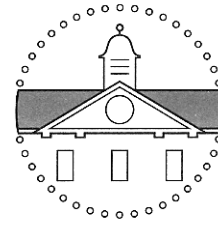


The Darley Abbey Society



NEWSLETTER No: 49

SPRING/SUMMER 2009



IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

This past year seems to have been dominated by various consultations. We started last year taking a very active part in the consultations with the Environment Agency on the **Lower Derwent Flood Risk Management Strategy**. This involved a number of meetings with the Environment Agency team and finished with me submitting a formal response to the Agency on their consultation document based on comments received from our members. Darley Abbey owes its very existence to the River, but by the same token many parts of the village are at its mercy, and therefore it is important that we influence the final plan.

As members will know, I represent the Society on the **Derwent Valley Mills Partnership**. Through the partnership we are able to

keep abreast of developments in the World Heritage Site. For example, in January I attended a meeting at the Silk Mill to consider a proposal to start a **river bus** to run from the City centre to Darley Abbey. The proposal is for a much larger vessel than the one which briefly ran on the river in the '90s. As the proposal is being driven by the tourist people at the Council it will be geared heavily towards tourism. I made the point at the meeting that it would only be supported by Darley Abbey Residents if it provided a regular and reliable commuter service. Whether anything comes of it we shall see, but I think one of the major stumbling blocks to developing Darley Abbey as a tourist destination, is the problem of accessibility by road. Perhaps a boat could be the answer.

I have recently completed a consultation on the **Derby and Derbyshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan**. Whilst I do not consider that Darley Abbey is likely to be affected directly by mines, quarries or waste disposal plants, we must remember that as recently as the 1980's, we had a rubbish tip on our doorstep. I therefore think that it is as well to let them know our views.

Perhaps the most important consultation we are currently involved with is the **Derby City Core Strategy**. Planning Law has recently undergone a big shake up. Under the old system, a Local Authority's planners would draw up a draft five year Local Plan. This would be a detailed scheme setting out what could be built and where, and what uses those buildings would be put to.

A public enquiry would be held during which various pressure groups would try and get aspects of it changed in an adversarial contest.

Under the new scheme, the planners are required to involve the public from the word go, the idea being to try and get consensus and reduce the need for an adversarial contest. The Core Strategy will be a "**vision statement**" setting out what kind of City Derby should be in 2026.

It will be the kingpin of a suite of additional documents which spell out the detail of how the vision is to be achieved called the Local Development Framework.

Your committee is currently working on a response to this consultation which has to be submitted by the end of May, so if you have any ideas for the development of the City, or issues that you think should be addressed, then please let me know.

We have also been talking to the City Council about the **Darley Abbey Regeneration Master plan**.

They have received an offer of external funding from **EMDA**. This will enable them to undertake conservation plans, building condition surveys, options appraisals and a feasibility study for the Mill Building Complex and the Darley Hall Stables.




These studies will collectively form a Master plan – which is to be completed by March 2010.

This is long overdue as many of these buildings are in a parlous state, and now that the West Mill building is vacant its future is in doubt.

The other area in which we have been seeking to influence policy making is through the **Neighbourhood Forum and Board meetings**. We feel it is important to have a representative on the Neighbourhood Board so that we can represent the views of our members, but I have to say that we have found it frustrating at times. The Board has little real power. It has a budget of a few thousand pounds which is available for Community Groups to bid for, but most of the Board's time seems to be dominated by parking issues, particularly relating to the University.

Finally, I would like to welcome Dave Pearson back to the committee who will once again act as our link to FoDOS.

David Ling, Editor.

