



# Royale Dunton Court Residents Association

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

Email: [rdprc2022@gmail.com](mailto:rdprc2022@gmail.com)

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## Helping Hands ...

One of the success stories of the residents' association is HELPING HANDS. Lynda and her team of volunteers 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 they change lightbulbs, beds, curtains or any other small tasks. They can even just call in for a chat and cup of tea if requested.

On behalf of everyone who's used it, we'd like to thank Lynda, Laurie and the rest of the team for this valuable service. Long may it continue.

Call or text Lynda on 07951 660115 if you need help with anything.

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## Electricity Price Increase ...

A lot of residents have asked why our electricity is going up when Ofgem says we should all pay less for energy this summer. We can explain that.

This time last year we were paying 28p per Kwh for electricity. That rate went up in October 2022 to 34p. However, throughout this period, Royale have actually been paying the supplier 39.5p per Kwh so we have been enjoying subsidised rates. From July 2023, the subsidy ends and we will all be paying 39.5p per Kwh.

Royale's fixed contract with their energy supplier will be up for renewal in a few months and their accounts have told us their brokers will shop around to get the best possible price. Because business rates have started to fall in the last few months we hope they will be able to secure us all a lower rate moving forwards.

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## Well Done ...

**Pat Kelsey** for completing the Race for Life to raise money for cancer research.

**Joy Darch** for climbing Snowdon to raise money for Ormond Street Hospital to help find a cure and raise awareness of MENKES disease.

The association is proud to have supported you both in these great causes.

## **Fish and Chips ...**

Last year a lot of residents asked if we could try and get a fish and chip van to visit the site because many people don't have the means to drive to one or order takeaways on an app. Months of searching and we kept hitting brick walls. Most operators were fully booked but eventually we found a company in Dartford with a free slot on Thursdays so we snapped that up.

Howes Fish and Chips are here every Thursday from 5pm-7pm. They are sometimes a little late due to congestion in the Dartford tunnel so we'd advise leaving it until around 5.30pm before coming down. The van parks by the garages near the club but if you're not mobile enough to get out, some of our committee members can collect for you.

The van will continue calling at Dunton all the time there's a demand so try and support this valuable service if you can.

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## **Pitch Fee Increase ...**

This information is for residents who decided not to pay the increased pitch fee from April.

The deadline for Royale to apply to the tribunal was on Friday 30th June and the tribunal has told us Royale did submit a claim on the final day. The Association will now start preparing our evidence bundle.

We will ask the tribunal to link all cases together, which is normal practice. However, it's likely you will receive some official paperwork over the next few weeks. Assuming you'd like the association to deal with the case for you, please let us know if you get anything through so we can keep track of all residents disputing the charge. Because this is a significant number of people, we'd prefer you to email or leave a note in the association letterbox (rather than knock on the door).

Don't forget, if the tribunal doesn't agree with our case we will all have one month to catch up with the shortfall since April, so even though you're not paying the increase, please save it in case it needs to be paid. The tribunal decision will only apply to those residents who didn't pay the increase and opted to let the tribunal decide.

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## **Knit and Natter**

Sheila's weekly knit and natter sessions are going well. You can join fellow crafters every Thursday from 1pm-4pm in the club hall. It's a free session and it's very informal.

You don't need to know how to knit. People do all sorts including crocheting, rug making and even diamond art! Just bring any of your craft work with you or just come along for the 'natter' and a cuppa.

## Life Savers ...

Just a reminder we have two defibs on site now (thanks again to everyone who helped the association with fundraising).

We have registered these with the ambulance service so if you ever phone 999 and they think a defib would be beneficial, they will direct you to the nearest one.

When you open a defib a voice will automatically tell you what to do. They are designed to be used by members of the public with no training. However, it's good to familiarise ourselves so we're confident to use them if required.

When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, quick action is essential. Most people who survive will have needed a shock from a defib and the earlier that shock is given the better the chance of survival. Studies have shown that using a defib within 3 minutes of cardiac arrest provides the best chance of survival but that chance reduces dramatically even just 1 minute after. It's unlikely an ambulance will be able to reach Dunton and deliver a shock within 3 minutes so we could all literally save someone's life if we can use a defibrillator.

If you missed our training session in the club there are plenty of YouTube videos showing you what they're all about so well worth a look. Just search 'How to Use a Defibrillator',

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## Overgrown Meadows ...

Residents have expressed concern that the meadows at the entrance to the park are a fire risk to nearby homes in the summer because they are rarely cut-back or used for grazing. The residents association did ask Royale and they confirmed they neither own the land or know who does. So, we contacted the government's land registry people to try and get to the bottom of it.

According to documents we've received, these fields have been sold to a property investment corporation based in Liechtenstein. We have also managed to track down an Essex based property company who are in charge of promoting the land and they have kindly given us the details of the owner's UK agent.

The association has written to the agent several times over the last few months to flag up the fire risk but they haven't replied. We will now pass all our findings on to Essex Fire in the hope they can get some progress, but we wanted to reassure members we are working on it.

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## Site map ...

