

DrewsNews

The newsletter of Drews Park Village Association

Issue 1 Winter 2001

What a 'Tosser'!

Virgin Radio rolled into town when Drews Park resident, Ruth Stobie, took part in their 'Tossers' Challenge. Hosted by Steve Penk, it was a competition where you could win big or lose big on the toss of a coin! The competition ended with disastrous results...

After applying to participate in the competition,



Ruth with 'that' coin!

Ruth received a phone call to see if she was game for a laugh and interested in winning a brand new Silentnight bed worth up to £1,000. Considering that her own bed was quite old she thought 'why not'. The only snag was, that if she lost, her own bed would be



chained in half and she would have to buy a new one – all on the toss of a coin!!

To win, the coin had to turn up heads but unfortunately for Ruth, tails it was, and the bed got it! All she was left with, to remember the occasion by, was a handful of wood chippings after the chainsaw wielding tree surgeons had finished doing their job!

The whole thing was very eventful even if it did leave her sleeping on the floor for 6 weeks until her new bed was delivered!

Coming soon.com



Drews Park Village will soon have it's own web site.

Full of news and information it will be easy to keep up to date with what is happening in and around the Village.

Watch this space!

email drewsnews@lineone.net

www.drewspark.com

Welcome to Drews' News



John Stevens, Chairman

Dear Friends and Neighbours, I would like to welcome you to the first issue of Drews News, your very local newsletter that not only keeps you in touch with everything that is happening around the Village but also allows you to have your say.

It is now a couple of months since the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Drews Park Village Residents Association, when a new committee was elected to serve on your behalf in order to protect the interests of the Village and its residents. On behalf of those elected may I thank you for entrusting that duty of care to us, and also take the opportunity of thanking those who stood down for all the work and contribution they made through their term of office.

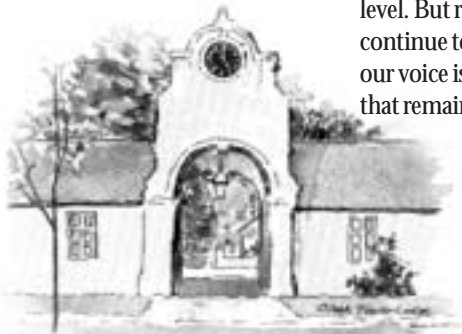
Progress has been made although at times it has seemed painfully slow. As you know Sarsen are now the leaseholders and that means we have to negotiate on a slightly different level. But rest assured we shall continue to fight to make sure our voice is clearly heard. Issues that remain unresolved, include

guttering, cycle stores, correct parking spaces, signage, TV reception and landscaping, to name a few. Negotiations still continue with regard to the open space/cricket pitch and we currently need to look carefully at the newly submitted plans for the Katherine McNeil Clinic, together with the northern development. In order to represent you properly we need to know your views, so please make sure you join our Residents Association as your support is vital to our negotiations.

As Christmas is rapidly approaching, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our Christmas Dinner on the 14th December (*details on page 8*), but I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

John R. Stevens MBE

Committee Members	
John Stevens	739599
Peter Benns	739419
John Fitzmaurice	726448
Norma Humphreys	724950
Norah Ingleby	723316
Gail Nugent	730118
Lisa Penington	739588
Ruth Stobie	739259
Faith Tait	723339
Gwen Townsend	724308



Future Development of the Northern Part of the site

A number of people have asked how the sale of the northern end of the site is progressing. The present view is that completion of the sale could take place next Spring, with a detailed planning application being submitted to Kennet shortly afterwards.

The first works would consist of linking the road up to the new Marshall Way, which runs off Nursteed Road. This will form the new access to Drews Park Village and will

be in use as soon as the road has been completed. Our access and egress from Pans Lane will then be stopped.

We are negotiating for the contractors compound to be

situated on the field where the road is to be built, which will keep some of the noise and annoyance away from us, the surrounding properties and Green Lane residents, etc.

Further updates will be published in the Newsletter as the situation progresses.

Cricket Pitch, Orchard Meadow

Negotiations aimed at the possible purchase of Orchard Meadow by a group of residents on behalf of the Association are continuing but are proving to be very protracted and extremely complex involving Kennet District Council, the developer, the owners of the site, ourselves and lawyers acting for all parties.

At issue are such matters as the price of possible purchase, maintenance obligations and costs, management plans and policies, planning permission for a pavilion/hall, restitution of the sports ground, rights of way and footpaths, the situation regarding the state of the drainage and so on.

Discussions between all concerned continue but considerable gaps in agreement and understanding still exist and we remain hopeful.

