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DORRIDGE & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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195 WINTER  
2011

# THE NEWSLETTER

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## FOR THE RESIDENTS OF DORRIDGE, BENTLEY HEATH AND FOUR ASHES

Chairman: IAN SPENCER ~ 77 0813 • Secretary: KEVIN KANE-BROOKS ~ 770711 • Treasurer: PAUL DAY ~ 773936

E-mail: [dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com](mailto:dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com) • [www.dorridge.org.uk](http://www.dorridge.org.uk)

### SAINSBURY'S

We had hoped that by the time this edition of the newsletter was published we would be in a position to comment on the outcome of Sainsbury's planning application. However, with yet another postponement and no new date announced, the waiting game continues. If anything does come our way we will put it on our website and hope that, by the time of the next delivery, a decision will have been reached.

### AND TALKING OF DELIVERIES....

...could you spare an hour or so, four times a year, to deliver our newsletter? Some of our volunteers have left after many years of dedicated service and we MUST replace them if we are to continue delivering to the 3500+ homes on our patch. Apart from keeping us in touch with the community – albeit infrequently – adverts in the paper bring in some £1500 a year to our funds and are so popular with local businesses (and some not so local) that there is often a waiting list for a space. Our deliverers perform a vital service and if you would like to join the team, or simply wish to learn more about what is required before deciding, contact Dianne Waldron on 77 8954.

### MAKING TRACKS FOR LONDON

Chiltern Railways' massive two year undertaking to improve its services to and from London culminated in the successful launch of 'Mainline' on Monday September 5, a little delayed but well worth the wait, with the fastest trains from Dorridge now reaching London in 90 minutes or so. And for £25 return you can leave Dorridge at 10.28 and be in London in time for lunch at 12.06. The less welcome news is that there has been a price to pay for the improvements as there is now only one train an hour from Dorridge to London instead of the previous two and we cannot catch a Silver Train – locomotive hauled, with more traditional coaches – as these do not stop here. It is nevertheless possible to catch the Silver by taking the shuttle to Leamington or backtracking to Solihull to catch the Silver or any of the other fast services to Marylebone. It is expected that the Silver Train will be standard on our route in 2013. Between Dorridge and Birmingham London Midland is replacing its old trains with new Class 172s, some of which are already in service. These have two seats either side of the aisle, more legroom, air conditioning, and toilets for the disabled. The new trains are very quiet and, with better acceleration, may also reduce journey times. All the old stock should have gone by the end of November.



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Finally, electrical work recently carried out at the station will allow the implementation of Smartcard technology. The new cards will incorporate the latest electronic wizardry, which will gradually be introduced nationwide and will eventually replace the London Oyster Card.

Beyond Dorridge, work will begin on the multi-storey car park at Solihull Station in February 2012, and funding has been approved for a new station at Stratford upon Avon, adjacent to the Park and Ride.

**MEANWHILE, DOWN AT THE STATION....**

...the FODS (Friends of Dorridge Station) are getting into their stride and have taken the gardening over from the DDRA Gardening Group so that the latter can devote more time to the outside areas. The FODS are grateful for all the hard work the gardeners have put in, and hope they can match their efforts. Chiltern's current project is the refurbishment of the booking hall, with the aim of returning it to something approaching its appearance in the 50s and 60s. A recent appeal by FODS for information in the Solihull Observer brought some very interesting responses, in particular a detailed description of the old booking hall by a former resident of Dorridge who, at the time, passed through the station daily on his way to school in Warwick. This was crucial information which the group didn't expect to find, and will be instrumental in guiding the refurbishment process. The group generated plenty of interest at Dorridge Day and were happy to sign up a good number of Associate Members willing to be called upon to help with work at the station.

The current committee of six meets each month and a member of Chiltern Railways senior staff is

always present, so the company is constantly aware of FODS' aspirations for the station.

**NEWS FROM THE NICK**

First, a reminder that the best way to get up to date information on local policing, crime figures etc, is to enter [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) into a search engine, then put in your post code. A recent preoccupation for Sgt Glen Mernagh and the team has been dealing with the boy racers who had been blighting the lives of residents, and it looks as if the troublemaker have gone. The immediate issue is the potential for crime as the nights get darker, and Glen is reminding us all of the simple steps we can take to avoid being chosen. Lights on timers and curtains drawn when you are out, outer doors locked during the evening and through the night, if possible someone to remove or hide post and newspapers in your porch if you are away, and **NEVER, EVER**, leave a car engine running if you are not in the vehicle. And if you leave your keys in the car and it is stolen, the insurance company won't cover the loss. There's more on the website, plus lots of useful facts and figures about our patch and the opportunity to contact the team. The recently completed 6-month performance review for the whole of the West Midlands force shows Solihull achieving or exceeding targets in most areas assessed. Over 92% of Solihull residents questioned agreed that the police treat people fairly and over 95% thought people are treated with respect. Over 90% expressed the view that Solihull police are doing a good job overall.

**A NEW POLICE NUMBER TO CALL**

Easier access to the police is now possible by dialling 101. This is the number to use to report issues such

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as a crime or anti-social behaviour **WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE.** Wherever you are, dialling 101 will redirect your call to the nearest police force. The midlands area is already covered and the system should be nationwide by January. The 101 number does not replace 999, which must always be used in a real emergency. And a reminder that our local team can be contacted on 0345 113 5000, Extension 7928 6666, or by e-mail at [knowledorridge@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:knowledorridge@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk). If they don't answer the phone it's because they are out after the bad guys!

