

April 2015

www.hdca.org.uk

f higherdenhamcommunityassoc



## Higher Denham Community Association Newsletter

### Hall Schedule

- **Monday**  
2.00pm - 3.15pm Keep Fit  
5.15pm - 6.30pm Keep Fit  
7.00pm - 10.00pm Line Dancing
- **Tuesday**  
6.30pm - 7.30pm Fit Steps
- **Wednesday**  
2.30pm - 4.00pm Adult Singing  
7.30pm - 9.00pm Yoga \*
- **Thursday**  
9.45am - 11.15am Yoga \*  
2.00pm - 3.15pm Keep Fit  
6.00pm - 8.00pm Youth Club
- **Friday**  
11.30am - 12.30pm Zumba Gold  
(this class does not run on the last Friday of the month when the Senior Luncheon is held)

\* The Wednesday evening Yoga class is currently full. Spaces are available on Thursday mornings. For more information contact Kim Banner on 07928 354733

The Hall can be hired for functions — bookings are made via Jane Blyth on 01895 833378 or email jane\_e\_blyth@yahoo.co.uk

Hello everyone,

*I do hope you are enjoying the start of Spring. It's so uplifting to see all the trees, shrubs and flowers blossoming — and hearing the birds singing early in the morning.*

*The clocks have gone forward so we can now look forward to the lighter evenings and start planning our outdoor activities and holidays.*

*It's also time when many of us start new DIY projects, sort out cupboards and clean the house! For me the operative word is 'start' because I never seem to complete the tasks. I shall make an extra special effort this Spring to go into the Summer with a clean slate.*

*It is now the school holidays so whatever you are doing, have fun. And on behalf of the Committee I'd like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.*

Terri Urquhart, Editor  
tdurquhart@btinternet.com / 07774 26330

Deadline for contributions to the next issue is Friday 17th April.

### Keeping you informed—update from the HDCA Committee

**Community Association AGM 2014** — thank you to those residents who attended on 19th March. Chairman David Ward, and Treasurer Ron James gave updates on the Committee's activities and finances over the past year. Topics included the planting outside of the Hall, the soakaway in the car park, the construction of the new mower shed, and the boost to the community funds from increased hire of the Hall and the Glebe Field, Firework Night and the Open Gardens days. The Committee thanked everyone who had contributed and volunteered their time throughout the year.



Nominations for election to the Committee were accepted for the coming year:

Dr Ron James, Wind in the Willows – re-elected as Treasurer  
Mrs Jacqui McGowan, Middle Road - re-elected as Secretary  
Mr David Ward, Upper Road  
Mrs Jane Blyth, Side Road  
Mrs Sonia Harris, Middle Road  
Miss Emily Griggs, Lower Road  
Mr Edward Nash-Steer, Lower Road  
Ms Charlotte Clyne, Lower Road

The Chairman of the CA will be elected by the Committee at its first meeting on 16th April. Mr Charlie McClelland and Mrs Caroline Griggs chose not to stand for election again this year, and are thanked for their contribution during their time on the committee.

**The Coming Year** — now the new Committee is in place it will be discussing the priorities for the next year at the next meeting. Requests from residents for a running track around the field and some adult exercise equipment will be discussed. If anyone has other projects they think should be considered, please get in touch with one of the Committee ahead of the meeting. Contact details are on the back page.

### Featured in this issue

- ◇ **AGM Update**
- ◇ **Pot Holes Old Rectory Lane**
- ◇ **Parking & Traffic Lights**
- ◇ **HS2 Petitions**
- ◇ **Open Gardens**
- ◇ **Nature Notes**
- ◇ **Denham Golf Club Station**

## Pot Holes on Old Rectory Lane

Please keep reporting them to Bucks CC as they are a real hazard. The CC has said that the potholes are a 'Level 2' which means they are not bad enough to warrant being repaired. They will only repair the holes if they are a 'Level 1', which would be the case if a motorist damages their car on them! Some of the holes were 'fixed' a couple of weeks ago but there are still many more to be done. If you think the potholes are bad enough to warrant repair, please can you report them online.

<http://transportforbucks.net/report-it-pothole.aspx>

## Parking in Higher Denham

Our roads are particularly narrow in places. Can residents please be considerate when parking as it can cause problems for others trying to get in and out of their driveways. If cars are causing an obstruction near you it should be reported to our PCSO Paul Dobbin on 101.

