

November 2011

Contact the CA:
Committee_higherdenhamca
@hotmail.com

Find us on the web:
www.bucksinfo.net/hdca



Higher Denham Community Association Newsletter

Hall Event Schedule

- **Monday**
10am - 11.30am Toddler Group
2.15pm - 3.30pm Keep Fit
7.00pm - 10.30pm Line Dancing
- **Tuesday**
6.00pm - 7.00pm Zumba
- **Wednesday**
2.30pm - 4.00pm Adult Singing Club (most Wednesday's)
6.00pm - 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
(this class doesn't 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:

Committee "Under the Spotlight"	2
A40 Denham - Footbridge/Crossing	2
Denham Golf - 100 years old	2
Dial 101	3
HS2 Update	3
Neighbourhood Nature Notes	4

Dear All,

Welcome to the November issue of the Resident Newsletter. Much has happened since the last one, including Halloween, Firework Night and a definite change in the seasons as the early, dark nights are now here. Dare I mention it? It won't be long until we are all preparing for Christmas!

I know I say this every issue, but this month's is full to the brim of items for your awareness and information. The CA have been busy between meetings and you will find an update and details of not 1, but 2 Community events we are organising. We do hope you will come along and show your support and that these will be the first of many held for the whole Community's enjoyment.

You'll also find the return of the "Committee Under the Spotlight" - this month featuring Sue Kelly, one of the newer members of the Committee. There's a request for suggestions to improve Denham Golf as we approach its centenary, an update on the A40 Denham footbridge and the recent HS2 Parliamentary debate and one of my favourites, Neighbourhood Nature Notes, where I always learn something new about the amazing wildlife we live alongside in Higher Denham.

Thank you to those who have been in touch with items and comments - both are always welcome.

Best regards,

Jacqui McGowan - Editor

Update from the CA

The CA would like to update you on what's been happening since the last Newsletter:

- The CA and Social Club jointly ran this year's community Firework event. It was very well attended, helped by the mild, dry weather, and all those that turned out on the evening were treated to a magnificent professional display. The CA ran the BBQ on the evening and with the help of the Kiddies stall raised a huge sum towards CA funds - a grand total of **£540**. Thank you to everyone who came along on the evening and gave their support.
- Open Gardens 2012 - dates for your diary. Dates have now been confirmed as follows: **19th February** (in support of Higher Denham Gardens), **22nd April** (supporting the Air Ambulance Fund) and **20th May** (the National Gardens Scheme). More gardens are always needed to open for visitors. If you would like to find out more on what this entails, which is probably less than you think, please contact Sonia Harris on 01895 832809 who will be delighted to give you more information.
- By the time you read this the new CA Shed, provided by Martin Bakers, should have been delivered and built next to the Hall. We are very grateful to them for their generous donation.
- The CA have been investigating the installation of solar speed signs within Higher Denham, however this has proven very expensive and beyond our budget. As an alternative we are looking into the possibility of displaying "Twenty is Plenty" speed signs on our roads to politely encourage drivers to slow down. We will keep you up to date on progress.

Community Events

As previously mentioned the CA are busy organising two Community events over the next couple of months:

- **Family Race Night, Saturday 19th November** - starts at 7pm in the Hall.
- **A Musical Evening** to celebrate the festive season on **Saturday 17th December**. Our local singing group will be singing a selection of carols and a local, mature band will be performing. We need musical talent from Higher Denham to step forward and contribute on the evening. Auditions are being held on **Saturday 19th November, 10am - 12noon** in the Hall.

Please see the enclosed flyer for more details of both events.

Committee "Under the Spotlight"

Hi - my name is Sue Kelly and I have lived in Higher Denham for eleven years. I have enjoyed living in the uniqueness of Higher Denham and was elected onto the HDCA last March at the AGM.



I have brought up three daughters here and the issue of the bus shelter was one of the reasons I wanted to get involved in the CA, as the children and adults have nowhere to shelter on cold, wet mornings whilst waiting for their buses. I felt that we should try to do something about it and as a Committee we are in the process of building a shelter.

Also I inherited the day to day running of the Hall which has a number of regular classes such as Yoga, Zumba (I attend both!), Yoga, Line Dancing, Table Tennis, Singing, Play Groups and the Senior Citizens monthly luncheon.

