

# Derwenthorpe Residents' Association

## Newsletter November 2017

**Welcome to our newsletter.** If you want to contact us about any item in the newsletter or any other issue, details are at the end. Along with this newsletter, you will have received an agenda for the next all residents' meeting which is on Saturday 18 November at 1.30 pm in the SSC. We hope to see some of you there.

### What has the core team been up to?

It is with great sadness that we let you know about Sue Martyn's death on Tuesday 26 September. Sue was a founder member of the DRA, and gave her time to it willingly and enthusiastically for over two years. We send our condolences to Neal, her husband, and their three children. The crowdfunding appeal raised £5,630 for the family. Many thanks to all who contributed.



We have a vacancy on the core team, as Rob Lafrance has left due to changing work commitments. If you're interested in joining us or want to find out more, then please contact us. Please think about joining us - it's your residents' association.

We would like to share with residents an update on some important topics that we have been working on through the summer.

### Street Decoration



Many of you will have noticed the multi coloured markings that have appeared on Stephenson public roads in the past couple of weeks. This is all part of the work from DWH and JRHT in relation to road adoption. All the spray paint is non-permanent and will wash off particularly with our wet weather.

### MVHR and MEV Systems

A number of systems across the development have either been incorrectly installed or not commissioned properly. Our goal is to hold DWH to account and fix all systems fully. This is most acute in Stephenson but is also in issue in Lotherington and Seebohm. We are making solid progress with DWH.



Stephenson (MVHR) ~ We have secured agreement with DWH that they will rectify and make good all systems at their cost. DWH have written to each household in Stephenson offering their supplier, ADM, to review your system. ADM are a reputable supplier and very knowledgeable about MVHR and MEV systems. Their work will be audited by the BRE (Building Research Establishment). If you have not received a letter from DWH or are yet to contact them, then we urge you to do so immediately at [yorkshireeast@newhomecare.co.uk](mailto:yorkshireeast@newhomecare.co.uk).

Lotherington and Seebohm ~ We have identified a simple means of determining if your system is likely to be functioning properly. This can be done by looking to see if the roof ventilation tiles are correctly installed. Our intention is to have DWH review all properties on Lotherington and Seebohm and put right any and all issues. We anticipate that this review will be completed before Christmas.

We appreciate that these issues have been going on now for up to four years. Rest assured that your residents' association is determined to ensure that this issue is put to bed expediently.

## Anti-social Behaviour



Derwenthorpe, like almost everywhere else in the country, experiences ASB from time to time. Your residents' association takes ASB and its prevention very seriously. So in September we held a meeting specifically with residents to share experiences and to discuss our strategy for minimising its impact. We are working hard to address this issue, so look out for an update at the next all residents' meeting. If you do experience ASB then it's critical that it's recorded with the police by phoning 101. If you feel threatened in any way or believe that criminal activity is underway, then phone 999. There's more detailed advice on our website.

## Community Pot

Please remember, if any residents want to organise a community event, the DRA may be able to help with a small grant. Whether or not you need a grant, we can also provide public liability insurance cover. Advice on how to organise and budget for an event, how to access our insurance cover, and how to apply for a grant can all be found on our website. We've just given our first grant, in support of the recent community talks.



## Osballdwick Community Choir



We meet every Thursday at the SSC, from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm under the directorship of a dynamic and talented post graduate student from the University of York. We are steadily growing in number, now up to 30, from Derwenthorpe and surrounding areas, but are always looking for new members - especially tenors and basses! While reading music will help, it isn't essential, and you are most welcome to come and give us a try. We sing all kinds of music and are currently rehearsing for three concerts we are giving this term, including our Christmas concert at the SSC on Thursday 14 December at 7.30 pm. All welcome! We are also taking part in the Heslington Church Christmas Concert on Saturday 9 December at 2.15 pm. (NB Some rehearsals in November will be held at St Thomas Church Osballdwick, so please check first.) Our Spring term starts 4 January 2018. For more information please contact Nicky Helliwell on 07714953315 or [nickyostwald@clara.co.uk](mailto:nickyostwald@clara.co.uk); or Patrick Reedy on 07415459234 or [patrickreedy999@gmail.com](mailto:patrickreedy999@gmail.com).

