



Poppy Embankment  
By Eric Singleton

# 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 April newsletter

In this issue we bring you up to date with the Neighbourhood Plan being developed by the Town Council and the NEDDC Publication Draft of the Local Plan out for consultation until the beginning of April. There are still proposals to remove land from the Green Belt which surrounds the town and develop it for housing in spite of overwhelming opposition from residents.

We have a DCS exclusive piece about the Manor Stables, soon to be developed into apartments by the District Council and we report on the proposals for renovation and extension of the Grade II Listed Nether Birchitt Farm Cottage which, in terms of the fabric of the building and its setting, reflects a period in Dronfield's history which spans 300 years.

In May please join us for our Evening of Celebration when we reveal the winners of the JRC Awards and the prize winners of the Photographic Competition. The occasion offers an opportunity to join the Society and to actively take part in caring for our local environment.

The theme for National Civic Day in June is Conservation Areas. The Civic Society will be taking part in a pilot audit of the Dronfield Conservation Area which will help to measure levels of deterioration and improvement within Conservation Areas nationally.

Just a reminder from Membership Secretary Jo that it is now time to renew your membership at the new rates which takes effect on 1st April.

*John Fletcher—Chairman*

**Issue 30  
April 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.*

*Through this newsletter we like to share views and comments from our members. So drop us a line to the address on the header.*



On 14th February Cabinet members of NEDDC voted to adopt what is now called the Publication Draft of the Local Plan. We are being asked to comment on the document again in terms of the 'soundness' of the Plan before it goes to an Independent Planning Inspector for scrutiny in May. 76% of all the comments received on the Plan last year were about Dronfield, either in regard to Green Belt release, Housing Allocations or the Callywhite Lane Extension Employment Area. We are urging you to comment again because, although the housing numbers have been revised from 860 to 475, it will still mean the loss of Green Belt land below Shakespeare Crescent, at Stubley and at Coal Aston. See inside for more information and key dates.



**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.*

## Talking Points—Dronfield Town Council Neighbourhood Plan

We hope that all those who wished to contribute their views had the opportunity to do so during the consultation period at the beginning of February and we wait with interest to see how the Neighbourhood Plan is represented within the Local Plan being developed by the District Council.

DCS is pleased that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views and concerns of residents across six important areas. The scale of housing development that was proposed by the District Council on Green Belt land is recognised as the key factor likely to affect local infrastructure, school places, educational attainment, medical services, traffic, parking and the destruction of the quality landscape which we all value as irreplaceable. Last year the town was ranked the ninth best place to live in England, so there is very much a reputation to uphold.

We are pleased to have had some input in the chapter on Heritage which suggests updating the Conservation Area Character Statements and more enforcement on signage and shop fronts.

Suggested community initiatives from the Neighbourhood Plan include: A business forum led by the Dronfield business community, a call for Brownfield sites in the North East Derbyshire District and a shopfront and advertisement guide for local businesses.



The Town Council has launched a competition with local schools to design the front cover of the Neighbourhood Plan. For further details, see their website.



## Town Eye-Sores .....It's the little things that make the bigger picture better...



Remember this grit bin from our November newsletter? It was an unpleasant sight and did little to improve the ambience at the nearby bus stop. After a few phone calls to establish whose responsibility it was, it has been swapped for another one in better repair.



In our June 2016 newsletter we reported that a local resident had brought to our attention the poor state of the toilet building on Carr Lane and requested our help in dealing with it. Well, it has taken a couple of years but, with constant reminders about it to NEDDC by our own David Hallam, it has finally gone. Here's the evidence to prove it. Another Grot Spot sorted!



And then there was this broken bench, unclaimed as to whose responsibility it was to fix it. This time we did fix it and it was awarded one of our little blue plaques. So if you're bugged by something in your part of town, let us know and we'll either fix it or remind those with authority to do so. Sorted, Fixed or Repaired because we care!

