
DrewsNews

The newsletter of Drew's Park Village Association autumn 2014 Issue 32



Hydrangea Fest - the best year ever!

DEAR RESIDENTS OF DREWS PARK



After a pretty good summer, autumn is now upon us with all the seasonal changes now apparent in our lovely parkland setting. Picking up from our spring edition we continue to represent the residents of Drew's Park on the management group of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust who now own the cricket pitch and orchard, thanks in part to donations from some of our residents. After the apple-picking weekend in October last year a pruning course was held on August 10th and this will be followed by the next course sometime in February 2015. Any volunteers would be very welcome, just contact the Drew's Pond Wood Project to help in the orchard and

the surrounding woodland through our committee member Mat Bevan - mathew@drewspark.co.uk.

On other matters, we are in constant dialogue with Aster Communities on maintenance of bin stores, road signs, lamp-posts, the TV aerial system, grass mowing and gutter cleaning. Some repairs have been carried out to a sinkhole, paths, roofs and walls, but we are advised that the recent brushing of stonework to remove loose material in some places will take time to improve in appearance.

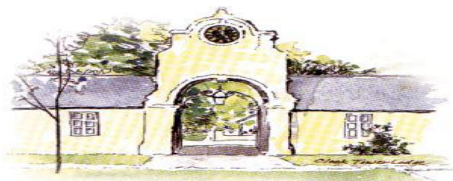
We continue to press Aster on items of interest to all owners relating to service charges, the sinking fund and dry rot guarantees and are also discussing with them options for reducing speeding on Thomas Wyatt road and improved sign directions to help optimise traffic flow along it.

On behalf of the Association we have submitted our thoughts on the planning applications for the old Katherine McNeil Clinic and the skate park in Green Lane to try and protect the interests of all residents.

Finally we have our **Annual General Meeting** at the Fox and Hounds in Nursteed Road on **Tuesday October 14th at 7pm**. Please come along as we are a voluntary body which is totally dependent on the active contribution by residents and we need your support at what will be a social event as well. We are a friendly bunch with the sole aim of protecting our unique village environment for the benefit of all residents.

And again, many thanks to Lisa Penington for all her work as editor of Drews News.

Best regards,
Peter Benns, Chair DPVA.



NEWS ON YOUR SINKING FUND ACCOUNT

Now that the Sinking Fund for future repairs and maintenance has become so large - we have £128,000 in our fund as at April of 2014 - committee members started to be a bit worried about compensation in the unlikely event their bank got into trouble. Unlikely, yes, but it has happened as you will know, and we, the taxpayer, are still picking up the pieces.

After some time Aster agreed with our problem and finally asked the committee members to look into opening another account to take the balance in excess of £85,000.

In the meantime, after thoroughly scanning the Financial Services Compensation Scheme site, we found a Government paper which seems to tackle the problem. Aster didn't seem to know about it, nor did Barclay's Bank until we took it in to them. This is the paper, for your information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-services-compensation-scheme-service-charges-for-residential-property>

You will note that the paper talks about deposits of £50,000 but as it is dated 2009, it has probably not been updated to the current £85,000 guaranteed. After a lot of research we have had confirmation from the FSCS that these rules apply, but be aware that in the event you have funds with Barclay of £85,000 you wouldn't be refunded your Sinking Fund monies as well. So keep an eye on your financial limits and remember Woolwich is in the Barclays Group so your total would be £85,000 for Barclays, Woolwich and your Leaseholder account.

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Editor's Note: We have had a request from a couple who are looking for a three bed-roomed house. They would ideally like Burnham, Wyatt, Cooke or Bowes Courts. Please contact lisa@drewspark.co.uk if you know of one that might become vacant in the not too distant future.



