



Well, here we are again with another action packed newsletter, it doesn't seem so long since our Autumn Issue. Many things seem to have happened in Dronfield Civic Society in a short space of time. One of our milestones has been the development of our website [www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk) We intend to keep this as up-to-date as we can to enable you to keep in touch with us, follow the development of any issues relating to Dronfield, as well as enabling you to give comment or raise any concerns. Do try to visit us on a regular basis.

John Harvey - Chair

## A new body for Civic Societies – The Civic Society Initiative

Dronfield Civic Society is now being asked to affiliate to this new national body (see last newsletter) which replaces the Civic Trust which went out of business.

The benefits include:

- Giving us a national lobbying and campaigning voice
- Raising our profile with the media
- Giving us access to professional advice and support
- Providing guidance on fund raising and legal matters
- Access to a tailored insurance policy for the Dronfield Civic Society
- Discounted insurance premiums for our members for household, pet, travel, and motor cover
- A free day access pass to the National Trust for any individual member ( worth up to £14) which can be used by a friend if you are already a National Trust member.

We believe that membership of Civic Society Initiative will strengthen Dronfield and other Civic Societies and the committee has decided in principle that we should join when the formal invitation is issued in February.

## What will it cost?

Annual fees will be based on a per capita fee which will range between £1 and £3 (£1 will provide a basic information service and limited campaigning - £3 will provide the full range of services which Civic Societies want.) This will mean an increase in our annual subscription for the 2011/12 year – we have already agreed a small increase for 2010/11. We believe this will offer value for money and make us part of a vibrant national organization and will also provide you with an individual benefit with the National Trust.

We will have a full discussion of this at our AGM on May 18<sup>th</sup>, when the speaker will be Tony Burton, Director of the CSI (See page 3). In the meantime you will find a link to Civic Society Initiative from our new web site.

## In this Issue . . . .

### Main News

- A new national body for Civic Societies
- Our new website
- Traffic calming plans

### Other news

- *Membership Secretary required*
- *Anti-social behaviour issues*
- *Community Speed Watch*
- *Planning Issues*
- *Recycling amenities in Dronfield*
- *Dates for your Diary*

Keep in touch at [www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

## Traffic Issues in the town

We are currently involved with a number of traffic and pedestrian related issues in the town, particularly centered on pedestrian and motorist safety within the 20 mph zone, especially in relation to road at certain times. There are 2 or 3 'hot spots' where crossing the road is particularly difficult:-

- High Street opposite the Library / Medical Centre
- Lea Road between The Forge and Dronfield Station
- Church Street between Lea Road and The Forge.

The Civic Society is also pressing for a zebra crossing at the bottom of Church Street before its junction with Lea Road.

## Community Speed Watch

Our concern that traffic speeds in the town had reached dangerous levels and that speed limits were not being enforced resulted in us proposing to the local police that a Community Speed Watch be introduced. This proposal has now been accepted and six volunteers have been trained to measure traffic speeds using radar and laser speed guns.

**Speed monitoring by the volunteers commenced in January.** Motorists caught exceeding speed limits will receive warning letters from the police. We are keen that this scheme proves to be a success and we are looking for additional volunteers. So if you are willing to be a part of this valuable community scheme please contact us.

## Dronfield Traffic Calming Proposals

We have been working with Derbyshire County Council on traffic calming measures for the Dronfield 20 mph zone. This has now reached a crucial stage and the plans are out for consultation with householders within the 20 mph zone and other bodies. In brief the new measures include:-

- Extending the 20 mph zone to include the Henry Fanshawe and Dronfield Junior and Infant School safety zones and to the High Street/Gosforth Lane junction.
- Raised plateaux throughout the zone to slow traffic
- A pedestrian crossing point on High Street above the Peel Monument located on a raised plateau and with tactile pavers at the kerbs. (The County have said that they cannot put a zebra crossing at this point due the proximity of the bend in the road.)
- A zebra crossing on Lea Road opposite the Forge.



## Recycling Facilities

The state of the recycling facilities at the Civic Centre has not improved and remains very poorly managed. Frequently bins are not emptied until they are overflowing and there is a constant problem with litter, broken glass and fly-tipping. The bins themselves are usually very dirty which prompted a group of Dronfield Civic Society members in December to scrub the most offensive bins in order to "make a point". News of this, with photographs, was sent to local newspapers and magazines.

## Wanted – Membership Secretary

Rita Oliver has been our membership secretary for many years and has done a wonderful job in keeping our records up to date and enrolling new members. Rita would now like to stand down from this role so we are looking for a volunteer.

If you are interested in this or would like to find out more please contact either our secretary Judith Vernier (418607) or chair, John Harvey (412313).



## Planning Issues

We are in discussion with both North East Derbyshire District Council and English Heritage about the 'blue roofed' cruck barn, Church Street.



As a result of our approach, English Heritage is now re-assessing the listing grade of the building and examining the threat it faces from its continued exposure to the weather.

