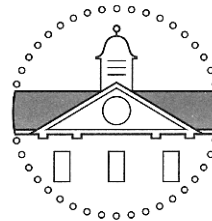


# The Darley Abbey Society



NEWSLETTER No: 53

Spring 2011

As I write this the worst of the winter weather now seems to be behind us. People are emerging from the December hibernation determined to get on with things. However, the chill winds of economic reality are blowing and government cuts are beginning to bite with a vengeance. Of particular concern to us is the reduction of the number of planning enforcement officers to one. Not only that, but with the departure of Debbie Maltby, and the retirement of Harry Hopkinson both from the conservation department at Derby City Council, the policing of our conservation areas is at great risk. This means that we must remain more vigilant than ever when it comes to any sort of illegal development. I would like to take this opportunity to commend both Debbie and Harry for their service in the cause of conservation in the city generally, and particularly in Darley Abbey.

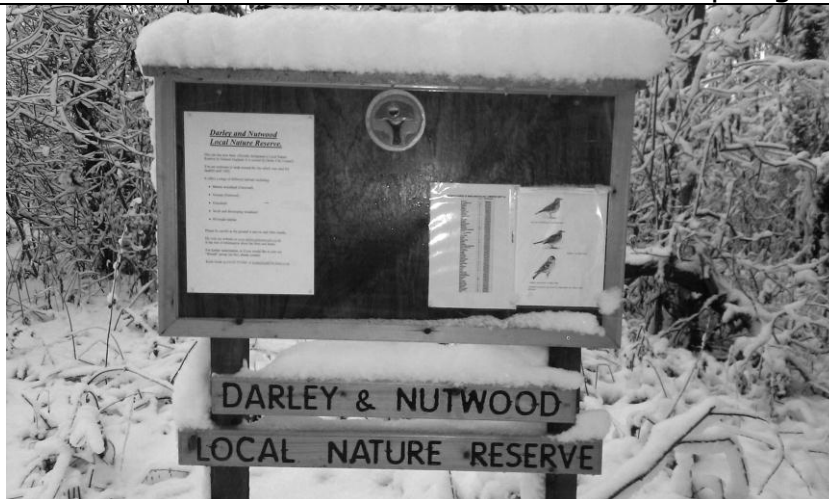
Harry, with Chloe Oswald, has been instrumental in getting the Darley Abbey Regeneration Master Plan prepared and approved by the City's cabinet. He has also recently prepared and submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery fund for a grant to help with the restoration of some of the Mill buildings. On behalf of the Society I wrote a letter in support of the application, along with a dozen other organisations. We are keeping our fingers crossed that it will be successful.

As many of you will know Patterns Properties has acquired most of the buildings in the Mills including the bridge. They have reintroduced the toll and have made a number of other changes. Hopefully, this will see a renaissance in the Mills.

Meanwhile the Council have received two bids from potential developers of the stable block behind the Park Café. We are monitoring the situation closely as we are keen to see the stables restored as a matter of urgency.

We are also monitoring the situation regarding the Park Terrace. At present it is fenced off as it is unsafe. The Council sought the views of ourselves and FoDOS as to whether it should simply be reinstated as it is, or altered in some way. We said it should remain as it is; but FoDOS have suggested some minor improvements. The important thing is to get it repaired as soon as possible.

David Ling, Editor.



## Darley and Nutwood Local Nature Reserve.

Keith Dodd

An interesting winter is ending with several new bird species recorded on and over the nature reserve, including great black back gulls, herring gulls, and woodcock. The latter has been seen several times, when disturbed from its damp hiding place near the centre of the reserve. A medium sized speckled brown wader with a long straight beak the woodcock is uncommon, and when disturbed flies low into the undergrowth, unlike snipe which have also been seen on a similar part of the reserve and which fly off rapidly and erratically and tend to circle the area at a height.

We are grateful to Paul Highman, a local enthusiast, for these new sightings. For further information about these and other birds do have a look at the bird registers on our website at [www.darleyandnutwood.org.uk](http://www.darleyandnutwood.org.uk)

The registers are presented as Zoho spreadsheets, and maintained by Hans Rieder.

We would be interested to hear from anyone who might be willing to help with observing and recording species of animals and plants on the nature reserve. Volunteer work has recommenced with a willow cut around a small pond at the north end of the reserve, by a group of six; and a survey of the "new" plantation in Nutwood which was planted 20 or more years ago following a landslip. A general clear up of paths, glades and rides will be organised in early June, following last year's successful exercise.