CHALKE VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL

Peter Benns recommends this visit for all the family -

The Chalke Valley History Festival has just finished for its 4th year and I was so impressed last year that I've been twice this last week. As its name tells you



this annual event is set in a lovely rural location about 10 miles south west of Salisbury. It features a mix of talks by over 100 speakers, including well known names like Dan Snow, David Starkey, Simon Jenkins, Jeremy Paxman, Jon Snow, and James Holland who is a co-founder and

programme director, all delivered in giant marquees. There are also discussions and debates with eminent historians with Q&A sessions, and 4 acres of living history encampments from Anglo-Saxon up to the 2nd world war with displays of sword fighting, jousting on horse-back and life in the trenches of the 1st world war amongst others. Yesterday to remember the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the day finished with a re-enactment of a battle in Normandy complete with a Mustang fighter plane and sound and visual effects that were literally quite stunning! Other aircraft like the Hurricane, B-17 Flying Fortress - *Sally B* and a Spitfire also performed.

You don't have to be just a history buff to enjoy the festival as there is something for everyone, and lessons in weaving, cooking, sword fighting and archery make it a real family occasion with lots of kids getting involved. Everywhere you go there are people wandering around in period costumes which make it really interesting, and there is a dining tent and lots of stalls for refreshments. There is a short video and lots of info on www.cvhf.org.uk

DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

14th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 19.00



At the Fox and Hounds, Nursteed Road, Devizes.

AGENDA

- **Apologies**
- **Chairman's Report**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Amendments to Constitution (none proposed)**
- **Election of committee members**
- **Any other Business**

DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Nomination Form for the Annual General Meeting to be held on **Tuesday
14th October 2014**

I..... (Please print)

Agree to stand for the DPVA committee

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

Signed.....Date.....

**All forms to be delivered to the Chair, Peter Benns at 18 Bowes
Court no later than 7th October**

HOUSEKEEPING

Recently a Wessex Water van was seen in Bowes Court for the second time in months. It seems a house owner was having trouble getting the water to drain from his bathroom and kitchen. The engineer found that the sewer was blocked solid with cooking fat, presumably washed down the sink from someone's kitchen. Here is a reply to this question found on the web:



'Avoid putting grease and cooking oil down the kitchen sink. Some people think it is okay to put them down the toilet, but that's bad too. The grease can clog pipes in your own apartment or house. The fats can also cause problems down the line as they continue through the system.

If there is a small amount of fat, you can let it cool in the pan. When it hardens, wipe it into the garbage using a paper towel. For larger amounts, pour it into a coffee can or empty jam bottle. Store the coffee can in the fridge or freezer and add to it the next time there is more oil or grease to dispose of. These cans or closed bottles should be carefully discarded in the household garbage.'

Even better is to use a non-recyclable plastic jar such as a peanut butter jar, freeze the fat or cooking oil, and then throw it away, either in the jar or scraped out into a plastic storage bag.

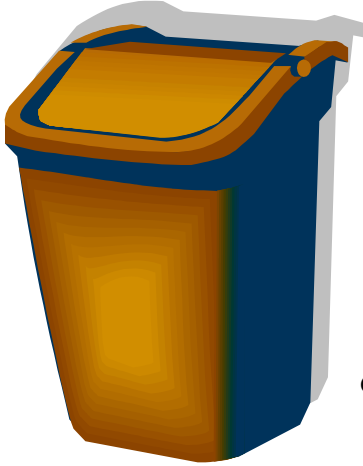
Do you know - even if you try to dissolve the fat with detergent and hot water is still solidifies when it hits the drain, forming a white sludge that causes sinks and baths to back up and water to stop draining from washing machines and dish-washers.

PLEASE REMEMBER - all service charge-payers have to share in the cost of repairs and works at Drew's Park, so we should all take care.

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MORE RUBBISH!

Sorry to go on about rubbish again but several residents have been on to us about the bin stores, in particular about those who leave the bins-lids partially open or rubbish left on the ground, even when other bins further back in the bin-store are half empty. Birds have been



seen attacking the bags, plus feral cats and the next thing will be rats, who were seen in the bin stores in the past but not for the last few years, fortunately. All a **health hazard!** If you want to feed the birds why not do as some have done here, hang bird feeders from the trees. If that's not your aim, then find another bin store for your rubbish bag if yours is full. There is no bar on using one in another Court and the community as a whole will thank you for helping to keep rodents away. **PS. Large live rat seen in one of the Courts the other day!!! Close the bins!**

EVEN MORE RUBBISH!

