

# Sopwell Residents Association

## Annual Report 2003/4

### **Constitution**

This is the first annual report of the Association since its formation. A constitution was written by the steering committee in collaboration with the Housing Liaison officer of St Albans District Council and adopted by a General meeting of all Sopwell Residents on 6th June 2003. The constitution states that the aims and objectives of the Association are to:

- work for and represent all the residents of Sopwell ward
- uphold equal opportunities and work for good relations amongst members of the [Sopwell](#) community;
- promote an on going process of consultation between users and providers of the housing services and other organisations;
- organise social activities which will be open to all members;
- create a safer community;
- create a better sense of community;
- improve the environment.

### **Management committee**

At the inaugural meeting in April 2003, residents volunteered themselves to form a steering committee. The management committee outlined below was formally elected in June 2003 at the first general meeting of the Association. The committee members then elected its officers.

Chair: Giles Hanford

Vice-chair: D'Arcy Marlborough

Secretary: Jo Witt

Treasurer: Martin Dennys

Voting members: Chantal Burns, George Gardiner, Jamie Gibb, Val Langford, Len Lewsey, Sandy Norman, Chris Pudsey, Mark Sansom

Non-voting members: Anne Kaloczi, Rev. Ruth Pyke

SADC liaison: Jenny Owen.

The committee has held 11 committee meetings and one other general meeting during the past year. During the year, Sandy Norman took over as Secretary from Jo Witt; George Gardiner, Val Langford and Mark Sansom resigned; and Helly Sawyer was co-opted as a full voting member. The following people have put themselves forward for re-election: Chantal Burns, Martin Dennys, Giles Hanford, Len Lewsey, D'Arcy Marlborough, Sandy Norman, Chris Pudsey, Helly Sawyer, Jo Witt. Anne Kaloczi, Rev. Ruth Puke and Jenny Owen have also expressed a wish to continue. The maximum number of committee members who can be elected is 15.

### **Communications with residents**

Three newsletters have been produced outlining issues and activities about Sopwell. It is delivered to residents by a small group of willing volunteers. In addition we have our own website [www.sopwell.org](http://www.sopwell.org) which is updated on a regular basis giving local

information and links to other relevant sites. The constitution is available for viewing on the website as are the contents of all the newsletters.

### **Issues**

The main issues identified at the first meeting were mainly concerning the environment: litter, supermarket trolleys, speeding, damaged roads, parking on the pavements, and lack of bus shelters. All of these issues have been addressed during the past year, some with success, some still ongoing. With regard to litter, the committee has worked hard to encourage the Council and local retailers to clear the rubbish. In addition, the Residents Association committee organised several litter picking events during the St Albans Spring Clean week in April. Residents took to the streets to pick up litter in several areas. Ninety-five bags were filled plus an assortment of larger items. Reports of all issues undertaken and their progress has been written up in the newsletters.

Sandy Norman  
Secretary