I would also like to see the Hall used for more community functions where people can meet and socialize. In fact we were involved in the fireworks display this year running the BBQ stall and we will be holding a family Race Night to help raise money for up keep of the Hall and grounds.

So all in all the past eight months have been very interesting and I look forward to helping the community to continue to develop and move forward and maintain the uniqueness that is Higher Denham.

A40 Denham - Footbridge/Crossing

Following the removal of the footbridge on the A40 at Denham in February, Bucks County Council have now considered 3 options for the future. Option 1a is to repair the existing footbridge, Option 1b replace the footbridge with a new one or Option 2 remove the footbridge and introduce a PUFFIN (Pedestrian User Friendly Intelligent Crossing) facility with 2 lanes.



Bucks County Council favour Option 2 saying that it is a good compromise for both pedestrians and motorists. The permanent crossing would be placed as close as safety permits to the existing bus stops. A 40mph speed restriction would be imposed (replacing the current 30mph) and street lighting would be retained in the vicinity of the crossing. The use of the current safety cameras would be revisited when the permanent option is installed.

Transport for Bucks held a public exhibition to showcase the options at Denham Parish Council's offices on 25th October to hear peoples' views. A steady stream of visitors went to see the proposals, with most agreeing with the preferred option.

Denham Golf Station - 100 years old!

The halt was built six years after the Chiltern Line was opened and was originally paid for by Denham Golf Club for the convenience of its members and visitors, although for many decades now its main function has been to serve as the local station for the Higher Denham community. 2012 will mark its centenary. The facilities are basic, the distinguishing feature being the corrugated iron "pagoda" shelters on the platforms. The Booking Office was built to a similar design but was burnt down a few years ago and replaced by a store constructed in a similar style. The station is listed Grade II by English Heritage because the group of buildings was a rare survival of the pagoda type, but the listing took place before the original Booking Office was destroyed.

What should now be the future for the station? One option would be to recreate some of the lost historic features such as period signs and benches to compliment the pagoda shelters. The Railway Heritage Fund could be a source of income for such a scheme. This outcome may be aesthetically attractive, but is it practical or really what the regular users would like to see? Some have suggested that the remaining historic shelters would be better removed to a museum and replaced with something more modern.

What I would hope that we all could agree on is that the station is of great value to the community, that it should be maintained to a good standard, that its use should be promoted, and that it should be as safe and welcoming as possible for rail passengers. So to decide the best way forward for improvements to the station I am proposing that we hold a meeting to involve as many interested local residents as possible, where we can discuss the options available and hopefully put together a plan that we can present to Chiltern Railways. I have built up a good relationship with them through the improvements we are making at Denham and I am confident that if we can demonstrate wide support for any proposals we make then they will be looked on favourably.

Carl Shillito

Chair, Denham Neighbourhood Action Group
Co-ordinator, Denham Stations Project.

If you are interested in taking part in this exercise please contact:

Carl Shillito Mob: 07947599379
email: carl@macrail.co.uk

John Gorringer Mob: 07748800641
email: johngorringer@tiscali.co.uk

"Have Your Say Meeting"

Our local PCSO's will be available in the Hall on **Friday 18th November 6.30pm-7.30pm** to meet with residents to discuss any matters of concern - no appointment necessary, just turn up on the evening.

Dial 101 - new Police Non-Emergency Number

Thames Valley Police is due to go live with **101**, the new national single non-emergency number on 14 November 2011, which will replace the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both numbers will run side by side until the end of March, but if demand for the 0845 8 505 505 number drops it may be discontinued earlier.

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day the call is made, or the duration of the call. Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will now know exactly how much a call will cost them, and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

The routing will be based on the same system as 999 calls. If a caller is using a landline the routing will be based on the caller's postcode and the call will be directed to the police force for that area. If a caller is using a mobile, the call will route using the mast that the phone is transmitting from.

If a call is made to 101 within a force area that has not yet 'gone live', the caller will hear a recorded message telling them to redial using the relevant non emergency number.