## Traffic Lights – A412 junction

When they are out of order (which has been the case a few times lately during the morning rush hour) can residents be patient when waiting for others to turn right onto the A412. The Committee has been told that several residents have been getting irate, sounding their horns and making gestures (!) as it is taking drivers longer to get across the two lanes. Surely it's much better that drivers get across the lanes safely rather than cause an accident because of someone getting impatient behind them.

## Bill Evan's Cup

Kevin Carney, Upper Road has been presented with this year's Bill Evan's cup. He has helped out with the bus shelter, the sleeper wall at the front of the Hall and also the new mower shed structure. He has given his time, expertise and donated various materials for all the projects.



## Denham Against HS2

Last month the Denham petitions were presented to the High Speed Rail (London—West Midlands) Bill Select Committee. Frank Partridge and his witness, Dominic Grieve, were followed by Anne Ling, John & Jessica Hughes, and Ron James on behalf of the HDCA.

A video of the presentations is available on Parliament TV Live – <http://parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index>

Look for the morning and afternoon sessions from Tuesday 10th March. Also, in the afternoon session on 23rd March, there is a presentation from Amy Paul on behalf of Denham Aerodrome.

## Open Gardens 2015

The next event in this year's Open Gardens programme is on **Saturday 18th April 2015** – gardens will be open 2.00pm–5.00pm in support of the Air Ambulance Fund, entrance £4.00.



Then on **Sunday 24th May 2015** – five gardens will be open 2.00pm–5.00pm in support of the National Garden

Scheme and Higher Denham community gardens. If you are able to donate a cake and/or help on the day, please contact Di Gordon on 832321.

## Dog Fouling

South Bucks District Council has launched a new campaign to encourage people to report owners who do not clear up after their dogs. You can make a report online, by calling 01895 837264 or emailing [envhealth@southbucks.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@southbucks.gov.uk)

For more information about the campaign and the online report form, see the SBCC website [www.southbucks.gov.uk/dogfouling](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/dogfouling)



## Monthly Draw winners

The draw for March and April, with the new prizes, will be done at the next CA Committee meeting on 16th April 2015 to give residents a further opportunity to renew or pay for their subscriptions.

## Social Club Text Alerts

Anybody wishing to receive text notifications regarding Social Club Events via text should text "Club Texts" followed by their name to 07786013292. Numbers will only be used for Social Club or Community notifications

## Have you lost .....

..... a cherub garden ornament? If so, please get in touch with Jacqui McGowan on 07876 391349.



## Neighbourhood Nature Notes – Collective Nouns *by Ron James, Wind in the Willows*



Jackdaws are small crow like birds but with a grey area behind the face when seen at close quarters. Those residents of Higher Denham who are aware of the environment around them and who venture out around dusk can hardly have missed the sound, and depending where they are, the sight of 100 or more Jackdaws making up their collective minds about which local tree they will roost in that night.

They gather, circle in the sky and settle, then take off again, more circles then down on the same tree or perhaps off to another, all the while being joined by late comers and all the while chattering more melodiously than the harsher “caw caw” the rest of the crow family make. These flying circles are similar, but not nearly as spectacular as those of a murmuration of starlings coming into roost, but we do not have a starling roost here so must make do with the Jackdaws. Jackdaw numbers locally seem to be growing fast, helped perhaps by the easy pickings to be had sharing the trough with the piglets in the meadows by Old Rectory Lane!

“Murmuration” is a lovely descriptive noun for a collection of starlings. A group of Jackdaws is known as a “clattering” which I suppose is a fair description given the noise they make. I think they sound a bit like PM's questions in the House of Commons, but “a parliament” is used for Rooks. The collective noun for parrots is “a pandemonium” and given the squawking our local parakeets make when in flight, I guess we could apply that to them also.

In response to my last Nature Notes “Eye to Eye with a Hawk”, I was sent a photo by Jenny Watkins of Lower Road, showing a Sparrowhawk in her garden devouring a pigeon it had caught. The picture was obviously taken quickly, probably through a window, so is not clear enough to reproduce here, but the size of the bird and the fact that it had taken a pigeon strongly suggest it was a female, so since the one that crashed into our window was a male, we could have a pair in the village and perhaps little ones soon. I have not found a collective for Sparrowhawks perhaps because they are seldom seen more than one at any time.

Earlier this year we had a “charm” of Goldfinches feeding on the lawn; at least 25-30 together with a few Chaffinches. They were almost certainly feeding on Alder seeds which had been shed in the recent high winds from the finger nail sized cones that are produced by the Alders in the garden. These birds were in addition to the pair that has been eating Niger seed from our feeder all winter, and they were probably migrants passing through; delightful all the same. Most winters we see flocks of Siskins taking the Alder seed from the cones in the trees but never more than two this winter. Likewise we've had very few Redwings. Both these birds are winter visitors to the UK from further north, but I assume it has not really been cold enough to drive them this far south this winter.