Jean and Dave Roberts have put useful information sheets on the notice boards. Watch out for a note of birds to look out for as the Spring migrants start to arrive in late March and April. We get a variety of warblers including chiff-chaff, willow warbler, whitethroat and blackcap, as well as sand martins, swallows and swifts.

The City council have recently placed "No Cycling" and "Clear it up" notices at the entrances.

Our Management Plan is due to be revised this year. The council will be seeking professional help in drawing up the plan, and we expect to be involved in an advisory capacity. The future of the council's WildDerby team and project is currently under review by the council, and we sincerely hope it will be able to continue to support the work of our city's nature reserves, including Darley and Nutwood.

Please note the following meetings and events in 2011:

**Open meeting**, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm on the nature reserve - meet at Mill view gardens.

**Spring nature walk**, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 6am on the reserve – a great chance to see and hear the warblers.

**Bat walk**, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7.30pm – meet at Mill view gardens.

**Open meeting**, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7.30pm – in the village hall.



## Headlines

By Julie

Ladies and Men's  
hair

Abbey Lane,  
Darley Abbey

For appointments phone:  
551440



## J H MOTORS

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## Darley Abbey Stores Newsagents, Groceries, Off Licence & Video Club

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01332551247



### STREETPRIDE GRIT BINS TO THE RESCUE!

One Tuesday morning in early December, and in the teeth of a growing blizzard, Derby City Council's Streetpride staff arrived at the bottom of our hill to deliver a much needed grit bin.

The grit bin's installation had been eagerly awaited, as the weather was making it increasingly difficult for us to get up our hill.

The flat bed truck came complete with an empty, bright yellow grit bin, and a mound of grit. Out jumped the men eager to get the work done. They unloaded the empty bin and put it in its final position, and started shovelling the grit into it. After some heaving and grunting, the grit bin was full.

Throwing the shovels onto the back of the truck, the workmen clambered inside and started the engine - only to find that the truck just couldn't get up the hill because the snow was already too thick!

What to do?

Only one thing for it: they got out of the truck, shovelled grit onto the road from the bin they had just installed, and eventually made their escape - having proven just how badly the grit bin was needed - and how effective it was!

Graham Bennett

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Darley Abbey Village Hall  
Thursday  
7<sup>TH</sup> April 7.30 pm

Our main speaker for the evening is Mike Wood an architect with ADDC Architects who will talk about "**restoring and rebuilding old buildings and bringing them back into use**". Many of you will remember Mike as the architect behind the restoration of the Abbey pub. He has recently been involved in the restoration of the Greyhound Inn in Friargate which won this year's Derby Civic Society George Larkin award for best restoration project. I hope to see as many of you at this year's AGM as possible. In particular the committee would like to meet some of the new members who have joined over the past year and find out something of your concerns.

### DAS Autumn Open Meeting

At a well attended open meeting last September we had no less than five presentations. **Vikki Candlish** from the Environment Agency told us how their Lower Derwent Flood Prevention Strategy was progressing. She confirmed that they still wanted to implement their "blue corridor" scheme. There was reassurance for Darley Abbey in that whatever happens Darley Abbey would be better protected.

**Ian Wheatley**, head of Streetpride for the North area of the city, explained what Streetpride was all about. Essentially, it is a one stop shop of all street and refuse collection services in the City.

The Darley Board is able to identify and prioritise work for Streetpride. Pot holes, footpaths, grit bins, lighting and refuse issues are all covered.

**Nic Barnard** talked to the meeting about St Mathews Churchyard and sought volunteers to help maintain it.

Chris Hall presented the result of his research into the traffic problems in the village, especially parking near the schools, and rat running, although the latter had reduced since the toll for the bridge was re-introduced.

Other issues raised were the Hydrangea Collection in the Park, and the subsidence of the Café terrace.

### OUR WEBSITE

Our website is in desperate need of an overhaul so we have commissioned Fish Media of Darley Abbey to revamp it to include a members only area and on screen application form. This should be ready in about two months. Meanwhile, we have set up a facebook page and would be interested in your views.

