

Mantilla Drive - cont'd from front page
 summer/autumn road maintenance programme. Surface dressing could take the form of a bitumen spray with grit or a thicker, flexible micro asphalt coating. This second stage will be considered at a Council Cabinet meeting on 20th July, the outcome will be posted on the SGRA website. SGRA had also raised issues of the poor state of Coat of Arms Bridge Road, Stivichall Croft and Baginton Road and recent repairs are very welcome.

Litter Pick

The next in our programme of volunteer litter picks will be held in late September. More news of this will be announced at our next meeting and on the website. Come along and join in, have a chat, enjoy a walk around the neighbourhood and help to keep our environment clean and tidy.

Association Subscriptions

The latest Association accounts show a closing balance of £485, this is sufficient for expected expenses in the coming year, and it has been decided that the Association will be not be collecting a subscription for the 2010/11 membership year.

SGRA Meeting Timetable 2010

August - No meeting
 September 2nd
 October 7th
 November 4th
 December 2nd

Special thanks to all our guests, including Councillor John Blundell and our local West Midlands Police Team, the Headmaster, Staff and Caretaker of Grange Farm School, guest speakers and contributors, and to those Members of the Association who have given freely of their time and energy to ensure the continuing success of the Association.



A new community based operational system has been introduced by West Midlands Police. Our area is policed by the Wainbody Team and is headed by Sgt. Michael Parton under Inspector Alistair Orenca. Up-to-date news and details of Team members can be viewed at:

www.west-midlands.police.uk

Enter your postcode, select your address and click on Wainbody Team.

For **local, non-urgent** issues the Team can be contacted by phoning 07722820593. If off duty please leave details so that the Team can make contact.

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SGRA

Styvechale Grange Residents Association Newsletter

Issue No.6

July 2010

SGRA is a local organisation run by residents of Styvechale Grange, focusing on local issues for the benefit of all residents of Styvechale Grange

Grange Farm School Expansion Plan

Association officers attended the Council Cabinet Advisory Panel meeting on 8th June, along with Cllr John Blundell and several individual residents, and presented a case against the proposed school expansion from one to two forms of entry. We were given a fair hearing and the Panel asked many questions of both ourselves and the Council officers responsible for the project. However, the Panel voted 5-3 to recommend that the Cabinet should approve the expansion plan. The full Cabinet met on 15th June at which representatives of the Association, exceptionally, were permitted to address the meeting. The Cabinet debated the matter and finally voted to allow the expansion plan to proceed. Council leader, Cllr John Mutton, stated that he was impressed by the involvement of the local community and directed that Council officers and the school must consult with local residents as the project progresses. Residents close to the school are concerned that plans may involve extending the current site on to adjacent green spaces. The Association has met with Ben Whelan, Headteacher, and agreed to set up a joint working group which will meet for the first time in September, when initial design plans will be discussed. The Association has offered its organisation and website as a means of communicating the latest proposals and developments to the residents of Styvechale Grange.

Mantilla Drive

Following 3 years of lobbying and the submission of a residents' petition, a presentation was made by Derek Atcheson at a Council Cabinet Member's meeting on 15th June. This included photographs of the poor state of repair together with some expert evidence provided by resident, Brian Redknap, a former City Engineer. Residents will be aware that extensive repair work has now been carried out, this is only the first of two stages. The Cabinet member, Cllr Harvard, has recommended that the surface dressing of Mantilla Drive be considered for inclusion in the upcoming...**continued on back page**→

Local historian Ron Herdman has provided the following article on the Parish Church of St James.

The earliest building in the hamlet of Stivichall was the old Norman church, first mentioned in 1183. It was a single storey wooden building on the site of the present church and had a "handsome Saxon doorcase" on the north side and a Priest's door on the south. Windows on the south wall were possibly of 13th century design with additions in 15th/16th centuries. The Church was under the protection of the Bishop of Chester who held the Memorial Courts of Coventry. In the 15th century an anchorite (hermit) lived in solitude in the grounds, relying on the charity of locals. An Act of 1666 decreed that all burials must be in wool. A Magistrate had to sign an affidavit as proof, failure resulted in a £5 fine. This was to encourage the wool trade on which Coventry depended. Burials did not take place on the North side of the Church as this was considered the Devil's side. In 1788 an old hanging bell was replaced at the cost of £8.9s.1d. In 1815 a new Church was built in stone. It consisted of chancel, nave, tower, vestry and gallery. There is a remarkable claim that the church was built by one man, James Green, a Foleshill stonemason, assisted by a labourer. Pews were installed to seat 90 worshippers. Colonel Francis Gregory donated a three compartmental tinted glass window for the east end. The church hall, adjacent to the church in Knoll Drive, was "luckily" built just prior to

the outbreak of war in 1939. After the Second World War the Church was considered too small and it was extended to its present size. The castellated chancel was retained and a new tower was added. A second church hall was built on the Styvechale Grange estate in 1973. This is now "The Church of St James on the Grange" and is used for worship, a pre-school and many other events.

Thanks Ron.

Next article – a history of the land that is now the site of the War Memorial Park.

SGRA On-line!



The Association website, sgra.org.uk has been live since mid-2009 and receives many visits. The site contains news on issues affecting our area, minutes of the most recent Association meeting, Association contact details and also, details of other organisations that residents may need to contact. If you have any issues, or articles, that you would like to be considered for publishing on the site please submit them by e-mail using the link on the Association Officers and Contact Details page.

Association Contact Details

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Age Concern Coventry (AGE UK) Home Library Service

Do you have difficulty in getting to your local library? Would you like to have a regular supply of books, audio books or CDs specially chosen for you and delivered regularly to your home free of charge?

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- Your local Community Library will be informed of your choices.
- Each month the library staff will select suitable books and other items for you which the Volunteers collect.
- The Volunteers will then call on you, collect the items which you have finished with and deliver you new materials.

If you are interested in receiving this service complete the contact form at www.ageconcerncoventry.org.uk or telephone Age Concern on 02476 231999. Alternatively, contact Jo Ambery, City Libraries, on 02476 786982.

John Archer, Association Chairman writes "Let's keep Styvechale Grange green....."

One of the many attractions of Styvechale Grange estate is the open spaces that are enjoyed by all residents and visitors. They make a significant contribution to the general ambience of the area, and I'm sure none of us would want to see a reduction of any of these spaces. The present legal status of these "greens" is unclear, so a small working party of Association members is looking into this so that ways can be found to register them against intrusive development. This may involve canvassing residents who regularly use these areas for recreational purposes and/or live in close proximity to these spaces. We will need to gather information regarding the length of time the greens have been used and for what purposes e.g. general recreation, dog walking, etc. If you have not been approached directly by the Association but would like to comment, or have any information to give, please contact any of the Association officers directly who would be only too happy to hear from you. Alternatively, you can e-mail using the Contact link on our website or by dropping a letter in our box at Equality Hair Design Salon in Hexworthy Avenue. Thank you."



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