In any event, it should be stressed that no building other than a pavilion/hall can be built by anyone on the land. At worst whoever ends up owning the lease must mow and maintain the land to laid down standards.

At best we could 'own' it and seek grants to aid the construction of a dual purpose pavilion/hall and manage the whole site as an amenity which would benefit the local community.

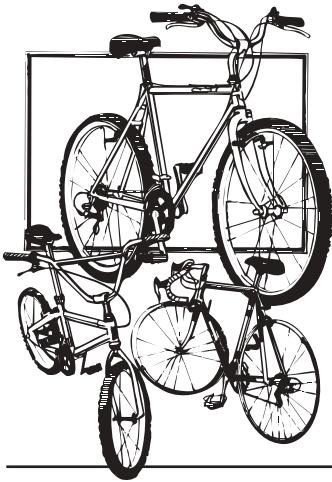
Katherine McNeil Clinic

As you will have heard (from us!) a new planning application has been made for this site.

The overall design has met with general approval but there is concern over the height of the buildings, the finish materials and the boundaries. We are keeping a beedy eye on the situation and will keep you informed.

Welcome Pack

A welcome pack is now available for new residents. If you have a new neighbour let us know so they can receive all the information they need about Drews Park and the surroundings.



Do you have a bicycle??

We are currently doing a survey to see who would use a bicycle store if they were provided.

The bike store would be at our expense, so you may have to share in some of the cost. As the lease stands bikes are not allowed outside and, as there is a growing number on site, we could find Sarsen enforcing the lease as this is starting to become a problem.

Let us know what you think. Write to Drews News, 9 Thurnham Court or email drewsnews@lineone.net

Landscaping

It was agreed at our AGM in September that we would spend £200.00 on shrubs to enhance Drews Park.

However, we are waiting – very, very patiently – for the developer to complete the planting, as promised. We are assured that this will be done when Arthur returns from his holiday. Once this is completed will use our funds.

Please can you let Nora know if you have any suggestions on location in your Court.

Whinge Corner

Please, please, please can everyone adhere to a couple of teeny, weeny common complaints:

Car parking

Please park in your allocated parking space and, if you have a second car, it can be left in one of the visitors parking spaces.

Speeding

There have been numerous complaints made about speeding motorists. There are children in the Village as well as speed limits. **Can you all take this into consideration please!!**

Thank you. Whinge over!

What's in a Name?

Spelling mistakes are easy to make, but who'd have thought that our Drews Park road signs would be riddled with errors?

Each court is named after one of the former hospital's leading doctors.

But, according to Philip Steele's book 'Down Pans Lane', two of these prominent physician's names were actually spelt Thurnam and Burman!

Rather than adding these errors to the 'snagging lists' shall we just have a giggle at the lack of attention to detail instead!?!

Protecting your Boiler and Hot Water System

by Peter Benns

You may know that Devizes is in an area having some of the hardest water in the U.K. We certainly noticed the difference coming from our previous home in Devon. The problem with this is that the 'limescale' effect from heating water can clog up your pipes and boiler and cause expensive repair work to be necessary. A good example is the 'furring up' of your kettle.

I began to investigate the various options for protecting against this when we moved to Drews Park and the following notes are just my conclusions. *(Please note that I do not pretend to be an expert and other residents may want to chip in with their findings so that we may pool our experiences).*

So far as remedying the situation, as far as I can see there are three ways of achieving this. Firstly water softeners based on adding salt to the water where the mains enter the house. These chemically change the water by removing those minerals which cause the hardness of the water and result in a silky soft feel to the water. The units are quite large and need replenishing with salt every so often. The cost can be in the £500-£1000 range.

Secondly, electronic water treatment devices comprising a coil of wires that fit around the rising water main. These induce electro-magnetic signals into the water, which prevent the mineral salts from precipitating out and forming scale in the pipes. These are much cheaper in the range up to £100 and simple to install. They are either in magnet form, which you may already have, or they plug into an electrical socket. The plumbers/heating engineers I spoke to indicated that the plug in ones are more effective over a period of time.

Thirdly, the Combimate type units, which contain and dispense a natural polyphosphate water treatment compound shaped into marble sized spheres containing sodium, calcium, magnesium

and silicate. These are 100% pure food grade materials. These units come in different sizes and need the contents changing once a year minimum, in the form of a cartridge. The principle with these is the same, to stop the hardness salts in the water precipitating out and forming scale. Cost is up to £100.

These units are well tried and tested over many years, as is the salt addition method. The electronic method is newer but seems to have impressive technical and testing evidence. I know of at least one resident who has gone for the electronic method and is happy with it, whereas we plumped for the Combimate approach, which has made a difference.

