

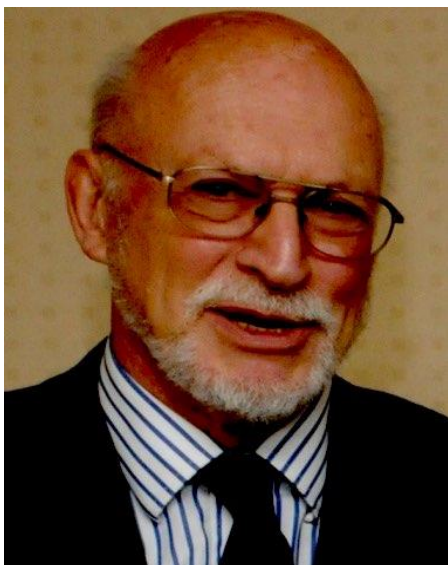
DrewsNews

The Newsletter of Drews Park Village Association Issue 41 spring 2019



BLUEBELL TIME

DEAR DREWS PARK RESIDENT

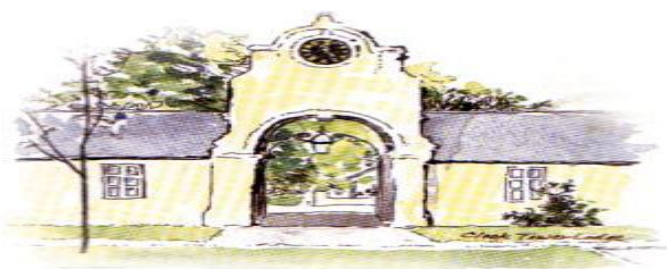


Despite cold, wet and windy weather Drews Park still looks good. Our dedicated gardeners have been working hard over the last year, as I am sure you have all noticed. Several neglected flowerbeds have been, or will be, replanted, and we will see the benefits this summer. We are tackling the plants at the playground, in Bowes, Thurnham, and Wyatt courts, and elsewhere.

Not all courts have flowerbeds. Unfortunately, we are limited to what English Heritage allows us to do, and further flower beds are not permitted. That prohibition does not extend to bulbs planted in the grass, and following the success of the daffodils planted 18 months ago we may seek to place more bulbs in areas otherwise short of flowers.

The regulations regarding cars and parking are for safety, but also to keep the residential character of the area insofar as possible. We are fortunate in having ample visitor parking space, but some residents take more than their fair share of the available parking. Most residents have one dedicated parking space for a car. Overnight parking of commercial vehicles is not permitted, nor is parking anywhere other than in an approved space. Aster, in consultation with DPVA, will draw up new parking regulations to curb some of the misuse that we see at present.

Happy Easter
Simon Evans
Chair DPVA



INTRODUCING JUDITH PAMELY

New Member of the DPVA Committee...

I relocated to Wiltshire from North Warwickshire with my husband John, in May 2017. I decided to make Drews Park my home because I like living in an historic building set in such beautiful grounds and we really enjoy living here.

I'm keen to help keep Drews Park a lovely place for all of us. Last year I worked with the garden team (fellow residents who enjoy gardening) to renovate the lavender gardens in Thurnham Court. Despite the heatwave the new lavender plants survived and flowered well and should look even more beautiful this summer.

All of my career has been based in IT and I've implemented projects for Jaguar Cars, NHS (Leicester Royal Infirmary) and TNT/FedEx. Whilst my work has been interesting and varied, technology is not my main interest. I like travelling (both in the UK and abroad) and have been lucky to visit some wonderful countries (including China, Vietnam and Costa Rica). I'm interested in wildlife and nature and my hobbies take me out into the beautiful countryside where I enjoy walking, bird watching and photography. I'm currently learning to draw and paint (with water colours) and although my skills are a bit limited I'm hoping to improve!



This year I'm hoping even more residents will become involved in helping to make Drews Park a real community garden.

A USEFUL APP FOR YOUR SMART PHONE

The DPVA was delighted to welcome Laura Mayes, our Councillor, to the AGM in October. She gave members the low-down on Planning issues in our area and you will find a report on what she said in the AGM minutes for 2018 on our website, although things may have moved on by now!

However, she did tell us about a useful App for your phone if you are out and about. It's called My Wiltshire and if you see something wrong, such as overflowing dog bins, potholes - anything like that, you can photograph it and it goes straight to the appropriate department. You must register for the APP which is also the source of other useful information.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR ASTER

According to Aster the best email address for leaseholders to use is homeownershipwiltshire@aster.co.uk. This is monitored by Hannah Enderby and Dawn Robins.

Leanna Weller is on maternity leave.

Beth Jerrard, Home Ownership Manager (2nd point of contact) 01380 735415

If all are unavailable - call 0333 400 8222 or Main Aster number 01380 726001

A TEN YEAR PLAN

Mary Rennie has been following the purchase of the old Devizes Court House Building..

What is the link between the old Roundway Hospital with the Assize Court in Devizes? Well, they were both designed by the same architect, Thomas Wyatt, whose name is commemorated in the peripheral road around Drews Park.

