
DrewsNews

The Newsletter

of Drews Park Village Association - Autumn 2007 - Issue 19



Drews Pond Woods at Bluebell time

The Drews Pond Wood Project was set up by Lorna Llewellyn and myself in 1990, says Stuart Hislop. Its aim was to protect the Drews Pond Woods for the future once redevelopment of the area began in 1996 and to make it a valued local wild life habitat. We have achieved a lot in recent years, having been awarded nature reserve status and becoming a County Wild Life site. Ownership was transferred to Kennet District Council in perpetuity for the benefit of local people in the mid 1990s.

The priority for the group has always been the improvement and the protection of the flora and fauna within Drews Pond Wood. Half an acre is managed each year as part of the coppicing cycle. This process is now in its second rotation and due to this and much new tree planting the health of the woodland has never been better. All the paths, steps and bridges have been installed by the project to create the recreation areas you see today.

Cont'd on page 3



First I would like to draw your attention to the Annual General Meeting of the Association which is being held on Thursday October 18th. Full details are given on page 8, as is the nomination form, but you will notice that we are in a different venue in the lovely old part of town in a very nice room which will comfortably accommodate 30 plus people. We are intending to combine the meeting with a social occasion so a glass of wine and some snacks will be provided from our funds to give us all an opportunity to meet and chat with other residents. Please make an effort to attend if you possibly can as your voice is important. Where possible, please let us know that you are coming

using the RSVP slip provided on page 3 so we can cater accordingly.

We need to appoint a new Treasurer and Secretary (and more committee members please!) as both wish to hand over to someone else, whilst continuing to remain on the Committee. If you feel that you could help in this respect, then please have a chat with Gail Mumford or Lisa Penington about what's involved, before completing the nomination form due with me by 11th October, prior to the AGM. (Phone numbers on back page.)

Moving on, you may have noticed that some remedial work has been carried out to guttering in Thurnham Court where there had been evidence of problems. Now that it has been completed with no further problems reported from recent heavy rains, we are ascertaining what other work may be required. If you have any niggles about guttering overflowing or down pipes leaking and if you haven't already done so, then please advise Nadia Dowling at Sarsen 01380 735565.

You may have picked up in the local press that Gail Nugent and I attended the outline planning meeting at Kennet's offices back in May regarding the redevelopment of the Katherine McNeil clinic. We were pleased at the support our representations received from several councillors, particularly on the issue of parking. The application was referred back to the developers with a recommendation that the mix of housing units be reconfigured at the detailed planning stage to provide a significant increase in onsite parking. Hopefully this measure will reduce any congestion from parking in Byron Road in the future.

Finally you may also have noticed some initial attention given to the old cricket square in a bid to try and get it back to a playable state. This year proved a bit premature for a game, but hopefully next year will see it possible, given that we can raise a team(s). Some interest has already been expressed in this area which is encouraging.

Speaking on behalf of the whole Committee, we hope to see you at the AGM.
Peter Bennis, Chair DPVA



Drews Pond Woodland Project

The work is carried out entirely by a dedicated group of local volunteers and there are no paid staff. Kennet supports the project with a small grant to cover the administration costs and training, whilst providing an umbrella insurance for the work done and to cover the volunteers. The woods are now well used, with groups and schools taking advantage of this unique local resource.

This winter's work programme will see the commencement of a plan that will occupy us for some years to come, including if possible, the reclamation of the old cottage/pub site with a view to creating a peace garden.

The project's future is somewhat unsure with proposed unification of local authorities and we do not know the level of support we can expect in the future; we are almost devoid of funds. To continue to maintain and improve Drews Pond Wood we need local financial support at every level. We hope to have a campaign to raise funds later this year but as our nearest neighbours we felt we should ask your support in the first instance. We would like to think that Drews Park residents value the work we do.

Donations, however modest, can be sent to "Drews Pond Wood Project" c/o 25 Sarum Drive, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5AT. The committee of the Association will discuss this with attendees of the AGM in October and offers of corporate support can be conveyed to Lisa Penington on lisa@drewspark.co.uk or to 6, Wyatt Court, or to Gail Nugent at 9 Wyatt Court. We need your support to continue to enhance this unique area that we all share, now and in the future.

