

# DrewsNews

The Newsletter of Drews Park Village Association - Winter Issue 15

## ***THEY MUST BE BATS!***



*Not the man in the photo*, but beneath the bat-tower which was being examined during this summer by John Girvan (in the photo) who came to Drew's Park to investigate for his new book "Hidden Secrets" of Devizes, together with bat expert Pat Hatch. The tower is to the rear of Clock Tower, and they were surprised at what they found down below, or rather what they didn't find!

A full report on what happened and what they are doing about it

will be printed in the next issue of Drews News. John Girvan also arranges Ghost Walks around Devizes for residents (those who dare!) Have a think about joining a group for a walk in the dark after Christmas with John Girvan, your ghost walk guide. We'll give details in the next issue. So make sure you don't miss it!



## DEAR RESIDENTS OF DREWS PARK



Well here we are, only a few days away from Christmas and another year gone. As your new Chair I would like my theme to be continuity of all the hard work and efforts put in by many people over the years to ensure we all enjoy the ambience and quality of life of the vibrant community that is Drews Park.

It hasn't all come about without the commitment and vision of like minded people to protect and enhance our wonderful environment, and I see my job as part of the team to carry on that process.

First of all, many thanks to Lisa Penington for her sterling efforts as previous chair and I am very grateful for her continued support as Vice-Chair. Also thanks to Norma Humphreys for her long service as Secretary until she retired at the last AGM.

Just touching on a few matters in hand, we are continuing our regular meetings with our managing agent Sarsen to represent the views of the residents on a wide variety of subjects. We can only of course represent you all effectively if we know what your views are, so thanks to all those who attended the AGM and who give us and continue to give valued feedback and opinion.

If you have access to the Drews Park website, then that is a rich source of up-to-date information on topical issues with meeting minutes posted regularly thanks to the contribution of our diligent webmaster Ralph Meyer.

If you have seen the minutes on the website (they are published in this issue as well) you will see that we are continuing to raise with Sarsen the concept of preventive maintenance, the safety of residents and visitors on our roads, the best solution being to 'police' ourselves. On behalf of the Committee I would ask for your cooperation in helping us create a safe environment for all ages. We have also agreed a boosted lawns and planting programme for next year, (our thanks to Nora and Gordon Ingleby for their help) and the removal of abandoned cars is another issue that we are pursuing with Sarsen. Any help residents can offer with information is much appreciated.

We are not neglected on the cultural front either, with the Readers Group and Theatre Visits and thanks to Mary Stevens for her hard work in arranging these.

We as a committee depend on the support and participation of residents in all the various matters that affect Drews Park and welcome any contribution you might like to make, however small. Perhaps you might like to attend one of our meetings as a co-opted member to express your views and maybe consider joining the Committee. Even just joining the Association would be valuable as your £10 would go a long way in financial support.

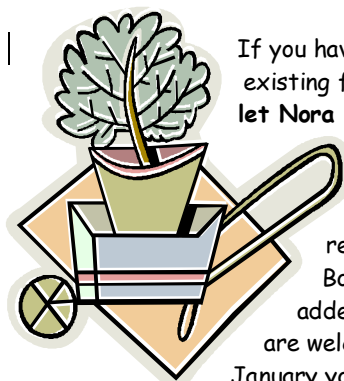
**Finally on behalf of the Committee may I wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.**

Peter Benns  
Chair DPVA



## GARDENING IN 2006 By Nora Ingleby

Sarsen will be drawing up the service charges for 2006/7 shortly and if we are to reserve funds for new planting this spring we need your suggestions by the end of January 2006 at the very latest!



If you have any ideas of how your Court could be improved, with shrubs in the existing flowerbeds or further planting of hydrangeas close to the buildings, **let Nora Ingleby know on 723316**. The important thing is that whatever we choose is low maintenance, or our charges will be further increased in getting them looked after. This is why hydrangeas are such good value, as they only need a brief annual prune to remove the dead heads. However, we also planted many new bulbs in Bowes, Burnham and Thurnham during the autumn and some colour was added to Thurnham flower beds last year. Any more ideas you may have are welcome. But please remember, if you miss the deadline of end of January you may have to wait until next year to get your suggestions

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considered.

