

Dunton News

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Edition 14

Summer 2018



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**Dunton News Office, The March Hare, 34 High Street, Dunton,
Beds, SG18 8RN, 01767 600258,
janice.pritchett@outlook.com or juliejohnhills@gmail.com**

Editors Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills

Editorial

Summer is now here and so far we have had a few lovely days.

The photograph on the front cover was taken at Dunton Big Weekender June 2017 by Chenisse Matthews. A group of villagers are busily working to set up Dunton Big Weekender 2018, 28.6.18 to 1.7.18. For further information, see the article on pages 21 to 23.

We are looking for contributors, whether regular or one off, so please send the editors any articles or photographs you would like included in Dunton News.

Dunton will be holding its first scarecrow weekend 29th and 30th September 2018. If you haven't made a scarecrow before, pages 17 and 18 will show you how!

Sunbeams Pre-School is coming to the village at The Memorial Hall. For more information see 12.

If you are arranging a Dunton event and you would like others to know about it, please email us details. The submission date for the next edition is on this page. Keep Big Weekender is imminent, where a fabulous long weekend can be had by all. Have a look at this edition of Dunton News for all of the activities you can join in with.

Dunton will be holding its first scarecrow weekend 29th and 30th September 2018. If you haven't these dates free for Dunton's Big Weekender 2018, 28.6.18 to 1.7.18 and for the Scarecrow Event on the 29th and 30th September.

Janice Pritchett and Julie Hills

All copy and advertising for inclusion in the Autumn 2018 edition must be emailed to janice.pritchett@outlook.com or juliejohnhills@gmail.com by 6.8.2018

Annual Report From Dunton Parish Council

Finance

During the previous year, Dunton Parish Council continued to operate within its financial constraints and during the next financial year we will continue to look into how we spend our precept to ensure Dunton Parish Council provides value for money.

Planning

During the year we have assessed several planning applications which in the main related to residential properties.

Dunton Parish Council's Objections to Central Bedfordshire's Local Plan

Dunton Parish Council appreciates that the local plan should encourage planned growth, not unplanned growth, therefore hinder speculative development. In Dunton, at the land north of Greenfield Way, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) proposes to build 30 to 37 houses.

Land west of Dunton is identified as a location for future development which is subject to a partial plan review. This land has a potential capacity of up to 5000 homes, but does not contribute to the original plan target of 39,350 homes. The historic Newtonbury Moated Enclosure appears to be on this potential development land and needs to be protected as a heritage asset.

Dunton Parish Council objected to CBC's Local Plan on the following grounds:-

- Developments in the Countryside
- Development in Dunton of 30 – 37 houses which does not represent 'infill'
- The proposals are contrary to National Planning Policy Framework
- Lack of detail on settlement envelope proposals
- CBC's strategic approach

The Parish Council would prefer CBC to adopt a strategy based on more realistic and up-to-date settlement capacity studies which should enable CBC to arrive at a more robust and detailed assessment for house numbers based primarily on the needs of the local community, the preferred location and types of housing.

Gypsy and Traveller Site

Representatives from CBC and the contractors attended the September Parish Council meeting. The outcome of this meeting was to set up a working party comprising of Councillors, representatives from the village, the site management team, gypsy and travellers. The first meeting is still to be arranged.

Land Adjacent to the March Hare Pub

The land adjacent to the March Hare Pub has been successfully registered at the land registry to Dunton Parish Council.

Graveyard and Cemetery

The Parish Council continues to maintain the grounds at the graveyard and cemetery.

Recreation Ground

The Parish Council has withdrawn the funding for the mowing of the grass at the Recreation Ground.

Neighbourhood Plan

The decision that Dunton Parish Council would not set up a Neighbourhood Plan Group is being reviewed.

Grant Aid

Council has given grant aid to The Marais Ensemble, Dunton Good Neighbour Scheme, Dunton Recreation Association and Dunton Community Garden.

Community Emergency Plan

Dunton Parish Council are putting together the Dunton Community Emergency Plan to identify available local resources to respond to an incident such as an extended power cut (12 hours or more) or the village being cut off by severe weather.

