

Stoneygate

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2004

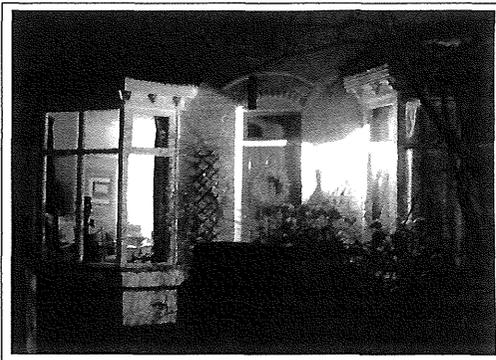
Conservation Area Society

COME FOR ANOTHER WALK WITH RICHARD

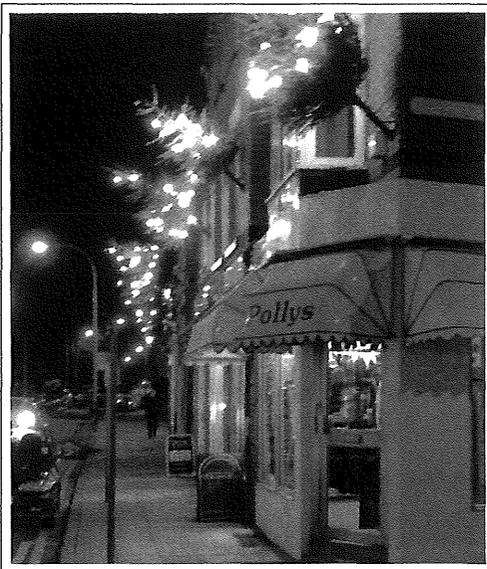
Members who have enjoyed gaining an insight into our local architecture on Richard Gill's informative guided walks will be pleased to hear that he has agreed to conduct another stroll around Stoneygate on Sunday, 10 October.

Assemble at St John's Church, Clarendon Park Road, to set off at 3pm. The contact for bookings is Odette Fogler, tel 270 5623. The charge will be £3 a head for the first 20 people to confirm interest with her.

Caught on film: homes and streets in all their variety



Evocative Christmas images, above and below, from the photographic exhibition.



At the society's AGM in May twenty-seven members enjoyed a photographic exhibition created by two talented members of our committee – Anna Revill and Matt Matthew – designed to capture the conservation area's rich variety of housing stock and vegetation and its changing life and seasons.

The committee's co-ordinator, David Oldershaw, reported on the society's activities in 2003/4. The treasurer's accounts were accepted and members agreed to raise the annual subscription to £5.

Members also considered the issue of mobile phone masts (explored in the May issue of this newsletter) and recommended that the society should continue to concern itself with their visual impact rather than any other considerations.

David Oldershaw mentioned that the owners of one of the two Gimson-designed houses in the conservation area had invited small parties of

members to view his home. A report on the visit appears on Page 3.

Sally Williams expressed her personal concern at an apparent shift in the city council's policy on tree preservation. If you share her anxieties, contact committee member Caroline Cook.

The guest speaker, Dr Derek Raine, outlined the history, objectives and activities of the British Association and gave an update on plans for its one-day school, *Planning a past for the future*, at Vaughan College on 6 November. (The title is not as shown in the college brochure).

Madeleine Cooke

The restoration of Inglewood — a labour of true love

On Saturday 3 July, thanks to the kindness and generosity of its owners, two small groups of members were privileged to enjoy a conducted tour of the main house, recently converted coach house and gardens of Ernest Gimson's masterpiece at the corner of Elms Road and Ratcliffe Road.

Inglewood's appeal lies in its stunning proportions and the quality of its materials and internal light effects. The totality is deeply satisfying inside and out, and the detailing timeless in its simplicity.

Mercifully, Inglewood has



Beautiful and welcoming ... Inglewood remained in single-family occupation since it was built in 1892. It has been, and remains, truly loved, as its atmosphere

reflects – as kind and welcoming as it is beautiful.

The present “custodians” have embarked on a major restoration project (stripping wallpaper and paint, repairing window frames, etc).

This has been aimed less at taking the house back to its original state than ensuring its continuing contribution to the quality of life in Stoneygate in the 21st century.

It is a hugely important task and we look forward to an opportunity to review its progress in a year or two's time.

Madeleine Cooke

COULD YOU BRING NEW IDEAS TO OUR COMMITTEE?

We meet every other month, in the evening, in one another's homes and are keen to recruit new members with fresh perspectives and ideas. If you feel that you can spare some of your time to help, please contact either David or Madeleine.

As all the “house for sale” notices confirm, the conservation area is a good place to live. Its attractions lie as much in its vegetation as in the variety and quality of its buildings. It has seen many changes since its development in the mid-19th century and, as a living entity, will inevitably continue to mutate.

SCAS's main objects are to help conserve and enhance its visual and environmental amenities, to encourage residents' awareness of its history, character and potentialities, and to keep a watching brief on planning applications and other new developments which directly affect the locality.

The newsletter remains our primary means of communication with out membership, and we hope to increase the number we publish each year from two to three or four.

Remember, it's a potential vehicle for your ideas and experiences, as much as the committee's. We want to hear from you, and would welcome brief (and non-political) articles and/or news items,

Chair: Madeleine Cooke, 19 Woodland Avenue, LE2 3HG (270 6420).

Co-ordinator: David Oldershaw, 6 Central Avenue, LE2 1TB (270 0010, david.oldershaw1@btinternet.com).

