

March 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
(*starts again after Easter)
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

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the March issue of the CA Newsletter which is with you earlier in the month than usual due to the forthcoming AGM. I can hardly believe another year has passed and the AGM is upon us again, so I have taken the time to pull together a dedicated "Keeping you Informed" on Page 3 to give you a detailed update on what the Committee has been up to on your behalf during the past 12 months – and I think you will agree it's a lot!

In addition you will find details of the return of Open Gardens this weekend, Sunday 10th March, with Wind in the Willows opening its gates to the first visitors of the year. The Social Club has several events coming up with live music in the Club in April and also on the field on the early May Bank Holiday - let's hope for good weather! There are details of a few changes to the Hall schedule, a call for help in the community gardens and an article about school transport to our local catchment grammar schools.

The next Newsletter will be with you in early April, after the Easter break.

Best regards,

Jacqui McGowan
Editor

Community Association AGM - 2013

This year's 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 an update on the Committee's activities and finances over the past year and you are welcome to ask questions and offer suggestions on what the CA should be focusing on in the forthcoming year. The Committee are keen to see as many residents as possible at the meeting and we hope you will make the most of this opportunity to hear about what's been happening from those elected to act on your behalf in Higher Denham over the past year.

Election of the new Committee

The CA Committee for the forthcoming year will be appointed at the AGM and the nominations will be shown on the Notice Boards outside the Hall and on Station Approach one week before the AGM is held.

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Additional Agenda Items for the AGM

In addition to the usual AGM agenda items there are 2 others the CA would like to raise and we would value your input and views on them both:

- The CA has been approached by a private children's Nursery expressing an interest in taking the Hall over for this purpose, running 5 days a week throughout the year. Long standing residents will recall this has happened in the Hall in the past until only a few years ago and we would like to hear your thoughts on taking this proposal forward.
- The Garden area in front of the Hall is in need of attention, particularly since the removal of the Silver Birch trees. The CA has discussed ideas for planting and improving the overall appearance and believe this area could be improved substantially. We would like to share our initial thoughts with you and welcome your ideas on how we might enhance this area, which is the main focal point as you drive in and out of Higher Denham, in the near future.

Reminder - 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

Changes to the Hall Schedule

There have been a couple of changes to the Hall schedule since the January Newsletter which we would like to make you aware of:

Toddler Group has been running on Monday mornings in the Hall for a number of years and many residents will have used the facility for their young children. Toddler Group organiser, Mary Rints, has seen a steady decline in mums and toddlers attending and has decided it is no longer viable to continue. The group closed in early January.

Zumba Class on Thursday evenings has been suspended for the foreseeable future - however Zumba lovers can still enjoy their workout in the Hall on Tuesday evenings at 6.20pm and the slower paced Zumba Gold on Friday mornings at 11.30am.

The **Yoga class** on Wednesday mornings is taking a break for a few weeks but will be up and running again after Easter— no need to book a place just turn up (class details below).

Our Community Gardens

Di Gordon and a small group of residents began clearing and tidying the Community Gardens last weekend ready for Spring and made good headway, although there is still plenty to be done. More helpers are desperately needed to work in the gardens to keep on top of the weeding, pruning and leaf clearing. Di says that if every household in Higher Denham contributed just one hour of their time a year the gardens would be easily maintained. Gardening mornings will be held on Sundays throughout the Spring and Summer months - if you can help, even for just a small amount of time, please let Diana know on **832321**.



Open Gardens Returns

The first Open Gardens of 2013 will be on Mother's Day, this Sunday 10th March. Wind in the Willows in Moor House Lane has something for garden lovers to enjoy all year round and will be open to visitors from 2pm—4.30pm. Tickets: Adult £4, children free.



The next Open Gardens date for your diary is **19th May** in support of The Air Ambulance Fund. A number of gardens will be open on the day and hopefully Spring will be upon us. Details of the gardens to visit will be displayed on the Hall Notice Board nearer the time.

School Transport

Are you having difficulties?

Several residents with children of secondary school age have been in contact regarding difficulties they are experiencing in obtaining school transport from Higher Denham to our local catchment grammar schools. Although Bucks CC provide transport for current pupils to these schools, they are not offering the service to new pupils and are only giving the option of transport from Denham Green and the A40. As we all know walking to and from these pick up points from Higher Denham is dangerous and impractical on Old Rectory Lane, and using the path running parallel to the train route in the dark evenings is not an option from a safety and distance perspective. School places for new Year 7 children will have been offered on 1st March and if you find yourself in this position we would like to hear from you. The CA will be bringing the situation to the attention of Bucks CC School Transport and would like to know how many families are affected before making contact.





Yoga - Wednesday mornings
10.00am to 11.00am
with Arun Gattani
BWY DCT (Diploma Course Teacher)

Arun is a trained BWY Diploma Course Tutor, and has over 25 years experience in teaching Yoga, having had his initial training in India during his college days.

Come and along and try it out, you have absolutely nothing to lose (apart perhaps from a few kilos!) and everything to gain.

Higher Denham Community Hall
Lower Road, Higher Denham UB9 5EA

£5 per class. All levels welcomed. Personal attention given. First class free.

Contact: Arun on 020 7993 2786
e-mail arun@health.co.uk

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Keeping you Informed.....

AGM 2013 & 2012 Update

The Higher Denham Community Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the main meeting of the year, with the existing Committee providing an update on what they have been focussing on and have achieved in the previous 12 months. The current Committee hope many of you will take the opportunity to come along on **Thursday 21st March at 8pm** to hear what we have been up to.

