

# Derwenthorpe Residents' Association

Newsletter March 2018

**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. This newsletter includes notice of the forthcoming AGM which will be on Wednesday 23 May at 7.30 pm in the SSC. We hope to see some of you there.

## What has the core team been up to?

Estate management charge ~ good news

The estate management charge is used for the maintenance and upkeep of all our communal areas, including the lakes, the grassed areas, paths, lighting, the Kidzone and the SSC. We have been working hard with JRHT to ensure that the estate management charge delivers value, that the accounts are fully transparent and that it is being spent wisely in collaboration with residents' wishes. Following the most recent review with JRHT we are pleased to report that the estate management charge for 2018/2019 will not be increased and will be held at the current rate.



Heating

As residents will be aware Veolia and JRHT announced recently a significant increase in our heating costs. We have our own facility for the generation and delivery of heat, the SSC, which provides both heat and hot water from both natural gas and the burning of wood from sustainable sources. This is an important factor in Derwenthorpe's eco credentials. The increase in costs is not supported by the DRA. We are working very hard to ensure that Veolia and JRHT are held to account in relation to a review of the charging mechanism, and delivering increased system efficiency.

## Community Activity Group



The Community Activity Group (CAG) is a network of Derwenthorpe residents who meet every third Friday of the month at the SSC to encourage and support community activities in and around Derwenthorpe. Joanne Lofthouse, the Derwenthorpe Manager also attends meetings to provide relevant information. You can find minutes of the meetings on the DRA website and any resident is welcome to come along. The next meeting is on Friday 20 April at 10.00 am at the SSC. If anyone has ideas for future activities or wishes to join the group do please make contact through the DRA as shown at the end of this newsletter. Resident-led activities have so far included two quiz nights, a children's Christmas activity event, an International Women's Day event; and an Easter family event. There is a regular organic veg and bread stall on Sunday mornings outside the SSC from 9.30 am to 10.30 am. Starting on Sunday 6 May there will be coffee and cakes in the SSC on the first Sunday of every month. On Sunday 17 June from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm, residents are invited to open your gardens - this is not a competition but an opportunity to exchange ideas. If you're interested in opening your garden, then please contact Julian via [joanne.lofthouse@jrht.org.uk](mailto:joanne.lofthouse@jrht.org.uk) before Sunday 27 May. More details are on the website. Other activities are also being planned. And, following last year's success, there will be a summer picnic during the afternoon on Sunday 15 July. **Stop press!** A quiz is being held on Friday 27 April, to raise funds for Amnesty International. It will also include a cheese supper and raffle, and you're invited to bring your own drinks. Keep an eye out for more details on the DRA website and Facebook page.



## Lotherington Lake



Following some residents' unhappiness with the new fence, which was erected for safety reasons as well as to deter vandalism of the gabions, steps have been taken to provide a solution which is more in keeping with the look and feel of Derwenthorpe. The DRA, some residents and JRHT have worked hard to agree a resolution. The gabions are to be reinforced with a finer mesh, and the fence will be removed and replaced by one similar to the original, but with extensive native hedge planting on both sides. It is intended to plant round the out-turns in a community planting session. The plan is for all this to happen around October 2018.

## Route 66!

Last autumn, a number of residents got together to plant spring bulbs and wild garlic along the cycle path, part of Sustrans Route 66 which runs through Derwenthorpe. We were given a generous grant by JRHT to buy some native British snowdrops, crocus, bluebells and daffodils. It was a joint venture with Sustrans, St Nicks, Good Gym and residents of Derwenthorpe. We hope you enjoy the beautiful flowers on your future walks into town, and that you might want to be a part of our next adventures. If you'd like to be involved, please contact Dan on [superdanround@hotmail.com](mailto:superdanround@hotmail.com) or 078 5088 4362.



## Community Pot



Since our last newsletter in November 2017, we have supported several community events, including the children's Christmas party, two quizzes, the organic pop-up market, and the children's Easter party. Please remember, if you're thinking of organising a community event, the DRA may be able to help. Whether or not you need support, we may also be able to help with public liability insurance cover if the event is being held anywhere in the open spaces, subject to JRHT giving their permission. 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.

## Caterpillar Club



It's been another busy term at Caterpillar Club - we've enjoyed a range of fun craft activities and added some dancing tunes to song time! It's also been great to see our toddlers welcoming new friends and seeing our baby caterpillars grow. For those who have not joined us before, we are a resident-led stay and play group for children five and under, running Wednesday mornings in term time 9.30 am to 11.00 am. It's a great place to meet new friends and to get a hot coffee! It costs £2 for a child and accompanying adult (50p for each additional child). The price includes all snacks and activities. You can email us [caterpillarclubbyork@gmail.com](mailto:caterpillarclubbyork@gmail.com) or find out more information on Facebook@caterpillarclubbyork.



