

DrewsNews

The Newsletter of Drews Park Village Association - Autumn 2006 - Issue 17



The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right names. Chinese Proverb!

Residents were celebrating the installation of the Drews Park name signs we have been waiting to see for so long. They have been placed on the first entrance to Thomas Wyatt Road, visible from Byron Road, and just inside the second entrance just beyond the pillar box. It has been suggested that a tree similar to the one in the photo above should be planted behind the Chapel Court area name sign to give it the lovely green background of the one above.

The signs complement the grounds that have been looking so lovely this summer, with new planting (see page 10) and a number of treatments to improve the grassed areas.

DEAR RESIDENTS OF DREWS PARK...



First of all welcome to new residents and I hope you have been enjoying the lovely ambience of Drews Park at this time of year along with the rest of us. The spell of mainly dry hot weather in July left some lawn areas looking a bit parched, but the efforts of Bruce with the garden and planted areas under the direction of Nora Ingleby have certainly paid off as they have been looking lovely.

* Whilst on the subject of the grounds, I would like to touch on their use generally. As residents here we all contribute to their maintenance through the service charge as a communal amenity for us all to enjoy. As with any shared facility, however, some degree of courtesy and respect for others is necessary to ensure that friction is avoided. The holding of parties and barbecues are particularly sensitive areas, especially in the evening with music being played which can cause some problems with noise levels if held right outside other resident's windows. On behalf of the Committee therefore I would like to make a plea to those holding parties not immediately adjacent to their own property to site them in more open areas such as the lower garden areas in Wyatt and Cooke Courts which are further away from other resident's windows.

* On a few other points the new Drews Park signs are now installed and from the feedback we have received the general consensus seems to be that they have enhanced the appearance and recognition of our community.

*We continue to monitor and liaise with our managing agent regarding the general maintenance of the buildings that we all share and a review of current arrangements is now underway. The new rubbish collection arrangements are addressed on page 5.

*Our AGM for 2006 is scheduled for Tuesday 24th October at 7.30pm and we hope that members will come along to contribute to the meeting. If you are not a member already you can come along and join up on the night. Also a reminder that there is still a vacancy for the post of Hon. Secretary on the Committee and I would like to thank Lisa Penington for carrying this responsibility on an interim basis. Also we urgently need a Neighbour Watch Coordinator to liaise with the local police. Any offers?

Finally I hope you have all enjoyed a summer break and are prepared for the onset of what we hope will be a beautiful autumn.

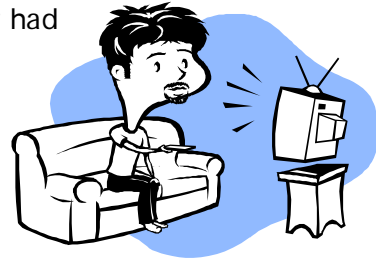
Peter Bennis
Chairman DPVA



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR TV DOESN'T WORK!

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We had a phone call after a storm recently. A resident had difficulty in getting a good picture after thunder and lightening. We advise residents **not** to call Telstar immediately (our communal aerial providers) as they are located in Yeovil, and if the problem is your equipment you could personally face a stiff bill. First thing to do is check with your neighbours each side - if their picture is OK, it is probably a fault in your connections or booster, if you have one.



Our caller identified the problem as a damaged booster, so saved himself double expense.

Of course, if the problem is affecting several houses Sarsen will call Telstar and the cost will be met from our charges.

Why not try surge-proof adapters for all your TV and computer equipment? That could help if you are not around to un-plug when there is a storm.

Please share any information with us if you find good local contractors. We have a section on our web site (see foot of page) for Tradesmen and it helps if there are recommended firms to try out when we need them. Email our webmaster (webmaster@drewspark.co.uk) or phone any committee member with full contact details so we can add your 'finds' to our list.

