

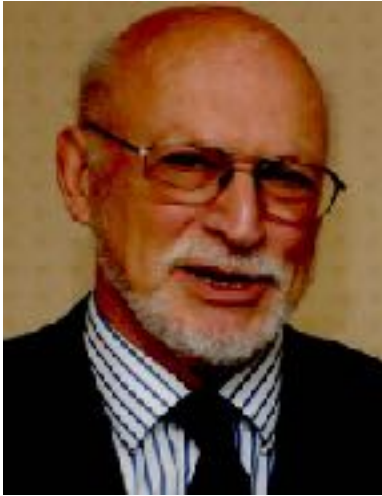
DrewsNews

The Newsletter of Drews Park Village Association Issue 40 autumn edition



The Ginnel, Devizes

DEAR DREWS PARK RESIDENT



Drews Park's service charges have always been modest compared with elsewhere. This is less true today than in the immediate past, for several reasons.

The FTT recommended that sinking fund contributions be raised from £250 to £554, to allow for increased costs of planned maintenance. In April Aster raised the ground rent, from £75 to £129. We have also paid higher property insurance premiums because of recent large claims. Council tax payers have also seen a rise in their payments as a result of the merger of Roundway with Devizes. There was thus a perfect storm of cost increases.

Your committee fought to keep rises to a minimum, but we all have to pay more every month, and with incomes struggling to keep up with inflation we know it can be tough.

There is some good news. From August 1st Aster secured a substantial reduction in our insurance premium (of about £60 per property).

Your committee is challenging Aster over the increase in the sinking fund contribution. Last year expenditure on planned maintenance was modest, and we have seen no proposals from Aster to spend large amounts of cash between now and next March. Our sinking fund increases by over £73,000 a year and by then will be about £183,366. We will be asking for a reduction to £500 or less for next financial year.

One item of expenditure arising in the next few years is replacement of our street lamps. Halogen lamps are being phased out, and replaced by LEDs, which means completely new fittings. LED lamps use less electricity and are cheaper to maintain, but we will have to pay for new fittings. So far, we have no cost estimates.

In the meantime, our keen gardeners have worked hard on our flower beds, and special thanks are due to John and Judith Pamily for making Thurnham Court look so attractive. They and their helpers have helped make Drews Park a special place to live.

Simon Evans
Chair DPVA



DREWS PARK VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

18th Annual General Meeting



Tuesday 23rd October at 19.00hrs
At the Fox and Hounds, Nursteed Road, Devizes.

AGENDA

- Planning - Guest speaker Laura Mayes
- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Confirmation of committee members
- Any other Business- Q and A

Nomination Form for Membership of the Committee at the
AGM to be held on Tuesday 23rd October 2018

Name..... (Please print)

Proposed by.....

Seconded by.....

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

Contact number and email.....

All forms to be delivered to the Secretary, Lisa Penington at 6 Wyatt Court no later than 16th October 2017 (post through the letter box if absent).

A VISIT TO DREWS PARK

Rikki Ellsmore explores her great grandfather's history...

My sister, Lita, and I always knew that our maternal grandmother was born in Devizes and that her father had been a porter at the asylum while she was growing up. However, we had never visited Devizes, although, being brought up in Eastleigh, it wasn't very far away.

More recently, however, I thought of making a visit. After some internet research we tracked down exactly where our grandmother was born - St John's



Street, in 1894 - and where she grew up, at 13 Southgate. I presumed her parents moved to Southgate as it was more convenient for her father to walk to his job at Roundway. Having discovered

these details in the 1901 census, and the fact that he, Arthur Guile, was the gate porter, I searched for further information on what had happened to the asylum buildings. That's how I came across the Drews Park Village Association and the newsletters with Lisa's contact details as Secretary.

Lisa replied to my emails although she was away in France and she put me in touch with association Treasurer, Norma, and we were able to arrange to meet. We enjoyed a very interesting and informative tour of the grounds on a beautiful spring day. Many thanks to Malcolm, Norma's husband for showing us the books about the hospital, in one of which my sister found the photo of our great-grandfather, with his starting date at the asylum of 1888. He was then a single man, as he married in 1891, so he may have lived in the hospital several years.

Arthur died in 1915 at the age of 61. By then he had moved to Eastleigh where his wife's relatives lived. He appeared to have received a pension from the Hospital Committee as he was described as a 'superannuated asylum porter' on his death certificate.

My sister and I were so grateful for being able to visit and discover more of our family history and to visit the beautiful buildings where our great-grandfather worked, which I'm sure is not something that many can do.



The Clock Tower gates - Arthur Guile to the right - next to the dog!

