

# Dunton News

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Edition 20

Christmas 2019

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**Editors Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills**

### Editorial

The picture on the front cover was taken by Simon Bailes whilst walking the dog early in the morning. A beautiful Autumn morning in Dunton.

Despite the inclement weather, Dunton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Scarecrow Festival on the 28.9.19 and 29.9.19, in association with the March Hare's real ale festival, Grin and Beer It 8 was a great success? There is a full write up on pages 4 – 8.

There will be no need to go to Oxford Street, London, this year to see the lights because we will have our own Living Advent Calendar for the second year running, in Dunton. See pages 10 and 11.

If you are interested in social history you may wish to read Frank Chessum's memories on pages 17 and 18.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to everyone in Dunton!

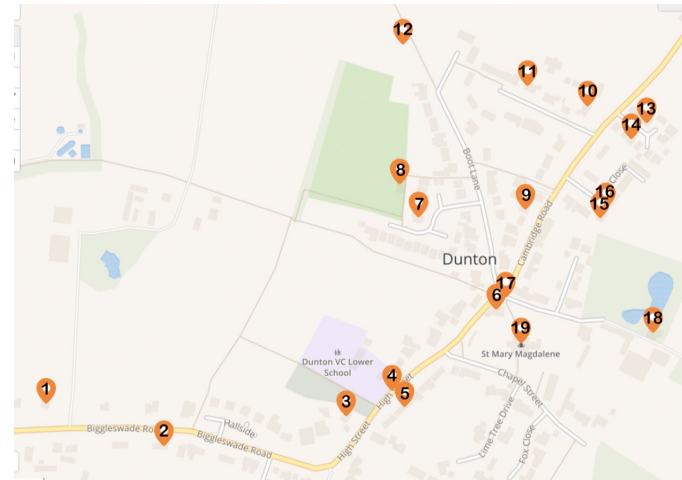
Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills

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**Scarecrow Festival part of Dunton's Big Weekender 2019  
28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Something to Crow About**



Dunton's second Scarecrow Festival in association with the March Hare Real Ale Festival was another great success.

Thank you to those who entered a scarecrow.

A huge thank you to those that organised the event, including those and behind the scenes and a special thank you to our scarecrow judge (who shall remain anonymous, ready for next year).

On the Saturday and Sunday there were families wandering around the village looking at the scarecrows, in wellies, wearing coats and carrying umbrellas. The winners were 1st place and Public Vote – Fishing at Dunton docks, 2nd place Monster, 3rd place Tug of Paws.





At the March Hare Real Ale Festival, John showcased real ales from Cambridgeshire. All of which went down well with customers, new and old.

Marigold welcomed a lot of people to the community garden's Macmillan coffee morning on Saturday morning.

The volunteers at the garden were extremely pleased

that they had lots of friends new and old who came to enjoy the beautiful garden and wonderful cakes that had been donated for their Mad Hatters coffee morning. It was a real community event and they were amazed that they raised £325 for Macmillan's as well as generating lots of interest in the work that they do.

Special recognition must be given to Alan Dansey who won a Prize modelling the best hat!



A Big Thank You to all those people who came to support the DRA's fish and chip supper on Saturday evening. It was a great night, enjoyed by all. Lots of noise, chatter and laughter.

The Pavilion bar was opened on Sunday afternoon as one of the refreshment stops on the scarecrow walk around the village and this was its final Sunday opening for this summer.



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Although it was a wet day on the Sunday, St Mary Magdalene Church came to the rescue and the Scarecrow Fest was held in the church. They were very thrilled to welcome everyone into church. The weather certainly didn't spoil the event. Claire and David won the hamper. The children had a wonderful time being photographed!

Visitors to the church enjoyed their cup of tea and a slice o cake.

Early in the afternoon some of the Letchworth Morris Men

musicians played background music in the church. A real privilege because the acoustics in the church are fantastic. A little later the side gathered to dance outside the March Hare, just as the heavens opened. They managed one dance before running into the pub, drenched, but dancing continued in the dry at the front of the St Mary Magdalene church, probably a first for the Letchworth side because they are more used to dancing in and around pubs than churches.



The WI were very pleased to be able to support the Scarecrow Festival and talk to all our friends from the community. Thank you to those who purchased a cake from their stall.



The community garden also had a stall at the scarecrows fete which was used as an opportunity to sell their home made chutneys and jams, which raised £50 for the garden and several families expressed an interested in coming to more of their events.



We shall be back again next September to do it all again on the 26.9.20 and 27.9.20. Next up we have the Dunton Living Advent Calendar.

