

# DrewsNews

The newsletter of Drews Park Village Association

Issue 2 Spring 2002

## Keep on truckin'!

Elliot Court resident, Allan Feltham, along with team owner, John Dunford of Honeystreet, both participate in a sport called Europa Truck Trialing and travel all over Europe to compete...

**EUROPA TRUCK TRIAL** has been in existence for 10 years and has become a major European sport watched by millions of people worldwide on the Eurosport satellite channel. Each round attracts thousands of spectators and visits many European countries including Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Sweden, Spain, France, Hungary and Holland. Eighty plus competitors compete in 5 production classes ranging from small 2 axle Mercedes Unimog's, 2 larger prototype classes for special builds up to giant 15 ton / 4 axle Tatra's like ours.

The sport now attracts major sponsors and includes full works and semi-works teams from Tatra, Iveco, Praga, Skoda,



Steyr-Puch, Mercedes, M.A.N., Urals, Maz and Unimog. Competition is always fierce and involves driving these vehicles across rough terrain between clearly marked gates against the clock, very similar to motorbike trials but on a much larger scale. Crashes and rolls are frequent and spectacular but because of the stringent safety rules people are rarely injured.

We are currently starting to build a new Tatra 8 X8 truck to compete in the 2003 season and due to the added involvement of works teams we are looking for full sponsorship support. **If anyone or any company is interested, please contact me at 16 Elliott Court.**



email [drewsnews@lineone.net](mailto:drewsnews@lineone.net)

[www.drewspark.com](http://www.drewspark.com)

# Dear friends and neighbours...

...May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Easter.

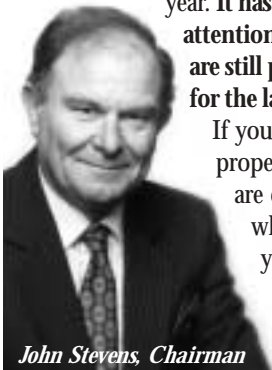
**ISN'T IT GOOD** to be able to walk around this village of ours on a fine day and see the trees and shrubs coming to life and the spring flowers showing colour. Hopefully as plants establish themselves and we increase the planting, Drews Park will look better and better as the years go on.

Christmas seems a long way away now, but I am pleased to report that the Christmas Party was well attended and seemed to be very well enjoyed, the bonus was that we were able to present a cheque to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal for £150.00 as a result of a very successful raffle and auction. My thanks go to all those who's hard work made the evening so successful.

Issues affecting the residents in general seem to be ticking over rather slowly since the last newsletter. As well as our monthly committee meetings we have had two meetings with Sarsen, when we have put complaints and matters affecting Drews Park to them with some force and at the same time discussed the budget for the forthcoming year. You will soon be receiving from Sarsen your new billing for the next financial

**year. It has been brought to our attention, however, that there are still payments outstanding for the last two years.**

If you are one of the properties where payments are outstanding, for whatever reason, would you please discuss the matter with Sarsen so that this can be finalised.



*John Stevens, Chairman*

Amongst matters causing concern has been the inability for some properties to receive satellite TV. We understand that the levels of reception have changed on a national basis and we have asked Sarsen to obtain quotes to upgrade our present system from level 2 to level 1 (see 'Communal Satellite Aerial' on page 3).

Work on the guttering is near completion, drains will be cleared within the next couple of weeks, replacement of dead trees and shrubs together with new plantings is continuing and signage is still under review.

There has been no further news from the planning committee regarding the developments on the North site or at the Katherine McNeil Clinic. Negotiations by a group of residents to purchase the orchard and adjoining open space, for the benefit of us all, continues slowly, but we are optimistic that we shall come to a satisfactory conclusion soon.

Finally may I remind you all, that each property had to purchase its own parking space, so would you all please park in the correct one and not someone else's! Should you have more than one vehicle please park it in the visitors (unmarked) spaces. Spaces are marked with your house number, if you cannot find it or are not sure, please check your deeds or your letting agency and, failing this, Andy Lynsky at Sarsen.

If you have any problems which I have not covered, please feel free to contact myself or any member of the committee to discuss it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'John R. Stevens'. The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

John R. Stevens MBE

# Communal Satellite Aerial

Sarsen have sent you some information on a proposed up-grading of the satellite dishes due to complaints from some clients of SKY that they cannot receive all channels they expect to have. The estimated cost is around £10,000, again to be added to our service charges.