President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Wyatt had strong links with Wiltshire, designing many of its parish churches. The Grade 11 Assize Court was built in 1835 and has been empty and decaying since 1982 when the Magistrates Court closed. After many years of neglect and

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uncertainty about the future of the building, Devizes Assize Court Trust was established to purchase this iconic historic building.

The Trust aims to restore it and bring it into community use as a new home for the Wiltshire Museum. This will be a long-term project over the next 8 - 10 years.

The costs will be covered by grant funding from national bodies and donations from local philanthropists, as well as community fund raising.

Purpose-built galleries will showcase the Museum's nationally recognised collections (have you seen the Bronze Age archaeology featuring gold from the time of Stonehenge?). Plans include a lecture theatre, dedicated education space, and other community areas, plus a café accessible from the canal side walk proposed in Wiltshire Council's Wharf Development Plan.



Long-term residents of Devizes will no doubt have their own memories and stories about the Assize Court when it was in use, and there are plans to record these to illustrate its history.

If you would like to keep up to date with developments, you can sign up for newsletters on the Trust's website, <https://devizesassizecourt.org.uk/>, or pop into the Museum in Long Street to register your interest. www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/. You can follow the Trust on Facebook or Twitter - @devizesassizes. Keep an eye out for future information sessions and consultation events too.

GARDENS AT DREWS PARK

Our growing gardening group met again on 2nd March to discuss plans for the coming season. Judith Pamely has taken over the co-ordination of the group and a walk-around was undertaken on 15th March to assess the amount of work needed in Inner Bowes Court and, weather permitting, the work would start on 23rd. Some of the plants are dead and others need reducing. Residents of Bowes Court have been given the opportunity to participate and give their views.



The group has been allocated around £400/500 for replacement shrubs this year. We know that work is needed in most of the Courts and our helpers have some great ideas for moving plants where possible which will help to economise.

One of our group, Emerson (with his son) erected the long-awaited support for the grapevine in Burnham and Wiltshire Wildlife donated the wire so perhaps we will have even more grapes this year. Last year they were unsupported and dragged in the dust.



Excellent work was carried out on another overgrown bed in Thurnham (see above), led by Lorraine. Many thanks to those who worked so hard, and many

many thanks to those who worked so hard. Let us hope the stones will prevent the refuse vehicles from driving over the beds and breaking the kerb stones, which we, as leaseholders, have to replace each time that happens.

There are numerous plans: improvement around the Lime tree in Cooke, possible wild flowers around the large tree in Bowes, replacement of the lavender bushes in Lower Wyatt and much more.

Plans for Inner Bowes (beds 16-19) include clearing overgrowth, pruning and recovering roses and removing straggly plants. Dead lavender and a dead tree will be removed and variegated shrubs trimmed to the same levels.

As for our volunteers, many thanks again! Everyone is welcome and people can do as much or as little as they wish and have energy for. Please contact Judith (judith.pamely@btinternet.com) if you have any queries or would like to join the group and we will be pleased to see you.

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BOOK CLUB NEWS

If you would like to join us call Norma on 724950 or Lisa on 739588

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|
| Mar | Birdcage Walk by Helen Dunmore |
| April | Hadrian VII by Frederick Rolf |
| May | The Matchmaker of Périgord by Julia Stuart |
| June | A Legacy of Spies by John Le Carré |
| July | Days Without End by Sebastian Barrie |
| August | The Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker |
| Sept | River of No Reprieve by Jeffrey Tayler |
| Oct | The Children Act by Ian McEwan. |

PETS CHARTER - YET AGAIN

The leases for Drews Park specifically ban pets...

Did you know that? Over the years the DPVA worked with Aster to allow a concession which, on certain conditions, might allow people to bring their existing dog or cat to Drews Park, or to get one once here. This is the Pets' Charter and it sets down the conditions on which we can keep our pets. If people don't keep to these rules Aster has the right to ask for the pet to be rehomed.

The main condition is that dogs are not allowed on the grassed areas. A Drews Park resident, recently crossing the grass in one of the Courts, saw no less than five piles of dog fouling! Our gardeners, with their hand mowers, quite understandably refuse to cut the grass where they see dog droppings. Image the mess to the mowers, and worse, the gardeners' clothes when that hits the fan!

If people wish to keep their pets and avoid a rescinding of the Pets' Charter, (and this has been discussed) it is essential that the rules are kept. Dogs should be on leads and walked down the paths or roads to the open land. If by any chance your pet fouls the grass - **pick it up!** The grass outside our house is not 'your garden'. It is communal land maintained by all of us. The grassed areas are designated in the lease as 'amenity land' for the relaxation and enjoyment of all. Would you really want your children or grandchildren playing on grassed fouled by dogs, even if it has been removed?

A copy of the Charter is available from Aster or from a DPVA member.