### Scarecrow Entries 2019

Road	Scarecrow Name	Family Name
Biggleswade Rd	Mr Straw	Bennetts
Biggleswade	Footballs coming home	Hall and Lowings
High Street	Little Miss Muffet	Coomber
High Street	Scarecrow wooden spoons	Lower School
High Street	Fishing at Dunton Docks	Baines
High Street	March Hare	Pritchett
Horseshoe Close	Buttercup Joe	Dansey
Horseshoe Close		DRA
Cambridge Road	Ros Well	Witt/Townsend
Cambridge Road	Tug of paws	Sullivan
Greenfield Way	Ben Stokes	Moss
Kings Pond Close	Big Bird	Jones
Kings Pond Close	Penalty Shootout	Baker
Lees Close	Spiderman	Branch
Lees Close	Monster	Rhys
Church Street	Zippy	DBW
Church Street	Marigold	DCGG
Chapel Street	Worzel	Church





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**DUNTON VILLAGE HALL  
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April 25 2020



## Dunton's Second Living Advent Calendar

Join us in making Dunton a giant living advent calendar!

### What is it?

From the 1st December 2019 residents, businesses and village groups in Dunton have been challenged to create seasonal scenes in their windows. Windows throughout the village will be decorated and the scenes will be lit consecutively each evening at 7.00 pm. Some residents are doing outside displays.

The windows will be prepared by the houses, businesses, and groups involved and a photograph of each new window will appear in Dunton's Big Weekender facebook page.

To start Dunton's Living Advent Calendar, on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019, lights will be turned on at 7.00 pm, where Biggleswade Road meets the High Street, also known as Vicarage Corner. Their lights are to raise money for local charities and so please be generous. The first window will be lit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. By Christmas Eve there will be many different windows to see and enjoy as you walk through Dunton - a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. All windows once they have been unveiled will be lit until the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020, culminating with Dunton Folk Wassail 2020 at Church Farm Dunton and at the March Hare, Dunton.

A trail map will be made available for residents to walk around the village to see the 'Living Advent Calendar' on Dunton's Big Weekender facebook page with hard copies at the March Hare. Windows and outside displays are:-

December	Organisation/Family	Where?
1	Leach and Docherty families	Vicarage Corner
2	St Mary Magdalene Church	St Mary Magdalene Church
3	Hills family	Hallside
4	Village Hall	Village Hall
5	Harrisons family	33 Cambridge Road
6 (Fri)	Coach Red	Village Hall
7 (Sat)	Families for Kings Pond Close	Kings Pond Close
8 (Sun)	Moulder family	31 Fen Reach
9	W I	Village Hall
13 (Fri)	Dunton Lower School	Biggleswade Road
14 (Sat)	Greenfield Way Residents	Greenfield Way
15 (Sun)	Dunton Folk	Church Farm
17	Coomber Family	1a High Street
18	Dixon Family	3 High Street
19	DCGG	Trolley at school
20 (Fri)	Sullivan Family	31 Cambridge rd,
21 (Sat)	DRA	Pavilion
24	March Hare	March Hare
<b>January</b>		
4	Dunton Folk	Wassail at Church Farm

Please support the families and organisations who have taken the time to set up their windows and outside displays by walking round the village and viewing them or even being there on the night when they are lit up with a big cheer!



## Dunton's Village Wide Yard Sale 2020



Join us in making Dunton a giant Yard Sale on the Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. The idea is that the residents of Dunton will be able to sell their surplus items from their driveways, front gardens or garages. Refreshments will be available at the Village Hall.

## Inspectors Savage Central Beds' Local Plan

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)'s Local Plan attempts to show where houses will be built in the next 15 years around Biggleswade. The Plan was approved by Councillors and recently went through a Public Examination lead by Government inspectors who voiced major concerns about Local Plan.

The plan put forward by CBC included huge numbers of houses in between Biggleswade and Dunton.

The inspectors' findings criticised CBC for failing to show that it had considered all options before picking housing sites in Central Bedfordshire and said that a development south of Biggleswade was not justified in its current form because a huge development east of Biggleswade (SA4) cannot be supported without further work.

CBC has said the inspectors' criticisms have "been welcomed as an important step forward in the thorough and comprehensive process of creating and agreeing the Local Plan" and that "there are a number of areas which require some further work". *Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye, Central Bedfordshire Councillors for Dunton and Pottton*



## Dunton VC Lower School Fireworks



The village came together on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November as the school held a fireworks event, the first for a number of years.

Despite the weather, over 250 visitors were able to enjoy jacket potatoes, cupcakes, hot chocolate or even a Prosecco, and of course the fireworks.

The money raised will be used to help to pay for a pantomime that will visit the school in the run up to Christmas.

The PFA would like to thank all those who made the event such a success, either by attending or by donating wood, fencing or lights without these the event would not have been possible, the fire was still warm on the Monday morning!!

