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188 SPRING
2010

THE NEWSLETTER

CIRCULATION
3,800

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF DORRIDGE, BENTLEY HEATH AND FOUR ASHES

Chairman: DAVID GLANFIELD ~ 779635 • Secretary: MALCOLM SHEPHERD ~ 773374 • Treasurer: PAUL DAY ~ 773936
E-mail: dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com • www.dorridge.org.uk

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The association's 49th Annual General Meeting will take place at **7.30pm on Thursday 4 March 2010** at Bentley Heath Community Hall, Widney Road, Bentley Heath.

After the formal DDRA business there will be an interval when light refreshments will be served with the Association's compliments, followed by Question Time.

AGENDA

- 7.30pm - Apologies, Minutes of 2009 AGM, Matters Arising.
- 7.35pm - Chairman's Report – David Glanfield
- 8.00pm - Treasurer's Report – Paul Day
- 8.05pm - Election of Officers and Committee – Malcolm Shepherd
- 8.10pm - **INTERVAL – Coffee, Tea, Soft drinks, Biscuits.**
- 8.30pm - Question Time.

We cordially invite all members to join us on March 4, and if you haven't yet paid your subscription for 2010 you will be able to do so at the door. This is the annual opportunity to meet committee members face-to-face, hear at first hand what DDRA has been up to throughout the year, express views, raise concerns, offer suggestions, and even volunteer to join the committee. We look forward to meeting you.

BUT WHY WAIT UNTIL MARCH TO PAY?

Our subscription year begins annually in January and we entered 2010 expecting a hefty bill for the Christmas lights which, incidentally, we hope you all enjoyed. The estimate exceeded £1500 and we now await the invoice to get the final figure. With the spring just around the corner – we hope! – our gardening team will be needing

money to continue their excellent work on Station Approach, the station platforms, and the triangle by the railway bridge. We have also agreed to contribute towards the provision of four ash trees to be planted close to the original site from which Four Ashes gets its name. And we are still trying to encourage local youth organisations to come



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forward and bid for a Youth Grant of up to £500. So please use the slip at the end of this newsletter to send us your £1 and, if you wish, to add a donation to our funds. Please send your subs, by post or hand, directly to our treasurer Paul Day at 185 Mill Lane, Dorridge, B93 8NY. The other addresses given are only for the convenience of residents who wish to drop their subs through a letter box near their home. If you wish to pay by annual Standing Order contact Paul at the above address or by phone on 77 3936.

DOWN IN THE FOREST.....

.....nothing stirred! The Sainsbury application is on the table at the council, and all is quiet as we await a date for it to be discussed at the Planning Department. Everything that could be said has been said and we hope that everyone with a view has expressed it. Our Planning Secretary Ian Spencer has submitted DDRA's response and we are grateful to him for his detailed analysis, which is given in full on our website **www.dorridge.org.uk**.

If any further news comes our way we'll publish it on the site.

ARE YOU HAPPY.....

.....with our station and train services? Our last newsletter included a report on a talk by Ian Baxter, General Manager (North) for Chiltern Railways together with the promise to canvass residents' views on the station and the services offered by Chiltern Railways and by London Midland, the company responsible for managing the station

as well as running trains. If you would like to tell us what is good, what isn't so good, and what improvements or alterations you would like to see in any aspect of our local rail business, please e-mail **dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com** or write to DDRA at 17 Westfield Close, Dorridge, B93 8DY. All views received will be collated and forwarded to the train operators and to the Solihull and Leamington Rail Users' Association (SALRUA) by committee member Martin Lambert, who is also Vice-Chair of SALRUA.

BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING DOWN THERE.

The station now has new-style London Midland signage, and all the seating has been painted or varnished. For cyclists, covered cycle racks have been installed in the car park adjacent to the disabled spaces. The new footbridge South of the station is in place and has been painted in a colour similar to our own 'Dorridge Green'. At the time of writing (mid-January) the footbridge at Bentley Heath crossing is undergoing a refurbishment lasting 8-10 weeks. The bridge on Four Ashes Road is also being refurbished and crash barriers are being installed (a considerable number of train delays nationally are the result of bridge collisions). And finally, London Midland will be introducing new Class 172 trains from May onwards. So, plenty of good news with more to come – and we would like to record our appreciation to Chiltern Railways, London Midland and Network Rail for the continuing improvements to the services for which each is responsible.

