



Photos contributed by Andrew Bradbury



GALA WEEKEND

Once again, we enjoyed an excellent Gala Weekend. After some early morning rain, the weather became very kind and settled into a glorious day of sunshine and summer clouds. The proceedings were formally opened by Dronfield Town Mayor, Cllr Sue Allsop at 12:30, and the Blessing of the Well Dressing took place at 13:45.

Throughout the afternoon there was great activity at the numerous stalls, many of which were raising funds for a number of local charities. At 14:35, everything suddenly stopped as we enjoyed another spectacular fly-past by a Spitfire of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

This year we welcomed Shine choir and once again Lenthall Infants School gave a display of May Pole Dancing. Visitors were also kept entertained by the street organ, Punch & Judy, bouncy castle, roundabout, fire engine, bowling, and a fine display of classic cars. The afternoon was rounded off when younger visitors keenly participated in races, after watching the annual

tug-of-war. Gala Day ended with a Concert in the Village Hall, featuring Johnny and the Moondogs, hosted and supported by Scuppered.

To complete the weekend, on Sunday 6th July in the Village Hall, there was an exhibition of paintings, art works and crafts by the Royle Art Group and Heather Vickers, together with a display of Meccano models and photographs of Coal Aston aerodrome.

To the many who gave their support to the Gala Weekend, the Village Hall Management Committee members express their sincere thanks.



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Hard to believe that summer is over, and what a great one we've had. But after week upon week of hot sunny days and still nights, the few days running up to Coal Aston Gala gave us some concern, with rain and wind in the forecast.

We needn't have worried, because once again we were blessed with a stunning day which brought the crowds out in their hundreds to enjoy what must surely be the social highlight of a Coal Aston year. Our Gala team excelled themselves this year with new attractions and stalls added to the usual favourites, topped off with a fantastic flypast by the RAF Spitfire. Combined with the wonderful well dressing, and rounded off with Johnny and The Moondogs in concert, we can look back on this year's Gala as arguably the best yet.

We were saddened recently to hear of the passing of our long standing Trustee Terry Barker, and our condolences go to his family at this sad time. The role of Trustee is important within the constitution of our charitable status. Whilst not having any active involvement in the day-to-day running of the Village Hall, the Trustee would be called in the unlikely event that the viability of the Village Hall became fragile and a winding up of its affairs became necessary. The Trustees attend our Annual General Meeting where they are kept abreast of all relevant matters which might affect future viability. We may soon be obliged to appoint a replacement trustee and would be pleased to hear from anyone, preferably local, who might consider taking on this important role.

There's an excellent programme of events running through Autumn up to Christmas. Check out our diary under the heading 'Calendar' at our new website www.coalastonhall.org. We are always pleased to see new faces and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Peter Gray



Monday

Ladies Keep Fit 18.45 and 19.45 hours
For information telephone 0114 2746480

Tuesday

A Star Leisure; Cheer Leaders
17.15 – 18.45 hours
St John's Marching Band 18.45 - 19.45 hours
Yoga Class 19.15 – 20.45 hours
For information telephone 01246 488038
Short Mat Bowling Club 19.45 - 22.00 hours

Wednesday

Yoga Class 17.45 – 19.15 hours
Fitsteps Dance Fitness 18.15 – 19.15
For information telephone 0772 4518208
Norton Players 19.30 - 22.00 hours;
For information telephone 0114 2746124
WI meets on the second Wednesday 19.15 hours
For information telephone 0114 2745317

Thursday

Pilates 18.45 – 21.15 hours
For information telephone 0114 2747059
Ladies Keep Fit in the Main Hall
18.45 - 19.45 hours
For information telephone 01142 746480

Friday

Rooms available for private hire

Saturday

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.

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, by e-mailing john@coalastonhall.org.uk, or by post to Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road, Coal Aston, S18 3AX.

Website: www.coalastonhall.org

Telephone and fax 01246 415630; Bookings only telephone 01246 418573

Village Voice Briefs

Terence William Albert (Terry) Barker

The Village Hall was represented at the funeral of Terry Barker on Wednesday 18 June. Terry was a Trustee of the Village Hall and a member of the Management Committee until he moved to Chesterfield.

