

The Doxey play

- your chance to take part and develop your skills

Last month's Doxey Times told of the grant that the Community Association had received for its arts project. Since then the project has been awarded a further £1500 from Staffordshire County Council. We are fast approaching the total needed to put the Doxey play on, but we do need a bit more. (See the separate sheet delivered with this issue of Doxey Times.)

For those not yet up to speed, the idea is to put on a play in Doxey - about Doxey - with Doxey people involved at every stage and in every part of the production. As well as giving a chance for people who already have theatre skills to put them to use, it will give others a chance to learn these skills. There will be a series of workshops run by theatre professionals.

Some people have already called to say that they are interested - and the number is growing every week,

but it is not too late for others to put their names forward.

If you want to act, to play music, to construct scenery, to do lighting or do any of the other jobs involved in producing a play call **Jane on 621453** or **Joan on 251622**.

Work on writing the play has already started. The writer will be visiting Doxey in February and would be keen to meet residents who have interesting stories to tell about the village. Contact Barbara on **607771** if you have a story to tell.

The provisional title for the play is "Village Voices", so look out for more news about this production in coming weeks.

Dates for your diary

The play will be performed on **Saturday, 30 April and Sunday, 1 May** and Mikron will give the world premiere of their four-actor version of the play in Doxey on **Saturday, 11 June**.

Is this a right of way?

For many years the people of Doxey have used a footpath to get from The Drive to the disused railway line to Newport. This runs alongside the fenced field and past the end of the football pitch nearest to town. (For those of you who are familiar with grid references, the references for the start and finish of this path are 906325 and 906234.)

At one time there was a fence between this footpath and the rest of the open space, but this has been down for a long time. The County Council - which, has converted the disused railway into a bridleway, known as the Greenway - has acknowledged this footpath, by providing access from it to the Greenway.

It appears that no one has been prevented in recent years from using this path, but it is now in a bad state. Some early attention would be very helpful to the people who use it. The problem, though is that this footpath is not an official right of way so there is no way in which the community or the local council could do anything about this.

It is possible to establish the path as a right of way if it has been used as such for a sufficiently long time. To prove this there need to be at least six people who are prepared to make a statement that this path has been used – without any hindrance or special permission – for at least 20 years. If you are able to help with this, please call **251622**.

Count down to the parish council

Elections for the new Doxey Parish Council are due to take place in May this year. Notices will be published in April – in the local press and in Doxey Times – inviting nominations to the council.

With a few exceptions, anyone who lives in Doxey can stand for election.. You just need ten people to sign your nomination form.

There will be nine seats. If only nine people - or fewer - are nominated, there will be no election. Everyone who is nominated will become a member of the new parish council. If there are any vacancies, the parish council can co-opt additional members.

Although there are many things which a parish council can do, what it actually does is largely for councillors to decide. The main thing, though, is that it will give Doxey a voice in the wider world. The Doxey Parish Council will be able to campaign in a more organised way for things to benefit Doxey people.

There will be plenty of guidance about how the council will work and training will be provided for parish councillors. There will also be briefings for anyone interested in standing for election. For more details, call **251622**.

To find out more about what a parish council can do and what being a parish councillor means come along to the next meeting of the Doxey Community Association

on Wednesday, 9 February

at 7.00 p.m.

in the community centre, Sutton Drive

Mark Gater, from the recently formed Silverdale Parish Council will be there to answer all your questions and to explain what you can get out of being a parish councillor.

Courses in Doxey for 2005

Watercolours

Mondays - 1.30pm - 3.30pm
William Sutton Rooms

Last session is on 14 March

Keep Fit

Mondays - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
William Sutton Rooms

Last session is on 14 March

Computer spreadsheets

CLAIT

Tuesdays - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Doxey Primary School

Costs £5

Last session is on 15 March

Yoga

All ages and abilities

Thursdays - 7.30 pm to 9.30
Universal Function Suite

Last session is on 17 March

New CLAIT computer course

Tuesdays - 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. -
Doxey Primary School

Starts 26 April

Cost £5

Trace your family tree

It is hoped that this course will start in April, but final arrangements have not yet been made.

To enrol call **275607**. For further information about these courses, call **07771 696746**.

Vote for Hannah

Doxey's Hannah Burgess is standing for election to the National Youth Parliament.

The parliament aims to:

ensure that the young people of the UK (aged 11 to 18) are given a voice on any issue that affects them, in accordance with the principle of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

give the young people of the UK an opportunity to be involved in a democratic process at a national level;

empower young people to take positive action within their local communities based upon their issues of concern.

Each year the Parliament draws up a manifesto - which highlights the concerns of young people across the country - and presents this to the Government which is committed to making a response.

Hannah has been prominent in Doxey's Youth Forum — working for better facilities for young people in Doxey — and has played a role in getting more litter bins in Doxey.

Voting takes place from Monday 7 February to Friday 11. Any one in the age range 11 - 18 can vote - on-line or by texting. Instructions on how to do this will be available in youth clubs and schools and from Connexions.

Launch of Parent and Toddler Group

In the past many Doxey parents have welcomed the support provided by a Parent and Toddler Group. It is hoped to get a group going again soon. It will meet

**on Friday mornings
from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon
in the Sutton Centre,
Sutton Drive**

A small charge of 50p per session will be made. This will include refreshments

The health visitor will be in attendance at some sessions.

If you are interested in joining the group, call **Mandy** on **07969 942 011**.

Clear-out day

The next clear-out day will be on **Sunday, 8th May**. See later issues of Doxey Times for details.

Garden sale

Doxey's annual garden sale will take place in May. Why not sow some extra seeds for sale on that day?

Have you returned your post office questionnaire?

A questionnaire was delivered to every tenth home in Doxey a couple of weeks ago. The idea is to find out the extent to which the closure of Doxey post office has made life difficult for residents of Doxey.

Because this was only a 10% survey it is important that as many completed questionnaires as possible are returned. They will tell us whether we need to continue the campaign to restore some kind of post office service to Doxey.

Completed questionnaires can be returned to the following places:

**The William Sutton Centre,
Sutton Drive
The letter box outside the
parish church**

If you would like someone to collect your questionnaire or you need another copy, call **251622**.

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Mr P Gascoyne - (01785) 716607

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Published by the Doxey Community Association. If you need further information or want to make a comment or put something in a future issue of Doxey Times, call **251622**, or e-mail: press@doxeyca.org.uk or leave a message at the Community Centre, 43 Sutton Drive.