

Love Lydgate Community

Springtime Jobs in Lydgate



Spring is approaching fast and as in our homes; jobs need attention in our village. We welcome anyone to get involved and however little you can do we would really appreciate your input. If you would like to take on or have a go at any part of the jobs listed, please feel free to do what you can when you can. If you need any guidance or information regarding the work, please feel free to contact either:

Lesley—01457 513815 or Jennifer—01457 877935

and we will gladly try to provide more information.

1. Weeding and clearing of rockery area at the lower end of the village next to the Lydgate sign.
2. Cleaning and staining/varnishing of the three planters in front of the cottages next to the Parish Hall.
3. Cleaning the algae off the main six stone planters facing the White Hart.
4. Cleaning of the two circular planters at the entrance to the Church.
5. Weeding and cutting back of perennials in the long bed on Stockport Rd. (*The weeding and cutting back is quite a large project, but any contribution, however small, would be greatly appreciated*).
6. Weeding of the winter bed adjacent to the barred gates opposite the White Hart.
7. Sweeping of the village pavements and Church front area, clearing debris, leaves etc.
8. Weeding and cleaning of any areas within the village that you feel requires attention.



We will also be starting to plant bulbs and plants in all areas of the village so if you would like to help on the planting project please let Lesley or Jennifer know and we will contact you when we are ready to start.

The Heritage Bed

Last year Love Lydgate had planned to replace the raised bed at the crossroad in the village. Unfortunately, the Covid Pandemic has affected the schedule and we are now planning to rebuild the new bed in stone next year. It will be named the "Heritage Bed."
(Lesley Sweeney)

St Annes Church

(Rev Pat Gillian)



(Photo by Lucy Tunn)

Public worship in Church of England Saddleworth churches is suspended until early March, but the team continue to offer an online provision which can be accessed via the website below:

<https://cofeinsaddleworth.org.uk/st-anne-lydgate-news>

3-Storey Detached House planned for the middle of Lydgate

As we go to press, Oldham Council Planning Department are deciding whether to allow this 3-storey mansion to be built in the centre of the village. If permitted, it will stand on land thought to be of unique historical importance and will dwarf the listed buildings which lie beside it. At least 64 people have sent in their objections with no-one writing in support of the project. (JG)



20mph speed restriction to be trialed

One of the major concerns that brought people together to form Love Lydgate in 2009 was the speed of traffic on the roads that slice through the village, Stockport Rd, Oldham Rd and Platting Rd. It is still on our agenda and in fairness, OMBC Highways and Unity Partnership have tried to introduce traffic calming measures - new chicanes and rumble strips on Stockport Rd, clearer signage and resurfacing on Platting Rd and on Oldham Rd a new crossing and traffic control sign. When we heard that OMBC was keen to take advantage of what has been learnt since traffic level have been reduced during lockdown, I wrote to them to see if they could put a 20 mph restriction on Stockport Rd.

After researching the situation, they have agreed to trial it. We had asked that the restriction would start at the junction with Quick Road but at the moment they are just using the calming measures that are in place and not introducing new ones. The system will be monitored to see if it does have an impact and hopefully it may then be expanded if it is successful. I hope you all agree it is worth a try.

We are looking for a volunteer to be our representative on the Parish Council Highways Committee. Currently all meetings are on Zoom. Please get in touch. The meetings are not that often and it would be good to have contact and hopefully influence decision making as well as sharing information. (Jennifer)

The Last Word

Thank you to those who have contributed to the current issue. If you would like to get involved by sharing your news and pictures, contact lovelydgate@btinternet.com. Deadline for Summer 2021 issue, Wed 12th May. *(Kate Tunn-Editor)*