## Film Nights

Winter is approaching and with the winter come the long dark evenings. "Film Nights" provide a regular, no cost, opportunity for socialising and neighbourliness over the winter - within a short walk from your home!

The films for the season (16 in total, eight before and eight after Christmas) are chosen by the regulars. They are varied in origin, type and subject matter and each is interesting. You will not be bored! Most have low ratings (no higher than PG) and the run times are less than 120 minutes - when the seats become harder! The starting time is 7.15 pm, so that there is time for socialising before and after the film. Tea and coffee are available, likewise cakes baked by residents. Filmgoers are updated by email. We use an "undisclosed recipients" list to keep regulars updated whilst keeping addresses secret. If you're interested, then contact David Friend on [mail@industrialenergy.co.uk](mailto:mail@industrialenergy.co.uk)



## Derwenthorpe Book Groups



There are currently two book groups at Derwenthorpe, and in September they held a joint event at the SSC. Derwenthorpe resident Jane Austin gave a very interesting talk about the writing of her recently published first novel "News from Nowhere", then answered questions from the audience. The event was a great success, with members of other local book groups, and of the book groups at Hartrigg Oaks, also attending. Both groups are full so there is a short waiting list of people at Derwenthorpe who would like to join. If you are interested in forming another one, then please contact Pat on [pbulhosen@gmail.com](mailto:pbulhosen@gmail.com), or Wendy on 01904 500462 or [wendyandsam2@btinternet.com](mailto:wendyandsam2@btinternet.com).

## Defibrillator

We on the DRA hope you've all noticed this has now been installed, and is located at the front of the SSC. We hope it never has to be used, but if it is, it could save a life. If you ever do have to use it, there are full instructions on what to do - no special training is necessary. The DRA wish to thank DPAC (Derwenthorpe Partnership Advisory Committee) for granting the funds to purchase it, and to JRHT for supporting us and installing it.



## Route 66!



A View of York (from Tang Hall Bridge)

Derwenthorpe has a cycle path (Sustrans Route 66) that runs through it towards the city centre from Osbaldwick, on the track bed of the former Derwent Valley Light Railway. When it was a railway line, it was used by Joseph Rowntree factory employees to travel to work. It was nicknamed "the Blackberry Line" as it was used to transport blackberries to Yorkshire and London markets, when it linked to the main line at Selby.

In 1952 it was even painted by the artist L S Lowry from Tang Hall Bridge! As a resident of Derwenthorpe, I would like to see the path transformed into a place of natural beauty with wild, native plants and spring bulbs for all of us to enjoy. In partnership with JRHT, we are applying for a grant to buy some spring bulbs, to plant them ready for this spring! We also hope to be supported by Sustrans, St Nicks, and residents from local neighbourhoods, so it's going to be a real community project. Would you like to be involved? If so, please contact Dan on [superdanaround@hotmail.com](mailto:superdanaround@hotmail.com) or 078 5088 4362.

## The Community Gardening Group

The Community Gardening Group are looking for new members to help keep the garden a productive and pleasing corner of Derwenthorpe. Come along and meet the group and see if gardening is for you. No experience necessary! To find out more please contact Marie on 07496 018015. You'll find the garden in the north east corner of Derwenthorpe, on Derwent Mews, on Stephenson.



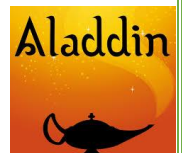
## Return to Route 66!



This cycle path is part of the National Cycle Network, and runs from central Manchester to Spurn Head, including the stretch from Metcalfe Lane to James Street. Many of you probably enjoy using it to walk or cycle into town, or walking your dog along it, or your children are using it as a safe, green space to play on their scooters or bikes. It's the responsibility of Sustrans, who maintain it by using volunteer rangers. If you value it, you may want to help to look after this lovely green path into town. Just a few hours of litter picking is a surprisingly easy way to make a big difference. You don't have to become a Sustrans volunteer ranger - you can just join us occasionally when you can spare the time. If you think you can spare some time (just a few hours a year will help!) or for more information, please contact Wendy on 01904 500462 or phone or text 077 5244 8286.

