

# DrewsNews

The newsletter of Drews Park Village Association Autumn 2012 Issue 28



**Devizes Castle**

## DEAR RESIDENTS OF DREWS PARK



Dear Residents of Drews Park,

This will be my last letter to you all as Chair of the Drews Park Village Association. I shall pass this role on at the A.G.M on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and I hope you feel that I and your committee have served you well these past four years.

Although I have always thought of Drews Park a wonderful place to live, I also feel that the small market town of Devizes also has so much to offer. Each year the Devizes Festival is held in June where some of the country's best known celebrities, artists and musicians appear. This is

closely followed by the Food Festival, the free Street Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend culminating with the Carnival week. Local people are fantastic at supporting all of these events and I hope you enjoyed some of them yourself.

It is unfortunate that your Association is not given that same support, until you find things aren't going as you hoped. There are a number of things that have changed throughout the year especially within Sarsen HA which is now Aster Communities. This means of course that there is a continual change of staff that we all have to try to identify and deal with. We have as always been chasing a number of outstanding matters; here are the most recent updates.

**Reduction of street lighting** to 10 street lights in Thomas Wyatt Road between midnight and 0500hrs. The new dimmers should be fitted in the next few weeks. None of the lights in car parks or near houses will be affected.

**Repairs to the wall in Burnham Court** - this ongoing saga has finally been completed and the planting to enhance the appearance and loss of self-seeded trees has been finalized.

**Recycling cardboard and plastic** - if you need a comedy script of excuses for why the new large bins have not been installed simply phone Wiltshire C.C. The latest excuse is, the bins that were recently delivered, when tested locked up when on the lorry and wouldn't release the contents. So we continue to wait. Sorry but we are chasing this continually on your behalf. (See also page 11)

**TV** - It appears that we may be in for some quite extensive upgrading to our existing TV arial system. Your committee will be meeting with Aster and Leppards the contractors shortly and will come back to you with their suggestions. It may be that the work can be carried out in stages to spread the cost.

*Cont'd*

Although we all hated the weeks of wet weather, I find when walking around the gardens the planting new and old looks really spectacular thanks to the attention of our gardener Bruce Bullock. Hopefully we will all be able to spend time enjoying them before the winter months set in. Please give some thought to joining your committee at the A.G.M.

Regards, Norma - Chair, DPVA

### FAREWELL TO ELAINE !

We've been delighted to have Elaine Collier the DPVA Committee for the last couple of years, but she and her husband are shortly moving away to be near family members. They've not gone yet but we understand it is imminent so Elaine is standing down with effect from this July. She will really be missed for her input to Charles all the best their new home.



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in

## IT Tips

**Can an email be 'locked' so that only the recipient can see it?**

Actually, as far as we are aware there is no email provider who allows this.

Downloading an encryption security programme would be the only way.

However, there is a way that an email can be seen only by the person writing it and the recipient.

dead letter drop'. You could set up a

Hotmail account and share the password with your correspondent only. Log in and compose your letter and save it as a draft. Then notify your friend that an email is waiting for him. All he/she has to do is to log in and read the draft. It has not been sent anywhere and subject to keeping the password safe it won't be seen by anyone else.



programme would be

can be seen only by  
It could be called 'a  
dedicated Gmail or

## Planting Party

A small party of residents got together late in April and during May to put in the first of a succession of hydrangeas in Thurnham , Chapel, Speer and Clock Tower Courts. A grant was made by Aster Communities Neighbourhood scheme to complete the planting of shrubs outside the houses to match those in other Courts. Luckily we had rain, lots of it, when the shrubs were planted but as the year goes on we would



be grateful if residents who have plants outside their houses could put some water on now and again as young shrubs like this need a good start to grow strongly.

Credit must go to Bruce (our gardener) for the great improvement in the large beds in Thurnham. They are full of lavender which lasts for so long, with a wonderful scent and attraction for bees. He has worked very hard over the last few years to make them a credit to the site



## Coffee Shops in Devizes

**Simon Evans reflects on the coffee break** - People seem horrified at the thought of more coffee shops in Devizes. The old Currys will soon be one, and we recently got the Peppermill near the Town Hall. There are now a dozen or so establishments in the centre of town where coffee is available in comfortable surroundings. They take up space that would otherwise be empty, and one can only assume that the owners of these businesses think they will be profitable.



Some Devizes coffee shops are independent and some branches of national chains (like Costa Coffee and Café Nero). What they almost all share, regardless of who owns them, is high prices. Conventional economic wisdom says that competition encourages efficiency, drives out poor performers, and reduces prices. It does not seem to have happened in Devizes, although there is one pub that sells a good cappuccino for one pound, less than half the price it costs in most other places. Obviously the coffee bars are providing a needed service and people don't mind spending £2 or more a head to sit down, drink a good cup of coffee and relax.

One wonders if the coffee shops are taking trade away from the pubs. Perhaps they are more attractive places to go than the pubs, or at least customers think they are. Or perhaps the emphasis on not drinking and driving has discouraged drivers from drinking at all - and the driver says to his companions "If I can't you can't, so we'll all get a coffee."

