

# Stoneygate Conservation Area Society

*NEWSLETTER*  
*APRIL 1999*



## WIND OF CHANGE FOR LOCAL TRADERS

PRESCRIPTIONS delivered to your door, greengrocery cheaper than Leicester Market, a hardware shop that can produce practically anything you ask for at short notice, a pork butcher taking on takeaways with delicious ready-to-heat pies and pastries at prices one can't refuse.

Flowers and plants fresh in from the continent, a top delicatessen, haberdashery and wool for home days, travel agency for away days, newsagent, post office, banks and a building society.

Queen's Road today offers all those services and more. It also has a village atmosphere: people stop and talk to each other, meet for coffee and lunch, hold doors open for one another and chat with shopkeepers and staff. Three shops have opened in the area recently.

The road is in the process of evolution, slowly taking up the challenge to provide what the shoppers of 1999 want in their carrier bags, backpacks and trollies.

As the old order changes the going gets tough for some. Loss of The Midland Bank; lack of parking space; the highest business rates outside the city centre; high rents and fewer customers have all affected trading and many shops have closed.

Queen's Road could evolve more easily if rates and rents were realistic. Surely it would be better all round if more people went shopping locally on foot rather than take the car and go elsewhere. The fact is we can either use it, or lose it. What do *you* think?.

### VICTORIA PARK USERS' GROUP

A VERY small number of community-minded people meets once every other month to discuss the use and abuse of Victoria Park.

The meetings are led by Leicester City Council's Parks Services, City Landscapes and Grounds Officers.

Anyone with useful observations to

make about Victoria Park is welcome to attend the next group meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 13 April at the Friends' Meeting House, Queens Road.

Public open spaces like Victoria Park are threatened. If we do nothing and then don't like what happens it is partly our own fault.



### A.G.M.

at St. John's  
Parish Centre  
Clarendon Park Rd.  
Wednesday  
28 April 7.30pm.  
"Stoneygate

Conservation Area  
Character Appraisal  
Document"

*Speaker:*  
Mr. Mike Taylor  
Conservation  
Officer for Leicester  
City Council

*'A desirable home of taste and distinction in charming grounds.' That was the description given to The Cedars, London Road, as seen from the south front. The photograph appears on the front of sale particulars issued by Messrs. Warner, Sheppard & Wade in 1929. More about The Cedars overleaf.*

### Character Appraisal Document What on earth is that?

MICHAEL Taylor has previously spoken to SCAS about the special elements of Stoneygate which add up to the character of the area.

A clear written statement of the character of a conservation area is an important tool in protecting its character and shaping future development.

Stoneygate will be the first of Leicester's established conservation areas to have a character statement and, in his presentation on 28 April, Michael will report on work nearing completion to provide it. Anyone interested will be welcomed at the meeting. Please come if you can.

# The History of London Road

by Dr. Helen Boynton

## (c1860-1920)

IN OUR forthcoming book of the above title, Derek Seaton and I have researched all of the Victorian and Edwardian houses on London Road from Victoria Park to the old tramshed, part of which lies in the Stoneygate Conservation Area.

We found a number of the beautiful old Victorian houses have been demolished to make way for blocks of flats, and in some cases the 'miniature' estates were considerably reduced in size, for later building.

On the west side of London Road from the Mayfield Road roundabout to Knighton Park Road, were situated four fine houses all built about 1860 but sadly demolished in the 1960s.

They included *Hollybank* which had beautiful barge-boards under the eaves like *Heathfield* (YWCA) opposite *Buckhurst* which was the home of the Raven family (hosiery) and later the Church of England Society.

*The Cedars* was a very large house situated in beautiful grounds adjacent to *Buckhurst*. It was the home of the

Frisby family who later moved to Great Glen. *The Cedars* was requisitioned in the second world war by the airforce when the fine billiard room became the sergeants' mess! The house was replaced by Cedar Court flats.

Adjacent to them is *Cone Lane* which runs down to the backs of the large houses on St. Mary's Road.

Next to Cone Lane lay *The Hollies* which for many years was the home of Sir Thomas Wright who became Mayor of Leicester. In later years Stoneygate School had it as its boarding house.

Still standing are the beautiful Italianate houses of *Brackendale* (the home of Sir Jonathan North and on the corner of Knighton Park Road *Ivanhoe Villas* which for many years has been divided into flats.

The east side of London Road has been slightly luckier in its preservation of the Victorian houses, although *Mayfield* the home of Thomas Hodges, also Mayor of Leicester, has disappeared, as have *Elmsthorpe* and

*Hazelmere* which were replaced by The Albany flats. *Elmsthorpe* was at one time St Crispins School.

How sad these beautiful properties are no longer here, but we have been able to take photographs of all except *The Hollies*. Is there anyone who can help us with that one?

We expect our book will be published about Easter and it will reveal much more about the history of the houses and life on London Road.

### SCAS CONTACTS

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#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

##### APPROVED

223 London Rd: 1st floor extensions to rear and side of offices - grade II listed building.

7 Stoneygate Rd: Single storey extension to flat.

350 London Rd: Change of use of vacant building to one-bedroom flats.

27 Springfield Road: Single storey extension to side of residential home.

##### PENDING

12 Pendene Rd: Single and two-storey extensions to rear of house. (8 March 1999)

### PLEASE LET SCAS HAVE YOUR IDEAS AND INFORMATION

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Please note - any views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Subscriptions are now due for renewal

### STONEYGATE CONSERVATION AREA SOCIETY

I/we wish to join the Society/renew membership and enclose cash/cheque for £2.50 (family per year) as from 1st April 1999. Please make cheques payable to Stoneygate Conservation Area Society.

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Title) ..... Tel: .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

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