

AULT HUCKNALL PARISH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

One of the projects the parish council has been busy with is the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This plan puts together the views of our residents on the way they would like the parish to stay and the way they'd like it to develop in the future. This has taken a lot of time and was ready to go through for final approval just as the general election was called.

One of the bills the new government is bringing forward is on planning and our Neighbourhood Plan will have to be amended to fit with any new regulations. So it's on pause for the moment but we hope to complete it soon.



FESTIVAL TIME



It's that time of year where the next Stainsby Festival begins to appear on the summer horizon.

This year's festival is from July 18th to the 20th. EarlyBird tickets are already on sale until May 1st, so spread the word. After recent successes like buying the festival fields, winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and building its own Oak Framed Barn, the festival has been collaborating with the Cultural Corridor to promote arts activity in the parish.

Plans are maturing – more details as things develop.

We should also remind everyone that a number of reduced price Community Tickets are available to residents of Ault Hucknall Civil Parish in a joint initiative between the Parish Council and the Festival.

When and where? Two days before the Festival at 6pm on Wednesday 16th July at the Doe Lea Centre. These are limited in number and on a first come, first served basis. Please bring evidence of residence in the parish.

WILLOW WALK

Willow Walk runs alongside the Doe Lea and leads to the footpath towards the war memorial, Stainsby Mill and further on to Hardwick. A few years ago Willow Walk was just a tangle of weeds and bushes. The pleasant walk it is now was mainly due to work done by Harry Perkins and his group of volunteers.

It all started out of a project, which Harry was a part of, to help older people and teenagers get on better and understand each other's points of view.

When it finished it had gone so well that the group wanted to do something practical together. That's when the idea of clearing up the bank of the river came up. Harry took up the idea and became an unofficial warden of the project. Once it was cleared, he raised money from the parish for the planting and equipment and organised the volunteers who maintained it. It's due to his continued efforts that it looks the way it does today. Sadly Harry died recently and is now much missed. Willow Walk remains a permanent reminder of Harry and his work, leaving behind him something we can all continue to enjoy.



DOE LEA CENTRE FUTURE



It's more than 20 years since the parish council took a lease on the ground floor of the Miners Welfare.

This was a large hall and a kitchen, rarely used except for dog training and the occasional parish council meeting.

Since then the parish council has been able to renovate and extend the building, with grants raised from a number of funders including the EU, and set up the Doe Lea Centre.

This has now provided the Parish with a centre for all kinds of activities – from free lunches for children in school holidays, to craft workshops from live performances to extreme wheels amongst many others.

The lease is now up and the parish is negotiating with the Miners Welfare to agree a new lease so that the parish can keep this social centre now used by so many people.

THIS YEAR'S PRECEPT

Reluctantly the parish precept has had to be raised this year to cover increasing costs.

During the last year costs for wages, water, electricity and many other essential items rose further than expected when the parish planned its budget.



There will also be the cost of negotiating a new lease for the Doe Lea Centre with the Miners Welfare from this year on. The weekly increase on a band D property works out at 41 pence a week. It's less in bands A to C which cover the vast majority of parish properties. The council has pruned the budget to keep it as low as possible whilst keeping all the services which you rely on.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of you may have noticed there's a new bus shelter on Mansfield Road at its junction with Oxford Street and Bramley Road. The only reason we mention this is because it's one of the usually unnoticed services that the parish council provide for residents. So whilst we're on the subject you might like to know that these include: ...

- Providing Xmas Trees, Flower Planters, and Poppies
- Litter Bins, Dog Bins and Grit bins
- Maintaining the Football Pitch, the Playground, Allotments & War Memorial
- Liaising with the District and County Councils for residents
- Making responses to Planning Applications
- Providing Litter Picking and Street Cleaning
- Youth Activities & the MUGA

Making small grants to Bramley Vale School and other good causes.

and of course funding The Doe Lea Centre which provides so many community activities.

SPEED-WATCH

Things are speeding up on the speed-watch front. A joint initiative by Ault Hucknall and Glapwell Parish Councils has led to the formation of a new speed-watch group being formed on the A617 through our parishes.

Councillor Grainger-Grimes is leading on speed-watch training led by PCSO Dave Hancock for our cross parish group of volunteers. We're still on the lookout for more volunteers to make sure we have a large enough group to work effectively over the coming months (if not years!). So if you've ever said "something must be done about speeding" now's the time to take positive action and get something done in our parishes. No experience is necessary and all properly supervised training will be arranged. What's not to like? Contact Cllr Grainger Grimes or Ruth Price our Parish Clerk for more details and get signed up.