HS2 Update

Campaigners from up and down the country turned up to demonstrate in Westminster on the day of the HS2 debate in the House of Commons. Nick Hurd and Dominic Grieve, two of our local MPs, joined the event and the campaigners had the opportunity to let them know the strength of residents' feeling against HS2. Lots of media attention was created, giving the strong message that we are not prepared to be ignored! Ruislip, Ickenham, Harefield and Denham were well represented and campaigners did a great job in waving placards and lobbying MPs. See the picture opposite.

The debate produced a lively exchange from both sides but it is clear we still have a difficult fight on our hands as there are so many MPs who are in favour of HS2 and there is obvious support from The Labour Party.

Just recently an important major change took place within Government. Following the resignation of Liam Fox, the Transport Secretary Philip Hammond has been moved in a minor cabinet shuffle, to take his place. **So** we have a new Secretary of State for Transport - **Justine Greening**. She will now be the one to take over the decision on whether HS2 goes ahead and will be making that announcement in December. This gives us a fresh opportunity to make our voice heard but very little time so please **ACT NOW!**

PLEASE WRITE AND TELL HER YOUR VIEWS ON HS2

People power and pressure are all that is left to use in this fight and **we need your input now more than ever**. It is vital that she is made aware of the issues that Philip Hammond was largely ignoring.

Email address greeningi@parliament.uk or postal address: Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Transport. Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR

It is vital that we keep fighting by writing to all MPs along the route. This can be achieved on a large scale if all our friends, family and colleagues can be persuaded to write to their local MPs too. **Just click this link:** www.highspeedrail.org.uk and follow the instructions to tell your MP what you think. The website only requires a name and postcode and it will find any MP, create a letter and send it for you! It literally only takes a minute to do. We particularly need emails to go to MPs in Scotland, Merseyside, Yorkshire and The West Country but all areas of the Country will help.

Labour proposes new direct Heathrow route for HS2

Shadow transport secretary Maria Eagle has just announced her support for the main HS2 route to be a direct route running to Heathrow and parallel to the M40 and the existing Chiltern Railway line. The route now proposed will include a main transport hub at Heathrow, allowing the airport to be directly connected to HS2 as early as 2022. Under the existing plan, Heathrow will be connected to HS2 only by a spur line and that is not expected to be completed before 2033.

For further information or help please contact Norman Dennis by email: norman.dennis@btinternet.com

HD Trading Post

STUDYWISE

Do you want your child to do well in **7+ & 11+?**

If you do, bring your child to **Studywise!**

The work will be aimed at the preparation for the 7+ & 11+ and it will be done from the age of six.



We cover Verbal, Nonverbal Reasoning & Maths.

We will suit our time to suit you and will be at:

62 Middle Road, Higher Denham, UB9 5EG

If you are interested please call **Felicia William** on
01895 834337 or 07900 697413.

It will cost you only £20 per hour.

Hurry & book your place soon, only a limited number of places are available.



Neighbourhood Nature Notes

As I write these Notes we have a wonderful late burst of warm sunny weather at the end of September, but I suspect it will not last long and probably will mark the end of summer.

Looking back on the recent months, one of the simple pleasures of summer that always captures my attention and somehow leaves me feeling good, is the sight of bats whirling round my front garden. Bats are nocturnal and they hibernate in the winter so it is in summer that we see them through the dining room window, generally after we have eaten, silhouetted against the last of the light in the western sky on clear nights soon after the sun sets. Within 10 minutes or so, it becomes dark, and while no doubt the bats remain, we can no longer see them.

One such evening was the Party on the Park day when, after the torrential downpour around 6.30 pm the sky completely cleared by 7.30. On that occasion there were 3 or 4 bats whizzing around, their echo location navigation systems apparently completely unaffected by the amplified music on the park. I am not certain what kind of bats these are. I expect they are Common Pipistrelles, the most common of the 18 (yes 18) different species that inhabit the UK. The Pipistrelle is the smallest UK species, but none are exactly large. Its body is about 2 inches long with a wingspan of 7 to 8 inches. It weighs less than a £1 coin and eats more than 3000 flying insects, one third of its weight, in a night. Actually there are 3 types of Pipistrelle, all small and not easy to tell apart without a bat detector to listen to their otherwise inaudible calls. The flight of Pipistrelles is fast and twisty as they hunt insects and this is the flight pattern I see as they loop the loop over the hedge, down the lane and back over the lawn. They like areas near rivers and ponds as many insect larvae go through an aquatic stage and bats in general are a sign of a good balanced environment. All UK bats are protected because their numbers are declining rapidly as the diversity of our landscape diminishes due to urbanisation and modern farming methods. We are, therefore, fortunate to have 3 species in the Colne valley, Common Pipistrelles, Daubenton's bat that prefers still water to rivers, and Brown Long Eared bats, the existence of all three in the valley is now being used as part of the campaign against the imposition of HS2.

