

January 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  
(including Meditation and Relaxation techniques)  
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  
6.20pm - 7.20pm Zumba
- **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**

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Dear Residents,

Welcome to the January issue of the CA Newsletter. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to whatever 2013 brings. We have already seen the first snow of the year which, as usual, brought the country to a standstill with local schools, roads, rail networks and airports all being affected. On the plus side it was good to see the younger residents (and some not so young!) enjoying a few days sledging on Denham Golf Course, throwing snowballs and making snowmen and snow angels.

In this month's Newsletter you will find details and nomination forms for the forthcoming Community Association and Social Club AGM's. Both are held in March. The CA needs new Committee members to join to provide fresh input and ideas and it's a great way to get involved with the community while not taking up too much of your spare time. If you are considering standing for election at the AGM we would love to hear from you.

You will also find dates for Open Gardens in 2013, which hopefully means Spring is not too far away, a direct message to dog owner's who refuse to clean up after their 4 legged friends, an update from the Social Club of forthcoming events, plus a note to residents about an application for a minor change in their licensing hours and a reminder that subscriptions for the CA Monthly Draw are due imminently. There are no "Neighbourhood Nature Notes" this month, however Ron James who writes the article features in the latest "Committee Under the Spotlight" on Page 4.

I hope you enjoy this packed Newsletter - the next one will be with you in early March, just ahead of the AGM.

Jacqui McGowan - Editor

## Community Association AGM - 2013

This year's Community Association Annual General Meeting will take place in the Hall on **Thursday 21st March, 7.45pm for a 8.00pm start**. The CA Chairman David Ward, and Treasurer Ron James, will give updates on the Committee's activities and finances over the past year. The Committee are keen to see as many residents as possible at the meeting and you are welcome to ask questions and make suggestions on the areas you think the CA should be focusing on in the forthcoming year. We have kept you up to date on progress throughout 2012 via the Newsletter but hope you will come along on the evening to hear in more detail.

### Election of the new Committee

The CA Committee for the forthcoming year will be appointed at the AGM. If you would like to stand for election you should complete the form accompanying this Newsletter, stating your own name and address and those of a proposer and a seconder – both must sign the form. The completed form must be returned to 5 Middle Road **no later than 8th March 2013**. The names of those standing for election will be shown on the Notice Boards outside the Hall and Station Approach one week before the AGM. Candidates should note:

- The HDCA Committee candidates and their supporters must be residents of Higher Denham.
- Due to the Charity Commission's requirements relating to the sale of alcohol on charity premises HDCA Committee members cannot be involved in the management of the Social Club ie. a person cannot be a member of both Committees.
- Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in the Hall at 7.30pm, except August and December.

If you have any questions about standing for election please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman, David Ward, on **07870 629114**.

## Dates for your Diary - 2013 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 14th March 2013**

**Higher Denham Community Association**

**Thursday 21st March 2013**

### Open Gardens 2013

Open Gardens returns to Higher Denham in the Spring - with 3 dates planned:

**Sunday 10th March** - "Wind in the Willows" will be open supporting Higher Denham Community Gardens

**Sunday 19th May** - supporting the Air Ambulance Fund

**Sunday 9th June** - supporting the National Gardens Scheme and Higher Denham Community Gardens  
More details to follow closer to the opening dates.



### Social Club Corner

The Social Club enjoyed a busy Christmas and New Year's Eve and are planning a variety of events for 2013 with something for everyone to enjoy. The first of the year are:

Friday 8th February from 8pm - live music from **Ricky Purcell** from "The Fortunes", singing an eclectic mix from the 60's to the present.

**Saturday 23rd February** - **Quiz night** returns. Come along and pit your wits against the other teams - either enter a team of your own or join one on the evening.



All welcome at both events.

### Dog fouling - enough is enough!

**Are you one of the disgusting dog owners who do not clean up their dog's mess?**

A large number of residents are fed up with a minority of dog owners who constantly refuse to clean up their dog's excrement despite repeated requests. It has been raised many times over the years in the Newsletter and continues to be an issue which needs to be addressed.

Most dog owners are respectful of their fellow residents and clean up when their dog fouls our pavements and verges - however a small number are not. In recent weeks dog faeces have been left all over Higher Denham - in Lower Road, on grass verges in Middle Road and on the pavements on Station Approach and Upper Road, amongst others - and it is revolting.

If you have a dog you are legally bound to clean up after it, and although you may choose to leave your dog's poo in your own garden it is not acceptable to do so on communal pathways or other residents' property.

