



Higher Denham Community Association Newsletter

Hall Schedule

- **Monday**
10am - 11.30am Toddler Group
2.15pm - 3.30pm Keep Fit
NEW!!! 5.15pm - 6.30pm
Circuit Fitness Class
7.00pm - 10.30pm Line Dancing

- **Tuesday**
6.00pm - 7.00pm Zumba

- **Wednesday**
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
6.00pm - 7.00pm 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**

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the May issue of the CA Newsletter. Space is of a premium this month so I will keep my part brief! This month you will find an update on the CCTV proposal following the meeting held in the Hall on 26th April. "Committee under the Spotlight" returns with personal input from the new CA Secretary, Christine Birtles and there are details of the SC's plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Local resident Kevin Cosgrove shares his recent fundraising success in support of Cancer Research and plans for his forthcoming challenge to climb Mont Blanc to raise even more! Our neighbours at Colne Valley Park have been in contact to provide us with details of changes happening and also a summary of our very own Open Gardens which has drawn to a close for 2012.

Best regards,

Jacqui McGowan - Editor

Update from the CA

The CA have met twice since the AGM in March and have been discussing a variety of topics including suggested priorities for the coming year. One of our main areas of focus is the proposed Bus Shelter and we are liaising closely with the Parish Council to move things forward. A number of residents have been in contact to see how things are progressing and we are pleased to say an architect has been engaged to draw up plans based on the design in the May 2011 Newsletter. Once the plans are ready for submission to South Bucks District Council we will share them with you via the Newsletter and display them in the Hall. The recent extremely wet weather has reinforced the need for a shelter for both the younger residents who have no choice but to stand in the rain to wait for their school transport and for the elderly residents travelling into Uxbridge for shopping, appointments etc.

If you have any thoughts on what you would like the CA to consider this year please do get in touch with any member of the Committee, or you are very welcome to come along to the Public Session of the CA meeting on **Thursday 21st June at 7.30pm** to share your ideas with us.

Social Club - Variation to Premises Certificate

Some residents, particularly those living close to the Hall and Social Club in Lower Road, will be aware an application was recently made by the Social Club to South Bucks District Council to vary their Club Premises Certificate. The application was for live music times to be extended to 12pm on Friday and Saturday and to include the Hall within the Licence. The reason for the change was to remove the need for the SC to apply for a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) and the associated cost on the 4 or 5 occasions a year that live music is held. By including the Hall in the licence variation, events such as the musical evening held last Christmas and the Senior Lunches where drinks are consumed within the Hall would be covered too.

The SC and CA made a fundamental error by not communicating the reasons behind the application to residents before the application was made. The CA can only apologise for their part in this oversight. As a result SBDC received a number of objections to the variation, some with valid concerns such as lack of sound proofing in the building and some completely misguided, for example suggesting the SC would be turned into a Night Club! The CA urge any resident, who has a concern of any nature relating to Higher Denham, to contact them directly rather than relying on ill-advised information and inaccurate hearsay, which can cause so much unnecessary worry and concern.

Following the application to SB District Council an administrative issue was highlighted and the Social Club have withdrawn their proposal.

The HDCA Newsletter is sponsored by:

CCTV Proposal Update



As many of you will remember from the March newsletter an overview of the proposal was presented at the AGM, and again at the CCTV meeting in the Hall on the 26th April. This meeting was very well supported with over 30 residents taking the opportunity to hear more about the scheme and raise questions. A number of residents who were unable to attend on the evening sent their support for the scheme via neighbours, and some in writing.

The meeting went through the suggested proposal with local PCSO Paul Dobbin taking questions from the floor. Everyone present was unanimously in favour of continuing with the process to involve everyone in the village, providing as much information as we have, and gathering as much support as we can.

A group of around half-a-dozen residents volunteered to create a flyer that will contain all the information about the scheme, including what it will and will not do, the benefits and the expected cost per household.

