



Community Newsletter

Spring 2017

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A part of Lydgate history

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.....



# The first word

from Jennifer Greenwood,  
Chair of Love Lydgate



“After 8 years we are still going strong and we are delighted that many of the new people that have moved into the village are keen to get involved and do what they can to support.”

Hello everyone. We haven't been in touch via email for 12 months, the first time we have missed sending one out since we started in 2009. We haven't been idle though! As you know the newsletter is delivered free but is costly to print and we decided to redirect some of the money to buying extra Christmas Lights for the tree.

Thanks to your generosity and the efforts of our fund raisers we had enough to splash out the extra £1,000 to make our tree a beacon of Christmas cheer and festive fun. Hope you enjoyed it. It made the switch on an extra special occasion... no wonder Father Christmas came by. Thank you to Saddleworth Rotary and the Choir from St Anne's Cof E School for adding an extra touch of magic and sparkle.

This year the village has already been centre stage for the Commemoration of Thomas Steele receiving his VC 100 years ago. It was an amazing event with people travelling long distances to mark the occasion as well as local children who read so eloquently. Relatives of Sgt Steele were very moved to see the respect shown to him by the community. You can now see the Commemorative plaque in the church wall and the newly cleaned grave where his ashes are interred, which got some extra TLC from the District Partnership Environment team.

Later on this year we will once again be 'on show' as part of Oldham's bid not just for the North West in Bloom Award but for the Champion of Champions Crown. We are so honoured to have been chosen to, not just take part but be the starting point of the judging route. As you know 'In Bloom' isn't just about plants, a high level of community participation is a key criterion, so we need everyone to get involved and show their love of where they live!

I have every confidence that all residents will make their usual efforts to make their pots and planters, pavements and patios burst with colour, which would certainly fulfill this year's theme 'Greening Grey Britain'. Across the borough wild flower meadows, bees and biodiversity form part of the project so get your thinking caps on!

Creating opportunities for people to meet together, remains one of our main activities. New for this year is the monthly Coffee Morning at the White Hart. This is held on the third Tuesday from 10.30 to 12.00 and for just £3.50 there is plenty of tea or coffee and a slice of delicious cake. There is always a raffle too and lots of chatter and sharing of information. Do join us for the next one.

After 8 years we are still going strong and we are delighted that many of the new people that have moved into the village are keen to get involved and do what they can to support. We are always looking for

people to help, especially with the gardening in this 'In Bloom' year.

It is with great sadness that we have to go forward without one of the main forces in the Action Group, Eric Watts, who passed away in February. It was Eric who made our Welcome to Lydgate sign and the box by the bus stop. He also created our web site [www.love-lydgate.org.uk](http://www.love-lydgate.org.uk) and kept it up to date, with the help of his wife Janet. Eric was a member of the Saddleworth Male Voice Choir, who sang at his funeral. We all agreed that it would be good to show our affection and gratitude to Eric by putting on a special concert in his name. This will be held on September 15th at 7.30pm at St Anne's Church with Saddleworth Male Voice Choir and solo artists. Didn't know Eric? No matter... all you need to know is that he enjoyed a good night out and that's what this will be.

To keep up to date with what is going on, look at the website or sign up to our email circulation list by emailing [lovelydgate@btinternet.com](mailto:lovelydgate@btinternet.com)

You can find out how you can get involved in helping your community in the following pages. Perhaps you could help to keep the website up to date? Just an hour or so each month is all it would take and there is guidance and training available too.

This is going to be a busy but fun year so don't miss out. Keep in touch.

## Want to contribute to this newsletter?

Send your articles, stories, pictures or general notices to:

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Chair, Love Lydgate

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## Saddleworth neighbourhood plan

Your chance to have a say. A period of consultation started in February to begin to look at how we want our area to develop. It is a stand alone document, separate from the Greater Manchester Strategic Plan and must be taken into account when planning issues are considered. You can see details on the Saddleworth Parish Council website and Love Lydgate will be arranging a meeting when you will be able to access more information and find out how you can contribute.