We asked our Park Supervisor Toni if there are any plans to update the street plan as you enter the site. It's out of date and some roads aren't showing. Toni has confirmed a new plan (along with other new signage) will be completed ASAP.

## Quiz Nights ...

Join our team of volunteer quiz masters including Bill & Audrey, Carolyn, Kevin Mead and James & Gary.

Dates are advertised on the club front door and also on our website/Facebook. You can either get a team together (why not invite family/friends) or just come along on the night because people always need new team members.

**Friday 7th July** - Quizmaster 'Kevin Mead'

**Friday 4th August** - Quizmasters 'Bill and Audrey'

No need to book for any of our quizzes, just turn up and pay on the door. It's £2 a person and a portion of money raised goes to charity.

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## Entertainment News ...

We hope everyone is enjoying the selection of once-monthly events the association puts on in the club. *Coming up ...*

**Saturday 15th July** - Singer 'Steve Cherelle' - Country music & popular songs to dance to.

**Friday 18th August** - Singer 'Sam Knight returns by popular demand following his sell-out Christmas appearance in the club last year. Expect swing, rock n roll, 50s/60s and singalong favourites.

**Saturday 16th September** - Another fun night at the races hosted by Mick and Julie from our entertainment team.

**Friday 13th October** - Live band 'Just4Fun'

**Saturday 4th November** - Halloween Disco

**Saturday 9th December** - Christmas Party - Neil Duncan's 'Legends and Laughter show'.

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## King's Coronation ...

Around 70 people had a whale of a time at a coronation street party in Manstead Close. The weather was great and our social media page was full of praise for Julie, Paul and Mick who organised this event. Also thanks to our site supervisor Toni for liaising with us to ensure the event was safe. Photos of the event are on our website and Facebook page.

Lots of people have said why can't we have a street party every year and we're pleased to say Julie and Mick are already working on an annual 'end of summer' event starting this year so watch this space!

## Money Money Money ...

The association is committed to being open and transparent with money matters so here's what we've made since the last AGM. This is profit after paying outgoings like the cost of acts and any charitable donations following our quiz nights.

14th October 2022 - Quiz - £43.00  
11th November 2022 - Quiz - £51.00  
18th November 2022 - Delvis - £570.67  
2nd December 2022 - Sam Knight - £607.09  
8th December 2022 - Table Top Sale - £60.00  
31st December 2022 - New Years Eve Disco - £367.10  
14th February 2023 - Jukebox Jules singer - £290.35  
3rd March 2023 - Quiz Night - £48.95  
1st April 2023 - Race Night - £6.50  
19th May 2023 - Quiz Night - £56.52

**Total - £2094.98 profit.**

- Our first Race Night only made £6.50 because we purchased all the equipment (screen/projector/stand). But from now on, Race Nights will have very few costs.

So, add this to money already held and we have .....

- Current balance in bank account is £2370.11
- Current cash held is £206.82.

**TOTAL CREDIT BALANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS £2,576.93**

This puts the association on a good footing after just one year. It gives us money for running costs and also things like maintenance of the two defibrillators and an insurance to cover cancelled events if the club is ever forced to close due to staff illness etc (we'd be liable to pay the acts still). Also, because finances are becoming more healthy we are looking to run more subsidised events/trips for members in the future.

Thanks to Sheila Hobman for doing the books.

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## Charity ...

We gave members the opportunity to suggest charities that are dear to their heart. The association is proud to have supported the following charities in the last few months.

The Alzheimer's Society £75:00  
Great Ormond Street £108:00  
St Luke's Hospice £50:00  
Race For Life Cancer charity £50:00

Thanks to everyone who comes to our events and quiz nights for being part of making this happen.

## How we keep in touch ...

### FACEBOOK

We now have 120 people on our Facebook group. Bearing in mind there's only about 187 homes on site, that's an amazing figure. The page is updated several times a week so it's a really good way to keep up to date. Join us here:-

[www.facebook.com/groups/royaleduntoncourt](http://www.facebook.com/groups/royaleduntoncourt)

### WEBSITE

If you don't have Facebook, we have a website which is packed with news and information and gets updated regularly too. Take a look here:-

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

### NEWSLETTERS

Every few months we produce a members newsletter. This is a summary of things that have been on our website and Facebook page over the last few months. Those who asked will get a paper copy through their door. Otherwise, visit our website and you'll see a NEWSLETTERS page with copies of them all.

### EMAIL

If you want to get in touch with us you can email, the association here:-

[rdprc2022@gmail.com](mailto:rdprc2022@gmail.com)

### LETTERS

If you want to contact us but don't do 'digital', just pop us a letter or note in our black letter box on the clubhouse wall marked '**residents association**'.

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***The committee and helpers wish you all a good summer.***

Chair - Gary Peckham

Secretary/Vice Chair - Pat Stapleton

Treasurer - Sheila Hobman

Entertainment coordinators - Julie Raby and Mick Hilton

Helping Hands coordinator - Lynda Gould

Communications - James Hailes

Disability/Equality Rep - Denise Rayner

Other Committee members - Pat Moore and Pat Smith,