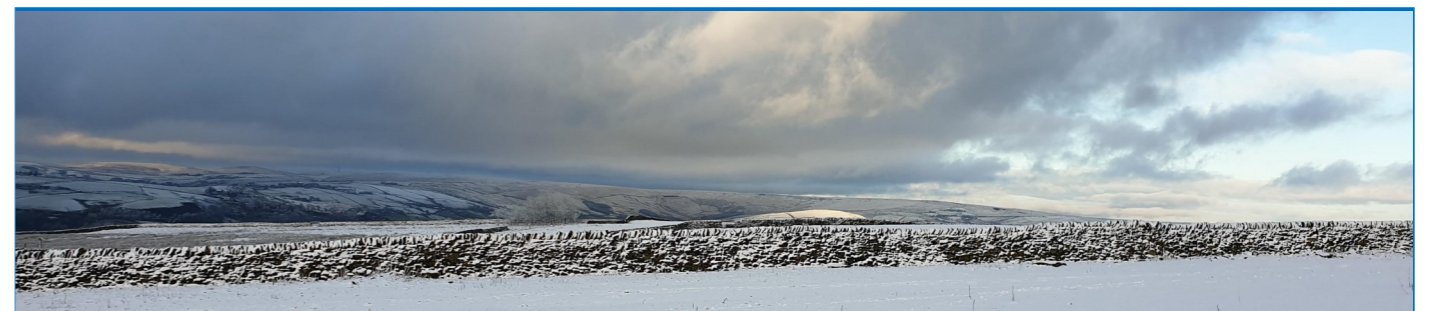
Community Newsletter

Issue 5 Mar/April/May 2021

The First Word

We didn't put out our Autumn Newsletter last year, we felt it would be full of too many 'Didn't do's!' We produced the Lydgate Calendar though, which made £500 towards the Parish Hall refurbishment. Thank you to all those who supported the project and do keep your phone or camera ready for more spectacular shots for 2022. Many people are still struggling with their own illness, the loss of a loved one or the result of their changed work situation. Things will be different for some time to come but spring is on its way and what better time to start looking forward once again.

Every year the bulbs struggle through the dark, damp and icy-hard soil with the most delicate of shoots. It's a miracle. Times have been tough and dark for us and we have probably felt very delicate on occasions but reading some of the things you've been up to I'm sure the positivity, ingenuity and kindness in our community will help us flourish once again. Let us look at what is getting better, not worse and pitch in to make it happen - there is a lot to do. We will miss meeting up to work on things together but do feel free to get cracking either on your own or in your little bubble. I hope you feel inspired to get involved as you read through these pages. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we are enjoying coffee mornings and the Larks, the Band Contest and Get Togethers. In the meantime stay safe and stay in touch. lovelydgate@btinternet.com
Jennifer Greenwood Chair of Love Lydgate



Our local community didn't let the grass grow under their feet during lockdown. These beautiful and (sometimes) quirky pictures were all taken in and around Lydgate—the results of creative minds, hope for the future and a lot of hard work. Read about the projects and some of the people behind them inside the newsletter.



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Meet Milo

Let me introduce my gorgeous little pal, Milo. He is a 5-year-old Shih Tzu (his birthday was 13 Feb) who I rescued at the end of September 2020.

He's got a bit of history, which started with him being with his first owner for 13 months, no-one really knows what happened here, but the vet strongly suspected he was abused and as part of that suffered a broken tail. He then went to a family, who had him until he was given up last year to the Yorkshire Red Rose Dog Rescue. He was given up because he had become very possessive of the female owner and her husband said it was him or the dog, and so the dog went to the Rescue.

I had been trying to rescue a Shih Tzu for a couple of months but the rescue site I was using wouldn't give me a dog because we have an open garden. I was very disheartened until my sister saw this little man being advertised on Facebook for adoption. I immediately applied and the rest, so they say is history. He has issues, he doesn't like people he doesn't know coming to the house, or even worse leaving the house. He's unsure of other dogs and people when outside too, but he's getting better with all these things. For the first couple of days he was with me he wouldn't even come near me, now he is my shadow and won't let me go anywhere without him.

He's adorable and loves to play with his squeaky and his ball, on his own but also likes to rope me in too. (Julie W)



Pitch-in Community Garden

With matches suspended at Mossley AFC's Seel Park ground, there have been plenty of opportunities to develop the Community Garden which was created last year during Tier 3 restrictions.

The Club partnered up with local community groups, ReCreate and Incredible Edible, to create a garden space from an under-used plot of land near the pitch. ReCreate is an arts and crafts group focused on sustainable making (recycling and repurposing) and founding members include Lydgers, Anna Oliva and Peter Wilkinson.

The garden relies on volunteers and donations of plants and planters (ie, anything you can bung a plant in, old tyres/bins etc). If anyone has any outdoor plants/planters to donate, please contact Anna on 07775141600. To find out more, visit @GardenPitch Twitter / @pitchincommunitygarden Facebook. (Anna Oliva)



(Photo by Nigel Wood)

Lydgate Nature Watcher

Ian continues his bird watch article (August/September 2020) with an observation of beaks and bills and how they differ.

Sea birds such as puffins, gannets, guillemots and razorbills have two major features: they dive and they catch fish.

When diving – especially gannets – they reach depths of over 30 metres and can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes. To prevent them harming themselves with the considerable pressures, they have a special armoured valve on top of their bill. They also have sharp serrated mouths which enable them to catch a number of fish and sand eels without dropping the catch of the day.

Puffins are real experts at this and can catch so many eels that they look as if they have grown beards!