## A shame that not everyone feels that way

It is a sad fact that, while some of us make the effort to improve the town, others see fit to spoil it. There have been a spate of acts of vandalism and burglaries recently across town including the smashing of bus shelters and shop windows, damage to vehicles, break-ins, damage to the Scout Hut and graffiti in the area of the Three Tuns public house. A number of road signs and bus stops were spray painted together with the boundary fence of a property near the Cemetery Road mini roundabout. The police are asking residents to be as vigilant as possible and to report anything suspicious by contacting 101 or emailing a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.





## A Matter of Opinion—Podiatry Clinic— Dronfield Conservation Area

We have received a few comments about the design of the new Podiatry Clinic which we would like to share. Whilst some members have marvelled at the transformation of the tiny site on which stood Nunn's Office Supplies, others think that the building looks totally at variance with the Dronfield Bottom Conservation Area and wonder how the design has been acceptable to the Planning Department. A refreshing change or totally inappropriate? You decide. Here are a few more examples—just a few feet away!



Here's what the Neighbourhood Plan says about this: Any changes to shop frontages should be of a high quality design and improve the character of the visual environment. Signs should be of a suitable scale and frontages should be in keeping with the architectural merit of the building. Quoted in the Plan is the document: Dronfield to 2035 A Vision for the Town which states, somewhat obviously that, "Improving the quality of signage and commercial frontages would have a positive impact on the appearance of this area." It identified a range of potential improvements having observed that, "The quality of the streetscape and other public spaces do not match the quality of the historic buildings and need to be improved in key locations."



## Taking Dronfield News to Sindelfingen

Dronfield's Mayor Philip Wright, who delivered a sharp and witty presentation for us in February about his family scissor business in Sheffield, is off to Sindelfingen, Dronfield's Twin Town, in June. We are delighted to have been asked to provide a few copies of our newsletter for Philip to take as gift items for Sindelfingen and its seven surrounding smaller communities. You may remember that shortly after becoming Mayor, Philip requested a few extra copies of our June 2017 newsletter. Last year the newsletter had items about the Alma, the Conservation Areas, the loss of the town banks, fracking, the cycle route and bank card fraudsters.

So what do you think of our newsletter and what is making the news where we live?

## Sindelfingen Park

Last year we were asked by one of our members whether we would be willing to fund two or three replacement trees for Sindelfingen Park. It had been noted that some of the original trees were in a bit of a poor way. We agreed to provide one or two native species which have all year round interest and to ask the Town Council if they would also like to contribute. Perhaps when those from Sindelfingen pay a return visit to Dronfield, they would like to have a look at the chosen specimens.



## Bramblemoor Lane—Update

Derbyshire County Council's planning committee voted by a majority of 9 to 1 to reject the recommendations in the Report compiled by their own officers to accept the planning application with mitigation by condition for exploratory test drilling for shale gas at Bramblemoor Lane at Marsh Lane. Key concerns centred on levels of night-time noise, traffic and the effect on the openness of the Green Belt. Shale gas company INEOS decided to take the decision to appeal because DCC hadn't reached a decision within the statutory thirteen week period. The application will now go to an Independent Planning Inspector to be decided in June.

## Conservation Area Character Statements

Following John Harvey's talk in January about Protecting Dronfield's Heritage, you may be interested to know that the Character Statements, produced by the District Council are now available as pdfs on our website. Whilst they may seem somewhat out of date in terms of when they were produced for each of Dronfield's three Conservation Areas, they remain a definitive guide for property owners and businesses as well as an important archive resource for the town.

*"It is a statutory duty of the Council to consider how to preserve and enhance its Conservation Areas as areas of architectural and historic interest. ...the emphasis will generally need to be on controlled and positive management of change. Conservation is not merely preservation to the exclusion of all change but must concern itself with enhancing areas and ensuring changes are sympathetic to their surroundings."*

## June 16th is National Civic Day

On National Civic Day this year, the theme will once again be the 'Big Conservation Conversation', which makes the case for the importance of our Conservation Areas.

You may remember that Dronfield Civic Society and Dronfield Heritage Trust came together last year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the designation of Conservation Areas. We organised walks, talks and discussions about the state of Dronfield's three Conservation Areas and produced two free information leaflets.