 <p>Headlines <i>By Julie</i> Ladies and Men's hair Abbey Lane, Darley Abbey For appointments phone: 551440</p>	 <p>J H MOTORS Service and M.O.T. All makes Darley Abbey Mills Telephone 360223</p>	<p>Darley Abbey Stores Newsagents, Groceries, Off Licence & Video Club Phone 01332551247</p> 
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DARLEY AND NUTWOOD NATURE RESERVE

The hard winter brought a variety of interesting birds to the nature reserve. Large groups of up to 50 siskin, a small yellow finch, regularly visited the alder trees along the river bank, in Darley Park as well as the reserve, feeding upside down on the small alder cones. Snipe, green and great spotted woodpeckers are regularly seen, as well as beautiful pink breasted bullfinches, treecreepers and Britain's tiniest bird, the goldcrest with its punk-like orange head stripe. A pair of reed buntings have also reappeared. In Nutwood bright yellow hazel catkins have been abundant since January.

Spring will bring a variety of warblers to the site, including whitethroat, chiff-chaff and willow warbler, and sand martin, house martin, swallow and swift over the riverside in March and April.

Regular activities using volunteers include grass cutting, scrub clearance and balsam pulling on the site, with the aim of maintaining biodiversity.

A class of pupils at Walter Evans school are working on a logo for the nature reserve, which we hope to include on notice boards (see below).

Janet Dean is organising a Worm Survey in March to May on the site, as part of a nationwide project.

A number of members of the management group plan to visit a nature reserve in Birmingham in July to see how grazing animals can be used in an urban setting.

We are seeking grant funding for the following projects this year:

- Gates to restrict access to the site to pedestrians
- Notice boards at the entrances
- Interpretation boards on the site

Please note the following events planned for this year:

- Discovery day, Autumn nature walk – Sunday 25th Oct, 2pm to 4pm

If you'd like to know more about the nature reserve please visit the FoDOS Website at www.fodos.org.uk It has useful links to tell you more about the wildlife you may see on the site.

If you'd like to be included in our email list, or to help in any way, please contact

Keith Dodd, on 01332 557249 or keith@dodd394.fsnet.co.uk

PLANNING

Not surprisingly, **Planning applications** have suffered a downturn since the start of the recession. However, last summer we had to oppose several **Garden Grab** schemes, the biggest of which was a proposal to put up 16 substantial houses on two gardens in Duffield Road. In the face of stiff opposition the developer withdrew the application. We were also successful in opposing a plan to build a house next to the Rugby Club on Folly Road.

Whilst not strictly on our patch, we joined forces to oppose two massive proposed developments in Chester Green. One was for two huge blocks of flats near the old railway bridge, and the other was for a seven story office block at the end of City Road by the Bridge Inn. Both applications were rejected.

With signs of the housing market reviving, we must continue to remain vigilant.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

I very pleased to report that we now have a new Membership Secretary, Pat Darke. Since Doreen and Stuart resigned last year we have been without a Membership Secretary, but I must thank all the members who helped out by letting us have their subscriptions without being reminded. Inevitably some of you didn't do this, so please help Pat get off to a flying start by letting her have any outstanding subscriptions as soon as possible. You can contact Pat on 553549 or martin_darke@dsl.pipex.com. Her address is 31 Ploughgate, Darley Abbey, Derby.

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Darley Ward
Neighbourhood Board and
Forum

At the January meeting of the Board it was decided to create three subcommittees to look at various problems within the ward. At the time of writing these committees were still being finalised. The results of a survey of residents living in streets near the University as to how they wanted to deal with the problem of student parking. Most streets rejected the idea of residents only parking schemes on the basis of cost.

WHITE LINES ON SOUTH AVENUE

We are pleased to report that following a request to the Derby City Council, the white lines have returned to South Avenue, and indeed many other parts of Darley Abbey, please remember if you have any concerns regarding road markings let any Committee Member know.

TREE AND SHRUB PRUNING

We have recently asked the Parks department at the Derby City Council to cut back the shrubs in Mill View Gardens, the paths are not passable for push chairs or wheel chairs and the grass is becoming very worn as visitors are forced to use the grassed area. We have also asked them to remove the new tree growth on the river bank in front of the paved area, as it is now obscuring the view of the River, Weir and Mill. Some of this work has now been done.

Helen McCoy

PUBLIC FOOTPATH – ST BENEDICT’S.

