

Davenham Parish Newsletter

April 2006

The Parish of Davenham consists of two wards,
Davenham Village (including Whatcroft) and Kingsmead

Welcome to the Easter edition of the Parish newsletter and I hope that you will find the focus on children, young people and policing welcome! Both Davenham and Kingsmead suffer from sporadic anti-social behaviour and it is sometimes easy to think that nobody cares but I hope that the reassurances from both the police and our own community safety action group will reassure you.



We have had a mere trickle of parishioners wanting to talk to parish councillors over the last 6 months. There is a dedicated time (from 7.15pm – 7.30pm) in which you can speak to councillors prior to the regular monthly council meeting, a time when most of us are all in the same room! Meeting dates and venues are on the Parish notice boards and can also be found on the web site.

New meeting venue

2006 will also see the beginning of alternate meeting venues, split between Kingsmead School building and the Methodist Church Hall in Davenham. We hope that the Kingsmead venue will encourage Kingsmead parishioners to attend meetings to support councillors and raise any concerns. For example, over the past year we have had parishioners and councillors who have been concerned with the state of pavement cleaning in Davenham (quickly sorted and all looking very trim now); the shrubbery causing problems for road users in two areas - at the junction of Hartford Rd and London Rd (the planting scheme is being re-worked) and on the roundabout on the spine road through Kingsmead on the approach to the primary school (now cut back).

Playing field development

We have now begun the consultation process in conjunction with the Groundwork Trust over how best to develop Laburnum Road field. Representatives from various interest groups within Davenham Village will be contacted by GWT and their views

sought (e.g. scouts, brownies, primary and high school children, Laburnum Road residents, Bowling Club etc.). If you would like to add your view please contact Nick Rowles at GWT - nicholas.rowles@groundwork.org.uk. Any individual or interest group who has not been contacted as yet in any part of the parish should make their views known as soon as possible.

Meanwhile we are not standing still!

We have authorised work to lay new drainage to Butchers Style field and the young footballers should certainly feel the benefit of a drier field (and their parents who wash the kit!). A new access gate that is both wheelchair friendly and motor bike-unfriendly has been installed (with thanks to another parishioner, Mrs Caroline Bailey, for bringing the issue to the fore). Replacement 'soft landing' has been poured around some of the play equipment too although it saddens me to report that vandals have already damaged it by lighting fires.

The work of the Parish continues and its success is down to regular communication from parishioners and the hard work and dedication from its councillors. We have said goodbye to two councillors since the last newsletter and we would like to thank both Lorraine Naeeni and Amir Kabishi for their contributions. We now welcome Ben Coker who lives in the beating heart of Kingsmead! Ben has already added value to our meetings and work and we hope that he will continue do so for some considerable time yet!

Lorraine Dunne
Chairman



.....Police Updatefrom Sgt. Ian Wood

The Davenham Parish area falls between two areas of Policing. PC Alex Leigh who works from Northwich Police Station polices the Kingsmead estate. Officers from Winsford Police Station police Davenham Village and Whatcroft. At this time because of staff changes there is no specifically appointed officer for Davenham although PC Di Woodward will usually take responsibility.

Ask where your kids have been

At this time our main priorities centre on anti-social youth behaviour focussed around what many may call traditional meeting points. The behaviour normally involves the youths becoming very boisterous and causing damage to items in the location ranging from damage to hedges and play equipment to broken windows and demolished fences.

Please be polite and don't make a mess

Another disturbing issue is the litter that is left behind; discarded cans and broken bottles that then become a risk to other users of the area. I would ask everyone to ask their children where they are going and to encourage their children to behave well and with consideration to other residents.

Underage drinkers

We have recently received information that youths are asking members of the public to buy alcohol for them from local off-licences. People need to know that it is an offence to purchase alcohol for a person under the age of 18yrs and this offence carries a maximum penalty of £1,000. Also, young people need to know that the Police can confiscate alcohol if they are under the age of 18yrs and from anyone whom they believe is going to supply to a child under the age of 18yrs.