**OWNERS** will be asked to vote for or against this work and we would encourage you all to have your say. No stamps needed! You can post your answers through a designated letterbox in your Court.

Remember, a non-response will not be counted for or against the expenditure, so make your vote count.

**Whatever your view let us have it, otherwise you may not get the result you wish for!**

## Big Brother...

Do you require a larger version of 'Drews News' to read?

We don't want anyone missing out on the news around the Drews Park Village so you must let us know if you require a larger version of 'Drews News'.

Once we know which residents require this, you will get the larger version delivered each issue.

Call Gail (730118) or Ruth (739259) to request your 'Big Brother' edition.

### 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.



## Drew's Park Communal TV Aerials

**SARSEN** proposes to enter into a Monday to Friday service contract with Telstar, which will add about **£50** to our annual service charges. This is largely because of a recent breakdown in one of the aerials that resulted in many phone calls (some abusive) to Sarsen 'out-of-hours' staff.

Residents should be aware that all calls to Telstar should be routed through the Sarsen switchboard, as they will have to issue an order number for the contract. **Any individual calls may end up being charged to the resident.**

### Committee Members

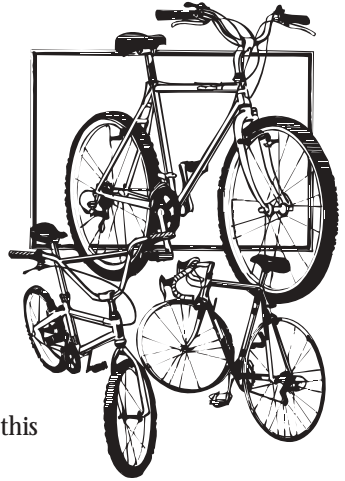
John Stevens	739599
Peter Bennis	739419
John Fitzmaurice	726448
Norma Humphreys	724950
Norah Ingleby	723316
Gail Nugent	730118
Lisa Penington	739588
Ruth Stobie	739259
Faith Tait	723339
Gwen Townsend	724308

# Bicycle storage update

Thank you to the 3 residents who kindly responded to the bike survey (you know who you are!).

**HOWEVER**, due to the poor response from our last newsletter asking for your views on bicycle storage and following numerous complaints from residents regarding bikes standing outside properties, Sarsen have now reconsidered the expense to the community of installing bicycle racks around the Village and decided to enforce the Lease on this matter.

We would like to remind you that, in accordance with the Lease, bikes should be stored inside your property. Please can you respect this request and keep your bikes indoors. Thank you.



## Whinge Corner

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

### Noise

Be considerate of your neighbours. The walls in these houses are not as soundproof as we would like so please can you keep your slamming, banging, stomping, shouting and music to a minimum level!

### One Way System

This is exactly what it means! We have had a couple of near misses where people have ignored this so please can you respect the 'No Entry' signs before we have an accident.

### Washing

Please remember, washing is NOT allowed to hang outside of the properties. Can you dry your laundry indoors.

**Thank you. Whinge over!**

## Drews Park Village Christmas Party

Friday December 14th 2001 was the social event of the year!

**THE ASSEMBLY** Rooms in Devizes was the venue for our annual Christmas Party. The beautiful room was festively decorated with holly and pointsettias by Joan Traverse-Healey and Mary Stevens (both dressed in fetching black evening gowns).

Our Master of Ceremonies, Graham Nugent, dressed in a daring white dinner jacket and took us through an evening of frivolity. After a welcome glass of champagne (nearly) we sat down to a festive four course dinner cooked by the Naked Chef (who looked ravishing but cold) followed by coffee and mince pies.

Gordon Ingleby, in sober dark blue, said grace and Tim Traverse-Healey gave the loyal toast in simple black. Following the quiz, and the raffle (which raised £150.00 for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance), those of us who still had enough energy took to the floor for a tango.

Malcolm and Norma Humphreys looked after the bar dressed in matching organza (although not sure about the split skirt, Malcolm!).

Many thanks to all who helped make the evening such a great success.



*The Drews Park contingent!*

# Roundway Parish – its future

The recent campaign by Roundway parish councillors for people to make their objections to the abolition of Roundway Parish known to Kennet District Council resulted in hundreds of slips saying no being delivered to KDC's Browfort offices.