Dunton and Willow Gates

Dunton Parish Council have replaced the broken gates at the entrances to Willow and Dunton village.

Spring Bulbs

To enhance the village environment many bulbs have been planted.

Festival of Britain Sign

This sign has been here since 1951 and Dunton Parish Council are in the process of renovating it.

Communications

We continue to improve the communication with the village by enhancing our current website and developing a Facebook Page.

Dunton's Big Weekender 2018

Dunton's Big Weekend will take place from the 28th June to 1st July 2018 with many organisations from the village taking part. Gary Besant is the Dunton Parish Council representative on the co-ordination group.

Mandy Howard

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Ninebarrow
23rd June



John Kirkpatrick
15th September



Lucy Ward
6th October

www.duntonfolk.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene Church, Dunton.
Doors open 7.30

Why are our roads in such a state?

Many Dunton residents have been in touch recently to mention the recent state of the roads, especially on the road to Sutton, the nearby Wrestlingworth crossroads and Dunton Lane to Biggleswade.

Potholes are caused when water gets into tiny cracks in the road, expands when it freezes and widens the cracks. After it melts, vehicles thump down on the space left by the ice and smash new holes in the road surface. Such road damage is estimated to cost motorists £2.8bn a year while local authorities pay out more than £30m each year.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) defines a pothole as being "A hole in the bituminous surface with approximately vertical sides, where material has been lost and where any surface dimension in two directions exceeds 150mm and depth exceeds 50mm. Missing or collapsed ironwork, sunken covers more than 50mm". By its own rules it is obliged to deal with them. The question is, how quickly?

The roads are often particularly bad at this time of year as CBC and other local authorities believe it is a false economy to fill potholes when it is very cold and this winter has been a long one. CBC has also expressed a preference for resurfacing as opposed to 'filling the hole'.

If a road is covered in potholes, resurfacing is a far more sensible, not to say economical, solution. However, it is also expensive and requires sufficient budget.

There is some good news, CBC has received extra money for this problem, having recently benefited from an extra £495,000 from central Government although it hasn't decided in which areas it will spend it.

CBC has responded to my concerns by detailing a proposed 'structural maintenance programme' for the coming year which shows where works are now proposed and when they will take place.

Wrestlingworth crossroads will be resurfaced in the coming months, Sutton Road in the autumn and Dunton Lane will be patched in the coming weeks.

Adam Zerny (Independent Central Beds Councillor for Potton and Dunton)

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Dunton's Big Weekender 2018 adventure at the Community Garden

At the beginning of May we were inspecting the polytunnel for plants to be ready for the plant sale and it was more like November. Along with all other gardeners in the area we saw only tiny plantlets. The dreadful weather of April had taken its toll and sadly we have postponed the plant sale. Let's hope the weather has improved for all gardeners when you read this article.

We are now putting in hand our plans for the Dunton's Big Weekender 2018. We will be providing Ploughman's Lunches, fun and games and of course you can bring your own picnic to the community garden, Saturday 30th June, lunchtime and afternoon. As far as possible the ingredients for the Ploughman's will be from the community garden. Our ever-popular jams and chutneys will also be on sale. We will also be at the fete Sunday 1st July afternoon, with a range of plants and chutneys.

By the end of June the community garden should be looking its best so as part of your Dunton's Big Weekender 2018 adventure find your way to the community garden and see what we have to offer because the community garden is there for you all to enjoy.

Celia Walpole

Dunton Chilli Club

Dunton's chilli growers met at the March Hare on 6th May. About a dozen of us gathered for a chance to discuss how this year's chilli plants are faring and to swap tips for ensuring a healthy and we hope, abundant crop. Several people brought spare seedlings to exchange or give away – of particular note were the 10 different varieties of chillies and peppers supplied by Tim Fowler – Thanks Tim.

We also provisionally agreed a date for our second annual chilli celebration event, which will be on Saturday 13th October, again at the March Hare. We all plan to bring along a selection of chillies from this year's harvest, and will arrange for an Indian buffet from Biggles Lounge to be available on the night.

