

August 2013

Find us on the web:
www.hdca.org.uk



Higher Denham Community Association Newsletter

Hall Schedule

- **Monday**
2.15pm - 3.30pm Keep Fit
5.15pm - 6.30pm Circuit Fitness
7.00pm - 10.30pm Line Dancing
- **Tuesday**
6.20pm - 7.20pm Zumba
- **Wednesday**
10.00am - 11.00am, Yoga
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
- **Friday**
11.30am - 12.30pm Zumba Gold
(please note 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:

Community Gardens need TLC	2
Old Rectory Lane Road Closure	2
Neighbourhood Nature Notes	3
Social Club Corner	3
Bucks CC School Transport Update	4
Classified Column	4

Dear All,

Welcome to the August issue of the Higher Denham Resident Newsletter. So much has happened since the last one in June - Andy Murray won Wimbledon (at last), the Royal baby arrived (eventually), we are enjoying the hottest summer for as long as I can remember and the school holidays are well underway!

The CA do not meet in August, however this Newsletter has plenty to update you on including a request for help with weeding and clearing in our community gardens over the next couple of weekends, an alert for everyone to be vigilant against burglars, news on maintenance plans for Old Rectory Lane which continues to be in a dire state, an update on the implications for Higher Denham in the future regarding the Bucks CC school transport policy and the welcome return of Neighbourhood Nature Notes.

The next Newsletter will be with you in early October, however our website will be kept up to date in the meantime with items of interest. The website now has the capability for local businesses to advertise and we are delighted to welcome St Helen's College in Hillingdon as our first advertiser. If you would like to advertise on the website please get in touch for details.

As the school and summer holidays continue I hope, wherever you are planning to spend them, that the good weather stays with us for a while longer.

Until the next issue.

Jacqui McGowan
Editor

Update from the Committee

- We are delighted to confirm the bus shelter is finished! The base and path leading up to it are now complete and this brings the project to a close. The CA are thrilled with the new shelter which blends in beautifully with its surroundings and hope that for many years ahead residents, young and old alike, will benefit from this long awaited and much needed facility.
- Our new Groundsman, Angus, has started working on the field and surrounding areas and is busy carrying on the excellent job done by Dom previously. The CA continue to receive lots of positive feedback on the condition of the field and hope that you are taking the opportunity to enjoy it during the recent good weather.
- The Nursery proposal discussed at the AGM for the Hall continues to be explored and discussed at recent CA meetings. Although this is one avenue for generating much needed funds to secure the future of the Hall, we are also trying to identify other viable options and would like to hear from you if you have any ideas you think we should look at. We will keep you updated over the coming months.
- The CA has just received a £500 community donation for the third year running from local company, GlaxoSmithKline. We are delighted to hear this news! Previous donations have contributed towards the basket ball hoop in the field and the bus shelter. We will be using this new donation towards another specific project and will let you know what this will be after we have met in September.

The HDCA Newsletter is printed by:

fairweather
insurance services limited
www.fairweatherinsurance.co.uk
Tel: 01753 882222

Dog Fouling continues to be a problem in Higher Denham, with the private road leading to Moorhouse Farm being particularly affected. The owner has displayed signs in this area for some time asking for people to clean up after their dogs, however someone had decided to remove them without his permission. If your dog fouls on this road or any other place when you are walking it **CLEAN IT UP!**

Our Community Gardens need some TLC!



Di Gordon looks after the maintenance of the community gardens and the Spinney and would like to ask residents for some help with weeding and general tidying up of these areas. Di is organising gardening mornings on **Saturday 17th August** and **Saturday 24th August**.

If you are able to give an hour or so of your time helping out she would be delighted to see you. Please meet in the car park at 10am and bring along a gardening hand trowel or fork. Di can be contacted on **01895 832321** for more details.

Watch out - Burglars are about!



Please can we remind residents to be extra vigilant and report anything or anyone looking suspicious to the Police as burglars and car thieves have been active recently in Higher Denham, Denham Village and Iver.

A house in Middle Road was burgled between 17:00 on Wednesday 31st July and 08:00 on Thursday 1st August. Entry was gained by forcing a ground floor window. If you have any information regarding this incident, contact the Police on their non-emergency number 101.

If you know your neighbours are away on holiday perhaps just keep an eye on their property as you go about your daily business and report anything that looks out of the ordinary.

Open Gardens concludes for 2013

The final Open Gardens for 2013 was on Sunday 9th June in support of our own community gardens in Higher Denham. The afternoon saw a good turn out of visitors to view the gardens and enjoy the delicious cakes donated by residents. Resident Di Gordon co-ordinated the teas in the Hall and would like to thank everyone who donated cakes on the day and those who helped with setting up, serving teas and cakes and clearing away at the end of the afternoon.

The CA would like to thank Diana for all her help in making it happen and a success once again!

Di has a couple of unclaimed plates from cake donators - if they belong to you please contact her on 01895 832321.