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

Email: neil.geraghty@btinternet.com

BLACKSMITH AT WORK



John Girvan was engaged to make four sets of ornamental hand rails for Wyatt and Bowes Courts at Drews Park. He runs the Canal Forge at The Lower Wharf in Northgate Street, Devizes and is known for his specialised work with wrought iron. Other work he has carried out for residence includes internal ornamental gates for cellar

rooms.

There was a labyrinth of these interlinking cellars in the original building, although many of them are now permanently blocked and sealed

There are some cellars that have been retained and still have original early plastering with remains of white washed walls. Some are used for basement storage, although one in particular has been nicely decorated and used as extra rooms, while another has been adapted as a fitness gym for personal exercise.

The bat tower cellar is another that was retained as reported in the previous Drews News. John will be featuring the tall water towers in his forthcoming book entitled "Devizes Hidden Secrets", in which he investigates unusual features of the town that are hidden away. We hope to be able to report on this in the next Drews News.

You can contact John on 721759 or 725018 (evenings)

Book Club News

Here are the books we will be reading as we start our second year of the book group. You can join by calling Norma on 724950

October	I'm Not Scared by Niccolo Amanitti
November	The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Rjis Zafon
December	Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
January 2007	The Righteous Men by Sam Bourne
February	We need to Talk about Kevin by Lionel Shriver
March	The Railway Man by Eric Lomax

See Notice Board on pg 11! New tenants may not know that putting washing out in the grounds is strictly against the head lease terms!

New Arrangements for Refuse Collection - Update

Refuse and recycling arrangements have been in force for only two months, but we have had feed-back from a number of residents. In general we haven't come across anyone who welcomes fortnightly collection of kitchen waste but if we can't change it we have to make it work. Where people are making sure plastic, foil, bottles etc are separated, the household waste has reduced and the bins can just about accommodate it.

One of the main problems is the amount of cardboard packaging people are putting the bin stores. This is not collected by the refuse collectors and should go to Hopton recycling Centre.

The situation at the moment is that Sarsen are collecting it (at your expense) even though many people are taking the trouble and responsibility to dispose of their packaging correctly.



If you haven't already noticed, there is a list of what can be recycled and where in the bin stores.

There is an amazingly comprehensive booklet on recycling produced by The Wiltshire Wild Life Trust which gives 76 pages of A-Z of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' information. So if you've got any queries we will try and find the information you need. Just email drewsnews@drewspark.co.uk and we'll get back to you! As an example, there are two pages on reuse of paper! For example print on the clean side of already used sheets if it's a test or rough copy. White paper, newspaper, magazines and junk mail etc can be put in the recycle bin. Coloured paper (e.g. Yellow pages) should not as the dye cannot be removed in the process. Envelopes should not be recycled if they have 'windows' as the plastic element can downgrade the quality of recycled paper.

For those who haven't been sorting their rubbish before it can seem to be a bit of a chore. However, it does seem to be ridiculous to fill the earth with items that will possibly never rot down and will stay in the earth, possibly polluting it, for ever. We hope there will be a plastics collection soon.

As we have reminded you in our leaflet delivered to all residents in June, Kennet have the right to inspect our black bags and refuse to take our rubbish if things are wrongly recycled. The maximum fine is £1,000 !! So please try and co-operate for the sake of all at Drews Park.

THE RETURN

Annette has a bit of fun but wonders if the joke is on her!



I had reservations about buying a house at Drews Park. It had been a mental hospital serving three counties, built in 1851 of Murhill stone which was thought to be more appropriate than the heavy red brickwork of the district. Even so, my first impression, while it was still undergoing conversion was one of forbidding austerity and had nothing to associate it with the cosy cottage where I had previously lived. However, my personal circumstances forced me to make a decision and the price was right, so I moved in January 2001. I didn't see anyone except the gardener for weeks and I asked him if anyone else lived here. His laconic reply was *'Oh yes, they all come out in the spring!'* After that rather depressing start, as the gardener predicted, it all changed with the spring and people emerged like the daffodils. When I was in the house I would leave the front door open so that the scent of the flowers from the lime tree would drift through like incense.