If you are out walking in Higher Denham and see dog's mess, please contact the CA with the date, time and location and we will pass details to the South Bucks District Council Environmental department to deal with the matter. We will be publicising reported incidents through the Newsletter and the CA website. You can find all the CA contact details on Page 4.



### SLOW DOWN..... please



A number of residents in Middle Road have been in touch with concerns about cars being driven well above the 30mph speed limit. It is a well documented fact that at 35mph a driver is twice as likely to kill someone in an accident as they are at 30mph. Please, please check your speed. It really is 30mph for a reason on all of our roads, to ensure the safety of pedestrians and other road users.

### Message to Residents from the Social Club Application to Change Licensing Hours

*Dear Residents,*

*The Social Club has applied to South Bucks District Council to extend their licensing hours on a Friday from 23:00 to 24:00. No changes are being sought with regard to the playing of recorded music as this is still to finish at 23:00 for all nights.*

*This application will not result in any increased activities on a Friday night as the Club is already generally busy and most events are organised for a Saturday which is usually very quiet, or not open. The sole reason for this Application is to dispense with the odd occasion where there is an event on a Friday night resulting in the Social Club having to submit a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) for such events.*

*Full details of this application and the proposed variation may be viewed at the Council Offices of the Licensing Authority at Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, Bucks, UB9 4LH or at ([www.southbucks.gov.uk](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk))*

*Michael Ward  
Social Club Treasurer*

## Monthly Draw - Subscription Renewal

A large number of residents already take part in the CA Monthly Draw. It is a really easy and effective way of contributing to the community we live in, particularly if you do not have the time to get involved in grass cutting, gardening etc, with the added bonus of winning a monthly cash prize!



A ticket for the draw costs £6.50 per year with half of the subscription going towards maintaining the Hall and gardens and the other half being generated as prizes. Every month there are 2 prizes - the first is £15 and the second is £10. Winning tickets are drawn at the CA monthly meeting and the results are recorded in the minutes and published in the CA Newsletter.

Collecting subscriptions from all the households that participate is very time consuming as we have only a small number of collectors. Therefore this year we would really appreciate your help to reduce the amount of houses that need to be visited. Please can we ask you to renew your subscription by completing the slip opposite and posting it through the letterbox at **5 Middle Road** with your £6.50 (cash or cheque payable to Higher Denham CA). If you would like to receive an email or telephone confirmation of safe receipt please enter your details.

The current Draw year finishes in February, and participants will need to renew their subs by **1st March** for the chance to win from March 2013 through to February 2014.

If you are not currently in the Monthly draw and would like to join for the forthcoming year please do get in touch.

### Monthly Draw Results

December	Winner (Ticket No)
1st Prize £15	Mrs Davey, Station Approach (66)
2nd Prize £10	Mrs Wright, Middle Rd (88)
January	Winner (Ticket No.)
1st Prize £15	Mrs Farley, Middle Rd (70)
2nd Prize £10	Mr Hamilton, Lower Rd (164)

## We're on the Web!

As mentioned in the December Newsletter the CA have a new website which is constantly being improved and updated. We have received some really positive comments on the new site and would like to hear if you have any further suggestions for changes and enhancements. You will find all sorts of information on the site, from the Hall Class schedule, updates on CA projects and hot topics such as Old Rectory Lane. Please do take a look and let us know what you think.

[www.hdca.org.uk](http://www.hdca.org.uk)

## Community Association Monthly Draw

### Subscription Renewal 2012/1013

Name: .....

Address: .....

I enclose: - a cheque (payable to Higher Denham CA)  
- Cash  
(please delete as appropriate)

for £6.50 to renew my annual subscription  
to the Higher Denham CA Monthly Draw

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm safe receipt of my subscription on:

Tel no: .....

Email: .....

Please complete by 1st March and return to  
5 Middle Road, Higher Denham

## Old Rectory Lane - Update

Thank you to all those that have contacted Bucks County Council regarding the appalling state of Old Rectory Lane following recent bouts of heavy rain. They received more than 80 complaints and the CA has written to the Parish Council and our local Councillor, Bill Lidgate, to bring the matter to their attention - both are monitoring the situation.

