



Hello again and welcome to our third newsletter. Yet again we have much to report since our last edition. We are especially pleased to announce a programme of events which will be held throughout the autumn and into 2011.

We do hope you can join us and thank you for your continued support. Don't forget to visit our website for more information and updates about our activities during the autumn.

John Harvey - Chair

❖ Dronfield Civic Society joins Civic Voice

Many of you will be aware that we have progressed with our affiliation to Civic Voice and were pleased to welcome Tony Burton, Director of Civic Voice as guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting. We believe our affiliation to this national movement will provide us with a number of benefits and access to a range of national initiatives which we can join in. Some of the benefits of Civic Voice are:-



- Providing us with 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. (To obtain the National Trust pass go to www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer - If you haven't got internet access please contact us for how to obtain the pass).

We intend to take part in some of the Civic Voice campaign initiatives such as 'Love Local' and 'Street Pride' which we will be highlighting in the coming months. In particular we are focusing on 'Street Clutter' in Dronfield – unnecessary or redundant road signs, bollards etc. which clutter our streets and are likely to cause more accidents than prevent them.

❖ Congratulations!

Our sincere congratulations go to Peter Hayward, Chairman of the Friends of Dronfield Station and long-time member of the Civic Society, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June for his services to the community of Dronfield. North East Derbyshire District and Town Councillor, Graham Baxter received the same honour.

❖ Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School Young Achievers Award

The Civic Society presents an annual award to the overall Young Achiever at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School. The Award recognizes outstanding achievement and the winning pupil is selected by the School Council. This year the award went to Jessica Heath in recognition for the support she gives to a fellow pupil with disabilities. Jessica received the silver salver along with a certificate and a gift voucher.

Our thanks go to member Gary Lycett for liaising with the School about the arrangements for this award

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- Frith Wood – public meeting
- Diary of events – 2010 /11
- Aldi update

Other news

- *Congratulations to honoured residents*
- *Bulb planting*
- *A new seat at the station*
- *Love Local*
- *Street Clutter*

❖ Forthcoming Events

We are delighted to be able to announce an extensive programme of events for the autumn and into the spring of 2011

Our calendar kicks off on 15th September with James Pogson, Director and Owner of Northern Tea Merchants Ltd., who will be talking about Fair Trade Coffee. Northern Tea Merchants make approx 100 million tea bags and roast approx 200 tonnes of coffee per year and roast approx 6% of the UK's Fairtrade Organic Coffee as well as many other excellent quality single estate beans.

Other notable speakers include Dronfield's own Jackie Toaduff, who will be giving the Annual Dronfield lecture, an event co-sponsored with the Peel Centre,

Derek Latham, a landscape and conservation architect, has been invited to walk around the town before his talk and Gemma Gregory of the 3 Valleys Project will be advising us on developments and future plans for Frith Wood.

Full details of the programme are shown in the adjacent panel. **All meetings start at 7.30 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE - Our new venue for meetings is the Fanshawe Hall of Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School, entrance from Green Lane into the car park with level access to the hall.

Other News

❖ Bulb Planting

Thanks are due to a member who is donating 4000 crocus bulbs for planting in the Eckington Road grass verge at Coal Aston. The Society will also again be planting daffodil bulbs in various parts of the Town. We would welcome suggestions about where we could plant and offers of help with the planting.

Our bulbs are purchased from our member organization, the Dronfield Horticultural Society.

❖ Coal Aston War Memorial

We were pleased to have recently donated £200 to the appeal to establish a Coal Aston war memorial

❖ Planning Issues

Dronfield Civic Society recently supported residents in opposing a retrospective planning application for regrading of land for two football pitches from The Akademy Sports Centre on Callywhite Lane. The site is in the green belt adjacent to Frith Wood.

We were disappointed that, in spite of 32 letters of objection from residents, Dronfield Town Council and a petition of 18 signatories, and no letters of support, planning permission was still granted.

