

### Butchers Stile – Please Give Us Your Feedback!

With the majority of major works now completed at the Laburnum Road field, the Parish Council is turning its attention to the facilities at Butchers Stile. The field is currently well used by Davenham Junior Football Club and we have recently received a request for The Bulls Head football team to use the facility on Sunday mornings.

Butchers Stile.



Outside of the annual Davenham Carnival please can you let us know how you would like to see the community use the field and what facilities you would like to see there.

Please send all feedback to the Clerk at by e-mail [Clerk@davenhampc.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@davenhampc.org.uk) or in writing to The Clerk: Davenham Parish Council, 7 Leewood Close, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AS

### The Village Garden

New benches have recently been added to the area in the centre of the village (known as the village garden) and we have refurbished the remaining benches around the village. After advice from a specialist tree surgeon and CWAC we are pruning the as many of these have now grown to a large size and have falling branches. This work will be carried out sympathetically to keep the character of the trees intact while at the same time cutting back sufficiently to ensure the area is safe and has capacity for future growth.



Village garden.

### An update message from our PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Kat Stock:

The county has a crime rate which is below national average. While this is good reason for you to feel secure in your home, you should remain aware that criminals are opportunists. Davenham was recently subject to a spate of burglaries so I'd like to share the following advice;

- Make it look like you're at home even when you're out.
- Remember, most burglaries happen when a house or flat is empty.
- They are also more likely to happen during the evening or at night.
- Don't leave curtains closed during the daytime.
- Use timer switches to turn on lights, radios and other appliances when you're out. You can buy these from DIY shops.

#### If you're going away:

- Cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries and cut the lawn before you go;
- Don't put your home address on luggage labels when travelling to your destination; and
- If you can, get a friend or neighbour to look after your home while you're away. Ask them to collect your post, draw your curtains at night and open them in the mornings, and generally make the place look lived-in. Be prepared to do the same for them.
- Small safes, hidden and securely fixed, are ideal for spare chequebooks, credit cards, passports, jewellery and so on.

#### Gardens, gates and fences.

- Prevent intruders getting to the back and sides of your home by installing strong fencing or gates.
- Check for weak spots where a thief could get into your garden, for example, a low or sagging fence, or a back gate with a weak lock.
- A thorny hedge along the boundary of your property can put thieves off. But make sure that passers-by can still see the front of your home so that a burglar can't work without being seen.
- Burglars don't like gravel; it's noisy to walk on. Don't build pergolas, gazebos and so on too near to the house, they can help thieves reach upper windows.
- Solid fences or walls (particularly those with a flat or rounded top) are relatively easy for a burglar to climb over. Fixing trellising to the top can make it more difficult.
- **DO NOT USE** barbed or razor wire, or broken glass – you could be held legally responsible for any injuries caused. You can get safer alternatives that are designed not to cut or injure.

#### Passageways at the side and back of your home.

Fit a strong, lockable, high gate across the passageway to stop a thief getting to the back of your home where they can work without being disturbed. If you share a passageway with a neighbour, ask their permission and for help with the costs. However, if the passage is a right of way, you would need special permission to fit a gate from your local authority or the courts.

**If you see something suspicious please call Cheshire Police on 101 for non emergencies or 999 in an emergency.**

## SAVE DAVENHAM !

The Parish Council has embarked on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Davenham as part of the new Planning Process introduced by the Government. You may also be aware of the concerns raised in villages across Cheshire West about the pressure from developers to seek planning approvals for extensive housing development in many of our rural parishes.

Our neighbour Parish of Moulton is still fighting strongly against a proposal for 148 houses alongside our parish boundary on land zoned under the Vale Royal Local Plan as an Area of Special Landscape Value.

In Davenham we have lost our fight against an application for 36 houses off Green Lane on land that was similarly protected. CWAC have also approved a Crematorium within the parish, in open countryside alongside the A556. Potentially these approvals by CWAC will put more traffic onto narrow village roads [Green Lane and Church Street] and the village centre. In each case the planning approval was granted despite strong objections from the Parish Council and local residents.

