



SCAN EDITORS: Derek & Anne Hathaway

February 2008

SCAN

Spondon Community Association Newsletter

Winners East Midlands in Bloom 2004, 2006 & 2007 and Britain in Bloom 2005

Chairman's Report

We were sorry to hear of Ron Lord's death just before Christmas. Ron was our previous Hall Manager for many years and a good Community man, he will be sadly missed.

The Hall seems to be more popular than ever, especially over the Christmas period. There has been a general increase in both regular bookings and evening functions requiring a bar, Carole, our hall and bar manager, is busy filling up the 2008 diary.

At the moment we are being swept along by Government regulations applicable to all buildings used by the public (i.e. risk assessments, fire regulations and health and safety checks etc.) We know they are essential so please accept our apologies if you are affected.

The heating problems we had are unfortunately still with us although less frequent. We are currently pursuing methods to replace our aging boiler which we know will give us long term peace of mind. Luckily, at the moment we are enjoying higher than normal seasonal temperatures which helps our situation. It also puts body and mind into thinking spring is just around the corner and that can be no bad thing. It does however bring closer those heavy garden chores we try to avoid but enjoy the results during the summer months.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our next Community Association Council meeting on Wednesday 5th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Roy Battelle

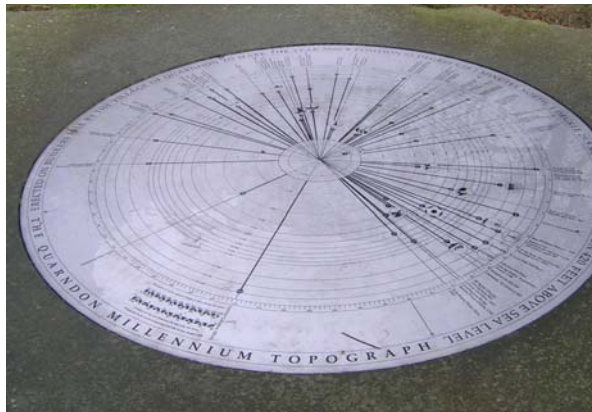
VIC News

Although the VIC has decided not to enter Spondon in any "in Bloom" competitions in 2008, that does not mean that the Committee is idle!

The planters and other features around Spondon will still be maintained and enhanced and any donations to help this will be welcomed.

Please contact Anita (details on back) if you feel you can help. We are expecting to be included in Derby's entry in East Midlands in Bloom so we must still maintain a high standard.

The VIC's next medium term project is to enhance the facilities on Dale Road Park. This is in a superb location on the edge of Spondon, with spectacular views across the Trent valley. With landmarks visible as far away as Belvoir Castle, one possibility is the erection of a topograph, similar to the one at Quarndon (pictured above). There are a number of hurdles to overcome - funding is the most obvious (both the initial investment, and the subsequent maintenance),



but the drainage on the site is also a challenge. The existing pond is in a poor state and it is not obvious whether it would be better to abandon it and find a new site altogether. There will be a consultation exercise with local residents later this year, to seek further suggestions and ideas.

The Community Association continues to support the restoration of the canal in Spondon, and the recent appointment of a Project Manager by the Canal Society is an important step forward. He has made a clear statement that the "Spondon mile" is the first stretch to be re-opened and we are already looking with him at the practicalities of that. There will be a walk from Spondon to Breaston along the canal route on Thursday 26th June as part of the City Council "Let's go wild" programme. Come along and hear what is being planned.

While you've got your diary out, make a note of the VIC Spring Fair, being held this year on Saturday 31st May, as usual at the Village Hall.

Contacts

Chairman	Roy Battelle	722858
Hall Manager/ Bookings	Carole Chambers	602988
Treasurer	Joan Pugh	674073
Hall Treasurer	Jennifer Slatcher	670989
Membership Secretary	Anne Hathaway	677377
Hon. Secretary	Anita Hayes	662963
Village Improvement Committee	Margaret Kelley	664221

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Neighbourhood Forum and Board

So far there have been three meetings of Spondon's Neighbourhood Board and these have been well-attended. The most recent was filmed by the City Council as we are, apparently, an example of good practice!

The associated Board is also in full swing with representative residents as well as "agencies" (such as Derby Homes and the police). There is obviously a close relationship between the objectives of the Forum and those of the Community Association, and the SCA has a number of representatives on the Board. The Board has set up three sub-groups to look at various areas in more depth.

A communications group is in place and the affect this will have on SCAN is explained below. It is also planning a village-wide event on Saturday 5th July, planned to coincide with the Church Flower festival (which runs from the Friday to the Sunday). More details will be in the next issue of SCAN. As well as publicising the Board's activities will highlight the facilities that are already available for younger people.

However, another Board sub-group, which involves members of the Spondon Youth Group, is looking at ways to improve those facilities. Spondon won £55,000 of funding to launch the Forum and Board and the Board decided that a significant amount of this money should be made available to this sub-group.

The third sub-group is looking into the needs of disabled people in Spondon. Its first task, however, is to identify them! Strangely, there is no readily available list and the group is planning a questionnaire to be distributed across Spondon to try and find some answers.

The next forum will be held at Edmund Hall, Edmund Road on Wednesday 16th April, starting at 6.30pm. For more details of this, or any other aspects of the Forum or Board, contact our Neighbourhood Manager, Richard Smail (telephone 258505 or e-mail richard.smail@derby.gov.uk)

Walk the walk



The City Council has set itself the task of helping people in Derby to get themselves fitter and healthier by taking more exercise. One way they are doing this is by organising local Health Walks.

These walks are designed for people who are not yet keen walkers but who would like to take a bit more exercise than they do now. Each one is led by a trained walk leader who understands the need to build up confidence in people who are not regular walkers. You will be made very welcome if you come along.

In Spondon there is a programme every Wednesday, from 20th February, starting at 10am from the Village Hall; more details. in the Village Hall foyer.

Dave Hayes is currently producing a series of local self-guiding walks. A selection of walk leaflets is available from the library.

SCAN

As you will see, this is a very abbreviated issue of SCAN!

We are pleased to report that the Neighbourhood Board has approved funding for at least one (possibly more) village-wide issues of SCAN this year. They are also investigating a deal with C&C so that their magazine is distributed to the whole of Spondon (currently there is only about 80% coverage).

Your editors are therefore facing the challenge of keeping lots of blank pages full of Spondon news over the next few months. The SCA Executive Committee therefore agreed that we would just put out a short edition this time, with much more to follow in the next issue.

If you have something for the next SCAN, please get it to us by mid-April (contact details above).