

Dunton News

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Edition 21

Easter 2020

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juliejohnhills@gmail.com**

Editors Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills

Editorial

The picture on the front cover was taken by Alison Chalkley and the colour of the photograph hasn't been enhanced, no filters, no photoshop etc. What a wonderful view!

Dunton's Second Living Advent Calendar was a great success. There is a full write up on pages 4 – 7.

If you have something to sell or something to buy try DBW's Yard Sale on the 25.4.20. For more information read page 10. Afterwards, dress to kill for the Live and Let's Party at the Village Hall on the 25.4.20

If you are interested in the Second World War you may wish to read Frank Chessum's Dunton War Memories on pages 11 and 12.

John and Janice have been at the March Hare for ten years, their story is on pages 17 to 20.

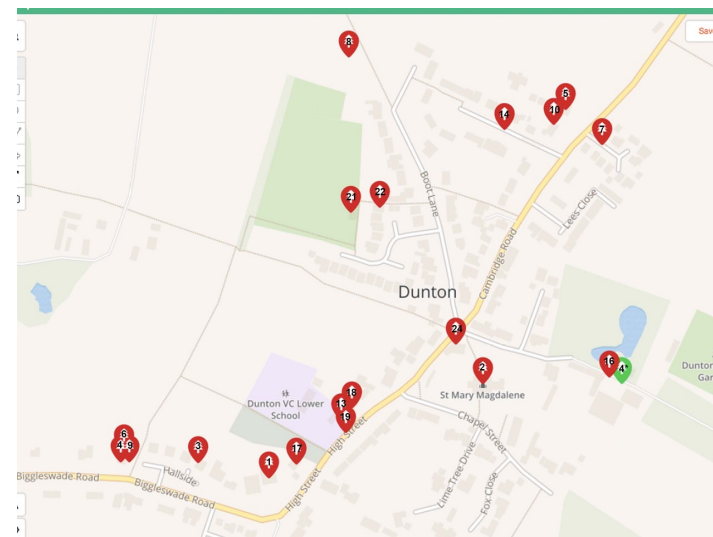
Hope you all have a happy Easter.

Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills

Editors Reservation

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Dunton's Second Living Advent Calendar 2019



From 1.12.19 to 4.1.20, many families and organisations in Dunton joined together to make a giant living advent calendar! The village was a riot of colour! As last year there was no need to go to

Oxford Street because we had it all here in Dunton. During December Dunton Living Advent calendar windows were the talk of the village and the surrounding area, including a post on We Love Dunton facebook page which said, "You all make my regular drive from Clifton to Cambridge a far more cheerful journey at this time of year and contribute to making Christmas just that little bit more magical."

Some families and organisations decorated their windows, which were lit consecutively each evening at 7.00 pm. Other residents created outside displays.

To start Dunton's Living Advent Calendar on the 1.12.19, the lights were turned on at Vicarage Corner. These lights, on that evening alone, raised £238.50 which will be split between the Dunton Community Garden and St. John's Hospice.

St Mary Magdalene Church was the first window to be lit on the 2.12.19. It was a traditional window with the manger, Mary, Joseph and the angels.

Dunton WI switched their lights on, on the 9.12.19 and shared Christmas nibbles, including gingerbread men.

13.12.19 saw the village school lit up, accompanied with a visit from Santa and Pickles the donkey. Mulled wine and mince pies were available for all to enjoy.

On the 16.12.19 there was a musical theme to the Dunton Folk Advent Window! This stood at the entrance to the orchard and welcomed visitors to the Dunton Wassail. Simon Bailes said, "It's great to be part of a village wide activity in the run up to Christmas. We will certainly be taking part next year."

Despite the wet and windy weather on the 19th, the Community Garden prepared a beautiful nature window.

By Christmas Eve there were many different windows to see and enjoy as you walked through Dunton, a great way to get into the Christmas spirit.

The last window opened was at the March Hare. It was a village, complete with church, pub, school, village shop and manor house!

Most windows once they had been unveiled were lit until 4.1.20, culminating with Dunton Folk Wassail 2020 at Church Farm Dunton and at the March Hare,

Dunton, which was a superb night. Thanks to Letchworth Morris Men, Bedford Morris Men, Jack in a Barrel, the Brafront Guizers, The Dunton Garden, Potton Community Orchard and The March Hare pub for contributing to a lovely evening of traditional frivolity.