*David Horne-Curtis*





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### Dunton Memories by Frank Chessum

Frank was born in Dunton in 1939 and lived in a small cottage in Boot Lane. The cottage was two up and two down with very small rooms, an old cast-iron range in the front room for all the cooking and heat for the house. There was no electricity and no water in the house, but there was a tap at back of the yard that served all 4 cottages. There was also a bucket toilet at the bottom of the garden. It was murder going down there in the winter!

Frank has some wonderful memories of his mum, Dorcas Morgan, whom he believes was born in Dunton Lodge in 1909. She lived there until the early 1930's when she then married Frank's dad, known to everyone as Ciss Chessum. They moved to Boot Lane.

Whilst she was growing up at the Lodge she had to attend Dunton School and the only way to get to the school was a nearly two mile walk across fields, which wasn't too bad when it was dry. However when the ground was wet or covered in snow in the winter, she would arrive late and the teachers would make her stay later in the day so she could catch up with the other children. Unfortunately, very often it was dark when she set off for home across the fields and this meant that one of her brothers would have to come and meet her. In those days teachers were hard to the children, including using a ruler across the hand to maintain discipline.

Frank remembers two village pubs from his childhood, the Wheatsheaf, now the March Hare opposite the Post office and village shop and the Three Horse Shoes which was on one corner of Boot Lane. The Bell pub was also on the opposite corner of Boot Lane, which burnt down and now there is a bungalow instead.

In Cambridge Rd there was a blacksmiths where Frank and his friends stood for ages watching him shoe horses. Some of

the wooden beams from the blacksmiths have been incorporated as internal features in the March Hare.

The Bake House was on Cambridge Road, modern houses have taken its place now.

In those days Boot Lane wasn't made up, it was very rough with great potholes mostly full of water.



The Old Shop, now a private residence      The blacksmiths  
The Bake House      The March Hare and The Bell

Frank remembers a steam lorry that used to come down Boot Lane to pick up vegetables that were going to the London markets and of course that was a big thing for the children in Dunton in those days to see.



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## News From Dunton Community Garden

Firstly, a very special thank you to all who supported our MacMillan Coffee Morning in September. We raised £325 for the charity thanks to your generosity. Despite the "iffy" weather there were a considerable number of people enjoying the morning. For some it was their first visit to the garden. Please come again. The Mad Hatters hat competition was won by Alan Dansey, although there were not many entrants the standard was very high.

We held a Halloween Fun event for children and families at the end of October and this was again very well supported. There were some very imaginative costumes and prizes for all. The children very much enjoyed making Halloween lanterns, apple eating and other crafts. Children and adults alike appreciated the afternoon fun and the efforts of the garden volunteers to make it possible.

We have had an extremely successful growing season and plans are now well in hand to prepare the garden for next year. The garden volunteers have tidied up the poly-tunnel and the beds ready for the new season's plants and seeds.

We have recently received a generous donation and have planted a tree in the centre of the garden. It is a Variegated Maple. It will be an attractive addition to the garden and future generations will be able to appreciate it in years to come.

*Celia Walpole*

All copy and advertising for inclusion in the Autumn 2019 edition must be emailed to [janice.pritchett@outlook.com](mailto:janice.pritchett@outlook.com) or [juliejohnhills@gmail.com](mailto:juliejohnhills@gmail.com) by 6.2.2020



## Dunton Parish Council



Dunton Parish Council would like to say thank you to the villagers that turned out on October 19th to help with this years spring bulb planting.

The sun was shining and the ground soft so we successfully planted 1000 bulbs along the main route through the village. Before enjoying tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards!

Next year we'd like to plant bulbs along the verges in front of some front gardens. Many of you keep these verges nicely cut so if anyone has any objections to us planting outside their garden please let the parish council know.

Watch this space for the 2020 bulb planting date!!

## St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton at Christmas

### Sunday, 8 Dec 2019, 11:30 am, Christmas Fair

There is something for all the family to enjoy and have fun, including a wide range of gift stalls, games and a raffle with a wide range of prizes. As ever there will be a large selection of home-made cakes plus drinks, mince pies, sausage rolls and delicious home-made soup. All proceeds will go towards the urgent repairs to the floor at the west end of the Church.

### Sunday, 22 Dec 2019, 6 pm, Service of Lessons and Carols

This is a traditional Advent service featuring readings and carols, with refreshments of mince pies and glühwein available after the service.

### Tuesday, 24 Dec 2019, 3 pm, Crib/Christingle Service

Join us fellow villagers at the popular Crib/Christingle Service.

### Tuesday, 24 Dec 2019, 11.30 pm, Midnight Mass

Welcome in Christmas Day and what it stands for at the Midnight Mass service.

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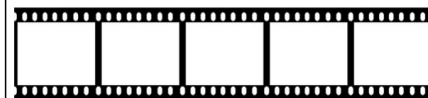
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4th Sunday	Sunday Praise
5th Sunday	Benefice Service

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Full details of Benefice and special services can be found in our monthly Parish Newsletter.