*This year Dronfield Civic Society will be named as a sponsor of a new publication, 'The Civic Voice Conservation Area Audit'. The audit will help to build a national database of the issues impacting Conservation Areas so that we can actively play a part to tackle them in the current climate of fewer local authority conservation officers. Such issues include: general maintenance of land/buildings, derelict land/buildings, inappropriate shopfronts/ or roller shutters, intrusive signage and advertisements, street clutter, poor quality footpath surfaces, fly-tipping, litter, graffiti, vandalism, loss of historic features, satellite dishes, loss of boundary treatments, loss of trees and loss of front gardens.*

*It will be an interesting exercise in itself for Dronfield and we'll keep you posted about what we find out.*

## The Big Conservation Conversation

### The purpose behind Civic Day is threefold

1. Promote your society, council or community group and generate a sense of civic pride among residents
2. Promote greater cohesion and partnership in the community
3. Demonstrate that you care about where you live

Find out more

[www.civicday.org.uk](http://www.civicday.org.uk)

Get involved

[@civicday](https://twitter.com/civicday)



## On the Up

## Pavement Parking

So whose fault is it really? No one can deny that pavement parking is an increasing problem. Is it because car parking is at a premium and when car parks are full as in this image, there is no other option? Is it because vehicles are much wider than they used to be and as such they can cause obstructions to other motorists when parked at the kerbside? Is it because we live in a more selfish society, which discounts the rights of the humble pedestrian on a footway? Or is it a lack of enforcement? In the FAQs about the Dronfield and Unstone Cycle Route it states, "Driving onto the footway to park or otherwise is an offence under the Highways Act. It is not permissible to park over the footway. Those that do so risk enforcement action being taken." The Highway Code **Rule 244 states:** "You **MUST NOT** park partially or wholly on the pavement in London, and should not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs."

What are your views about this? Share them with us - from all perspectives.



# NEDDC Local Plan—Publication Draft —Important Dates 2018-19



*It is now more than a year since NEDDC sought our views on their Consultation Draft Local Plan. The comments were finally collated and put out into the public domain in the early part of this year. The Council received responses from 1041 individuals and organisations raising a total of 2157 separate representations. Of these 1233 raised objections to the plan, 626 were comments and 298 (14%) raised support. 76% of all respondents raised comments in relation to Dronfield. 46% of all representations related to the Green Belt.*

*The Council received a good deal of criticism for the way they conducted the consultation process. So what happens now?*

*February 14th Cabinet met and decided to adopt the latest version of the Plan.*

*February 21st to April 4th Public Consultation*

*March 5th Full District Council Meeting where members of the public can participate at 2:00 p.m. NEDDC Mill Lane Wingerworth*

