

DrewsNews

The newsletter of Drews Park Village Association

Issue 3 Summer 2002

A night at the proms

This is the third year that we have enjoyed a wonderful evening of music and jollity together in the lovely Wiltshire countryside, and we can highly recommend it to all those who have yet to experience it.

This year was even better than our previous successful outings and I certainly hope that we return to Lacock Abbey again next year.

Thanks to the thoroughly efficient way our dear friend and neighbour Norma Humphreys organised everything: A motor coach to transport us there and back in comfort, and our tickets booked for us. We only had to bring ourselves plus a folding chair, picnic food, wine and (for those in need of energetic arm-exercise) a flag or two.

This was Lacock Abbey's first venture into staging an open-air promenade concert, but you would not have thought it from the very high quality of the performers: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Julian Lloyd Webber, the world

famous cellist and composer, (not to be confused with his brother Andrew, of 'Cats' fame); Petronella Dittmer, the well known violinist, known locally as Mrs Anthony Burnett-Brown. She and her husband live at Lacock Abbey. Petronella is also organising three Lacock Abbey Music Recitals in October and December.

Of course there were fireworks at the end, as with most open-air shows. But these were even co-ordinated in time with the music, as was the spectacular Laser-light show.

The weather was absolutely gorgeous, but then I have



Joan Appleton loves her music and not just Classical stuff. She adores Jazz too. Whilst the orchestra was warming up, Joan practiced on her "cool" cornet.

found when Norma organises things, they nearly always do turn out just fine.

Don't forget to look out for next year's outing. It gives us all a chance to make new friends and enjoy ourselves at the same time. *JF*

Joan Appleton likes to attend the Classical Music Nights at the Wyvern Theatre Swindon. If anyone is interested in attending the series or any performances please can you contact Joan at 12 Clock Tower Lodge (tel: 720572).

Dear Friends and Neighbours,



John Stevens MBE, Chairman

Firstly, may I welcome any new residents who have come to live at Drews Park and for whom this is your first newsletter from the Residents Association.

We are coming to towards the end of a very busy second year as an association and we shall soon be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 24th October. We are hoping that we shall receive nominations from some fresh faces to serve on the committee and bring along some new ideas to the benefit of the community. So between now and receiving your paperwork for the AGM please give the matter some serious thought.

Following last years successful Christmas Party a suggestion has been made that this year we hold it in a different venue. Please let me or any committee member have your views or suggestions so that we can obtain dates and prices.

Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Stevens', written in a cursive style.

John



Committee Members	
John Stevens	739599
Peter Benns	739419
John Fitzmaurice	726448
Lisa Penington	739588
Ruth Stobie	739259
Faith Tait	723339
Gwen Townsend	724308

Your Community needs YOU!!

The Drews Park Village Association was started informally three year ago. Two years ago the constitution was agreed and committee officers and members must now be formally elected at the Annual General Meeting.

IT WAS AGREED that a subscription of £10 per year would be collected from residents wishing to join and support the Association. To date, including special fund raising events (which sadly are never very well supported), we have a bank balance of approximately £900. This is not enough! If we get into a situation when legal advice is needed (and this could happen at any time), some solicitors will charge upwards of £150 per hour so we will only be able to afford 5 hours!

The Association needs all residents, owners and tenants to become members and this will give us a stronger base when dealing with Sarsen (our Managing Agents), the local council and developers.

We await the planning applications for the North Site and the Katherine McNeill clinic both of which may have an adverse effect on our

properties and the pleasant environment we now live in.

We appreciate that not everyone has the time or the inclination to sit on a committee but those that do need your moral and financial support.

The Annual General Meeting is on **Thursday 24th October at 7.30pm**. If you are interested in serving our community or would simply like to join and the association please come a long and make yourself known.

The AGM will be held at Wansdyke Community School, Downlands Road, Devizes at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th October and we are looking for new committee members.

If you have the time and think you can offer something to Drews Park Village, please fill in the form enclosed and return it to John Stevens, 6 Speer Court.

Drew's Park Residents Association Working for YOU!

EARLIER this year we discovered that your sinking fund was earning a paltry **0.3% per annum!**

The £20,000 in the bank at that time had earned little over £120!

We have now persuaded Sarsen to move the funds to a fourteen-day notice account.

Now we have over £25,000 will earn 2% pa. Not as much as we feel could be obtained with a bit of searching around, but nearly a 700% improvement!

Welcome Pack

A welcome pack is still 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.

Just contact any of the committee members

Sale of Northern Site

The sale to David Wilson Homes took place on 4th April, so the whole of the northern end of the site, including Byron Road, now belongs to the developer.

THE DETAILED planning application should have been submitted in July, so practically it is not envisaged that the new road will commence construction until early next year.

Latest news on the specialist renovations company for the red brick buildings such as The Annexe (as you enter the site from Pans Lane) and the old wards Wyvern and Walnut, is that it will be carried out by Sheraton Properties. Raglan is the social housing developer tipped to handle this part of the development.

If residents have any queries, please pass them to the Committee and we will either answer (as far as we are able) in the next Newsletter, or earlier if it is urgent.

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 Ruth (739259) or John (739599) to request your 'Big Brother' edition.

Also, if anyone requires back issues of the Winter or Spring editions of Drews News, please let us know.



Whinge Corner

Your landlord has spoken!

Everyone should have received the newsletter Andrew Lynskey sent out.

Anyone who has not received one, please inform the residents committee and we will make sure a copy is sent out to you.

Don't forget...

The AGM!

The date:

Thursday 24 October

The time: 19.30

The place:

Wansdyke Community School, Downlands Road, Devizes

Roundway saved!

