



Facebook page: **Sopwell residents association**

SOPWELL

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

making Sopwell a better place



Editorial

Greetings from the editorial team. As you will see there has been a lot going on in Sopwell since our last newsletter and your SRA has been working hard on your behalf. But as usual, we always need more help and if you would like to make a contribution however, big or small, it will be greatly appreciated. Please contact us either by email or our website. Details at bottom left of this page.

Important Contacts

District Councillor Eileen Harris 831611
Eileenharris555@btinternet.com

District Councillor Janet Smith 763907
Cllr.j.smith@stalbans.gov.uk

County Councillor Sandy Walkington 07802 177317
sandy@sandy4stalbans.org

Litter, fly tipping, graffiti 819598
a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk

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

Sopwell Residents Association
 Email: info@sopwell.org.uk
 Website: www.sopwell.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Time has flown since I inherited the role of Chair!

There is always more that can be done, but in the last year some concerns that have been addressed are: the double yellow line on the Cottonmill bridge, which was sorted quite quickly when drivers thought it was a good idea to park on the bridge!

At last the trees on Cottonmill bridge that are in danger of falling have been marked for attention by the authorities (hopefully before they fall any further onto traffic or pedestrians).

We held a 'big lunch' in June with around 50 attending at Berners Drive play park.

My favourite quote is: "if a lot of people do a little, a lot gets done". So, the challenge, as with all organisations is, getting lots of people involved with organising events for the benefit of the local community. If you would like to join the committee or be involved in any local events taking place, please email info@sopwell.org.uk or contact us via the Facebook group.

Website: www.sopwell.org.uk

We are well-aware that our website is severely out of date. We are currently looking at updating and potentially having a new website.

Please email us if you have any ideas, issues that affect the Sopwell and Cottonmill area in the Sopwell Residents Association area.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Janet Charles

FAO of SRA young families with pre-schoolers. Old London Road Pre school will be holding their Fun day on Friday 14th June 12-5pm. Please email oldlondonroadps@gmail.com

Cottonmill and Sopwell Hub Update

A lot has happened since the last issue of the SRA newsletter. CaSH have spent a lot of time talking to our residents, finding out what they feel is needed in our community and what they would like to use. We've visited and spoken to lots of existing community centres groups and organisations throughout the county. And the support we've received from both the community and local businesses has been absolutely amazing!

We've been meeting regularly with St. Albans District Council (SADC) and we're pleased to say that they are now fully on board with this project. They've been investigating funding options and have also arranged for Willmott Dixon to produce a feasibility study which will include design drawings and outline costings.

In preparation for this, each of the organisations involved in this project, CaSH Verulam Cycling Club (VCC) and Sopwell Community Trust (SCT) have submitted a design brief. CaSH's brief was very detailed (22 pages!) but the main things we've specified are:

A Main Hall that would seat approx 80 people and have high ceilings, to accommodate indoor activities.
A sectionable Smaller Hall with kitchenette area. A reception/office. A main kitchen and a Community café to seat approximately 30 people.

We've also included space for a community radio studio, a repair workshop, local craft/produce sales space and lots of features to ensure the building is safe, accessible inclusive and sustainable, but also warm welcoming and makes the most of the wonderful outside space and views from the parkland.

The next step is for all Partners to meet with SADC for a workshop where we will discuss the joint vision. Once we're all agreed, the specifications will be handed over to Willmott Dixon.

CaSH now have a fantastic new website, cottonmillandsopwellhub.org, which is full of information about ourselves, what we're doing and how you can get involved. It details all our events and how to contact us. Here you'll also find our community survey because we still want to hear your views! So, if

you haven't already done so, please visit our website and complete the survey. We would especially like to hear the views of our teens, so if you have a teen in your family please ask them to complete the survey.

We've also just launched our **100 Club**. This is a lottery open to anyone who supports CaSH aged 18 and over. For as little as £1 a month you can help raise funds for the community centre and be in with a chance of winning cash prizes! 50% of the monies collected goes into the prize fund and the remainder goes towards CASH. There will be a special bonus draw in December. Full details and how to join can be found on our website cottonmillandsopwellhub.org/100-club/

'Larkus in the Parkus' this summer at the Marlborough

CaSH are also very pleased to be bringing Larks in the Parks back to Sopwell this year! On Sunday 30th June 12-5pm at the Marlborough Pavilion Open Space, the Roman themed 'Larkus in the Parkus' will be a fabulous, fun filled day for all the family. Expect gladiators juggling centurions, laurel leaf headdresses archaeological treasure hunts and all things Latin! If you are interested in participating in the event - showcasing your local activity group or hiring a stall, please contact Elaine Rainsford and Janet Charles (OLR nursery/SRA Chair) on CASHSTA18@gmail.com Please put the date in your diaries!



Holly Morris sadly moved away during this last year, leaving us with a vacancy on the Sopwell litter pickers Facebook group for someone to continue the work that Holly did so effectively. At the moment I am an Admin on the group, and we would like to continue the regular litter picks to keep our area clear of litter. So please keep an eye on the Sopwell litter pickers Facebook group for further litter pick details. Details will also be placed on the SRA Facebook group as well.

Janet Charles (Chair of SRA)



SUSTAINABLE ST Albans

Sustainable St Albans Festival **May 11th – June**



1st has over 160 events and things to do – all related to protecting the environment and living sustainably. There are walks, talks, tours, films and of course our own Sopwell to

New Greens tour of the recently completed £1.09m St Albans Green Ring, using the greenest and most sustainable mode of transport – the bicycle.