## Do you want to try the "Bright Lights" and "Grease Paint"?

St Aelred's Players is a family oriented local amateur dramatic group in Tang Hall. We're currently rehearsing for our forthcoming pantomime, "Aladdin", which will be performed from 25 to 27 January in St Aelred's School, Fifth Avenue. We need a few more cast members to take part. So, if you enjoy singing or dancing, or would just like to take part, we need you to contact us urgently, if you're eight years old or above, including adults. You don't need to have had any previous experience. Our rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings in St Aelred's Community Centre; nearer Christmas we move to St Aelred's School. If you're interested, then please contact Ann Rochester on 01904 410226; or Stewart Gray on [stewartg@vikingcad.uk.uk](mailto:stewartg@vikingcad.uk.uk) or 077 1289 1244. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Parking Survey



The DRA thank all the residents who completed this survey. The results were published on our website soon after the closing date. We are now in negotiation with JRHT to investigate solutions that will help alleviate your problems. We'll be keeping you updated through our website and at residents' meetings.

## Community Talks

Three Wednesday evenings in October saw a series of talks and discussions organised by residents. These were supported by a small grant from the DRA community pot. The aims of these were to inform all residents of the vision and planning for Derwenthorpe, and then to discuss how we would like to shape how our community develops. All were very well attended with between 50 and 60 people at each session.



Steven Burkeman, a trustee of JRHT and Derwenthorpe resident, gave the first talk, giving a detailed and interesting account of JRHT's vision for the estate and some of the obstacles and difficulties which affected the outcome. He described how the vision, beginning life in 1991, had three priorities - to build a strong mixed community; to build one which was environmentally sustainable; and a model that others would find useful. He pointed out that much has been achieved such as a lovely space, good quality housing, and a high level of community activity.

The second talk was given by Richard Partington, the architect for Derwenthorpe. He said how pleased he was to have been involved in the project as few clients are interested in building sustainable, well designed houses. He spoke about how important design of houses and spaces are in helping build communities, and how JRHT trustees defended the original vision. The general style was European, with taller houses creating more inside space. He admitted that as the development grew, there were some compromises made because of the overall costs.

The third session was an interactive discussion designed to give residents an opportunity to contribute to how the community might develop. The 60 people present were divided into small groups to discuss their ideas which were then captured on large sheets of paper. The evening was very successful with many ideas including activities for children, ways of improving the environment, and fun evenings. A more detailed account and their next steps, with opportunities for residents to become involved, will be shortly posted on the website.

## The Core Team

Core team members, with their main areas of activity, are ~

Chris Abberton, Treasurer ~ also communication/printing; community pot allocation

Sam Borman ~ parking, energy (Veolia); transport; IT (webmaster and Dropbox)

Wendy Borman, Secretary ~ communication; recycling; IT (Dropbox)

Ian Croston, Chair ~ liaison meetings with JRHT and David Wilson Homes; estate management (JRHT);

MVHR/MEV; quarterly meetings with JRHT senior staff working on future governance issues

Matt Gardner ~ community hub development/SSC users' group; communication (Fibre Options); energy (Switch2)

Nicky Helliwell, Vice Chair ~ liaison meetings with JRHT and David Wilson Homes; estate management (JRHT); MVHR/MEV; quarterly meetings with JRHT senior staff working on future governance issues; recycling

Sheri Kinbrum ~ liaison meetings with JRHT and David Wilson Homes; community hub development/SSC users' group

Gerry Mountfort ~ parking; treasurer designate; community pot allocation; liaising with City of York Council (road names)

Dave Munley ~ estate management

You can contact us in any of the following ways ~

✉ emailing [secretary@derwenthorpe.co.uk](mailto:secretary@derwenthorpe.co.uk), or

✉ phoning 01904 500462, or

✉ completing the "contact us" form found on our website [www.derwenthorpe.co.uk](http://www.derwenthorpe.co.uk)