DUNHAM MASSEY PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026 *www.dunhammasseyparishcouncil.com*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, DAVID JOLLEY



It's been a busy summer around Dunham and I hope you've all been able to make the most of the lovely weather.

The Parish Council has continued to make progress on a number of issues affecting our parish. School Lane has now been resurfaced and in June we reported that the River Bollin Water Extraction Scheme had been put on hold. While we welcomed this news, there are several other proposals which could affect Dunham Massey and we will continue to make sure the parish's interests are represented.

We have made further submissions to consultations on the Carrington Masterplan and Carrington Spur and have recently reviewed the Trafford Local Plan, raising concerns on a number of points. Much of our focus has been on protecting the rural character of Dunham Massey, managing the additional traffic that new development could bring, and ensuring that adequate investment in roads and infrastructure accompanies any future growth.

You may also have noticed that work on Tatton Services is progressing rapidly, while a new data centre has been proposed on neighbouring land. Both developments could have implications for the parish. Against this wider backdrop, we have also reconsidered our approach to the Neighbourhood Plan. Rather than pursuing a single planning document, we are now looking at a broader programme of practical actions and priorities for Dunham Massey.

Closer to home, we followed up on concerns about the works carried out on Charcoal Road. Following a formal complaint to Trafford Council and the utility companies involved, the raised section of road was promptly repaired.

We know that parking, traffic pinch points and speeding remain concerns for many residents. We have been working with Greater Manchester Police, including speed monitoring on Station Road and are continuing to develop our traffic management strategy to tackle these issues.

Further details of our work are available on the Parish Council website. If you would like to discuss any of these matters, our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Village Hall. Residents are always welcome to attend and you can contact any parish councillor between meetings with questions or concerns.

Warm regards,
Dave Jolley
Chair, Dunham Massey Parish Council

HELP US PLANT A LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE



Once again, the Parish Council will be providing and decorating a Christmas tree in the grounds of St Mark's Church for everyone to enjoy over the festive season.

We had planted a living tree a few years ago, which we hoped to be decorating, but sadly it died last year. The unusually hot, dry weather this year has also made it difficult to source and plant a suitable replacement in time for Christmas.

We would therefore welcome any contributions, however large or small, towards planting a new tree that can become a permanent part of our village Christmas celebrations.

If you would like to help, please email dunhammasseypc@gmail.com for further details.

With your support, we hope to establish a tree that will bring festive cheer to Dunham Massey for many Christmases to come.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH - VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Speeding traffic remains a concern for many residents in Dunham Massey and there is now an opportunity for local people to get directly involved in tackling the problem.

Greater Manchester Police has launched a new Community Speed Watch scheme in the Altrincham area, giving volunteers the chance to help monitor vehicle speeds and encourage safer driving in their communities.

Volunteers receive training and work in small teams, using speed detection equipment to identify vehicles travelling above the speed limit. Details are passed to the police, who can issue advisory letters to drivers and use the information to help target future enforcement activity.

The aim isn't to catch as many speeding motorists as possible, but to encourage drivers to slow down, raise awareness and make our roads safer for everyone.

The scheme is initially being introduced in selected locations, with plans to expand as it develops. Given the concerns regularly raised about speeding through Dunham Massey, we would encourage residents interested in road safety to consider volunteering.

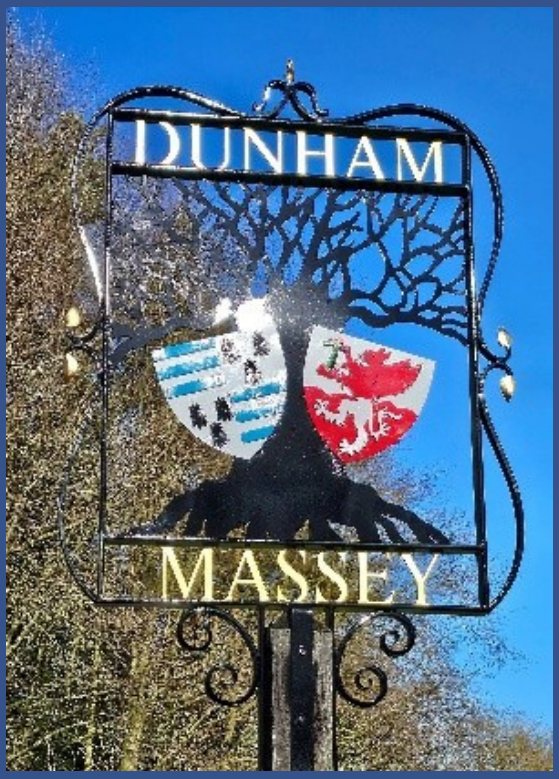


Interested in getting involved?