They hope to have the flyer printed by the end of May, so do look out for your copy and **PLEASE** do read it and fill in the tear-off section at the bottom.

If you have any questions regarding the CCTV proposal, please contact Charlie McClelland on **07785 231155**

Vigilance Pays Off !

Residents are regularly reminded through Neighbourhood Watch updates to be vigilant as they go about their business in Higher Denham and I am delighted to say by one resident doing so, saved another a lot of upset and distress. On Saturday 19th May, in broad daylight, a house in Upper Road was broken into. A neighbour noticed what was happening and immediately called the police and made a note of the vehicle make and registration. The police responded very quickly and caught the burglars in the house red handed. This is a prime example of where CCTV would have been invaluable. On this occasion the police were able to apprehend the burglars at the scene of the crime, however if they had not arrived in time CCTV footage would have been used to identify the vehicle and individuals involved. If you do see anything suspicious or untoward don't hesitate to call the Police - on **101** if non-urgent or **999** if it is.

Open Gardens closes for 2012

Open Gardens have been busy over the past month or so with residents opening their gardens in support of the Air Ambulance on 22nd April and the National Garden Scheme last Sunday, 20th May. The Air Ambulance event was hindered considerably by the rain, however last weekend saw an upturn in the weather and the number of visitors who came out to view the gardens. Look out for the photos in this week's local paper!

With Santander's charity matching scheme the amount raised last weekend through ticket, plant and cake sales was £1700. Thank you to everyone who made and donated cakes and to those that helped in the Hall, on the plant stall, with parking, and of course the residents who open their gardens and spend many hours working on them before the day. Open Gardens has come to a close for 2012 - so those that open theirs in support of charity can now take a well earned break.

Committee under the Spotlight

Hi - I have lived in Higher Denham (in the middle of Middle Road) for nearly 14 years and have recently stopped working full time (and commuting daily to London!) and so have more time to get involved in the community. I only joined the Committee this year but am impressed with how much they have achieved over the last year and we still have many things we want to achieve this year which will make living in Higher Denham safer, more fun and hopefully provide a better quality of life.



My particular interests are the environment, gardens, wildlife and improving quality of life for all. To this end I am particularly concerned about the HS2 train plan, which if it all comes to fruition will be running 25 feet above the ground crossing mid way along Old Rectory Lane on large concrete stilts! This could blight Higher Denham and make selling our houses very difficult. I have heard that some solicitors are recommending not buying them down on Lower Road already. I have spoken to and written to our MP Dominic Grieve about this several times. So I do urge everyone to contact him and to support the "Stop HS2 campaign" on facebook. We shall continue to update you on this important campaign. Finally if there are any singles in Denham do email me and let me know if you would like anything organising for singles in the community. Looking forward to meeting more of you in the coming months and working with the Committee on behalf of Higher Denham.

Christine Birtles - CA Secretary
(email: cabirtles@aol.com)

Social Club Corner



The Social Club are busy organising a community Musical Event on **Sunday 3rd June** to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This will be a great way to spend a relaxing afternoon with friends and family listening to live music by "Mouth on a Stick", "Left, Right & Centre" and Higher Denham resident Richard Cottle and his Band. The Club will be open from 2.30pm, with the music starting at 3pm through to 8pm. Tickets are £5 per adult, £2.50 per child. All welcome.

The CA will be running a BBQ during the event with all proceeds going towards maintaining the Hall and gardens. We hope to see many of you there!

A Mountain to Climb - in support of Cancer Research

A Charity evening held in the Social Club in support of Cancer Research UK on Good Friday was a smashing success in terms of the number of people who turned up and funds raised. Resident Kevin Cosgrove, from Side Road, organized the evening and plans are well underway for the forthcoming climb of Mont Blanc that he will be attempting on 1st September with 3 other residents. Kevin has written the following article for the Newsletter on behalf of the team who will be doing the climb with him:

The Raffle & Auction raised a staggering total of £4,262 !!!