This event has been specially tailored to appeal to those wanting to explore the benefits of the Green Ring as a safe and healthy way of getting around St Albans without the car.

There will be frequent stops along the way to catch your breath (should you feel you need to) with time to appreciate the scenery which you would have missed had you been driving. So, if you are thinking of cycling more, rather than driving around St Albans, this ride is for you.

**Wednesday 15th May
11am Abbey Station
Holywell Hill**

ALLOTMENT TOURS AND REFRESHMENTS



GROWING | CHILD FRIENDLY | FREE

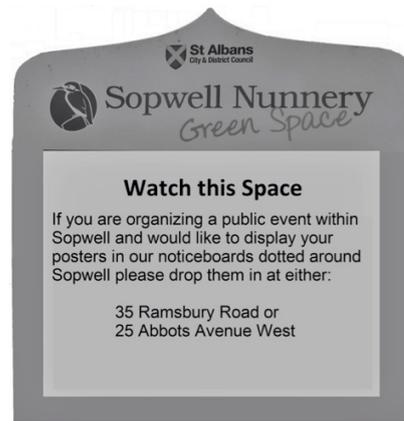
Come along for CNAA tours on the hour. See wonderful allotments and enjoy light refreshment (provided by CASH) in the orchard. A real community event!

Where Cottonmill Allotments, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans AL1 1HL

Info Event will go ahead in light rain.

COTTONMILL AND NUNNERY ALLOTMENT ASS. COTTONMILL AND SOPWELL HUB

11am - 2.30pm



Please make use of this facility. It's a useful means of advertising your event and it's FREE.

Theatre Trips

If you are interested in going to see shows at the theatre, both local and in London, please join the Janets Theatre Trips Facebook group or email jactheatretrips@gmail.com and we will send you the list of up and coming shows.

St Julian's Community Café

Don't forget the community Café on Thursdays and Bingo on Tuesdays, all held in St Julian's Church. See details below.

Bingo and coach trips for the over 30's
If you want to meet new friends for a bit of Bingo at the 'Tuesday Club' at St Julian's.

Opens at 1.00pm for a cuppa, eyes down at 2.00pm £1 entrance.

Or if you fancy a trip to the seaside on a Saturday leaving around 8.30 please contact Brian Andrews on 01727 812284.

Over 30s.. coach leave from St Julian's...

8th June Selsey

13th July Ramsgate

10th Aug Great Yarmouth

14th Aug Broadstairs

Ring Brian Andrews on 01727 812284



St Albans Sustainability Festival #SustFest19 takes place from 11th May to 1st June with 160+ events –all about making our district more environmentally friendly. There are outdoor things to do, family friendly activities, arts, zero waste events, exploring nature, open allotments, sustainable cooking events, films talks, bike rides and nature walks.

See below for the four events taking place in Sopwell. For more events pick up your programme at Waterstones St Albans, The Odyssey Cinema, or go online to download the programme or explore events by theme www.sustainablestalbans.org

Also see Facebook @SustainableStAlbans Twitter @SustFest19, Instagram @sustainablesta

Sunday 12 May

Allotment tours and refreshments

11am – 2.30pm

Child friendly; free.

Come along for CNAA tours on the hour. See wonderful allotments and enjoy light refreshment (provided by CaSH) in the orchard. A real community event!

Where: Cottonmill Allotments, Cottonmill Lane St Albans AL1 1HL

Info: Event will go ahead in light rain. Organised by Cottonmill and Nunnery Allotment Association (CNAA) with Cottonmill and Sopwell Hub (CaSH)

Wed 15th May

Cycle Sopwell to New Greens via the Green Ring

11am - 1pm Free

A leisurely 6-mile cycle ride round the recently completed St Albans Green Ring exploring its green credentials.

Where: Abbey Station, Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 2PS

Info: Weather permitting. **Organised by Sopwell Residents Association.**

Thursday 16th May

Use it Again – Re-cycle Your Paper

12noon – 2pm

Local businesses and families – bring your used paper and card (check no confidential information). Our pre-school children will use it for art and crafts.

Where: Front garden of the Scout Hut, Riverside Rd, St Albans AL1 1RX

Info: <http://www.oldlondonroadps.org>

Organised by Old London Pre-school.

Cottonmill

Family

Litter

Pick

5pm – 6pm

Litter Pick/aimed at families with children/Free Help clean up the Cottonmill area around St Julian's and join the 16th St Albans Rainbows and their families on a litter pick.

Where: St Julian's Church, 3 Abbots Ave, St Albans AL1 2HY

Info: Bring a bin bag and gloves. **Organised by 16th St Albans Rainbows.**

Cottonmill Crossing

Although we received the news before Christmas of the plans to halt the closure of the Cottonmill crossing, we are not out of the woods yet. We are still waiting for news about the improvements they propose!

They were filming at the crossing for 19 days over the 2-week period when the cameras were in place.

I stood by the Crossing for a short while recently, informing people that they were being filmed. Going by Network Rail's opinions of 'dangerous incidents' which we refute, they will have recorded several of these incidents of headphones, mobiles etc and riding on bikes across the track. We will continue to dispute the list of 'dangerous incidents' and will chase Network Rail for information about the improvements.

Meanwhile please continue to remind fellow crossing users to cross safely. And if you experience any difficulties with the drivers : not hooting, or excessive hooting or driving too fast please make a note and email savethecrossing@gmail.com

And share on save our Cottonmill crossing action group on Facebook

Janet Charles (Chair of SRA)