

February 2012

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Higher Denham Community Association Newsletter

Hall Class Schedule

- **Monday**
10am - 11.30am Toddler Group
2.15pm - 3.30pm Keep Fit
7.00pm - 10.30pm Line Dancing
- **Tuesday**
6.00pm - 7.00pm Zumba
- **Wednesday**
2.30pm - 4.00pm Adult Singing Club (most Wednesdays)
7.30pm - 9.00pm Yoga
- **Thursday**
9.45am - 11.15am Yoga
2.15pm - 3.30pm Keep Fit
6.00pm - 7.00pm Zumba
- **Friday**
11.30am - 12.30pm Zumba Gold
(this class does not run on the last Friday of the month)

The Hall can be hired for functions and bookings are made via Sue Kelly on
01895 833842

Inside this issue:

- Three Cheers - Social Club Licence Finally Agreed** 1
- Tickets at the Ready...** 2
- Open Gardens Welcomes First Visitors of 2012** 2
- "Have Your Say" Meetings are Changing** 2
- Forthcoming AGM/ Committee Activity** 3
- HS2 Meeting Update with MP Dominic Grieve** 4
- CA Contact Details** 4

Dear All,

Welcome to the February issue of the Higher Denham Resident Newsletter.

Where do I start? There are so many things to update you on this month, however the "icing on the cake" has to be the signing of the Social Club Licence. Many of you will know this has been an issue for the CA and the Social Club for a number of years with both being unable to reach agreement. The CA Committee are absolutely delighted to announce that after a lot of hard work, many meetings and hours of negotiations by both parties a satisfactory conclusion has now been reached. We are now looking forward to working together for the benefit of everyone in the community. Ron James, the CA Treasurer, was instrumental in the negotiations of the Licence and you will hear more details from him later and at the AGM.

Residents are reminded the **AGM** is on **15th March** and we hope many of you will come along on the evening to hear from the Committee. We thought it may be useful for us to outline what we have been up to ahead of the meeting and you will find more details on page 3 - rest assured we have been busy! There will also be a presentation on the evening regarding the CCTV proposal for Higher Denham and some suggested changes to the CA Constitution. I am keen to hear how effective the Newsletter is and will be passing around a brief survey to get your views on how many residents read it, value it and want it to continue in the future.

Finally, in this issue, you will find an update on the first Open Gardens event of the year, a request for help in the Community garden, changes to the "Have Your Say" meetings with our PCSOs and an article on the recent HS2 meeting in the Hall with MP Dominic Grieve. A couple of residents have been in contact with items too and these are always welcome.

Best regards,

Jacqui McGowan - Editor

Three Cheers! The Licence for the Social Club is Finally Agreed

Not only agreed, but in a low key "ceremony" in the Social Club, it was signed by the parties on 24th January 2012.

The need for a licence became apparent when it was discovered in 2007 that sales of alcohol without such a licence contravened charity law. It is fair to say that attempts to negotiate a licence strained what had previously been a good working relationship between the parties. Reaching agreement necessitated some compromises on both sides.

The main requirement of the Social Club was retaining the security of long term tenure it had previously enjoyed, so that it could spend money maintaining and improving the club with confidence it would be there to enjoy it. For the Community Association, it was obtaining a fair but affordable "rent" that preferably was not linked to profits or dependant on voluntary donations, either of which could vary from year to year, and in any long term deal safeguarding the interests of local residents.

The key terms of the agreed Licence, which meet these critical objectives, are;

(i) The term of the Licence is 25 years but reviewed each 10 years with the objective of, if both sides remain happy with the way it is working, extending the term by 10 years.

(ii) The Social Club will pay HDCA £150 per month [a three-fold increase of the previous payment] and this to be increased annually in line with the Consumer Prices Index.