GARDENS AT DREWS PARK

In our spring issue we detailed the work needed, particularly on the shrubs in



Thurnham Court. On a sunny day in April, fortified by strong coffee and biscuits, a team of volunteers from Drews Park and a team from the wonderful CUDS led by Zena, spent a busy morning. Dead lavender was removed, and great efforts were made to get rid of the weeds and couch grass that invade the soil.

Later in the month, led by Thurnham residents Judith and John, with Carol, Mary and the rest of the team, 100 lavender plants, recommended by Bruce, our former gardener, were

planted. Funds had been set aside in the 'Gardens' section of our charges for the replacement plants. Bruce also suggested mulching the soil where the new plants were placed in the hope that it would inhibit weeds and help keep moisture in during the first year of their growth.

Some leaseholders will remember the original Gardens Group, now reformed, under the leadership of Sally Rhodes. The original group set out guidelines which we still follow. All our trees and plants, whether donated or not, become communal property, as they are planted on the freeholder's land. All costs of garden maintenance are met by leaseholders and tenants. Any planting must be agreed in advance with Aster, through the DPVA. Many of our existing shrubs, and some trees, were donated by leaseholders, including the hydrangeas that give such pleasure over their months in bloom.

Recently a tree survey was carried out and all the trees listed, noting their condition and possible need for treatment. A tree at the entrance to Clock Tower and Thurnham appeared to be dead and was removed. Unfortunately, when the grounds were laid out some areas had only shallow soil. This probably arose from the existence of tunnels under the grounds. Plants do not do well in those areas, so replacement plants are sometimes relocated. Shallow soil

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seemed to be the problem here. As a replacement tree might not survive the dead tree was replaced by a collection of shrubs.



Just after planting in April

Growth by July!



The Team has now turned their attention to another bed of shrubs in Thurnham

BOOK CLUB NEWS

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

Sept	Reservoir 13 by Jon McGregor
Oct	Fludd by Hilary Mantel
Nov	Hag-seed by Margaret Atwood
Dec	Revolutionary Ride by Lois Pryce
Jan 2019	The Biographer's Tale by A S Byatt
Feb	Birdcage Walk by Helen Dunmore
Mar	Hadrian VII by Frederick Rolfe
April	The Matchmaker of Périgord by Julia Stuart

PETS CHARTER

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. There's nothing one can do about cats but they are supposed to have a litter tray inside the house.

Our gardeners have quite rightly refused to mow soiled areas with their hand driven mowers. The Charter says that dogs must be walked, on the paths, to land beyond our gardens and only there let off the lead. Even there, dog fouling should be bagged up and disposed of.

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

* * * * *

WASHING!

Despite a letter to all residents in July from Aster, washing has been seen outside many houses this summer. We are sure that many of us would like to take advantage of the lovely weather to dry our washing. However, it is a condition of our planning for this Grade 11 building that laundry should not be put outside. See the fourth schedule in your lease - paragraph 15 - 'The tenant shall not hang or expose any clothes or other articles outside the Unit or in or upon any part of the Buildings'. This applies to leaseholders, their tenants and Asters tenants equally.

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CONTACT DETAILS FOR ASTER

Hannah Enderby is Senior Housing Officer and will be overseeing the details of Drews Park but will no longer be 1st point of contact.

Email: hannah.enderby@aster.co.uk

Mhairi Cotton is 1st point of contact. Tel: 01380 735297 email:

mhairi.Cotton@aster.co.uk

Leanna Weller is on maternity leave.

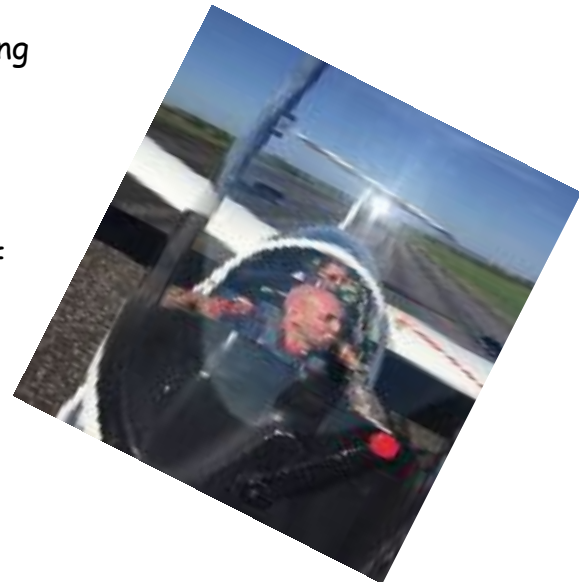
Beth Jerrard, Home Ownership Manager (2nd point of contact) 01380 735415

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

Neil is on his second time around as committee member

Neil Geraghty has lived in Thurnham Court with his wife Jo since 2001 and has been a committee member previously. As stated in the 2005 edition of Drews News, Neil had a new interest in his life other than flying gliders, with the arrival of his daughter Louisa.