Information will be on the Love Lydgate website or sign up to our email network by emailing [lovelydgate@btinternet.com](mailto:lovelydgate@btinternet.com)

One of LOVE LYDGATE's fascinating monthly speakers...

# An inspirational journey

by Denise Mellor

**Why would anyone wish to spend days on end soaked to the skin, literally, working incredibly hard for three hours on three hours off and sleeping, cooking and eating in a confined space? Denise Mellor answered these questions when she described to members of Love Lydgate on Monday, 4th July, her experiences on board an ocean racing clipper sailing from Singapore to Quindong, a port in northern China.**

Denise said she had led a normal life as a wife and mother until, having reached a certain age, she saw an advert in a paper asking for volunteers to take part in an ocean race organised by Robin Knox Johnson. She had done a little sailing in Singapore when in the army so "nothing ventured nothing gained" she applied, forgot all about it until she was asked to go for an interview, was accepted for training and eventually found herself sailing from Portsmouth and wondered what she had let herself in for because, as described above, hauling on sheets and halliards, (ropes to you and me), to control the sails is hard work, whilst being tossed about by wind and waves, cooking and sleeping in a confined space and wet through. However what had Denise "hooked" was the exhilaration of the sailing, the comradeship as each member of the crew depended on the others and the knowledge that she could do it. After more training she was asked to fly out to Freemantle and eventually to Singapore to join a flotilla of clippers, each one named after a city and the one Denise was on was called "Glasgow", racing each other on the leg of the race to northern China. Denise used a DVD of the sail from Singapore to Quindong to illustrate this leg of the race and all the fun and exhilaration of sailing and the amazing sun-sets as well as the trials and tribulations were well shown.

Two incidents stood out for Denise on that sail, one potentially dangerous and the other very much so. The first incident involved a Vietnamese gun

boat that sailed very close and regarded their clipper with suspicion threatening them because the captain had not been told that the race was going through the South China Sea. This crisis was averted. The next incident began when water began to come inboard and was eventually traced to where the keel of the clipper was bolted to the hull. The keel was in danger of coming off and had that happened the clipper would

"Denise used a DVD of the sail from Singapore to Quindong to illustrate this leg of the race and all the fun and exhilaration of sailing and the amazing sun-sets as well as the trials and tribulations were well shown."



have flipped over with disastrous consequences for all on board. All the clippers had to make their way, under reduced sail, to Subic Bay in the Philippines for extensive repairs but whilst there all the crews were most royally treated. As the clippers eventually sailed northwards it became colder and out came the heavy weather gear, some of which Denise had brought with her.

When asked if she would do this race again Denise said "no" but, despite this, she is still sailing and loves it! Her enthusiasm for what she does came through her talk and was a real inspiration.

**Frank Boocock**

# TRAIDCRAFT

## FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH TRADE



## DID YOU KNOW THAT TRADCRAFT COMES TO LYDGATE EVERY MONTH IN THE PARISH HALL?

**On the first Sunday of each month, my family and I (sometimes with the help of my friends from Junior Church) run a Fair-trade stall in St Anne's Parish Hall after the 11.00am church service.**

Everybody is welcome to visit the stall where you can buy a variety of food and household goods including: coffees, teas, biscuits,

pasta, rice, sauces, washing up liquid and cards. My personal favourite is the Fair-trade chocolate which we sell, in particular the strawberry and cream bars.

Running the stall each month has helped me to understand the importance of fair trade ensuring that the producers of our products receives a fair price for them.

Please come along and support our stall otherwise please contact my dad (davemarshall@outlook.com) who will email you through an order form and deliver fair trade goods direct to you.

See [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) for products

**Grace Marshall**



**Moments store has operated from 238 Oldham Road, Lydgate since June 2016.**

Lauren, the owner, offers a different, contemporary selection of gifts and furniture. Future plans will include greeting cards, candles/melts and you can already purchase gift tokens for that special gift or thank you. No more dilemmas as to what to buy, just a lovely shop to browse or visit the website at <http://momentsstore.co.uk>

Lauren and her family are local and offer a local delivery service. She loves being based in Lydgate and we hope people will continue to support her. She offers a unique product base at reasonable prices. Her love of interior design clearly shines through in her choice of stock.

