



December 2009



# Higher Denham Community Association Newsletter

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[www.bucksinfo.net/hdca](http://www.bucksinfo.net/hdca)

## November Draw

23 November 09 (No. 550)  
£10 J Ajeda, Lower Rd  
£5 Mr Lea, Middle Rd  
£5 J Bridgen, Upper Rd  
£5 J Salmon, Middle Rd

## Useful No's.

Thames Valley Police  
08458 505505  
Crimestoppers  
0800 555 111  
South Bucks District Council  
01895 837200

Dear All,

Welcome to the December issue of the CA Newsletter. So much has happened since the last one - Halloween and Bonfire night, and now there are only 2 weeks until Christmas!

Halloween was enjoyed by many of the younger residents and the "trick or treaters" were greeted by carved, illuminated pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Thank you to all the residents who got into the spirit of the occasion and welcomed them on the evening.

The firework event on 7th November, organised by the Social Club, was once again a magnificent display and enjoyed by residents and guests of all ages. The SC are busy planning a family Christmas Eve event and are expecting a special visit from Father Christmas in his grotto - keep a look out for a flyer with more details.

This month's Newsletter is as packed as ever with items relating to life in Higher Denham, some which have been sent in by residents – thank you.

Living in a such a lovely location we are fortunate to have unusual wildlife, quite literally, on our doorsteps. Local resident, Ron James, has kindly offered to write an article "Neighbourhood Nature Notes", on a quarterly basis giving an insight into anything unusual in the locality – you will find his first item, "Little Egrets", later in the Newsletter.

Finally, as the festive season rapidly approaches and we are all busy finishing the Christmas shopping, making mince pies, decorating the tree and wrapping presents, I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the CA, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jacqui McGowan—Editor

## Chiltern Trains Update

You may recall in the September Newsletter the CA asked for your input on how we, as a Community, can influence decisions made by Chiltern Railways regarding the service provided at Denham Golf.

adds an extra 2 minutes to journey times and is not practical with all the fast trains travelling from the Midlands. Also, Denham Golf's last annual passenger usage was 17,213, compared with Denham 260,000 and Gerrards Cross 1,115,000. The new timetable comes into operation shortly and there are a couple of places in the morning and evening peak commuter times where a small improvement may be possible. These suggestions have been passed onto the MTA as this is likely to be the only approach where Chiltern Railways might take action. We will keep you up to date of any progress.

The MTA advised that Chiltern's incentive to increase train stops is very limited as stopping a train at Denham Golf

On a positive note when Oyster is rolled out to main line stations Denham Golf will be included, which will give Chiltern better usage figures for our station.

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The CA Chairman, Richard Downs, recently met with the Marylebone Travel Association (MTA), a rail user group who represent the interests of regular users of Marylebone station and passengers of Chiltern Railways. Their main focus is to identify and raise issues with Chiltern Railways with regard to timetables, changes to station buildings and car parking.

Christmas Arts & Craft Class

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Carol Singing in Denham Village

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## Neighbourhood Watch Update

Vehicle crime remains an issue in and around Denham with a number of vehicles recently being broken into along Village Road and in Bakers Wood. With the darker nights burglaries are more likely and unfortunately an incident occurred in Side Road last month. Residents are asked to remain vigilant and contact the police if the need arises.

### Police "Beat" Surgery

Our local PCSO Paul Dobbin and his colleagues will be holding their local beat surgery in the Hall on **Friday 15th January**, 6.30pm–7.30pm. Please do go along and discuss any matters of concern with them.

## Hall Events

### Art & Craft Class—21st December

Resident, Tara Cook, will be running a children's Christmas Art and Craft Class from 10.30am–12noon in the Hall. The class is suitable for children 3 - 11 years and they can take home all the items they make. Cost per child to cover art materials and refreshments is £5.00.

### Senior Residents Christmas Lunch

The Higher Denham senior residents enjoyed their Christmas lunch in the Hall on Friday 4th December. They were served a traditional Christmas menu and got into the festive spirit with Carol singing, party hats and crackers. A great afternoon was had by all and a special thanks to all who helped prepare, cook, and serve the food and cleared away afterwards.

