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176 SPRING
2007

THE NEWSLETTER

CIRCULATION
3,800

DORRIDGE & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman: DAVID GLANFIELD ~ 779635 • Secretary: MALCOLM SHEPHERD ~ 773374 • Editor: PETER RADNALL ~ 770633
e-mail address: dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com • www.dorridge.org.uk

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 46th Annual General Meeting of The Dorridge & District Residents Association will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st March 2007 at Bentley Heath Community Hall, Widney Road, Bentley Heath, Solihull.

After the DDRA formal business there will be an interval when light refreshments will be served with the Association's compliments. This will be followed by a talk on 'The County Air Ambulance Service'.

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7.30 pm - Minutes of 2006 AGM | 8.05 pm - Election of Committee - Malcom Shepherd |
| 7.35 pm - The Chairman's Report - David Glanfield | 8.10 pm - Question Time |
| 8.00 pm - The Treasurer's Report - Alan Holder | 8.30 pm - Interval - Coffee, Tea & Biscuits |
| 9.00pm 'The County Air Ambulance Service' | |
| 9.45pm - Close of Meeting | |

SEE YOU IN MARCH THEN!

We hope that as many residents as possible will join us for our AGM, which is our opportunity to tell you what we have done over the past year and YOUR opportunity to tell us if there are things we haven't done! We also hope to welcome our Ward Councillors together with representatives from the Neighbourhood Police Team and the Council's Neighbourhood Coordinator for our area, so there will be someone to respond to whatever issues might be raised.

The talk by the County Air Ambulance Service has a special significance, the service having been active in Dorridge at least twice in the past couple of years or so, following incidents at the flats in Manor Road and at the Total Service Station in Grange Road. Watching the helicopter land and take off at the bottom of Manor Road left no doubt about the skill of the pilot.

All households receiving our Newsletters are eligible to attend the AGM. Paid-up membership for 2007 is required, but if you haven't paid your £1 for this

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year you can do so at the door – and receive one of our lovely new membership cards in return. March 1, 7.30pm, Bentley Heath Community Hall.

AND WHY NOT JOIN THE TEAM?

We are always looking for new committee members. In fact finding new members is essential since some of us have been doing this for quite a time now and all organisations benefit from the injection of new thinking and the development of new strategies. Four committee meetings a year plus whatever time you choose to devote to ‘hands-on’ projects is all it takes, so if you think this is for you and would like to know more, contact our Secretary, Malcolm Shepherd, on 77 3374 or e-mail him at dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com

DORRIDGE REMAINS ‘LOOLESS’.

We tried, and we were helped by those residents who sent us comments to include in our presentation to the independent panel on toilet closures, but in the end it all came to nothing. Of course we now know just how cash-strapped the Council is and we have to acknowledge that some services have to be reduced or even removed. We still do not believe that public conveniences should have been anywhere near the top of the list, but now we have to brace ourselves for the additional squeeze which is almost bound to come. There has already been a suggestion that funding for Christmas lights may be withdrawn. Not hugely important perhaps but Dorridge, along with other parts of Solihull, will

seem a dark and gloomy place in the run-up to the Festive Season with only the street lamps to light our way.

THE CRIMEBUSTERS.


The Knowle and Dorridge Police Team will be available to meet residents in the Mobile Police Station on the Forest Court car park on Tuesday 6 March and Tuesday 3 April, or in Knowle Library on Monday 5 March and Monday 2 April between 10.00am and 12 noon.

Sergeant Ann Strachan’s latest Newsletter shows that yet again vehicle crime is the most popular ‘little earner’ among the gangs of local – or not so local – thieves and vagabonds. Of 179 reported crimes on our patch in November 2006, over half were vehicle crimes. We might guess that a lot of these were ‘SatNavnapping’, and that the figure may have shot up again this month as drivers lost their treasured Christmas presents. The better news is that drug busting, often resulting from information from the public, is paying dividends in the form of significant arrests and the seizure of both drugs and financial assets. We are also pleased to hear that a recent alcohol test purchasing initiative led to 3 out of the 6 off licences targeted being issued with fixed penalty tickets for selling to under age youths, and this action has in turn led to a reduction in the incidence of criminal damage. Finally, on November 23, the Traffic Warden patrolling in Knowle and Dorridge issued no less than 22 parking


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tickets, while between 20 and 24 November Police Officers issued a further 26 tickets close to a school in Dorridge.....

