

THE GALA

One of our aircraft was missing

This year's Coal Aston Gala was held on Saturday 7 July. The Gala was formally opened at 12.30 by the Dronfield Town Mayor, Cllr Sue Allsop, accompanied by Sunday School Queen, Aimee Raw, and her assistant Ophelia Tilley.

In spite of the threat of rain, the only programme items affected were a Zumba demonstration, cancelled because of the possibility of the dancers slipping on the damp grass, and the planned flypast by a Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. Unfortunately one of the plane's engines had 'blown up'.

However, the UK Met Office rain radar record showed how fortunate we had been. We should have been hit at about 1315 by a batch of torrential rain, but this passed just to the east of us. By 1400, another burst was heading straight towards us, but at 1415 this split into two torrential downpours, which passed just on either side of us at 1430. At this stage, the ring of storms was some 80 miles long and we were in the only gap, which was about a mile wide.

The afternoon included many old favourites, such as Punch and Judy, roundabout rides, the Dronfield Fire Engine, classic cars and a wide range of stalls. The Air Cadets brought a climbing wall for the more adventurous visitors. We were fortunate to have target bowls on the bowling club green and a tug o' war, which is becoming a regular feature.

A dry, warm and pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all, with four hours of fun and games at the various stalls and displays, until a 'rogue' shower got people scurrying for shelter minutes before the Gala was due to close.

On the Sunday there was an Arts Exhibition in the Hall featuring work by the Royle Art Group and a display by the Norton Wood Carvers.



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Looking back over the last few months The Village Hall has continued to be a focal point for many activities and local events, with stamp fairs, parties, concerts, ladies' keep-fit, Zumba, singing lessons to name but a few. Mention of the excellent theatre production of "The Fantastic Mr Fox" must also be made, and in particular the younger members of the Norton Players who produced, directed and played most of the roles.

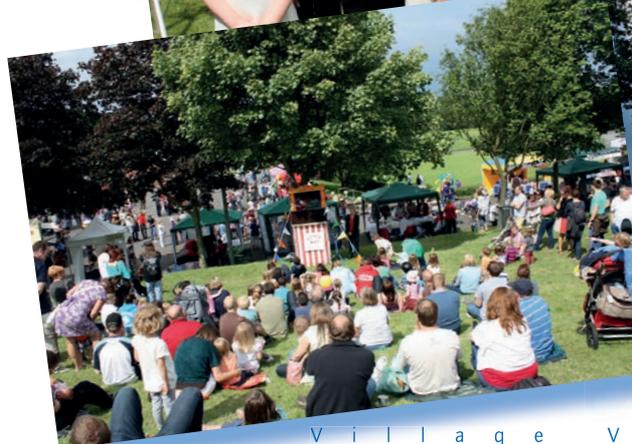
We considered ourselves particularly lucky with the great success of the annual Village Gala at the beginning of July, despite the awful weather which had threatened to appear. I would like to offer our appreciation and thanks to all the participants of our Gala event, to the stallholders, the sandwich and tea makers, the Mayor for kindly opening the day, the team who prepared our stunning well dressing, and to the providers of the children's entertainment.

My personal thanks go to the very excellent Management Committee who, as always, worked tirelessly to ensure a good day was had by all. The Art display was again well attended on the Sunday with the added attraction this year of the wood carving display and demonstration; thanks to the Royle Art Group and Norton Wood Carvers for organising another great exhibition.

Our continuing development work at the Village Hall is focused on the improvement of bar facilities with alterations to the servery well in hand in conjunction with the good services of our local Publican, Anthony Hutchinson, who we have been pleased to appoint as provider of bar service for all functions.

Finally I would like to offer an open invitation to any local people who might be interested in joining us in the management of The Village Hall. As a voluntary group we are dedicated in meeting the varying needs of the local community and are always glad to welcome new blood and ideas. Our contact details are shown in this publication.