Parish councillors received and passed on about 500 and we know many more were sent direct.

**ROUNDWAY Parish Council is arguing that Devizes Town Council wishes to absorb our parish simply to increase town council revenues, no matter how it is dressed up in terms of 'community'. Roundway residents would find themselves paying up to four times as much parish council tax with absolutely no benefits for the increase.**

The Town Council, on the other hand, is arguing that Roundway residents use the facilities of the town for free – i.e. with no tax support – and in any case the boundary has been blurred by recent changes.

You may well have seen many quite angry letters in the local newspapers: feelings are indeed running very high. As a Roundway Parish Councillor, I support the views of my fellow councillors, most of whom have lived in the parish very much longer than me and probably anyone else in Drews Park Village.

The veteran residents and councillors point out that, as well as the money aspect, there is the fact that Roundway is historic and has a rural heart: we do not live in the town. Moreover, its councillors live in the parish and know it which, if we lost our parish and became a fourth ward of the Town Council, would not be guaranteed.

A final point I would like to make is a glimpse towards the future. Roundway Parish Council has chosen to express

its concern about the risk of taxpayers paying more and getting nothing. However there are, as people have pointed out, very many more, equally serious issues at stake.

For example the arguments that the Town Council are making about taking over Roundway can equally be levied against the other parishes around: Rowde, Bishops Cannings etc.

We are concerned that this is another case of the all too often seen larger organisations of many kind gobbling up the smaller ones.

So we shall carry on debating and arguing. In the meantime I would like to thank those who supported our Parish Council campaign, and I hope you will continue to do so.

**Faith Tait**

## Neil Geraghty

### Painting & Decorating

Apprenticeship served • Ex-Rendalls  
20 Years Experience • FREE Estimates

2 Thurnham Court Thomas Wyatt Road Devizes Wiltshire SN10 5FL  
Tel: 01380 729382 Mobile: 07968 860410  
Email: neil.geraghty@btinternet.com



# Neighbourhood Watch

An update from your Area co-ordinator:  
Suzy Holmes (8 Thurnham Court) Tel: 739346

You should all shortly be receiving a form asking you to decide whether you are interested in becoming part of the Drews Park Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

**THERE WILL** also be attached some photocopied Home Office information about the scheme (we are currently awaiting the official Home Office Packs, which will be forwarded to you as soon as they are available). It is very important that you let your Court representatives know *either way* so that we do not hassle you with information if you are NOT interested.

As a result of the last edition of Drews News, some residents in Elliott Court expressed an interest in becoming part of the scheme. A letter was sent to each household asking them to state their interest and also requesting a volunteer court representative. Many thanks to **Edward Lockwood** who has kindly volunteered for the role.

Either Edward Lockwood or the area co-ordinator, Suzy Holmes, will be happy to receive the Elliott Court replies.

However, we still need a representative from Thurnham Court 'B' which includes house numbers 23 to 41. It is NOT a time consuming role – honest! Anyone willing to become the court representative should contact Suzy Holmes on 739346.

*Please also note that Thurnham Court 'A' representative – Jo Corbett – has moved from number 12 to 16.*

The updated court reps are all detailed below.

Useful websites  
[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)  
[www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)

When you are out...

- Even if it is only for a short period of time, make sure all your doors and windows are locked. It only takes a few minutes for a burglar to break in!
- If you are out for an evening, draw the curtains and leave a light on (not just the hall light). Burglars prefer unoccupied houses
- Don't leave lots of money in your house. It's safer in a bank, building society or post office
- When you are out, try to keep to well-lit, busy streets and walk facing the oncoming traffic. Avoid short cuts across wasteland or through dimly-lit alleys and parks

Be a good neighbour  
If you see anyone in your Court acting suspiciously, call the police.

Court Name	Court No	Representative	Tel No
Bowes Court	18	Peter Bennis	739419
Burnham Court	5	Sue Chick	724774
Chapel Court	7	Jon Hunt	730449
Clocktower Lodge	8	Jean Mortimer	724586
Cooke Court	5	Karolyne Fudge-Malik	739033
Elliott Court	17	Edward Lockwood	730709
Speer Court	7	Caroline Hayes	730480
Thurnham Court (A) 1-22	16	Jo Corbett	724171
<b>Thurnham Court (B) 23-41</b>		<b>We need a representative!</b>	
Wyatt Court	7	Gordon Ingleby	723316

# Noticeboard

## Wanted

### New Tools for Old

**Robert Adams** is collecting old, discarded tools for reconditioning and sending to the world's poorest countries – like Tanzania and Nicaragua. The requirement is for carpentry or engineering tools – chisels, hammers, planes, screwdrivers, saws and the like.