The final “collective” was quite spectacular not because we had not seen them before, but we had not seen such numbers. Twice during March we had 20 Mandarin Ducks in the garden, about 50:50 males and females. Previously we had seen perhaps three or four and, indeed Terri Urquhart, our Newsletter editor, told me that she has had five in her Lower Road garden. It's great that others are getting to see these exotic ducks too, but 20 is quite a sight.

I do not know whether these were local residents, in which case they are doing even better than I thought, or perhaps dropped in on route to somewhere else. Given that we saw them twice, more than a week apart, it is more likely that they are resident in the area downstream from us, which means we all have a better chance of sightings brightening up our day.



*A pair of our recent visitors – Ed.*

I'm not aware of a collective noun for Mandarin Ducks. Flamingos are “a flamboyance” and peacocks “an ostentation” either of which would reflect the males exotic plumage, but I fancy something which evokes their Chinese origin and the character of civil service Mandarins is more appropriate. How about “an inscrutability” of Mandarins? Other inspirational thoughts are welcome.

Enjoy the Spring.

*Photographs courtesy of TRU Photography*

## Denham Golf Club Station Closure

Committee member, Ed Nash-Steer, has been talking to Chiltern Railways (CR) on behalf of Higher Denham residents and here are answers to our some of our questions. If you have any other points that you would like Ed to raise please contact him by email [ednashsteer@googlemail.com](mailto:ednashsteer@googlemail.com) or by 'phone: 07540 142720.

Check the HDCA and Chiltern Railways websites for any updates between Newsletters.

**Why is the bus replacement service just going to Gerrards Cross?** – The replacement bus service is running to and from Gerrards Cross as there is a more frequent service from there than from Denham. This decision was made in the best interest of the majority of passengers and CR understand that it is not a perfect service for all. It is not possible to provide an additional bus service to Denham Station or to make a stop there on the way to Gerrards Cross.

The bus timetables are published on the CR website [www.chilternrailways.co.uk/denhamgolfclub](http://www.chilternrailways.co.uk/denhamgolfclub). A simplified version has been requested to be displayed at Denham Golf Club Station.

**NB:** the last weekday train from London Marylebone that has a bus connection back to Denham Golf Club from Gerrards Cross, is the **2320** departure. This will be the case for every weekday evening during the period of closure, subject to any separate timetable changes that could affect the wider network over the coming months. Later trains will run to Gerrards Cross but there will be no bus back to Denham Golf Club.

**Why can't we all have free parking at Denham Station?** – This is only in place for those who have already paid for their parking in advance in the form of a season ticket. For those who do not have such a ticket already, the bus replacement service is provided to ensure passengers do not have to incur any further costs.

**Why is the station being closed for three months – is it not possible to just close some of the station rather than all?** – The station is closing for three months as the works taking place are very extensive – the platforms are not just being resurfaced, completely new one are being installed. If the work was done in stages it would take a lot longer and there would be safety implications of customers accessing the station alongside a working site.

**Are the grade 2 listed structures to be altered or replaced?** – The grade 2 waiting shelters will be repaired but not replaced or altered.

**Can a safety rail be introduced onto the slopes coming from the platforms as they are dangerous in the icy conditions?** – This has been agreed by CR and will be installed as part of the repair works.

**Can the lighting also be improved?** – This is being asked of Chiltern Railways.

### HDCA Committee Contact Details

|                               |  |              |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Mr David Ward                 |  | 07870 629114 |
| Dr Ron James, Treasurer       | <a href="mailto:r.james@company-doc.co.uk">r.james@company-doc.co.uk</a>   |              |
| Mrs Jacqui McGowan, Secretary | <a href="mailto:jacqui_mcgowan@hotmail.com">jacqui_mcgowan@hotmail.com</a> | 07876 391349 |
| Mrs Sonia Harris              |  | 01895 832809 |
| Mrs Jane Blyth                | <a href="mailto:jane_e_blyth@yahoo.co.uk">jane_e_blyth@yahoo.co.uk</a>     | 01895 833378 |
| Miss Emily Griggs             |  | 07929 367448 |
| Mr Edward Nash-Steer          | <a href="mailto:ednashsteer@googlemail.com">ednashsteer@googlemail.com</a> | 07540 142720 |
| Ms Charlotte Clyne            |  | tba          |

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Tel: 01753 882222