.....SPEAKING OF WHICH.

Parking – isn't it the bane of our lives? And it hits us from both directions, sometimes because we cannot find anywhere to leave our own cars, sometimes because we face the hazards created by other people's badly parked vehicles. We don't have an answer, and there is no space in Dorridge or Bentley Heath where a new car park could be sited. But we do allow ourselves to wonder sometimes how far people have driven. All we can say is that if you live within reasonable walking distance from the station, the school, the shops, the dentist, the hairdresser etc, perhaps you could consider leaving the car at home, at least if the weather is half decent. If you already do, you have our thanks. If you don't, we'd love you to give it some thought.

MSAs and ROUNDABOUTS.

Can you help? As SAMSAG (Solihull Against Motorway Service Areas Group) prepares its case against a Service Area anywhere along the Solihull section of the M42 we at DDRA are keen to learn of your bad experiences at Junction 4. The perils of negotiating that roundabout are well understood by those of us who face them, but written confirmation of incidents by residents may help us at the Public Inquiry in June. If you have experienced a near miss or actually suffered a collision we would like to hear

from you. Indeed any observations or comments on the intention to use the Junction 4 roundabout and Gate Lane as routes to and from the proposed MSA would be welcome.

AND ON THE SUBJECT OF WELCOMES..

....we are pleased to see three new advertisers on the pages of this issue, Enzo of Dorridge, Francesco of Knowle, and our very own printers, Paper and Print in Shirley, with whom we have had a long and happy association. We would also like to thank our existing advertisers (9 of whom have been with us for over 14 years) for their loyal support, which makes the publication of 'The Newsletter' possible. We have actually had companies waiting for advertising space for more than five years but now, for the first time, we have no-one on the list. However, we can always start a new one so if you would like to put your name down for the next empty space, contact Peter Radhall on 77 0633.

FRESH PRODUCE FROM THE LOCAL AREA.

It's all at Bentley Heath Country Market, every Friday from 10.00am to 11.30am in Bentley Heath Community Hall. Fresh meat from animals raised on the lush fields of Hockley Heath and Baddesley Clinton, free range eggs from Knowle, homemade pies, savouries, cakes biscuits, jams and preserves, handmade crafts and cards, plants, flowers and arrangements and, of course, crisp, freshly picked vegetables grown locally in Knowle and Chadwick End.

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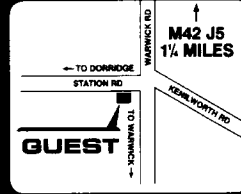
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AND SPEAKING OF GREENS.....

.....a second crown green has been laid at Ye Olde Knowle Bowling Club in Grange Road next to The Railway Inn and the club is keen to sign up new members for the 2007 season. Crown Green Bowling is a healthy, inexpensive outdoor sport enjoyed by both sexes and all ages and, for 'après bowl', the club has an excellent clubhouse with catering and bar facilities. You can play for fun or competitively as the club holds internal competitions and also has seventeen teams bowling in seven different leagues on weekdays, evenings or weekends. The current annual subscription is £70 (free for under 21s) and you can find out more from David Neild on 77 3971.

24th KNOWLE AND DORRIDGE LIONS FUN RUN.

It's on Sunday 13 May and entries are already flooding in. You can enter and pay online NOW at www.KnowleFunRun.org.uk or phone Dave Carter

on 77 0749. Last year the event raised over £45,000 for charity and this year the run will support Marie Curie Cancer Care (Warren Pearl), Childline, and Berrow Cottage Homes.

Last year almost 2000 runners did the 5 mile circuit and this year runners of Junior School age will be offered the choice of either 1 or 2 laps, 2.5 or 5 miles. If you are a regular, or if you have never entered before, now is the time to get signed up.

AND FINALLY.....

.....we would like to thank all of you who have been in touch recently to commend committee members on their efforts. We have had letters, e-mails and sometimes just a few words added to subscription renewal forms. So thank you for thanking us – we appreciate the thought.

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