## The Community Gardening Group

Marie, who has acted as co-ordinator since the beginning, is planning to move from Derwenthorpe soon, so a new co-ordinator is needed to ensure the continued success of the garden. If you're interested in taking on this role, or want to find out more about what's involved, please contact Marie on 07496 018015 or [derwenthorpe.gardening@gmail.com](mailto:derwenthorpe.gardening@gmail.com).



## Book exchange



Did you know there's a book exchange in the SSC? You'll find it on the bookcase in the main meeting room. Please feel free to donate any unwanted books or magazines and take some in exchange. If you're in the SSC and see something you like, please take it even if you don't have anything to exchange at the time, but please remember to bring something on your next visit.

## Recipe exchange

And did you know there's also a recipe exchange? So if you're stuck for ideas for dinner, have a look for a file in the book exchange bookcase, containing residents' favourite recipes. Feel free to help yourself to a copy of anything that takes your fancy. If you have a recipe that you think others might enjoy, please make 5-10 copies of it and add it to the file. You can also send them to the DRA in the usual way so that they can be included on the website.



## Derwenthorpe Book Groups



After the success of last September's talk by Derwenthorpe resident Jane Austin, the SSC again welcomed a York-based author on Wednesday 21 March. Fiona Shaw who has written a memoir and five novels, came along to talk about her work, including *Outwalkers*, her recently published novel for young adults, and also the writing process. The event was ably hosted by Jack Donovan and included a Q&A session with the audience. More than 40 people, including members of Hartrigg Oaks' two book groups and several other local book groups, attended and were given an entertaining and informative insight into Fiona's writing life. Another very enjoyable evening!

## Osballdwick and Murton WI

Osballdwick and Murton WI is a very friendly group which has been established for 30 years. The group currently meets at Osballdwick Sports Club, The Leyes, Osballdwick on the second Monday of every month at 7.30 pm. New members are always made very welcome. As well as these meetings, there's a craft club every third Monday evening and a luncheon club which meets at different venues on the last Friday of the month. Along with other local WI groups they also enjoy various events such as trips to the theatre and days out. If you're interested in joining or for further information, please contact Beverley on 07913 431857 (Call/Text/Whatsapp).



## St Nicks



Did you know you live on the doorstep of 24 acres of unique green space, a wonderful nature reserve just a ten minute walk away? If you use the cycle path to go into the city centre, you will have passed the entrance to it, but have you ever been in? Apart from being home to insects, mammals, birds and plants, there's a lot more going on - seasonal walks, pond dipping, events, workshops, surveys, talks, and volunteering opportunities for people of all ages including children, and all abilities. Are you fed up with filling your landfill bin with rubbish you feel sure could be recycled? Then find out more about recycling many items not currently recycled kerbside and help raise funds for St Nicks. Second hand, up-cycled and green lifestyle items are for sale, again helping raising funds. For more information visit the Environmental Centre, check out the website [www.stnicks.org.uk](http://www.stnicks.org.uk), email [info@stnicks.org.uk](mailto:info@stnicks.org.uk), or phone 01904 411821.

## Wine Group

Do you enjoy a glass of wine? If so, and you're interested in discovering the world of wine by tasting and discussing it in a light hearted and friendly way, then please join us! We generally meet every four to six weeks. Definitely no previous knowledge is required - just an interest! If you're interested in finding out more, contact Sam or Wendy on 01904 500462.



## 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; 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

Ian Eiloart ~ Lotherington lake

Matt Gardner communication (Fibre Options); energy (Switch2); ASB; DRA Facebook page management, liaison meetings with JRHT and DWH

Nicky Helliwell, Vice Chair ~ liaison meetings with JRHT and DWH; estate management (JRHT); MVHR/MEV;

quarterly meetings with JRHT senior staff working on future governance issues; recycling

Sheri Kinbrum ~ liaison meetings with JRHT and DWH; community activity group

Gerry Mountfort ~ parking; treasurer designate; community pot allocation

Dave Munley ~ estate management; liaison meetings with JRHT and DWH

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)

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## Derwenthorpe Residents' Association Notice of Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018 in SSC

- Any resident over the age of 18 who wishes to stand for election to the Core Team of the DRA must contact the secretary in writing (by email or post) by Wednesday 25 April 2018 and include a short election statement. If there are more than ten volunteers, there will be an election at the AGM.
- Any resident over the age of 16 who wishes to submit a resolution for consideration at the AGM must contact the secretary in writing (by email or post) by Wednesday 25 April 2018.
- Any resident over the age of 16 who wishes to vote but is unable to attend the AGM will have the opportunity to vote in their absence. Details will be published nearer the time.
- Any resident standing for election or wishing to put forward a resolution is expected to attend the AGM, and should contact the secretary if they are not able to do so.
- No offers to stand for election or resolutions for consideration will be accepted from the floor at the AGM, in fairness to those unable to attend and who may have already voted.

Please contact the secretary in writing by ~

- ☞ emailing [secretary@derwenthorpe.co.uk](mailto:secretary@derwenthorpe.co.uk), or
- ☞ writing to 7 Lotherington Avenue