R.S.V.P I would like you to book me a place for the Social
 Get together followed by the AGM on Thursday 18th
 October at 6.30pm.

Name.....

Court.....

Number of people attending.....

Please deliver to 18 Bowes Court or 12 Wyatt Court
 THANK YOU!

Thurnham Court bedding plants



Over the last months planting has been taking place in Thurnham to try and bring more colour to the beds. Residents may already know that planning restraints restrict what we can do to some extent. However, recently Bruce has planted buddleia and lavender. We are disappointed with the buddleia which have become 'leggy' probably due to the sparse soil in the beds; hard to remedy as there is concrete below!

Next year, rows of heather and more lavender are planned. The aim is to have perennial plants and shrubs which mainly look after themselves apart from a little pruning at the appropriate time. The great success of the hydrangeas makes us think that might be a colourful solution. This way we can have improved landscaping without adding too much to the charges. If you have any suggestions for next year's planting at Thurnham - tell us at the AGM on 18th October! (See on line for colour version of all pictures in this issue).

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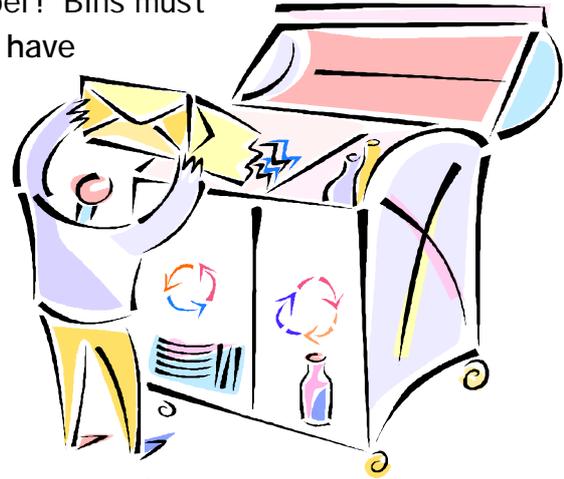
Book Club News

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

September	Engelby by Sebastian Faulkes
October	The Seige by Helen Dunmore
November	The Life & Works of Lei Reifentahl by S Bach
December	How to talk to a Widower by Jonathan Tropper
January 2008	A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Refuse and recycling arrangements have been in force for over a year now and I suppose residents don't like the fortnightly collection of household waste any more than the rest of the country seems to. However there are ways to make it work better and we have certainly seen some improvement over the last months. (For exceptions see pg 7 !)

These are the things we have to remember! Bins must be closed when they are collected or we have been told that they will not be emptied. If they are not - the cost of disposal is payable out of our charges. We have been advised by Kennet that we have the correct number of Eurobins for the number of households at Drews Park, and if there is not room in your usual bin store you should find another that is not so full. Kennet's view is that we are still not recycling as efficiently as we might.



Bottles, cans and papers are collected fortnightly but cardboard and plastic still has to go to the Hopton Recycling Centre. Some of our neighbours operate a rotation in doing this - why don't you get together with neighbours and do the same? As most people know there is quite a turn-over in tenants for the houses that are let by their owners and they may not be aware of the procedures. Of course, there are also those who are not yet as environmentally conscious as we all have to be.

One last thing! In the summer the stores can smell quite bad. This could be improved by double wrapping your food waste before even putting it into your black bag. A pack of 100 nappy sacks for small quantities of waste, fish for example, cost about £1.20 and are very useful for this; some are even bio-degradable.

HAPPY RECYCLING!

If you haven't already noticed, there is a list of what can be recycled and where on the bin store notice boards

Grandfather returns to competitive sport after 40 years!

Training at the Weir - Farley Hungerford



Having reached the age of 70, resident Malcolm Humphreys of Wyatt Court decided to mark his three score years and ten by returning to competitive swimming.

In his younger days Malcolm achieved honours for his swimming which included setting the record for a three mile swim at Lake Bala in Wales. The following year he was chosen to

represent Britain to swim the River Schelde in Holland, a distance of 5km, when he came second out of a field of 35 swimmers.

