

Jo Ijoma

25th July 1939 – 26th September 2011

Sadly, Jo passed away on 26th September. Jo had a vision of an organisation that would help to maintain and improve the life and environment of Styvechale Grange. He was the catalyst that sparked the creation of our Association. In 2007 he gently cajoled and persuaded several local residents to come together to discuss the formation of a residents association. Styvechale Grange Residents Association was born. As the Association's first Chairman, Jo laid down the aims and objectives of our fledgling organisation and campaigned tirelessly to make its voice heard by those in positions that could resolve issues affecting our local community. Even through illness and failing health Jo retained a deep interest in developments on the Grange and an irrepressible enthusiasm for providing support and ideas. Several friends from the Association joined his wife Joan, son Paul and daughter Claire at Jo's funeral. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts continue to be with his family.

Grange Farm School

Building work continues on the expansion of the school and, according to latest reports, is on course to be completed on time for admission of new pupils at the start of the 2012/13 academic year.

Local Bargain Hunters

Two local residents, Brenda Jones and Sue Corden, appeared in BBC TV's Bargain Hunt in December. In a tight contest they emerged victorious by virtue of losing less money on their auctioned items. Well done Brenda and Sue.

SGRA Meeting Timetable 2012

All meetings are held at Grange Farm School starting at 7.30pm

January - No meeting

February 2nd

March 1st

April 5th

May 3rd - Elections at School may mean that this meeting is put back one week

June 14th - Half term holiday on June 7th

July 5th

August - No meeting

September 6th

October 4th

November 8th - School half term holiday on November 1st

December 6th

SGRA

Styvechale Grange Residents Association Newsletter

Issue No. 9

January 2012

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

John Archer, Association Chairman writes:

Please take a few minutes to read through the latest issue of Styvechale Grange Residents Association Newsletter. The Association has been running for almost five years now and, with the assistance of Councillors, Police, Council staff and you, it has helped to keep the Grange a pleasant and safe place to live. The Association does not have any political, racial or religious connections and so aims to represent all residents in promoting good relationships between neighbours. However, we do need more help to carry on the good work that has already been done and we need some financial input to cover our expenses, please see the article by our Treasurer, Mick Fitzpatrick regarding our financial position. It would be great to see more people at our monthly meetings, the next one is at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd February 2012. We would welcome new ideas and suggestions as to how we further develop our activities, and perhaps, work with other voluntary organisations to cover any gaps appearing during these somewhat difficult times. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in any way over the last twelve months, you have certainly made my role a lot easier, and I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year.

Mick Fitzpatrick, Association Treasurer writes:

At this time of year we are all checking our finances to ensure a comfortable bank balance is still available after all our Christmas spends. My review of our expenses during the year shows a gradual reduction of our finances as was discussed at the end of our financial year. At that point we had a balance of £378. Since June we have incurred a cost for school hall rental and for printing with a small income from our raffle. Our current balance is £255 with an expected cost for the school hall of £57. Assuming our raffle makes a small profit each month and no major outgoings I project a balance of £220 by the end of the financial year. In order to continue with our Association the collection of £1.00 per house will have to commence in 2012. I hope you all have a great Christmas and look forward to a prosperous new year.