What's happened since the last AGM?

You may well be asking this question - so we thought it would be useful to give you an overview ahead of the AGM, but please do come along and hear more on the evening - and importantly, let us have your feedback on what's going well and what the new Committee, who will be elected on the evening, need to be concentrating on in 2013/2014.

When compiling a list of what we have achieved, the thing that stood out is the amount of help residents have given - wherever they can with whatever they can. Some have helped by cutting the grass, weeding, planting and clearing the gardens. Others have got involved with specific projects, for example the bus shelter, Open Gardens, tree felling, clearing the overgrown perimeter of the field, collecting Monthly Draw subscriptions, putting up the community Christmas decorations on the Hall roof. Some have helped raise funds by obtaining donations from Companies they are linked to or have contributed personally through the Monthly Draw - the list goes on and on. To everyone who has helped, in whatever way they can to make Higher Denham the place we love to live - we are very, very grateful - thank you.

In the Hall

- The Hall has been completely re-decorated. The ceilings, walls and woodwork have been repainted and the floor re-varnished. The curtains in the main Hall have been replaced with vertical blinds. The old folding, dividing wall has been replaced with a modern up to date version. The Hall light fittings have been replaced.
- The Hall entrance has been painted and a new Notice Board added for all Hall hirers to advertise and for residents to display local information of interest.
- Hall hire has gone from strength to strength, with some new classes being added to the schedule and it is being hired more by local residents for children's parties and events.

Around the Hall - Gardens and Field

- The CA purchased a commercial mower so that the field can be cut more regularly and maintained to a better standard.
- A new grounds person has been working hard cutting the grass and helping with gardening and ground maintenance and we have received lots of positive feedback on the improved appearance of the field.
- The old, dangerous Sliver Birch trees outside the Hall have been removed. Planting of hundreds of Spring bulbs has taken place (and are now starting to appear in the gardens around the Hall).
- A new fence has been erected along the Glebe Field boundary, which blends in and complements the rural setting we live in.
- Clearing of the field perimeter has taken place, opening up the field and making the area look generally a lot more open and tidier.

In the Community

- **Bus Shelter** - A small number of residents have given many hours of their valuable spare time and expertise completely free of charge to work on the shelter and as a result it has been built with no labour costs whatsoever. This has included digging the foundations, building the wooden structure and roof, treating the wood, donating and installing a large amount of steelwork for the sides and so it goes on. The glass sides will be installed very shortly and the base will be completed as soon as warmer weather allows which will complete the project.
- **Old Rectory Lane** - the condition of the road continues to be an issue and the CA has been in regular contact with Bucks County Council regarding the road flooding and pot holes. A temporary fix was implemented, with a permanent solution being sought by Bucks County Council. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- **Resident Newsletter** continues to be delivered on a regular basis to all households in Higher Denham and is kindly printed in colour by our sponsors, Fairweather Insurance.
- **New website** has been constructed and is kept up to date with information relating to Higher Denham (www.hdca.org.uk)
- **Open Gardens** - 3 events were held in 2012 and despite the wet summer a reasonable number of visitors supported them.
- Two successful **joint events with the Social Club** - the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration and Firework night. We hope to do more combined events in 2013.

Financial Position

- Despite the current economic climate the Hall has generated a very good income of **£10,655** for 2012, a **15%** increase on 2011 and **78%** on 2010. When added to other income and donations received eg. Parish Council, the Gardening Club, GlaxoSmithKline, the CA Income for the year totalled a staggering **£16,972**. The CA is committed to keep reinvesting for the benefit of all the community and some significant expenditure has been made this year, for example redecorating the Hall, building materials for the shelter, field maintenance, purchasing the new mower and the installation of the new boundary fence. Taking into account all these major project costs, together with the daily hall expenses such as heating, lighting, rates, insurance, cleaning etc - a healthy profit of **£3876** has been achieved making a banked total of **£16,771** for future projects, repairs and daily running costs. We are very pleased indeed!

Social Club Corner

Quiz Night on 23rd February was a huge success with a good number of teams turning up to show the extent of their trivia knowledge! For those that missed out or are looking forward to the next one keep your eye out for details via the Newsletter.

Live music returns to the Club on **Saturday April 13th** with the hugely popular duo "**Mouth on A Stick**", playing an array of songs from across the decades - a real treat for all music lovers.

Saturday 27th April sees a belated St George's Day evening with the best of British music from 1975-1985.



Sunday 5th May - Event Extravaganza not to be missed. Two live bands will be playing on the community field from 2pm-6pm. Entry £5 per adult. More details/flyer to follow - save the date in your diary!

All welcome at all events.

Competitive Car Breakdown Cover



The Newsletter sponsor, Fairweather Insurance, are offering car breakdown cover provided by the RAC which includes assistance if you breakdown at Home or by the roadside, vehicle recovery, onward travel and European cover - at a very competitive price. See the attached leaflet with all the details and please do mention you saw the offer in the HD resident Newsletter when contacting them.

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Monthly Draw

February	Winner (Ticket No.)
1st Prize £15	Mrs McCann, Lower Rd (115)
2nd Prize £10	Mr Zaman, Lower Rd (113)

Useful Numbers:

Thames Valley Police (non-emergency number): 101

Water Leaks: 0800 376 5325

Denham Parish Council: 01895 834709

Bucks CC Highways: 0845 230 2882

South Bucks DC: 01895 837200

Railway Police; 0800 40 50 40