



# Royale Dunton Court Residents Association

[www.duntoncourtresidents.org.uk](http://www.duntoncourtresidents.org.uk)

Issue 3

20 August 2022

## Update from the Chair

The residents' association had our first formal meeting with Royale's Operations Manager and Area Managers on 18th July and we are now an officially recognised association. Royale said 'we look forward to working with the residents' association in the future'.

A lot of the committee's work is done in the background and I'm personally proud of what we have achieved in a few months.

- We now have a defibrillator on site, with hopefully another to come. We are also arranging awareness training so residents will have confidence in using it in an emergency (hopefully it will never be required).
- A sparkling new website made and maintained by the committee for free. Also a Facebook with about 85 members that generates lots of healthy discussions. Plus we've sent out 3 jam-packed newsletters to everyone on site just so we can reach those not wired-up to the internet.
- Helping Hands has been a great success with Lynda and her wonderful team.
- We are launching an exciting programme of entertainment starting with the super Ella from Billericay Theatre at our first monthly event night in September. We're also busy planning regular quizzes as these are always popular. Thanks to Julie and Mick for leading us on this front and also thanks to our quiz-masters who volunteer.
- We've compiled an excellent detailed report on roads and street lighting with massive thanks to our expert in the field, Joy and also contributions from other residents. This is nearly ready to be submitted to Royale.
- The Association put together a comprehensive reply to the recent planning application - collating residents' concerns. Many thanks to James for his direction on this.
- We are in touch with the relevant bodies and keeping residents informed about current grants schemes as we realise many people are worried about the current cost of living situation.

Not an exhaustive list but a few things we have achieved together. We hope to build on our new working relationship with Royale so that it benefits everyone on site.

Thanks all, Gary (Chair)

## Support with energy bills this winter

### Update - £400 Energy Grant

I know a lot of people are concerned that park home residents might miss out on the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme so we would just like to clarify the current position. The government has made an official announcement that Park Home residents **WILL** be getting this money too. The energy minister is still putting together plans for how to deliver that money to us but he has assured us we will be notified before the scheme is supposed to start in October.



Book your bulky waste collection online

### Bulky Rubbish

Just a reminder that unfortunately, the normal weekly collection service won't take bulky items. However, Basildon Council runs a special collections service for the disposal of large household items and electrical goods. The cost is £11 for the collection of up to five items. This is the web address to book a collection.

[www.basildon.gov.uk/article/4795/Book-a-Special-Collection](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/4795/Book-a-Special-Collection)



### Gas supplies

We had a chat with Royale about how some residents were left without gas last winter. Royale has assured us that they do all they can when people report issues but it's often outside of their control.

Calor Gas have admitted last winters' supply issues were primarily because of a shortage of specially trained hazardous goods HGV drivers which resulted in tank levels for some customers running out before they were able to refill. However, they have said staffing levels are now back to normal so hopefully things will be much better this year.

# Clubhouse News

**Entertainment** - Royale have welcomed the residents' associations offer to help with entertainment in the club and to try and make more use of this great facility at other times.

Mick and Julie from the entertainment team are putting together a programme of once-monthly events which we hope everyone will enjoy.

**Quizzes** - We're also starting a regular quiz night with proceeds going to charities dear to residents' hearts.

If you have a favourite charity please pop a note in our new postbox on the clubhouse wall with your name and the charity name.

Also, we're looking for quiz-setters to help run the quizzes so please get in touch if you're a budding quizmaster. We'll be kicking off our regular quiz nights on Friday 14th October with a return of Bill's Super Quiz - by popular demand.

**The Bar** - Residents have also told us that they often have long waits to get drinks on busy nights. No criticism of Kim, she's only got one pair of hands. So, Royale agreed to fix that and in future, when we have higher numbers expected, they will arrange to give Kim some help.

**Food** - We raised the thorny matter of food with Royale. They are unable to let us take our own food in the club. However, they have given the residents' association permission to bring in caterers if we ever want a buffet or other food at an event. Also, they have agreed to increase the range of snacks available to buy behind the bar. The only exception to the 'no food' rule will be the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning which will continue as before.

**Daytime activities** - Royale are happy to see more use of the hall for daytime activities and they have agreed a system with us where the office can let us in. If residents have any suggestions for group sessions in the hall during the daytime please let us know. You can pop suggestions in our black post box at the entrance to the club or use our Facebook or website to contact us electronically.

A few people have already expressed an interest in things like knit and natter, exercise classes, craft sessions or board games so if we have any residents who would be interested in coordinating such events please get in touch. For the exercise classes we'd have to hire professionals for insurance reasons but we'd still like to hear from residents as to what kind of classes they'd enjoy.

These are just a few early ideas and will be looking to increase activities over the coming months.

**Entertainment Survey** - Thanks to everyone for filling out our entertainment survey. The team hopes to be able to book a real variety of acts as we move forward so there's something for everyone. Completing our survey really helped.

Just as a snapshot, here's the top 7 things residents wished for most.

**Live Music nights with 50s/60s/70s/80s - 22 votes**

**Seaside visits - 19 Votes**

**West End theatre trips - 18 votes**

**Country and Western nights - 18 votes**

**Quizzes - 18 Votes**

**Karaoke - 17 Votes**

**Cheese and Wine & Curry Nights - 15 Votes**



## Defibrillator Update

Thanks to all those who helped raise funds, we now have one of these life saving machines on the wall at the side of the office.

You do not need to be an expert to use a defib and you don't need training. These things are foolproof and as soon as you open it up it talks to you to tell you what to do. However, we thought it would be beneficial to arrange for an expert to come and explain it all. So, on Thursday 1 September at 19:00 we're running a free **Defibrillator Familiarisation and Basic Life Support** session with a teacher from the London Ambulance Service.