They can also be found in the Biggleswade Chronicle and the Church facebook or website pages.

### What's On In Dunton, September 2019 to December 2020

Date	Event	Where?	Time
<b>December</b>			
1.12.19 to 24.12.19	Dunton's Living Advent Calendar 2019	Village wide	7.00 pm
3.12.19	Song and Carols	March Hare	8.00 pm
8.12.19	Winter Fair	St Mary Magdalene	
14.12.19	Sand Ukulele Rock and Roll	March hare	8.00 pm
16.12.19	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
22.12.19	Service of Lessons and Carols	St Mary Magdalene	6.00 pm
24.12.19	Crib/Christingle	St Mary Magdalene	3.00 pm
24.12.19	Midnight Mass	St Mary Magdalene	11.30 PM
<b>January</b>			
4.1.20	Dunton's Wassail	Church Street Farm	6.30 pm
27.1.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
24.1.20	March Hare Real Ale Festival	March Hare	6.00 pm – midnight
25.1.20	March Hare Real Ale Festival	March Hare	midday – midnight
26.1.20	March Hare Real Ale Festival	March Hare	Midday – 10.30 pm
<b>February</b>			
24.2.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
<b>March</b>			
23.3.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
<b>April</b>			
20.4.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
25.4.20	Yard Sale	Village wide	10.00 am – 1.00 pm
25.4.20	007 Party Night	Village Hall	TBA
<b>May</b>			
18.5.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
<b>June</b>			
22.6.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
25.6.20	Dunton's Big Weekender	Village wide	Evening
26.6.20	Dunton's Big Weekender	Village wide	Evening
27.6.20	Dunton's Big Weekender	Village wide	All day
27.6.20	Sandy Ukulele Group	March Hare	8.00 pm

28.6.20	Dunton's Big Weekender	Village wide	All day
<b>July</b>			
27.7.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
<b>August</b>			
25.8.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
<b>September</b>			
21.9.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
26.9.20	Scarecrow Festival	Village wide	TBA
27.9.20	Scarecrow Festival	Village wide	TBA
<b>October</b>			
<b>November</b>			
<b>December</b>			
1.12.20 to 24.12.20	Dunton's Living Advent Calendar 2020	Village wide	7.00 pm
12.12.20	Sandy Ukulele Group	March Hare	8.00 pm

**If you want to include a Dunton event in 'What's On in Dunton', please email brief details to [janice.pritchett@outlook.com](mailto:janice.pritchett@outlook.com)**

#### Dunton Oil Group

Dunton Oil Group is a village organisation to help those of us who use oil as our main heating source to buy it more cheaply than we could as individuals. There are 3 deliveries a year - in January, April and September. We order around 50,000 litres each time. This quantity gives us a price that is usually about 5 pence a litre cheaper than would otherwise be possible. The minimum order is 500 litres so that means a saving of about £25 or more on each order. To join the group send an email to:- [duntonoilgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:duntonoilgroup@btinternet.com) Or phone Derek on 01767 315487

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happy  
christmas  
2019 and a  
prosperous  
new year  
2020 to all



# **DECEMBER AT THE MARCH HARE DUNTON**

9<sup>th</sup> festive season of real ales, our last real ale event of the year will be for the whole of december. john will have one regular real ale and three changing festive real ales on every day.

**Let christmas begin**

**a selection of fine gms for the month of december.**

3.12.19, songs and carols at the march hare to celebrate the festive season. song sheets will be provided for well known (or perhaps half forgotten) carols. music will be provided by the march hare session musicians and smgtastic, dunton's own ladies choir and jack in a barrel, acapella perfection from turvey.

14.12.19, sandy ukulele group is playing once again at the march hare, from 8.00pm till 10.00pm, a rock and roll sing along. limited number ticket event only for the comfort of all.

16.12.19, christmas sweater night is about proudly wearing your favourite christmas sweater at the march hare! give us a twirl! pint of beer or a glass of wine (125 ml) on the house for the most remarkable (k)nitwear every hour on the hour from 8.00 pm – to 10.00 pm. not the same jumper though!

24.12.19, living advent calendar, tonight is the march hare's turn and so come and join us at 7.00 pm to see our christmas window turned on.

**24.12.19 to 27.12.19 john's infamous mulled wine.**

**christmas opening hours~**

24.12.19 tuesday christmas eve midday – midnight

25.12.19 wednesday christmas day 11.30 am ~ 3.00 pm

26.12.19 thursday boxing day midday – midnight

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## Dunton Directory



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DUNTON OIL GROUP

DUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

DUNTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION

DUNTON VILLAGE HALL

DUNTON VILLAGE WEBSITE

DUNTON WI

GOOD NEIGHBOUR

THE HARE BEER BUNCH

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