Since moving to Devizes eight years ago Malcolm has swum regularly on Monday evenings with the Devizes Masters. To join the masters you must be over 25 years so he qualifies with ease. The targets Malcolm set himself for 2007 was to complete two open water swims during the summer months, one a 4km race at the Solent Swimming Club, Calshott, in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and one of approximately 3km between Sandown and Shanklin on the Isle of Wight.

Open water and weight training started in April at the Farley Hungerford Swimming Club on the river Frome. The water temperature started 12 rising to 17 degrees F by 22nd July. The heavy rain over the training period had dramatic effects on both water temperature and flow.



In his spare time Malcolm likes to go bike riding!

July 22nd at Calshott there were 29 swimmers gathered on the beach on a fantastic sunny day. Malcolm won his over 70's age group in which there were five swimmers and finished 15th overall.

The trip to the Isle of Wight on August 12th - 105 swimmers with ages ranging from 19 to 79 took to the water at Sandown Malcolm came third in the Super Vets over 65 group and finished 52nd overall. He hopes to improve on these results in 2008. Watch this space!

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MORE THOUGHTS ON RECYCLING

In recent weeks we have had more and more recyclable rubbish left in our bin stores - yet again we have had to pay out of our service charges for the people among us who ignore recycling rules..... From information we have received, long term residents are not to blame; it has been reported that some tenants have been seen to fill the bin stores with cardboard, plastic, broken electrical appliances etc., usually as they move out of their houses.

Recently we have seen a huge petrol can and a ski pole in the bins! Not to mention old radios and broken down vacuum cleaners. Clearly there are many responsible tenants, but the few spoil it for the majority. From now on, Landlords will be charged if they do not withhold deposits until Sarsen has confirmed that no rubbish has been left at the bins.

Tenants/residents - please note - you are not exempt from the current laws - only kitchen and household rubbish goes in the bins! Glass, tins and paper are catered for in the smaller bins and everything else has to be taken to Hopton Recycling Centre which is in the Hopton Industrial Estate, just off London Road.



Thank you!



DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

7th Annual General Meeting
Thursday 18th October 2007 at 19.30
At the Crown Centre, 39 St John's St, Devizes (Look for the 'sitting room').

AGENDA

- ✓A Welcome drink!
- ✓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 Thursday 18th October 2007

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 Thursday 4th October.

Don't let one of them be yours! Christine Fitzmaurice has given us an article from The Independent about insurance. The best way to insure is to make sure it is included in your home contents insurance policy although some will not insure expensive bikes. You should also check with your insurer if it will be covered if left in a public place. You may have to pay an additional premium for this. Please note, insurers will always expect you to have taken reasonable steps to protect your bike, as if it was unlocked while it was stolen your claim is likely to be rejected.



Take some steps to improve the security of your bike – write down the name, model and serial number of the bike and keep the details safe in case you have to give it to the police or your insurer. Take a photograph of the bike and use an ultra violet pen to mark your post code on the frame. It may also be worth spending a little more on a high security lock. Use a hardened steel U-type lock as cable locks are easy to cut. There are also anti-pry devices that prevent a tool being inserted between the bike and the post you are securing it to.

Finally, the Independent article gave the names of three of the best insurers for valuable bikes – worth about £800 (although we think these would be better garaged or taken into your house). They are E&L Insurance – premium about £56.50 per annum, Aua Insurance £72, and Cycle insurance Direct £73.50.

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CONKERS!

John Fitzmaurice challenges any takers to a conker competition this autumn! Don't leave all the fun to the children – call him on 726448 to take part.



FIREWORKS !

10

It's coming up to that time again and in the days around bonfire night we will, no doubt, hear fireworks from Halloween, to All saints until well after 5th November, not to mention New Year's Eve. However, new residents should be aware that the land outside our houses belongs to Sarsen, not to us, and permission should be asked for its use for letting off fireworks.

As we mentioned in a previous edition of our newsletter, you can avoid the risk of damage to other people's property, houses and cars, and the possibility of action being taken against you for such damage or injury. Having your fireworks out on the middle of the cricket field could be a solution. This way babies and household pets are less likely to be frightened by the large bangs and we can all enjoy them !