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.

Defibrillator

We now have a Defibrillator in the Village Hall. It is designed to be operated by anybody and provides audible basic instructions for its use. Simply remove the lid and switch it on. The Village Hall Management Committee recently attended a short training course on its application.

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 **by prior agreement**.

C A Methodist Church Lectures

The Methodist Church has three more lectures planned before the year end.
Tickets cost £3.50 including light refreshments. Lectures start at 19.45 hours

and are **held in the Methodist Church**.

Friday 31 October "The origins of Derbyshire surnames" by Professor David Hay.

Friday 22 November "Picture Postcard Railway Rambles" by Stephen Gay.

Friday 12 December "My Kenya Experience, Toil, Tears & Laughter" By Deirdre Smith.

For further information pick up a handbill or telephone 01246 414847.



Classic Car raffle winners about to take a ride in the Triumph Stag

Cross-Stitch and Artefacts Exhibition

On 23 August the Village Hall was awash with the talent of Margaret Firth. She mounted a one-woman show of magnificent examples of her talent including a portrait of the Queen, which received royal congratulations. If you were elsewhere you missed a real treat if you were there you will know what we mean.

Chasing MORE World Records

On Saturday 25th October there will be a new illustrated talk by David Smith on triathlons, marathons and multiple world record attempts. Tickets are £4 on the door, or £3.50 in advance from Peak Pharmacy, 5 Greendale Shopping Centre, Dronfield Tel 01246 412227.

The talk commences at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Doors open 7pm). Light refreshments are included.

Autumn Fair Saturday 15 November

The Methodist Church Autumn Fair will be held in the Village Hall from 10.00 until 14.00 hours on Saturday 15 November. All the usual stalls, tombola, raffle and traidcraft, lunches and refreshments. Free admission. Proceeds to Coal Aston Methodist Church.

Gala feedback

We would welcome comments on what you think of the Gala and how we might improve it. Any thoughts should be sent by email to john@coalastonhall.org.uk. Also, if anyone has any photographs of the Gala that they don't mind sharing with us, we would welcome them for our records.

Village Hall Suggestion Box

Alongside the foyer notice board in the Village Hall you will find a suggestion box. The Management Committee welcomes your views on matters relevant to the Village Hall.

Coal Aston Folk

As usual this summer we took a break from the concerts after a tremendous Gala night concert featuring our local Beatles tribute band 'Johnny & The Moondogs'. It has been our privilege to see these lads blossom over the last two or three years into what is without doubt the very best of Beatles tribute in this part of the country.

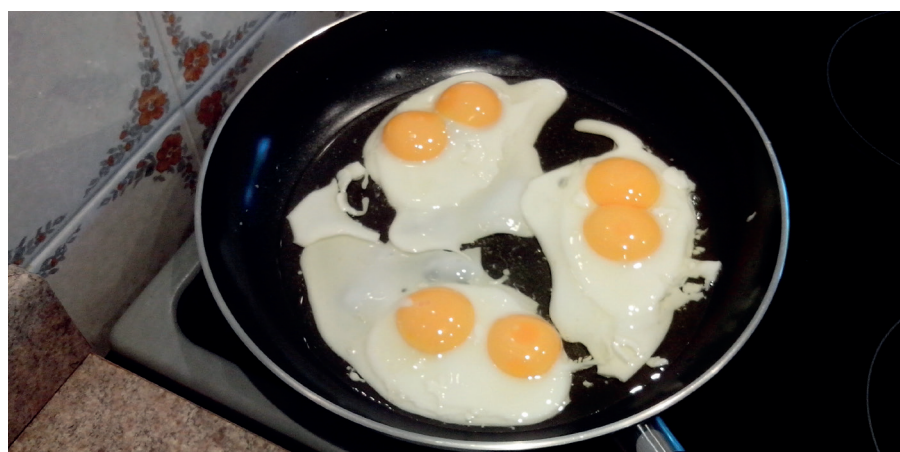
Their attention to detail in equipment pays off in bucketfuls with authentic Beatle guitars including a Hofner Violin Bass, Rickenbacker and Gretsch guitars not to mention a very special John Lennon signature acoustic. These are played through Vox amplifiers and with 'Ringo's' Ludwig drums providing the percussion and all four of the band being talented singers, the result is uncanny. This time they concentrated on Beatles Rock 'n' Roll material with hit after hit combined with so many album tracks, providing the perfect end to an amazing Gala day. The Moondogs ooze quality in their performance; close your eyes ('and I'll kiss you') and it's just a perfect Beatles sound, we'll look forward to seeing them back before too long.