As reported in the last issue, St. Benedicts School have applied to have the footpath closed due to anti-social behaviour by people using this path. There are various opinions about the responsibility for the alleged abuse but, whatever the cause, closure of the footpath would be a serious loss of public amenity to many people, and we have made representations to the Council against the closure.

We have been in contact with the Derby City Council and the current situation is that they have now received all the reports they were waiting for, the latest being a Security Report.

They are now compiling a presentation document which will be put before the Planning Control Committee, it is hoped that this will be in April, or May 2009. It is never too late to voice your opinion on these types of matters, if you feel strongly enough please put pen to paper, or in the current I.T. world finger tips to keyboard then onto send on your email! I have to admit I do prefer the old system!!!

Helen McCoy

DIARY DATE – AUTUMN OPEN MEETING

This year’s meeting will be on Thursday 24th September in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm.

Come along and have your say over a glass of wine.



The Waterfront
Darley Abbey Mills
01332 364987
www.darleys.com info@darleys.com



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PLANNING MATTERS

Those of you who attended this year's AGM will have been treated to a talk by Maxwell Craven on 'St. Helen's House, Darley Hall and the Houses in Between'. This was beautifully illustrated with slides.

This talk replaced the advertised talk on Conservation Areas, the duties and responsibilities of Residents to be given by Harry Hopkinson. Harry was unable to deliver the talk due to ill health.

Whilst perhaps not as entertaining as Mr Craven's talk, it is never the less important, as the law has recently been changed.

Firstly, it is important to note that general planning rules have change as regards home extensions. The size in cubic meters of your proposed extension is no longer relevant to decide whether you need permission or not. Instead its position height and footprint will be considered.

World Heritage Sites now get the same protection as Conservation Areas. Part of Darley Abbey is of course in the Derwent Valley Mills WHS and in a sense gets double protection.

In the Conservation Area Planning Permission will be needed for:-

- any 2 storey extension
- any roof extension
- new outbuildings exceeding 10 sq meters, or between the side of the house and its boundary, or sited forward of the front of the house
- flues, chimneys or vent pipes on a wall or roof slope forming part of the principal or side elevation, if the elevation faces a highway.

Contacts

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Membership Secretary – Pat Darke (553549) 31 Ploughgate, Darley Abbey, Derby. martin_darke@dsl.pipex.com.

Friends of Darley Open Spaces

After all the remedial activity to remove park hazards over recent years, FoDOS has recently devoted its AGM and subsequent committee time to organising itself appropriately for the future.

The organisation is trying to devise a structure whereby members can actively contribute small amounts of effort to well defined projects in an aspect of park life that is 'their sort of thing'!

The idea has been suggested of four major portfolios, each run by an officer and covering:

- **The Natural Environment:** Flora, fauna, site geography and the content of an integrated management plan for all our parks probably covering the next twenty years.
- **The Built Environment:** All buildings, paths and man made objects that facilitate our enjoyment of our parks. This portfolio would cover, for instance, stable block renovation, riverside path completion, new kiddie playground apparatus and local archaeology.
- **Social and Recreational Issues:** Nicknamed the Ministry of Fun this portfolio would embrace liaison on sports issues with the many local sports clubs based in these parks. It would also include provision of a summer music programme at the café, organisation of 'support groups' among those who depend on the café and the involvement of local schools, scout groups, news crews and café staff in barn adventure training for instance!
- **Administration:** This is not the boring subject it appears since it would develop the membership and financial plans on which project success would depend. It would also make lottery bids and hold data bases of everything FoDOS did from meetings procedures through to designs for FoDOS T Shirts and a photo data base providing Christmas card designs, postcards for sale and videos for the market place television!

The group is debating how to make all this happen and at the recent AGM Janet Dean organised syndicate work to identify three major projects under each of these proposed headings.

In the meantime! Work goes on to provide a programme of summer music at the terrace, to research worms and other species in our parks, to get Jags news crew through the canoeing section of their adventure training at The Barn and to include Ken Gee's tea room staff in the same event next year.

We are working hard to get a younger generation who appreciate these parks and will be their guardians tomorrow.

David Pearson