undoubtedly be one of the most entertaining and festive concerts we have ever had in the village. A Winter Union is a collection of some the finest musicians currently treading the boards in the folk and traditional music circuit. We have members of The Willows, Megson and Hannah Sanders coming together to present an evening of festive music to rival any other. It will be a fitting end to Dunton Folk's fifth year of concerts.

Thanks very much to of all the helpers that make the concerts possible and to John and Janice from The March Hare for providing the bar. If anyone can help distributing flyers and posters for the 2017 concert series give Simon a shout on 01767 310424.

The second event is the sixth Dunton Wassail, held at Church Farm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2017, at 6.30pm. This is a celebration of midwinter cider making. We have dancing from Letchworth Morris Men and Redbornstoke Morris Men, singing from Dunton's very own choir Singtastic, mulled cider, soup and hot dogs from Dunton Community Garden, wassailing the apple trees in the orchard followed by a mummers play from the Brafront Guizers in the March Hare pub. The evening is then finished off with a session of traditional music in The March Hare. If you haven't been to one of the Wassails before, wrap up warm and come and join us for a fantastic evening of traditional fun and jolliness – make sure you bring a saucepan lid and a wooden spoon or something else to make a lot of noise within the orchard. Wassail! *Simon Bailes*



## Dunton Parish Council Biographies



Nigel Coomber, Vice Chair of Dunton Parish Council, married to Rachel. We have lived in Dunton for 14 years. I work in the NHS and support a number of village clubs and events in my spare time.



Mandy Howard, Clerk to Dunton Parish Council since December 2015, previously Assistant Clerk at Stotfold Town Council. Married with 3 grown up children.



Keith Woods, Councillor, has lived in the village for 20 years, retired and can be found wondering around the village with 2 dogs, a retired greyhound and whippet.



Hazel House, Councillor, resident of Dunton since 2001. Has been a volunteer in Dunton Community Garden and in the village shop. Currently sings in the Dunton Singtastic choir.

The Parish Council warmly welcomes all residents to attend their meetings. There is a 10 minute public participation session where any matter in relation to the business on the agenda can be brought to the attention of the Parish Councillors. Our next meeting is in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground on the 18.1.17 at 7.30 pm.

# Saturday December 17th

Christmas spectacular with members of The Willows,  
Megson and Hannah Sanders

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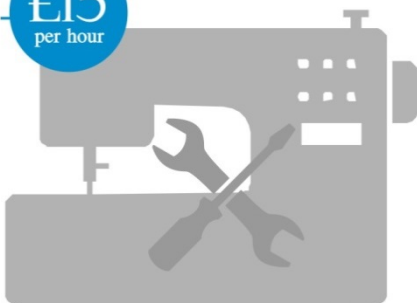
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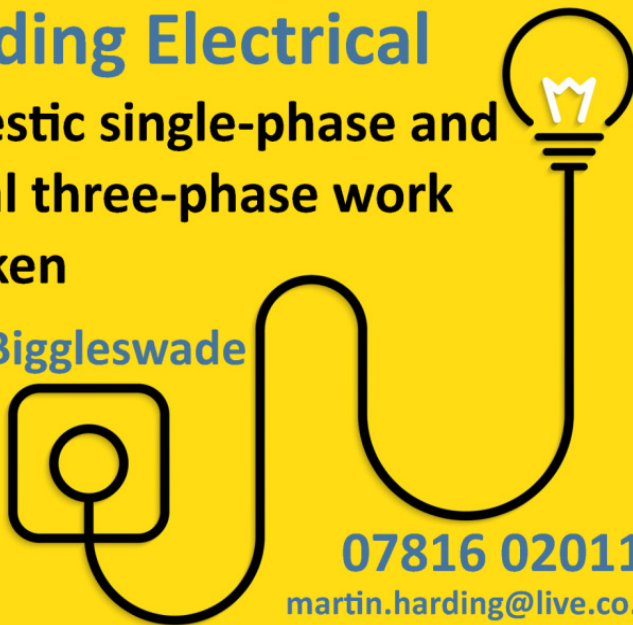
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## CHRISTMAS AT THE MARCH HARE, DUNTON



**saturday 24<sup>th</sup> ~ tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> december 2016**

come to the march hare over the christmas period for mulled wine, festive real ales and traditional christmas fayre! our opening times over christmas are~

24.12.16	saturday	christmas eve	midday ~ 1.00 am
25.12.16	sunday	christmas day	11.30 am ~ 3.30 pm
26.12.16	monday	boxing day	midday ~ midnight
27.12.16	tuesday	bank holiday	midday ~ midnight