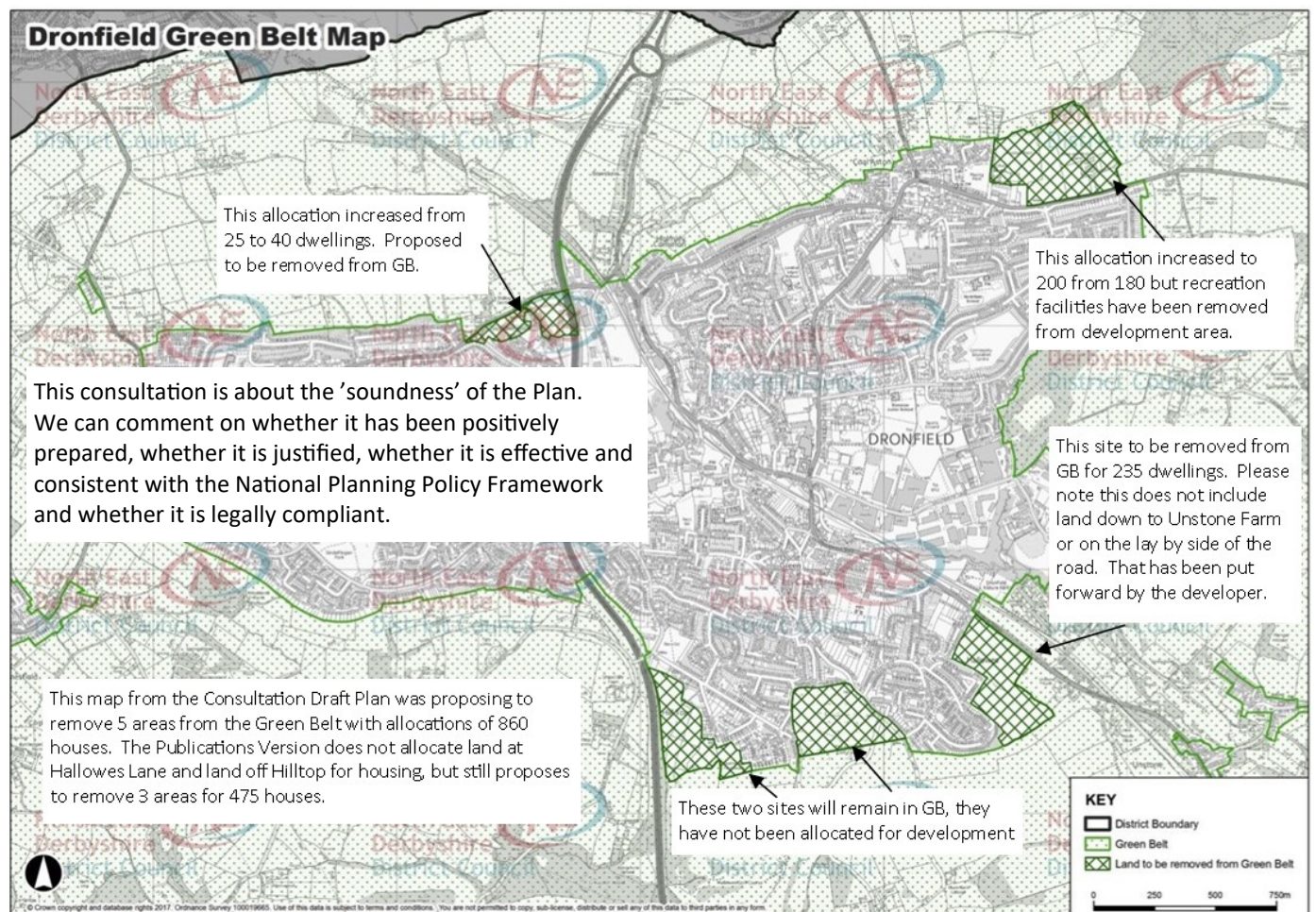
*March 13th Local Plan Consultation Event at 4:30—7:30 p.m. Dronfield Civic Hall*

*March 15th at 8:00 p.m. Meeting at Dronfield Civic Hall with MP Lee Rowley*

*May 14th Local Plan submission to Independent Examiner for 'soundness' testing.*

**Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page over the next few weeks for more information and debate about the issues raised in the Local Plan for Dronfield. Alternatively visit the Dronfield Greenbelt Group website and Facebook page.**

**This consultation phase is the final time that we will be asked to comment on a document which sets out the future for the town to 2035. So please use your democratic right of influence.**



## Manor Farm Buildings

### Summary

Range of late 19th century buildings including a stable with original fixtures and fittings

Grid Reference: SK 349 784

Parish: DRONFIELD

### Monument Types

[CART SHED](#) (Post Medieval - 1880 AD to 1900 AD)

[HOUSE](#) (Post Medieval - 1880 AD to 1900 AD)

[STABLE](#) (Post Medieval - 1880 AD to 1900 AD)



*In our last issue, we provided an update about the Manor Farm Buildings, built between 1880 and 1900, behind the Library—formerly the Manor House and the plans to redevelop the Stables into 6 apartments to be sold at market value. At best, we have a condition that a photographic record will be made of the interior of the Stables before work commences but, at the same time, it is another piece of Dronfield's history which unfortunately cannot be saved in any other form.*