If you are interested in joining our very informal group, then please get in touch by email (rachandnige1@outlook.com)

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Come down and see our games tent on
Fete Day as part of Dunton's Big Weekender
Sunday 1st July 2018
1pm-4pm

Hook-a-duck



Lob-a-choc



Name the rabbit



Tin can alley



St. Mary Magdalene

The Church at the heart of the Village

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Email: carolejohnston58@btinternet.com



Regular Weekly Services

1st. Sunday	9.30 am Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion Followed by continental breakfast
3rd Sunday	Benefice Eucharist *
4th Sunday	9.30 am Sunday Praise
5th Sunday	Benefice Eucharist *

* Benefice Eucharist services are held at one of the Churches in the Benefice

If the service is at Dunton or Eyeworth it will be at 9.30 am and 11.00 am at Wrestlingworth. Full details are always in the Church Noticeboard, Parish Newsletter and Biggleswade Chronicle

Future Events @ St. Mary's

Sunday 10 th June	11.00 am Summer Fair
Sunday 1 st July	Dunton's Big Weekender 2018 5.00 pm Village Songs of Praise

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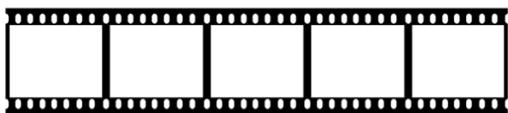
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weekender we will be holding another of our wildly successful race nights. Everyone last year had a brilliant time and we were able to raise £759 for the upkeep of the hall. This year we hope to build on that success. If you missed out last year be sure to book your place for Friday 29th June. Doors open 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. Bring your own drinks. Nibbles will be provided. Contact Julie Hills (07961754448) for tickets which are £5 per person. The race night is for individuals aged 18 and above.

The Memorial Hall Committee will also be supporting the Village Fete and again raising funds for the hall by running a cocktail tent. Come along and try our delicious concoctions.

Julie Hills and Amanda Allard



Car Treasure Hunt, 1st July 2018, As part of Dunton's Big Weekend a car treasure hunt is being organised. Entry £5.00 per car. To book your staggered start time from 10.30 am, from the March Hare, call Jules on 07961754448. This event is sponsored by VNR Autocare Ltd.

Julie Hills and Alison Chalkley

The Village Hall

The Memorial Hall is delighted to announce that we have been approached by an experienced pre-school owner who wishes to use the village hall as the venue for her new venture. Sunbeams Pre-School is owned by Jody and Kath Taylor and currently operates settings in Stevenage. However, Jody has recently moved to the area and is keen to ensure that Dunton children continue to benefit from a pre-school. Sunbeams will also be offering wraparound care before and after pre-school hours. An open day will be held at the village hall by Sunbeams for prospective parents on July 21st at 11am.

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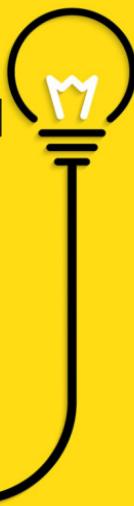
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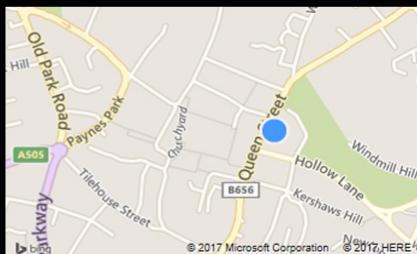
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make. You can have fun by making a traditional scarecrow from straw or from everyday items that are lying about the house. They can be as traditional or original you like. For inspiration look on the internet.

Here are some simple instructions for making your scarecrow which do not require any complicated skills.

At the very least you will only need a few items to make your scarecrow:-

Old clothes, including a pair of tights, a shirt, a pair of jeans, scraps of fabric, a hat, some glue, rope for the hair, and paper or hay for stuffing.

Making the scarecrow head

Tie knots at the top of the legs of your tights, then stuff the top, not the legs with hay or shredded paper. When the top of the tights is full of hay tie a further knot in the top. You now have a large round base for the head.