On such a morning I was slightly disconcerted to find a small man standing on my doorstep twisting a cloth cap in his hands and peering into my hall with more than cursory interest. *'Can I help you?'* I said rather coldly. *'I'm Arnold'* he said and before I could stop him he had stepped inside. *'I used to live here'*. He was gazing round with his mouth slightly open. *'It's all changed'*. He moved towards the kitchen. *'Hey, I said, 'Please leave my house or I will call the police'*. He didn't answer, but moved rapidly towards the sitting room. By this time I was thoroughly alarmed. He didn't look threatening, being half my size and a good deal older but he was certainly an unwelcome visitor. I grabbed him by the elbow of his frayed old coat and my hand seemed to go through the material and out the other side. *'Sorry'* he muttered, *'lost the stuffing some time ago - can I sit down?'*

Cont'd...

He looked at me and chuckled. *'You ought to see your face! There are a lot of us about you know. You just happen to be one of the lucky ones, able to see us'*

I sat down heavily. I said *'I suppose it's no use asking if you would like a cup of coffee?' He shook his head. 'Just wanted to see the old place. This was a ward you know. My bed was just there.'* He pointed and laid his rather grubby hand on the wall. Then I had the feeling he would not leave a mark nor would the cushion be indented when he left.



Unbidden tears rose to my eyes. *'Nothing to cry about'* Arnold said briskly, *'I was a real bad one - one of the worst. Had to hold me down sometimes when I got violent.'* *'What were you here for?'* I said stiffly. *'Beating up my wife, both wives actually.'* *'Well then, you deserved it!'* He burst out laughing, *'Nah, never touched 'em, just a few screws loose.'* He tapped his head. *'But I've got a secret'* he leaned towards me, *'Nobody else knows.'* He winked *'Tell you next time.'* *'Next time'*, I said faintly. *'Yea!'* He was rapidly fading before my eyes, only the voice remained. *'Sorry about this, the power runs out pretty quickly - we are only given low voltage bulbs.'* I really could not understand what he was talking about and began to think I was hallucinating, but then he went on *'This room'* he said, *pointing at the kitchen 'was the Matron's room. Nicely painted, it was, in green with pictures on the wall.'*

Well, there wasn't a 'next time' as it happened. A few weeks later I read a book all about the hospital and to my surprise I discovered that my kitchen - the Matron's office - was replaced by the Superintendent's house (The Red House just to the right of Wyatt Court) over 100 years ago. That would make my visitor about 140 years old!

So I suppose I was dreaming. But even so, I quite expect Arnold to turn up one day again when the door is open and I am enjoying the fragrance of the blossoming lime tree outside.

Annette Piper belongs to the Book Club, the U3A and a creative writing group.



DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
6th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th October 2006 at 19.30

At the Fox and Hounds (right at the roundabout at the end of Marshall Road, and about 100 yards along)

AGENDA

- ✓Apologies
 - ✓Chairman's Report
 - ✓Treasurer's Report
 - ✓Amendment of Constitution
 - ✓Annual Subscription
 - ✓Election of Officers and Members
 - ✓Any other Business
-

DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Nomination Form for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday
24th October 2006

I (please print)

Agree to stand for the Post of.....

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Signed.....Date.....

All forms to be delivered to the Chair, Peter Benns at 18 Bowes Court no later than Tuesday 17th October.

SWANSONG OF A SOAP SALESMAN



Public-spirited as I am, I could not let her risk a £1,000 fine for *Inappropriate Abuse of Litter*, so I picked up her discarded shopping list as she tried to manoeuvre her unmanageable shopping trolley out into the car park. I took her list on into the caff at Morrison's supermarket, which has just been completely refurbished. It seemed to be every bit as ghastly as the Safeway caff it has this year replaced. It already looked tired and grotty in the extreme after a few weeks in use. I was not surprised, as I only visited this temple to the cheap, third rate and nasty, because it had a useful free car park and a chemist outlet.