*DCS life members Mr and Mrs Kirby, attended John Harvey's talk in January and brought along a photograph of the unusual and quite beautiful interior tiling in the stables. With their permission the photograph has been made available to us in digital format so that we can share it.*

*A full description from Derbyshire HER which lists the stable as: 'Building to the rear of the Manor House (Library), Dronfield', states: "a two-storey stable building in the centre and a single storey, originally open-fronted, cart accommodation on the east side. All buildings are constructed in coursed coal measures sandstone with stone quoin and window details. The cart shed to the east has a Welsh slate roof. It (stable building) retains its original fixtures and fittings, with a detailed stone-tiled floor, panelled timber dividers topped with curved cast iron detailing and columns. The walls within each stable bay are glazed above the wood panelling with hexagonal ceramic tiles in turquoise. A timber hay-loft hatch remains above the south side stables. Part of the ceiling has collapsed in the south-west corner. The building is owned by North East Derbyshire District Council who lease it out on a short-term basis. In September 2012 the stables were used for storage. By September 2016, the property had stood empty for several years and is currently boarded up due to vandalism. NEDDC intend to develop the property for residential purposes through Rykneld Housing. There is concern for the intact stable interiors."*

*The photograph which was circulated amongst the audience at John's talk, prompted comments about how unusual the tiling was for a stable block and that it was a shame that such an interior would be lost. When work commences, might we be able to save any of the detailing or can they be retained within the new development as features? Probably not. They are not old enough, important enough or unique enough to be Listed neither are they on a Local List, so there is no protection at all from redevelopment work.*

*I'm sure we can all visualise what Dronfield's Manor Stables could have become and reflect on similar stables being transformed into quirky retail space as at Chatsworth House, but literally and metaphorically, like the Poor Old Horse they are being reined in.*



With thanks to Mr and Mrs Kirby for sharing these images



## Nether Birchitt Farm Cottage



*This vernacular stone cottage with central classical door case and stone mullioned windows, evokes a cherished sense of rural England synonymous with the Picturesque.*

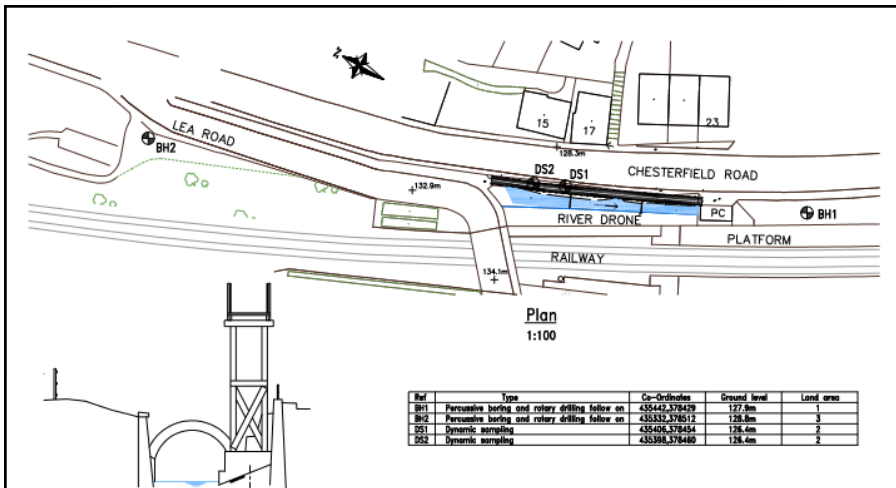
Outside the Conservation Area, but set within the Green Belt, is the Grade II Listed Nether Birchitt Farm Cottage. It is refreshing to note that a new owner has submitted an extensive Heritage Statement within the Design and Access document for planning permission as the cottage is recognised for its special architectural and historic interest.

*"The owner (also occupier) is proposing to undertake a scope of necessary conservation repair work to the heritage asset, as part of the proposal to sensitively extend and refurbish the property".* Documentary research including an Unstone Tithe Map of 1851 and an extensive site visit have provided an understanding of the property and its significance, informing the design concept. If you would like to view this application, which has been conditionally approved, the reference number is NED18/00021/FL.

