



NEWSLETTER

Sopwell Residents Association

Issue 1
JULY 2003

Rubbish and Fly tipping –short term goal

RUBBISH! That's what a large number of residents said at the meeting on 1st April was their *No.1* complaint about the Sopwell area. Therefore, a major target for the Committee has been to achieve a significant reduction in the amount of litter, junk and stray trolleys. We have contacted the council and local stores to take action and tackle this problem.

We are delighted to report that everyone we have spoken to has been eager to help or at least point us in the right direction. This is great news for everyone. The council has a leaflet on target response times for

litter collection, which is normally 12 hours for most of the Sopwell area. We have asked McDonalds and Sainsbury's to extend their litter collection rounds. Sainsbury's have been very responsive to trolley collection requests. The council have visited several hot spots and taken action to remove litter, fridges and the results of fly tipping. However, as we cannot cover all areas all the time, we are reliant on *you* as a resident in Sopwell to report these issues to the appropriate person directly:

Sainsbury's (e.g. trolleys): 01727 847707
Homebase (e.g. trolley

collection): 01727 857113
Council Litter Enforcement Office for Paths and Highways.

e.g. litter and fly-tipping
Contact telephone:
01727 819472

Council Leisure for Parks and Open Spaces
e.g. litter

Contact telephone:
01727 819 366

Please contact us if no action is taken within 2 days of trying the above contacts. Also, please inform us of areas where you think extra litterbins could help reduce litter problems. Either write to us or email us at

rubbish@sopwell.org.uk

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SUGGESTION BOXES

Suggestion boxes to be placed in the following places:

- Vesta Avenue Butchers
- King Offa pub
- Abbots Avenue local shops

More to be confirmed in our next newsletter

NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEME - White Recycling Bag for Cardboard

Some of the streets in the ward have been selected for trials of the new cardboard recycling scheme. Readers may have received special canvas bags for this, together with a note from the council explaining what can go in them. This trial is expected to last for one year and, if

successful, will eventually be rolled out to the whole district. Other parts of the district are experimenting with glass and 'green waste' (ie. kitchen/garden stuff for composting).

Obviously, we would encourage everyone who can, to take part in this scheme. As your commit-

tee is represented on the council's Environment Forum, we would also be interested in your comments on the scheme to feed back to them.

These might include; how easy you find the bag to use; how you get on with the monthly collection; any problems, suggestions for

improvements etc.

It would also be useful to know for those not taking part, what your reasons are, so that these can be addressed.

Any other ideas for recycling are very welcome. For any other queries about the scheme contact 819285.

CONSERVATION ISSUES - THE SOPWELL PRIORY SITE

The committee proposes that the Sopwell nunnery site will become a *nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary*. It will allow for local ownership of the open space, to be jointly managed by ourselves, the Countryside Management Service and Verulam Museum. They both welcome the proposal and look forward to working with us to

create a haven for wild plants and animals. Large parts of the open space are to be managed as amenity grassland to provide areas for recreation such as informal ball games or picnicking. Other areas including the wetter areas are to be managed as water meadows.

Residents are invited to a pleasant walk and talk

through the site on Sunday 21st September 2003 meeting at the History Board (opposite the nunnery) on Cottonmill Lane at 2.30pm. We look forward to seeing you. Comments and suggestions to the proposal are most welcome. Email your comments to:

conservation@sopwell.org.uk

For further details see our website www.sopwell.org.uk

SILVER LINK TRAINS — ABBEY FLYER

Do you or have you used the Silverlink train service from St Albans Abbey?

Do you have any comments on the quality of service or platform information?

Did you know that a user group already exists,

operated by train users *for* train users?

Rather than approach Silverlink independently of the Abbey Flyer user group, we want to team with them and build the weight and importance of

this group. They meet Silverlink several times a year.

If you would like details or want to be involved, please contact us by post or alternatively e-mail us at train@sopwell.org.uk.

URGENT REQUEST FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have received an urgent request from the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Derek Sweeney. He'd like to invite people to join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the area. If you are interested or you know someone who might be, **please contact 796087.**

A Special note on the Committee's commitment to the Sopwell Ward;

As well as the key areas highlighted in this newsletter, we are also working to address the other key issues raised by residents in our first General meeting. These include; Speeding cars, broken paving, potholes, poor grass verges, introduction of recreational areas for young people eg. skateboarding ramps. **We need your continuing support so please let us know how you can help and keep your feedback coming to us. Details for contact are overleaf.**

Contact us

Sopwell Residents
Association
33, Abbots Avenue
St. Albans, Herts
AL1 2LA

Email: info@sopwell.org.uk
Internet: www.sopwell.org.uk

We're on the web
www.sopwell.org.uk

We were officially formed on the 3rd JUNE 2003 and would like to say a **big thank you** to all the leaflet drop-pers and all the members of the community that attended the general meeting that night to vote us in.

We hope to make a real difference in the area and we're aware that it will take time but with your help and support we can achieve our goals.

We aim to produce 4 newsletters a year; July, October, January and April, to keep you informed of our latest goals and achievements.

If you would like to advertise on the back page please contact us at

adverts@sopwell.org.uk



Fit from Within

St. Albans most established Pilates Practice is now offering Classes in Sopwell/Cottonmill area

PILATES - YOGA

at the **MARLBOROUGH CLUB**
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Morning, Lunchtime & Evening Classes

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***Pilates is great for bad backs,
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