

INFORMATION BOARDS by Helen McCoy, treasurer.

If anyone had told us that it would take 5 years to apply for a grant, produce 5 information boards and 2 sets of leaflets and have the boards installed, we would not have thought it possible. Nevertheless, we are almost there!



Mill View Garden – one of the sites for the interpretation boards

I had the actual boards delivered to my house, so they do exist, and the contractor, who will install them, has now collected them.

I have had several site meetings with several people and I am now awaiting the phone call to meet with the contractor to ensure that the boards will be put in the correct place.

We have received 95% of the original grant; the artwork has been paid for, as has the production of the boards. All that remains to be paid is the installation costs and the leaflet costs. We must thank The Countrywide Agency, for their continued support, patience and understanding throughout this prolonged project.

My sincere thanks must go to Roy and Sheila Hartle, Darley Abbey, and Gill Forrester from Groundwork Erewash Valley, who have never given up on this project, when a lot of other people would have!!!

We all look forward to the launch date of 8th July 2006, which now appears to be a very busy day in Darley Abbey.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES GROUP by Dave Pearson

The Darley Abbey Society, jointly with Strutts Park and Little Chester residents associations is working with independent park users and Derby City Council to launch a Friends of Darley Open Spaces (FODOS) group. There are now volunteers for key posts and a committee representing many local interests. An AGM to launch the group is scheduled for 8th July 9.30 - 11 am at a venue to be announced. Our aim will be to work with the city council and other local associations to maintain and develop the assets we have effectively, efficiently and always in keeping with our world heritage site. We hope that the formation of such a group covering areas on both sides of the river and wide user interests, will give us access to more sources of funding for desired improvements.

The Society is currently involved in efforts to complete the riverside walk, fence the children's play area, deter vandalism via a dedicated ranger, police efforts and CCTV, install anti-speeding chicanes on the grove incline and provide more regular musical and other entertainment on the café terrace. Dave Pearson would be pleased to hear of any contributions to the latter!

OPEN MEETING

Following the success of the Open Meeting held last autumn, the Society will be holding a similar meeting on the 22nd September 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. As before, all are welcome, there will be no charge, and refreshments will be provided. I hope to see as many of you there as possible – ED.

PLANNING MOVES

by Gordon Jones

Since the last newsletter there have been numerous planning and building applications. The majority of applications are domestic alterations which are of little concern to the village. The Society respond to the concerns of members and residents about intrusive proposals, offering constructive support and formal objections where appropriate.

Some recent causes for objection were :

Livestock Barn – South Avenue

This application was to erect a monstrous industrial-type shed (30 metres long by 7 metres high) adjacent to the grass verge at the junction of old and new South Avenue. The structure, supposedly to over-winter livestock, would have created a major intrusion into the landscape. Strong concerted representations from local residents and the Society, resulted in the application being refused.

An application to convert a bungalow in South Avenue into a house was granted.

Proposed apartment block, site of 215A and 217 Duffield Road

An earlier application (spring 2005) was refused but a revised submission is now with the Planning Department. The proposal was to demolish two fine houses and replace with a block of 24 two-bedroom apartments. Norbury Developments reapplied to carry out the development on the same site earlier this year. However, due in part to local opposition, Norbury land manager Jonathan Croft has now confirmed that the proposals have been dropped and that there is little chance of them resurfacing.

NEW MINUTES SECRETARY

Welcome and thanks to our new secretary and committee member Graham Bennett of 69 South Avenue Darley Abbey

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Don't just moan about it. Do something!

It is proposed to convene a small Traffic Committee to consider Darley Abbey's ever-worsening traffic problems with a view to devising prospective solutions and negotiating their implementation with Derby City Council. If you are affected by the current traffic conditions in the village, and would like to contribute to the committee's work, please contact John Gabb, 24 South Avenue, Darley Abbey, Derby DE22 1FB (tel. 01332 558934).



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DERWENT VALLEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Your society has taken an important step towards being fully involved with the development of the WORLD HERITAGE SITE by becoming a full member of the DERWENT VALLEY MILLS PARTNERSHIP.

Let us have your views by completing the questionnaire accompanying this Newsletter. If you haven't received a questionnaire please contact David Ling on 01332 551484

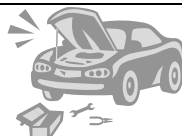


Headlines

By Julie

Ladies and Men's
hair

Abbey Lane, Darley Abbey



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2006 Chairman's report

Those of you who attended last year's AGM may recall that Helen was reluctantly re-elected Chairman.

I say reluctantly, because no-one else volunteered for the job.

The attendance at last year's AGM was so disappointing that Helen and a number of other committee members wondered if it was worth carrying on at all. At the time there were no outstanding "big issues", and there was a feeling among some members that the Society had run its course.