Despite government pronouncements that the new planning processes would embrace 'localism' and give local communities more say in development in our local communities, our experience would suggest differently. Most recent approvals have been on Greenfield sites rather than concentrating on 'Brownfield land'. Already in some villages, CWAC have approved development [or have pending applications] of up to 400 houses.

If this continues, Davenham and most rural parishes face damaging large scale development. Think what impact this scale of housing would have in loss of fields around our village, the increased traffic and the overloading of local facilities such as primary schools.

Preparing a Neighbourhood Plan should help us enhance and improve our village and ensure that any new development continues to be small scale and in keeping with the village. However, considering recent approvals by CWAC the odds do not seem to be in our favour.

The Parish Council will press on with our Neighbourhood Plan, which, when ratified by the community in a Referendum will form part of the CWAC Local Plan. In the interim you, as a community, can provide vital support by joining in our NP consultations and in helping us challenge any inappropriate planning applications adversely affecting our village.

We have found recently that community pressure on CWAC officers and members by [for example] letters of objection to planning applications or attending planning meetings to demonstrate the level of objection, can influence planning decisions. A year or two ago we managed to overturn a planning decision in Firth Fields in co-operation with a determined group of residents and recently Moulton saw off a major housing application by the Parish Council and a residents campaign working together. So, defending our community from the march of developers is do-able !

The Parish Council will keep you informed via the web site, this Newsletter, the Parish notice board and community consultation meetings. Notice of contentious Planning applications will also be published and where appropriate special public meetings held.

Your participation has never been so important to protect our village since we ran the very successful Davenham Action Group campaign to get our village by-pass built. We succeeded then and with your help, we can do it again to save our Davenham!



Cllr Arthur Wood

### Contact Us

We welcome your feedback and engagement with the Parish Council. Please first address all contacts and questions to the Clerk, by emailing [clerk@davenhampc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@davenhampc.org.uk) or by post to 7 Leewood Close, Hartford, Northwich, CW8 3 AS. You can also contact the Clerk by phone: 01606 781814 (Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm)



## A very busy year for Davenham Parish Council

Welcome to the Summer 2013 newsletter with an update on some of the work your Parish Council is involved with, we hope you enjoy reading it.

We have vacancies on the Parish Council and would also welcome the involvement of volunteers on the Neighbourhood Plan project. If you would be interested in either of these roles then please contact the clerk at:

[clerk@davenhampc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@davenhampc.org.uk).

We are also including a short Parish Village Survey with this newsletter to help us hear your views on what housing we need to provide in Davenham, for the Neighbourhood Plan. If you have the time and would be prepared to complete our survey, please place it in the box in the Post Office or return to the Clerk.

### Laburnum Road Field.



Xmas lights event

### Davenham Parish Council, Chairman's Annual Report 2012 – 2013.

Planning has been a main theme this year for the Parish Council covering Davenham and Whatcroft. With recent central Government legislation acting to favour developers there has been a number of high profile applications. The Parish Council vigorously puts forward their view on planning matters to influence the approval, or decline, of decisions that Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) make on each application. We continue to ask all residents to individually register their views with CWAC as the Parish Council is one voice and wider public opinion does support other feedback received. The main local planning decision in the year has been the approval of 36 houses to be built on land off Green Lane, which disappointed the Council because, amongst many other things, being a green field site it reduces the green barrier around our village which we see as critical to maintain our village character. We have also opposed the application for more than one hundred house development in Moulton, on the basis that both these schemes will put significant additional pressure on the local roads and facilities.

Traffic in the village continues to be a point of much debate. After much public feedback the CWAC Highways Agency has put double yellow lines around the entrance to Fulton Grove and onto London Road. The aim was to improve safety by improving visibility at the junction whilst balancing the needs of visitors and local residents with issues of congestion. The congestion will continue to be monitored and further improvements to village congestion, parking and safety will be suggested by the Parish Council to CWAC Highways.