Prompted by my early career in consumer goods marketing, as a carefree soap salesman, and later as a marketing specialist at Prosper & Grumble, and in several large food companies, I studied her guilty litter shopping list with an expert eye, while downing a beige substance which the menu assured me bore a remote and precarious resemblance to something which had originally been coffee, on a real coffee plant in Somewhere-or-Otherland.

It was an unexceptional list: I assumed that *"flea & tick stuff"* was correlated with the item *"cat food"* though you can never tell in Devizes -- it also has human problems. I felt that the coded letters *"TmPx"* showed a comely pudeur over the intimate secrets of her gender, and read, guiltily as a voyeur, on to the infant soporific *"Calpol"*, indicating a fairly recently active sex life. There were healthy items from a shopping list of yesteryear, when Housewives' Choice and the village shop still existed, but the provenance had somewhat changed: *"bananas"* from the Bahamas, right enough, but *"potatoes"* from Peru? *"Sugar snaps"* from the Sudan? *"Broccoli"* from Bangladesh? *"Raspberries"* from Rawalpindi? *"Apples"* from Australia? Who knows? Who cares?

Like any good Catholic at confession, she had saved the juiciest sins for last:

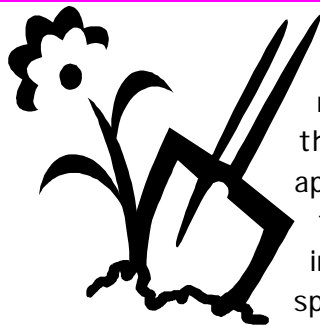
"pizza" *"hot dogs"* and *"crisps"*. I assumed charitably that these were aimed at junior, for fear that he or she might fall behind in the schoolyard obesity races.

It was all unexceptional, except that she did not seem to have a square meal anywhere on the list. No meat, no fish, for instance. Then I unlocked its secret, an item I had missed, the single, innocent word *"meals"*. But then, what would she want with a meal? Already 25% of British households no longer even possess a table around which to have family meals.

By *"meals"* she meant, of course, the cosy-sounding horror of *"ready meals"*. It does not matter what nominal *gooormay deeelites* she chose: Chicken Jalfresi, Sweet & Sour Shanghai Prawns, Sharks' Teeth Bonne Femme, Goats' Genitals Moscow Underground, Shrimps A la Morecambe Bus Station, it's all dyed red and gloopy-gloopy in a congealed, greasy, salty, sugary machine-dropping, tasting exactly the same synthetic chemical tastes whatever its fanciful title, hermetically deprived of oxygen, and extruded into an impenetrable plastic skin – the part of it all that tastes best.

Michael says he gets a great deal of fun out of his membership of the Devizes Writing Group's relaxed and friendly monthly meetings in the Crown Centre. Contact him on 01380 738048 to come along for a taster session.

DIG IT!



looking good.

A crescent of some 50 Lavenders has been planted. Lily bulbs will be added, when available, interspersed with the Lavender - giving the impression of Lilies floating above the Lavender. Next year we should really see the benefit.

Twenty Buddleia have been planted in Thurnham to give colour to the green planting. This planting was difficult as quite a lot of rubble had to be removed, plus the depth of the soil is poor in some beds as one hits concrete. A further sixteen Hydrangeas have been planted, we will endeavour to get more as and when available. These areas greatly enhanced as they flower all summer and are relatively low maintenance. More Lavatera have been planted beside the walk between Inner Wyatt Court and Burnham Court. A number of Photinia have been planted replacing shrubs that had either died of old age or the cold winter conditions of last year. We seem to lose



a few plants last year due to the prevailing cold and windy conditions. Several shrubs were replaced in the lower formal flower beds of Wyatt Court.

Several people remarked how lovely the daffodils were last spring we will be adding more this autumn. These will be mainly on the Ring Road ie Thomas Wyatt Road - so that we can all enjoy them as we drive round. No daffodils will be planted on the small lawns close to the houses for obvious reasons - cutting of the grass. Daffodils will be planted in drifts close to the road or on islands where appropriate.

