



**DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

EVENTS & INITIATIVES  
JANUARY - AUGUST 2023

AG 2023

# OUR AIMS



- When planning our programme of events and engagement we strive to be inclusive across all ages, demographics and genders
- We ensure that the range of activities on offer are accessible, free or affordable and take place right across Duston by utilising our 4 main assets
- It is well known that feeling connected to the community in which you live promotes increased feelings of belonging, helps to reduce social isolation and has a positive impact on physical and mental wellbeing
- We are continually seeking to create new partnerships with local and countywide organisations and service providers in order to enhance what we offer our residents to positive effect

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to encourage volunteers to become a DPC Friend by offering opportunities to get better connected with Duston Parish Council and the local community



Friends have :

- Volunteered on The Grow Together Allotment
- Helped out at our events
- Planted areas & tubs around Duston
- Litter picked the local area
- Planted commemorative trees & bulbs
- Collected donations for the Duston Food Bank

# WHO HAVE WE PARTNERED WITH THIS YEAR?

We have linked in with the following people via partnership working or through attendance at our events



- Local Youth Organisations
- St Luke's Patient Participation Group
- Trilogy Active
- The Hope Centre
- West Northants Wellbeing Initiative
- Delapre Wellbeing Hub
- Pond Farm & Timken Grange Care Homes
- The Duston School
- NMPAT
- Local Charities
- Better Lives
- Affinity Day Care
- Speakers from the health sector
- Pre schools, schools, businesses, churches

# FREE HEALTH & WELLBEING TALKS

## TOPICS SO FAR

- Wills & Estate Planning
- Debts & Benefits
- Living with Arthritis
- Living with the Ageing Eye
- NAB Mobile Sight Centre
- Wellbeing Hub

## BENEFITS & FEEDBACK

- Average attendance 18-25
- Boosts our FB reach by an average of 5000
- 20 new sign ups to our mailing list
- Raised awareness for our centres, events & website
- Opportunity to get out and meet new people
- Free contacts & referrals for further help
- Speakers have raised awareness of their services & gained new clients



# COMMUNITY INFO & WELLNESS FAIR

**A return of this popular event put on twice a year**

- 25 Stalls offering free local help, services, advice & info
- Free wellbeing taster sessions running all day
- GJ Cafe open for light refreshments; good takings reported

## **BENEFITS & FEEDBACK**

- Attracted cross section of residents
- Boosted our FB reach by 11000
- Event attended by ward councillors and local radio
- Raised awareness for our centres, events & website
- Stallholders benefit from networking and making new contacts
- Stallholders gained new contacts and clients
- Positive feedback from visitors who have been helped by the services on offer
- Great opportunity for council to meet the public and explain the role of a Parish Council
- Services & Charities can attend free. Businesses are charged £15



# INDOOR CARBOOT SALE

- 24 Stalls
- Next event will include designated room for charities
- GJ Cafe open for light refreshments; good takings reported
- Bargain shop open for business

## BENEFITS & FEEDBACK

- Attracted cross section of residents
- Boosted our FB reach
- Event revenue of £240
- Raised awareness for our centres, events & website
- Bargain shop benefits from added sales, new clients and donations at the end of the event.
- Positive feedback from sellers and buyers
- Minimal effort/maximum gain event



**Duston Community Centre ,Pendle Road NN5 6DT**  
**09:00 - 12:00 Free Entry**  
**Tables £10 Pre - Booking Essential**



T: 01604 583626 | E: [facilities@duston-pc.gov.uk](mailto:facilities@duston-pc.gov.uk)

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 Duston PC  @duston\_pc

# THE GROW TOGETHER ALLOTMENT

- Monthly Volunteer Dates
- Dedicated sessions for Better Lives & Affinity Day Care
- New pop up sessions starting with The Duston School
- Currently linking with the Grow Cook Eat initiative to expand what we can offer and support new projects

## **BENEFITS & FEEDBACK**

- Volunteer numbers are growing
- This asset attracts residents of all ages and abilities
- Social, physical and mental benefits are immeasurable
- Volunteers benefit from taking fresh produce home
- Better Lives now manage their own area
- New friendships forged
- Volunteers love having the opportunity to be involved, they learn and share knowledge and report improvements to their mental and physical wellbeing.





# CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

- The Big Coronation Lunch at Duston Sports Centre offered free cake and a glass of fizz to residents
- Our centres were decorated for the occasion
- Residents were invited to meet up in parks across Duston to enjoy a picnic with their family & friends
- Shops and businesses throughout Duston were invited to decorate their windows and supplied with a coronation poster to display

## BENEFITS & FEEDBACK

- Attracted a cross-section of residents
- Good community engagement across residents and shops
- Good visual presence of DPC supporting national celebrations
- Opportunity to raise awareness of our parks & open spaces



# DUSTON FUN DAY

Our biggest event of the year goes from strength to strength. Since its return after the pandemic last year it is now attracting many people from outside of Duston. With over 50 stalls, live entertainment and music for all ages, great involvement from local groups and businesses; there really is something for everyone. Our ethos has always been to make it a fun, inclusive and affordable day for all by offering free or very low cost activities and we are proud that we are still managing to do that.

## **BENEFITS & FEEDBACK**

- Provides residents with a fun, affordable family day out
- Very positive feedback from stallholders and visitors
- Local charities raised £2000 (down £1400 on last year but may be reflective of the times)
- Our biggest opportunity to engage with people to find out how our publicity etc. is working and improve relations
- Increased social media engagement. 20k+ reached on the day
- Creates opportunities for locals clubs and organisations to showcase and attract membership
- Opportunity to inform & educate residents about DPC



# COMMUNITY PLANTING

- Timken Art replanted with drought tolerant plants and 200 spring alliums & Tulips (£600 received from contractors that damaged the area)
- All planters across Duston refreshed with spring bulbs and flowers followed by summer bedding
- As part of the Queen's Green Canopy a harvest hedgerow was planted at St Luke's Field. This will provide food for wild birds and harvesting opportunities for the public
- 2 Commemorative trees planted at Duston Sports Centre in honour of previous chairmen Cllrs Caswell and Pape with families in attendance
- A flowering cherry tree planted in St Luke's Field to mark the life of Queen Elizabeth II
- 2 trees planted to celebrate 100 years of 11th Northampton Boys' Brigade. Boys and leaders planted a tree and 100 bulbs in St Luke's Field and another on Sam Harrison Way
- Hanging Baskets planted up for spring and summer
- New self watering planters ordered for the area outside of the New Duston Co-op



# LET'S CELEBRATE DUSTON

A month long celebration of EVERYTHING that is good about Duston.

Each day of the month features a different aspect of life in Duston. We celebrate its parks, shops, churches, community centres, groups, organisations, businesses, the Parish Council, our centres, pubs, clubs, youth organisations, our events, nurseries, schools, places of historical interest and so much more

## **BENEFITS & FEEDBACK**

- Educates and informs our community about where we live
- Boosts our FB reach and raises the profile of DPC as well as everyone mentioned
- An easy, no-cost initiative to repeat every couple of years
- Raised awareness for DPC centres, events & website
- Attracts new trade to local business
- Positive feedback from the community
- Minimal effort/maximum gain event



# COMING UP.....

## **September**

5 TGTA Drop In session

16 Indoor Car boot Sale DCC

21 Wellbeing Talk - Alcoholism Support for Families DCC

## **October**

3 TGTA Drop In session

7 Community Info & Wellness Fair DCC

19 Wellbeing Talk - Northants Carers DCC

30 Poppy Cascade up St Luke's Centre

## **November**

1 - 12 Duston Remembers & Poppy Cascade

18 Christmas@ St Luke's

23 Wellbeing Talk - WNC & Northants Fire & Rescue