PYLONS

The Parish Council is keeping a watching brief on issues over the route for the new National Grid overhead lines.



The council has made submissions to the Grid about the lack of detailed information on the likely route and the reasons for the "preferred" route. We feel there hasn't been sufficient transparency over decision making and that consultation so far has lacked genuine substance.

The next stage of the plan is expected later this year and we'll make sure you're all kept up to date on its implications for the parish.

THE HARDWICK & CHATSWORTH CHARITIES

These educational charities were established by donations many years ago to provide young people then with the necessary tools and clothing of their trades.

Nowadays young people's needs are different and whilst the charities still support young people in education between the ages of 16 and 25, the grants are usually given to provide with help paying for accommodation, travel, books and equipment.

Many young people have benefited from this over the years to become well qualified for a good career. The only rule is that applicants must live within the parish of Ault Hucknall.

Please apply to the Clerk to the Trustees at info@handdec.org

HELP WITH EDUCATION COSTS

The Devonshire and Hardwick Educational Trust will be allocating the latest round of grants on the 6th October 2025.



Funding assistance for:

- Books
- Equipment
- Tools
- Travel
- Course Fees
- Accommodation
- ...and more

**APPLY
TODAY**



Applications are welcome from anyone between the ages of 16 and 25, in full or part-time tertiary education or accredited vocational training, with a home address within the boundaries of Ault Hucknall (Civil) parish.

Apply either via the QR code above, our website or by contacting the Clerk to the Trustees at info@handdec.org. Applications close midnight 30/09/25.

...don't miss this opportunity!

FAST & FURIOUS

After the spate of road racing on the A617 last year, a public meeting with the police, the Parish Council and the Bolsover District council agreed a way forward to tackle the problem. This gave the police and the Bolsover District special powers to deal with offenders, which were largely effective.

Unfortunately there's been a couple of fresh incidents recently. Employing ANPR, the police and Bolsover have used the special powers to prosecute these new offenders and issue substantial fines. Repeat offenders are at risk of having their vehicles crushed, which we hope will deter future outbreaks.

Meanwhile the police have asked the public to do two things to help them:

- Report the problem to the police IMMEDIATELY you're aware it's happening.
- Don't put yourself in the wrong by retaliating. This only gives offenders the chance to complain to the police about residents behaviour and makes prosecutions more difficult.

We hope for a quiet life for everyone in coming months.



BREAKING NEW GROUND

Following the resignation of the Allotments Manager, Lee, for business reasons, a meeting was held recently between allotment holders and the parish council to plan a way forward for the new season.

With the support of the council, allotment holders agreed they'd form a new management committee to organise the allotments themselves. They elected Emma Lapping as Chair, Allan Brookes as Assistant, and Malc Holland as Site Maintenance Coordinator.

Plans to allot vacant or unused plots to those waiting to take on an allotment as well as measures for day to day management, new noticeboards, access arrangements and other improvements were agreed.

Anyone wanting to try their green fingers on the allotments should contact Emma by email—emmajones301@gmail.com.

The parish council will continue to provide vital services for holders and support this new flowering of activity on the allotments.

Here's to a fine harvest!