All copy and advertising for inclusion in the J 2020 edition must be emailed to janice.pritchett@outlook.com or juliejohnhills@gmail.com by 6.5.2020



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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
10	Sullivan Family	31 Cambridge rd
13 (Fri)	Dunton Lower School	Biggleswade Road
14 (Sat)	Greenfield Way Residents	Greenfield Way
16	Dunton Folk	Church Farm
17	Coomber Family	1a High Street
18	Dixon Family	3 High Street
19	DCGG	Trolley at school
21 (Sat)	DRA	Pavilion
22 (Sun)	Fowler and Chalkley Family	2 Horseshoe Close
24	March Hare	March Hare
January		
4	Dunton Folk	Wassail at Church Farm

Dunton Community Garden

A very successful December and January saw the garden volunteers and members well represented at village events. At the Church Christmas Fayre we provided gifts for Christmas and crafts for the children. A special thank you for the hardworking volunteers for their work on the day and those who made the produce, sweets and decorations. Just into the New Year we provided refreshments for the Dunton Wassail. Again a hugely successful event we were pleased to support. We also provided an Advent Window (on our trolley outside the school). In the garden itself maintenance work is well ahead. The produce beds are well prepared for the spring including the strawberry beds as well as the blackberry and raspberry canes. The apple trees have been pruned and the willow arch and dome well clipped back and shaped.

A thank you to Dunton Wassail for a generous donation and to the houses on vicarage corner for their donation from the proceeds of their wonderful light displays.

Should you have time on your hands we are always looking for gardening volunteers as well as help with admin and events? Please email info@duntongarden.org or phone 01767 313898. *Celia Walpole*

Dunton Neighbourhood Plan – Green Infrastructure Plan – Call for help

Following further discussions over the New Year we are currently looking to continue activities towards creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish and have outlined our first cost estimates to the Parish Council to claim from Central Bedfordshire Council. The first activity we are looking to deliver for the wider plan is an assessment of the Parish to discover and allocate appropriate green spaces around areas of environmental or natural interest. This will take the form of 2 sessions (hopefully in May/June) run by Dunton Parish Council and parishioners to identify those areas using local knowledge of areas in the Parish ranging from historic hedges, badger setts, rare birds, mammals, flowers or sites of historic interest (like Newton Bury) that should have some form of protection and allocation of "Green Space" around them to prevent development. So I am writing in advance of gaining the final funding to ask anybody reading this if they would like to take part in this activity and/or if they have any particular interest, expertise or historical knowledge that they would be able to share. Please either email me (john.belchamber@telefonica.com) or drop a note through my door at 11 Horseshoe Close if you would like to support this Parish initiative. *John Belchamber*

Housing Development in Dunton

At Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)'s Planning meeting on the 6th February 2020, outline planning permission for a development of 37 houses in open countryside to the east of Dunton was approved. The land in question had been included in CBC's Local Plan for development, which hasn't yet been adopted.

CBC's Local Plan is still ongoing and an update is expected in the coming months but this did not mean the Council had formerly approved this area for development; it had merely proposed it, in its plan of possible developments.

The developer's plans here:

<http://cbstor.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/.../publicViewer.htm...>

Further details about the application are here:

<http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/.../acolnetcgi.gov...>

The full planning report can be seen here:

<https://centralbedfordshire.app.box.com/.../file/603958099146...>

And you will be able to view the debate and vote filmed at the meeting by going to <https://centralbedfordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>



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Dunton Recreation Association

Please help! We are fortunate to have a great facility in our village, the playing field, children's play area and pavilion but currently it is under-utilised so we need some fresh ideas and people to make them happen in order to keep these facilities for the village. Will you join our team so that we can think big and provide a place for us all to use and enjoy? Contact us via www.duntonvillage.org.uk/dra or call Heidi on 01767 601 857.

It will soon be time to renew your 100 Club Membership. Please continue to support us. Many thanks

By popular request, Fish 'n' Chip Supper and Bingo 28.3.20, from 6.30 pm, late bar and raffle tickets, cost £10.00, including meal, only 40 tickets available.