## MICHAEL G RADFORD UPHOLSTERY SPECIALISTS



Darley Abbey Mills  
01332 205153

## Friargate Frames & Design 67 Church Lane Darley Abbey



Picture Framers  
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## TERRACE TEA ROOMS In Darley Park



Good food all day  
refreshments and Ice Cream  
01332 556447

## Community Youth Activities Within Darley Abbey

Two years ago, prompted by Jag and his Darley Abbey Stores 'news team,' we secured funding from our Neighbourhood Board for an adventure day when the Barn's canoes and instructors were made available for youngsters from the village. At the same time, working with Ken Gee, licensee of the Terrace Café, we introduced regular musical events there. These concepts were successful pilots and last year we expanded and linked them.

To help fund bigger and better 'adventure days' we decided to expand our 'music days' at the terrace, canvas for new members, have profit making stalls and make 'bucket collections' for donations.

Although last year's summer programme was marred by terrace subsidence and closure, we nevertheless staged 'gigs' involving four established bands and thirty two young musicians. We augmented this by running, with DACA, our fourth annual two band 'rock night' at the village hall. All this was made possible by grants from our neighbourhood board and contributions of effort and kit from local individuals and community groups.

As the village's 'matched funding' share of the costs, for instance, we undertook the ongoing repair and maintenance of the Barn's fleet of Canadian canoes, so far restoring one derelict canoe to service and repairing another.

Our efforts in 2011 will be directed towards further expansion by:-

- running two young people's adventure days at the barn, involving 32 youngsters. These days are provisionally booked for Sat 7<sup>th</sup> May and Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Oct
- Discussing, with Youth Services, arrangements by which suitably qualified leaders within local groups might be given access to the Barn's facilities via local key holders.
- working directly with those who coordinate city schools' music to identify talented young performers.
- working with community organisations around our local parks and open spaces to provide stage time for these young musicians in both summer and winter. In the latter case we are working with 'The Darley Abbey Club' (which used to be The Legion).
- using a Canadian canoe for archaeological investigations around the Derwent and also for fauna photography from the river.

We need help and expertise in all aspects of this ambitious programme and would like to explore ways to involve uniformed and other organisations in these youth opportunities.

FoDOS has three other sections who run programmes to bring local communities, and particularly youngsters, more benefit from our Parks and Open Spaces.

If you can help in any way please contact our Chairman Terry Lenton, any other member of FoDOS committee or myself.

**Dave Pearson**, Organiser, Social and Recreational.

## DAS Membership

I am sorry to have to report that our Membership Secretary, Pat Darke, has decided not to stand for re-election at this year's AGM due to ill health. Pat has done a marvellous job over the last couple of years by getting the Society's membership records up to date and boosting the membership considerably. The committee wishes to thank Pat most sincerely for her tireless efforts.

Of course this means that we need to appoint a new Membership Secretary. One of the chores of the membership Secretary in the past has been the collection of subscriptions. These fall due on the 1<sup>st</sup> March each year, but the task has been made so much easier now that so many members pay by Standing Order. This means that the Membership Secretary's main task is signing up new members, keeping the membership records up to date, and chasing up unpaid subscriptions.

Incidentally, the annual subscription is still £3 for individuals and £5 for households. You can pay at the AGM, or direct to me at 67 South Avenue. Please ask for a Standing Order form if you haven't already completed one.

Communication with members has been made so much easier with so many members now having email. If you think we may not have your correct (or any) email address please contact me at [david\\_ling@talktalk.net](mailto:david_ling@talktalk.net). If you would like to be our next Membership Secretary please contact me (or any other committee member) before the AGM.

### Contacts

**Chairman and Newsletter Editor** – David Ling (551484). [david\\_ling@talktalk.net](mailto:david_ling@talktalk.net)

**Treasurer** – Helen McCoy (551436) [Helen@darleyabbey.com](mailto:Helen@darleyabbey.com)

**Planning development and conservation** – Gordon Jones (364089) [jones@darleyabbey.com](mailto:jones@darleyabbey.com)

**Council relations and communication** – Joan Travis (557395)

**Darley and Nutwood Nature Reserve** - Keith Dodd (557249)

[keith@dodd394.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:keith@dodd394.fsnet.co.uk)

**Fodos Representative** – vacant

**Membership Secretary** – vacant

**Traffic and Transport** – Chris Hall (740825) [dchall.uk@gmail.com](mailto:dchall.uk@gmail.com)

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**darleys**  
restaurant & terrace  
The Waterfront  
Darley Abbey Mills  
01332 364987