Dronfield Civic Society Events Diary

15 Sept. - Fair Trade Coffee

James Pogson – Director of Northern Tea Merchants, Chesterfield
Members £3 / non-members £5

8 Oct. - The Dronfield Annual Lecture

Organised jointly by the Peel Centre and Dronfield Civic Society

Jackie Toaduff of the Chantry Hotel - *"From Coaldust to Stardust"*

To be held at the Peel Centre –

Admission £6 including refreshments

Nov. Date to be confirmed

- Urban Regeneration

Derek Latham – Landscape & conservation architect, *Regional representative for CABE in the East Mids, founder member of East Mids Architecture and Built Environment Centre and Chairman of Regeneration, East Midlands.*

Members £3 / non-members £5

12 Jan 2011 - The Management of Frith Wood

Gemma Gregory – the Three Valleys Project
- Members £3 / non-members £5

16 Feb.

Ian Ward – to be confirmed



❖ Proposed Aldi development

We have also continued to monitor planning applications each month and commented where appropriate.

As we go to press Aldi have now formally applied for planning permission for their proposed new store at the Lucas Works on Sheffield Road.

Aldi held a public consultation on their initial plans and are now inviting further comment to which we shall be responding.



❖ **Recycling Facilities at Dronfield Civic Centre**

We have consistently pressed North East Derbyshire District Council about the poor state and maintenance of the Civic Centre recycling bins.

We are therefore very pleased to see the recent considerable improvements at the site.

Of course many of the problems are caused by a minority of inconsiderate users and we will continue to work with the local councils to monitor the site.

❖ **Frith Wood**

A number of our members have expressed concerns about recent work which has created a wide track surfaced with hard core and recycled materials.

As a result John Harvey and Robert Hardcastle met with the Three Valleys Project Officer, Gemma Gregory. Gemma outlined the management plans for the Wood and explained that the track was to enable Project vehicles to access the wood as well as to improve disabled access.

She agreed that it was important to involve local people in the management of the wood, particularly as the County Council is hoping to designate it as a nature reserve.



Public meeting

We are therefore planning to hold a public meeting on the subject of Frith Wood when Gemma will talk about their plans.

Provisionally this is fixed for January 12th at Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School.

❖ **FODS (Friends of Dronfield Station) continue their efforts to maintain and improve the station.**

A recent addition is a handsome wooden bench in memory of Harry Sykes, Dronfield station's last signalman, on which passersby can take a breather and enjoy the flower displays (which are particularly striking and colourful throughout the town this year).

❖ **Love Local**

This is a Civic Voice campaign to uncover what makes different places distinctive and people proud to live there with the aim of building up a digital mosaic of what people love about different parts of England and why.

Civic Voice pledges to campaign on what people say they value and Dronfield Civic Society made a start at the Dronfield Feast by asking people to complete a very simple questionnaire. These will be available at our meetings - so please take part.

❖ **Street pride**

Street Clutter Campaign

At our last AGM we gave you an introduction to Civic Voice's national campaign entitled "Street Pride".

The purpose of this campaign is to reduce clutter in streets that make them appear degraded and uncared for.



We showed photographs of clutter in streets in Dronfield, some of which were included in a presentation that Civic Voice then gave to government. We were hopeful that this presentation would lead to government support for this campaign and on 26 August Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, issued a statement urging local authorities to cut unnecessary road signs to make streets tidier and safer.



Mr Pickles commented, "Our streets are losing their English character. We are being overrun by scruffy signs, bossy bollards, patchwork paving and railed off roads, wasting taxpayers' money that could be better spent on fixing potholes or keeping council tax down. We need to 'cut the clutter'".

He and Transport Secretary Philip Hammond have written to council leaders calling on them to remove the clutter. The government is also urging the public to get involved by carrying out street audits and lobbying their councils.

So we are ahead of the game in having already made a start on this process.

Initial training for our own volunteers to undertake Street Pride audits in Dronfield will take place in September, with an objective of publishing the results of our first audits before Christmas of this year. We would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join our audit team.

***Recommend a friend –
Is your friend or neighbour a member of Dronfield Civic Society?
If not - why not?***