Alan Dansey



Dunton Village Wide Yard Sale 2020

Join us in making Dunton a giant Yard Sale!



What is it?

The idea is that the residents of Dunton will be able to sell their surplus items from their driveways, front gardens and garages. Alternatively, you can have a table in the Village Hall for a donation. Contact duntonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com to book this. The Yard Sale will take place on 25.4.20 from 10am - 1pm.

For families who are having a stall at home, there will not be a registration fee, however a donation would be much appreciated to support future DBW events.

Any money you take on your stall is yours.

A free village map will be available for all purchasers to use so they can find you! This will be available on DBW's facebook page and hard copies, before the event, will be available at the March Hare in advance or Village Hall during the event. To be added to the map, completed entry forms must be sent in by the 18.4.20.

At the Village Hall, between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm Elise Alexander will be raising money for Camp Cambodia 2020 selling second hand books and providing refreshments, including bacon baps. Refreshments will also be available at the church between 10.30 am and midday.

How can I take part?

Please complete the registration form included with this issue of Dunton News and return to the DBW Co-Ordination Group, care of the March Hare by the 18.4.20.

Sellers must be private individuals not selling items they would usually sell as a business, including craft sellers, and food vendors. Each individual is responsible for the items that they are selling. They will have to ensure that the items are "as described" and theirs to sell ie being truthful about the items they are selling. Be cautious when selling electrical goods.

Frank Chessum's Dunton War memories

Churchill's Unexpected Guests

Frank remembers the German prisoners at Church Farm in the centre of the village who were great with Dunton's children. One winter the German prisoners made them ice skates and taught the children how to use them on the pond in a field near the farm. Apparently, after the war, one or two of them stayed in the village and married local girls. Does anyone have any other memories of this?

Operation Pied Piper

Frank also remembers evacuees, during World War 2, living in Boot Lane. Operation Pied Piper was the greatest evacuation of children in British history, which began on Friday 1st September 1939 and officially ended in March 1946.

The evacuees would have arrived in Dunton with only a few items that they were able to carry in a box or small suitcase. They could take only one toy with them. The children wore labels so they would not get lost. They carried their gas masks in boxes. Red and blue gas masks were designed for the very young children and were called "Mickey Mouse" gas masks.

Many city children discovered life in the country was quite different. For some, it was the first time that they had seen cattle and they had no idea that milk came from cows or that apples grew on trees.

Does anyone remember stories handed down through their family about the Dunton evacuees?

Rationing

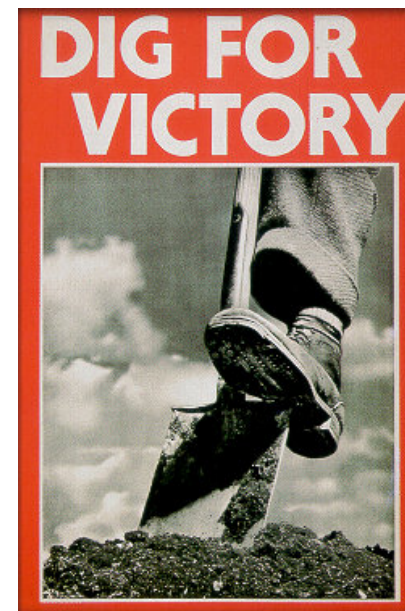
Rationing was officially started on 8th January 1940. It was meant to ensure a fair distribution of food, in short supply due to enemy ships attacking merchant ships, preventing them from bringing supplies such as sugar, cereals, fruit and meat to the UK. Ration

books were issued to every person (to be stamped by a local shopkeeper when the goods were collected), and a typical weekly ration (for one person) included one fresh egg, 2 oz butter, 2 oz tea, 1 oz cheese, 8 oz sugar, 4 rashers of bacon, 4 oz margarine. Cheaper cuts of meat became popular, and people could save their rationing points to purchase other items such as cereals, tinned food, biscuits and dried fruit. Vegetables were not rationed, and the people of Britain were encouraged to grow their own fruit and vegetables. Many families reared their own pigs, chickens and rabbits so that they would be able to eat more meat.

