

## 2006 Gala and well dressing

**The Annual Gala and Blessing of the Well took place on 1 July. The Gala was opened by Natascha Engel, MP for NE Derbyshire, and the Methodist Church Sunday School Queen, Jemma Nolan. The afternoon got off**

**to a rousing start with the Dronfield Band playing a selection of popular tunes and Wally the Clown entertaining the children in the Seminar Room.**

The WI amazed us once again with their imaginative and impressive Well Dressing.

The Lord Conyers Morris Men and the Bradfield Handbell Ringers made welcome return visits and there was a delightful May Pole dancing display by children from Lenthall Infants School.

We were further entertained by the antics of Norton Players and the melodious sound of a genuine street organ. The Scarecrow competition winners were Sarah Gray, Hannah Bower and Rebecca Anderson and the afternoon was rounded off, as usual, by a series of children's races, which grow in popularity each year.

The day finished with an evening concert by 4 to Tango and, on Sunday, an Art Exhibition was held in the Main Hall.

The Management Committee thanks everyone who participated in the events and the hundreds of people who turned out to make the afternoon such a success, not

forgetting the team of ladies who provided refreshments. We even managed to shuffle the programme times to accommodate the England fans who had their eyes on the clock so as not to miss the football match.

As always we would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to help to organise the Gala next year or assist with it on the day. New faces will bring fresh ideas.



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### CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Time flies by and in this issue of the Village Voice we review the Annual Gala, which was held in July, and we preview the programme of Christmas entertainments.

The Village Hall continues to be in demand for our own events and popular with hirers. But we are concerned for the future of the monthly Antiques and Collectors Fairs and the decline in the demand for the IT courses run by Chesterfield College. I also draw your attention to the suggestion that Coal Aston might nominate a representative to the Dronfield in Bloom Committee. We would welcome your views on these items so that we can plan for the future.

The revenue which is generated by concerts and bookings allows us to continue making improvements to the facilities in the Hall. In 2007 we hope to extend the air conditioning to cover all the public rooms in the building. We are also introducing a new access system, which will improve the access for users and improve the security of the building.

Ron Hubbard  
Chairman



# Chesterfield College Courses

Several Chesterfield College IT courses at the Village Hall have had to be cancelled in the autumn term, because of a severe decline in interest. The number of applications has fallen dramatically, such that many of the planned courses were not economical to run. There are a number of factors that might have led to this situation. Has the demand declined because of the charges which now apply (in earlier years many of the courses were free because of national funding, which is now limited) or have we reached a situation when most people are now familiar with the subjects offered? If the latter, why not let the college know what courses are required and if there is sufficient interest they will no doubt consider any suggestions they receive.

In contrast, the non-IT courses in Spanish, Yoga, Pilates and the Creative Crafts Workshop are well supported.

Leaflets showing courses that are available are to be found in the Village Hall foyer or on the College web site [www.chesterfield.ac.uk](http://www.chesterfield.ac.uk). Any written comments, which the Village Voice receives, will be forwarded to Chesterfield College.

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## National Women's Register

The Dronfield Branch of the National Women's Register (NWR) celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. NWR is an international organisation of women's discussion groups, which aims to provide members with the opportunity to take part in stimulating discussions on a wide range of topics of a non-domestic nature, both serious and light-hearted.

The Dronfield Branch meets fortnightly on a weekday evening in each other's houses. Recent topics have included 'Five amazing facts about a famous person' and 'Roots – tell us about your ancestors'. They often have an evening themed around a particular country, complete with appropriate food. Members take turn to lead the discussion, which sometimes needs research and preparation, but there is no obligation for people to take this responsibility, if they do not wish to.

The Dronfield Branch also has a Book Group, a Walking Group and a Lunch Club, together with a social programme of theatre trips, pub quizzes and parties, to which husbands and partners are invited.

New members are always welcome. For further information telephone Dee on 01246 414265.

# Village Voice Briefs

## Dronfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society

Three local walks organized by the Dronfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society, starting from Coal Aston, are being held on 12 December and 13 March, starting from the Wesleyan Reform Church and on 18 March starting behind the Village Hall. The walkers meet at 09.30 for 10.00. For further information on these and other walks in the Society's winter programme see their leaflet or telephone 01246 417984 or 414036.

## Dronfield Band

Through the Dronfield Band training band you can learn to play a wide range of instruments. Contact the Dronfield Band secretary for more details, 0114 2351175, or visit the Band's web site [www.dronfieldband.co.uk](http://www.dronfieldband.co.uk).

## Learning opportunities

Aspiring musicians can learn to play the violin at the Village Hall from a qualified and experienced teacher. For information telephone 0114 2748234.

You can also keep yourself trim at the ladies' keep fit classes on Monday and Thursday evenings and Yoga on Monday evenings.

Further information on these classes can be obtained from the notice board in the foyer or members of the Management Committee.

## Antiques, collectors and stamp fairs

The Village Hall is the place for collectors of antiques and stamps. The Fairs are held throughout the year on Sundays. Details of dates are displayed on the Village Hall foyer

notice board. As Christmas approaches this is an ideal time to come along and browse. You might find a bargain or that Christmas gift for someone who is always difficult to buy for.

