



Coal Aston Daffodils  
By David Hallam

# Dronfield Civic Society

Caring for our local environment since 1989

Web: [www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

Email: [enquiries@dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

## Welcome to the February newsletter

It will soon be time to enjoy the colourful displays of spring flowers around our town. The Civic Society with help from volunteers is responsible for planting thousands of bulbs which brighten up the roadside verges. Recently planted is the area opposite the Coach and Horses.

In this issue we take a look at the changes to the local street scene from the Coach and Horses along Dronfield Bottom all the way down to the new Podiatry Clinic on the site of Nunn's. If you think anything here or elsewhere in Dronfield is worthy of an award, why not put in a nomination? It is also time to start thinking about entering the third DCS Photographic Competition. Full details are on the website and you have until the end of March to submit your nominations and photographs.

From major projects to small scale improvements we are always kept busy across the town. So we have decided to introduce a little blue plaque to let the townsfolk know about the things we've fixed. First to receive one was a damaged bench on Snape Hill Lane. Our efforts were very much appreciated by nearby resident. Repaired because we care.

*John Fletcher—Chairman*

**Issue 29  
February 2018**

*If you are a member and would like to join our committee, please get in touch.*

*New people bring fresh ideas; so whether you enjoy practical projects or paperwork, involvement with local schools or want to help out at monthly talks, please come forward.*

## Painting the Town



*A truly stunning display of crocuses along Eckington Road, Coal Aston.*



## Purple

Around 2000 purple crocus bulbs have been planted in the grassed area opposite the Coach and Horses with the help of children from Dronfield Junior School and ladies from Drone Roses WI.



*We bulb plant every year in autumn, so if you would like to get involved or can suggest areas to plant, please get in touch.*



**YOUR CIVIC SOCIETY RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP TO KEEP OUR TOWN AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE. HELP US TO KEEP THIS SHARED SPACE BEAUTIFUL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. JOIN US!**

*It helps us to save on postage and printing costs if you can receive this newsletter by email, so please let us have your current email address.*



## How the Town Remembered Them



From poppies on lampposts across the district, to painted pebbles under the Lucas Arch and a red cascading embankment at Henry Fanshawe School. **THIS IS HOW THE TOWN REMEMBERED THEM.**



Dronfield Civic Society  
@dronfieldcivicsociety



Did you know that we have a Facebook page where you can find out about up-to-the-minute happenings, events and talking points in Dronfield and district? This cover photo used through November was an entry in the DCS photographic competition for 2017 by Neil Grassam.

## The DCS Third Annual Photographic Competition

Have a search through your photographs from last year and take part in the third annual DCS Photographic Competition, in conjunction with Dronfield Camera Club. Our three categories remain the same: Dronfield Life, The Built Environment and Landscape. This year we would really like to see more Junior entrants (14 years and under), so get your cameras clicking and record some of those beautiful, interesting or unusual elements in and around the postcode area of S18. Winners will be announced at the Evening of Celebration in May.



Full details of how to enter are on our website



## All Change from Bottom to Top

*It can often be a difficult decision to change something completely, especially when a proportion of the population have a fondness for what has gone before. But when Nunn's days were over it was refreshing, if not amazing, to see the transformation of the tiny, somewhat complicated site which overhung the Drone into a modern, two-storey Podiatry Clinic.*



*And let's take a look back at the rather difficult and often litter-strewn plot at the end of Holborn Avenue together with Dam Side House, memorable for its fancy-tiled roof. The site has been transformed into quite a bit of housing development, improving the local townscape opposite the railway station.*



*Next up and ripe for a makeover is Dronfield's Timber Ramp Footbridge. Well beyond its sell-by date, being structurally unsound, it is due to be replaced this year.*



*And finally, the northern gateway to the town is seeing a few changes at the junction of Stubley Hollow and Sheffield Road. As yet the commercial premises have to resolve parking issues for their business near to this busy junction so it is undecided whether to retain the brick building or demolish it. In any case, the site will be improved. We watch with interest the development at Nether Birchitt Farm in the dip below the Bowshaw Dam which is revealed from a very unusual angle, in this ever-changing Valley of the Drone!*





## Danger, Distraction and Despoliation..... Reader Feedback



"Dear John, I was very pleased to read the article on this topic in the recent Newsletter. I am concerned at the amount and frequency of advertising on the bridge railings in Gosforth Lane, opposite the mini-roundabout at the end of Gosforth Drive. I consider all this is very distracting for drivers and potentially dangerous at this busy junction. I would like to report it, as you suggest, to the Highway Inspector at DCC but lack any specific contact information that would ensure it got to the right place. Grateful if you could either forward it on for me or let me have the contact details. On a related matter, you ask for views about the large poppies that have sprouted up. Basically a good idea which should raise awareness of the poppy campaign. But yes, there are far too many of them and in essence they are just another form of fly-posting - and probably set a precedent that some other organisation will also follow before long. Thanks"