(iii) The Social Club can terminate the Licence at any time on 12 month's notice. HDCA can only terminate the Licence (early) if the SC does not pay its dues or if it ceases to comply with the terms of its Liquor Licence [i.e. opening hours, sales to minors etc]

With this long running dispute now resolved, we confidently expect that the relationship between the parties, which has already significantly improved during the past year, will return to the friendly mutually beneficial state that used to exist, to the great advantage of all residents.

Copies [preferably electronic] of the full agreement are available to anybody that wants one, and I will fill in more background and answer questions at the forthcoming AGM on 15th March, which I urge you all to attend.

Ron James - Treasurer.

Parking Problem

A resident has taken the time to write to the CA to highlight the following parking issue.

"Vehicles are parking on the pathway of Upper Road making it impossible for anyone to walk along without having to use the road as a pavement. In particular, vehicles are parking on the grass verge on the right hand side leading down to Middle Road, and it is ruined (near Doggetts). It's not safe walking with a pram, or dog or using a stick - we want to keep Higher Denham safe for our children. "

Please do take note and be considerate of others, pedestrians, drivers and neighbours alike, when parking your vehicle, whether it's a car, van or motorcycle.

Bright Lights!



It hadn't occurred to me that exterior lights may be intrusive or are a nuisance until a resident got in touch to raise the issue. Basic guidelines from SBDC include:

- Use the correct amount of light, don't use bulbs that are brighter than needed. Higher Denham is classified as a semi-rural area so outside lighting is expected to be a lot less bright than in a town. Use a PIR rather than leaving lights on for prolonged periods.
- The beam from your light needs to be directed downwards to a point within your own property to prevent light pollution, light trespass and nuisance .
- Do not light other peoples' property, especially inside—they can be very upsetting and you will get complaints!
- If you want lights on for prolonged periods, use a 9/11 watt lamp which produce a kinder light than the very harsh light from the low energy bulbs

There is a publication (on the DEFRA archive) aimed at providing information to members of the public on sensible use of external lighting which you may find useful.

See <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/nuisance/light/documents/lightpollution-templereport.pdf> appendix D

Have Your Say Meetings are Changing



As a result of little or no attendance at the locally held "Have your say Meetings" they are being reviewed and are likely to be one per month, with the next one in Higher Denham being in April. Our local PCSOs are keen to hear from residents in between meetings and urge you to report anything suspicious to PCSO Paul Dobbin at: paul.dobbin@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or on the new **non-emergency** telephone number. A reminder this has been changed from 0845 8 505 505 to **101** - much easier to remember!

Tickets at the Ready.....



The Monthly draw will start again in March with the first prizes of the year being drawn at the AGM (1st prize £15, 2nd prize £10). A member of the CA will be visiting participants imminently to collect annual subscriptions (£6.50 per year). For those not familiar with the Monthly Draw, half of the funds raised through tickets sales are used towards the upkeep of the Hall and the Community Areas, with the other half being awarded as prizes. This is a really easy way to support your CA, particularly if you are keen to be involved but don't have the spare time to do so. If you would like to join the Monthly Draw please contact any of the Committee who will arrange for you to be included.

Open Gardens Welcomes 1st Visitors of the Year

The first Open Gardens of 2012 took place on 19th February. Despite a cold, but sunny, day it turned out to be a huge success with an increase in both visitor numbers and the amount raised compared to last February's event. A total of 160 visitors took the opportunity to wrap up warm and view the gardens on offer and enjoyed some much needed refreshments in the Hall. In doing so a staggering **£833.30** was raised during the afternoon! (£513 more than last year), Thank you to resident Anne Ling and all of the other helpers who worked so hard to make this a success. Also thank you to residents for bearing with the unexpected influx of traffic into Higher Denham.

The next Open Gardens is on **Sunday 22nd April** In support of the Air Ambulance Fund - more details to follow nearer the date.

CA Garden



The Community Garden would benefit from some much needed TLC and resident Di Gordon, who oversees the maintenance of the garden, is looking for helpers to weed and prepare the area ready for Spring. If you can spare an hour every so often please contact Di, or better still if you are free on **Sunday 4th March** from 10am onwards, please do go along to the garden area. You will receive a very warm welcome!