Hon Treasurer: Henry Evans, 16 Central Avenue, LE2 1TB (270 2169).

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

Media/publicity: Matt Matthew, 83 Clarendon Park Road, LE2 3AH (270 3143, anthony.matthew@tiscali.co.uk).

Planning matters: Anna Revill, 8 Central Avenue, LE2 1TB (270 9885, anna.revill@tiscali.co.uk).

Trees: Caroline Cook, 338 London Road, LE2 2PJ (210 9685, colin.cook3@ntlworld.com).

Newsletter: Julia Killey, 11 Central Avenue, LE2 1TB (210 9077, hawcroft.killey@ntlworld.com) and Madeleine Cooke.

Committee member: Tom Copp, 12 Ronald Court, Avenue Road, LE2 3ET (270 4975).

though obviously we cannot guarantee to publish everything, every time. The editors' discretion is final.

Copy should be sent to Julia, preferably by email or otherwise snail mail.

Madeleine Cooke and Julia Killey

Book number eight will look eastwards this time

□ *Leicester East (from Spinney Hills, Crown Hills, Evington to Stoughton and beyond – the old Powys Keck estate.*

My eighth book will look at the development of these areas and the history of building expansion, with descriptions of the work of architect Arthur Wakerley and surveyor John Tudor Walters in the landscaping of Spinney Hills and Crown Hills in particular.

The influence of the Powys Keck family of Stoughton Grange and the subsequent management of the estate (which once stretched from the old borough boundary along Mere Road and into the county as far as the village of Frisby) by the Co-operative Wholesale Society will be included in this fascinating area.

The book will be illustrated with many pictures, some of which have never been published before.

Helen Boynton

Desirable gift for admirers of the local building style

□ *Desirable Locations: Leicester's middle-class suburbs 1880-1920*, by Helen Boynton and Grant Pitches.

This delightful little book is essential reading for anyone who enjoys living in the conservation area. First published in 1996, it combines an informative text with excellent illustrations, including architectural drawings and plans and numerous photographs.

The authors provide valuable information on the architects, builders and gardeners who helped create these "desirable locations" and whose influence remains so strong in our own street scenes today.

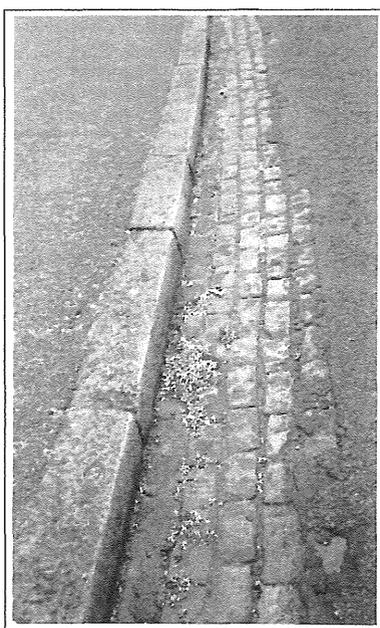
Still available for sale at only £7, it would make a wonderful present for yourself or a friend.

For more information contact Dr Helen Boynton, 7 The Fairway, Oadby, LE2 2HH, tel 270 6806.

Madeleine Cooke

Council regrets road 'cover-up'

The city council's publication *Supplementary Planning Guidance* offers the following description of one of the



The right way: This picture shows sets in Carisbrooke Road which have been treated sympathetically during past resurfacing.

attractive features in this conservation area:

"In some places granite kerbs are combined with rectangular sets forming a channel and there is a good run of this combination towards the east end of Ratcliffe Road."

Since the council undertakes to "preserve and enhance" the character of the area, residents were surprised to find on June 11 that the council had ignored its own guidelines and laid new surfacing over the sets, obliterating them and creating a sharp visual break between the pink granite kerbstones and the new surface.

SCAS wrote to the conservation officer, asking how such a thoughtless "improvement" could have been given permission and asking for a reappraisal of the internal consultation procedures between the highways department and the

conservation team.

The officer replied that he, too, felt that the work was regrettable. He undertook to arrange a meeting with the head of highways management to ensure that similar problems did not arise in the future.

The society then received a letter from the head of highways explaining that, after much thought, it had been decided to cover over the granite channels.

He gave several reasons for this decision, adding that: "The view of the highway maintenance staff was that the road would have looked odd if we had dressed only its bituminous areas and not the intermittent residual section of granite channels."

He did acknowledge, however, that there should have been closer liaison with the conservation staff and has arranged for internal consultation procedures to be reappraised.

This has been another busy period in which the society has maintained a watching/active brief over the 27 applications considered by the city council in the conservation area, 7 of which were approved and 2 withdrawn.

As ever, a large number of the applications (14) concerned the felling or pruning of trees.

The applications included:

10 Central Avenue: Change to 3 flats — approved.

Hollybank Court: UPVC windows — decision awaited.

Charles Freer site: Wrought iron gates — decision awaited.

4 Ratcliffe Road: Rear extension — decision awaited.

5 East Avenue: Rear extension and walkway — decision awaited.

330 London Road: Block of 8 flats — decision awaited.

56 Stoughton Road: Demolish house, build 6 houses — withdrawn.

We also brought a number of planning contravention issues to the council’s attention and lobbied for action to take place – often with very close and positive support from our local councillors.

Remember, if you are concerned about a planning matter, contact the council’s development control section at New Walk Centre or your local councillor, or contact SCAS for advice.

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 2004.

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)