Old Rectory Lane - Road closure for long awaited repairs

Residents who attended the Community Association AGM in March will have heard from the Bucks CC Transport representative, Wayne Fabian, that the badly water damaged section of Old Rectory Lane would be repaired during the summer. So far nothing has happened however, the following information has come to light.

"Transport for Buckinghamshire will be undertaking highway maintenance road treatment works to the carriageway of Old Rectory Lane between Rectory Cottage and Slade Oak Lane as part of the 'We're Working on It' (WWOI) programme. This work is being undertaken to improve the condition of the road in order to prolong its life, and involves surfacing work to targeted sections of the carriageway.

The road treatment works here are scheduled to take place in mid August (19/8 - 23/8 approx) and it is anticipated they will take 1 night to complete. Information signs will be erected on site prior to the commencement of the works, giving the actual dates and durations. You will appreciate that works of this nature are extremely weather dependant and therefore may be subject to disruption due to inclement weather. If the works are delayed, the advance notice signs on site will be updated to reflect any change in dates.

This work will be undertaken utilising a night time road closure which will be in operation between 19:00hrs and 06:00hrs each day. Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents and businesses, although there may be some delay as the road treatment works pass your property, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

The decision has been made to carry out these works at night to minimise large scale disruption during the day. Working at night is also more cost effective and time efficient. In order to minimise the impact on residents we will endeavour to keep the noise levels on the site as low as reasonably possible at all times. However, due to the nature of these works, noisy activities may occur at times throughout the period and we apologise in advance for this. Our contractors endeavour to ensure that that any plant vehicle used at night is fitted with an innovative piece of equipment that will help reduce noise pollution from our vehicles. By using a broadband 'white noise' sound wave to indicate when a vehicle is reversing the system reduces disturbance to residents or others in the vicinity.

Further information about this work can be found on Transport for Buckinghamshire's Service Information Centre at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport> or alternatively you can call 0845 230 2882."

Hopefully once these works have been carried out the road flooding will be resolved and we can look forward to much improved access in and out of Higher Denham, without having to dodge the treacherous potholes on a daily basis.

Neighbourhood Nature Notes



Better Late than Never. It has been a while since my last Notes! I have been busy on other matters, but what spurred me into belated action was the sight of 5, yes 5 Red Kites circling over the field behind Lower Road bounded by Moorhouse Farm Lane on 11th July when the farmer was cutting the hay in decreasing concentric circles. Clearly the Kites were hoping for prey to be flushed from the hay as it was cut, and from time to time one would swoop down to ground level, talons out stretched, but nothing was caught while I was watching. In the glorious sunshine that day, the rufous colouring that gives them their name was easily seen on the back of these magnificent birds.

Back in the autumn of 2012, we bought a pre-filled mini Nyjer Seed feeder from the RSPB for £3.99, and hung it up over the bird table. For weeks nothing came but eventually a pair of Siskins was feeding regularly, until they left for summer in Scandinavia. These were the only Siskins we saw last winter; no large flocks in the Alders that we usually see. Then, at last, the Goldfinches discovered the feeder and have been daily visitors ever since and we even had a fledgling (like the adults but no red and white face) last week fluttering its wings begging for food. The nyjer feeder is a bargain because the birds spend several minutes sitting feeding giving plenty of time to find and focus the binoculars. Refill seed can be bought cheaply from the pet shop in GX.

Talking of fledglings, the wet cold early spring was, like 2012, a disaster for the breeding birds and butterflies. Three groups of Mallard ducklings were the only breeding success I saw early in the year. At one point it got so cold that "our" robin, having paired up and allowed a male into her territory (which includes the bird table) chased him off "her" food source, showing that in the wild, survival comes well above love and devotion. When the weather improved slightly, he was allowed back, but despite seeing the adults collecting food no youngsters were seen. I am, however pleased to report that since the recent warmer weather came, the garden has been full of activity with many successful second broods including "our" robins. The brown spotty juveniles are beginning to develop red breasts and now mum is starting to chase them off "her" bird table!

In early summer I witnessed two gaudy male Mandarins vying for the attention of a female and following her every move. A few days later they returned to the garden and she had obviously made her choice, but the rejected suitor had not given up and was still following at a distance, picking vantage points like the patio to strut and preen his colourful plumage. A week later we had 5 mandarin ducklings on the lawn, but this was way too soon to have been the result of the courtship I had been following; so Mandarins still doing well locally.

These second broods are better late than never, but parents have to work hard to feed up their offspring before winter returns. In addition to loads of young Blue and Great Tits (and one Coal Tit) swarming over the bird table, we have had a young Greater Spotted Woodpecker (with bright red head) being fed peanuts, 3 families of Moorhens with black balls of fluff on stilts feeding on the lawn and now growing into carbon copies of their parents, and giving most pleasure, a family of Grey Wagtails (see picture) catching insects, and occasionally being joined by a more familiar Pied Wagtail. Grey Wagtails, not to be confused with the rarer, and even more yellow, Yellow Wagtail, always live by water so are at home near the Misbourne. Over the years we have seen adults now and then, but this is the first time I have seen them feeding a family.