You can find out more about the scheme and apply to become a volunteer through Greater Manchester Police's recruitment page:

Community Speed Watch Trafford – Volunteer Application

THE COAT OF ARMS AT THE MILLENNIUM GARDENS



Have you ever wondered where the coat of arms at the Millennium Gardens comes from and why it differs from the blue and white flag often flown at Dunham Massey Hall? The answer lies in the history of two families and two earldoms.

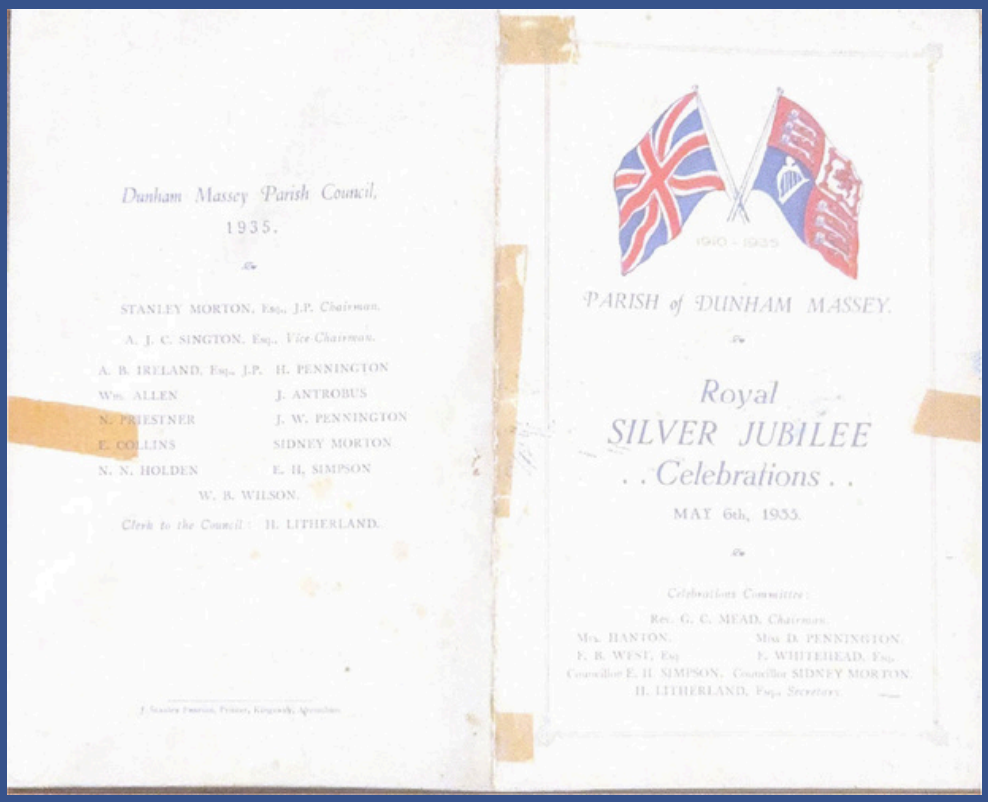
The Booth family owned the Dunham estate during the 17th century. Henry Booth (1652–1694), who served as an MP and Chancellor of the Exchequer, was created Earl of Warrington in 1690. His coat of arms featured three black boars' heads, with red tongues, on a white or silver background. A monument to him can be found in the Stamford Chapel at Bowdon Parish Church.

The second family was the Greys. The title of Earl of Stamford was created in 1628 for Henry Grey, 2nd Baron Grey of Groby, whose family coat of arms featured six alternating blue and white (or silver) stripes.

When Henry Booth's son, the second Earl of Warrington, died without a male heir, the title became extinct. However, his daughter, Lady Mary Booth, inherited the Dunham estate and married the 4th Earl of Stamford. Their son, George Grey, subsequently became Earl of Stamford and Warrington when the Warrington title was recreated for him. His coat of arms combined those of the Booth and Grey families and it is this design that can be seen at the Millennium Gardens today.