Roundway parish has avoided being assimilated into Devizes Town.

OUR DISTINCTIVE rural parish is to continue to be, and this is an inspiring example that local democracy can work well.

Our request for you as parishioners to make your opinions known and our earlier petition proved the point to a majority of councillors at a decisive Kennet District Council meeting.

Thanks for your support and our thanks to those Kennet councillors who recognised the majority wishes of people in Roundway.

Bin Stores

Can everyone please make sure that your bin bags are put **inside** the green containers in the bin stores.

WE HAVE been advised by the Environmental Health Authority at Kennet District Council that we could attract vermin if bin bags are left on the floors of the bin stores.

If any residents have difficulty lifting and closing the lids on the green containers, ***please*** let a committee member know.

If anyone is aware of, or has a problem with vermin, can you contact **Kennet Environmental Services** at Kennet District Council. There is also a private company called 'PEST CONTROL' whose rates are competitive with Kennet. The person you need to speak to is Chris Weston on 01380 726902 (or mobile 07773 953656). The callout charge is around £20 and is the responsibility of the resident.

Thank you

House Insurance

YOU SHOULD all have received a letter from Sarsen informing you of the change in insurers for the building insurance from Avon to Norwich Union through brokers. It was also mentioned in the recent Sarsen newsletter.

As questions of liability can be a bit complicated, it is important that all of us, as residents, understand the importance of this cover and in paying our premiums promptly.

Put as simply as possible there are two areas of responsibility for the buildings:

One carried by Sarsens as Freeholder for the common external fabric of the buildings

The other by individual owners for everything else including internal walls finishings and contents.

The block cover, negotiated by Sarsens on our behalf for our own liabilities, is with the same insurer that they use for the external building structure. This is very important to avoid any arguments or 'buck passing' in any claim situation.

Therefore, our advice received, is that it is **not** really practical to try and negotiate your own policy independently without getting into this grey area of responsibility which would also put up the price of the cover.

Please therefore pay the premium as quickly as possible (if you have not done so already) so we are all covered against any eventuality (for instance, a fire could spread through the roof-space affecting many properties).

It is worth noting that the premium is less than last year.

Cover for your house contents, of course, still needs a separate policy as normal.

Thank you.

Neighbourhood Watch

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

The Drews Park Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) is now fully established and registered with the Headquarters Wiltshire Constabulary. Residents who are part of the scheme and are interested in taking advantage of the insurance reduction offered to members through the Norwich Union National Neighbourhood Watch Association (NNWA) Insurance can get the Scheme Registration number from their court representatives.

I know that the scheme is running very well in some courts with residents making sure that they inform their representative when they are away and leaving keys with neighbours in case of any emergencies (see '*when you are away from home*'). The Home Office Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Packs are now available and you can get one from your representative if you have not already received one. Do get in touch with your representatives if you are feeling neglected (their details are below).

We still need a volunteer to act as the representative for **Thurnham Court B** (house numbers 23 to 41).

The task is really not very onerous and involves mainly keeping an up-to-date list of the members of the scheme in your court. **I look forward to hearing from a volunteer VERY SOON!**

Many thanks to all the representatives and residents for what they have done so far!

Please note that these people have volunteered to be the NWS representative ONLY and should NOT be used for other matters relating to Drews Park. The committee are there for any other matters. Thank you.

Useful websites
www.neighbourhoodwatch.net
www.wiltshire.police.uk

When you are away from home...

- Use time switches (available from DIY shops) to turn on lights, radios and other appliances when you are away to make it look as if your home is occupied.
- Don't let your TV or video show through a window.
- Draw the curtains if you are going out for an evening and leave a light on.
- Get a friend or neighbour to look after your home when you are on holiday (to collect mail from the letterbox, adjust the curtains, and generally make the house look lived in).
- If you go away don't forget to cancel the milk and newspapers.
- If you are a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme, don't forget to let your court representative know when you will be away and the details of your key holder, ***in case of an emergency.***

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
Thurnham Court (B) 23-41		We need a representative!	
Wyatt Court	7	Gordon Ingleby	723316

Noticeboard

Boilers

We understand that Ariston Boilers have appointed a new service agent for the South West area. The company is called **Super Warm** and the telephone number is **01803 526244**. They are based in Torquay but have an engineer living in Chippenham who they will contact. We must emphasise that they are **not general plumbers**, they only deal with boilers.



Wanted

New Tools for Old

We mentioned in our last issue that Drews Park resident **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.



Drews' Views

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

Theatre Club

The summer has been a quiet time for the theatre group, but the Autumn Season is fast approaching and we shall be attending performances at the Wharf Theatre.

If we follow last years pattern we would normally go on the Thursday evening, but I am wondering if any other evening would be more suitable (Wednesday for instance). If you have any strong views please let me know.

We have also tried to organise trips to theatres at Bath or Salisbury for example, but are not getting enough numbers to make a mini-bus or coach viable. It looks as if we will have to use private cars and I would welcome hearing from those willing to drive, everyone sharing the expenses of course.

I would also like feedback on what shows residents would like to see, whether a midweek or Saturday matinee is most appealing or only an evening performance. I know it will be impossible to suit everyone but it would be useful to know your feelings. I will soon be contacting those who I know are interested with a proposed programme, but in the meantime I would welcome your ideas.

For more information on any of the 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 Stevens, 6 Speer Court

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile number: _____

Email: _____



Meadow and Cricket Pitch

We have received confirmation from Sarsen on the sale of the Meadow and Cricket Pitch.

The Meadow has been sold to Lilac Investments of St. Peters Port, Guernsey.

The Cricket Pitch has been sold to Alan Brown of Lacey, Grimsby.