

DIGGLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"To promote a thriving Diggle Village Community"

www.digglevillage.org.uk

AGM & Open Meeting Agenda

Thursday 12 January 2017 8 p.m Diggle Band Club

Chair: Mark Brooks;

Secretary: Nick Cox;

Treasurer: Glenise Eason;

Committee: Duncan Rhodes; Jo Taylor; Charlotte Coleman; Stuart Coleman;
Ken McWatt; Julie Johnson; Barbara Barnes

Annual General Meeting 8:00 - 8:30

Apologies: Stuart Charlotte, Kathleen Lambert, Marlene McLean, Ray Withnall, Lesley Brown, Stuart Coulson, Charles Bowman, John and Dilys Redfearn.

Present: Barbara Barnes, Glenise Eason, Julie Johnson, Alison Coates, Gordon Coates, Lynda Barlow, David Barlow, Margaret Payne, Duncan Rhodes, Jo Taylor, Mark Brooks, Nick Cox, Bernard Holden.

Minutes of the last AGM

Accepted

Chairman's Report

My second year as Chair of Diggle Community Association has again been challenging but rewarding.

The DCA set a number of objectives at the start of the year. We wanted to improve our communication with the village, make the DCA a more effective umbrella organisation for community activity, give Diggle a stronger village identity, engender pride in the village by helping to look after the elements of our village which make it so unique and we also wanted to bring greenery and colour to our streets, roads and open spaces - We set ourselves quite a challenge!

The formation of the Diggle Community Gardeners, the introduction of Diggle Diggers, the development of the email list and web presence, the proactive use of social media like Facebook and our DCA introductory leaflet has made a positive difference to how the DCA connects and communicates with the village. It also recognises that we have more work to do. For example, statistics for our DCA facebook page now show that in November 2016 over 2000 people visited the site but frustratingly we only have 39 paid up DCA members.

In terms of positioning the DCA at the heart of the village, as the umbrella organisation, members from the executive committee attend many of the areas community and political group meetings. These including, the Friends of Diggle School , the Diggle Band Club Committee, Saddleworth Homewatch, the Saddleworth District Partnership and the Saddleworth Parish Council. As a result the DCA is well informed and is able to support the work of others and respond to the needs of others. I believe the DCA benefits massively from networking with others but I also recognise that much more can be done to make the village more cohesive and 'as one'.

Our work in the village has continued to bridge this gap and bring local people together to celebrate events and to fight for the things they value. This, I believe, has contributed to making Diggle a village to be proud of and a great place to live.

As a quick but not exhaustive snapshot this year we ,the DCA have:

- Formed the Diggle Community Gardeners Group
- Assisted and supported the Diggle Diggers in creating Saddleworth's first ever Community Orchard.
- Held a fund raising and DCA awareness event which helped the Community gardeners pursue the greening of Diggle. This event also introduced 10 new members to the DCA.
- Formed a working relationship with the Canal and River Trust and held eight canal restoration events.
- Removed graffiti vandalism from the historically significant Standedge tunnel area of the canal and provided potted planters and flower beds.
- Picked, collected and disposed of over 100 bags of rubbish from the canal towpath, children's play area and tip.
- Supported the annual Whit Walks which were well attended by Diggle residents who turned out to proudly march for Diggle behind the Rev. Duncan Rhodes, Kilngreen Church and Diggle Band.
- Fund-raised, organised and delivered the annual village Christmas Carol concert, Christingle and lights switch on event. This event brought the village together and was the best ever in terms of numbers who attended. (The DCA members as organisers of this event deserve special mention and pat on the back for their hard work and fund raising. The event requires considerable funding ((in excess of £700 and has required £2500 in initial set up costs)).The event brings the village together and both the DCA and the Children's Society benefit massively from moneys raised).
- Participated in the new Saddleworth 'Above and Beyond' awards nominating Diggle resident Dave Wood for much deserved recognition.
- Supported the Diggle Blues festival which is now a world famous, successful and highly respected village event, entertaining villagers and people from across the UK with live blues music.

Community action has again been well supported and organised with the challenges and continued uncertainty caused by the proposed move of the 1500 pupil school into the village. On a personal note I was pleased to see the dedication and hard work of the Save Diggle Action Group vindicated when the senior High Court Judge Mrs Justice Lang DBE agreed with them and allowed a full Judicial Review to be undertaken against this most ill-conceived and destructive of schemes. Serious questions must now be answered by the Local Council and the judge's decision, whatever it may be, will have a profound impact on the Diggle community.

This coming year, with a strong DCA, we can continue to build on our success' and, hopefully keep Diggle looking the way we want it to look.

We are the sum of our parts and this year, our parts have been outstanding. I thank all of you wholeheartedly for the support and time you have given to making our village a great place to live.

However we still have many challenges ahead in achieving our goals but we are better equipped now and will go from strength to strength if we continue to work together.

As chairman, I would like to thank you for all your support and help.