During the 19th century, the Earl of Warrington title once again became extinct due to the rules of inheritance. The Stamford title, however, survived, along with its distinctive blue and white coat of arms, until the death of the 10th Earl of Stamford in 1976.

JUBILEE PROGRAMMES OF FESTIVITIES


Dunham Massey Parish Council,
1935.

STANLEY MORTON, Esq., J.P., *Chairman.*
A. J. C. SINGTON, Esq., *Vice-Chairman.*
A. B. IRELAND, Esq., J.P. H. PENNINGTON
Wm. ALLEN J. ANTROBUS
N. PRIESTNER J. W. PENNINGTON
E. COLLINS SIDNEY MORTON
N. N. HOLDEN E. H. SIMPSON
W. R. WILSON.
Clerk to the Council: H. LITHERLAND.

PARISH of DUNHAM MASSEY.

Royal
SILVER JUBILEE
. . Celebrations . .
MAY 6th, 1935.

Celebrations Committee:
Rev. G. C. MEAD, *Chairman.*
Mrs. HANTON. Miss D. PENNINGTON.
F. B. WEST, Esq. F. WHITEHEAD, Esq.
Councillor E. H. SIMPSON. Councillor SIDNEY MORTON.
H. LITHERLAND, Esq., *Secretary.*

Councillor James Bushell has unearthed a treasure trove of programmes detailing festivities held in Dunham Massey to celebrate the Royal Jubilees of various monarchs over the years.

The full collection is available to view on the Parish Council website:

dunhammasseyparishcouncil.com

A LOVE LETTER TO DUNHAM – BY JANET RAWNSLEY



For those of us old enough to have read the great Milly Molly Mandy stories, by Joyce Lankester Brisley, you may recall the opening endpapers inside the books, containing a map of the village in which she lives. I find myself living in a similar village, with houses and farms and shops, and a parish church and pubs, all set in a great British landscape, framed by the walls of the estate. It's never something I ever take for granted, and especially as I work away, like all residents, it's all here, and much to be enjoyed. Exploring the public footpaths, the unique gardens in the Hall, and precarious cycles to Lymm and into the City on the TransPennine Trail, there is so much to enjoy.

As a child, I cycled to Dunham with a packed lunch with my pals in all weathers and sat bird spotting by the large pond on the estate (getting the bikes over the stiles was a challenge), and then calling at The Swan for lemonade and crisps was a great highlight, and how easily pleased we were! It's worth always taking a breath and realising what a privilege it can be to have all this green leisure at hand and to enjoy it. The residents form a very meaningful community and are the font of all knowledge, and indeed skills. I can't say I wouldn't love a local bakery in someone's backyard, but all things eventually happen!

(P.S. Whilst writing this at 3am, two large vehicles have collided outside the window, and the two drivers are re-enacting a Rocky movie scene and knocking twelve bells out of each other whilst pressing each other into the hedge, so the village isn't without out-of-hours entertainment... Life, hey?)

VILLAGE BAT WALKS

Hello, bat-mad Nat here! Thank you to the fantastic group of 22 children and adults who attended the free community bat walks held on 14th August and 5th October. I hope you are enjoying your new bat badges and bat detectors! Thank you also, fellow residents, for your kind messages and expressions of interest in joining future bat walks. More walks are planned for spring and summer 2027.

UK bats are amazing little beasts; they are the only true flying mammals, for starters, and can live for 40 years! They are insectivores and gobble up thousands of midges, moths and beetles every night in suitable woodland, farmland and urban environments.

Dunham Massey estate is home to (at least) eight species of bat, including common, soprano and Nathusius' pipistrelles, noctule, brown long-eared, Daubenton's, Natterer's and Brandt's bats.

Different species have varying roost requirements and can live in caves, trees, ivy and built structures like houses, churches and bridges, if undisturbed, sheltered and safe for them to rest during the day, raise their single pup in maternity colonies in the summer, breed and hibernate. All UK bats and their roosts are fully protected by law, so please seek qualified and licensed advice before external house renovations or tree work; you could be the lucky host of these amazing yet sadly declining creatures. Remember, every single bat counts!
NT Rangers carry out annual activity surveys and building roost counts between April and October to collect data for Bat Conservation, iRecord and NT conservation plans.

For more bat facts, visit the Bat Conservation Trust website: www.bats.org.uk

Natalie Pownall
Resident and NT Ranger