## Spring – spoiled by dog mess

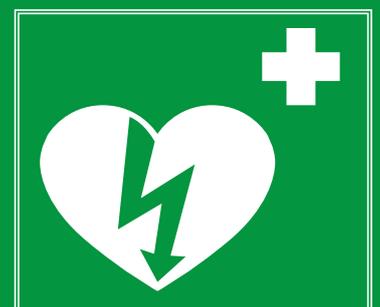
**The gentle morning light of spring, colourful flower borders, mist and spiders webs bejewelled with dew.**

Yet what's this that spoils the scene, another pile of dog poop. What is going on? Do people not care? Walking around Lydgate at times is like the proverbial mine field you really do not want to step on it. It's on the pavements, on foot paths and on the fields where children play. Dog poop is not only unsightly and smelly but dangerous, yes dangerous! A pile of poop may contain, Parvovirus, whip, hook, round and thread

worms, Campylobacterious and other nasties. These are not only dangerous to other dogs but humans too. Roundworm can damage sight, I worked with a girl whose sight was impaired by dry poop blowing into her eye as a child. Irresponsible dog owners be warned there is a growing number of us responsible dog owners who will photograph and submit these to the authorities for prosecution. **Please start having pride in your area and do the right thing, bag it and bin it.**

**Mrs C.**

**Just a reminder that the nearest defibrillator to the village is located at the White Hart Inn BUT it can only be used if the Ambulance Service directs you to do so. It is inaccessible without their access code and guidance. In an emergency always dial 999.**



# Bright Futures visit - 14th November, 2016

In November, Jennifer, Kath, Leslie Heyes and myself, as representatives of Love Lydgate, paid a visit to Bright Futures, the school for children with autism on Oldham Road. We were shown around by Alison, the Head of Education, and then joined by Headteacher, Zoe who told us about the setting up of the school when she despaired of finding the right facility for her son, Philip, and the development of the school, which now caters for eight children aged 5 to 17.

Two former pupils have now progressed to mainstream colleges and are doing well.

The atmosphere at the school was warm and welcoming and the staff committed and enthusiastic. As Zoe explained, they aim to give the children positive experiences to build on, which lead to an interest in learning and increasing confidence in their own abilities.

To achieve these outcomes the children need to be taught individually most of the time, with empathy and understanding and when some of the children joined us for their break-time, their trust in their teachers was apparent.

Bright Futures try to do a great deal with the resources they are given,



but the kind of care that they provide is expensive and balancing the books must be difficult at times. Which is probably the reason that such care is not available to all the children that could benefit from it. We are very lucky to have Bright Futures within our community.

**Janet Watts**

**Friends of Bright Futures School (FBFS) the parent teacher association is always keen to hear from local people who would like to get more involved in the school. To find out more please contact Christina Stocks at Bright Futures School for children with autism on 01457 878738 or email [office@brightfutureschool.co.uk](mailto:office@brightfutureschool.co.uk)**

## The Legend of Alders Thumb

**If you look closely next time you pass Grotton Hall, on the right hand side of the entrance, firmly set into the wall is a small block of stone with a cavity sculptured within it, over the years there have been various suggestions as to its use.**

Was it a socket for a monolith or a memorial cross or remembrance stone? There are even tales of a miniature pig trough, but the strangest tale of all is the tale of Alders thumb.

Legend has it that a thousand years ago two giants named Alder and Alphin, son of Anak, were fighting over the beautiful Rimmon (as told in Samuel Bottomleys poem "Greenfield" ) Alphin was caught a mortal blow from one of many rocks thrown by Alder. Not all rocks hit their target, including the one now resting with the print of Alders thumb in the wall alongside Grotton hall

Sadly upon hearing of her lover Alphins deaths by Alder, Rimmon drowned herself in a deep pool now known as Rimmons pit, a sad end to the legend of Alders Thumb.

