Welcome to DUFFIELD

THE PARISH

The parish of Duffield, containing our large village and outlying farms, is set in the valley of the river Derwent about five miles north of the city of Derby. It has a pleasant rural setting on the southern fringe of the Peak District while having good road and rail links for both public and private travel. The A6, the former trunk road from London to Carlisle runs through the village and is here called Town Street. Our Local Authority is Amber Valley Borough Council within the county of Derbyshire and our Parliamentary Constituency is Mid Derbyshire.

We have had our own Parish Council since 1897 and a Village Community Association since 1972.

THE PEOPLE

The 2011 census showed that there were 5,046 inhabitants living in 2,022 households, this having risen from 2,000 in 1901 to 2,200 in 1921, 3,400 in 1961 and 4,800 in 1981.
The recent census showed an age mix of about one quarter under 18, one quarter retired, and half in the 18 - 64 range. About one-third of residents have lived in their present home for more than 15 years. Of the households, over 82% are home owners. The number of graduates is almost twice the national average.

A high proportion of professional & managerial people live in the parish – about 50% of the working population compared with 26% in all Derbyshire. Our most famous past inhabitant must be Ernest, later Lord Hives, who was the major moving force of Rolls Royce from 1936 to 1956. He was responsible for the Merlin engine which powered the Spitfire during World War Two and the entry of Rolls-Royce into the gas turbine era.

THE HISTORY

Set as it is in the fertile, though occasionally flooded, Derwent Valley at the confluence of the Derwent and Ecclesbourne Rivers, Duffield and the surrounding areas have attracted settlers for a long time. The old village was founded on the ridge of higher ground between the two rivers. Iron Age Celtic settlements dating from around 400BC are suggested by some physical evidence and local place names. ‘Chevin’, meaning ‘High bare ridge’ dominating the north of the village, stems from the celtic language as does the name ‘Derwent’, meaning ‘River abounding with oak trees’. Following their invasion of Britain in AD43 the
Romans established a military presence and mined lead in the hills to the north-west of the village. A Roman road to transport the ore can still be seen crossing the Chevin on its way to join the famous Roman thoroughfare of Ryknield Street near Breadsall. However, the first written record is in the Domesday survey of 1085, commissioned by William the Conqueror to catalogue his new realm.

Duffield (under the name ‘Duvelle’) is mentioned as having been confiscated from the Danish Earl Siward who was probably the same man who fought the Normans alongside Hereward the Wake. It had become an estate of the de Ferrers family and housed a priest, a church and two mills. There were then probably about 250 people living in the village – quite a significant number compared with about 1,000 in the town of Derby.

Duffield has an historic tradition of independence. Some say that this stems from a long time without a resident Lord of the Manor. The de Ferrers family lost their local possessions to the king in 1173 and their castle, if it ever was finished, was demolished. The mound with visible foundations and a well is today administered by the National Trust. The Duchy of Lancaster became the non-resident landlord and when Henry, Duke of Lancaster, became King Henry IV in 1399 the village became part of the royal hunting forest known as Duffield Frith. The most well-known servant of the Frith was the Deputy Steward to the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. He was Anthonie Bradshaw, an independent and idiosyncratic man, a lover of his native Derbyshire, whose recently restored monument is in the parish church of Saint Alkmund. The Frith came to an end in 1634 when most of the Commoners were arbitrarily excluded from the land they had formerly farmed. After the Civil War, Parliament returned the land to the Commoners in 1650 and so it remained until the enclosures of 1786 when 117 people received allotments.

THE COMING OF THE RAILWAY
What an impact the coming of the railway in 1841 must have had upon the village! Jobs and travel outside the former confines of horse-drawn transport would become available. The Census for the following year shows the inhabitants to be engaged in 79 different occupations - only a few as yet specifically on the railway.

A Railway Agent, a Contractor for Public Works, 4 Civil Engineers and 2 Railway plate layers are mentioned, initially on the Derby to Leeds route and now part of the Midland Mainline from London to the North, the railway link meant that Duffield could begin to look outside its own borders for occupation and income.