Careless parking

Finally there are the ongoing issues about parking near to the chemist on the junction of London Road and Church Street, Davenham and in Green Lane, Davenham. The person who has parked always thinks that there is never a problem of course. Parking is always a problem near a junction because you cause an obstruction, so please make sure that you do not park in an area where restrictions apply. Buses have now had to be re-routed up the A556 to turn left into Hartford Road due to regular problems of not being able to turn right into Green Lane due to vehicles being parked too close to the junction.

Highway Code 217: DO NOT park your vehicle or trailer on the road where it would endanger, inconvenience or obstruct pedestrians or other road users. For example, do not stop,

- near a school entrance
- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- at or near a bus stop or taxi rank
- on the approach to a level crossing
- **opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction**, except in an authorised parking space
- near the brow of a hill or hump bridge
- opposite a traffic island or (if this would cause an obstruction) another parked vehicle
- where you would force other traffic to enter a tram lane
- where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users
- in front of an entrance to a property
- on a bend.

Moulton and Davenham Community Safety Group

By John Curran



The group was established around one year ago under the guidance of Vale Royal Community Safety Partnership to address the local community's concerns about anti-social behaviour and low level crime as well as other safety issues like speeding, obstructive parking etc. Core members include: Parish Councillors, VRBC, Police, Homewatch, Community Safety Warden and Weaver Vale Housing Trust.

During meetings, each issue is discussed thoroughly to obtain as much information as possible before forming an action plan and identifying the agencies best suited to carrying out those actions. One example of the group's work is with under-age drinking and the anti-social behaviour often associated with it. The Community Safety Warden and the Police Community Action team (CAT) are now treating the problem of underage drinking as a longer-term priority. Play areas are being patrolled more frequently on weekend evenings and school holidays and liquor outlets are being closely watched even though they comply strictly with the law regarding sales to minors. Youngsters with alcohol are being stopped and the drink confiscated.

Please help to report crime in action or as soon as a crime has been noted as this helps the police to build a clearer picture of patterns of behaviour.

Community Safety Warden – for advice and to inform	01606 867847
Police CAT – covering Davenham Village, Whatcroft and Moulton	0845 458 6391
Police CAT – covering Kingsmead and Leftwich	0845 458 6392
Cheshire Police – to report ongoing crime	0845 458 000
Emergency Only	999

Bridge anyone?

By Alan Goodier

The Davenham Bridge Club was formed five years ago and now boasts a membership standing at 50+. The Club meets most Tuesday evenings at Davenham RBL Social Club at 7.30pm. Most members have learned the game since joining by attending a 10-week course. Membership is open to all and details can be obtained by phoning 47339.



FOUND

Have you lost a hanging basket?

We have found one – please contact the Clerk with your details to be reunited!



Davenham WI

Come and join us for a friendly and social evening and listen to our speakers. In April our speaker is Mr Richard Roberts talking on Family History Research and in May, Susan Lee will be telling us about 'The Work of Riding for the Disabled'.

We have social trips out to the theatre, dinners, visit places of interests etc., and during the spring and summer months you can join our Ramblers on some lovely walks.

We meet at Davenham Methodist Hall, Firthfields on the 2nd Wednesday of every month (except August), at 7:15 pm.

For more information please contact President Pat Metcalfe on 47168 or Secretary Sheila Taylor on 46575.

(Photo courtesy of Carl Rogerson, www.carlscam.com)

News from RBL By Jim Conboy, Secretary

The Branch has a new Standard bearer. Mr Tony Williamson, ex-RAF, takes over from Mr John Jones. We also have a new local Poppy Appeal organiser, Miss Michele Garnett. The Branch is grateful to both for volunteering their services and wishes them much success.

The Welfare Committee now has five members, three of whom are official County caseworkers. Ex-service personnel should register their particulars with the Branch Secretary.