## Darley Neighbourhood Board



**(DERBY)**

There was an emergency board meeting on 20 January to set the £20,000 Streetpride devolved budget priorities for the 2011/12 financial year. The most popular suggestions included traffic enforcement around schools, more cycle bins, electronic

e-mail

[enquiries@patternsderby.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@patternsderby.co.uk)

forward to the sub group of the Darley Neighbourhood Board which deals with traffic and transport issues in Darley Ward. While there was agreement in the sub group on many of the issues, the idea of a 20mph speed limit for all traffic in Darley Abbey did not find favour. This had been conceived as a means to deter through traffic within the village, a problem that has much reduced in any event due to the re-imposition of the toll to pass through the mill complex. However, it is understood to be Government policy to introduce 20mph speed limits in residential areas so the idea has not been abandoned.

The Society had also been pressing for parking restrictions around the junction between South Avenue and Church Lane where parking associated with the Old Vicarage School sometimes makes it hazardous for drivers entering and exiting South Avenue. Derby City Council has investigated this and does not believe that any further restrictions are justified. One of the reasons for this decision is that there are no records of any actual accidents having occurred as a result of this parking. However, the City Council is in favour of funding being provided to enable civil enforcement officers to show a presence at both Walter Evans and the Old Vicarage Schools from time to time to provide advice to drivers who park in a way that is hazardous to other road users. The Neighbourhood Board has discretion in allocating the necessary expenditure.

There have also been concerns over pavement parking in Darley Abbey and anyone concerned about this is welcome to request copies of a windscreen flyer from Chris Hall. The flyer simply requests that the pavement is not obstructed by parking and that to do so is dangerous for pedestrians.

There have been fears over the future of the 17/17a bus service through the village, and the Society has written to Derbyshire County Council (which has been running a consultation exercise) to express our view that the withdrawal of this service would cause hardship to some residents of the village.

The position concerning traffic in the village will continue to be closely monitored and Chris Hall would welcome any feedback from members in the form of particular concerns over traffic, or more general comments.

speed indication signs, and improvements to the southern entrance to the park including Darley Grove.

In October, the board had approved occasional "laser gun" speed checks for Church and Mileash Lanes, but rejected a 20 mph speed limit. Also approved were dropped kerbs for Folly Road and Darley St.

The board also approved £5030 for various local school projects to promote road safety and encourage cycling.

Looking forward the board has agreed the following priorities:

Anti social behaviour, litter, bins on streets, speeding traffic and child safety near schools, conservation activity, and supporting our parks and open spaces.

Our Neighbourhood Manager is Imke Goalby. If you wish to contact her about a grant or other ward issues her address is:

Pear Tree library, Pear Tree Road, Derby, DE23 8NQ.

Telephone 01332 715267

email imke.goalby@derby.gov.uk.

The next meeting of the **Forum** will be on **20<sup>th</sup> April** at Landau Forte College. All Forum meetings start at 7 pm.

### **Darley Abbey Society Noticeboard**

The Society has for many years provided a notice board for the use of local organisations free of charge. Until this year, the board was situated on the wall outside the Darley Abbey Stores. As Jag has decided to carry out some alterations to that wall we have decided to provide a new notice board inside the bus shelter. The key can still be obtained from Jag's.

Users are requested not to put up any notice greater than A4 size, and to remove the notice as soon as the event advertised has taken place.

### **Crime in the Village**

Whilst we aren't exactly Midsommer, crime in the village does seem to be on the rise.

In the last four months of 2010 there were 21 reported crimes, The most common was theft from vehicles at 7, followed by 6 general thefts, 3 burglaries and 3 damage to vehicles.

One of the burglaries was from a house in Leafenden Close when the occupants left the front door open whilst unloading their car, and the thief sneaked in and took a satnav and other items.

The message is clear keep alert and make sure your vehicle is locked at all times. If you require any help or advice here are some contact details.

SGT 2253 Rachel Frost  
rachel.frost.2253@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

PC 3338 Maria Garnon-Cox  
maria.garnon-cox.3338@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk  
PCSO 4601 Linda Ball  
linda.ball.4601@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

Derbyshire Constabulary 0345 123 3333 (24hrs non-emergency) 999 (Emergency)

Website: [www.derbyshire.police.uk](http://www.derbyshire.police.uk)  
Allestree Police Office 01332 552135 (not 24hrs)