# Plant Sale with Homemade Stalls

**Spring is here and now is the time to tidy your garden, split your perennials and pot up some plants for the Plant Sale.**

We would like as much variety as possible so that we can offer people choice and opportunity to stock their gardens at bargain prices, making Lydgate even more attractive than ever. We would love any donations – plants, herbs, annuals, perennials and seeds... indeed anything that grows!!

We also need you to look up your favourite recipes and get baking for the home produce stall. Not just cakes, (although cakes both big and small are welcome) but pies, pickles, jams, marmalade, biscuits, bread and tray bakes are all very welcome.

There will be cakes 'to go' as well as treats to enjoy on the day with a cup of coffee or tea.

Please bring your plants and produce to the Parish Hall on the day from 10.30 onwards. There will also be a Tombola Stall. Do you have any 'Bits and Bobs' you no longer need, any unwanted gifts? We would be very glad of them.

Drop any items off at **230 Oldham Rd** or contact **Kath Ryder** on **01457 829050**.

**Sun May 21<sup>st</sup>**

**12 noon til  
3.30pm**

## Lydgate to support Oldham's in Bloom bid

**We feel very privileged to be part of Oldham's bid for the North West in Bloom and the Britain In Bloom Champion of Champions 2017.**

It is so prestigious and reflects the success of Oldham's commitment to making the best of the environment, encouraging community involvement and sharing knowledge and experience of horticultural achievement. The theme is 'Greening Grey Britain' and this really is a 'call to arms' to everyone in the area. It isn't about prettifying where we live but creating an environment which

we can all enjoy and feel proud of for years to come. Over 200 trees will be planted and in early summer we can all enjoy the benefit of seeing 130,000 bedding plants planted in the town. Wildflower meadows will be developed and beehives introduced.

Judging starts in Lydgate so we will play a small but critical role. We hope everyone will make a real effort with their own planting but also join in to work on the community beds too. In reality there are only a very small number who look after these

beds, so your help is vital. Watch the website and Notice Boards for meetings where you can make decisions about the colours and kinds of planting and sharing other ideas.

Judging will take place in July/ August and the winners will be announced on October 27th.

The competition for this special final is tough, battling six other towns to become the cleanest, greenest and most beautiful in the UK. We hope that the part that we play will help raise that trophy!

## Goal Posts for aspiring footballers!

**There are very few facilities for young people in Lydgate. Councillor John McCann was so impressed when a couple of local lads showed their initiative and got in touch to ask for his help, that he found some funding for some goalposts. Here they are being erected by the Environmental team led by Andy Winterburn.**

And what about the more mature members of the community? Do you fancy a kick about? Well join us in the Parish Hall, 2.30 on June 5th when we are starting WALKING FOOTBALL! We need to get a team together to take on other community groups. No age limit, male or female, no previous experience needed just bring your enthusiasm, your trainers... and a sense of humour!



# Joyce's Aunt Annie

**Local resident, Joyce Sharratt has two unusual family heirlooms which she inherited from her Aunt Daisy. They are painted serviettes made of tissue paper, very delicate but carefully preserved.**

One is dated 1907 and is a programme for a concert by Bottomley's Lads' Choir, surrounded by a beautiful border of pink flowers and the other is dated 1908 and is a programme for a concert by Pastures Sunday School, Roaches, and has a border of blue flowers. Joyce's Aunt Annie Kenworthy's name appears on the 1908 programme as Mandolin Soloist and she has a photograph of her Aunt Annie which shows a beautiful, well-dressed young lady who would grace any concert hall.

Annie Kenworthy was born in Greenfield in 1883 to Joseph and Alice Ann Kenworthy. Her father, Joseph, had been born in Australia but his grandfather lived in Mossley. He was brought back to Mossley as a child with his other siblings but when his father died his mother took the family back to Australia. When Joseph was older, however, he was tempted to return to Mossley, and the family business, run by his grandfather, and married local lass, Alice Ann Bell. Joseph, who was

Joyce's grandfather, was thereafter known by his nickname, "Australian Joe". He moved sometime to Greenfield and became the proud owner of the first gramophone in the village. He apparently showed off by setting it up outside the Conservative club and playing classical music for the villagers.