13. Eyes Meadow
Duffield Parish Council purchased this 40-acre site between the mainline railway and the River Ecclesbourne in 1974. The Cricket club already had a pitch there and about 10 acres were let for grazing. The remainder was made into a recreational area with football and rugby pitches. The Carnival is held here. As part of Duffield’s Millennium celebrations the area used for grazing was let to the Millennium Meadow Committee which has created an award winning nature reserve with ponds and walks amid native trees and wild flowers, 13A.

Notable Houses Various families owned Duffield Hall, 39. from when it was built in 1620 until after the First World War when it became St Ronan’s School, an independent boarding and day school for girls. The school closed around 1970 and the building decayed before being converted into the Headquarters of the Derbyshire Building Society. It is now a private residence again.

Tamworth Street has several notable buildings, Tamworth House (1690), 14. which briefly belonged to Joseph Wright of Derby, The Park (mid 18th Century) 22. and rows of cottages. King Street also has many older buildings including the Masonic Hall. 9. In fact, almost everywhere there is a mixture of old and more recent housing.

In 1667 Edward Potterell erected the Almshouses 40. situated opposite the Baptist Church. These are still well maintained by the Charity and occupied as intended.

COMMUNITY LIFE
There are village based football, cricket, both 13. tennis and squash teams both 26. as well as the Chevin Golf Club 1. to provide a range of sporting activities. There is space for informal football or cricket and a children’s playground at Gray Rec. on Snake Lane, 7A. There are around 40 village organisations affiliated to the DCA which cater for a variety of interests for young and old alike. Duffield has a Pre-school, 18. a Day-nursery, 5. two Primary schools 3 819. and the Ecclesbourne Academy, 21. with 6th Form, which ensure plenty of young folk moving around the village. The Academy has just completed construction of a sports centre. The five churches are all active with services & activities for all ages. Friday night is ‘Massive’ 12. – a drop-in youth facility hosted by the Emmanuel Christian Centre on Chapel Street. The Parish Church runs ‘Impact’ for years 7-9 on Monday evenings and ‘Ignition’ for yrs 10+ on Tuesday evenings, 42.

The DCA works closely with Duffield Parish Council to provide seasonal decorations and the annual bonfire and fireworks display. The Association created and maintains the garden on the corner of Wirksworth Road and the rose bed outside the Library. A highlight of Duffield’s year is the Community Association’s Annual Carnival held on a Saturday near the end of June with a parade, arena acts, music, fairground rides and a large variety of stalls.
6. PLACES OF NOTE

42. The oldest building is the Parish Church, dedicated to Saint Alkmund, a Northumbrian prince and Mercian martyr of 800AD. It was built in stone in the twelfth century near the Derwent bridge half a mile south of the village on the site of the original Saxon church of wood. Many additions have been made to it, most obviously the tower in the fifteenth century and the spire somewhat later when the tower had stopped subsiding. Of note in the church are the Mynors Tomb from 1536, the Bradshaw Memorial from 1600 and its fine peal of ten bells that were installed in 1887 and re-cast in 1933. The adjoining Parish Hall opened in 1992.

8. Trinity Methodist Church
The present church in King Street was built in 1904 although Methodists have worshipped in Duffield since 1777 using various other buildings.

41. Duffield Baptist Church
The Church in the Triangle at the junction between Town Street and Makeney Road was built in 1830 although the site has been used for Christian worship since 1791.

12. Emmanuel Christian Centre
This building in Chapel Street, erected in 1843, was for many years the home of Duffield’s Methodists. Then, after forty years of use in light industry, it was bought in 1986 by Emmanuel Community Church. After much renovation it is now home to the Massive Youth Project as well.

44. Saint Margaret Clitherow Catholic Church
This is the most modern of all Duffield’s church buildings having been completed in 1981 on a plot of land that was purchased as the Hall Farm Estate was being developed in 1964.

2. Duffield Castle
Situated at the north end of the village on the A6 the site can be accessed by a flight of steps. Now owned and maintained by The National Trust, there is little evidence of the castle above ground but from the extent of the foundations it is possible to imagine the commanding position it would have held overlooking the confluence. Had it been completed, it would have been comparable with the White Tower in London.

33. The County Branch Library
Described by Pevsner as ‘one of the most effectively detailed modern buildings in the county’. Raised on a podium with blue brick & glass panels.