Cut scraps of fabric or felt into shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth. Simple triangles, circles and squares work well. Glue the shapes to the face and allow them to dry. Of course, you can just buy a mask for your scarecrow.



Scarecrow Weekend as part of Dunton's Big Weekender 2018

29th and 30th September 2018 Something to Crow About How to make a Scarecrow



Thinking of something to do towards the end of the summer holidays! Why not start to make your scarecrow for Dunton's Big Weekender 2018 Scarecrow Weekend, 29th and 30th September 2018!

In the past scarecrows were very much a part of the countryside, used by farmers to keep birds away from crops.

Scarecrows are not expensive to make. You can have fun by making a traditional scarecrow from straw or from everyday items that are lying about the house. They can be as traditional or original you like. For inspiration look on the internet.

Add hair made of long pieces of fabric, string etc and glue in place.

Making the body

Button up the shirt. Starting with the arms fill with straw or shredded paper. Use hay to resemble hands. Tie up the wrists with string.

Making the legs

Stuff the jeans or trousers with shredded paper or hay. Fill from the ankles to the waist. Tie the trousers close to the bottom with string, and let some hay hang out for feet. Leave the trousers open at the top.

Scarecrow assembly

Attach the empty tight legs of the head to the body by running one leg through the neck of the shirt at the front and the other through the back of shirt neck. Pull the tight legs all the way through to the bottom of the shirt. Tug firmly on the legs so that the head sits firmly on the top of the shirt neck.

Tie one tight leg to the belt loop in the front of the trousers, making sure to pull the tight leg through the loop until it is tight. Then do the same for the tight leg at the back of the shirt.

If your scarecrow is going to stand it will need a stick or broom handle up the back of the shirt, but of course it could just sit in a chair or a paddling pool. Go on the internet for some wonderful ideas!

Partially weatherproofing your scarecrow

Put the hay/straw/paper stuffing inside dustbin or bin bags.

Prizes

Feel inspired, enjoy making your scarecrows. At the event there will be a prize for the most traditional scarecrow and entertaining scarecrow.

Be Creative

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Why not include your advert in Dunton News?

Dunton News is produced in March, June, September and December and is delivered to every house and organisation in Dunton, Newton, Millow and Eyeworth. Additional copies are available in the March Hare, Dunton and you can download a copy from the March Hare website at www.themarchharedunton.co.uk the village website at www.duntonvillage.org.uk Dunton Parish Council website at www.dunton.bedsparishes.gov.uk

We produce a high quality, quarterly magazine which is appreciated by our readers, or so we are told! Our village magazine is about Dunton, Newton, Millow and Eyeworth and the magazine is retained by our readers as a source of reference for anything relating to the area, including goods and services. The March Hare has on display copies from the last 3 issues of the magazine for customers to take home with them.

Please contact Janice Pritchett or Julie Hills if you wish to.

Dunton's Big Weekender 2018

Bringing the Dunton Community closer together

Thursday 28.6.18 to Sunday 1.7.18

Based on the success of last year's 'long weekend' the organisers decided to 'do it all again' in 2018. Like 2017, the long weekend in 2018 will make the village a hive of activity bringing everyone in the village together for a great time.

Prior to the event you may have been hunting for 'Dunstones' and making bunting. Dunton Youth Club have been busy painting rocks and they have been hidden around Dunton and beyond. If you find a 'Dunstone' please take a picture and post it to Dunton's Big Weekender Facebook group and then re-hide it for someone else to find. Thank you to everyone who painted and hid their stones. Look out for the golden stones hidden in the village over the long weekend. Prizes for 3 children under 16 years of age.

In the main, Dunton's Big Weekender 2018, is to support village charities and organisations.