## WHAT'S AN INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP?

Simple! It's a group, it's independent, and it advises. Well that's about all the name of the Solihull Independent Advisory Group (IAG) tells you, and its members keep finding people who are either not aware of the group's existence or who know about it but only have a hazy idea of what it is for. Change the name to 'Police Advisory Group' and it becomes clear – the IAG exists to advise the police.

Solihull's Independent (Police) Advisory Group currently has 13 volunteer advisers drawn from across the borough whose knowledge and experience enable them to act as 'critical friends' to the local force. With the basic aim of improving two-way communication between Solihull's police and the borough's diverse communities, the group's role is to assist in building confidence in the police while improving the force's performance and accountability. To that end the group :

- Advises the police on their policies and practices, challenging them if the need arises.
- Reassures the public when necessary in order to

increase trust and confidence.

- Informs the police of areas of concern in a given community or district.
- Advises and assists the police with the management of critical or major incidents where the police response is likely to have an effect on a victim, a family, or a whole community.

However the IAG cannot act on behalf of or represent individuals.

Because they will acquire sensitive information or be involved in aspects of police operations, volunteers wishing to join the IAG are subject to police vetting procedures. Once accepted, members are bound by strict codes of practice and confidentiality, are expected to attend a meeting every six weeks, and must be available, sometimes at short notice, to assist following a critical incident. They will also gather information on residents' concerns within their own locality and bring these to the attention of the police.

The IAG exists to serve the public and can be contacted by e-mail at [talk.to.us@btinternet.com](mailto:talk.to.us@btinternet.com) or on Twitter, [www.twitter.com/SolihullIAG](http://www.twitter.com/SolihullIAG). The IAG adviser for this area is DDRA committee member David Glanfield. If you have any issues regarding local policing which you would like him to raise at an IAG meeting, or have comments on, complaints about, or praise for our local team he can be contacted by e-mail at [david.glanfield@gmail.com](mailto:david.glanfield@gmail.com) or by telephone, 77 9635.

## TWINKLE, TWINKLE....

...stars and snowflakes! This year the Christmas lights in Dorridge will be even better, with stars from the railway bridge to Poplar Road via the square,

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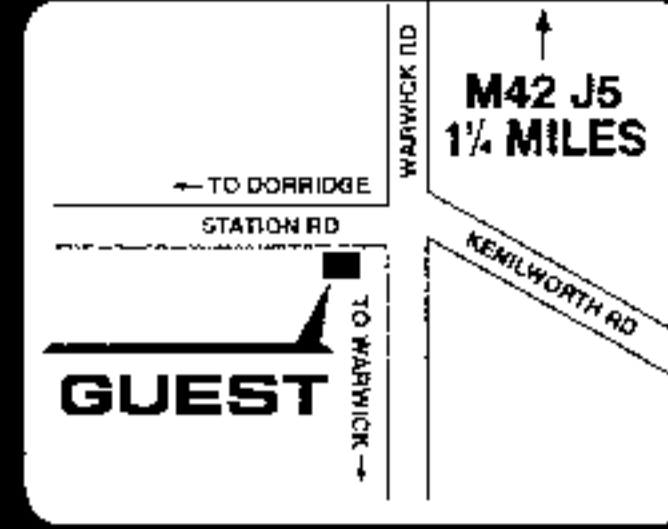
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big snowflakes up Station Approach, lights around the new bar and café, and a Star of Bethlehem at the station – but don't go there expecting a miracle! All this thanks once again to the generosity of local businessman Rob Cannell, owner of Hatton Electrical Wholesale Ltd., who is adding the new lights to his donation of last year. Thanks are also due to his electrician, Terry Hadley, who is giving us two days free labour. Local businesses which agreed to have power sockets and timers installed, **and to pick up the electricity bill**, are Dorridge Butchers, Enzo, Mr Benn, Threshers, Station Café Bar, Ideal Dry Cleaning, Chiltern Railways and Dixons Letting Agency (as the Dixon's premises are now empty, Sainsbury's will pay the bill). Without the cooperation of all these local enterprises, there would be no lights!

### AND WITH CHRISTMAS IN MIND....

....it's the Lions Festive Walk again. This FREE Festive Walk starts at the National Trust's Baddesley Clinton House on **Tuesday 27 December** and offers a choice of 3, 5 or 8 mile signed circular routes, plus an opportunity to help the Lions raise funds for

the Alzheimer Society, Crossroads Care, Dorridge and Knowle Scouts, and other local causes. Details online at [www.KnowleandDorridgeLions.com/walk](http://www.KnowleandDorridgeLions.com/walk), or call 08458 335 894.

### NEED SOME CASH FOR YOUR YOUTH GROUP?

We are still offering grants of up to £500 to youth groups or projects which are of direct benefit to young people in the DDRA area. If you think you might qualify our Treasurer, Paul Day, can provide more details and an application form. Contact details in the next paragraph.

### AND FINALLY....

....please use the slip below to pay your annual £1 DDRA Subscription or, better still, set up a Standing Order so that you never need to think about it. Contact the treasurer, Paul Day, at [dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com](mailto:dorridgeresidents@googlemail.com) or telephone 77 3936.

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