One difficulty for us in Drews Park is getting a good coffee close at hand - you can drive into town, drive to Planks farm shop, or buy your own machine. £100 gets you an espresso machine, but connoisseurs spend several hundred. I am looking forward to the day when someone builds a coffee shop on the old KMC site, perhaps at the corner of Green Lane and Byron Road, and I can walk to it. In the meantime, as I know this will not happen I do without, or go into town.

\* \* \* \* \*

## POLLARDED TREES IN BURNHAM AND CLOCK TOWER COURTS



RESIDENTS got a bit of a shock when some of the lime trees at Drews Park were pollarded in April. It seems that some varieties of lime trees can have their life extended by many years with this treatment, but next time we hope to have a chance to warn you!

Below you can see the change by mid August and we're told that next year will see a greatly improved growth of the canopy.

Anyone who has experience of living or holidaying in France (and other countries) will have seen this treatment to the plane trees which grace many villages and towns. Every few years they are drastically cut back and within a short time they look wonderful again, and we've noticed other sites in Wiltshire where trees have had this treatment.

We were a little concerned about the lime tree near Clock Tower though, as it seemed in June to be losing its new leaves, which were withering and turning black in places, but in August it seems to be doing fine.



## PROBLEMS WITH FREEVIEW?

Members of the committee had a number of phone calls earlier this year about problems with getting the right channels on their Freeview boxes. The worst of the problems were sorted out but some people found they got the wrong local news programmes on BBC1 and had to use the 800 numbers to get West Country news. A recent retune by one of our members rectified this problem, so it's worth trying but as our Chair has pointed out in her newsletter, the arial may need upgrading soon after about 12 years of use and various technological developments.

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR ASTER

Ian Handley (1<sup>st</sup> point of contact)

Home Ownership Co-ordinator

[ian.handley@astercommunities.co.uk](mailto:ian.handley@astercommunities.co.uk)

[stephen.craig@astercommunitites.co.uk](mailto:stephen.craig@astercommunitites.co.uk)

Direct dial - 01264 405547

Mobile - 07738192722

Stephen Craig

Commercial Services Manager

Direct dial – 01380 735403

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

As we now have a large number of active members please telephone Norma on 724950 to check availability if you would like to join us.

If not perhaps you will enjoy some of the books we are reading.

September	<i>Cold Comfort Farm</i> by Stella Gibbons
October	<i>The Reader</i> by Bernhard Schlink
November	<i>The Marriage Plot</i> by Jeffrey Eugenides
December	<i>Close Range</i> (Wyoming short stories) by Annie Proulx
January	<i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i> by Muriel Barbery
February	<i>At Lady Molly's</i> by Anthony Powell
March	<i>The Last Good Man</i> by A J Kazinsky
April	<i>The Tree of Man</i> by Patrick White
May	<i>The Piano Cemetery</i> by Jose Peixoto
June	<i>The Kappellan of Malta</i> by Nicholas Monserrat

**DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**



**12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 19.00**

**At the Fox and Hounds, Nursteed Road, Devizes.**

**AGENDA**

- ❖ Apologies
- ❖ Chairman's Report
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Amendments to Constitution
- ❖ Election of committee members
- ❖ Any other Business

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**DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**

**Nomination Form for the Annual General Meeting to be held on **Tuesday**  
**16<sup>th</sup> October 2012****

**I..... (Please print)**

**Agree to stand for the DPVA committee**

**Proposed by.....**

**Seconded by.....**

**Signed.....Date.....**

***All forms to be delivered to the Chair, Norma Humphreys at 12Wyatt  
Court no later than Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October.***



## ISN'T IT TIME YOU GAVE SOMETHING BACK?



The Drews Park Village Association was formed in 1999 when the development was in its infancy. The object of the Association originally was to ensure that the developer finished the site to our expectations and to monitor the Management of Drews Park by Sarsen HA.

During the past 13 years your committee has been very active. We have influenced the planning applications for the Katherine McNeil clinic, yet to be developed. Attended and won a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal to maintain the sinking fund at a realistic cost. Participated in some three+ meetings a year with our Managing Agent and Freeholder (now called Aster Properties) to ensure that Drews Park building and grounds remain in good order at a fair cost. We go through **all** accounts to make sure you get value for money.

Your committee meets a maximum of 4 times throughout the year and **we need some help!** During the past couple of months we have lost two active members due to their relocation. Which now leaves only four elected members; plus 2 co-opted members all of whom have spent many years in various roles working continually on your behalf,. Your current Chairman will have completed four years in the Chair at the time of the next AGM and cannot commit to serve for a fifth year. We need you to think seriously about what would happen, if, due to lack of support the Drews Park Village Association was allowed to disintegrate.

Please give some serious thought to giving a little back and support those who have worked so diligently on your behalf and please note that long term tenants are also welcome on the committee. The AGM will be held at 7pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> October at the Fox and Hounds public house, Nursteed Road. Please become a member of your committee and ensure the continuance of the DPVA.

## RESTAURANT CORNER

The Fox at Broughton Gifford



**"Un-missably outstanding in every way!"**

Reviewed 13 January 2012

This charming, relaxed un-pretentious, fairly modestly priced, friendly country pub, has one really outstanding virtue: Truly wonderful food, not ruined by over-elaborate or fancified treatments.