Family Friendly Events

Event	Where?	Time
Exhibition of church and Dunton WI 40 th Anniversary	St Mary Magdalene Church	All day Saturday and Sunday
Craft show	St Mary Magdalene Church	Saturday morning
Church talk and walk	St Mary Magdalene Church	Saturday morning
Picnic, Fun and Games	Dunton Community Garden	Saturday lunchtime and afternoon
Children's Disco	Village Hall	Saturday early evening
Car Treasure Hunt	From the March Hare to villages around Dunton	Sunday morning
Dunton's Big Weekender 2018 Fete	Recreation Ground	Sunday afternoon
Songs of Praise in the Church	St Mary Magdalene Church	Late Sunday afternoon and early evening

Adult Events

Event	Where?	Time
Want to learn how to play crib and backgammon?	March Hare	Thursday evening
Race night	Village Hall	Friday evening
Charity quiz, raising money for Dunton's Big Weekender 2018	March Hare	Sunday evening

Refreshments

Refreshments	Where?	Time
Tea, coffee & cakes	St Mary Magdalene Church	Saturday morning
Pimms and real ale	March Hare	Midday onwards on Saturday and Sunday
Ploughman's	Dunton Community Garden	Saturday lunchtime
Mocktails	March Hare	Early evening

There will be a bigger and better fete on Sunday afternoon at the Recreation ground, from 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Fete Family Friendly Events

Adult Bottle Tombola	Plate Smashing	Children's Tombola
£1.00 in the bucket	Dare Devils	Games Tent
Hook A Duck	Wellie Wang	Name the Rabbit
Lightning McQueen	Magician	Balloon Modelling
Daisy Duck	Coconut Shy	Face2Face

Timetable for Arena Events

1.15 pm	Gun dogs
1.45 pm	Shefford Majorettes
2.15 pm	Belly dancers
2.45 pm	BATS
3.15 pm	SOSA dance fitness
3.30 pm	Dreams Theatre School
3.45 pm	Cheerleading

Refreshments at the Fete

Pavilion Bar	Real Ale Tent	Summer Cocktails
BBQ and Pizza	Tuck Shop	Maynard's Ice Creams
Bespoke Milkshake	Children's Ice Lollies	

Handmade and local product stallholders

Forever Living	Usborne Books	Stunning Cakes
In the Blue Shed	Wax and Wicks	Emily Smith Reusable Bags
Pink Gingham	Pet Pawtential	Nanny Della
Ant's Chilli House	Ivy's Special Stitches	
Jo Pickering Jewellery	Katherine Mayer's Children's Music	
Ladash Bathbombs and Soaps	Rockin Ruler Funky Stationery	
Dunton Community Garden	Friends of Wrestlingworth Lower School	

Other stalls and activities

RSPCA Dunton Parish Council Beat the Goalie Children's Races

Of course, there will be a raffle to support Dunton's Big Weekender 2018 and so please buy as many tickets as you can. Raffle tickets are on sale before the event at the March Hare, Youth Club, Village Hall, Parents and Friends Association of Dunton Lower School, Dunton Community Garden Group, St Mary Magdalene Church and during the weekend events. 1st Prize £250.00.

We would like to thank organisations who have sponsored an event or donated a raffle prize including Saxon Leisure Centre, Shepreth Wildlife Park, Café Mocha, 360 Play, Liebherr, Maxwells, Paradise Wildlife Park, Langford Garden Centre, Sainsbury's, Jones' Fitness, The Barns Fitness Studio, Crème Catering, Lauren's Wax and Warmers, Biggles Lounge, Weather Break Windows and Newmarket Racecourse.

We are also looking for **volunteers** to help at some of the events, such as the fete. Please contact Bigweekender@hotmail.co.uk even if you can only spare an hour of your time.

We also need **broken or unwanted crockery** for the plate smashing stall. Please can you drop this off at the March Hare?

For further information, please contact Julie Hills or Janice Pritchett, the editors of Dunton News, who are also on the co-ordination group for Dunton's Big Weekender

A Great Village Resource

Dunton Recreation Ground, was established over 45 years ago when the field was purchased by a group of village residents. It is run and maintained by a group of enthusiastic volunteers, Dunton Recreation Association (DRA).

The grounds plus the pavilion and play area belong to the village residents and are not owned, funded, or maintained by the council or any other body.