Last but not the least are flamingos. They live in large lagoons which are full of minute shrimp that colour the water pink. This clever bird paddles to stir up the shrimp. It then bends down, turns its bill upside down and skims the shrimp.

(Ian Merkel)



Parish Hall exercise class continues to 'Zoom' through lockdown!

During what has been a difficult year for everyone, the Love Lydgate exercise class has continued to meet ... via Zoom!

The last time we all met in the Parish Hall was Monday 23rd March 2020, the day before the first lockdown was imposed. Knowing that we would all miss the class, Jennifer arranged with Oldham Leisure Centre for us to continue using Zoom.

I think we all wondered how it would actually work ... but it's brilliant, thanks to the wonderful instructors we work with, particularly Paddy. We even have a WhatsApp group, which I found particularly useful recently when Paddy sent me some exercises to help with sciatica.

Another big advantage is that during winter we haven't had to venture outside and no one knows if you are wearing your pyjamas for the class or not!

The exercises are suitable for everyone and not only improve fitness but help with balance and posture and it's nice to catch up with the other members of the class.

We would love new members to join us, you don't have to be super fit as the exercises are very much tailored to specific needs. If you aren't familiar with Zoom it's not difficult and we can help. Contact Jennifer if you would like to give it a go!

(Lesley Heyes)

Love Lydgate Community

Parish Hall update

The transformation of the Parish Hall is going grindingly slow. With no income since March 2020 and years of little investment, the improvements that need to be made are huge and expensive. The Lydgate Community Association (LCA) are so grateful for all your donations and to those who have given their time to work on the project.

The Charity have concentrated on making the building water tight and safe. With quotes in for the decorating and a new kitchen they are now busy looking for grants. Several local people have been painting and pointing, clearing and cleaning and we are grateful to St Anne's school who have lent heavy duty cleaning equipment to help restore the lovely old floor in the hall.

Brian Wilcox from Platting Road has soldiered on in all weathers, turning his hand to all sorts of jobs and getting others to help too. We have put his name forward for a special recognition award from the Parish Council to show how much his efforts have been appreciated. Can you help?

LCA are looking for someone to remove weeds, clean tables and chairs and quote for refurbishing the toilets. If you can help please contact Frank at fandmboo@gmail.co.uk or Jennifer at lovelydgate@btinternet.com

There are some highlights.... The metal store at the back has now lost its unhappy face and shows a lovely Lydgate view, (pictured on front cover).



Scaling the heights during lockdown

(Gordon Whitehead)

I don't think I need to say what has been keeping me busy during the lockdown. The sound of me knocking out the pointing at my home has been disturbing the Lydgate peace for the past three months.

I am not attempting to re-point the whole of Edge House. The original plan was to do the bottom five foot or so of each wall but having finished that I am going higher. It will end not when I reach the guttering but when the cricket season gets near and I have to swap the hammer for a mower. The reason for doing this work is, to get rid of as much as possible of the strap pointing and the iron hard cement underneath it so that it can be replaced by lime mortar. The experts tell me that old stone property needs to breathe, to avoid damp penetration, and lime mortar will allow that. We'll also be replacing the silicone sealant around the windows, with mastic to stop water ingress.

And when spring first shows its face, I will be tackling the flower and herb beds in Quickedge Rd. They are looking very scruffy at the moment, but I have deliberately left last year's foliage and dried out stems because Monty says that is good for wildlife, to provide seeds and places for bugs to hide and overwinter. So, they won't be cut back until nearer the springtime, if that is, the plants have survived the winter!



Diary of a local farmer

We are now in mid-February, a beautiful winter day as I write this, after a wet and windy spell. It is bitterly cold with a keen frost on the farm making even the most basic of jobs more difficult. Keeping enough water running for over one hundred cattle has been a challenge making everyday tasks such as feeding and cleaning out the sheds more difficult when relying on getting frozen tractors started.

As with all businesses, covid has had an impact on us, our suppliers have adapted to new rules and done a great job keeping things moving, animal feed and dairy supplies etc. On the livestock side the auction marts have changed to what is called (drop and go). You can no longer stay and see your animals sold; you just leave them with the market staff. Many farmers miss the social side of going to the market - a bit of chit chat with friends and neighbours and usually a good lunch. There is no longer a café - many of the markets were well known for their cafes selling excellent food.

Now spring is on the way the days are getting longer and the sun when it is out, is stronger. The vaccination programme seems to be going well so let's all hope for something better in the not-too-distant future.

Farmers have tough jobs at the best of times especially in the harsh winter weather. Thank you to all our local farmers coping in these extra difficult times. (JG)