Unfortunately, bats have had a bad press, largely due to books and films on mythical vampires and Hollywood horror films portraying bats getting caught in the long hair of the always attractive heroine. There is, of course a vampire bat [three actually out of 1100 species of bat worldwide] but their food is the blood of cattle or goats and birds depending on the species and only one rarely attacks humans. Most importantly, vampire bats are found in central and south America; never in the UK. Nor is it true that bats get caught in hair. Their excellent navigational systems allow them to avoid any such dangerous [for them] places. They are not blind either, though their eyesight is not as acute as their hearing. It is said that a bat can hear a ladybird walking on a leaf on a quiet night! So we have nothing to fear from these little creatures even though in pictures of them they may look fierce.

European Hedgehogs (1 of 17 species world-wide), are also nocturnal and the second of three UK mammals that hibernate in winter, the third being the dormouse. In recent surveys the hedgehog has consistently topped the list of Britain's favourite native wild animals. This to me is somewhat surprising since they are infrequently seen and then generally only late on summer evenings, as they largely sleep hidden during the day. Certainly I do not see more than 2 or 3 a year. Perhaps it's their somewhat deserved reputation as pest eaters in the garden or childhood memories of Beatrice Potter's Mrs Tiggywinkle that puts them at the top. Hedgehogs are sometimes seen in daylight during autumn when food has been short so they are still foraging to put on weight ready for hibernation.



Given that they are our favourite it is ironic that they are in decline in England, largely due to the activities of man and that, despite eating slugs and snails for us, gardens represent a real hazard for hedgehogs. Whether for day time sleeping or winter hibernation (which involves reducing body temperature from 33 °C to near 10 °C, slowing breathing rate, heart-beat, etc. and therefore energy use) hedgehogs use dry grass and leaves and, for winter, twigs too, to make "nests" in long grass, under brambles, in hedges or wood piles. This makes them vulnerable to lawn mowers and especially to strimmers, and to bonfires. So please look before you trim and if burning garden rubbish, start a fire with small twigs then feed it bit by bit from the rubbish pile. This is a better way to get a fire going anyway than putting a match to the base of a rubbish heap. Hedgehogs, like us, have a penchant for eating the wrong foods, so if you have a nightly visitor to your garden or see one out in daytime, please feed it tinned dog food rather than bread and milk which is not really good for them.

Ron James

Wind in the Willows

Committee Contact Details:

Mr David Ward - Chairman	07870 629114	Dr Ron James - Treasurer	r.james@company-doc.co.uk
Mrs Jacqui McGowan	07876 391349	Mr Charlie McClelland	07785 231155
Mrs Sue Kelly	01895 833842	Mr Jerry Arthur	01895 832810
Mrs Sonia Harris	01895 832809		

Higher Denham Community Association

Presents a

Family Race Night

on

Saturday 19th November 2011



The Hall will be open from 7pm for race goers to study the form and place their bets!

Tickets £5 Adults - Children Free

The Social Club Bar will be open for refreshments during the evening

All proceeds raised will go towards the upkeep of the Hall and community areas

Please do come along and support your local CA



A Musical Evening in December

The Higher Denham Community Association wish to hold a Musical Evening in the Hall.

COME ALL YE on **Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm** to celebrate our musical talent and to have a good time during the festive period. Already signed up are a mature band and our local singing group for carol singing, a sing-a-long and listening to a variety of musical entertainments in a seasonal environment.

Now we need any of **YOU** with musical talents, whatever your age, to step forward and become involved!

So please, if you can contribute come along to the Hall between **10am and 12noon on Saturday 19th November** so that we can see what you can offer and then put together a show to remember!