Money for day to day running plus routine maintenance is raised predominantly by organising fundraising activities and hiring out the facilities. A few major projects have been grant funded.

The field is in regular use for football and other activities. There are floodlights for evening use. It is also the site of events such as the Dunton's Big Weekender Fete. It is a public space for all to access free of charge. It features a well maintained children's play area. It has been landscaped with attractive flower beds and paths and there is disabled access and a small free car park.

In addition to the changing rooms and toilets, the pavilion has a bar area and a furnished and carpeted function room. It is used for events organised by the DRA plus meetings of local groups and private hire. It can accommodate 40 people seated at tables or up to 60 standing. A fully licensed cash bar is available on request at functions.

As a venue it is ideal for a whole range of activities, including family celebrations, sports activities, meetings and classes.



The changing rooms and function room have been extensively refurbished over the last couple of years. This year it was the turn of the kitchen and bar area which has had a complete refit and is looking good!

Much of the excellent work has been carried out by local volunteers and small businesses. The DRA is especially grateful

for the continued support of Spring and Daniels Carpentry and Philip Cook Electrical Solutions. For more information please email dra@duntonvillage.org.uk or call Eileen on 01767 315359. Alan Dansey

Hare Beer Bunch



The Hare Beer Bunch continues to meet the second Monday of each month at the March Hare. In addition we arrange various beer related excursions throughout the year, the latest one being to Bury St Edmunds. On this occasion we took the opportunity of taking up the spare seats on a coach organised by 'Dunton Uncorked' and arranged to be dropped off just outside the Greene King brewery,

to sample a few of their ales at their 'Beer Café' – it's a very friendly place and they suggested we have our picture taken behind the bar.

From there we walked a few hundred yards to the Rose & Crown, a lovely traditional local pub, where we all continued the Greene King theme by having the XX mild, with or without the addition of Abbott Ale. The sandwiches there were excellent too. None of us were impressed by the next pub, the Nutshell, which is the smallest in Britain, so after a quick beer we pressed on to The Old Cannon Brewery. This is a much smaller set up than the other brewer in town – all of the brewing is done within the pub premises, and you have to walk past much of the brewing equipment on your way to the bar – and the ales were superb.

Finally, we headed to our last stop, the Beerhouse, a very modern style of pub, with an interesting selection of cask and keg beers, but perhaps a bit soulless when compared to one or two of the other pubs we had visited. And of course when I say our last stop, I mean other than the March Hare, to which we returned in the evening, for a few more drinks and a takeaway.

If the above has taken your interest, then please come and join us. We are lining up at least a couple more trips to breweries and pubs in 2018, and all are welcome. For more information please email me at rachandnige1@outlook.com

Nigel Coomber

Editors Reservation

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the march hare

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IS PROUD TO BE PART OF



Dunton's Big Weekender



Thursday 28th June -
Sunday 1st July 2018



a great weekend for all the family

Thursday 28th June Learn how to play CRIB OR BACKGAMMON from 8.00 pm, PLAYERS FROM THE MARCH HARE WILL BE HERE TO SHOW YOU HOW

Saturday and Sunday, 30.6.18 and 1.7.18 PIMMS AND REAL ALE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MARCH HARE

Saturday, 30.6.18 Whilst your children are at the DISCO IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ENJOY A GLASS OR TWO OF MOCKTAILS, 7.00 PM - 9.00 PM.

Sunday 1.7.18 CAR TREASURE HUNT COMMENCES FROM THE MARCH HARE FROM 11.00AM

Sunday 1.7.18 QUIZ NIGHT 7.30PM TEAMS OF UP TO 6 MAY PLAY. IN AID OF RAISING MONEY FOR NEXT YEAR'S DUNTON BIG WEEKENDER. MINIMUM DONATION OF £3.00 PER PLAYER

Sunday 1.7.18 FROM 1.00 PM TO 4.00 PM OUR OUTSIDE REAL ALE BAR WILL BE AT DUNTON'S BIG WEEKENDER 2018 FETE

the march hare, 34 high street dunton SG188RN 01767 600258