We had our unit installed in the rising main above the take-off for the sink tap in the kitchen, for drinking water purposes, but everything else gets treated.

These are just my personal findings, but please get expert advice yourself before making any decisions.

Not making a decision, however, could be expensive with increasing heating bills and maintenance.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Initial meeting of the Drews Park Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was held on 21st November, with the representative from the Police HQ, Mr Barry Strange, in attendance.

A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme aims to reduce the chance of crime in an area by neighbours acting as the eyes and ears for the community. It has proved to be so successful that many insurance companies will offer reduced insurance premiums to people who are members of such a scheme. In fact, a known burglar confessed to the police that he does not bother with houses in neighbourhood watch areas! **Now there's food for thought!**

Membership of the scheme is entirely voluntary and, even better, entirely free! Anyone who is interested just needs to register their details with their court representative (first and last name, telephone number

and whether owner or tenant). The court representatives are detailed below. Even if you do not wish to be part of the scheme, please let your representatives know, as we will be checking with anyone that we have not heard from.

We are keen to split Thurnham Court into two areas, as it is by far the largest court. Anyone who would be willing to become the representative for Thurnham Court B (23-41) should contact Suzy Holmes, the Drews Park area coordinator, on 739346. The job involves coordinating court members' details and being a point of contact for the area coordinator and the police.

Did you know?

- 80% of reported crime is committed by opportunists
- There is 1 burglary every 66 seconds in UK
- Security measures such as mortise locks and window catches can reduce the chance of crime at your house by 30-40%

Security Tips

Barry Strange recommended the following security measures:

- 5-lever mortise locks
- The use of security chains on front doors
- The use of door viewers on front doors
- The use of window catches

Useful websites

www.neighbourhoodwatch.net
www.wiltshire.police.uk

Court Name	Court No	Representative	Tel No
Clocktower Lodge	8	Jean Mortimer	724586
Chapel Court	7	Jon Hunt	730449
Burnham Court	5	Sue Chick	724774
Wyatt Court	7	Gordon Ingleby	723316
Cooke Court	5	Karolyne Fudge-Malik	739033
Bowes Court	18	Peter Benns	739419
Speer Court	7	Caroline Hayes	730480
Thurnham Court (A) 1-22	12	Jo Corbett	724171

Noticeboard

At your Service

In future issues of DREWS NEWS we want to provide you with information on local businesses or services which are reliable or have been recommended.

✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

For Sale

You will be able to advertise any items you want to sell here, **free of charge**, and to a potential market right on your doorstep!

✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

Recommendations...

Let other people in the Village know of any good restaurants, walks, visits, books etc that you have experienced and want to recommend.

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Drews' Views

Your opinion counts!! Let us know your views or thoughts regarding anything on and around Drews' Park Village. We would also like to see any poems you have written.

If there is anything you want to add to the noticeboard, please write to:
Drews News, 9 Thurnham Court or email drewsnews@lineone.net

and don't forget...



...The Drews Park Christmas party. Get your return coupons in to Gail Nugent or Ruth Stobie ASAP! Anybody who did not receive an invitation please contact Gail on 730118 or email drewsnews@lineone.net



Drews Park Village Association

Subscription Application Form

November 2001 to October 2002

Annual Subscription: £10

by cheque (made payable to 'Drews Park Village Association')
or cash to: John Fitzmaurice, 14 Wyatt Court
or John Stevens, 6 Speer Court.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please Note: Future issues of Drews News will only be available to members of Drews Park Village Association.

Theatre Club



Here at Drews Park Village a group of us join together to visit shows at the local theatres.

What began as a visit to the local amateur light opera society's production of 'Hello Dolly', has become a regular feature of our life here. The local theatre in Devizes, The Wharf Theatre, in a delightful position along side the Kennet and Avon Canal has an excellent reputation for the quality of their productions and we have been privileged to enjoy excellent performances of such varied offerings as 'Barefoot in the Park', 'The Darling Buds of May' and 'Whose Life is it Anyway'.

There are also excellent theatres within easy reach of Devizes at Bath, Bristol, Salisbury and Swindon and we are looking forward to sampling some of their offerings in the near future.

We have recently arranged visits to Ibsen's Ghosts, and also a musical showcase 'Total Eclipse', both at the Wharf Theatre.

These visits are becoming a very popular feature of our community, as not only do they offer the chance to see a show, they are an opportunity for residents to meet each other in a social way, often for a drink prior to the show or during the interval, when we can chat in a relaxed atmosphere and come to know our neighbours a little better.

Anyone in Drews Park Village who would like to join us can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Please contact Mary Stevens on 739599.