Firstly, our thanks go to all the people that donated very generous raffle prizes and auction items.

We would, of course, like to thank everybody that bought raffle tickets, participated in the auction and donated monies on the night (including the people that couldn't make it to the event). We would like to thank those of you who sold thousands of raffle tickets and helped to fold them all up for the Draw.

Our thanks also go to the Higher Denham Social Club (HSDC) for their contribution and to Bill Gordon and Gordon Evans, our tremendous bar staff, who donated their bar services for the evening.

The whole evening was fantastic.

It was great to see so many of you come and support us for this truly worthy cause. Some of you came from miles away... Bournemouth, Colchester and Dunstable for example, however if you just came from round the corner it was great to see you all there!

Mont Blanc Summit Challenge Itinerary

Chris Malham, Dave Harris, Damon Harris & myself will arrive on Sunday 26th August in St Gervais les Bains, France.

The Program.

Day 1 - Monday 27th we will commence our climbing instruction where we will ascend to the refuge of Tre la Tete (Altitude 1970m) where we will stay overnight.

Day 2 - Tuesday 28th We will commence training for walking on the ice in crampons on the Tre la Tete Glacier and spend overnight in the Refuge Les Conscrits (Altitude 2600m)

Day 3 - Wednesday 29th We will ascend to Berangere (Altitude 3425m) or the Tondu (Altitude 3196m) then return to Saint Gervais (Altitude 900m)

Day 4 – Thursday 30th We rest.

Day 5 - Friday 31st Ascent by tram station railway from St Gervais les Bains to Nid d'Aigle (2372m) then walk to overnight stay in Refuge Le Gouter (Altitude 3817m) which will take approx 5hrs.

Day 6 – Saturday 1st September Leave Refuge Le Gouter at 3am for final ascent (5 hrs) to arrive at sunrise on Mont Blanc (Altitude 4810m) then descend (6 -7 hrs) to Nid d'Aigle (Altitude 2372m) tram station which takes us back to St Gervais les Bains so we can celebrate all of us conquering this enormous physical achievement and more importantly for the money we have raised in aid of Cancer Research UK who continue to research and develop new treatments to fight this life threatening disease.

Day 7 – Sunday 2nd Arrive home.

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Further fundraising activities:

A number of events are being organised to help raise funds for the trip to Mont Blanc with the first being a Sale in the Hall on **Sunday May 27th between 3-6pm**. Clothing company "La Capa" and sweet outlet "Funky Treatz" will be selling their products and donating a percentage of their profits to the Challenge. A raffle will also be held.

Vestry Teas - Resident Elaine Davis will be holding Vestry Teas in support of the Climb - details below.

"I am hosting Vestry teas to raise funds for the Mont Blanc Challenge on **Bank Holiday Monday, August 27th** in the Vestry of St Mary's Church in Denham Village between **3-5pm** - all profit will go to the Challenge. If you can donate a cake nearer the time please contact **Elaine (Middle Road) on 833515**. Please come along, you could take a walk in Denham Country Park and finish it off with a tea in the beautiful setting of St Mary's Church."

Colne Valley Park is Changing!

The Colne Valley Park covers 43 square miles of countryside on the western edge of London. It stretches from Rickmansworth in the north to Staines in the south and is a mosaic of farmland, woodland, water and villages. In many areas the public can enjoy picnicking, fishing, cycling or golf or simply a quiet stroll in attractive countryside. The Park includes attractions such as Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Staines Moor, Black Park, and the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Denham parish lies almost wholly within the Park.

The governance of the Colne Valley Park is changing. Conceived nearly fifty years ago, it has been managed by a unique partnership of local authorities working with Groundwork charity. This has proved a success but in stringent times a rethink is needed if the Park is to survive and realise its potential in the 21st century. The new Colne Valley Park Community Interest Company (CIC) will draw its directors from a wider pool including local authorities, user groups, statutory agencies and corporate bodies and possess a wider remit. It will aim to sustain the network of high quality countryside, waterscapes, villages and green spaces and provide amenities for sporting, educational and cultural pursuits. It will also ensure a pleasant environment in which people can live, work and play and allow support for a thriving rural economy and a rich range of biodiversity.