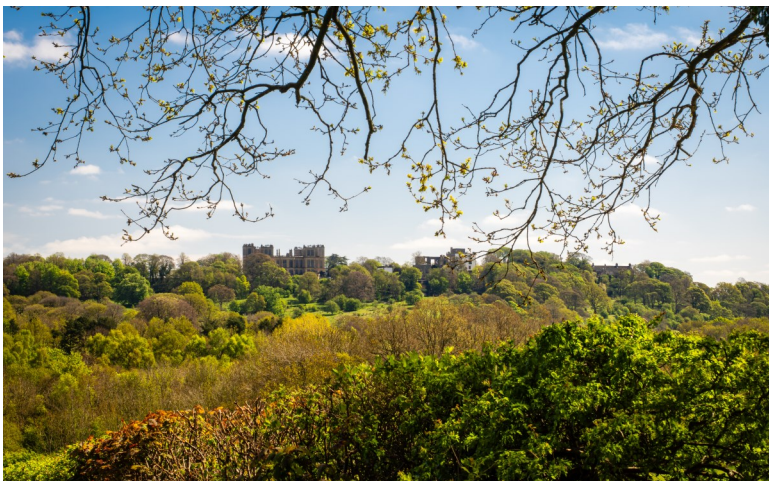




THE STAINSBY STONE



ASTWITH

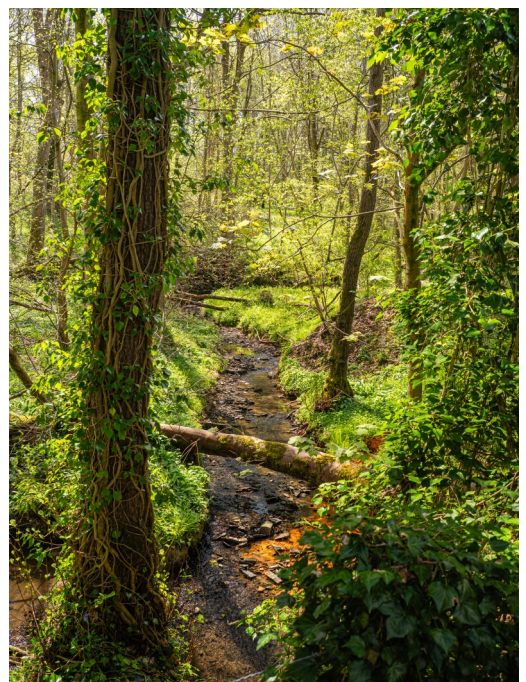


HARDWICK FROM ASTWITH

IMMENSE THANKS ONCE AGAIN TO
WILLY LANE OUR TALENTED LOCAL
PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAS
CAPTURED MORE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS
IN THE PARISH FOR YOU TO ENJOY



HARDWICK



STREAM

Doe Lea Centre



The Doe Lea Centre, is a Community and Resource Centre that provides activities and support for anybody, of any age, throughout the parish of Ault Hucknall. The Centre is operated by the Ault Hucknall Parish Community Association, a registered charity (no. 508572) and is run by a small team of staff and a wealth of volunteers.

Funded by Ault Hucknall Parish Council (who are the charity trustees), and supported by income from fundraising, venue hire and Centre events; the Centre also seek out and applies for funding to provide projects and activities such as our Holiday Activity Days.

We work with partner organisations to deliver and develop our community offering including Bolsover District Council, Live & Local, StreetGames, Extreme Wheels Roadshows, Doe Lea Valley Community Partnership, Rural Action Derbyshire and many others.



The Centre is keen to grow the cultural and artistic offering of the area by hosting live shows, craft fairs, local artist exhibitions, Arts workshops and regular groups such as Craft and Chat and our music groups. We're also working with partners as part of the Bolsover District Cultural Corridor from Stainsby through to Pleasley Vale offering local people the opportunity to experience the area in fun, interactive and artistic ways.



Doe Lea is part of the new Bolsover Social Circles Plus project which aims to develop a legacy of practice and participation through nature activities and events, grow pride of place and create new experiences

We're always keen to try new things, support like-minded organisations and grow our offering so if you have any ideas or are looking for a home for your group then get in touch on 01246 850209, by e-mailing info@doelea.org.uk or calling into the Centre.

Surprising Events on Your Doorstep

LIVE & LOCAL

Laa-laa from the Tellytubbies, Gavin Featherly from The Brittas Empire, Kevin King of Egypt, A French Horn Player for Status Quo and Chesterfield's "Ghostman"...

What do all these people have in common? They have all performed (or will be performing) at the Doe Lea Centre.

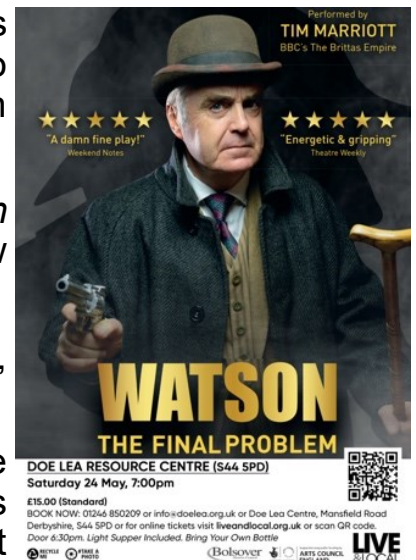
Be it one of our Live and Local shows which bring the best of rural touring (Laa-laa, Kevin King of Egypt), a young musician showcase event (the aforementioned Horn player) or one of our in-house events, there's a little bit of something for everyone.

At £15 a ticket and (usually) including one of Rich's incredible stews, our events are a fun evening for you to relax and enjoy world class entertainment right here on your doorstep in the Doe Lea Centre.

On Saturday 24th May we'll host Tim Marriot (*Gavin Featherly – The Brittas Empire*) with his one man show **WATSON THE FINAL PROBLEM**

.A classic Sherlock Holmes tale of long buried secrets, betrayal and death.

Based on the stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. For there is a shadow in the gutters, a spider's web of poisonous intrigue plagues the city and Watson must face his greatest ever challenge.