The Derwent of course was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Cotton and silk mills were founded only a few miles away and the whole valley is now a World Heritage Site on the strength of it. At the 1841 Census only 5 people worked on the new machines. The most common occupation was that of the 148 home framework knitters or knitware finishers. Stockingers’ long windows can be seen in a building near the King’s Head. The Pattenmakers pub on Crown Street, recalls another former trade.

Duffield was the first station travelling north out of Derby and by the end of the century many managers and chief officers of the Midland Railway Company made homes here. The large houses built then on Castle Hill, Avenue Road, Lime Avenue and Chadfield Road were built with them and their families in mind. Expansion of the village continued with the building of Broadway in 1927. The building of Council houses began in 1937 and continued after the war.

DUFFIELD TODAY
The greatest development took place starting in the 1960s with the building of new houses occupying the whole area between Broadway and the old village centre. The village grew rapidly throughout the second half of the 20th century and into the 21st, with building on the Saw Mills, China Factory, Colour Works and the Derbyshire Building Society computer hall sites. The commercial centre of the village lies along the A6 (Town Street) which is a small but lively area including the Bank, Co-Operate, post office, estate agent, supermarket, florists, hairdressers, barber, beauty treatments, bridal wear, opticians, art gallery, kitchen & bathroom showroom and Birds!. From the centre there are further shops and a service station on New Zealand Lane and Meadow Vale. The village has four pubs, two cafes, three takeaways and three restaurants. The Appletree Medical Practice with pharmacy, a Dentist, and a Veterinary Practice, look after the health of residents and their animals.

The village continues to be well provided with road and rail connections with buses every 15 minutes and trains every hour to the north and south on the main line. The Duffield station of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is adjacent to the main line station. The EVR has been working to reopen the line and passenger trains now run again on the whole route from Duffield to Wirksworth.
Dear New Resident,

On behalf of Duffield Community Association I welcome you to Duffield.

The DCA was formed over 40 years ago with the primary aim of enriching village life whilst upholding local traditions. We believe Duffield is not only a good address to have with regard to local schools but it is also a very friendly place in which to live.

The DCA serves as a focal point for responsible discussion and promotion of activities within the village and through our affiliation with local public bodies such as Amber Valley Borough Council, Duffield Parish Council and the Department of the Environment we are able to inform and influence future policies affecting our village and in some measure, our daily life.

The main strength of the DCA stems from individual and family members of the community and it is constantly endeavouring to encourage both newcomers and existing residents to join and enjoy the benefits of membership. **If you would like to become a member of the Duffield Community Association and receive its Newsletter on a regular basis, please complete the application form on the enclosed slip.** Also, if you feel you could spare some time to take an active part in any of our activities then I should be delighted to hear from you.

The DCA is a registered charity run by an annually elected and unpaid executive committee of volunteers who plan and organise DCA activities within the village. The committee reports every three months to a larger group of members called 'the Council' which is composed of the executive members and representatives of all affiliated organisations and elected individual members.

Activities organised by the DCA include

- Installation of Christmas Trees and lights throughout the village,
- Community Week including the Carnival
- Assistance with the Village Bonfire
- The DCA also sponsors the Duffield Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which is one of the largest of its type in the County.
- We also support many one off initiatives which will be of wider benefit to the village.

I hope you will become a member of Duffield Community Association and support many of the regular events that take place in the village. I look forward to meeting you. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Johnson

The village of Duffield offers a wide range of clubs and organisations for all age groups, covering most aspects of village life and details of their activities are published ten times a year in the Association’s Newsletter. A copy of a recent Newsletter is enclosed. Details of events and activities can also be found in the DCA diary that is kept in Duffield Post Office by kind permission of the Postmaster.

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<th>Club/organisation</th>
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<td>Appletree Medical Centre</td>
<td>Duffield Pre School</td>
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<td>Appletree Medical PPG</td>
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<td>Belper &amp; Duffield Rotary Club</td>
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<td>Chevin Probus</td>
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<td>Derby Lions</td>
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<td>Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>Duffield Afternoon WI</td>
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<td>Duffield Book Club</td>
<td>Massive ‘Drop-in’ Youth Facility</td>
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<td>Duffield Bowling Club</td>
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<td>Duffield Cumberhills WI</td>
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<td>Duffield Parish Church</td>
<td>William Gilbert School PTA</td>
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Contact details are given on the enclosed sheet.