Around 1910, Annie sailed out to Australia, presumably to visit her relatives. She must have taken her mandolin with her as she features on a programme from the ship as Mandolin Soloist. She returned to Saddleworth before the First World War, where she married and opened a toffee shop at Boarshurst, Greenfield. Annie and her husband had a garden in which they grew young lettuce, spring onions, radish, mint and parsley and as a young girl, Joyce's Sunday morning job was to fetch 3d, 4d or 6d of mixed greens for the neighbours. Annie died in 1972.

Now, Joyce has decided that the "serviettes" which she has kept so carefully for many years should be returned to Mossley and has had them framed for hanging in the newly opened Heritage Centre at Emmaus.



## Lydgate's history project

**It's the past not just the present that residents find fascinating. A small group looking at Lydgate's history has collated lots of information and photographs and are on the lookout for more.**

They have been helped by local historians Julian Hunt and Michael Fox and lots of local people have shared resources. Now with Michael's guidance they are concentrating on houses in the oldest part of Lydgate and through the use of the census and other resources at Saddleworth museum, hope to build up a picture of what life was like for families living in these houses in the past.

What work did they do?

Did they go to school or church?

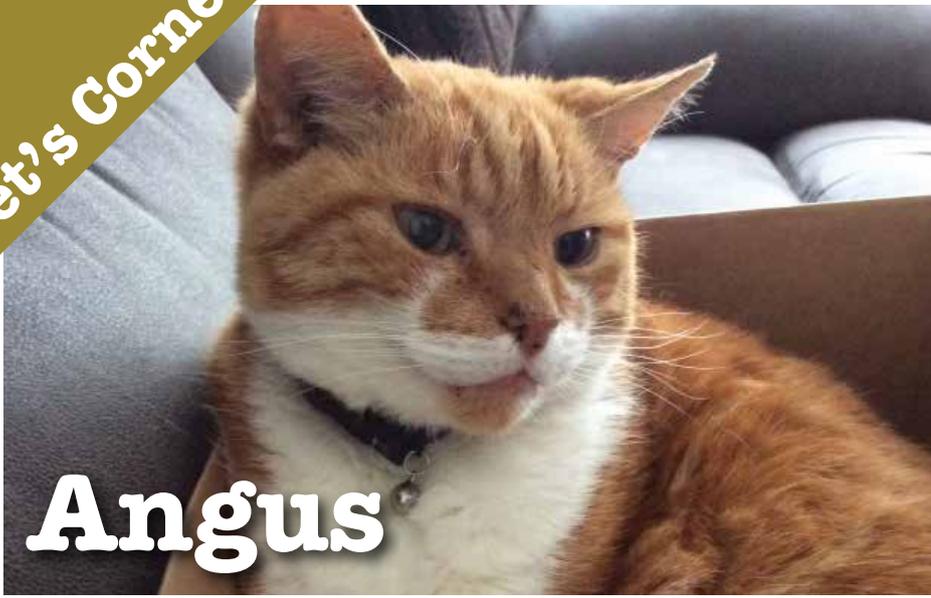
What did they have to eat, what games did they play?