Now, we have some great music lined up this Autumn at the Village Hall, with Fake Thackray, John Watterson, making a welcome return with his brilliant take on the songs and stories from the late great Jake Thackray. Then a Friday evening special concert on 31st October with the delightful Rough Island Band from St Agnes, Isles Of Scilly, who delighted a packed house at the Village Hall one Sunday afternoon

in April this year. They are making another quick tour of the north and it's brilliant to be able to feature them once more. The Swing Commanders are back in November, but this concert has been sold out for several weeks now, testimony to the brilliance and popularity of this unique band. Hopefully they'll be back later in 2015.

Saturday 20th December marks the occasion of The Christmas Show, which each year attracts a sell-out audience. At this stage we have little idea of who will be appearing alongside Scuppered, but rest assured we'll put on a great night's entertainment with the traditional Christmas fayre on the table.

We have developed a new emailing list to promote these events. If you would like to receive concert and Scuppered related information please send an email request to Petegray@scuppered.org and we'll add you to the list. We promise not to deluge you with material but will try to keep you up-to-date with our events.



Seeing Double

Recently, one of our committee members' wives broke an egg into the frying pan and was surprised to see that it was double-yolked. The second egg was then cracked into the pan and it was the same. With some anticipation, she then opened up a third egg and the result is shown in our photograph. So, when it came to using the remaining eggs, she was getting really interested and sure enough, they all did the same thing, giving a total of six double-yolkers from one box! Apparently, the chances of this happening could be as high as 1,000,000,000,000 to 1.

But our story doesn't end there. The eggs were purchased at McCall's Butchers on Barnard Avenue and apparently quite a few people had returned telling the same story. So, what were the chances of this happening? We don't know, but it certainly proves that Coal Aston is a pretty special place to live!

OLD COAL ASTON

Reminders of an industrial past

A bio-diversity study of the Moss Valley confirmed a long history of activity in this valley in agriculture and industry. Some of the plant species are indicators that parts of the Moss Valley, including most of the woods between Coal Aston and Norton, are ancient woodland. There are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) in the Moss Valley. These are three species-rich sites known as Moss Valley Meadows, situated in the middle of the valley, two ancient woodlands, Whinacre and Brownstorth Woods, and part of the wetland along the Moss Brook to Eckington.

The Valley is also rich in industrial archaeology. There are reminders that woodland industries once provided local people with their livelihood. Mining for coal and ironstone was carried out. But even before the benefits of coal and coke were understood, coppicing for charcoal and white coal production was carried out here.

Charcoal was important in the smelting of lead and later in the production of steel, but white coal was introduced, because it produced a greater heat than charcoal and was more efficient.

There are remains of weirs and dams that harnessed the power of the River Moss from the early 19th century for local industries, such as the manufacture of edge tools.

Some of the pathways we walk through the woods today were used in former times by people and packhorses for transporting products made or grown in the valley to markets in Dronfield, Sheffield and beyond.

When you walk through local woods, whether it be for exercise or to see the carpets of bluebells or admire the rich variety of trees, remember this whole area was once a workplace.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 18 October

MUSICAL FANTASIA

Arranged by Coal Aston Methodist Church

Tickets £6.00 including refreshments.

Telephone 01246 411087

All proceeds to Christian Aid.

Concert starts 19.15 hours.

Saturday 25 October

CHASING MORE WORLD RECORDS

A new illustrated talk by David Smith, our local pharmacist, on triathlons, marathons and multiple world record attempts. Tickets £3.50 in advance or £4 on the door, from Peak Pharmacy, 5 Greendale Shopping Centre, Dronfield Tel 01246 412227. The talk commences at 7.30pm (Doors open 7pm). Light refreshments included.