Treasurer's Report

Income

The Association has maintained capital reserve during this year. The main sources of income are membership, the generous donations from Parish and Borough Councillors Nikki Kirkham and Garth Harkness (totaling £117) and the raffles conducted at Open Meetings (which raised £61). The Christingle/Christmas tree switch-on was very successful and raised £361.41, although on-going costs relating to this event will have to be met from these funds.

Expenditure

The cost of two stones engraved with the message 'Welcome to Diggle' supplied by Mick Harrington and put in place by him and Stuart Coleman was met from previous grants. This was also the case with the planters which had been established by Diggle Community Gardeners. The Association has needed to take out public liability insurance for first time this year, in order to hold the Christingle and Christmas lights event. This will be an on-going expense. The Association had also contributed to the costs of the Above and Beyond awards, although it is unlikely that it will do so in future. A substantial cost is the Christmas tree and lights which cost in the region of £400, the Association will need to ensure that it has funds to meet this cost annually.

The Community Gardening group had raised money for plants through cake sales and other small-scale funding activities. These had not been listed in the accounts as some of this money had already been used to purchase plants and some is kept in reserve as petty cash.

Diggle Community Association Accounts 2016

Date	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Comments
20 th January 16		7.20		Photocopying AGM
20 th January 16		20.00		Donation to Diggle B Band
20 th January 16	72.00			Membership Subscriptions
20 th January 16	13.00			Membership donations
2 nd March 16		195.26		OMBC Dressing of

				Christmas Tree
17 th March 16	17.00			Open Meeting Raffle + 1 membership
26 th May 16		10.00		Stationary Expenses
6 th June 16	500.00			Donation for welcome Stone Cllr N Kirkham
7 th June 16		138.99		Flowers for planter Wool Rd/Sugar Lane
13 th June 16		35.31		Flowers for stone trough Hanging Gate
July 16	10.00		3826.73	Cash donation for 5 years membership
8 th September 16		15.00		Flowers
15 th September 16	20.00			Open meeting Raffle
28 th September 16	300.00			Donation Cllr N Kirkham
7 th October 16		10.00		Photocopying leaflets
8 th October 16	20.00			Membership donations from Cake Stall
10 th October 16		1200.00	3441.73	Payment for welcome stones/ Wool Rd planter
12 th October 16		50.00		Cheque K Bennett Communications Above and Beyond award
20 th October 16		93.08		Public Liability Insurance Cheque to Markel UK Ltd
26 th October 2016	450.00			Donation OMBC
10 th November 16	26.00		3774.65	Raffle Open Meeting
4 th December 2016				Christingle Event
	368.32	101.85		Mulled Wine Sales/Expenses
	180.00	90.00		Collection Tins/donation to Children's Society(Rev D Rhodes)
Sub Total	1976.32	1966.69		
Balance b/f 2015	4121.49			
Total	6097.81	1966.69	4131.12	

Bank	4057.56
Cash	73.56
Total	4131.12

Summary

Balance as at 31st December 2015 = £4121.49p

Balance as at 31st December 2016 = £4131.12p

2016

Income £1976.32p / Expenditure £1966.69

Main Sources of Income

Membership £117

Raffle at Open Meetings £61

Christingle/Tree Lighting £356.47p

Donations Local Councillors via OMBC £1250

Main Areas of Expenditure

2 Welcome to Diggle Stones £1000

Planter at Wool Road £339

Plants outside Gate Inn £35

Above and Beyond awards K Bennett £50 - ?? ongoing expense

Public Liability Insurance £93.08p – ongoing expense

We have still to pay for the Christmas Tree/lights/dressing /Collection boxes and donation to Diggle B Band.

These cost should be covered by the generous donation from local councillors, the collection and sale of mulled wine, however we do need to look at how we are to fund this event in the future.

Glenise Eason
DCA Treasurer
12th January 2017

Election of Officers

The Chairman indicated that Julie Johnson would be stepping down from the committee this year. He noted that she was a founder member of the society and had been on the committee since the very beginning of the DCA. During this time she has been very active as Secretary and Treasurer and has kept minutes of every meeting of the DCA. The Chairman added that he had found Julie's calm support and wisdom invaluable and had often looked to her for guidance and advice as Chair. On behalf of the membership he thanked her for the exceptional contribution she had made to Diggle village and community and noted, with pleasure, that Julie had indicated that she would not be ending her involvement with the DCA, although she was stepping down from the committee.

A presentation of gardening vouchers and flowers was made by the Chair.

Julie gave the following response:

Mark, your remarks were so generous and very much appreciated. During our married life we have lived in Grasscroft, Uppermill, Dobcross and finally Diggle. Dobcross being our home for the longest period of 21 years and I can honestly say that during my time in Diggle (15 years) I have never felt more settled in a community. By joining the DCA it has given me the opportunity to make friends with and get to know so many great characters. Also meeting with so many 2nd and 3rd generation Diggles who have so many interesting stories to recall of the history of the village and its residents.