Peter Gray



REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY

Learn Spanish 11.00 – 12.00 hours
For information
telephone 01246 203650

Ladies Keep Fit

Two classes 18.45 and 20.00 hours
For information telephone 0114 2746480

Sing Out Singing lessons 19.00 – 21.00
For information telephone
0114 2540246 or 07805 326 908

TUESDAY

A Star Leisure; Cheer Leaders
17.00 – 18.00 hours

Stop Smoking 17.30 - 19.30 hours
For information telephone 0800 085 22 99

St John's Marching Band 18.45 - 19.45 hours

Short Mat Bowling Club 19.45 - 22.15 hours

WEDNESDAY

Zumba fitness class 18.30 – 19.15 hours
For information telephone 07956 165287

Norton Players 19.30 - 22.00 hours;
For information telephone 0114 2746124

WI meet on the second
Wednesday 19.15 hours
For information telephone 0114 2745317

THURSDAY

Pilates 19.00 – 21.00 hours
For information telephone 0114 2747059

Ladies Keep Fit in the Main Hall
18.45 - 19.45 hours

FRIDAY

Rooms available for private hire

SATURDAY

Pyjamadrama. 09.30 - 10.30 Sing, dance,
pretend and play for children up to five. For
information telephone 0844 272 9625.

Rooms available for private hire

SUNDAY

Rooms available for private hire

Norton Players 19.30 - 22.00 hours

Stamp Fair: Third Sunday of each month

See notice in foyer for confirmation of dates.

Village Voice Briefs

Coal Aston WI

The Coal Aston WI meets at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday each month and would extend a warm welcome to new members. For further information, telephone 0114 2745317.

Want to sing? Then join Sing Out!

If you want to learn how to sing then now is your opportunity. On Monday evenings at the Village Hall Renata Reynolds has started teaching beginners and experienced singers how to build their confidence and achieve success. If you are interested contact Renata on 0114 2540246 or 07805 326908.

Pyjamadrama

Another new activity in the Village Hall is Pyjamadrama. An opportunity for children up to 5 years old to sing, dance, pretend and play on Saturday mornings between 09.30 and 10.30. For more information see pyjamadrama.com or telephone 0844 272 9625.

Open Gardens

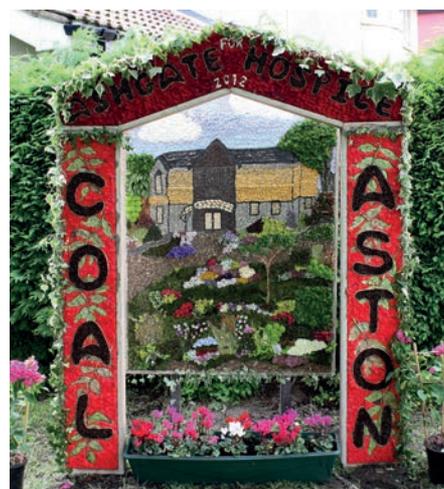
The Open Gardens Scheme organised by Coal Aston Methodist Church on Sunday 15 July raised £2,030 which will benefit the church and Bluebell Wood.

Attic Sale

There will be a Grand Attic Sale of bric-a-brac, jewellery, second hand clothes etc. at Coal Aston Methodist Church on Friday 16 November at 18.00 hours.

New Bar Facility

The Village Hall now has an improved bar facility serving a wide range of drinks, including draught bitter, for Village Hall and private functions.



Well Dressing

The Coal Aston well dressing raised £156 for Ashgate Hospice in memory of Jane Bulleyment.

Vulcan Varieties

The Vulcan Varieties will be at the Village Hall on Saturday 20 October with another evening of music hall melodies and patter. Fun for the whole family.

The Sheffield Concert Band

The Sheffield Concert Band returns on Saturday March 2 with another evening of old and new favourites. The Band's history goes back to the 1880's when membership was restricted to servicemen having served abroad.



Norton Players present
their annual fun-filled family pantomime

KING HUMPTY DUMPTY

Tuesday 27 November to
Saturday 1 December 2012

Coal Aston Village Hall,
Eckington Road, Sheffield S18 3AX
Curtain 7.15pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm
Tickets £6.00 Concessions £5.00
Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £20.00

Telephone 0114 2372326

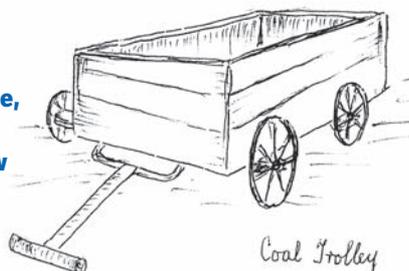
OLD COAL ASTON

COAL SUPPLIES IN COAL ASTON

Mr Joseph Sharpe, who lived in Holmley Lane, was the owner of a coal mine which was situated in Sicklebrook Lane. The site is now occupied by a horticultural nursery.