The Council has begun work on a Davenham Neighbourhood Plan. A well attended meeting was held in March 2013 where 28 local residents told us what they liked about the village and where they felt it could be improved. The topics covered included: green spaces and wildlife; parking and transport; planning, building and heritage; leisure, amenities and young people; and business and commerce. This is on-going work that requires formal public consultation and must be coordinated with the CWAC Plan, which they are developing.

Laburnum Road playing field has been really well used following the completion of the Adventure Playground early in 2012. This year extensive tree planting has been located either side of the path at the playground end. When mature this will form a short woodland walk and will gradually begin to benefit wildlife. Over the winter months a number of benches have been located around the pathway to allow visitors to relax and enjoy the area. There has also been two picnic tables installed which we hope will be useful – assuming the decent weather continues over the Summer!

Butchers Stile continues to provide popular football and cricket amenities for the Village. This support for youth community activities is an important priority for the Council. The improved Davenham Parish Council website ([www.davenhampc.org.uk](http://www.davenhampc.org.uk)) has received great feedback, as did the newsletter we distributed to houses in the village last summer.

The Councillors, who are volunteers, and the part time clerk have had an unprecedented administrative burden from repeated contact about small number of concerns from one individual. This has diverted energy from the village enhancing activities of the Council and incurred some legal costs we are disappointed at having to spend. Hopefully going forward the constructive community activities once again will take priority.

Work to maintain the Parish Council seats in the village has begun with new seats in the village garden and planned maintenance work on others. We have a formal system of safety monitoring and maintenance of play equipment in place for both Laburnum Road and Butchers Stile. Only minor repair work has been required in the year.

DPC agreed to continue part funding the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Kat Stock, who you will see round the village. Crime activities overall have continued to fall since 2010, although the PCSO has in 2012 – 2013 attended at 172 incidents, submitted 51 intelligence reports, been involved in 5 arrests and issued a number of fixed penalty tickets in relation to parking. In addition the PCSO is actively involved in reassurance and crime prevention, such as visiting local schools and clubs (e.g. cricket, brownies and cubs).

Building on the success of the last few years the Christmas tree lighting event was supported by more local people than ever on 6 December 2012. We were treated to choir and music from local children and mince pies and mulled wine from the Oddfellows Arms. Despite the weather, the community spirit was great to see.

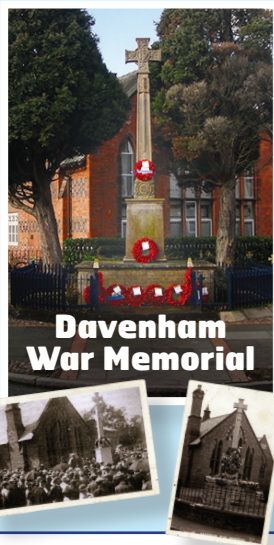
I would like to end by thanking all the Councillors and the Clerk for their support and time spent trying to ensure Davenham and Whatcroft remain popular places to live and the many community facilities continue to add real value for young and old. I personally offer my best wishes to Helen Armstrong as she takes over the Chairmanship.

Councillor Tony Sellers, Chairman 2012 / 2013, May 2013.

### Meetings

The Parish Council meets every month at Davenham Methodist Church. The official meetings start at 7.30pm and are open to viewing from the public and press, however the public is not allowed to participate in the meeting itself. Residents of the Parish are invited to raise matters for discussion with the Council prior to the meeting from 7.15pm, but due to legal constraints the Council cannot make decisions regarding such matters until the next meeting.





