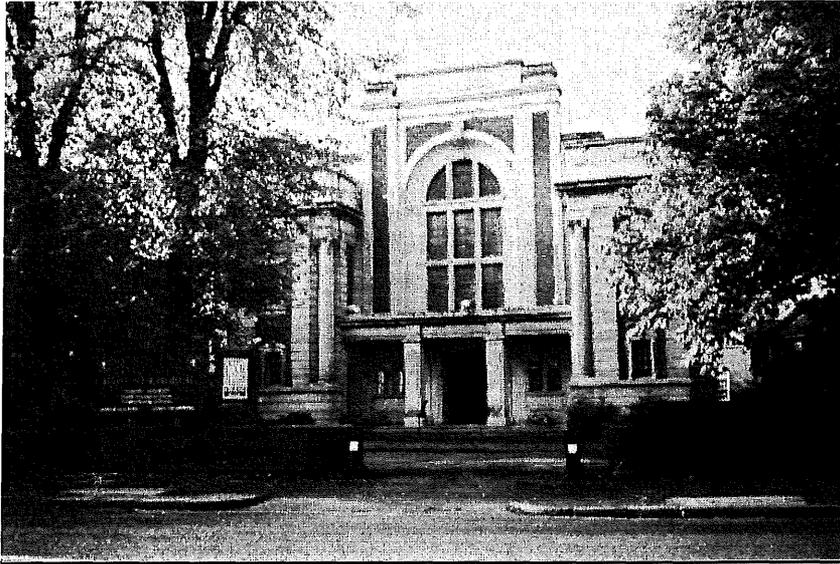


Stoneygate Conservation Area Society

NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 1999



Pictures by courtesy of Helen Boynton and Derek Seaton.

Cellphone masts - risk recognised

THE Government is to monitor the siting of transmitter masts at schools because of growing concern about a threat to health and safety when children are able to stand within range of the beams sent out.

Education Secretary David Blunkett made his decision after revelations that some schools are offering sites in return for payment from cellphone companies who are looking for them..

In a previous newsletter (March 1998), concern was expressed about the installation of a mast at the top of Lyndhurst Court on London Road.

At that time a letter was sent to Leicester City Council and Jim Marshall, M.P. highlighting the close proximity of the installation to St. John's School.

In reply to a similar letter following Mr Blunkett's decision SCAS received a letter from the city council's Environment and Development Department

which re-iterated the limited powers available to the local planning authority, and stating the issue needs to be addressed by the Government departments responsible for planning legislation; issue of licences to telecommunications code operators and health.

SCAS is now counting on like-minded groups to join us in this cause.

PLEASE LET SCAS HAVE YOUR IDEAS AND INFORMATION

This newsletter is published by:
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c/o SCAS, 6 Central Avenue,
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Please note - any views expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher.

CHURCH UNLOCKED WITH GOLD KEY

STONEYGATE Baptist Church on London Road was opened on 17 March 1914 by Sir Edward Wood, who unlocked the door with a gold key before being presented to the two architects, G. Lawton Brown and P.C. Jones.

The church (pictured left) was built because of a serious rift in Clarendon Hall Baptist Church at the turn of the century .

As a result of the division 70 members, including six deacons and the two trustees, left in 1900 to form what was known later as Stoneygate Baptist Church.

Meetings started in Avenue Road School and subsequently took place in Knighton Public Hall. The Reverend Samuel Jones, minister from 1901 to 1915 was described as a dignified frock-coated figure with a wicker basket under his arm.

The three immediate successors were The Reverends Howard Ingle-James, known to be a conscientious objector, Yorkshireman George Evans who had a sound understanding of the working class and Thomas Edmunds - a scholar and theologian whose ministry lasted for 21 years.

Mrs Holles' school (Merton House School) was held in the church rooms behind the church during the 1920s for a short while before moving to its present site Portland House, now Leicester High School for girls.

•Extract taken from information supplied by Derek Seaton co-author with Helen Boynton of From Tollgate to Tramshed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ambleside:

AN application has been made to Leicester City Council to make alterations to 'Ambleside', 1 Central Avenue, Clarendon Park.

The proposal is for alterations to convert the residential dwelling into seven flats; also alterations to coach house at rear (single unit).

Following a SCAS meeting with neighbours all agreed to write to the council stating that a residential development was welcome, but in view of traffic problems and general density of the area four flats and the coach house only should be the maximum.

223 London Road: Extensions to the rear and side of offices (Building listed Grade II) - Refused.

64 Clarendon Park Road: Change of use to place of worship. Agreed.

1A Knighton Grange Road: Illuminated wall sign and another one freestanding - Refused.

Conservation Area Character Statement

FOLLOWING the request of the council the SCAS committee met with Conservation Officer, Mike Taylor, for a discussion about extensions to the Conservation Area and its key characteristics.

This was followed by a walk around to look at specific buildings and views of the Conservation Area. Views of the Conservation Society were then confirmed in writing. We are now awaiting a response from the council.

**HAVE YOU BOOKED FOR THE
NEXT SCAS WALK?
Sunday 3 October 1999
Start 2.15 outside
The Regency Hotel
Tickets £2 from Odette Fogler**

From Tollgate to Tramshed

THE HISTORY of London Road, is portrayed in this recently published book by Helen Boynton and Derek Seaton.

From Tollgate to Tramshed is a well researched account of Leicester's main thoroughfare and its development around the period 1860-1920.

The area covered is the stretch between the former tollgate by Victoria Park and the borough boundary with Oadby where the Stoneygate Tram Company terminus was situated.

November 9th 1949 was the last day on which electric trams ran on the streets of Leicester.

Emphasis is put upon the architecture of the great houses and those who resided in them and many hitherto un-



'Thorncroft', 244 London Road - built in 1879 as the retirement home of Thomas Cook is now the headquarters of the Leicestershire branch of The British RedCross Society.

published photographs of houses long since demolished are included.

Copies of the book containing 14 pages, 138 black & white illustrations and 16 pages of coloured photographs are available now in bookshops at £8.

News update

■ *Trees:*

WORK is to be carried out on some of the street trees on London Road.

This will involve "crown shaping", which is the removal of branches which may be obscuring street signs, blocking light or causing an obstruction to traffic/pedestrians.

Dead and dangerous wood will also be removed. We have been informed that in most cases the appearance of the trees will not be altered greatly. Trees will only be removed completely when they are found to be structurally unsafe.

Leicester City Council is at the moment undertaking a survey of all street and park trees under its control to compile a computer data system.

Enquiries about trees can be made by contacting David Jones at the city council on telephone no.252 7352.

Keith Baker.

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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. Cheques are payable to Stoneygate Conservation Area Society. Please ignore this notice if you have already paid.

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

Address: Postcode:

(Please send to: Odette Fogler, Membership Secretary, 5 Calbri Court, 37 Knighton Drive, Leicester LE2 3HD. Tel: 270 5623)