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SEE IT, REPORT IT, SORT IT

From time to time we must all see something that needs attention and there is generally someone who can deal with it - BUT ONLY IF SOMEONE TELLS THEM!. On three occasions we know of in the past couple of months residents have responded to a problem – a green (wheel-less) wheelie bin lay abandoned on the grass verge at the side of a road in Dorridge for several days, a serious water leak threatened to create a large sheet of ice on Station Road, and thoughtless residents dumped mounds of Christmas rubbish around the recycling bins in the Chiltern Railways car park. In each of the three cases local people solved the problem very quickly with a simple phone call – but it was obvious that in each case no-one else had reported it. So if you see it, report it! Phone numbers for services such as water etc are in the telephone directory, if it is a council issue and you don't know which department to contact phone the switchboard at **0121 704 6000**, or you can e-mail DDRA at **dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com** or phone us at **77 9635** so that we can pass the word on to the right person. And really, it won't matter if someone else has already called it in – better several calls than none at all!

FUN RUNS

You can register at any time now for either – or both – of our local Fun Runs. First on is the **27th Knowle Fun Run** on Sunday 16th May at Arden School. This year Knowle and Dorridge Lions are dedicating most of the funds raised to the **Parkinson's Disease Society**, the **Teenage**

Cancer Trust, and Fly2help. The 5 mile run covers two laps on traffic free roads and there will be two Mini Runs for the under 9s. All the details you need are on the Lions' website: **KnowleFunRun.org.uk**.

And plans are well in hand for the **6th Dorridge Fun Run and Summer Fair**. The event will be started by Malcolm Stent at 10.15am on Sunday June 13 at St Phillips Church on Manor Road. Some 1500 people are expected to run, walk or cycle around the traffic free 3 or 8 mile courses and the organisers hope to reach their target of **£25,000 for Marie Curie and Troop Aid**. Go to **www.dorridgefunrun.org** for further information and to register. But if you don't want to take part, the website will also give details of which roads will be closed – and you can always sponsor someone who IS running!

KEEP THE GREEN FLAG FLYING

News from Friends of Dorridge Park (FODP) is that now we can all vote online and help to have the Green Flag re-awarded to Dorridge Park this year. Here's what you do :

- Go to *DDRA website*.
- Under *DDRA NEWS* click on 'Dorridge Park Green Flag'.
- Click on the *Dorridge Green Park link*.
- Click on 'Vote for this site! Your vote will be instantly recorded.
- Please vote and help our wonderful park to retain its *Green Flag status*.

FODP also urge us to report unemptied bins, litter, broken bottles etc at the park to 0121 704 8000

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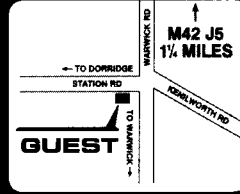
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AND WHAT ABOUT YOU....

....do you or an organisation you belong to have anything you would like the community to know about? It is always a pleasure for us to report on the activities, successes etc of local people, community groups or organisations. The newsletter appears only four times a year, but our website is always there, and we are always on the lookout for interesting stuff to put on both. So if there is anything to tell, e-mail it to **dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com** or write to DDRA at 17 Westfield Close, Dorridge B93 8DY.

AND WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CASH?

As mentioned above we have cash (up to £500) waiting for local youth organisations or initiatives

which could do with a boost. If that sounds like you contact Paul Day on 77 3936 and he will send you an Application Form to get things started. Do it now and we could even be handing you a cheque at our April Committee Meeting!

MANY THANKS....

.....to the five volunteers who offered themselves as newsletter deliverers after the appeal in the last edition. Our distributor Diane Waldron is very grateful for the offers, and is very happy that she now has a full complement of hardy souls to do the job.

AND LASTLY.....

.....a rather belated but nonetheless sincere Happy New Year to all of you.

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- David Glanfield, 17 Westfield Close. • Glennis Portsmouth, 12 Paddock Drive. • Helen Bragg, 85 Hanbury Road.
- Martin Lambert, 7 Winster Avenue. • Malcolm Shepherd, 10 Rodborough Road. • Alan Holder, 46 Avenue Road.

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