Davenham Parish Council have recently decided to enhance the War Memorial in the centre of the village. The memorial has stood the test of time and weather since its unveiling. On the 1st July 1921 the memorial was unveiled by Captain W.H. France-Hayhurst of Bostock Hall, a member of a well-known family in the area. A procession of 200 ex-servicemen/women accompanied by Davenham Brass Band marched to the memorial from the Parish Rooms, led by Lt. Robinson of the Manchester Regiment and Captain Darlington who both carried floral tributes to the fallen. The reverend George Russell Sanders gave the blessing followed by the singing of "Abide with Me".

The memorial itself is made from Darley-Dale quarry stone and was erected by Messers Earp, Hobbs & Miller from Manchester. The design was by Mr C.E. Deacon of Liverpool and is a fine stone cross 18 feet high situated on a concrete base above which is a pedestal inscribed with names of the fallen.

Carved on it are the anchor and cross-swords of the sea and land forces. On the rear is the Cheshire Coat of Arms. The shaft is in the form of a Crusaders Sword finished at the tip with a richly carved cross bearing the sword monogram.

Compiled by D Ravenscroft, with special thanks to MR J Comboy.

**FODS (Friends of Davenham School) is approaching the end of another brilliantly successful year. We've enjoyed cake sales, quiz 'n' chips, fashion shows, family bingo, golf and spring family fun days raising well over £4000 in the process! ALL of this money will be used to provide items from the school's "wish list", as well as the regular termly funding which assists with school trip subsidies and various classroom sundries.**

New for this year has been the outdoor Summer concert and BBQ-in-the-Barn. This was a fun occasion for the "grown-ups" to really let their hair down whilst enjoying some delicious food and drink and listening to brilliant live music.

FODS celebrated it's annual family fun day on May 18th and despite the inclement weather the day raised a massive £2000! Thanks to all the dedication and energy of those who lead this year's event and for those who supported it by providing services or simply turning up and enjoying the day.

**Dates for Your Diary:**

- Coffee mornings Friday 6th and Tuesday 10th September. New parents are especially welcome as it provides a great opportunity to meet with other mums and dads in the school hall and enjoy some refreshments.
- FODS AGM Monday 23rd September

**Getting involved:**

If you are interested in joining FODS or becoming involved in any of the events, we'd love to hear from you! Our website is [www.fods.org](http://www.fods.org) or please contact:

- Chairperson: Katie Mattinson – [katie.mattinson@gmail.com](mailto:katie.mattinson@gmail.com)**
- Vice Chair: Amanda Isherwood – [Ajisherwood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Ajisherwood@hotmail.co.uk)**
- Secretary: Vicky Stock – [vickystock@hotmail.com](mailto:vickystock@hotmail.com)**
- Treasurer: Colin Jaffray – [colinjaffray@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:colinjaffray@yahoo.co.uk)**



**Davenham Bowling Club.  
Laburnum Road,  
Davenham.**



**Main Contacts.**

- Chairman Steve Nelson tel 07774 689843**
- Vice Chairman Phil Watts tel 0160641554**
- Secretary Karen Griffiths tel 07955052736**
- Social Secretary Pam Fletcher tel 0160641924**
- Treasurer Alan Such tel 07816862095**
- Greensman Norman Christie tel 01606594178**

Davenham Bowling Club are proud to announce the opening of the new extension to our Club House giving us improved toilet facilities and a larger social area as well as the installation of hot water system and central heating.

We are a thriving private club with around 100 members supporting 11 teams in both the Mid Cheshire and Norley Leagues, We also run a whist drive at the club every Wednesday afternoon throughout the year. Social Bowling is also available within the membership so you don't have to be involved with a particular team; you can just come down and bowl for fun as long as there are no competitive games on at the time.

We are always looking for new members of all ages to join us and get involved, we encourage anybody to come down and take a look at our set up and maybe even have a little game to see if you like it prior to joining.

We are presently looking for a new club secretary as our current secretary is resigning at the end of this current season, anybody interested in taking this position please make contact with any of our members.