## Mum's the word

Mums (and dads) might have seen copies of the Mums The Word magazine, which is produced by a group of mums and distributed throughout the Dronfield area four times each year. The magazine is full of useful information and ideas for all the family, including details of forthcoming events.

## Dronfield Probus Club

The Dronfield Probus Club meets at the Pioneer Club, off Stonelow Road at 10.00 hours on the first and third Wednesday of each month, when members enjoy a coffee and chat followed by a presentation from a professional speaker on a wide range of subjects. PROBUS extends a warm welcome and companionship to gentlemen who enjoy meeting others with a variety of interests. Further information can be obtained from Geoff Cuffing on 01246 417996.

## LET US HAVE YOUR NEWS, VIEWS AND EDITORIAL ITEMS

The Village Voice is issued by the Management Committee of the Village Hall and we welcome your news, 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.

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## FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE HALL

The Friends of the Village Hall are always looking for new members to help with the Village Hall activities. The Friends also tend the gardens in front of the Village Hall. If you are interested and would like more information, please telephone 01246 412554.



## Norton Players

Old Mother Hubbard comes to Coal Aston Village Hall this year and whisks everyone off to the Old Wild West in the process!

Norton Players continue to bring their own brand of pantomime with plenty of fun, and laughter along the way, for both young and old.

Tickets are £4.50 with concessions £3.50 and a family ticket (2 adults 2 children) £14.00. The show takes place from Monday 27 November to Saturday 2 December with 2 shows on the Saturday. Tickets are available from 0114 2372326

# OLD COAL ASTON

## Joseph Lesley Rawlins

Joseph Leesley Rawlins was born at Wormhill, a hamlet near Eyam in the Peak District of Derbyshire. He studied music and became a well-known organist.

It was in the role of organist that he was appointed to the post of choirmaster and organist at the Parish Church of St James, Norton. His musicianship brought him into contact with musicians of national and international repute, notably as an advisor to Dame Eva Rich, who was the Musical Director of the famous Sheffield Ladies' Choir, which toured the world.

Mr Rawlins and his wife lived quietly in the two semi-detached houses, which were the last houses in Cunliffe Street, separated by a hedge of hawthorn from the pastureland belonging to farmer John Fulwood Marshall of Moor View Farm. Eventually the hedge was removed to create access to Birches Fold.

In addition to being an outstanding musician Mr Rawlins was a property owner at Eyam and Unstone, where he owned the whole of St John's Row.

During his lifetime he purchased and presented to Coal Aston the children's playing field, which was intended to be used exclusively for the benefit of children.

In his will Mr Rawlins bequeathed £100 each to the two Coal Aston churches and other churches at Eyam. He left varying amounts of money to a number of local residents and to each of his tenants at Unstone. In addition he bequeathed £10,000 to found a chair of medicine at the London Royal Free Hospital for Women.

The sheltered accommodation at Rawlins Court, beside the playing field, could not have been more appropriately named.

Mr Rawlins died in 1936 and was interred at Norton Church.

*Village Voice is grateful to Mr Walter Havenhand for this information and would be pleased to hear from readers who have memories of old Coal Aston.*

## DRONFIELD IN BLOOM

The Village Hall was placed third in the business section of the 2006 Dronfield In Bloom competition. This success was, we feel, due largely to the splendid display of hanging baskets which adorned the south wall of the building and had been provided by the Friends of the Village Hall. Our thanks and congratulations to them.

During the evening when the presentations were made, Coal Aston was invited to put forward a representative to join the Dronfield in Bloom committee. If you would like to be nominated, please let us know, through the post box at the Village Hall.



## THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING SOCIETY

Scottish Country Dancing is popular all over the world. There are branches of the RSCDS as far away as Japan and New Zealand and there is a Branch in Dronfield, which meets on Mondays during school terms at St Paul's Church, Green Lane from 20.00 until 21.45. The cost is a mere £2.50 per person per session.

New members are welcome. There is no need to be accompanied by a partner as many of the dances are progressive, as in Barn Dancing, and complete beginners will quickly learn the dances under the expert tuition of a qualified teacher. Why not give it a try? All you need are comfortable shoes and clothes to enjoy yourself whilst keeping your body fit and your mind active.

Looking further ahead there will be a Scottish Country Dancing Spring Workshop at the Village Hall on Saturday 17 March 2007. A Beginners' Class will start at 11.00 until 12.30, followed by a buffet lunch and a General Class and Social Dance from 13.30 until 18.00. The charges for the sessions at the Workshop are respectively, £3.00, £3.00 (lunch) and £8.00 or an inclusive price for the whole event of £13.00 for non-members of the Society.

Further details are available from 01246 411552, 01246 411993 or 01246 434712.

## MEET THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Member: John Bennett

John has been a member of the committee for eight years. He was responsible for setting up the Village Hall website in 1998 and has continued to maintain it at a simple, but hopefully informative level since then. Once a year he assists Chairman Ron in carrying out a review of the Village Hall finances, which attempts to identify our financial strategy for the following two years. During the past eighteen months, he has been tasked with organising the introduction of air-conditioning into the Hall, and with the setting up of a computerised access control system to improve our security. He is also a member of the committee that produces the Village Voice. Finally, he chairs a small sub-committee with a very long name, that covers all aspects of Hall maintenance, and sometimes manages to reduce the number of jobs on its list of things to do.