**Yoga Class** - there are still a few places available at the Thursday morning class, 9.45am–11.15am – there's no need to book, just turn up.

## Christmas Carols in Denham Village

Tilehouse and Denham Village Infant School children will, for the fourth year, be singing Carols on the Village Green on **Thursday 10th December** at 6.30pm. All are welcome to join the schools on the evening.



## Project Pinewood- Expansion Plans

Residents may have seen in the local press Pinewood Studio's plans for expansion which they submitted to SBDC in June 09 and have just been turned down. The proposed expansion, on 100 acres of protected Green Belt Land, would include 1400 new homes. The application also proposed major road changes on the A412 from Iver Heath to Denham. The impact from building 1400 new homes and the studio expansion would add additional pressure to local infrastructure services and the extra vehicles travelling on the A412 would have a huge impact on the traffic situation in Denham. The refused applications are likely to go to Appeal and when this happens Denham Parish Council are looking for the support of all residents to register their thoughts on the proposals. We'll keep you updated on any developments.

## Clean up or Camera!

Despite numerous requests for dog owners to clean up after their pets, it seems that residents really are despairing at the minority of owners who refuse to do so. I've been asked to publish an email sent to the CA.

*"Many thanks to those who allow their dogs to foul the pavement outside our house. As a registered disabled person I do not take pleasure in cleaning up after your dog as you walk by and ignore your responsibility for your pet. Please remember the partially sighted people who can not see what they are walking into and have to clean your dog's mess off their shoes when they get home. Not forgetting the little children who might even fall in it and get it on their hands, hence various diseases those children can catch."*

*You must be proud of the environment you are creating. So I will take it upon myself to take photographs of people who do not clean up after their dogs, be it a Jack Russell or a Golden Retriever and pass them on to the Council for prosecution, be it on the footpath or bridle path".*

## Xmas & New Year Waste Collections

South Bucks District Council have published dates for refuse and recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period;

Usual collection day	Changed to
Friday 25th December	Thursday 24th December
Friday 1st January	Monday 4th January
Friday 8th January	Saturday 9th January

## Neighbourhood Nature Notes—Higher Denham's Egrets

"He's back" I said one morning in October seeing a Little Egret standing in the River Misbourne once again. The statement was not strictly accurate because it may have been a female bird, the sexes being exactly the same, and this year it (or they) had not really been away as I had seen occasional sightings throughout the summer.

Little Egrets are small herons and still comparatively rare in the UK. They are pure white, much whiter than a swan for example, except for a dagger-like black bill and eyes, and black legs with bright yellow feet, almost as if it were wearing ankle length wellies! They are about half the size of the more common grey heron and one of the most elegant birds you will ever see, especially in their spring breeding plumage when they sport two long plumes from the head and fine fluffy plumage on the breast and back right down to the tail.

It was this fine plumage that nearly led to its extinction in continental Europe when it became a popular adornment on Victorian ladies hats. It was saved, in part, by the formation in 1889 of a mostly female group campaigning against the use of feathers from wild birds, which ultimately became today's RSPB. The Little Egret was almost unknown in the UK until small numbers arrived on the south west coast in 1989. I first saw three in my garden in 1999. Now there are estimated to be 250 breeding pairs resident in the UK and up to 1500 individuals when these residents are joined by winter migrants, though why they come north to the UK in winter is a mystery to me!

Most Egrets are still to be found along southern muddy estuaries, but they are moving farther north and a few inland. We are, therefore very lucky to have them in Higher Denham. They are often territorial feeders, and aerial disputes can sometimes be seen over the field beside Moorhouse Farm Lane, but they roost in colonies often with Grey Herons. "Ours" probably roost at nearby Stockers or Broadwater Lakes and I recently observed four standing with a Grey Heron on Moorhouse Farm field as dusk approached. This is the best local place to look for them and in the trees across the field over the river, or in Wind in the Willows garden opposite the field. Contact me (via the editor) if you can't find them.



**Ron James**