One of the oldest Scout Groups in Cheshire, 1st Davenham has recovered from the loss of it's meeting place three years ago, and numbers are increasing again. This unfortunately means we need to put out a call for any potential leaders or group helpers in the area, as twenty-five 10-14 year olds can take some supervision, and none of us existing leaders are getting any younger!

If you think you can help, please contact us on the numbers below, or through the contacts section on our website: [davenhamscouts.org.uk](http://davenhamscouts.org.uk)

We have nearly completed our new interim meeting premises: still need some insulation (donations welcome) and some labour over the Summer break to get it snug by September. We will hopefully be running a couple of fundraising events to top up our funds which have been depleted by the work needed to date.

Ultimately, we would like to see a true Village Hall, which, we, the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and other youth organisations in the village could use long-term. Most villages in Cheshire have such a facility; many of them much smaller and less wealthy than Davenham. Our sub-committee will be checking out local support for such a hall in the coming months.

Davenham Scout Group continues to give fun, life enhancing experiences to Scouts (10-14 years), Cubs (8-10 years old), and Beavers (6-8 years old). Usually we have about 75 children from Davenham and surrounding areas regularly attending the three Sections. Scouts have recently been raft building, kayaking, camping with Bear Grylls and much more.

**1st Davenham Scouts**



If you think you can help us continue and improve the Scouting experience for local children, check the website at [davenhamscouts.org.uk](http://davenhamscouts.org.uk), or call one of the leaders below.

- Dave Bibby (Group Scout Leader) 01606 47494/07732 850956**
- Alastair Kennedy (Scout Leader) 07933 828708**
- Tim Molloy (Scout Leader)**
- Brian Sinfield (Scout Leader)**

**Vale Royal Art Group**

Vale Royal Art Group continues to thrive, having a healthy membership of 19 keen artists. We meet every Tuesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 4.30pm at the Davenham Methodist Church Hall throughout the year, as well as trips to exhibitions and art shows.

The highlight of our year is our annual Art Exhibition, which we all work towards. The dates this year will be Friday 4th October and Saturday 5th; so if you are a regular visitor or have never been before, we would be delighted to see you.

For more information please visit our website: [www.vrag.co.uk](http://www.vrag.co.uk)

**Other clubs and Societies:**

**Davenham & Sandiway Players** are a friendly group of amateur dramatists who operate from our very own theatre at 59 Church St. Davenham near Northwich in Cheshire.

Please visit the website for more information and the latest productions: [www.davenhamplayers.co.uk](http://www.davenhamplayers.co.uk)

**Davenham Cricket Club** is a lively local club with senior and junior teams and coaching. Please visit the website for the latest team and social news: [www.davenhamcc.co.uk](http://www.davenhamcc.co.uk)



**Davenham Junior Football Club**

Davenham JFC recently celebrated the end of another successful season by hosting their presentation BBQ on Sunday 23rd of June at Butchers Stile field. The day was kicked off with a fantastic Under 7s tournament and was followed with various age group presentations with trophies galore.

The club boasts age groups from Under 7s through to Under 18s and has almost 200 members.

Honours this year were achieved by the Under 12s boys, managed by Dave Burns who not only won Division 1, but also won the Mid Cheshire District Cup. The Under 18s managed by Chris Bailey also won the Mid Cheshire District Cup in their last season together.

Other achievements included runners up positions in the league for Under 10s Dynamoes girls, Under 11s Rangers boys and the under 15s Dynamoes boys. As well as Dave Gradwell picking up the Secretary of the Year award.

Davenham Junior Football Club is an FA charter standard club and welcomes any new members. More information can be found on our website [www.djfc.co.uk](http://www.djfc.co.uk)

Chairman Chris Bailey writes on behalf of all the committee 'I would like to thank all players, parents, managers, assistants and coaches for helping to achieve another great season'

Thank you to all the Davenham people who run these volunteer groups and have contributed to this newsletter.