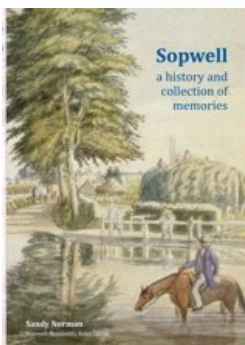


SOPWELL

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

making Sopwell a better place

Sopwell Residents awarded £10,000 grant for Sopwell Project



This is the exciting news that we hinted at in the last newsletter. Following on from our successful work to collect memories from local residents and to record the history of Sopwell, Sandy Norman of the SRA decided last Summer to apply for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to continue the work of the Sopwell project. Just to remind you, the work accomplished so far has all been undertaken as a labour of love. We have had to rely on sponsorship donations and sales to help pay the printing bill for our book, *Sopwell: a history and collection of memories*, and which we are still paying for.

Therefore, we were delighted to hear last October that our work had been recognised and that we had been awarded £10,000 under the All Our Stories grant programme to continue our work. It has to be for new work so we can't use any of the money to finish paying our printer.

All Our Stories, a brand new small grant programme, launched last year in support of BBC Two's *The Great British Story*, has been designed as an opportunity for everyone to get involved in their heritage. With HLF funding and support, similar community groups will be carrying out activities that help people explore, share and celebrate their local heritage.

There are many other communities taking part. The More Memories of Sopwell project is just one of hundreds of successful projects around the UK to receive a grant. The money will be used to continue to expand the Sopwell Project - researching the history, collecting reported facts and stories relating to the Sopwell area - by involving more residents, including children from local schools and the more recent migrants to the area. We will be holding workshops to identify potential interviewees and later to share the information collected; we will build a dedicated interactive website; and we will produce a series of leaflets describing history walks around the area. It is hoped that the website will complement our existing publication by providing a wonderful resource to help everyone to learn about, and celebrate the heritage on our doorstep.

We want as many of you as possible to be involved, so if you wish to help us please get in touch with Sandy on 865061 or sandyannorman@gmail.com. Some of the help we can pay for. As well as help organising workshops and other activities, we will need help with research, interviewing residents and transcribing the interviews - training will be given on this - and of course above all we will need you to come forward to share your memories and tell your stories.

The project is due to start officially in May and lasts until April 2014. We will be celebrating the launch of the project at the same time as our 10th anniversary. See page 2.



From Your Editor

Welcome to our first colour edition of the SRA Newsletter. This special edition is to celebrate the winning of a lottery grant by the SRA and our 10th Anniversary as an Association. The Committee has been working on your behalf for the past 10 years and hopes to continue for the next decade but we need your help. See the back page for details.

Important date for your diary

Our AGM is taking place on the 1st July, 7.30pm, at St Julian's Church. Our Guest Speaker is Carl Cheevers, from the City Council, talking about 'localism' and in particular, how it will affect Sopwell. Refreshments will be available.

Contents

MMoS Project
Launch Party
Sopwell project
Painting Competition
Sopwell Memories
Good Neighbours
Willow Tunnel
Transition Streets
Eco-Warrior
Cookery Workshop
SAHAAS
Adopt a Station
Litter Pick
Situations Vacant

Sandy Norman

Launch Party 18th May



It's always great to have something to celebrate, and as the Sopwell Residents Association was formed in 2003, we are having a 10th anniversary party combined with the launch of the Sopwell Memories Project at St Julian's Church,

Abbots Avenue, from 2 to 5pm on Saturday 18th May. The SRA began its life in St Julian's Church when over 120 of you came forward to air your views, mainly about the problems of litter and abandoned supermarket trolleys.

I am sure you will agree that we have come a long way from these issues, having, undertaken plenty of projects to make Sopwell a lovely place to live. So we want to celebrate by holding this important community event. As well as food and entertainment for everyone, and for all ages, there are lots of good things planned. The accent will of course be on finding out and sharing our history and memories but there will also be a fun programme of events which we are trying to finalise. Between 3.00 and 4.00 our brilliant Sopwell resident magician and illusionist, Tony Middleton, will be putting on a 'Magic Workshop' for the children which should keep them enthralled and amused. There will also be a painting competition for children of different age groups, with judging on the day by the Mayor, Eileen Harris, who is one of our Sopwell Councillors. And of course there will be a birthday cake!

We are also planning a memorabilia table so if you have any old artefacts tucked away or stuff you have dug up in your garden or allotment which you think will be interesting or relate to Sopwell, please bring them along.

As the Residents Association belongs to all the residents of Sopwell, we are looking forward to a big turnout, to make the celebration of our 10th birthday and the launch of the Sopwell Memories project a really bumper occasion. There is no Larks in the Parks in Sopwell this year so let's make this a really good community event.