Just a glimpse - The charcuterie is home made from home grown pork, the poultry is

also home grown and, apart from its very fresh sea fish, almost all the ingredients are sourced from the rich Wiltshire countryside very nearby and its vegetables are grown outside the back door.

On our last visit, the parfait was magically wonderful, the pork was beautifully succulently developed and tenderly cooked, and the home grown vegetables to die for.

The place was full of very happy diners on a Friday night, and is, notably, open on Monday nights, a rarity. The service was charming and impeccable and avoided the irritatingly frequent abrupt interruptions that many diners do not enjoy: "R U Hengggoy'n yor meel?"

I have eaten blissfully here six times within four months, brilliantly well every time. The Fox, which is at Broughton Gifford village, a mile or two from Melksham, shows a clean pair of heels to all other contenders for many miles around. Well worth the short trip from Bath, Devizes, Chippenham, Marlborough or the M4.

It is a good idea to go early, and have a relaxed drink in the large, comfortable leather sofas of the bar area, in a place where there are smiles on all lips because we recognise when we are in a really, really, really good place.

It would be a very sad mistake to miss the Fox, where I have often dined so lusciously on home produce, and as well as in the best farm-based restaurants in Italy. The owner is an exciting enthusiast for great and consistent culinary excellence.

He deserves a starring role in the food world.

Michael Murphy.

The Fox, Broughton Gifford, Melksham SN12 8PN, Tel:01225 782949

Each Court should have a representative. We are still looking for someone to look after 23-41 Thurnham.. It's not particularly onerous; just look out for new residents and put a Welcome Pack through their door. Phone any committee member to sign on!

**(May also lead to 10% contents insurance reduction)**  
**Adrian Wood is our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator**

<u>COURT</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Bowes	18	Peter Bennis	739419
Burnham	6	Sue Chick	724774
Chapel	4	Kate Rodie	739704
Clock Tower	12	Adrian Wood	738424
Cooke	4	Mathew Bevan	08456219463
Elliot	11	Edward Lockwood	730709
Speer	3	Simon Evans	
Thurnham (1-22)	17	Dick Powney	739153
Thurnham (23-41)		<i>Representative required</i>	
Wyatt	6	Lisa Penington	739588

### **SOME NEWS ABOUT THE BINSTORES!**

You will have noticed that there are now plastic and cardboard bins, but only one small bin for about each eight households! Other houses in Devizes have one for each family. While we sort this out, **PLEASE** will you flatten cardboard and squash all plastic milk and other bottles to leave space for others. The committee is discussing removing at least one if the bins for bottles as we have discovered that although we separate them the coloured ones seems to go in the same compartment on collection!

**A message from a resident** - be sure to close the big bins when you deposit rubbish. This resident has more than once had to sweep up mess made by marauding foxes, and we have had problems with rats before now.



## *Theatre News by Mary Stevens*

The first production of the Autumn Season will be on

Thursday the 27th. September 2012, **"LIFE and BETH"**

A Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Tess Richards.

I already have tickets booked for this production.

Thursday the 1st. November 2012 **"THE GLASS MENAGERIE"** by Tennessee Williams, Directed by Deanna Capper. Thursday the 13th. December 2012, **"BABE THE SHEEP PIG"** by David Wood directed by Merrily Powell.

The New Year will start off on Thursday the 31st. January 2013 with **"BLITHE SPIRIT"** by Noel Coward directed by Abigail Newton  
*Contact Mary on 739599 or [marystevens@talktalk.net](mailto:marystevens@talktalk.net) for tickets as these will sell out fast. Fuller details of all these productions can be found on our website [www.drewspark.co.uk](http://www.drewspark.co.uk) under the 'social' tab. As usual Mary will inform Drews Park theatre goers about new productions as they are scheduled and do ask her for a brochure if you require one*

### **Members Contact details**

<b>Norma Humphreys</b> 724950 <a href="mailto:norma@drewspark.co.uk">norma@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Chair	12 Wyatt Court
<b>Adrian Wood</b> 738424 <a href="mailto:adrian@drewspark.co.uk">adrian@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Treasurer	12 Clock Tower
<b>Peter Benns</b> 739419 <a href="mailto:peter@drewspark.co.uk">peter@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Member	18 Bowes Court
<b>Christine Fitzmaurice</b> 726448 <a href="mailto:christine@drewspark.co.uk">christine@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Member	14 Wyatt Court
<b>Simon Evans</b> 730615 <a href="mailto:simon@drewspark.co.uk">simon@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Member	3 Speer Court
<b>Gail Nugent</b> 618904 <a href="mailto:gail@drewspark.co.uk">gail@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Co-opted Member	
<b>Lisa Penington</b> 739588 <a href="mailto:lisa@drewspark.co.uk">lisa@drewspark.co.uk</a> and <a href="mailto:drewsnews@drewspark.co.uk">drewsnews@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Drews news Ed & Membership Secretary	
<b>Ralph Meyer</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster@drewspark.co.uk">webmaster@drewspark.co.uk</a>		