The mine was not a deep mine, requiring a shaft and pit-head gear, but used a narrow roadway driven into the side of the hill to make a tunnel. The roof of the tunnel was supported by pit props and a narrow gauge 'railway' was laid to facilitate the removal of coal in pit tubs. The excavated coal was piled, in the first place, near to the entrance of the site and later carted to Mr Sharpe's coal yard at the end of Brown Lane, behind the Wesleyan Reform Chapel. The yard originally extended to the edge of the roadway, but the boundary wall has now been realigned to enclose a small area of grassland. Ground cover plants and shrubs conceal the rock face below the Chapel.

In addition to stabling for the horse and a parking place for the cart there was a large shed for storing the coal. There was also a small fleet of trolleys which were loaned to customers who purchased coal by the hundredweight or half-hundredweight.



It should be mentioned that the Sharpe family were also sportsmen. Fred Sharpe was groundsman at High Storrs Grammar School and his brother Joe was groundsman at Sheffield City Training College.

They and other members of the family were stalwarts of the village cricket team. At Sicklebrook Lane they constructed their own private tennis court and cricket pitch.

Note: The 1861 census shows Joseph Sharpe, aged two, as one of four sons and two daughters to Joseph and Martha Sharpe (both aged 34). The son, Joseph, born in 1859 was Joseph Sharpe whose story is told in Dark at Seven by Nellie Connole (see page 98).

This item is one of several recollections given to Village Voice by the late Walter Havenhand.

Coal Aston Folk

We have had the pleasure to welcome three terrific entertainments to the Village Hall this summer.

To book "Fake Thackray", a tribute act to the late great Jake Thackray, was perhaps a risk for us as Jake himself had graced the stage of our Village Hall a few years earlier. We have to admit to a few nervous questions whether "Fake", John Watterson, would stand up in comparison to the great man himself. But he did just that with a tremendous run-through of Jake's back catalogue, delivered with what was obviously great appreciation and fondness for what are arguably the finest examples of English language humour crafted in song. It was a great night enjoyed by everyone present. You can catch "Fake" in action at the Winding Wheel next February in support of Fairport Convention.

For our Gala night concert we were delighted to feature Johnny and The Moondogs with their tribute to The Beatles. These local lads took us through the whole Beatles career in the most accurate and well-crafted style that even we hardened Beatle fans have ever experienced. Their instrumental work is superb, with true-to-record sounds in the main, using original specification equipment. We will definitely be asking the band for a return visit soon.



Finally we were once again overwhelmed with demand for tickets to see The Swing Commanders perform in September, and without fear of contradiction this is the best musical act on the scene. Multi instrumentalists and excellent vocalists, these three guys and two girls specialise in Western Swing, with an incredible repertoire covering music from the 40's and 50's, and a stage presence and humorous delivery amongst the very best. They're impossible to describe, but suffice to say, they are booked next year. Order your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Local band Scuppered are always pleased to put on these nights and to play support spots for so many great performers. For the next event on November 10th we welcome back our old friend Tom McConville and his band, who will delight with a night of Geordie inspired music and stories. To complete the year, we look forward to hosting the Christmas Show, on 22nd December.

For tickets and details ring Pete on 01246 410611

Meet the Management Committee Derek Crawford



I was born in Newcastle upon Tyne and after obtaining A levels at Heaton Grammar School, started my career with the Inland Revenue (now known as Revenue & Customs) where I worked for almost 40 years before I retired in December 2007.

I arrived in Coal Aston back in 1974 after a work transfer from London, and lived in the area for over 30 years before I moved to Eckington to live with my partner, Sue. We then moved back to Coal Aston in October 2010.

I became involved with the Village Hall in July last year, after helping with last year's Gala, and was voted (or should I say press-ganged) onto the Committee at the start of this year. I already knew a couple of the Committee members and have thoroughly enjoyed my time to date, and hope to become more actively involved in the future.