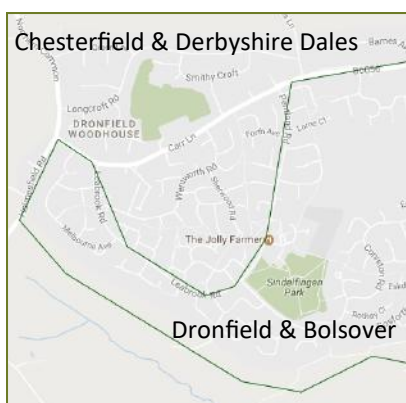


Signage also blights the Peak District, although once reported, this one was removed fairly quickly.

Here's what Stephen Kimberley, the Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement) for NEDDC, had to say about signage in a Conservation Area in response to an email from us about this issue.

".. there is no specific guidance as regards what constitutes appropriate signage in a Conservation Area and it is dealt with on a case by case basis with Case Officers having regard to the Council's statutory duties, the Local plan and the advice set out in the NPPF along with Conservation Area appraisals. Please be aware that in enforcement cases we do not normally provide ongoing updates of progress but we will advise of the outcome of our investigations once they have been concluded. All enforcement action is at the discretion of the Council."

## Civic Society Comments Noted by Boundary Commission



Boundary Lines courtesy of Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright 2016

**In our March 2017 newsletter we reported on the proposals by the Boundary Commission which were to change constituency boundaries in Dronfield. The changes proposed meant that Dronfield Woodhouse would have been separated from the rest of Dronfield to be part of Derbyshire Dales. Dronfield Town would then have been part of a new constituency with Bolsover. Secretary John Hinchcliffe wrote on our behalf stating that we strongly objected to these initial proposals. In October revised proposals were published and under the new scheme Dronfield Woodhouse would be part of a new North East Derbyshire constituency and would not be split from the rest of Dronfield. The Society's submission on the original proposals was briefly mentioned by the Boundary Commission about the revised proposals. John also wrote to express support for the revised proposals which were subject to consultation until December 7th 2017.**

## Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan

Dronfield Town Council will be putting the Neighbourhood Plan out for consultation in February. The consultation will be held over two days at the Civic Hall, where they will be asking for your views on such issues as: community, housing, transport, economy and environment. The Plan also includes a chapter about heritage which the Civic Society, through the input of former Chairman John Harvey, has helped to put together. If you want to make your voice heard, make sure you take part in this consultation scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd of February, which will feed through into the Local Plan being put together by the District Council.



## The Benefits of Local Listing

By Sarah James Civic Voice Development Officer

Many Civic Societies have been involved in producing a Local Heritage List. It is also a Civic Voice campaign to see more community generated local lists. So what is it? A local heritage list is managed by the local authority and, whilst placing a building on the local list does not give a building any additional legal protection, it does mean that the heritage value of a locally listed heritage asset is a material consideration in determining planning applications.

Heritage assets included on the local list are not subject to any additional planning controls over alteration or demolition. Where a planning application is needed, or allocation proposed within a Local Plan, then its inclusion on the Local List will be a "material consideration" i.e. the heritage asset's local architectural or historic interest and heritage significance will be taken into account when making a decision on the development proposals.

According to National Planning Policy Guidance, Local lists incorporated into Local Plans can be a positive way for the local planning authority to identify non-designated heritage assets against consistent criteria so as to improve the predictability of the potential for sustainable development.

**Former Chairman of Dronfield Civic Society, John Harvey, is keen to develop a working group to identify assets worthy of local listing. If you would like to be involved or know of anything that would benefit from such in Dronfield, please get in touch.**

## John Robert Clough Awards

**Every year we encourage our members to take a good look around the town and nominate a person, building, project or scheme which has significantly improved the overall townscape or local street scene.**

**The John Robert Clough Awards have been running for a number of years and so our list of worthy winners is a long one and includes: The Cruck Barn, the shop front of Taylor, Taylor, the Parish Church Garden Volunteers, the Coal Aston War Memorial, the Peel Centre Management Team, Ashwood Homes, The Coal Aston Chapel Garden, the daffodil embankment at Henry Fanshawe School, Hall Barn, Unstone Post Office, Dronfield Eye Offices, Ouzel Bank Cottage, Little Italy and The Blue Stoops.**