If you'd like to come along, please cut off the slip at the end of this newsletter and pop it in the association's black letter box at the entrance to the clubhouse. Alternatively, send us a message on Facebook or email [rdprc2022@gmail.com](mailto:rdprc2022@gmail.com)

We anticipate a lot of interest in this and we're limited to about 40 people - but if it's oversubscribed we'll look to run another session another day.

If you'd prefer to watch a video from the comfort of your home, the charity London Hearts have supplied us with a video to watch instead. Just visit our website [www.duntoncourresidents.org.uk](http://www.duntoncourresidents.org.uk) where we have posted this on our main page.

Finally, the British Heart Foundation advice remains the same. If you suspect someone is having a cardiac arrest, call 999, start CPR and get someone to fetch the defibrillator. The emergency operator will advise you what to do next.

## Planning Application Update

The planning officer has told us she is still considering Royale's application for 85 new homes. It's taking some time because she said it's quite complex but she expects to make a recommendation in the Autumn. To be fair, most people aren't against the new homes in principle. However, residents have real concerns over access to and from the new site which, according to submitted plans, will use the already crumbling infrastructure of narrow roads and limited paths. However, at our meeting with Royale, they confirmed to us that there will be a separate entrance/exit to the new site to ensure "zero interruption" to current residents' daily lives. Royale hasn't shared the exact location but we hope things will become clearer soon.



We received a complaint about residents leaving the club noisily after Bill's quiz night. Can we politely ask everyone to adjust their volume switches when walking home - especially in the summer months when people are likely to be sleeping with windows open. We really appreciate the resident bringing this to our attention politely and we thank everyone for their cooperation on this.

## Helping Hands

**Our team of 7 volunteers are here to help those less able with small tasks such as collecting prescriptions, driving to GP appointments, trips to the barbers/hairdresser and picking up bits from Tesco.**

**In the home we can change lightbulbs, beds, curtains or any other small tasks.**

**We can even just call in for a chat and cup of tea.**

**Call Lynda 07951 660115**



## Money Money Money

Sheila Hobman deals with our accounts. She's set up a special bank account for the association at Metro in Baildon.

When we formed the association we decided to raise money for any operating costs by fundraising rather than having an annual membership fee. We ran a 70s night to start the pot and then Bill's quiz night donated a further £132. So the association has £712.18. We haven't really had any running costs so far because everyone's doing things voluntarily but we do anticipate some things cropping up.

Separately, we raised £1,207.00 for our defib and heated cabinet which has now been purchased. At the AGM Sheila will present our full accounts. **AGM is Thursday 6 October at 20:00**

## Dates For Your Diary

**Saturday 10 September 19:30 - Quiz Night with Chris Bennett in aid of Cancer Research.**

This was organised before the residents' association started running events so book your space for this at the bar with Kim. There will be a raffle and table top sale and if you have donations please see Chris at 29 Orchard View.

👉 £2 per person



**Saturday 17 September 19:30 - 'Ella' from Billericay Theatre sings songs from movies and west end shows.**

Tickets on sale now for residents (+one if you live on the site on your own). Then on sale for family and friends from 25th August.

👉 £6 per person - tickets available from -

👉 Sheila at 26 Orchard View between 11am and 10pm daily.

👉 Laurie and Lynda at 3 Meadow View.

👉 Pop us a message on our Facebook or email and we'll do a free ticket delivery service.

**Thursday 6 October 2022 at 20:00 - AGM in the club hall.**

This is an opportunity for members to vote on things and elect the committee for the next year. If anyone fancies being on the committee please drop the Chairman a line and he'll explain what it involves. Please email [rdprc2022@gmail.com](mailto:rdprc2022@gmail.com) or speak to a committee member.

**Friday 14th October 19:30 - Bill's Super Quiz**

The Residents' associations first quiz night. All profits going to charity. Please drop a note with your favourite charity in our post box and we'll draw one out on the night. Doors open: 7.30pm. Quiz starts: 8pm

👉 Teams of up to 8.

👉 £2 per person.

**Coming soon.**

**We're planning more events on the following dates (to be confirmed)**

**Saturday 29 October**

**Saturday 19th November**

**Saturday 3rd Dec (Xmas Party)**

**Saturday 31 Dec (New Years Eve Party)**

**Chair - Gary Peckham**  
**Secretary/Vice Chair - Pat Stapleton**  
**Treasurer - Sheila Hobman**

**Other Council members -**  
**Lynda Gould - Helping Hands Coordinator**  
**Mick Hilton - Entertainment**  
**Julie Raby - Entertainment**  
**Pat Moore - Communications**  
**James Hailes - Communications**  
**Denise Rayner - Disability & Equality**  
**Laurie Gould - Minutes Secretary**  
**Pat Smith & Terry Rose - General committee members**



(Laurie and James are both co-opted members. They were invited by the committee to help with specialist roles but have no voting rights.)

*dreamstime.*



If you'd like to come along to the free **Defibrillator Familiarisation and Basic Life Support** session with a teacher from the London Ambulance Service, please cut off the slip at the end of this newsletter and pop it in the association's black letter box at the entrance to the clubhouse. Alternatively, send us a message on Facebook or email [rdprc2022@gmail.com](mailto:rdprc2022@gmail.com)

The trainer has suggested no more than 40 people for this session so spaces are first come first served. If we're oversubscribed we'll look to run another session.

Thursday 1 September at 19:00 in the clubhouse hall (doors open at 18:45).

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Contact number.....