## NEW YEAR AT THE MARCH HARE, DUNTON



**saturday 31<sup>st</sup> december 2016 ~ monday 1<sup>st</sup> january 2017**

31.12.16	saturday	new year's eve	midday ~ 1.00 am
1.1.17	sunday	new year's day	midday ~ 11.30 pm
2.1.17	monday	bank holiday	midday to midnight

forget rubbish atmosphere, come to the march hare, dunton for a friendly, simple, jovial and happy new year's eve by an open fire, glowing in a convivial atmosphere. great seasonal real ales and malt whiskeys. fun with family, friends, old and new. appreciate each other's company and conversation. tickets for new year's eve cost £7.00, including scottish oat cakes and mature cheddar followed by scottish shortbread. £2.00 of the ticket money goes to the charities the march hare supports. starts at 9.00 pm and stick around for a hearty chorus of auld lang syne. music from the 60s and 70s. perfect!



### **Central Beds bus cuts voted through!**



More than 1,500 people responded to cuts in the bus service consultation and only 1/3 were supportive of the proposals.

I attended the meeting where the decision was made and criticised the changes but watched the Executive Committee vote them through unanimously, resulting in £470,000 of cuts to bus services.

The cuts will reduce the amount of subsidies provided to ensure rural bus services operate and will axe funding to some community groups providing bus services to people across Central Beds who cannot access buses through reasons of age, disability or social exclusion. The impact of these cuts on route 188 which serves Dunton could be cuts up to 50%.

Full details of the changes including maps of the affected routes can be seen here on my facebook page [www.facebook.com/adamzerny](http://www.facebook.com/adamzerny)  
*Adam Zerny, adamzerny@hotmail.co.uk*

### **Dry Cleaning and Kleen-Eco**

When it comes to having your garments Dry Cleaned at Kleen-Eco we like to be different. First of all we are NOT a typical Dry Cleaners but we can clean everything that says Dry Clean or the symbol  shown in your garment label. We use a process that has been the norm in Germany and France for over 10 years called Wet Cleaning. The difference is the letter  denotes Perc which is a toxic solvent which is not environmentally friendly, not gentle on fabrics and doesn't leave your clothes smelling fresh. At Kleen-Eco we use the same thing that you would use to wash your clothes WATER and DETERGENTS. The major difference from your washing machines at home is we use highly sophisticated washers, dryers and garment finishing equipment that can safely clean delicate garments which ensures no shrinkage and leaves garments looking and feeling their best.

The second differentiator to local Dry Cleaners is we carry out wet-cleaning on our premises, we do not send garments away to possibly wait a week for them to be returned, this means we can often clean many items the same day. We even offer a free collect & drop service if you're too busy to come to the shop. Thirdly, the people you see in our shop are the people who will clean and press your clothes, so they fully understand your needs and will take great care in cleaning and finishing your garments. So from cleaning Suits, Coats, Wedding Dresses, Bedding & Duvets to our Laundry and Ironing service we are here to help. Situated just a few minutes from the Biggleswade A1 Retail Park why not drop your suits and duvets off in the morning and pick them up later in the day, subject to demand.

*Kleen-Eco Biggleswade*

# Dunton Village Show 2017

The fete this year was a great success due to the very good weather, interesting and entertaining stalls, generous sponsors and a fantastic turnout from Dunton residents.

The fete was organised by representatives from the Dunton Recreation Association, Village Hall and the March Hare. The fete raised money for the DRA, local community groups and money to kickstart the 2017 village show.

Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers who assisted before, during and after the fete.

The aim of the 2016 fete was to improve the resources and facilities for Dunton residents, village organisations, including charities, businesses and social organisations. So what about 2017?

A group of village organisations and individuals are getting together to set up in June (dates not yet known), but we hope that it will be around the 17.6.17, a celebration of Dunton where the village will be a hive of activity. The show should bring everyone in the village together and all should have a great time. In the main the show is an event to support village charities and organisations. For further information contact the editors, Julie Hills and Janice Pritchett.



Dunton Youth club has been running for over 4 years and is enjoyed by many children from in and around Dunton, Biggleswade and surrounding villages.

We offer a wide variety of activities for children aged 7 and over and meet every Tuesday during term time at Dunton Memorial hall. £1 per week.

**For more information or to register please call**

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We are always looking for any extra help. If you can spare a couple of hours once a month, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

## **Reporting potholes faulty streetlights, overgrown hedges and trees to Central Bedfordshire Council**

The new reporting system launched in May 2016 by Central Bedfordshire Council in partnership with Ringway Jacobs can be found at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/reportit). This provides you with information on potholes that have already been reported therefore you do not need to report the pothole again. You can also see the latest update on progress with that pothole.

You will receive a unique reference number for your report so that you can use the new 'Track It' tool to monitor progress.

Potholes are the obvious issue to most road users but the new system will allow you to report other issues such as faulty streetlights, overgrown hedges, trees plus much more.