Bucks CC have since installed a temporary fix to prevent further flooding by using sandbags to contain the water run off and have engaged the services of a Civil Engineer to come up with a permanent solution. We have since been informed that the farmer whose field is causing the problem has agreed to works being carried out on his land to rectify the matter. When this is done BCC will address the state of the road and in the meantime will continue to fix the surface as and when required. We will keep you up to date as things progress - however if the situation deteriorates we strongly urge you to continue to log your complaints so this does not become de-prioritised. Full details of the Council's response can be found on the CA website.

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## Committee Under the Spotlight - Dr Ron James, Treasurer

The well known Jesuit maxim “Give me the boy and I will give you the man” certainly rings true in my case since most of the things I am interested in now had their roots in my formative years. I come from a poor working class background and my father died when I was just six. With no man in the house, I had to help keep our small suburban garden tidy. Over time that chore became an abiding interest and acquiring Wind in the Willows some 30 years ago has allowed Julia and me to indulge that interest and share it with others for a good cause on Garden Open Days.



Ron at the Helm

As a kid, my hobbies had to cost nothing, so I read lots of books from libraries and took an interest in science and nature; the latter helped by a school friend, who knew much more than I did, and found nests and identified birds I had never seen (noticed?) before. I still remember the thrill of first seeing a Jay when I was 11 or 12! I learned both to sail and to cook simple stuff while camping with the Scouts, and I have continued to do both ever since. I started to race a dinghy at Ruislip Lido and then after marrying my crew Julia, at regattas around the UK. We now sail a dinghy at Maidenhead SC and a small keel boat at various nice warm venues in Europe.

I went to Bishopshalt Grammar, took “A” level maths and sciences then got a job in research at Glaxo where I was encouraged to do a part-time degree in Chemistry at Birkbeck College, which is still London University’s only dedicated part-time college. As a result, I am passionate about giving people equal opportunity to succeed. Years later, Birkbeck College made me a Fellow (gave me an honorary degree) recognising the mould-breaking achievements of scientists who worked for me in a biotech drug research company I later ran (See below), and I now act as a lay trustee for Birkbeck Students Union as a way of putting something back in return.

Having obtained my degree, I did a PhD working out how poppies make Morphine and Codeine then went back to work, this time at Wilkinson Sword, applying research to development of new products. I soon found that to move up the organisation I needed to understand finance and accounting, so again reverted to part-time study, successfully passing the Certified Accountants exams. After 14 years and having become Manager of the Chemistry department, Wilkinson closed down research and I was made redundant. I was out of work for a year before becoming a venture capitalist making investments in biotech start-up companies for the Prudential (a bit like Dragons Den). I had to sit on the Boards of companies I invested in and learned a lot about running companies. I got to put this into practise by seizing the chance when the opportunity arose, to become the CEO of a company in Edinburgh that I had put the Pru’s money into.

Over time, this company, which was developing drugs for Cystic Fibrosis and other diseases, grew to 200 staff in UK, USA and NZ, and was listed on the London Stock Exchange. But drug research takes time and the new investors wanted quick profits. This led to a hedge-fund buying the company cheaply, then closing it down and pocketing the cash the company had in the bank. However, the science the company developed has since been used by US companies to make successful drugs, and ultimately it played a part in the development of human stem cells that now offer new hope for treating many ailments.

All this made me who I am now and shaped what I do now. I still like to cook and enjoy good food and wine; still work a bit helping small drug discovery companies, still act as a lay trustee at Birkbeck and serve as treasurer for HDCA. I joined the HDCA Committee specifically to sort out the long running licence dispute with the Social Club. I had dealt with many legal agreements during my working career and stress does not trouble me. Persistence and a bit of give and take on both sides paid off, the agreement was signed and relations with the Social Club returned to normal. My aim now is to help generate and husband the money needed both to keep the Association running from day to day, and to fund the major projects my fellow committee members are carrying out to enhance the life style of Higher Denham. We are fortunate, living this close to London, to have the wealth of wildlife we have here. I enjoy writing the occasional “Nature Notes” to share my observations with you, hopefully to encourage you to look more closely at, and help conserve the ecology of our unique village.

Ron James – HDCA Treasurer

### 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  
 Denham Parish Council: 01895 834709  
 Railway Police; 0800 40 50 40

### HDCA Committee Contact Details:

<b>Contact us through our website:</b>	<b>www.hdca.org.uk</b>
Mr David Ward, Chairman	07870 629114
Dr Ron James, Treasurer	r.james@company-doc.co.uk
Ms Christine Birtles, Secretary	cabirtles@aol.com
Mrs Jacqui McGowan	07876 391349
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