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### DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION - COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<u>Name and Email</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Peter Bennis 739419 <a href="mailto:pjb.midas@virgin.net">pjb.midas@virgin.net</a>	Chairman	18, Bowes Court	
Lisa Penington 739588 <a href="mailto:lisa@drewspark.co.uk">lisa@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Vice Chair	6 Wyatt Court	
Gail Mumford 736415 <a href="mailto:Mumford@burbage24.fsnet.co.uk">Mumford@burbage24.fsnet.co.uk</a>	Treasurer	19 Bowes Court	
Gail Nugent 730118 <a href="mailto:gailofarabia@yahoo.co.uk">gailofarabia@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Member	9 Wyatt Court	
Neil Geraghty 729382 <a href="mailto:neil.geraghty@btinternet.com">neil.geraghty@btinternet.com</a>	Member	2 Thurnham Court	
Clive Rowland (recently appointed) 722526 <a href="mailto:chrisrow@tesco.net">chrisrow@tesco.net</a>	Member	8 Wyatt Court	

#### Co-opted Members

Nora Ingleby 723316 <a href="mailto:nora@drewspark.co.uk">nora@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Gardens	7 Wyatt Court	
Ralph Meyer <a href="mailto:Webmaster@drewspark.co.uk">Webmaster@drewspark.co.uk</a>	Webmaster		

[www.drewspark.co.uk](http://www.drewspark.co.uk)

## **PAINING SCHEDULE FOR 2006**

When painting starts again this spring we hope to be able to finish off houses that have not been done so far, in preparation for starting a routine of painting of a couple of Courts every year. We want to make an effort to rotate the work so that each house automatically gets painted at least every five years. The main problem has been with getting access to some houses where the occupant has not liaised with our workmen, so the houses have inevitably had to be bypassed. **We would be glad if landlords would enquire of their tenants if their houses need painting as Sarsen will not be responsible for rotting woodwork if arrangements cannot be made to do the work!**



At the very least, owners or tenants need to leave their windows unlocked when they are informed that the painter will be working there that day. When a whole Court is to be done, this should make it more obvious to occupants that their house will soon need to be done. Darren, our main painter, is quite helpful in doing front doors at the weekend when people are more likely to be in - so, **help us to help you!**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Reminder to our friends and members! We cannot continue to produce 800 copies of the newsletter annually without your subscription - see below! Have you forgotten to rejoin?**

**DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (DPVA)**  
**Subscription form**  
*November 2005 to October 2006 - Annual subscription £10*  
*Cheque payable to DPVA or cash to Gail Mumford, 19 Bowes Court*

**Name**.....

**Address**.....

**Telephone number**.....

**Email address**.....

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## SIGNS.....

After lots of humming and hawing the residents committee finally agreed that we should proceed to get quotations for signs to be placed at either end of Thomas Wyatt Road. We all agreed that stone would look best to compliment our Bath stone building and various enquiries were made and quotations obtained and although the cost was high we would still have proceeded with all your agreement. However, there was one important element which we had not properly considered, durability.

As an open community we welcome all visitors but unfortunately we have had some unwelcome attention from vandals who have caused some damage to the site, it didn't take long to envisage a group of louts having a go at our lovely new stone signs, which could be so easily damaged. With that in mind I investigated various alternatives via the internet and came up with cast aluminium painted British Racing Green with gold lettering. These types of signs are used extensively in public spaces and venues such as Wincanton Race Course and the Longleat Estate and although nothing is totally vandal proof, these are comparatively easy to maintain and look very smart. I actually rang Wincanton Race Course for their opinion and they told me how pleased they were with the signs and the service given by Mirage Signs of Warminster.

These signs are an important investment for us, but there is no doubt we do need signage to distinguish Drews Park from all the new development around us and give us the identity we should have as a community. It's now up to you to choose!

*Gail Nugent*

*See pages 6 and 7*

**Neil Geraghty  
Painting & Decorating**

**Apprenticeship served  
Ex Rendalls  
20 Years Experience  
FREE Estimate**

**2 Thurnham Court  
Thomas Wyatt road  
Devizes Wiltshire  
SN10 5FL**

**Tel: 01380 729382  
Email: [neil.geraghty@btinternet.com](mailto:neil.geraghty@btinternet.com)**

## SUGGESTED NAMES SIGNS FOR DREWS PARK

Stone Hand Carved Sign



The suggestion above is for a stone, carved with the name. We sourced some stone which was found to be too porous to be usable, so stronger Portland stone (or similar) would cost:

£1,200 for two stones (approx)

£2,250 for carving (@ £125 per letter)

£500 for transport and fixing on rods (approx) All plus VAT

**TOTAL £4,641 (Cost to be met from sinking fund)**

Please tick the box on the back page with your choice. Remember, if very few bother to vote the majority will succeed.

## OPTION TWO DREWS PARK SIGN

Aluminium Sign painted British Racing Green and Gold

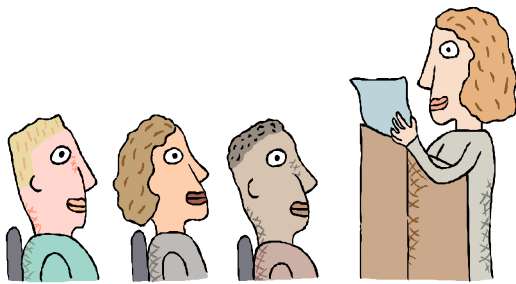


The above design is a 'cast aluminium sign, painted British Racing Green, with green posts and double gold border and lettering. The cost of two signs, one on each entrance of Thomas Wyatt Road is a total of £1,755 + VAT to include fitting. Said to be reasonably vandal proof and the resinous finish could be dealt with by a paint spray remover. There are signs by same maker at Longleat and Wincanton Racecourse.