On Saturday June 7th we'll be joined by Craig Gould and the Noble Thieves 7th for

"The Campfire Sessions" an evening of music not to be missed. Craig shares the stories behind his songs, inspired by his journey to recovery, Creating a deeply personal and memorable connection with the audience.

Finally, keep your eyes out for our new season of shows from September including

the return of Shadowman hosting their Musical Quiz Night (that's a quiz with lots of music not one about musicals);

Ghostman returning from the grave for an evening of ghost stories and even more spectacular shows and events.

AULT HUCKNALL AT THE HEART OF THE CULTURAL CORRIDOR

Ault Hucknall Parish has played a proud and pivotal role as the host of the Bolsover District's Cultural Corridor—an ambitious, creative initiative spanning the communities along the A617 from Stainsby to Pleasley Vale.

With more than 2,563 participants taking part in a wide range of cultural events, over 1,500 of those came to sessions and celebrations right here in Ault Hucknall Parish



From poetry to painting, concerts to community clean-ups, the Cultural Corridor has proven what many in the area already knew: that creativity, connection, and pride in place are alive and thriving in our villages.

Our local venues—Doe Lea Centre, Bramley Vale School, Willow Walk, and Stainsby Festival—have hosted some of the most vibrant and well-attended activities of the whole Corridor.

Highlights have included:

- ◇ Consone Quartet Workshops and Concerts
- ◇ The Cultural Corridor Quilt Tour
- ◇ Ladies of Letters (a wellbeing-focused writing group)
- ◇ Poetry Sessions
- ◇ Without Malice or Ill Will theatre performance
- ◇ Holiday Club Creative Activities
- ◇ Youth Social Action – visual art, music, and creative writing
- ◇ Big Tidy Up and Big Get Together events
- ◇ The Cultural Corridor Film





The success of the Cultural Corridor isn't just in numbers—it's in the people and the stories. People from 2 – 92 have discovered new ways to express themselves through art, music, and writing—gaining confidence, exploring identity, and finding a place they could belong. Captured best by this poem written by participant Tricia:

*“My life is richer
Colours brighter
Hearing sounds of laughter throughout the ages
And pages of writing to share
With those who care
About the here and now
For those walking down our Cultural Corridor
In future years
Our voices will be heard
Our lives and loves no longer worthless”*

The Doe Lea Centre also served as a hub throughout the programme—hosting the Creative Consultation Day and providing a home base for Kate, the Cultural Corridor Development Worker, who was managed by Rich Fearn, Community Development and Business Manager.

As hosts of the Cultural Corridor, Ault Hucknall has also supported neighbouring parishes in their involvement. The spirit of cooperation—connecting groups, venues, and people—has been central to the Corridor's success. In the words of one participant,

“The more the community joins in, the richer that community becomes”

Whether it's the patchwork stories of the Cultural Quilt, a poem penned at a community table, or the laughter of children at a holiday craft session, the Cultural Corridor has left a mark on Ault Hucknall. It has sparked creativity, revived connections, and reminded us all of the power of sharing stories, skills, and spaces.



Thanks to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the project so far and the energy of local residents, the initiative has already begun to lay the groundwork for long-term community and creative development. But as feedback from the community has shown, sustainability is key.

Here's to keeping that spirit alive—and to all the new chapters still to come

Parish Councillors

Councillor Ann Syrett (Chair of the Council)	annsyrett@aol.com
Councillor Tony Trafford (Vice Chair of the Council)	tonytraf@aol.com
Councillor Lisbeth Adsetts-Moseley	ladsetts@gmail.com
Councillor Don Adsetts- Moseley	dbmoseley@btinternet.com
Councillor Tricia Clough	triciacough@hotmail. Com
Councillor Iain Grainger-Grimes	iain1710@googlemail.com
Councillor Jaime L Hardy	jaimespalding@icloud.com
Councillor Rebecca Hill-Harmsworth	rharmsworth@hotmail.co.uk
Councillor Tracy Howell	tracyhowell@doelea.org.uk
Councillor Steve Poole	steve@yellowspadedesign.com

District Councillors

Councillor Tom Kirkham	tom.kirkham@bolsover.gov.uk
Councillor John Ritchie	john.ritchie@bolsover.gov.uk
Councillor Catherine Tite	Catherine.tite@bolsover.gov.uk

County Councillor

Councillor James Barron	james.barron@derbyshire.gov.uk
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Useful Numbers

Bolsover District Council	01246 242424	Derbyshire County Council	01629 533190
Police Non-Emergency	101	Urgent Medical Problem	111
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999	Electrical Emergency	105

07587 107122

theclerk@aulthucknallparishcouncil.gov.uk
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