He was a pupil at Frecheville Infant and Junior Schools, before moving to Chesterfield Boys' Grammar School. Following a period in the RAF, he transferred into Education and spent most of his career as a Lecturer at the University of Sheffield. Before moving to Coal Aston in 1966, he lived in Ridgeway, which has always had strong connections for him. Since retiring, he has established a Ridgeway History website and spends much of his time trying to learn more about the village's past.

Regular visits to the popular Coal Aston Village Hall Folk evenings encouraged John to take up the guitar ten years ago. Sadly, he realises that he will never offer much competition to Brian May, but he does enjoy trying to get it right, aided by his wife Margaret on concertina, in various Folk Clubs and pubs in the area.

Friday 3 November

A Year on a Hill Farm  
Illustrated talk by lady farmer, Miss Burkinshaw  
Starts at 1930 Tickets £3.00 including refreshments; pay on the door

Saturday 4 November

Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders  
Illustrated talk by Andy Firth  
19.30 Admission £2.00 Light refreshments available

Saturday 11 November

DAVE BRENNAN'S JUBILEE JAZZ BAND  
45 years in the business and still going strong  
Doors open 19.45 for 20.30.  
Tickets £6.00 from 01246 411526 or 410611

Saturday 18 November

BARN DANCE  
19.45 until 23.30 to the music of Strings and Reeds  
Tickets £9.00 including pea and pie supper  
Available from 0114 2746124

Monday 27 November to Saturday 2 December

NORTON PLAYERS Family Pantomime  
'Old Mother Hubbard'  
Curtain up at 19.30 and Matinee Saturday at 14.30  
Tickets £4.50; concessions £3.50  
To book your tickets telephone 0114 2372326

Saturday 9 December

DRONFIELD BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
Doors open 19.00 for 19.30  
Tickets £4.00, including light refreshments from 01246 412427 or 412554

Saturday 23 December

CHRISTMAS CONCERT featuring Scuppered, the Call and surprise guests in what will be another night filled with music, fun and laughter  
Doors open 19.45 for 20.30  
Tickets £4 including buffet from 01246 411526 or 410611

Saturday 27 January 2007

THE CALL IN CONCERT with support artists  
Doors open 19.45 for 20.30  
Tickets £4 from 01246 411526 or 410611

Friday 26 January 2007

THE HEART OF ENGLAND JAZZ BAND  
In association with Live and Local  
Doors open 19.00 for 19.30  
Tickets from 01246 414042

Coal Aston Village Hall is now one of the district's most popular venues for live entertainment. There is always a big demand for tickets. To avoid disappointment our advice is to book early.

## COMPETITION CORNER

KNOW YOUR GARDEN. The winner of the Quiz in the last issue of Village Voice was Mrs M Fox of Prospect Road. The answers to the quiz were:

1 Daisy, 2 Bulb, 3 Earth, 4 Flower pot, 5 Weed, 6 Butterfly, 7 Mud, 8 Spades, 9 Cane, 10 Shed  
11 Pick, 12 Wasps, 13 Leaves, 14 Runners, 15 Climbers, 16 Paving, 17 Hoe, 18 Cloche  
19 Barrow, 20 Flower bed

For this month's competition we ask you to tell us what you think the two young lads are saying to each other in this photograph taken by Derek Andrews on Gala Day.

Answers please to the Village Hall or leave them in our post box outside the main door. Closing date Wednesday 20 December 2006.



## COAL ASTON FOLK

We had one of our best ever Village Hall Folk nights in September with a concert by folk singer Bob Fox. Bob is widely regarded as one of the country's finest exponents of traditional folk song and he proved the point last month with a stunning performance. He ran through material from his recent albums including the brand new CD "The Blast" as well as several songs from his home in the North East.

"When The Boat Comes In" was probably the most popular song of the evening with a capacity audience joining in with great gusto. With Scuppered hosting the evening with two well-received support sets, the feedback at the end of the evening was very positive and encouraging for future folk-based events.

On November 11th we have a change in genre with Dave Brennans Jubilee Jazz Band appearing at The Village Hall. Again the

support will be from Scuppered and Dave promises a night of trad and contemporary jazz from his band who have been at the top of the Sheffield scene for many years. Folk meets Jazz at the Village Hall.

December 23rd marks the night of our annual Christmas Show. This has become a Village Hall tradition over the years and is usually a complete sell out on the night. This year sees Scuppered featuring with an acoustic set from The Call. Plans are in hand to provide a wide-ranging festive entertainment with fun for all ages. Festive fare will be provided as usual. A call has been made to Lapland and we await formal confirmation, but he'll be there!

Ticket reservations for both functions can be made by phoning Pete on 01246 410611 or John on 01246 411526

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  
Items for inclusion should be sent to the Editorial Sub-committee c/o the Village Hall.