Calling Sopwell kids – Painting/drawing competition

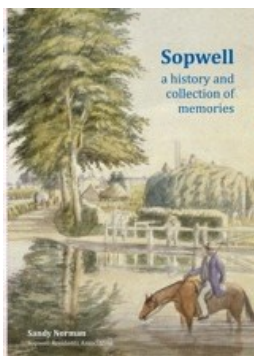
As part of the celebrations for the launch of the Sopwell Memories project and our 10th anniversary, we are delighted to announce a painting competition for children living in Sopwell. The theme of the competition is very wide – anything to do with the history or a landmark in Sopwell. To give you an idea, it could be something to do with the old Nunnery or the Holy Well or a painting of the river, an ancient tree, a famous Sopwell person, your street.... You choose! If your parents have a copy of our book, *Sopwell: a history and collection of memories*, this will give you lots of interesting ideas.

Rules of entry

There are three age groups: 5 – 7, 8 – 10, and 11 – 13. The size of your painting or drawing should be no more than A3 (30 x 42cms). There will be a prize for each of the three age groups which will be presented at the launch party on 18th May. If you would like to enter, bring along your painting to St Julian's Church, Abbots Avenue between 10am and 12noon on the day of the party (18th May). Some of the schools are making their own arrangements to collect entries so please check with your school.

"I have spent many hours dipping in and out of the fascinating pages, and it has brought back many happy memories".

The History of Sopwell



Have You got your copy yet? Sandy Norman's delightful, informative and engaging book on the history of Sopwell is still available. Sandy is more than willing to sign the book if you wish to buy a copy. Email us at info@sopwell.org.uk or telephone 835567. The RRP is £15 and that is to simply cover the production cost. Copies are also available at Waterstones, The Tourist Office,

Blacks, Sopwell House and St. Albans Museum.

Good Neighbour Scheme

We are delighted to say that several people came

forward to answer our request for more volunteers. Thank you.

Our Scheme is very flexible. You can do as much or as little as you feel able to. We would like to be able to help out anybody who is on their own with nobody to call upon. Driving people to hospital, carrying out little practical jobs in people's homes, befriending a housebound person, answering the telephone, are all examples of what we do. If you would like to know more phone one of our duty officers between 9am and 1pm any day of the year on 01727 830713. Our website also gives more information. It is www.sagns.org You will enjoy it!

Willow Tunnel



Under the careful eye and guidance of Hazel Godfrey (seen in foreground with Peter Segers) and Zoe Channon (In Pink) of the Countryside Management Service a few hardy residents braved the cold but bright mid February morning, to manipulate and skilfully weave 60 - plus, one- year- old

willow saplings, to form a beautiful 12m long living tunnel.

Transition Streets

Transition Streets is a way to bring neighbours together to cut their household bills and their carbon footprint through taking practical action. It's free to take part, and a great way to turn neighbours into friends.

Transition Streets is a new initiative in St Albans with six groups already running, and we are looking for people who want to set up new groups on their streets!

We have got a group running in Riverside Road, with ten households meeting. We will have 7 meetings, helped by the workbook. We have started off with 'energy' and Transitions have loaned us energy meters for three months: neighbours helped each other set these up- we discussed insulation in lofts and walls, best tradespeople to use, draught proofing, including windows and letter-boxes! Next meeting is on water, then we will look at recycling, water, transport and other issues. The group is a mixed bunch, some very knowledgeable, others just starting out learning about energy and carbon emissions. Also there is a student from Herts University evaluating our energy use over the length of the project. It's a very good learning experience and feels important that more people on the street are getting to know each other!

If you are interested in setting up a group on your street, please contact Catherine Ross co-ordinator on Tel: 07413 932380 or email streets@transitionstalbans.org, or look on the website www.transitionstalbans.org

Cookery Workshop

There maybe only a few weeks left of this very interesting opportunity to improve your cooking skills but why not give it a go. The course runs from 16th April to 21st May and is free and open to all of you over 50 years of age. There are, of course, only limited places available. To book, ring the Adult & Community Learning team on 01727 737154

FREE 2 Hour Cookery Workshop
for over 50s

Cook a Summer Chicken & Caramelised Apple Wafers

Save money on ready made meals
Have a go at cooking the perfect two course meal
Learn how to create two more delicious dishes using the same basic ingredients
Impress your friends & family
Learn how not to waste food, how to store it and save money.