The Dronfield Conservation areas, and other planning issues, have been the subject of a meeting held with Adrian Kirkham, head of planning at North East Derbyshire District Council and Allison Westray Chapman, an Assistant Director. We have expressed our continued concern about the Council's lack of a conservation officer which we believe impacts its response to planning applications affecting listed buildings and conservation areas. We, and our friends in the Old Dronfield Society, will continue to press the Council on this.

### ***Aldi Supermarket Development***

We are supporting the supermarket chain, Aldi, who are preparing a planning application to build a store and offices on the 'Top Yard' in Dronfield opposite the Greyhound. Whilst lending support we have urged the developer to ensure the highest standard of design of landscaping and have also raised with them the need for additional car parking for general use.

### **Anti-social behaviour.**

We continue to monitor the street scene in Dronfield and remain very concerned about the frequency with which broken and abandoned glasses and bottles litter the town, particularly at public holidays. This Christmas and New Year was no exception. We took 75 photographs of the debris on New Year's morning - most of which remained as a hazard for several days. Unfortunately there is little sign that either the police or local authorities are particularly concerned about the problem.

Around a dozen retail premises have had windows willfully smashed during the course of the last year, the latest two being in High Street on Christmas Eve and 8 January. We will continue to campaign for action to control this unacceptable situation. In addition, we are also concerned about the vandalism to bus shelters across the town.

### **New Committee Member**

We are pleased to welcome Ian Ward to the committee. Ian has recently retired from a post at the University of Sheffield's School of Architecture where his research interests were in the field of energy use in buildings. Ian is now an independent energy consultant and will bring a wealth of experience to the Civic Society in Dronfield.

**Diary Dates – Our programme of social events kicks off on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 - 7.30pm at Gosforth Lodge** with an illustrated talk by **Gerald Price on the work of the Woodland Trust and the Ancient Tree Hunt.**

**Tickets** – Members £3 – non members £5.00 including wine & nibbles.

Available from Nunn's Office Supplies and from 418607, 413778 or 412313 or [www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

Members may recall that the balance of funds raised in memory of Eric Charlesworth went to the Woodland Trust for the dedication of a quarter of an acre of Owler Car Wood

## Friends of Dronfield Station

FoDS' major project for 2010 is to start rehabilitating the overgrown triangle running between the ramp and the end of platform 2. On a bitter January day Mike Franklin from Network Rail travelled from Romsey in Hampshire to Dronfield to carry out a ½ hour safety briefing a hardy band of stalwarts prepared to tackle this wilderness. Until he completes a "*buried services survey*" we can only start on the surface but there is plenty to go at - **the first working weekend is 20/21 March.**

A one day mini-survey of travellers in November indicated numbers have almost doubled since start of service and are up 33% on June. A further increase is anticipated from another 2-day count in February - figures which are fed through to Northern Rail to press our case for improved facilities. Not even their loss of revenue from uncollected fares on crowded trains – (*and during the snow, they really were crowded - 102 boarding one train is the record so far*) - seems to persuade them that Dronfield is worth investment.

We keep on trying - and winning some of the time - FoDS gained third place nationally for the best station adoption group in the ACORP awards in 2009 and Peter Hayward's leadership of the group has been recognised as Rotary Citizen of the Year.

## The Lea Brook Valley Project - highlights

- The East Midlands in Bloom judges commended the Lea Brook Valley project's voluntary and conservation work specifically as part of its award of a silver medal to Dronfield.
- Derbyshire County made separate awards to Norman Crowson, project leader, and to the volunteers as a whole within its Excellence in the Community Awards Scheme.
- Look out for the interpretation boards which are to be erected shortly in the valley. We supported and worked alongside young persons from a number of church-based groups on a particularly wet weekend in late October as part of the 'Soul Survivor' initiative. Work on the valley project featured amongst other community works undertaken.
- Monthly 'First Thursday Morning Tidy - Up Sessions' continue. Further work days are planned for 20 Feb, 15 May and 12 Dec - 'phone 01246 413778 for details if you would like to volunteer to help.

### **MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – make sure you have the following dates in your diary.**

**Monday April 12 2010 - 7.00pm at Gosforth Lodge : an illustrated talk from James Adams - *parking enforcement manager NEDDC.***

James will give a talk on the introduction and workings of the newly installed parking wardens within our area.. The evening will end with a question and answer session. It is hoped that most of the local traders will attend this evening as some of them have voiced concerns over how the parking wardens operate.

**Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 - 7.30pm at Gosforth Lodge : Dronfield Civic Society AGM**

We are very pleased to have secured Tony Burton as our main guest speaker.

Tony is a geographer, town planner and an honorary member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He moved from his role as the National Trust's Director of Strategy and External Affairs to take up leadership of the Civic Society Initiative.

**And there's more . . .**

We would ask that as many members and friends as possible support these evenings and we intend to [sjbroadhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sjbroadhead@hotmail.co.uk) or 01246 418657. Further events will be published on a regular basis on the DCS web site.