Yet again our lawn management team has complained about dog mess on the grass. The Pet's Charter says:

3. If the pet is a dog it must be kept on a lead at all times when in the maintained gardens surrounding Drew's Park until the open land is reached. Any fouling must be removed immediately by the owner and disposed of in the appropriate manner; if the pet is a cat a litter tray must be provided within the property and emptied on a regular basis.

5. Notwithstanding the grant of permission for the keeping of a pet, any nuisance or annoyance caused by the pet to other residents will result in the permission being rescinded and the pet having to be re-homed at the expense of the owner/tenant.

This applies to ALL residents! Any further infringements will be reported to Aster who will take the appropriate action - so if you have a dog - on a lead, please, and don't forget the plastic bags!!!

And on the subject of the lawns, if you park right up to a grassed area please consider the gardeners who sometimes can't mow the whole area without damaging your car.

A VARIED CAREER!

Richard Powney makes Drew's Park his home...

An early aspiration to enter the Priesthood was overtaken by National Service and subsequently by Teacher Training, with Art as my specialist subject. However, the rough and tumble of 1960's inner-city classrooms quickly convinced me that a Regular Army Officer's life might prove less stressful!



Over a 30 year career I wore four Cap Badges and served in Germany, Cyprus, Gibraltar, and for seven memorable years, with The Queen's Gurkha Engineers in Hong Kong. As a Senior Education Officer my work took me to Nepal to assist in Recruitment and Welfare activities which provided opportunities to trek in the Himalayas and experience the warmth and hospitality of the Nepali villagers.

My wife Angela had established her own career in Hong Kong, working for an Anglo-American Brokerage Company and so at the end of my Army Service I secured a teaching post at a HK University and we stayed on until the Hand Over to China in 1997. After a 6 month

Sabbatical in Madrid, we settled back in life in UK and I went to Millfield School as Director of Summer Schools - a post which gave fascinating insights into the lives of the children of the International Jetset!

Retirement age brought a complete change of direction. I embarked upon a professional course to become a China Restorer and thus discovered an aptitude, hitherto undiscovered, which brought new friends and a continuing love of 18th C. porcelain. Having owned our house in Thurnham Court for a number of years, we decided to 'downsize' and live in it ourselves in 2011, which has meant the end of my having a Studio for restoration work.

I have a daughter who is an A & E Doctor (she made the national press recently when she saved the life of an injured Sherpa Guide on Everest) and a son who does something "Techie" in computing, devoting himself to work and the Pub.

Richard is now a committee member for the Drew's Park Village Association

ANOTHER WALL REPAIR AT BURNHAM/ELM COURT

Residents will recall we had to fund the rebuilding of the listed wall at Burnham/Elm Court a year ago at a cost of £12,000. Unfortunately we have now had to spend a sum approaching £3,000 to repair the shorter wall attached to Elm Court following damage caused by children playing in the area. We all have to pay the cost - leaseholds and Aster's tenants so it might be a good idea for people to report even the smallest damage to the listed walls before they get too bad, causing an expensive repair.



CONTACT DETAILS FOR ASTER

Hannah Enderby(1st point of contact)

Mon-Wed midday. hannah.enderby@astercommunities.co.uk

Leanna Weller (also 1st point of contact)

Wed-midday to 4.30pm Friday

Direct dial – 01380 735578

Overseen by Francis May – francis.may@astercommunities.co.uk

Main Aster number 01380 726001

BOOK CLUB NEWS

If you would like to join us call Norma on 724950 to check availability.

Otherwise perhaps you will enjoy some of the books we are reading.

