

Stoneygate

Conservation Area Society

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005

More
people
— more
power
to our
elbow!

SCAS has hit a membership high!

At the end of our 2004/05 year we achieved a grand total of 118 paid-up members.

This is a great credit to the efforts of our valiant membership secretary Odette Fogler and to all of you, our members, new and of long standing.

If you have joined the society since the last newsletter – welcome, and please accept our warm invitation to attend our annual general meeting on Wednesday, May 25 (see overleaf for

details of the programme).

And to all existing members, as we start a new year, please remember to renew your subscription!

Reflections on 30 years of city life

John Burrows, chair of Leicester Civic Society, will address the meeting — so come to hear what promises to be a fascinating personal account of changes to Leicester since the 1970s.

Will these recollections and reflections match your own?

David Oldershaw

Fitting church for fine suburb

"One of the most beautiful suburbs that any town possessed" was how the Bishop of Peterborough, in whose diocese the City of Leicester was, described Stoneygate in 1894.

And he wanted, at the entrance to that suburb, "a church erected worthy of that site."

So, Henry Langton

Goddard was commissioned. (His father Joseph had designed, among other buildings, the Clock Tower and St John's Clarendon Park).

Henry, again at the suggestion of the bishop, took his inspiration from the basilican Cathedral of Torcello on the Venetian lagoon. And so the church of St James the Greater was eventually consecrated in 1899.

The committee of SCAS, keeping as it does a watching brief over the preservation of the fine domestic architecture of our suburb, felt it was time to know more about some of our fine ecclesiastical buildings.

So a tour of St James was advertised for Sunday,



March 20, and a group of us enjoyed a most instructive exploration of the building, led by Dr Alan McWhirr.

He gave a concise and detailed account of its history and the contribution of local families, craftsmen and firms. We marvelled at the very fine brickwork, the splendid terracotta, the marble and

stone pillars, the blue majolica and the detailing of the woodwork and the murals — all of which combine in a building which entrances the eye and uplifts the mind and heart. It is a fine setting for the tradition of sacred and secular music for which St James is renowned.

Some of us were brave enough to climb the tower and see the excellent view of the interior, and then the panorama of Victoria Park.

The next in our series is a visit to St John's on Sunday, May 8 at 2.30pm, conducted by Helen Boynton. A donation of £3 a head is suggested. Names to Odette Fogler (tel 270 5623).

Henry Evans

As ever the SCAS committee has considered and investigated various planning applications. These include:

76 Clarendon Park Road: Change of use from medical training centre to self-contained flats – conditionally approved.

7 Stanley Road: Felling of 16 trees – approved.

31 Knighton Drive: Change of use from nursing home to flats – refused. The applicant has appealed against the decision.

16 Knighton Road: Development to rear; public enquiry held on 16.11.04 and the application was turned down. An appeal has now been lodged against the enforcement notice.

269 London Road: Change of use from house to flats – refused.

40 Clarendon Park Road: Various extensions – approved conditionally.

1 Knighton Park Road: Extensions and alterations (amendment to previous application) – decision awaited.

During this period there were also 15 applications concerning the pruning and felling of trees.

Remember, if you are concerned about a planning matter, contact the Development Control team at New Walk Centre or your local councillor or SCAS for advice.

Planning decisions are taken by the city council's Development Control Committee, which is made up of local councillors. The committee meets on alternate Tuesday evenings and is open to the public.

Anna Revill

In the picture . . .

Seventy-nine people attended our successful photographic exhibition on January 29 at the Friends Meeting House, Queen's Road.

Many thanks to Matt Matthew and Anna Revill for taking the photos and organising the display.

Copies of the photos were available for purchase on the day – if you were unable to attend and wish to purchase any, please contact Matt Matthew – tel 270 3143, email anthony.matthew@tiscali.co.uk.

OUR AGM PROGRAMME

SCAS will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, May 25 at St John's Octagon Room, Clarendon Park Road. The programme is:

7.30pm — Arrive and refreshments.

7.45pm — AGM business meeting.

8.15pm — Address by John Burrows, chair of Leicester Civic Society.

9pm — Finish.

The AGM will give a full account of the committee's actions on behalf of the society and the deployment of its resources throughout 2004/05.

Stoneygate Conservation Area Society



I/we wish to join the Society/renew membership and enclose cash/cheque for £5 (per household per year) as from 1 April 2005.

Name

Address

Tel

Please make cheques payable to Stoneygate Conservation Area Society.

Send to: Odette Fogler, Membership Secretary, 5 Calbri Court, 37 Knighton Drive, Leicester LE2 3HD (tel 270 5623)