**If you would like to nominate someone to receive an award, you can do so by printing a form from the bottom of the Awards page on our website to be returned to J. Vernier 7 Forth Avenue Dronfield Woodhouse S18 8ZG. Alternatively send the name of the person to be nominated, the reason for the nomination and photographs if possible by email to [judithvernier@talktalk.net](mailto:judithvernier@talktalk.net) Nominations can be received from now until the end of March.**

## Pooling Resources to Clear the Litter



In late November, a team of volunteers from The Barn and the Drone Roses WI, co-ordinated by our own committee members David and Mick, cleared rubbish from one of the town's litter hot spots. The footpath from Mill Lane through to Callywhite Lane is often an unpleasant walk because of litter strewn edges adjacent to the path and alongside the river.

Seven sacks of rubbish were collected together with a large plastic sheet, a litter bin and a quantity of plastic bottles, cans and bags of dog waste found in hedgerows.

The team also assisted the County Rangers to coppice the hazels. The collected stakes were then taken to The Barn and used to make attractive garden edging and for use in ongoing projects.

## Worthy Winners from the Past





## Civic Society Success Stories (blowing our own trumpet!)



Following on from the piece about the revised boundary changes, we can report on a few more Civic Society success stories.

Ex-Committee Member David Ingham wrote to the Chief Executive of the Central England Cooperative Society to make him aware of a problem with lorries ignoring the weight limit and scheduled route to the Civic Centre in favour of the High St. One such vehicle had caused damage to the Peel Centre wall at the entrance to the Civic Centre. To-date vehicles now seem to be using the correct route for delivery to the Co-op.



For many years the Civic Society has taken a keen interest in traffic management and pedestrian safety in and around the town centre. Through our Safer Dronfield Campaign, meetings and town walkabouts with DCC Highway Engineers, we have had some influence over the decision to paint double yellow lines at a dangerous junction on Pentland Road and at the exit of Sainsbury's petrol station to increase visibility. Additionally, our influence has led to two car parking spaces being marked out on Church Street opposite the Cruck Barn with the aim of slowing traffic down before the busy junction at Lea Road.

## Little Blue Plaques

We are often out and about around Dronfield doing jobs—repairing seats, fixing broken signs, mending bridges, improving safety, planting trees and just as often, such things go unnoticed. Well you will soon be able to take note of what we do around town because we are adding our own little blue plaques to things that we've fixed which no-one else takes responsibility for—Because We Care.



This one-time bench in a sorry state on Snape Hill Lane was damaged and unclaimed in terms of whose responsibility it was to fix it. It has recently been repaired by us and is the first item to have a DCS little blue plaque.

A gentleman from an adjacent property came out and thanked our team for their efforts which included clearing debris from the pavers.

We recently received a request for a donation from Civic Voice, the national charity for the civic movement, to support the next meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies which is prioritising the impact of funding cuts on Conservation Areas. We have promoted the work of the APPG to our MP Lee Rowley who will be taking part in a town walkabout with committee members to raise the profile of issues affecting the town, in particular, the state of Dronfield's Conservation Areas. Lee will also be attending John Harvey's talk about Protecting Dronfield's Heritage.

## Plans Recommended for Approval

In our previous newsletters and on our website, we explained the plans for the site adjacent to and to the rear of Dronfield Library. The decision went to a Planning Committee to be recommended for approval. DCS raised objections to the scheme as did the Town Council. We requested that before demolition and redevelopment, a photographic record of the interior of the stables be made and that the record be attached to its entry on the Derbyshire County Council Historic Environment Record and lodged in the Dronfield Heritage Trust Archive.



Manor Farm Update

## DCS Events & Talks 7:45 p.m. at St Andrew's



**Wednesday 21st February**

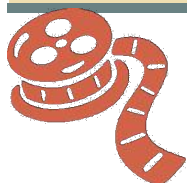
### The Scissor Man



From household, kitchen, garden, industrial, craftsman, leisure and ceremonial ribbon-cutting applications, Dronfield's Mayor Philip Wright will deliver his sharp and witty presentation about a family business which dates back to before 1800.

To accompany Philip's talk there will be a display of cutting applications through the ages.