Nether Birchitt and its surroundings offer a unique insight into the aspects of life socially and culturally, ... from the past to the present day. The form, scale and architectural detailing of the historic fabric of the three-bay cottage have remained the same, evoking a shared visual sense of the building over 300 years. This illustrative historical value obtained from experiencing the materials and physical form of the building vernacular, and relatively unchanged site context, offers a powerful sense of its historic significance.

*We shall be following with particular interest to see how this development progresses.*

## Lea Road Ramp Replacement Work Begins



At the end of January work began to carry out ground investigation for the foundations of a new structure that will eventually replace the Lea Road Ramp. Part of the car park nearest the toilet block/FoDS store was used as a site compound for the work. Boreholes have been drilled at the Lea Road end of the Lucas Gardens and underneath the ramp. DCC Senior Project Engineer Tim Jeffery is keeping us informed about the works to replace the polygonal arch structure which is beyond the state of economic repair. You can view the planning application which provides an extensive heritage impact assessment on the NEDDC website. The planning reference number is 17/00618/LB. Judith Vernier has written an article for Issue 32 of the Dronfield Miscellany about this exceptionally rare example of a formerly common type of bridge.



## Round Dronfield Walk Relaunch



The original walk was developed in 2000 by the Rotary Club of Dronfield to celebrate the millennium. In 2016 responsibility for the walk was transferred to the Dronfield Heritage Trust at The Barn, as part of their Lottery Grant for health and well-being. Since then the route has been extensively improved. There are 97 stiles, 3 bridges, a walkway and 280 route markers! Ten Walk Wardens each look after a section of the route. A brand new brochure for the walk priced at £3 is available from The Barn, Dronfield Library and Steel's Ironmongers showing the whole route plus points of interest. Walkers can start and finish the whole 15 miles, or choose any section within that distance. The walk will be officially opened at 9.50 a.m. on Saturday 12th May at Coal Aston Community Centre by MP Lee Rowley. At 10 a.m. groups of walkers will begin the walk in a clockwise direction towards the Moss Valley as part of the Chesterfield Walking Festival.

Although all the places for the walking festival walks are now taken, why not purchase a brochure and set off on the Dronfield 2000 Rotary Walk at your convenience? For further information please contact [david@kinderclan.co.uk](mailto:david@kinderclan.co.uk)



## Readers' Feedback

Dear John, Many thanks for a fascinating and informative newsletter again—and for the communications with members. It would be good if a future photo could appear with the purple crocus in bloom with a note about why they have been planted—to support the world-wide efforts of Rotary, with other organisations, to finally eradicate the scourge of Polio from the world. I believe all the purple crocus bulbs in Dronfield have been supplied or donated through the local Rotarians.  
Dr AN Bethell MBE



## Settlement Gaps

Committee member David was appalled to see the arrival of excavators, lorries, coils of yellow gas pipe and workmen who proceeded to dig holes amongst the then dormant crocus bulbs we planted in the verge at Coal Aston. The work had been commissioned to reline the iron gas pipes to each house in the vicinity. After a quick word to the site manager about our lovely bulbs which were on stand-by to put on their usual display, David was assured that the damage would be kept to a minimum and the area would be left in a tidy state with bare soil re-seeded in the spring. The company involved in the work, Cadent, have sent us a cheque for £50.00 to purchase any replacement bulbs deemed necessary to fill in the gaps for planting next autumn.



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



### Wednesday 21st March Britain on Film on Tour — Railways

*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 in the early 20th century. Nostalgic & Evocative*



### Wednesday 18th April Edale Mountain Rescue Team



Come and find out about the important work of the Edale Mountain Rescue Team which is run by volunteers to save lives in search and rescue situations in the Peak District National Park. They are almost exclusively funded by public donations. All proceeds from fund raising go towards equipment and resources used on call outs.

Wednesday 16th May  
7:45 p.m.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

*Celebration Time*

Members and Non-Members Welcome

*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*



## 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](mailto: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.