Frank remembers that there were no supermarkets, so people from Dunton had to visit different shops to buy meat, vegetables and other things, using their coupons. Food rationing lasted for 14 years, 1940–1954. Meat rationing continued for another 10 years. His memory of margarine was that it tasted of candle wax and he used to put the skins of oranges in the oven and bake them until they were crispy, that's if you could get hold of an orange.

In the 1950s Frank preferred boiled sweets to chocolate because it lasted longer! Another treat was dipping a stick of rhubarb into sugar and homemade rice pudding with the skin on the top or apple tarts or apple pudding! Fantastic! His mum used to make some really magic toffee apples.

Frank remembers SPAM being introduced to Britain by the Americans, when they joined the war and had bases here in Britain. Fish and chip shops sold battered SPAM fritter with and chips when the fish wasn't available! The nearest chip shop was in Biggleswade. No different to today.



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Celebrating Ten Years at the March Hare

In the harsh winter of February 2010, John and Janice purchased the run down, closed pub, the March Hare, and on their first evening in staying in the pub, without heating, they wondered what they had done! Before taking over the pub John had retired as a design engineer and Janice was still practicing as a Learning and Development Consultant.

For the first six months, John renovated, with the support of the building trade and last but not least his daughter Kerry, the inside of the pub. After all these years the outside still needs to be renovated. After the inside renovation the pub opened in August 2010.

In those days John and Janice were new to the pub trade and tried all sorts of activities to encourage people, especially Dunton villagers to use the pub. An eclectic range of real ale was crucial to the pub as it was and still is John's passion. Neither John nor Janice are chefs, but Janice is a good cook and so themed food nights, Saturday afternoon teas and Friday lunch time bacon butties were offered, enjoyed by those who participated, but unfortunately this type of catering on the premises was not viable. One of their customers came up with a wonderful idea of allowing customers to order and eat their takeaways in the pub with a glass or two of beer and wine. This has proved to be popular and takeaways include Indian, Chinese, Italian and good old English fish and chips and continues to this day!

Over the years there have been many weddings, celebrations of people's lives and birthday parties in the pub for which Janice provided the buffet, but Janice and John do not mind if you bring your own cold buffet in!

Towards the beginning of John and Janice running the pub, many villagers asked them to open a village shop, which they did and this shop was run by enthusiastic volunteers. However there were only a few Dunton Villagers who purchased items in the shop and in the main it was not supported by Dunton villagers. The volunteers worked really hard to keep the shop open, but in the end it slowly closed and few in the village commented.

Children and dogs have always been welcomed and will continue to be welcomed into the March Hare. Some parents have said the pub is like coming into someone's lounge or garden where the kids can play and they can chat. Misbehaving children and dogs are not welcome as it spoils the enjoyment of other customers!

As time went on Janice introduced a range of gins and wines which are enjoyed by many customers.

There are traditional pub activities going on in the pub, including quiz nights, traditional games (Shut the box, Table Skittles and Shove ha'penny) and a crib team. The quiz rounds vary each time and are created by Janice who points out that it's a light hearted quiz, but not for the faint hearted. If you wish to join the March Hare crib team, come into the pub for more information.

Continuing with the traditional theme, the March Hare offers folk nights, Morris dancing and ukulele singalongs and of course provides the bar at the Dunton Folk session in St Mary Magdalene church.

Janice and John are community minded and wanted their pub to be one of the central points of the village and so to support Dunton, Janice became a Parish Councillor and then Chair of the Parish Council for a few years, from which she resigned in 2019.

Janice also set up and is lead editor and writer of Dunton News, with the support of Julie Hills. Dunton News is published by the March Hare. DBW, formerly known as Dunton's Big Weekender was Janice's brainchild with the aim to provide a sense of community for the village of Dunton and consists of a member of each organisation based in Dunton and individuals who live in or have an interest in Dunton. This group of volunteers design and promote four events a year, including the Village Yard Sale, Dunton's Big Weekender, Dunton's Living Advent Calendar and the Scarecrow Festival.