Robert's brother John takes the tools to Holt, near Bradford-on-Avon, where a group of dedicated men make up kits for despatch abroad, where they are carefully allocated to needy communities.

Ancient chisels are sharpened up like new and handles are fitted. Likewise, a restored **hand** sewing machine can give a group of women a sense of self sufficiency, when they can make clothes for use and to sell, instead of accepting hand-outs from others.

Also, small 'unsuitable' items can be sold to raise cash to support the work of the reconditioning group at Holt.

***If you think you can help Robert, please take any items you have to him at 6 Cooke Court. Thank you.***

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

## For Sale

4'6" Pine Headboard. Brand new, still in box. £25. Tel: 729739.

'Next' wall mounted, gold circular shower rail. 75cm diameter. Brand New, still in box. £25. Tel: 729739.

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

## Drews' Views

Your opinion counts!! Let us know your views or thoughts regarding the newsletter or anything on and around Drews' Park Village.

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

## Scientists Warn of Global Warming!

After an invite to spend a wonderful week in Benidorm, in March, to catch up on some sun here is a poetic view of what it was *really* like in not-so-sunny Spain! ...

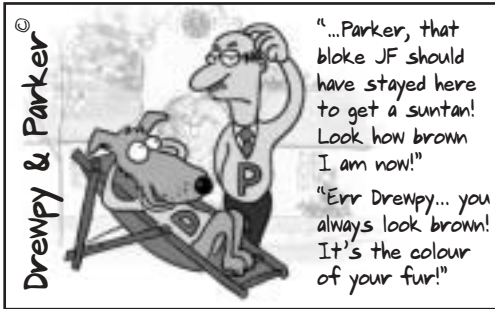
Sunday offered just half of its Sun  
Monday gave us no more.

Tuesday was worse. It drowned everyone  
With eight hours of Torrential Downpour.

Wednesday's promenade was the coldest I've trod.  
The next two days were no better.

To Hell with all scientists, I'll get back to God  
And send him a bloody strong letter.

*JF, Wyatt Court*



## Theatre Club



The Theatre Group continue to enjoy a varied repertoire of shows at the local Wharf Theatre, ‘*The Shakespeare Revue*’ in January was particularly enjoyed and voted by some as the best show yet, whilst ‘*Murderer*’ by Anthony Shaffer provoked a more varied reaction. We ventured further afield on Valentines Day and attended the Chisinau National Ballet’s Production of ‘*The Nutcracker*’ with choreography by the Artistic Director of the Bolshoi Ballet, this proved a very good day out.

### Future Visits arranged are to the following:

‘**PIRATES OF PENZANCE**’ by the Devizes Light Operatic Society at Dauntsey School on Thursday 11th April.

Tickets £6.00 (£4.50 Concessions).

‘**WOMAN IN MIND**’ by Alan Ayckbourn at the Wharf Theatre on Thursday 2nd May at 7.30pm. Tickets £5.50. Booking starts early April.

‘**SALAD DAYS**’ performed by the Rose Bowl Award winners, Eklypse Musical Theatre, at the Wharf Theatre, on Thursday 13th June. Booking starts early May.

A suggestion has been made to go to The Mill at Sonning during the summer, where the performance includes Dinner or Lunch in their riverside restaurant. Tickets £25.50 plus cost of travel. The only matinee performances with lunch in the week are for ‘*Funny Business*’ a comedy by Derek Benfield on Thursday 18th and 25th July and 1st August. Otherwise an evening performance with Dinner prior to the show, or a Saturday Matinee is available for ‘*Too Marvellous for Words*’ a musical based on the life of Johnny Mercer, from 9th April until 11th May or ‘*Chase Me Comrade*’ a farce by Ray Cooney from 14th May until 22nd June, Matinee price as above, evening with Dinner £31.50.

**For more information on these or any other events, please contact Mary Stevens on 739599.**

## 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.