I am always pleased to hear of other people's sightings in our village, especially when they are special. Di Gordon spotted a Redpoll (like a Sparrow but with a maroon blob on its forehead) at the far end of Lower Road, and new resident, Nick Millar not only reported a House Sparrow but in May also had a visit by a female Crossbill that stopped off on her migration North, to drink at his birdbath. Crossbills are known to do this but seeing one this close to London is a real rarity. I have only seen them in pine woods in Scotland and Scandinavia; well spotted Nick,

Lastly, I have not seen any bats this year. Has their roost been disturbed I wonder? Have you seen any?

Ron James - Wind in the Willows

STOP PRESS! - On 11th August at 9pm I saw bats flying in the front garden again. I have no idea where they have been all year till now.

Social Club Corner

The Social Club have an array of events coming up over the next couple of months - everyone welcome!

Saturday 24th August - Hawaiian Shirt Party - starts at 8pm

Sunday 25th August - Live music from the "Purple Zeppelins" 5pm - 7pm, recreating the spirit and sounds of Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. Free entry!

Saturday 7th September - Last Night of the Proms

Saturday 28th September - An Evening of Soul Music

Have you got children reaching secondary school age? This may affect you...



Parents with children of school age may not be aware of the recent changes to the Bucks County Council school transport policy, and we have been contacted by several residents raising problems they are now facing.

The main point of the policy is that children reaching secondary school age are now only offered transport by Bucks CC to their **nearest** school. For residents in Higher Denham our nearest school is Chalfont Community College, regardless of whether a child passes the 11+ exam. Therefore, any child passing the 11+ and gaining a place to our local grammar catchment schools (Challoner's boys and girls, Beaconsfield High and John Hampden) are **not** entitled to transport.

Discretionary places may be purchased on existing routes to catchment grammar schools (available from Higher Denham only to Challoners boy and girls, not to Beaconsfield High or John Hampden). However the policy goes on to state that spaces on mini buses or taxis of less than 8 places cannot be sold. The transport to the Challoner's boys and girls is served by minibuses and taxis, which means as children reach Year 11, and spaces become available they will be left empty. In a few years time only a small number of children will remain on these services, and Bucks CC will deem them as unviable to run due to their cost. The reality is, that in the very near future, there will be no transport from Higher Denham to our local catchment grammar schools and children living in Higher Denham will have to apply for spaces on other routes to school from elsewhere.

Also, as children enter 6th form their entitlement changes, and although they may have used the mini bus/taxi service for the previous 5 years, they are no longer able to purchase their seat, which again will remain empty as the policy states it cannot be sold to them or anyone else.

This lack of school transport will have an impact on families living in Higher Denham and the CA have been in contact with Bucks CC to raise the concerns above. If you are being affected by the recent Policy changes, or want to know how this may impact on you in the future please do get in touch.



St HELEN'S COLLEGE

Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX
Independent School for boys and girls aged 3 - 11



An 'OUTSTANDING' School

A family-run school with a caring atmosphere.
Pupils achieve excellent results in academic subjects,
music, sport and drama.

For further information, or to arrange a visit, please telephone 01895 234371
Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX - www.sthelenscollege.com

Classified Column

St Helen's College is a leading co-educational independent prep school, and also offers one of the top independent day nurseries in Hillingdon. St Helen's achieved "Outstanding" in all 12 categories of its most recent Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspection, from Nursery to Year 6. The school is located in Parkway, Hillingdon.

St Helen's are holding a school at work **Open Morning on Wednesday 16th October 2013** for prospective parents. Contact details: www.sthelenscollege.com
Tel: 01895 272967 (Lower School), 01895 234371 (Upper School).

Are you thinking of having professional photos taken for a family portrait, wedding, christening, prom or other occasion? Jenny Kaye is a photographer based in Beaconsfield and her photos are amazing! Take a look at her website www.jennykaye.com to see some of her work. Jenny says "Do get in touch for an informal chat about what you are looking for. My studio is in Beaconsfield but I am happy to travel and can be contacted as follows:

Tel: 01494 675 682 Mobile: 07944 838045 or Email: info@jennykaye.com



Monthly Draw

June 2013 Winner (Ticket No.)
1st Prize £15 Mr Tricker, Upper Rd (174)
2nd Prize £10 Mr Davies, Lower Rd (39A)

July 2013 Winner (Ticket No.)
1st Prize £15 Mr Daniels, Lower Rd (008)
2nd Prize £10 K Burridge, Lower Rd (31)

HDCA Committee Contact Details:

Contact us through our website: www.hdca.org.uk
Mr David Ward, Chairman 07870 629114
Dr Ron James, Treasurer r.james@company-doc.co.uk
Mr Charlie McClelland, Secretary 07785 231155
Mrs Jacqui McGowan 07557 772159
Mrs Sue Kelly 01895 833842
Mrs Sonia Harris 01895 832809
Mrs Mairead Carney m.carney@talktalk.net