A History of the War Memorial Park

Part 2

A public appeal was launched to design and erect a permanent memorial in the formal part of the park. The Memorial, not a Cenotaph, is clad in white Portland stone. It stands 87 feet high and is encircled by 8 steps with a shelf around the top step. In the centre is the Chamber of Silence with two large bronze covered doors creating a walk through. A Book of Remembrance was situated in the Chamber with 2587 names of the fallen entered from the First World War. On the 8th October 1927, Field Marshall Earl Douglas Haig, together with civic dignitaries, attended to dedicate the Memorial. An estimated 50,000 people also attended. On 7th October 2007 a rededication was held. A lady from Cheltenham who, at the age of 12, had attended the original dedication in 1927 was also present. After the Second World War, Field Marshall Montgomery attended a service to lodge an additional 2017 names in the Book of Remembrance. Only 815 were servicemen. Each day until 1960 a page was turned showing different names. Unfortunately, vandals caused considerable damage and the Council decided to keep the Memorial locked. The plaques which can be seen at the base of the 800, or so, trees in the Park cost relatives £2.10s.0d each (£2.50) and were installed as part of an ongoing scheme. The Pavilion in the centre of the Park, called the golf or football changing rooms, and the one used as the café were built between the two wars. Over the years several gardens were laid out and dedicated to different Regiments or groups. Perhaps the most impressive was the rock garden on the road between the main gate and the Memorial. A cast iron pump used to keep water circulating but the garden is now dry but very decorative with floral bushes amidst the stones. Another popular feature is the rose garden situated at the rear of the Memorial. The first Coventry flower show was held in 1962. The West German Horticultural Federation built a Garden of Peace to coincide with Coventry being declared a City of Reconciliation. The following year the West German Ambassador attended the Park and officially presented the garden to the city. The only Coventry born recipient of the Victoria Cross is commemorated with a memorial. Corporal Arthur Hutt, who died in 1954, was awarded the V.C. in 1917. For many years the Coventry Saturday Hospital Fund organised the annual Carnival which attracted large crowds. The Carnival has, in recent years, been replaced with the Godiva Festival, the Donkey Derby being another event held annually. In 1951 a miniature railway was installed on the strip of land parallel to the Kenilworth Road but was eventually removed to Stoneleigh Abbey. After the Festival of Britain, also in 1951, Coventry tried to purchase the Dome of Discovery to erect in the Park, but without success. In 2007 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded Coventry a grant of £2.8 million to refurbish the Park. Further amounts were obtained taking the total to over £4 million. The work has just been completed and we now have a park equal to any in the country.

Thanks to local historian Ron Herdman for his contribution

Styvechale Grange Open Spaces

Karamjit Singh continues in his quest to fully establish the status of the open spaces we enjoy on the Grange and to obtain permanent guarantees as to their future. His application for the granting of village green status to the land immediately adjacent to Grange Farm School was not successful because the land in question had been transferred to the City Council under the Open Spaces Act 1906. In their letter of objection to the application the Grange Farm School Headmaster and Chairman of Governors stated “*the school, together with council officers, are keen to explore the possible use of the application site in question (or part of it) as an enhancement to the educational facility provided*”. However, in its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) the City Council stated that development of this site, and other open spaces on the Grange, for *residential purposes* would result in an unacceptable loss of public open space. Although local residents do have some rights under Section 10 of the Open Spaces Act, Karamjit has emphasised the need for residents, and the Association, to be vigilant in case the school seeks to make any claim on this land or the Council seeks to use it for any other purpose. The Association acknowledges and thanks Karamjit for the time and energy he has given to this matter.

Local Bus Services

Centro have completed a review of all bus services in Coventry, which began with public consultations carried out from Mar 2011, and their proposals will be published in early February 2012 with a view to implementing them from 26th February 2012. Centro do not anticipate a reduction in services as the vast majority of services in Coventry are commercial. Information on the revised services will be available on buses, in the local press, and on line at www.networkwestmidlands.com. The next Transport Users Forums will be held in the Council Offices on the evenings of 10th January 2012 and 27th March 2012. These are public meetings where you can discuss issues relevant to the provision of public passenger transport, to attend please call 0121 2147501.

Neighbourhood Policing

Up-to-date news and details of the local Police Team members can be viewed at: www.west-midlands.police.uk Click on Neighbourhood Policing, select Coventry. Click on Your Neighbourhood and select the Earlsdon Local Policing Unit. **In cases of emergency call 999** - you should call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened. **You should call 101 to report less urgent crime and disorder or to speak to your local officers.** For **local non-urgent** issues, the local Team can also be contacted by phoning 07722820593 or by e-mail to p.mercer@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk . If off duty please leave a message with contact details. **General non-urgent** calls can be made to 0345 113 5000 ext 7933 or 6414