A great deal of compost, feed and manure have been added to the beds, existing planting, and all new planting has had a good supply of this mixture to get them off to a good start. Plants are only as good as the soil you put them in. Unfortunately our soil conditions leave a lot to be desired. Therefore needs a lot of TLC.

People who walk Thomas Wyatt Road, and do not live here, have remarked how lovely the grounds are looking. I think that says it all!

NOTICE BOARD

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

We are please to say that we have a new Co-ordinator at last for our Neighbourhood watch members. Katie Shepherdson will undertake this task as well as looking after Cooke Court. Each Court has a representative, We are still looking for someone to look after 1-22 Thurnham, Cooke and Chapel. It's not particularly onerous; just look out for new residents and put a Welcome Pack through their door. As for the Co-ordinator, we needed someone who is computer literate, able to communicate electronically with the local Watch organization, and who will send warnings and general information from time to time. Thanks for volunteering Katie!

(May also lead to 10% contents insurance reduction)

COURT	NO	REPRESENTATIVE	PHONE
Bowes	18	Peter Bennis	739419
Burnham	6	Sue Chick	724774
Chapel		<i>Representative required</i>	
Clock Tower	5	Christine O'Sullivan	725588
Cooke	9	Katie Shepherdson	729929
Elliot	11	Edward Lockwood	730709
Speer	5	Alan Shaw	730284
Thurnham (1-22)		<i>Representative required</i>	
Thurnham (23-41)	30	J Burt-Andrews Fax only	727418
Wyatt	7	Gordon Ingleby	723316

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NEWS OF DREWS PARK RESIDENT

We are pleased to let you know that John Stevens, who was the Association's first Chair, has been elected as Chair of the Roundway Parish Council.

MORE WASHING SEEN OUT THIS SUMMER!

Perhaps tenants or new owners do not know that it is absolutely against the lease terms to put washing outside your front doors. We also see more bicycles outside - if your court does not have a bike rack, please contact anyone in the Association or Paul Crovella at Sarsen.

BUY BACK YOUR OWN DAFFODILS!

Residents reported being asked by young people knocking at their doors to buy arms full of daffodils which had obviously just been picked on our own grounds! They were soon confiscated and we hope it will not happen again.

THEATRE NEWS by Mary Stevens



I do hope you have all been enjoying the summer and the opportunity to get outside and enjoy the lovely surroundings we have here at Drews Park. However the weather over the last couple of weeks is a reminder that autumn is on its way and The Wharf opens its new season. A party of some twelve residents went to Newbury to the Watermill to see The Hot Mikado on 31st August, a wonderful

production which everyone seemed to enjoy. On 7th September we saw "WEST SIDE STORY" at the Wharf, a very enjoyable presentation by EKLYPSE THEATRE GROUP, a young and enthusiastic local group that we have seen before. We have been to some of their productions in the past and have enjoyed the shows, even when we had criticisms they were always tempered by our recognition of their energy and talent. Thursday 5th October heralds a comedy by John Chapman and Jon Pertwee called "LOOK NO HANS" The tickets are £8 so please contact Gail Mumford on 736415 **right away** if you would like to come. When I have the programmes for later productions, I will pop them through the door as I usually do.

Committee members - Contact numbers

Peter Bennis 739419 pjb.midas@virgin.net	Chairman	18, Bowes Court
Lisa Penington 739588 lisa@drewspark.co.uk	Vice Chair	6 Wyatt Court
Gail Mumford 736415 Mumford@burbage24.fsnet.co.uk	Treasurer	19 Bowes Court
Gail Nugent 730118 gailofarabia@yahoo.co.uk	Member	9 Wyatt Court
Clive Rowland 722526 cliverow@toucansurf.com	Member	8 Wyatt Court

Co-opted Members

Nora Ingleby 723316 nora@drewspark.co.uk	Gardens	7 Wyatt Court
Ralph Meyer Webmaster@drewspark.co.uk	Webmaster	

Neil Geraghty has resigned as Committee member - we are still seeking a Secretary