Refurbished Function Room at RBL

The Club Function Room, Royal British Legion, Firthfields, Davenham, has now been completely refurbished with a new dance floor, surrounding carpet, new chairs and tables and matching wall seating. It is available for hire by phoning the Club Bar on 43466.

Those interested in joining the Social Club may do so on completion of an application available from the Club Bar, subscriptions being £12.50 for men and £6.50 for women. With competitive bar prices and regular events such as weekly bingo, whist drives and social evenings, membership makes good sense.

Easter Prize Bingo – 6th April, eyes down at 8.00pm.



News from Davenham Juniors Football Club

Players and their families alongside supporters and residents close to the Butchers Style field will be delighted to learn that the club has entered an agreement with Davenham Cricket Club for the use of their car park, changing rooms and toilet facilities. The club has also obtained 'No Parking' signs to ensure officials and away teams do not park in inappropriate locations or in private parking spaces reserved for the pensioners' bungalows.



Kids in Residence

By Phil Hilditch, Headteacher

At Davenham School we have established a culture of taking children on residential visits and we believe that these experiences enhance learning both academically and socially. Children absorb so much unconsciously and the extent of their learning may not be apparent until much later. Visits encourage independence, confidence, flexibility, self-reliance, collaborative working, cooperation, teamwork and social awareness. I'm sure that past and present pupils would agree that they become hugely enjoyable and fun experiences, which benefit for years to come.

Not only do residential visits have a vital role to play with children but they also affect teachers – lack of sleep and poor diet being the biggest effect! Seriously though, they help to cement relationships between staff and pupils and show both teachers and pupils in a more relaxed natural situation than the formal classroom setting.

Our children participate in three residential visits during their time at Davenham School: 3 days at Beeston Outdoor Education Centre in Year 2 (Top Infants!), 4 days at Kingswood Centre, Denbighshire in Year 4 and 5 days at the Menai Centre, Anglesey for Year 6 children transferring to the County High School, Leftwich.

Activities on visits vary from orienteering, storming castles, beach combing, quad biking, dance and drama and climbing walls! However, don't just take my word for it! Here is a personal account from one of our Year 4 pupils who has recently returned from Kingswood...

Fantastic Kingswood

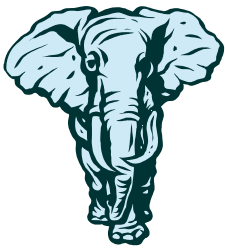
By Philippa Baker aged 9 and Mrs Bannister aged x

I was nervous and excited about getting to Kingswood and so was our teacher Miss Roberts, we didn't know what to expect. We got our cases off the coach and we had to carry them up millions of stairs. Then we went to our dormitories, "Oh no," I said, "We've got to make our own beds". What a laugh, it took us ages. Finally we went to our first activity, Circus Skills. I felt like a clown juggling balls and spinning plates and oh, what fun. We did lots of other activities. My favourite was fencing. Orienteering was Mrs Bailey's favourite.

We had a disco and karaoke on the last night. Mr Hilditch sang 'It's Raining Men'; he couldn't sing and was out of tune! I covered my ears up, the other teachers were crying with laughter. The only complaint I had was that we had to come home, tired and worn out but what a fantastic time. Wish I could go again....

Kingsmead Head heading for the Wild!

By Catriona Stewart, Headteacher



I am off to Nepal for a 'life without electricity' experience at Easter! I thought I could combine my holiday with raising some money for the KFA school grounds fund. While we have a beautiful school, fantastic staff, pupils and governors, we are lacking in the outdoor environment department! To this end I am aiming to complete a 6-day Trek in the Himalayas followed by a raft trip down the Seti River for two days, descending from 8000m down to 200m and ending up in the Chitwan National Park (complete with elephants, tigers and other interesting wildlife). I am aiming to raise £1,000 towards the playground development, and would be delighted to raise more!!! We would like the children to have some climbing equipment like a trim trail and some little dens and places to go.