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FIRST THE GOOD NEWS -

Residents will have been pleased to see that Sarsen negotiated a new Buildings Insurance which has reduced our assessments by 25% - it's nice to have something that goes down for once!

NOW THE BAD NEWS

However, last year, due to increased grounds expenses we have an overage of approximately £1,800 which is not accounted for in the original estimate of our charges for 2006/7. There are various reasons for this which includes unforeseen repairs and a number of collections that had to be made owing to the items left by some residents in the bin stores (see the item on page 7). It amounts to approximately £11.76 per household and will be collected with the October invoice. Long term owners may remember receiving refund cheques in the past; this time we owe them some money.



Also on the October charges will be the increased Standing Charge we told you about in the Spring Issue of Drews News. This sum of £12 should have been collected in two £6 instalments but management neglected to do so - so it will all be added to October's bill. Despite these additions to our October Charges invoice we are still marginally better off due to the reduction in the insurance costs.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

We are still lacking a Co-ordinator for our Neighbourhood watch members. Each Court has a representative, We are still looking for someone to look after 1-22 Thurnham, 23-41 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 need 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. Phone any committee member to sign on!

(May also lead to 10% contents insurance reduction)

Area Co-ordinator - Vacant

COURT	NO	REPRESENTATIVE	PHONE
Bowes	18	Peter Benns	739419
Burnham	6	Sue Chick	724774
Chapel		<i>Representative required</i>	
Clock Tower	12	Adrian Wood	738424
Cooke		<i>Representative required</i>	
Elliot	11	Edward Lockwood	730709
Speer	5	Alan Shaw	730284
Thurnham (1-22)		<i>Representative required</i>	
Thurnham (23-41)		<i>Representative required</i>	
Wyatt	7	Gordon Ingleby	723316

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TOWN GREEN APPLICATION

Our application was heard on 13th June at Trowbridge Town Hall and has been referred to a non-statutory Public Inquiry sometime in the future. We'll keep you informed.

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 Sarsen. There is a new one in Bowes, by the way.

NEW CONTACTS AT ASTER PM

Sorry to hear Paul Crovella has left Sarsen and moved on to pastures new. We wish him well. Your new contact for the time being at Sarsen/Aster is Nadia Dowling on 01380 735565.

THEATRE NEWS by Mary Stevens



I do hope you have all enjoyed the summer break despite the weather and that those of you who have been able to get away on holiday had an enjoyable time. The Autumn Season kicks off with a production of Alan Ayckbourn's "IT COULD BE ANY ONE OF US" directed by Sheila Hansford. In a windswept country house Mortimer announces to his family that he has changed his will.

Inevitably, of course as they await the young woman who will inherit everything, there follows murder and mayhem. WHO DUNNIT? It could be any one of us! I have booked tickets for THURSDAY, 27th. SEPTEMBER 2007 at 7.30pm Tickets £8.00. *Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday the 20th September.* OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY. Thursday 1st. November 2007

"A DOLL'S HOUSE" by Henrik Ibsen . Thursday 8th. November 2007. *The Ad Hoc Theatre Company present "PRESENT LAUGHTER" by Noel Coward. Thursday 13th. December 2007 "PINOCCHIO" by John Morley. Thursday, 20th. December 2007 "Christmas Cheers".* You will find details of all plays and some other productions in the Autumn Brochure which is I have delivered to our regulars.

Committee members - Contact numbers

Peter Bennis	Chair	18, Bowes Court
739419 peter@drewspark.co.uk		
Lisa Penington	Vice Chair	6 Wyatt Court
739588 lisa@drewspark.co.uk		
Gail Mumford	Treasurer	19 Bowes Court
736415 gailm@drewspark.co.uk		
Norma Humphreys	Secretary	12 Wyatt Court
724950 norma@drewspark.co.uk		
Gail Nugent	Member	9 Wyatt Court
730118 gail@drewspark.co.uk		
Clive Rowland	Member	8 Wyatt Court
722526 cliverow@toucansurf.com		
John Fitzmaurice	Member	14 Wyatt Court
726448 john@drewspark.co.uk		

Co-opted Member

Ralph Meyer

Webmaster@drewspark.co.uk