**TOTAL £2,062  
Fund)**

**(Cost to be met from Sinking**

**Cut out box for your vote on back page.  
Please deliver to Peter Benns at 18 Bowes  
Court by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006  
Not more than one vote per household**



Meeting of the Drews Park Village Association held at 19.30 on Thursday 13th October 2005 at the Fox and Hounds, Nursted Road. The meeting was chaired by Lisa Penington and twenty-two members attended.

**APOLOGIES:** Gail and Graham Nugent, Val and Tony Mould, John and Ronni Bate, Annette

Piper, Pat and Alan Shaw.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** The committee had met 5 times during the year and had met Sarsen on four occasions. There were informal meetings and communications on a daily basis. Update on letter to Sarsen sent after the AGM last year and new meeting arrangements. Committee felt some progress had been made and sinking fund queries had been satisfactorily resolved.

The cricket field and orchard area had been cut more regularly this year. Meadow area had been in bad condition until Kennet undertook to cut it.

Gail Nugent's campaign B.R.A.G had met with success with regard to the improved sightlines at the junction of Byron Road and Green Lane. Council is aware of residents' concern about increased traffic when the KMC site is developed. Nora and Gordon Ingleby were thanked for their hard working in searching out and buying plants, fertiliser etc during the year. Burnham Court had been greatly improved as had Thurnham to some extent. Residents asked for increased colour in flowerbeds next year in Burnham and this was noted. All requests must be in to Nora by the end of January in time for the setting of charges in February. £110 from Association funds has been used this year to increase planting of daffodil bulbs in Burnham, Speer, Thurnham, Chapel and Wyatt.

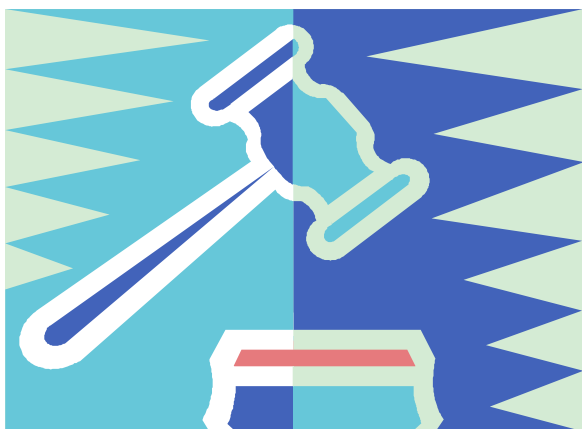
Peter Bennis outlined the work on improving the grassed areas. It was felt, with some reservations, that the cutting had been well carried out over the year, and Goddard's were being asked to increase cuts to 18 next year. Quote for increased treatments on weed and feed to be assessed by gardens committee in the next few weeks. Goddard's to be asked to inform us when they are spraying so delicate plants can be removed from the line of fire.

Bruce, our gardener, takes his instructions from Sarsen. If anyone has any requests regarding his work or that of Goddard's, please contact Paul Crovella. Bruce's work specification was read to the members and it was confirmed that he would be offered some extra hours next year.

Vandalism was noticed on some parts of the site, mainly regarding saplings, notices and bin stores. Sarsen had been informed.



Tree surgery was being carried out on 13th October and 23rd December. Two more trees to be attended to in the next financial year.



Three bike racks have now been installed, in Thurnham, Speer and Burnham.

Peter Benns outlined the work that had been done on trying to find the right solution to speeding by a few people on site and visiting vans. We will ask Sarsen to complete the 5/6 sets of strips, build them up to three levels, and add hatching near Bowes Court. Trees to be cut back at the approach to Bowes and a pedestrian danger sign attached to one of the two posts there.

The web site has been running for nearly three years. Minutes, tradesmen, cinema performances can all be found on it.

The sinking fund is approximately £74,500 to include the second payment due in October/November. Where it is not credited to the sinking fund account for some months, Sarsen is crediting interest to it.

Preventive maintenance is important to preserve the value of the fund, and gutters will be inspected and cleared in November/December and bargeboards inspected at the same time.

Application for some safety railings is expected to be approved shortly by Kennet. *(Now approved)*

Still waiting for the car park levelling in Thurnham. Sarsen to be reminded.