All donations are welcome, from local businesses to children, some of whom have already pledged pocket money. 100% of the money raised will go directly to the Playground appeal. If you would like to donate please see our website or phone me. www.kingsmead.cheshire.sch.uk / Tel: 01606 333470

Kingsmead Maintenance

By Cllr Ben Coker

There is much confusion in everyone's minds about the issues surrounding the Kingsmead maintenance fees and who is actually responsible for what! This is the situation, as we understand it.

Redrow (the primary developer) set up a company called Kingsmead Landscape Company to manage the maintenance of *most* of the Kingsmead 'estate'. KLC subcontract CPM Asset Management (a subsidiary of Erinaceous Group plc – www.cpmam.com) to undertake the actual work, which they then further subcontract. It is CPM's responsibility to maintain the landscaped areas (including the roundabouts), play areas and grass verges, although the ponds are not specifically covered in their remit. They are not responsible for the area owned by Legat Owen (the shops area), the School, or Registry Close or the grass verges in front of those areas.

There is a lot of talk about "half the estate" not having been charged the maintenance fee – in fact there are no more than 50 houses that are not yet registered with CPM. Each lease states (except Registry Close) that the maintenance fees be paid and if there are non-payments then problems will be encountered when houses are put on the market as a charge will be attached to the property. Note: there is no requirement for invoices to be issued in order for fees to be collected.



The fees are payable to KLC and have recently been increased, the first time in 10 years. The money is retained by Redrow (KLC) and pays for services rendered by CPM alongside other expenses. It is these 'other expenses' that have caused a hike in the maintenance charge.

On the positive side CPM is fully aware of all the work that needs to be done; they patrol the area regularly and work closely with the Police on vandalism issues. CPM is putting together a programme to deal with outstanding issues but it is dependent on Redrow, through KLC, to approve the funding for these necessary works. Redrow/KLC are the people to pressure, not CPM.

Kingsmead Adoption

Great News! By the time you read this, the A533 'spine road' will have been adopted by Cheshire County Highways Department. We've had a note from the man responsible that this should have occurred as of 24th March. This means that the lighting on the spine road and roundabouts will be put in order pretty quickly and



that you can now report faults on the CCC website -

www.cheshire.gov.uk/roads/FaultForm/frepfault.htm Also, perhaps CCC can do something about all those small signs and enlarge the School sign, which is somewhat hidden at the moment!

Now for the bad news ☹. We have no forecast at all from Cheshire County Council as to when any of the 'minor' roads in Kingsmead will be adopted or when lighting on these roads will be attended to. Effectively the developers have 6 months after 'completion of the development' (whatever that means) to put things in order and hand them over to CCC, but CCC won't accept roads with lights etc. not working. (Redrow had to provide CCC with a sum of money to fix the lighting in order to have the main road adopted.) Right now this seems to have fallen down a 'black hole' between the developers and the County, as no one will take responsibility for the matter. At the end of the day CCC can adopt, put everything in order and claim payment from the developers but they seem reluctant to do that and no-one is quite sure when the 'development' will actually be 'finished' – so we're all still in the 'dark'. As your Parish Council we'll keep lobbying all sides on your behalf but there's not much more we can do. Your County Councillor (for Kingsmead) is Danny Maguire daniel.maguire@cheshire.gov.uk so give him a chase if you are experiencing problems

Hello Darlings!

News from Davenham & Sandiway Players, Church Street

Yes we have new signs – no more lame excuses about not knowing that Davenham even has a theatre! The signs have been designed to be informative, decorative and attractive and to be in accordance with the conservation status of the area. We hope you like them and find them useful.