The March Hare started out in 2010 as a 'community freehouse' selling real ale. Over the years John and Janice have been awarded East Beds CAMRA Branch Pub of the Year 2013 East Beds CAMRA

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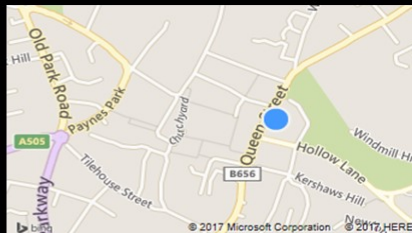
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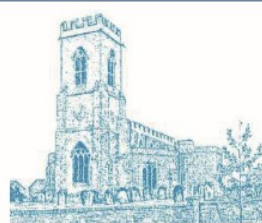
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and the Church
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pages.

Branch Rural Pub of the Year 2015 and 2019 and have been in the good beer guide for 8 years running.

John and Janice's customers come from Dunton, Biggleswade, surrounding villages and as far afield as St Neots and Old Welwyn. John's reputation for providing and looking after real ale is second to none in the area. The pub for the last couple of years is now morphing into a 'real ale pub' that is also supplying gin and wine, which still welcomes children and dogs and continues to support the Dunton community.

Breweries that John has a brilliant relationship with are Digfield Brewery, The 3 brewers, Papworth Brewery and Nene Valley Brewery.

John and Janice are now on the road to retirement. This does not mean that the March Hare will closed or be sold. Simon Richardson is very interested in taking over the pub when John and Janice retire! Simon currently runs the pub on a Tuesday evening and so if you want to give Simon some ideas about what you would like to see in the pub when John and Janice retire pop along to the pub on a Tuesday evening for a chat with Simon. He will only take on the pub if he believes that he has got the village support. Simon is a rugby supporter and so in March 2020, the March Hare will continue to show the 6 Nations Rugby on TV and other sporting highlights throughout the year. However, whilst John is running the pub, it will not become a sports pub with televisions constantly on!

The Story Of Potton Pubs

On the 5th February at the March Hare, Peter Ibbett of Potton History Society gave an interesting and informative talk on Potton Pubs, including information on the village of Dunton and the March Hare. We now have on loan from Potton History Society a file full of fascinating information on Potton Pubs. Did you know that The Adam and Eve Inn, Market Place, Potton was part of the Manor of Potton called Much Manured or that the Bird in Hand Beerhouse in King Street we considered "a poor looking place at the end of the village"?

We also have on loan from Potton History Society a file about the village of Dunton. Did you know that Dunton means Hill Farm or Millow means Mill Hill or that the village shop had a horse drawn travelling shop which visited local villages?

If you would like to peruse one or both of these files, for other snippets of social history of Dunton, please visit the March Hare. You will not be able to take these files away with you.



What a difference a logo makes?

Dunton's Big Weekender was started in 2017 by Janice Pritchett of the March hare with a group of local residents and village organisations, with the aim of organising a long weekend full of activities to bring the community together and celebrate everything we all have to offer. The weekend was a huge success and the organisers began to think of other events that could be put together for the village. In 2018 the scarecrow weekend and the living advent were born from a small idea had by Julie Hills, Lauren Kemp and Ellie Kemp. These events were very popular and in 2019 the group also added the village yard sale to the ever growing list of celebrations.

Fast forward to 2020 and what started as organising a weekend of activities, which we named Dunton's Big Weekender, has expanded far beyond the group's first expectations and so our name is now not right for our group. Some villagers also found our name confusing as the Big Weekender isn't all we do. Guess what, after much deliberation we have now called ourselves DBW.

All the events will still run and who knows, maybe we will add more in the future. You will begin to see our new logo on all of our advertising and we will also be adding an Instagram account and a Facebook page, rather than a group, so more people have access to our events.

If you have any ideas for events, would like any information about what we do or need to get any further details please contact us on our new email address dbwgroup@hotmail.com

2020 is shaping up to be a very exciting year in Dunton with lots of new ideas from the DBW team so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

DBW Co-Ordination Group

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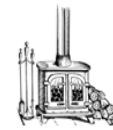
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DBW

DBW need volunteers to help on the 28.6.20 when we set up, run and close down ~~Dunton's Country Fayre~~. So if you could spend as much or as little time you have available to help us on 28.6.20, please email dbwgroup@hotmail.com

Thank you

Dunton Folk

Chris Fox
Jack In A Barrel
21st March

Fred's House
18th April

Granny's Attic
16th May

Odette Michell
20th June

www.duntonfolk.co.uk

Auction and Afternoon Tea

Do you like a bargain or the thrill of the bid? Dunton Lower School PFA are holding an auction and afternoon tea this May to raise funds to support our children's learning.