Have you got something that you can contribute or do you want to get involved? Perhaps choose a house that you live in or are interested in. We are also interested in the memories of people living in and around the village. Can you write yours down or can we interview you and write your memories up for you? If you are interested get in touch by emailing [lovelydgate@btinternet.com](mailto:lovelydgate@btinternet.com)

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## FUTURE EVENTS

- April 18** Coffee Morning White Hart 10.30am to 12 noon (and every 3rd Tuesday in the month)
- April 23** St Georges Day Lunch at the White Hart to support Help for Heroes.
- April 25** Action Planning Meeting White Hart 7.30pm (and every last Tuesday in the month)
- May 4** 'Memories' 1.30pm in the Parish Hall An afternoon of listening and sharing, laughing and learning.
- May 8** Monday talk – Glenn Dale, Oak Room, White Hart, 2.30pm
- May 21** Plant Sale/Home Bake
- Sept 15** Saddleworth Male Voice Choir Concert 7.30am St Anne's Church (Price TBA)
- Oct 15** Love Lydgate Community Lunch 12.30pm White Hart (Price TBA)



Angus

Angus was born in the village during the Christmas holidays in 2001. Originally living at no 67 Stockport Road during his early years, he would wander far and wide and was known to residents as far away as Thornley Park and Beechfield.

He would be seen all around the village, even attending church during a wedding ceremony. He would visit Ian and Shadae Stone at No. 86, to watch and play with several pet chickens. During these early years he was once found asleep on a bed having taken advantage of an open door. After his original owners relocated to an address in

### Keep Watch - Home Watch!

Unfortunately yet another spate of burglaries have hit the area, especially around Grasscroft. The Neighbourhood Policing Team are doing all they can to catch the thieves and keep us and our property safe but they need our eyes and ears. If you see anything suspicious and unusual contact the team. For an emergency call 999, or for a less urgent matter call 101. Our local team can be contacted on 0161 856 4524 or email [saddleworthandlees.npt@gmp.police.uk](mailto:saddleworthandlees.npt@gmp.police.uk)

Sign up to receive the GMP e-watch, email [monica.seville@gmp.police.uk](mailto:monica.seville@gmp.police.uk) - this will update you on local problems and gives guidance on keeping our neighbourhood safe and secure. Members of our Police Team usually attend our regular Coffee Mornings so you can meet them there.

Derbyshire, which didn't allow cats, Ian and Shadae were more than willing to give him a loving home, where he resided for more than 12 years. He was very much part of the family, sharing the house with two dogs and two African Grey Parrots, who regularly shouted his name. Even at the grand age of 15 he showed no sign of slowing down and could still be seen patrolling his territory and looking very disdainfully at rowdy dogs and magpies, who tried to scare him away with no success.

Just before Christmas, Angus moved with his family to sunnier climes in North Wales. Ian and Shadae have been in touch to let us know that he has already settled in. He regularly walks the bounds of his territory, has learnt a little Welsh and enjoys stretching out on the neighbours roof and looking out to sea. Long may you enjoy it Angus!

### Lydgate Parish Hall

In the heart of the village and wider Parish is the Parish Hall. The present building was the second school built on the site in 1869 funded by Sir Edmund Buckley and others.

It remained as the village school until 1967. It has since had a chequered career but it remains a valuable resource for the community. It belongs to St Anne's church and can be rented from them. It benefits from Love Lydgate hiring it for many functions throughout the year, as they contribute to the rent. They also raise money specifically for the hall by having talks on the first Monday of the month. These are very varied and many of the speakers are local. Jennifer said "I am always amazed at the talent and experience in our community, stone wallers, clog makers, ukelele players, bee keepers and fascinating historians, to name but a few. You name it, we've got it!"

To date the group has raised nearly £2,000. They also donated a sign, a much needed face lift and this will be added to by baskets of flowers. "We couldn't leave the old lady out, when everywhere else will be spruced up for Oldham's 'In Bloom' bid. We wanted her to be smiling too!"



### Village Visit by Debbie Abrahams

Last summer we were delighted to welcome Debbie Abrahams, MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth to Lydgate. She had a brief tour and was very impressed with how the community has pulled together and taken the initiative to improve things.



She told us about her role as Shadow Secretary for Work and Pensions and what it was like to be an MP.

Debbie is very supportive of communities, especially when she can see that they are doing things to help themselves. There was a rapid response to a letter from Elaine Woods from Quickedge Road when she voiced her concerns about the poor road markings on Platting Road. They have now been repainted, making the area safer for both vehicle users and pedestrians. Thank you Elaine and Debbie.