Theatre partnerships

The ongoing partnership between Davenham and Sandiway Players and local drama groups Harlequin Theatre and Byley Players continues into 2006. The first presentation of the Davenham season was *Shakespeare's Women* in September, directed by Gordon Hamlin of Harlequin Theatre. Jon Kerr now joins us from Harlequins for *The Musicians*. Graham Hough from Byley players who has been working with us for some time already, is directing a play at Davenham called *Late of this Address* in May.

Theatre for kids



Davenham and Sandiway continue their association with the mainly youth-oriented drama organization **Factory Arts**. In a new venture that started this February, Factory has started to run a Saturday morning junior workshop at Davenham. Students from age 6 to 11 meet at the theatre between 10:00 and 12:00 for confidence building theatre games, acting, vocal exercises, singing, dancing and performance skills-based workshops. The students work towards devised theatre projects to be shown in-house every twelve weeks for parents, friends and family. The students in this group will also have the opportunity to take part in productions at the Blackpool Opera House and a West End Theatre.

Jazz – Nice - Great

Did you know that our theatre with its cosy bar and downright cheap (doesn't sound down market does it?) drinks makes a superb jazz venue? Come and see for yourself! If you really like the space why not think about booking it for your own do? (I'm seriously considering booking all the seats with girlfriends for 25th May. See below – Ed)

CABBAGE ALLEY takes the floor on **Thursday 27th April**

A lively soul/jazz trio playing their own arrangements of vocal and instrumental standards including hard swinging rhythm 'n' blues, groove and even the odd lonesome cowboy ballad!

6PAC (Six-Pack - yes, there are six of them) entertain on **Thursday 25th May**

6PAC was formed by members of the Royal Northern College of Music Big Band in June 2002 with the aim of bringing new and varied forms of jazz to different audiences. Quotes on 6PAC – *Six young, good looking, talented blokes playing*

Thu 27th April - Jazz

Tue 16th to 20th May – D&S Players

Thu 25th May - Jazz

Fri 26th May - Folk

Tue 6th-10th June - Factory Arts

Cabbage Alley
 "Late of this Address"
 6-pac
 Northwich Folk Club
 "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Box Office: For Davenham's box office, call Joanne on 01606-74127



Communing with Nature

By Mrs Natalie Plumbley

Davenham School has now registered to become an Eco School. Meantime our Nature Club, as a member of Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT), has enjoyed some interesting visits including talks on bats, mini-beasts and a Design Technology activity that involved making 10 bird boxes. These are now erected in the school grounds and we look forward to our first nesters. We have also sponsored a CWT dormouse-nesting box scheme aimed

to reintroduce the dormouse into local woodlands. Most recently we have entered the 'Ugliest Vegetable' competition with The National Trust so we will be busy planting and growing our organic carrots, onions, beans etc very soon!

Bug Hotel

Our long-term plans involve the creation of a wildlife garden and a pond in the school playing fields where some trees have already been planted. Eventually we would like to grow a hedge to cordon off the area so it can provide a quiet seating area for pupils to sit and observe the wildlife. We are also planning to build a 'Bug Hotel' using pallets and recycled materials to attract some of the 2,000 different species of invertebrate that inhabit our gardens.

Phones 4 us!

Of course these ideas take time and money and we are pursuing various grant and award schemes. We are launching a recycling scheme for old mobile phones so please do bear us in mind if you need to get rid of yours!

www.davenhampc.org.uk

Lorraine Dunne, Chairman, Newsletter Editor dunnel@davenhampc.org.uk	Graham Scott, Parish Clerk, 01606 543 948 clerk@davenhampc.org.uk
Chris Wroe, Vice Chairman wroec@davenhampc.org.uk	Brian Robinson
Arthur Wood awood@valeroyal.gov.uk	Joan Kerruish-Jones jkerruish-jones@valeroyal.gov.uk
John Curran curranj@davenhampc.org.uk	David Ravenscroft
Ted Betts betts@davenhampc.org.uk	Chris Colclough colcloughc@davenhampc.org.uk
Ben Coker cokerb@davenhampc.org.uk	Vacancy