Friday 31 October

THE ROUGH ISLAND BAND

A return visit by this amazing band from the Isles of Scilly.

Hosted and supported by Scuppered. Doors open 19.30 and the show starts at 20.00 hours.

Tickets £8. See detail below.**

Saturday 8 November

THE SWING COMMANDERS

We are **SOLD OUT**, as usual, for this annual favourite.

Hosted and supported by Scuppered.

Doors open 19.30 and the show starts at 20.00 hours. Tickets £10.

Saturday 15 November

BARN DANCE WITH STRINGS AND REEDS

Dancing from 19.45 to 23.30

Tickets £10 including peas and pie supper.

Telephone 0114 2746124 for tickets.

Tuesday 25 November

to Saturday 29 November

NORTON PLAYERS PANTOMIME Dick

Whittington and his Cat

Tickets £7; concessions £6.

Telephone 0114 2372326. Curtain up at 19.15

Saturday Matinee 14.30 hours.

Friday 12 December

THE HOOTENNANY

The annual get together for some of the finest bands in the area. The Call, A Rose Between, Southbound, Pluk, Groove On, Booga cha Looga, playing pop, rock, Americana, Soul, funk and more. Doors open 19.30.

Show starts at 20.00. Tickets £6. Bring your own drink and nibbles.

Saturday 20 December

THE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Always a favourite and sure to be a sell out, so book your tickets early.

Doors open 19.30 for 20.00 hours.

Tickets £6.00. See detail below**

Saturday 31 January 2015

DAVE BERRY AND THE CRUISERS

Tickets are already selling well, so advance booking is essential.

Hosted and supported by Scuppered. Doors open 19.30 and the show starts at 20.00 hours. Tickets

£12. See detail below **

Saturday 21 February

STANLEY ACCRINGTON

At last we have an appearance lined up for this Lancashire funny man. He's world famous for his hilarity and especially his anagrams.

Tickets £6. Doors open 19.30.

Curtain up at 20.00 hours.

Saturday 14 March

REG MEUROSS & JESS VINCENT

One of the country's finest singer-songwriters with added appeal from young songstress Jess

Doors open 19.30 and the show starts at 20.00 hours. Tickets £8. See detail below**

Saturday 21 March

SHEFFIELD CONCERT BAND

An evening of Modern, Light, Classical and Traditional Concert Band Music to suit all tastes, Tickets £6.00 (children £3.00). To book, telephone 01246 413226 or 0114 2686120.

Friday 27 March

GORDON GILTRAP

A rare chance to see this legendary guitarist in action

Tickets £10 (See detail below**)

Show starts 8pm Doors open 7.30pm

Please note: No licensed bar for this event

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.

** To order CONCERT tickets contact **petegray@scuppered.org** or **hodge358@btinternet.com**. A licensed bar is provided at Concerts.

Gala thanks

The Management Committee of the Village Hall would like to thank the following local businesses which kindly donated prizes for the raffle:

Auriga Cars
Chequers Inn
Chesterfield Football Club
Coco Beauty Room
Delilicious
David J Fruits
Ferndale Garden Centre
Greendale News
Head Post
Hidden Treasures
Masala
McCalls Butchers
New Leaf Garden Centre
Niche Bakery and Coffee House
Stone The Crows
The Manor House Hotel and Restaurant
Ward's Garden Centre
Wok Wonder

In addition, we must mention our Gala Tea Ladies, Maureen Barnett, Jean Becket, Jenny Hudson, Linda Jakeman, and Wendy McCullum. We are forever grateful to them for all their hard work and cheerfulness throughout the afternoon.

Finally, we are very pleased to acknowledge Andy Gratton for his generous and very welcome annual donation of a crate of milk for the teas.

**Norton Players present
their annual fun-filled family pantomime**

**Dick
Whittington
& His Cat**

By Ben Crocker

**Tuesday 25 November to
Saturday 29 November 2014**

**Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Road,
Sheffield S18 3AX**

Curtain 7.15pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Tickets £7.00 Concessions £6.00

Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £24.00

www.nortonplayers.co.uk

Telephone 0114 2372326