Sponsor a Shrub (rose or any other plant) The community garden would benefit from some new plants to add colour and interest. It has been suggested residents might like to sponsor a shrub or plant of their choice to plant in the garden and watch it flourish over the years to come.

If you would like to speak to Di about either of the items relating to the gardens, please contact her on **01895 832321**.

Reminder - 2012 Annual General Meetings

Annual General Meetings will be held in the HDCA Hall and Social Club starting at 7.45pm for 8.00pm as follows:

Higher Denham Social Club

Thursday 8th March 2012

Higher Denham Community Association

Thursday 15th March 2012

Those wishing to stand for **election to the CA Committee** must deliver their completed nomination forms by **1st March** to 5 Middle Road. If you have mislaid the nomination form distributed with the January Newsletter please contact CA member Jacqui McGowan on 07876 391349.

Forthcoming 2012 AGM

The AGM on 15th March will include regular items such as reports from the Chairman and Treasurer, however the agenda this year will also include the previously mentioned CCTV proposal for Higher Denham and suggested changes to the CA Constitution. Following the AGM in 2011 the Committee identified a few points in the Constitution needing clarification. To ensure everyone has ample time to consider these before the meeting they are shown on a separate page within the Newsletter. If you need any more detail or explanation before the AGM please contact Ron James at: r.james@company-doc.co.uk or contact the Chairman, David Ward, on 07870 629114.

What have the CA been doing since the last AGM??

Some residents may be asking themselves this question since the last AGM, and although at times you may think little seems to be happening, the Committee have been really busy working on your behalf. We would like to share with you some of the things we have been up to and hope you will come along to the AGM to hear about them in more detail. We have received enormous support from residents helping by donating their time, services or items for use in the Hall and for this we are extremely grateful.

In the Hall

- New Hall hire rates and scale implemented with discounted rates for Higher Denham residents.
- The Hall is being used more than ever (hire rate +30%), generating more income and greater use by local residents.
- Hall revenue increase of **55%** **2010: £5979** **2011: £9279**; which is remarkable in the current economic climate.
- New Hall Booking form and Conditions of Hire put in place.
- Deep clean of the whole building, in particular the kitchen area. New professional, local cleaning company employed.
- Food hygiene rating of 2 stars achieved after inspection (comparable with pubs in the local area).
- New heating boiler installed in the Hall – with a generous £500 donation from the Social Club.
- New crockery donated by a resident and made available for Hall hirers, eg Open Gardens.
- Tablecloths resourced for Hall use – skilfully (and beautifully) made by a kind resident.
- Store room fitted out with new shelving and racking for all Hall hire users.
- Fire safety inspection with 4 minor points raised being rectified.
- Health and Safety audit by South Bucks District Council. Compliance with findings and identified points rectified.
- Removal of dilapidated furniture ie, old tables, chairs and piano.
- Hosted “Beating the Bounds” on behalf of the Parish Council, providing refreshments for 50+ visitors.
- Santa’s Grotto available for younger children on Christmas Eve.
- Decorating/painting of the interior of the Hall planned in the next 2-3 months.

Around the Hall

- Upkeep of the Community gardens.
- Grass cutting of the field. Maintenance of the children’s play equipment.
- Audit of the field undertaken with cutting and maintenance improvement plans in place for the Spring.
- New storage shed – generously donated by Martin Baker. Basketball hoop installed – donation from GlaxoSmithKline.
- Bus shelter funding approved by Parish Council.
- Outside of Hall painted (free of charge by a resident).
- Funds allocated for coppicing Willow trees on the bank of the Glebe field to improve ecology to the River Misbourne.