I have two children, Ross and Jane, and have recently become a grandad for the first time, to Jenny May. I love all types of sport, particularly football and golf, and have played football in many local leagues. I still play five-a-side football at Dronfield Sports Centre on a weekly basis, which I have done for over 30 years, and enjoy this immensely - the only problem I have is managing the stairs the following morning! I have supported the Toon Army (Newcastle United) for over 50 years and occasionally manage to attend both home and away games. I recently attended the Paralympics in London which I found to be a wonderful experience.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 20 October

VULCAN VARIETIES PROUDLY PRESENT

A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL

Curtain up 20.00 hours.

Bring your own drinks.

Tickets £7.50 (Concessions £6.50)

from 0114 2431339

Saturday 10 November

THE TOM McCONVILLE BAND

A welcome return to "The Newcastle Fiddler"

and his band with his

Geordie based music and humour.

Hosted and supported by Scuppered.

Doors open 19.30 for 20.00 hours.

Tickets £ 8.00 See detail below**

Saturday 24 November

DEVON, CORNWALL AND DORSET

Illustrated talk by Andrew Firth at 19.30 hours.

Admission at the door £2.50.

Light refreshments available.

Tuesday 27 November to Saturday 1 December

Norton Players pantomime

HUMPTY DUMPTY

Curtain 19.15hours plus 14.30 Saturday

Tickets £6, £5 concessions and family ticket £20 (2 adults, 2 concessions)

Tickets from 0114 2372326

Saturday 8 December

CHRISTMAS IN THE DALES

Illustrated talk by Andrew Firth at 19.30 hours.

Admission at the door £2.50.

Light refreshments available.

Friday 21 December

THE CALL IN CONCERT

A chance to see The Call, one of the areas top pop bands, in concert. The evening will also feature other past members of the renowned band

Booga-Cha-Looga.

Tickets £5.00 on the door or

by telephone 01246 411526

Saturday 22 December

THE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Packed with the usual mixture of music, and merriment, including Christmas Fayre.

Hosted and featuring Scuppered with special guests.

Doors open 19.30 for 20.00 hours.

Tickets £ 8.00 See detail below**

Saturday 12 January 2013

DAVE BERRY AND THE CRUISERS

This will be a sell out. Don't delay in reserving your tickets.

Hosted and supported by Scuppered

Doors open 19.30 for 20.00 hours.

Tickets £ 12.00 See detail below**

Saturday 2 March

THE SHEFFIELD CONCERT BAND

The band returns with another evening of old and new favourites.

Concert starts 19.30 hours.

Ticket details not yet available.

STAMP FAIRS at the Village Hall on the third Sunday each month.

See the Foyer notice board for further details.

Coal Aston Village Hall is acknowledged as the district's most popular venue for live entertainment. There is always a big demand for tickets for concerts.

** To order CONCERT tickets contact Petegray@scuppered.org or Hodge358@btinternet.com.

ROOMS FOR HIRE

The Village Hall has three rooms available for hire at various times. In addition to the Main Hall, which is ideal for dances, parties and concerts, there are two meeting rooms able to accommodate up to 30 people, depending upon the layout. One of these rooms is ideal for serving a buffet or as a quiet room, for events in the Main Hall, whilst the other has a computer/video projector.

For more information contact a member of the Management Committee and for prices and availability telephone 01246 418573.



The Management Committee of the Village Hall thanks everyone who helped with the Gala with special thanks to the following businesses which kindly donated prizes for the raffle:

Niche Bakery and Coffee House
The Chequers Inn
Delicious
David J Fruits
Ferndale Garden Centre

Greendale News
Head Post
Hidden Treasures
Masala
McCalls Butchers
Mint Leaf Restaurant
New Leaf Garden Centre
The Royal Oak and Cross Daggers
Sheaf Motors of Coal Aston
Stone the Crows
The Manor Hotel and Restaurant
Ward's Garden Centre
Wok Wonder

COAL ASTON VILLAGE VOICE, INCORPORATING THE VILLAGE HALL NEWSLETTER, IS PREPARED AND PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE HALL

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Observations and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Sub-committee nor the Village Hall Management Committee.

We welcome your news, old photographs, views and items for publication in future issues. Send these to the sub-Committee at the Village Hall, using the post box outside the main door or by post to Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, Coal Aston, S18 3AX.

Telephone and fax 01246 415630; Bookings only telephone 01246 418573

Website: www.coalastonhall.org.uk