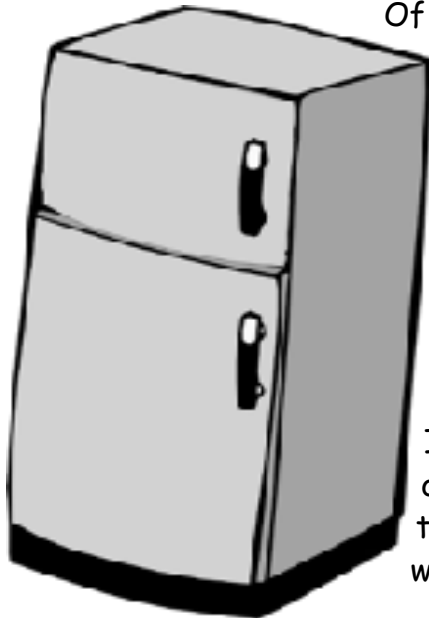
Now, nearly 14 years on, Neil continues to enjoy flying gliders, being an associate committee member at Bannerdown Gliding Club based at Keevil airfield. He has completed his basic instructor training and is currently in the process of gaining his private pilot's licence (PPL). Neil has instilled his love of flying in his daughter Louisa, and they both enjoy taking to the skies. Neil's professional work as a painter of hand painted kitchens and furniture for several local companies takes him all over the country, venturing as far as Inverness and Cork!



ALL THAT JUNK WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE

All of us, from time to time, must change a fridge-freezer or other large item of white goods.

There are several ways of disposing of them, but it is the leaseholder or tenant's responsibility. We can't just put them outside hoping the fairies will take them away. You must pay for and arrange your own disposals, whether it's a TV or larger item. One way, if you are buying a replacement from a major store, is taking advantage of their offer to remove the old item. This can cost in the region of £9. The local authority will also remove large items, but this now costs about £23.



Of course, if you have a willing helper and the appliance is not too large, you can deposit it free at Hopton recycling Centre. There are also some charities that will reuse goods in working order, or even do some repairs and will collect from you free of charge. Try Refurbiz who will recycle goods for people, of limited means - phone number 01380720722. They are in Hopton Park Industrial Estate and may collect.

It is not acceptable just to put your unwanted goods outside or in the bin stores, expecting leaseholders to pay. If Aster is forced to remove the item, you will be billed for its removal.

People have mentioned the plastic/cardboard bins are overflowing. It's true that space is limited but it doesn't help that bottles and cardboard aren't flattened!

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	07428 791850
Cedar	5	Emerson Smith	"

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

We are always on the look out for new members for the committee. Perhaps you have recently moved to Drews Park and would like some input into maintaining our beautiful site. Or maybe you have a skill that would be useful to us in all the various matters we deal with? If so, just sign the form on page three, get it seconded by another leaseholder (who must also be a member of the Association) and deliver it to us by 16th October.

Usually we have three or four committee meetings a year and two or three meetings with Aster. If you have any queries, any of the current members would be pleased to answer them.

THEATRE NEWS

Snake in the Grass - Monday 24th to Saturday 29th September.

Shakespeare Live - One night only
Thursday 4th October.

The Joni Mitchell Story - one night only
Saturday 6th October.

Little Shop of Horrors -
Friday 26th October to Saturday 3rd
November. **The London Philharmonic**

Skiffle Orchestra - Friday 16th
November. **Kidnap in Pantoland** Friday 7th
to Saturday 15th December.

Chapter Two - Monday 28th January 2019

to Saturday 2nd February,

Members Contact details

Simon Evans

730615 simon@drewspark.co.uk

Sally Rhodes

699113 sally.innovations@gmail.com

Lisa Penington

739588 lisa@drewspark.co.uk

Norma Humphreys

724950 norma@drewspark.co.uk

Peter Bennis

739419 peter@drewspark.co.uk

Robin Mitchell

699164 robin@drewspark.co.uk

Dick Powney

739153 dick@drewspark.co.uk

Neil Geraghty

neil.geraghty@btinternet.com

Chair

3 Speer Court

Vice-Chair

37 Thurnham Court

Secretary

6 Wyatt Court

Treasurer

12 Wyatt Court

Member

18 Bowes Court

Member

9 Wyatt Court

Member

17 Thurnham Court

Member

2 Thurnham Court

Co-Opted Member

Mathew Bevan 737370

mathew@drewspark.co.uk

Webmaster

4 Cooke Court