September	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> by Lermontov
October	<i>A Legacy</i> by Sybille Bedford
November	<i>The Sense of an Ending</i> by Julian Barnes
December	<i>The Night Soldier</i> by Alan Furst
January	<i>The Good Father</i> by Noah Hawley
February	<i>The Testament of Mary</i> by ColmToibín
March	<i>The Last Hundred Days</i> by Patrick McGuinness
April	<i>Bird without Wings</i> by Louis de Bernieres

INFESTATION OF WASPS AND BEES

We have had numerous incidences of bee swarms over the years (last written about in autumn 2011) and, of course, we are anxious to preserve bees as essential to our agriculture and vital pollination of plants. Several swarms have been successfully transferred to alternative locations and the Association will be pleased to action this for you if you have a problem. Alternatively you can deal



Bumblebee

Bee Keepers will not collect bumblebees apparently, but if they are honeybees they will be pleased to come and remove the swarm free of charge. Do NOT call them about wasps or hornets as this is a pest control issue and

Aster should be contacted if you have a problem with wasps. **Honeybee** Details of Aster contacts are on page 9 but you can always email or phone a committee member if you want advice.

with this yourself if you prefer. The current beekeeper we have used recently is found on www.thewiltshirebeekeeper.com phone number 07974 108625. If you are unsuccessful in contacting them you can also find details on the internet by entering 'Bee Keepers' and then click on 'Do you have a swarm?'



GLASS BINS

As we have long suspected, the bottles we religiously put into clear, green or brown labeled bins all end up in the same pot at the end of their journey! Accordingly, as they are rarely even more than one third full, we intend to ask the Council to take at least half of the bins away so we don't have to have them outside the bin-stores. So whatever colour bottle you throw away, for the foreseeable future anyway, they can go in any glass bin.

NOTICE BOARD

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

COURT	NO	REPRESENTATIVE	PHONE
Bowes	18	Peter Benns	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	730615
Thurnham (1-22)	17	Dick Powney	739153
Thurnham (23-41)		<i>Representative required</i>	
Wyatt	6	Lisa Penington	739588

BIKES AGAIN!

Over the years we have supplied five or six bike racks to Courts where people have told us they need them. A problem seems to have arisen whereby the racks, in some cases, appear to be full of bikes, but a number of them don't ever get moved and are missing parts. If you have put a bike on a rack and don't want to use it any more, please will you dispose of it as soon as possible to give the place to those who do want to secure them. If it's not in good enough order to give it away it needs to be taken to the tip at Hopton Court. According to the lease bicycles must be in usable order! Security is a problem, so make sure your bike is marked with your postcode, or however the police suggest and have a stout chain and lock. Some people remove saddles so they can't be ridden away.

12 Theatre News



Autumn 2014 at the Wharf

September 19th to 27th 'Dead Guilty', a tense psychological thriller - 7.30pm.

October 24th to Saturday 1st

November - 'Guards, Guards' by Terry Pratchett - a Discworld fantasy comedy - The city of Ankh Morpork is under threat from a 60ft long fire-breathing dragon.

November, Saturday 8th 2.30 and 7.30 - Vicarage productions presentation of 'The Knicker Lady' - a one woman show delving through 250 years of bloomers, bras, briefs and bustles. Tickets £12.

December 5th to 13th - 'The Phantom of the Panto' with Socket, Sprocket and Wrench. 7.30pm - suitable for age 5 upwards.

January 30th 2015 to 7th February at 7.30pm 'How the Other Half Loves' by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Martin Elson.

Members Contact details

Peter Benns	Chair	18 Bowes Court
739419	peter@drewspark.co.uk	
Simon Evans	Vice-Chair	3 Speer Court
730615	simon@drewspark.co.uk	
Adrian Wood	Treasurer.	12 Clock Tower
01308 897087	adrian@drewspark.co.uk	
Lisa Penington	Secretary	6 Wyatt Court
739588	lisa@drewspark.co.uk	
Christine Fitzmaurice	Member	14 Wyatt Court
726448	caf2009@hotmail.co.uk	
Mathew Bevan	Member	4 Cooke Court
727370	mathew@drewspark.co.uk	
Dick Powney	Member	17 Thurnham Court
739153	rpowney967@btinternet.com	

Co-opted member

Ralph Meyer

Webmaster@drewspark.co.uk