In the Community

- Various fund raising events – some joint with the Social Club provided a very welcome income; BBQ at Firework night, CA Tombola Stall at Party on the Park, Race Night and Musical Evening. Charity raffle for local children’s hospice (Helen & Douglas House – raised £222)
- Residents surveyed following the last AGM for their opinions, many acted upon.
- Three Open Gardens events in 2011 with the final one being the most successful ever in terms of funds raised.
- Social Club Occupational Licence finally agreed and signed.
- The current Committee has worked hard to substantially improve the CA’s financial position; **2010: loss £1015, 2011: profit £9520.**

HS2 Update - MP Dominic Grieve Grilled on the Government's HS2 Decision

Our thanks to all local residents who packed the Higher Denham hall recently to quiz MP Dominic Grieve on the decision to proceed with HS2. Despite the event being put together at short notice, over 120 residents turned up to fire a series of questions over a two hour period and express their anger at the decision.

Whilst the initial agreement for the first phase of development had been announced little information was available for the proposed surface link to Heathrow cutting through Denham despite the interchange being built as part of Phase 1.

HS2 rail scheme protest groups warn of legal action

Various protest groups against the HS2 rail project have now sent the government formal letters warning they will take legal action unless it is stopped.

The HS2 Action Alliance said in the letter to Transport Secretary Justine Greening that it would consider seeking a judicial review as it was concerned about the project's environmental impact. The challenge is supported by more than 70 local groups and residents' associations, four wildlife trusts and other countryside organisations.

An alliance of 18 local authorities working together under the collective name 51m, have also sent a formal notice to Ms Greening asking her to stop the project or face a potential judicial review.

Camden Council is also poised to join the legal challenge after offering a stark ultimatum to transport Secretary Justine Greening, alleging to have identified legal flaws in the Government's decision to proceed with the project. Labour, Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Green Party councillors stood shoulder to shoulder in urging the government to ditch plans for the rail link between Euston Station and Birmingham.

Conservative members from across the region also made their feelings about HS2 clear to the party chairman at a packed meeting last week. Lord Basil Feldman was invited to hear the Chesham & Amersham Conservative Association's concerns about the £33bn London to Birmingham route through the Chilterns. At the meeting the group also vowed to back 70 other groups who have called for a judicial review into the controversial plans.

The Fight Goes On

With the target date for royal assent not planned until 2015, the Denham against HS2 action group are continuing to raise awareness and public opinion about this ill conceived project.

The group is organising a public walk on **Sunday 25 March**, visiting many of the sights and attractions that could be spoilt or disappear altogether unless we can persuade the government to change its mind about a railway that we believe will be used by a relatively small proportion of the UK population.

If you care about your neighbourhood, and want to leave it in good shape for future generations, please join us. If you'd like more information about HS2 and our campaign against it, we'd be glad to help. Various wildlife and conservation experts will be on hand to explain why they're as passionately opposed to HS2 as we are. And if you just fancy a pleasant walk in the country park on the first day of summer, you're very welcome too. We're assembling at the information centre in the Colne Valley Regional Park at 1pm. It would be great to see you there.

For more information please contact Norman Dennis Telephone 01895 834385 or email norman.dennis@btinternet.com



A packed Hall at the HS2 meeting with MP Dominic Grieve

Committee Contact Details:

committee_higherdenhamca@hotmail.com

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr David Ward - Chairman | 07870 629114 |
| Dr Ron James - Treasurer | r.james@company-doc.co.uk |
| Mrs Jacqui McGowan | 07876 391349 |
| Mr Charlie McClelland | 07785 231155 |
| Mrs Sue Kelly | 01895 833842 |
| Mr Jerry Arthur | 01895 832810 |
| Mrs Sonia Harris | 01895 832809 |

Useful Numbers:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Thames Valley Police (non-emergency number): | 101 |
| Bucks CC Highways: | 0845 230 2882 |
| Water Leaks: | 0800 376 5325 |
| South Bucks DC: | 01895 837200 |
| Parish County Council: | 01895 834709 |
| Railway Police: | 0800 40 50 40 |