Come and join us to bid on a range of exciting prizes, savour some cake and enjoy the atmosphere of our village auction room!

We are also looking for donations to make sure we have something for everyone. This could be products, services, experiences or simply an offer of your time.

Are you a green fingered gardener, language teacher or home cook who can share your skills?

Can you offer a ride in your vintage car or on your pony?

Is your business able to provide a prize or experience as a charity donation?

We would greatly appreciate any offers and hope you can join us in the bidding on Saturday, 2nd May 2020.

To donate an item please email duntonlowerpfa@gmail.com or leave your details at the school office and we will be in touch.

David Horne-Curtis

What's On In Dunton, March 2020 to December 2020

Date	Event	Where?	Time
March			
15.3.20	Nationwide World's Biggest Pub Quiz in aid of Action Against Hunger	March Hare	7.30 pm
21.3.20	Coffee morning	Community Garden	10.30 am - midday
21.3.20	Chris Fox and Jack In A Barrel	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
23.3.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	7.00 pm

April			
11.4.20	Italian Wine Evening	March Hare	8.00 p m (ticket only)
13.4.20	WI AGM and Games Evening	Village Hall	7.30 pm
18.4.20	Fred's House	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
25.4.20	Yard Sale	Village wide	10.00 am – 1.00 pm
25.4.20	007 Party Night	Village Hall	8.00 pm
27.4.20	DBW meeting	March hare	7.00 pm
30.4.20	Community Garden AGM	Church	7.30 pm
May			
2.5.20	Auction and Afternoon Tea	Village Hall	TBA
7.5.20	Letchworth Morris Men	March Hare	8.00 pm
8.5.20 – 10.5.20	VE Day Weekend	March Hare	All weekend
11.5.20	WI Small is Beautiful (quilting)	Village Hall	7.45 pm
16.5.20	Plant Sale and Coffee morning	Community Garden	10.30 am – 12.30 pm
16.5.20	Granny's Attic	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
18.5.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	7.00 pm
June			
2.6.20	Bedford Morris Men	March Hare	8.00 pm
8.6.20	WI talk on Margery Fish – Late Bloomer by Amanda Goody	Village Hall	7.45pm
20.6.20	Odette Michell	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
22.6.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	7.00 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
July			
21.7.20	Coffee morning	Community Garden	10.30 am - midday
13.7.20	WI Visit to the British Schools Museum Hitchin	Hitchin	6.00 pm

27.7.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
August			
10.8.20	WI Boule Competition	TBA	7.45 pm
24.8.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
September			
14.9.20	WI Arsenic the Victorian's House Wife Friend talk	Village Hall	7.45 pm
21.9.20	DBW Meeting	March Hare	8.00 pm
26.9.20	Scarecrow Festival	Village wide	TBA
26.9.20	Macmillan Coffee morning	Community Garden	10.30 am – 12.30 pm
26.9.20	Edwina Hayes	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
27.9.20	Scarecrow Festival	Village wide	TBA
October			
12.10.20	WI talk on the accordion	Village Hall	7.45 pm
24.10.20	BeauBowBelles	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
31.10.20	Halloween Event	Community Garden	2.30 pm – 4.30 pm
November			
9.11.20	WI talk on managing anxiety and dealing with stress	Village Hall	7.45 pm
21.11.20	Coffee morning	Community Garden	10.30 am - midday
21.11.20	Bill Jones	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm
December			
1.12.20 to 24.12.20	Dunton's Living Advent Calendar 2020	Village wide	7.00 pm
1.12.20	Carols at the March Hare	March Hare	8.00 pm
6.12.20	Xmas Fair	Church	TBC
12.12.20	Sandy Ukulele Group	March Hare	8.00 pm
14.12.20	WI Christmas Celebration	Village Hall	7.00 pm
19.12.20	Winter Union	St Mary Magdalene Church	7.30 pm

If you want to include a Dunton event in 'What's On in Dunton', please email brief details to janice.pritchett@outlook.com



Dunton Directory



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DUNTON COMMUNITY GARDEN

DUNTON LOWER SCHOOL

DUNTON OIL GROUP

DUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

DUNTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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