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Amy, from Bowes Court says...'I'm replacing an original kitchen from when the building was developed in a week or so. `if anyone would like any of the units/door fronts, for free, of course - contact me on amymottram27@gmail.com'

SERVICE CHARGES AND AUDIT

Leaseholders may have been surprised to see a considerable increase mid-year in their charges for 2017/18. This was due to an overspend in the previous year, possibly because an amount for grounds maintenance appears to have been omitted from the service charge demand.

Most years we have had a refund which was deducted from the following year's invoice. Aster hopes to conclude the end of year accounts in a shorter period now so any over or underspend will be available by around October, so we might see a reduction or increase at that time, depending on the final accounts.

Audit originally cost around £400 in the early years, rising to £800 until last year when the cost rose to £3,000. As leasehold law states that any estate of more than four units must have external audit, we thought we were stuck with this. However, as Aster has members of their financial team who are members of one of the major Auditing Organisations, they are entitled to sign off our accounts so this should see a reduction in the future.



The DPVA Committee asked to be involved in the setting of service charges and several of us attended Aster's offices in early January. A few amendments were made but as far as we could judge there were no major omissions or unnecessary items.

A SAD 'GOODBYE' TO A DEAR FRIEND



Friends of Peter Benns' family were sad to hear of the death of Peter's wife of 49 years. Jenny had been ill, but few of us knew of the seriousness of her condition.

Friends and family at her funeral on Monday 11th March were reminded of her family life with amusing and sometimes touching anecdotes. As well as the support Jenny gave to the Residents' Association at Drews Park we recall her talent as a poet - some of her poetry published in past issues of our newsletter. It was good to hear Harbingers of Spring, written by Jenny and so evocative of this time

of year. After years of living and working abroad Jenny loved the scenic beauty of Drews Park. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has planted a new tree in her memory in the orchard.

We send our deepest condolences to Peter, his sons Richard and Stuart, and their grandchildren.

NOTICE BOARD

Each Court has a representative. 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)

Peter Bennis is our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator

| <u>COURT</u> | <u>NO</u> | <u>REPRESENTATIVE</u> | <u>PHONE</u> |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bowes | 18 | Peter Bennis | 739419 |
| Burnham | 12 Wyatt | Norma Humphreys | 724950 |
| Chapel | | representative wanted | |
| Clock Tower | 9 Wyatt | Genevieve Mitchell | 699164 |
| Cooke | 4 | Mathew Bevan | 727370 |
| Elliot | 11 | Edward Lockwood | 730709 |
| Speer | 3 | Simon Evans | 730615 |
| Thurnham (1-22) | 17 | Dick Powney | 739153 |
| Thurnham (23-41) | 37 | Sally Rhodes | 699113 |
| Wyatt | 6 | Lisa Penington | 739588 |
| Elm | | Emerson Smith | 428 791850 |
| Cedar | 5 | Emerson Smith | " |

PRINTING OF DREWS NEWS

We would like to thank Simon Evans for printing the Drews News for us. It's quite an effort - about 160 copies twice a year. If at any time he is unable to carry on doing this we will just have to post the issue on the website.

EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

A number of people contacted the editor of the autumn 2018 newsletter. Here is a selection of their comments:

Re the article on Kennet Refurbiz - 'Absolutely brilliant. Arrived on time and took both of our old mattresses.' NH Wyatt Court

'Thank you to those who are negotiating to reduce our maintenance costs'. JH, Thurnham Court

'What a smashing informative newsletter, thank you'. PM Cooke Court

Theatre News

Things I know to be True by Andrew Bovell - Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th April 2019. 7.30pm.

Hancock & Co with James Hurn's one man show - One night only Saturday 18th May. 7.30pm

Bob Drury's Neil Diamond - one night only Friday 24th May. 7.30pm

Alan Johnson 'In my Life', Sunday 2nd June. 7.30pm

The Dolly Parton Story - Saturday 8th June at 8pm.

The Canterbury Tales - Saturday 13th June at

7.30pm. Bristol Old Vic.

Members Contact details

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Simon Evans 730615 simon@drewspark.co.uk | Chair | 3 Speer Court |
| Sally Rhodes 699113 sally.innovations@gmail.com | Vice-Chair | 37 Thurnham Court |
| Lisa Penington 739588 lisa@drewspark.co.uk | Secretary | 6 Wyatt Court |
| Norma Humphreys 724950 norma@drewspark.co.uk | Treasurer | 12 Wyatt Court |
| Peter Bennis 739419 peter@drewspark.co.uk | Member | 18 Bowes Court |
| Robin Mitchell 699164 robin@drewspark.co.uk | Member | 9 Wyatt Court |
| Dick Powney 739153 dick@drewspark.co.uk | Member | 17 Thurnham Court |
| Neil Geraghty neil.geraghty@btinternet.com | Member | 2 Thurnham Court |
| Judith Pameley judith.pameley@btinternet.com | Member | 23 Thurnham Court |
| Co-Opted Member Mathew Bevan 737370 mathew@drews.park.co.uk | Webmaster | 4 Cooke Court |