I was one of those that disagreed. I felt so strongly that there was still a need for our Society that I agreed to become the chairman.

Helen resigned and I was co-opted into that position.

The first thing I proposed was to consult the membership about what they felt our role should be. So we decided to hold an open meeting last autumn to stimulate debate, and also to circulate a questionnaire to members.

Both initiatives were an unqualified success.

The questionnaire produced a good response with the overwhelming majority of members confirming the view that the Society was still very much needed, particularly in its role as a "planning watchdog". The full results of the survey were published in the Society's winter newsletter and on the website.

Two further themes emerged from the Open Meeting:

First, that there was still a traffic problem, particularly in Church Lane; and secondly, that there

were many issues that concerned those who use the park regularly.

As a result of that, we are currently trying to revive the traffic committee which had been so successful in the past in lobbying the council to introduce traffic calming measures. (see above).

To deal with Parks and Open Spaces issues, we have recruited onto our committee **Dave Pearson** who is leading an informal group of Park Users.

Dave tells me that his group is making real progress with the Council in tackling some of the issues highlighted by his group.

For example, as a result of a detailed survey carried out by Dave and his group, new rubbish bins have been installed. After liaising with the Strutts Park Residents Association, and making representations to the Council, the railings around the rose garden have been replaced.

I would like to thank Dave for his valiant efforts so far and confirm our support for his endeavours.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor **Helen McCoy** for her hard work and dedication to this Society, particularly as she had to carry out the dual roles of Treasurer and Chairman simultaneously.

It was only through Helen's energy and determination that the Mill View Gardens project was successfully concluded. The final piece to that

particular jigsaw, the Darley Abbey Mills interpretation boards, have at last been produced and are in Helen's garage awaiting installation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the committee for their help and support over the past year.

Stewart and Doreen, who despite illness have organised the renewal of memberships so well. **Graeme** for raising the profile of the Society so effectively. As a result of Graeme's efforts there was standing room only at the open meeting. **John Gabb** for attending various **Area Panel Five meetings** and keeping a watchful eye on crime and transport issues.

Gordon for his hawk-like vigilance in checking the weekly planning lists, and where necessary raising objections with the local planning authority.

It is with some regret I have to report that Thorsten, after 15 years as a committee member, will not be standing for re-election as secretary, or a committee member.

A special "thank you" to Thorsten for his years of loyal service to this Society, and for so efficiently recording the minutes of meetings and preparing the newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank committee members' wives, husbands, and partners, for putting up with us in their homes and serving tea coffee and biscuits without complaint!

David Ling

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Your Committee

Chairman – David Ling 67 South Avenue (551484) david_ling@tiscalico.uk

Chair meetings and act as co-ordinator to ensure that members act in a concerted way. He will also take direct responsibility for special projects and stimulate discussion as to how the environment could be improved and our amenities enhanced.

Treasurer – Helen McCoy 57 South Avenue (551436) Helen@darleyabbey.com

She is responsible for the financial arrangements of the group, managing bank accounts, preparing the annual financial statements, etc. She will also deal with applications for funding, grants etc.

Minutes secretary – Graham Bennett 69 South Ave (557780)

Graham.bennett@catchthevison.co.uk

He will maintain the records of the society's meetings.

Membership secretaries – Doreen and Stewart Goodman 22 Canon's Walk (550604)

They will maintain a list of members. They will collect the annual subscriptions from members and arrange distribution of all communications to members. Please let them know of any changes.

Planning development and conservation – Gordon Jones 1a Haslam's Lane (364089) jones@darleyabbey.com

He will consider and advise the committee on all Planning applications within our area and planning issues such as the Local Plan, and lodge objections to undesirable developments. If you as a member of the society are directly affected by such potential development, please contact Gordon for assistance.

If you become aware of any development that may be in violation of Conservation area rules please contact Gordon immediately.

Public relations and communication – Graeme Titchener 20 Church Lane (553081) Graeme.titchener@ntlworld.com

He will increase the profile of the Society and promote its activities by keeping in regular contact with our local councillors and MPs, keeping them informed of our activities, and canvassing their support on important issues. He will issue press releases and arrange meetings of the membership and launch recruitment drives.

Transport, crime, streets and public areas – John Gabb 24 South Avenue (558934) jgabb@serco.railtest.co.uk

He will represent the Society at area panel meetings, transport planning meetings, crime prevention meetings. Please contact John if you have concerns regarding crime, traffic, parking, vandalism, graffiti, litter, fly tipping and dog fouling.

Parks and Open Spaces – Dave Pearson 32 Windley Crescent (558928) dave.sadler-pearson@ntlworld.com

Acts as liaison with the Friends of Darley Open Spaces (FODOS) and with council officials responsible for the park.