**Master Scissor Putter-togetherer at St Andrew's 7:45 p.m.**



**Wednesday 21st March Britain on Film...On Tour**



## RAILWAYS Rating U.. RUNTIME.. 83 mins

*A chance to travel back to a time when journeying by rail was comfortable, punctual and maybe even glamorous!*

*A major new collection of rare archive films charting the history of the UK's railways bringing home the romance and heady freedoms offered by train travel as it expanded across the country in the early 20th century.*



**NOSTALGIC & EVOCATIVE** *LIKELY TO BE A SELL-OUT...SHOWING AT 7:45 P.M.*



**Edale Mountain Rescue Team**

**Wednesday 18th April..... The Work of Edale Mountain Rescue Team**



*Edale Mountain Rescue Team is one of seven mountain rescue teams that operate within the Peak District National Park. Their members operate on a purely voluntary basis and are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assist members of the public on the hill or in urban search and rescue situations. They are almost exclusively funded by public donations. All proceeds from fund raising go towards equipment and resources used on call outs.*

## Increase in Admission Charges to DCS Events

**PLEASE NOTE** that in order to cover our costs, it has been necessary to make a small increase in admission charges to all DCS events. Admission will be £3 for members and £5 for non-members which took effect from September 2017.

**Wednesday 16th May**  
**7:45 p.m.**

**Celebration Time**

**Members and Non-Members Welcome**

**LET'S CELEBRATE!**

*This event is an ideal opportunity to renew your membership or to join our society. Membership Secretary Jo will be on hand to take renewals or help you to join.*

*Please note, there will be a very short AGM.*

*Find out the winner of the third annual photographic competition....  
AND*

*We'll reveal the overall winner of the John Robert Clough Awards....*

**Join us for a free glass of wine and a few nibbles from the hospitality table**



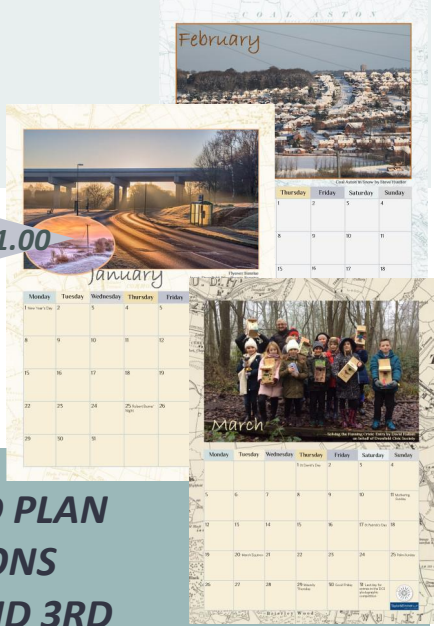
**New Year...2018...Resolution Time...2018...New Year...2018**



**Make some DCS New Year Resolutions!**



- 1. **Nominate a project, scheme or person to receive a John Robert Clough Award**
- ◆ **Enter the third annual DCS Photographic Competition**
- ◆ **Attend a monthly event**
- ◆ **Not a member already? Join us in 2018**



**There's still time to purchase one of our calendars. Reduced to clear at £1.00**

**Readers' Feedback**



*We would love to see more members and non-members at our monthly events. So let us know whether you would prefer an earlier start time, a different venue and the sort of topics you would like to hear.*

**Dronfield Neighbourhood Plan**



**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
DROP-IN SESSIONS  
FEBRUARY 2ND AND 3RD  
IN THE CIVIC HALL**

*Air and share your views on six important themes:  
COMMUNITY, HOUSING, TRANSPORT, ECONOMY,  
HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT*

**TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED**



**PLEASE NOTE NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES FROM APRIL 1ST**



**An Invitation to Renew Your Membership 2018-19**

From April 1st, Dronfield Civic Society invites you to renew your membership. Annual subscription charges are **£10.00 singles, £15.00 couples/families** and £25.00 for small businesses/schools and associations.

Our Membership Secretary is Josephine Wright who will be pleased to receive the slip below with your payment by cheque.

Please send to: Mrs J Wright DCS Membership Secretary 11 Moorgate Crescent, Dronfield S18 1YF

For any membership queries you can contact Jo on dcsmembership@gmail.com

**If you currently pay by Standing Order, you will need to make your bank aware of the new rates. Life membership remains at £60.00 single and £100.00 joint. Small business/school/association remains at £25.00**



Please renew my membership of Dronfield Civic Society from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Membership: (please circle)    Single    Couple/Family    Business/School/Association

I enclose a cheque made payable to Dronfield Civic Society for £.....

*Members receive reduced price entry to DCS talks and either a quarterly e-newsletter or a printed copy.  
PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS AS IT SAVES THE COST OF POSTAGE AND PRINTING*



Dronfield Civic Society is sponsored by Stauff UK Ltd. Experts in the UK hydraulic industry since 1977 [www.stauff.co.uk](http://www.stauff.co.uk)

If you would like to become a sponsor of Dronfield Civic Society please contact us at [enquiries@dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk) for further details.