Exterior house painting has gone well this year. It is important that tenanted houses allow access for windows to be painted. Owners to be informed by Sarsen that the residents will not be responsible for replacement windows/doors if they rot due to neglect and lack of access and have to be replaced.

Building insurance premium remained unchanged for three years.

Arrears to service charges not significantly large. Owners cannot sell if they owe monies in respect of service charges.

Audit has been received for 2004/5 and checked. Residents will receive it shortly.

Telstar contract completed but with a few houses still to have wire installed when owners are available to allow work to be completed.

Cont'd

**Cont'd** Members were shown a folder of information about two proposals that had been researched regarding a name sign for the grounds. It was agreed that examples of stone signs, and metal signs would be put in the next Drews News with approximate costs and residents asked to vote. As some tenants may not respond, the majority of votes received will succeed

**TREASURERS REPORT** Lisa Penington reported that there had been expenditure of £317 in the past year. Bank account has a balance of £1,398

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** Proposed by Gordon Ingleby, seconded by Christine O'Sullivan that the annual subscription remain at £10 per household. Agreed unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION** Norma Humphreys explained to the meeting that because of the lack of support for the committee it was necessary to recommend the following amendment to the constitution. Item **QUORUM** for a committee meeting now to read "a quorum for a committee meeting to consist of at least one officer and three other members or officers". Carried unanimously.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following members having been duly proposed and seconded were elected

Chairman	Peter Bennis
Vice Chair	Lisa Penington
Treasurer	Gail Mumford
Secretary	Post Vacant
Committee Member	Neil Geraghty
Committee Member	Gail Nugent
Gardens Committee	Nora Ingleby
Webmaster	Ralph Meyer

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** Neighbourhood Watch - coordinator required.

**Thefts from Bins** Members were asked to report to local police if they notice anything untoward.

**Updating of Lease** - was discussed but would be prohibitively expensive. Sarsen to be asked to re-issue copies of rules and regulations to all letting agents. Sarsen to be asked to write to commercial van owners where there has been a complaint by residents. *The committee would like to thank Norma Humphreys for her long years of work as Secretary and feel she will be missed.*

**As there was no further business the meeting closed at 21.55hrs.**

## NOTICE BOARD

### NOTES FOR BOOK CLUB MEMBERS!

'The Secret Life of Bees' by Sue Monk is December's book, meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December. In January we will be reading Anne Tyler's 'Back when we were Grown up' and in February Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker nominated novel 'Never Let me Go'. March's choice is John Banville's prize winning 'The Sea' and in April P.D. James 'The Lighthouse'.

#### Room to rent in a 2-bed house in Drews Park

Do you know anyone who would like a house-share with a 35 year old professional female? Furnished, fully equipped house in Drews Park, Devizes. Own car space, beautiful surroundings and easy walk into town. *Price to be discussed. Call 07890 725884*

#### Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

We are still lacking a Co-ordinator for our Neighbourhood watch members. Each Court has a representative, Thurnham should have two but we are still looking for someone to look after 1-22 Thurnham. 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 need someone who is computer literate, able to communicate electronically with the local Watch organization that will send warnings and general information from time to time. Phone any committee member to sign on!

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**Gutters - will anyone who has badly leaking gutter joints please inform Sarsen now so that they can do the work when they clear the leaves.**

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#### Just One Whinge this time!

We are plagued with untaxed, stolen and abandoned cars on our site. Please report any you see that might be one of the above to Sarsen!



#### Need to brush up on your Maths?

*Private tuition from Lisa Mather.*  
**KS2-GCSE. Phone 0777 909 3036 - or email**  
[lisamather@hotmail.com](mailto:lisamather@hotmail.com)

12 HEATRE NEWS with Mary Stevens



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November saw the switching on of the lights in Devizes, so it's not too early to wish all you theatre goers a Very Happy Christmas!

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December **The Wharf Theatre** presented

**THE FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS**, programme compiled and directed by

Deanna Caper and Alison Moore. *A celebration of the Christmas Season with an evening of songs, Christmas readings, Poetry and Carols.* The evenings entertainment included a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Tickets £10

Following Christmas the Wharf Theatre opens its season with a pantomime, in traditional style **Cinderella**. Would you like to attend on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January? Tickets are £8.00. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to attend this show.



If you are in any doubt I can often book tickets on a provisional basis. Contact me at 6 Speer Court, Telephone 739599 or e-mail on [mary@drewspark.uk.co](mailto:mary@drewspark.uk.co) Look forward to hearing from you! **Mary Stevens**

\* \* \* \* \*

Please register your vote below and deliver to Peter Benns at 18 Bowes Court	Tick one box only
NAME COURT	
STONE SIGN AT £4,641 FOR TWO	
PAINTED ALUMINIUM SIGN AT £2,062 FOR TWO	
NO SIGN OF ANY KIND	