Ingredients will be provided. All you need to bring is a container

DETAILS
Day:
Date:
Time:
Ref:
Venue:

How to book:
Please contact the Adult & Community Learning team on 01727 737154

Logos: St Albans City & District Council, Hertfordshire Council, St Albans Community Learning Centre

DO YOU HAVE ANCESTORS LIVING IN ST ALBANS DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR?

If so, Anne Wares and Jon Mein of the St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society First World War project team would love to hear from you.

Email. ww1mt@stalbanhistory.org
Tel. 01727 860705 (Anne Wares)

Eco-Warrior

Jack Hill is a very well known figure around Sopwell. You can often see him picking up litter discarded by thoughtless individuals throughout the district and because of all his good works for our area, Jack had been nominated and shortlisted in a nationwide competition by the WWF (World Wild life Fund) to find Britain's unsung environmental heroes. Unfortunately, Jack did not progress to the finals, held on the 23rd March but Jack's contribution to our local environment has been exceptional and he is certainly our own unsung hero.



Jack is on the left of the picture during our litter pick on the 7th April

Support Your Local Station see over for details

About You:
A wide range of people or groups can become involved. You may be:

- An individual who feels locally and would like to see an improvement in your environment
- An environmental or horticultural group
- A Community Group or Association
- A not user either regular commuter or occasional user
- A local business
- A local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

If you would like to find out more we would love to hear from you.
Contact us by email: crp@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Telephone us on: 07770 993162

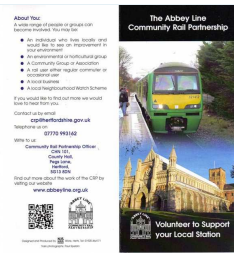
Write to us:
Community Rail Partnership Officer,
CNR 101,
County Hall,
Pegs Lane,
Hertford,
SG10 8BN

Find out more about the work of the CRP by visiting our website:
www.abbyline.org.uk

The Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership

Volunteer to Support your Local Station

Logos: Hertfordshire Council, St Albans City & District Council, Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership



Would you be interested in adopting your local station?
Does improving your local station environment appeal?
Could you spend some time to volunteer?

Email:
crp@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 07770 993162
Or write to:
Community Rail Partnership
Officer
CHN 101
County Hall
SG13 8DN



Some very dedicated volunteers braved the elements on Sunday 7th April to help tidy up some of those areas of Sopwell that needed attention. As you can see in the picture, a fair few bags of litter were collected. Well done chaps!

I wanted to include an article, written by Willem Hofland, one of our committee members, that very eloquently explains the philosophy behind the SRA's Annual Litter Pick. (editor)

The Sopwell Residents Association (SRA) holds an annual litter pick, not just to help our local authority, who are ultimately responsible for keeping our area clean but rather to show our residents that we can all help by keeping our area tidy, thus minimizing the risk of vermin and associated health risks and allowing our authorities to use their resources for more pressing needs, such as the repair of pavements and potholes.

Next issue

The next edition will be out in the summer. If you have any items for inclusion or you wish to advertise, please go to the website and leave a message. Advertisement charges: £50 for half a page and £25 for a quarter page.

If you live in Sopwell, you are automatically a member of SRA.

There is no charge to join and events are free.

Situations Vacant

Your association is run by a dedicated group of volunteers. Volunteers come and go so we need to keep asking for help otherwise we will fold. With all the good things we are doing this would be a real shame. Working for your community is rewarding: you meet lots of interesting people and you can have an input into local issues. We work closely with the councillors, council and schools to make Sopwell a better place to live. If you feel you can give a little time to help us, please email info@sopwell.org.uk or come along and volunteer at our AGM on 1st July. It will look good on your CV as well!

In particular, we want volunteers to help us with marketing and publicity, recording oral history (training will be given), and newsletter delivery. There is also some funding available for transcribing oral history recordings.

Wanted: Sopwell memories website developer

Do we have any professional website developers in Sopwell? As part of our Heritage Lottery Funded Memories Project, we are recruiting someone to build a new website for visitors to discover the history of Sopwell. It will contain our archive of memories, history and events collected from residents on life in Sopwell. The website will be based on a content management system and will contain, text, images, audio and video recordings. A detailed specification will be given to applicants. Please apply to info@sopwell.org.uk.

Useful Contacts

Councillor Eileen Harris: 831611:
eileenharris555@btinternet.com

Councillor David Poor: 833670:
david.poor@btinternet.com

Councillor Janet Smith: 763907:
cllr.j.smith@stalbans.gov.uk

County Councillor Martin Frearson: 761878:
mfrearson@ntlworld.com

Litter fly-tipping, graffiti: 0845 1258000 or a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk

Faulty road or pavement surface: 01438 737320 or www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults

Sopwell Residents Association:

info@sopwell.org.uk & www.sopwell.org.uk