I have greatly enjoyed being part of the many issues we have confronted as a group over the years and I am sure the challenges will continue and I wish you great success in your future endeavours, I will certainly continue to be a keen member of the DCA and hope that, if you feel I can help in any way you will get in touch.

Finally, thank you all for your friendship and best wishes.

The Chairman also indicated that Nick Cox had indicated he would not be able to continue as Secretary, although he would remain a member of the committee, he was willing to continue until a new secretary was appointed. Mark thanked NC for his contribution as secretary.

Date of Next Annual General Meeting

11/1/18

Open Meeting 8:30 - 9:15

- **Apologies for absence**

As AGM

- **Minutes & update from previous DCA Open Meeting**

Accepted

- **Police update**

Monica and Mike

Since 10/11 there have been 8 crimes in the Diggle area: 1 assault; a burglary on Standedge Rd; an aggravated burglary on Kent close, a repeat offense: suspects took a large knife from kitchen and took it with them while going round the property; a burglary involving a house which had no lights on at the time while neighbouring houses had Christmas lights; an Assault between partners, a Public order offence between neighbours; a Dangerous dog on Sam road; an instance of Sending messages causing distress.

In the rest of the Saddleworth north area there have been 11 burglaries

The incidence of Burglaries has now reduced after 5 arrests. Following these arrests 2 suspects had not had action taken against them because of insufficient evidence; 2 had left the area, 1 individual has been charged. Considerable police resources had been devoted to addressing the spate of burglaries in the months before Christmas 2016 (including armed police, the use of unmarked vehicles and extra patrols) but with the reduction in the number of offences these would inevitably be redirected elsewhere in the borough.

The most recent trend in burglaries is for offenders to seek entry at night, a break with the pattern in recent years when burglaries have been during the day.

There have been a number of thefts of the bonnets of Landrover Defenders. Theft of these is relatively easy and offenders can remove them quickly and make off. Residents with this vehicle can obtain a device to prevent removal of the bonnet but a general alert for residents with this make of vehicle to take extra precautions.

- **Review - Diggle Christmas tree lights and switch on event 2016**

Duncan Rhodes was invited by MB to comment: Overall he felt very happy with how the event had gone, control during the procession was improved from last year and the involvement of the school and choir was a particularly enjoyable aspect of the event illustrating how it helped to bring the different parts of the community together. A problem remains with lighting the candles outside. MB

concluded. Joanne Taylor noted that the room in the Band Club was very full and therefore hot and congested. It was noted that, if the weather was conducive, it would be better to hold the event outside. Glenise Eason commented that she felt the light switch-on was a genuine community event and it was very good to see so many families and people had attended.

- **DCA working with the Canal & River Trust 2017 dates**

MB began by reminding the members that the DCA's relationship with CRT was established in March 2016. The CRT have some funds and are willing to support initiatives in the community. The activities involving the DCA with the CRT have seen over 100 bags of litter removed from the Diggle stretch of the towpath. Young people from village have been involved. CRT is hoping to enhance its involvement with Diggle and the DCA in the coming. Dates of events for 2017: 11 Feb, 18 March, 8th April, 13 May, 17th June.

- **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework consultation update**

There has been an Extension to deadline for comments to 16 January – online, email or post. The Framework has been challenged – notably the land-grab plans, particular opposition to the Fletcher's Mill development. It has been reported that a meeting between Council Officers and the owners of this site had taken place 12 months ago and allegedly advice had been given to the owners about how to alter the designation of the land. There were serious implications for traffic in Greenfield from this proposed development. It was noted that the site had not been offered for sale as a site for the new secondary school but has for residential development.

- **Diggle Band Club**

MB indicated that assets in the village are often only recognized when they are gone. Diggle Band club is a real asset for the community is currently under threat at the moment if the community don't make more use it. What action can DCA take to support Band Club? It was noted that we have a World Class Band in Diggle and perhaps this is not sufficiently widely recognised. Some members of the community are not aware that the Club exists and provides a resource for the community. MB indicated that one of the objectives of DCA in 2017 will be to support the club. Bernard Holden indicated that people can locate the club when they come to vote but social use of the club had diminished. GE indicated that social lives had changed and club would need to address this. JT indicated the club needed to become a resource for the community and would need to promote its events and resources more widely in the village.

- **DCA Newsletter**

Despite general agreement that it was a good idea and an effort by Charlotte Coleman to produce a Newsletter, this had not been implemented successfully in 2016. The possibility of a joint newsletter with Kiln Green Church and the Band Club was discussed. JT had indicated that we could get this distributed by Royal Mail at a cost that would not be prohibitive and that it should also be disseminated via social media. The Police offered to send it out on e-watch.

- **Any other business**

Barbara Barnes asked if members are aware of the location of the defibrillator on Diggle Day Nursery?

- **Date of next meeting:** 16 March 2017