Denham Country Park is at the heart of the Colne Valley Park. It boasts a Visitor Centre and café open 364 days of the year, offers tranquil walks across grassland or by the Grand Union canal and hosts a variety of events from Wild Food Foraging to children's birthday parties, from water vole survey training to the **Colne Valley Festival on Sunday July 29th**. If you came even a year ago, come again, please, and regularly. The Visitor Centre is brighter, has a wider cuisine – soup, rolls, cakes, cream teas – and offers an opportunity to purchase local produce.



The Friends of the Colne Valley Park are involved in the overall running of the Park supporting the walks, talks, children's events and bazaars and helping run the Visitor Centre. Their contribution has been recognised with a place on the board of the new Colne Valley Park CIC where Denham parish council is also represented. If you value the footpaths, country parks, bluebell woodland and nature reserves in and around Denham please join the Friends of the Colne Valley Park.

Useful contacts:-

www.colnevalleypark.org.uk (where there is also a link to the Friends)

Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, UB9 5PG (01895 833375) (follow us on facebook)

wildlifetrust@hillingdon.gov.uk (for information on events in the Park)

Richard Nokes - Chairman,
Friends of the Colne Valley Park

"Mini" Nature Notes

Having not seen them for a while during the winter and wondering if they were still around, about a month ago, 3 male and 2 female Mandarin Ducks walked across my lawn and then disappeared down river. I did not see them again until last week when we spotted a female with 5 small ducklings; the first ducklings I have seen this year. They visited on 3 days and the mother even came once to the bird table to eat seeds. This proves that not only have these exotic ducks taken up residence in our area but they are breeding too. They nest in holes high in trees and the ducklings jump to the ground when just 1 day old. There is a great short video of this at www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/mandarin-ducklings-jump-from-their-tree-top-nest/10473/html

Ron James - Wind in the Willows

Monthly Draw

April 2012	Winner (Ticket No.)
1st Prize £15	Mr Bhamra, Middle Road (94)
2nd Prize £10	V Young, Middle Road (116)
May 2012	Winner (Ticket No.)
1st Prize £15	Mr Gordon, Lower Rd (50)
2nd Prize £10	Mr Gorringe, Middle Rd (69)

Committee Contact Details:

CA Email Address: committee_higherdenhamca@hotmail.com

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
Mr Charlie McClelland	07785 231155	Mrs Sue Kelly	01895 833842
Mrs Sonia Harris	01895 832809	Mrs Maureen Dowsett	maureendowsett@aol.com



St Mary the Virgin, Denham Village to Ring First Peal for 59 Years

Following the Jubilee Fair on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th June 2012 St Mary's Church is very pleased to announce that on Wednesday 6th June, a full peal will be rung on all eight Bells.

This is a very rare occurrence as the last Peal was rung at St Mary's on the 10th Jan 1953, some 59 years ago. There have been only 20 known successful Peals rung - the first one being 239 years ago on the 9th May 1773.

Because this is such an historic event in the history of the Church and Bells, a very experienced band of ringers has been assembled and the church is dedicating this Peal to **Queen Elizabeth II on her Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**.

The Method being rung is: - Rutland Surprise Major and will take approximately 3hrs 15 mins to complete, starting at 10am.

Although the main church will be closed during the Peal attempt in order to give the ringers the high level of concentration needed, **the church vestry will be open for Coffee/Tea/ cakes and biscuits from 10.30am until noon, and a live video will be shown there showing both bells and ringers in action throughout the peal.**

It is hoped that this will be a most successful event and all are welcome to come along and share in this historic occasion.

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St Mary the Virgin, Denham Village

May 2012