Issues reported online are sent immediately to a Highway Engineer so the process of inspecting the problem and investigating it can start without delay.

The new online reporting system adapts automatically to work on mobiles and tablets so you can use it when you are out and about. You can even take and upload a picture to give the engineers more information about the report.

## **Ivel Sprinter**

The Ivel Sprinter Bus Service provides all members of the public with a local service which enables them to make journeys that are not available with other commercial operators due to limited services in this area. The service is managed and run by volunteers for residents in rural areas of East Bedfordshire. For details of the timetable contact 01767 313521.

## **Coconut Ice and Honeycomb for Christmas**

Most of us love the favourites at Christmas time, mince pies, fruit cake, sausage rolls, why not ring the changes and have a go at making some coconut ice and honeycomb.

### **Coconut ice**

500g icing sugar  
400g can condensed milk  
400g desiccated coconut  
Pink food colouring

- 1) Line a 20cm square cake tin with cling film.
- 2) Put icing sugar into a bowl, add condensed milk and incorporate with a wooden spoon, then get stuck in with your hands and knead the mixture.
- 3) Gradually add the coconut, kneading the mixture until all the coconut is mixed in.
- 4) Split the mixture in half. Press the first half into the tin, pressing it down with the heel of your hand. Colour the other half pink, make it as pink as you like.
- 5) Take small balls of the pink mix and place over the white mix, with your hands press the pink mixture evenly over the white mix to form an even layer.
- 6) Allow to set overnight in the fridge. Use a sharp knife to cut into squares.

### **Honeycomb**

100g caster sugar  
4x15ml tablespoons golden syrup  
1 1/2 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda

- 1) Put the sugar and syrup into a pan and stir together (pan must not be on the heat at this stage).
- 2) Place pan on the heat and let the mixture melt and then turn to a syrupy goo. Allow to bubble.... it should look like the colour of maple syrup... this should take about 3 minutes.
- 3) Take off the heat, whisk in the bicarbonate of soda and watch the syrup turn to a cloud of aerated pale gold. Turn it out immediately onto a piece of baking parchment, leave to set then bash it so it breaks into pieces.

*Karen Younger*

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**Wednesday** (Term time only) 7.30 pm to 8.30pm, **Village Hall**. Please wear clean indoor shoes, bring water and a towel.

**Sunday** 8.30 am – 9.30am, **Dunton Recreation Ground**. Gloves recommended in colder weather. Bring water. Children welcome to attend whilst you exercise, but remain your responsibility.

Small groups can be catered for by appointment. Ring to discuss requirements. Personal Training and Nordic Walking coming soon.

Contact Lorraine Bennetts

[Lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com](mailto:Lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com)

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Cakes N Cake By Karen

## Bedfordshire Folk Tales by Jen Foley

Last year, local Bedfordshire author, Jen Foley visited the March Hare for an evening of storytelling based on her book, 'Bedfordshire Folk Tales'. This book brings together stories throughout Bedfordshire's history including conniving highwaymen, lascivious monks, Anglo-Saxon heroines, dark forests, ruined castles and magical green pastureland of Bedfordshire as well as restless ghosts, demons and witches - all as fantastical and powerful as the landscape they inhabit.

Jen has an ear for a good story and an eye for historical detail that brings the stories to life.



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BIGGLESWADE CHRONICLE, DUNTON COLUMN	alan@dansey.co.uk 01767 310163
CAKES N CAKE	karen21younger@hotmail.co.uk 01767 317768
CHILLY GARDEN & DIY SERVICES	peter61chilvers@gmail.com 07583 481632
DUNTON COMMUNITY GARDEN	info@dunton garden.org www.duntongarden.org 01767 313898
DUNTON LOWER SCHOOL	dunton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk 01767 312154
DUNTON OIL GROUP	duntonoilgroup@btinternet.com
DUNTON PARISH COUNCIL	<u>duntonpc@gmail.com</u> 01462 735220
DUNTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION	dra@duntonvillage.org.uk 01767 315 350 07748 594 431
DUNTON VILLAGE HALL	villagehallbookings@duntonvillage.org.uk 01767 601857 (booking information)
DUNTON VILLAGE PRE-SCHOOL & BOOMERANG CLUB	www.duntonvillagepreschool.co.uk 01767 315807
DUNTON VILLAGE WEBSITE	Info@duntonvillage.org.uk 01767 310163
DUNTON WI	lorrainebennetts777@btinternet.com 01767 314991
DUNTON YOUTH CLUB	duntonyouthclub@hotmail.co.uk 07724 755494
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**Does anyone remember using the Memorial Hall as a school during the war?**

**Does anyone remember the Dunton Amateur Dramatic Society?**

**Please contact the editors, Julie Hills and Janice Pritchett**

**Editors Reservation**

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