



SCAN EDITORS: Derek & Anne Hathaway

September 2009

SCAN

Spondon Community Association Newsletter

Winners East Midlands in Bloom 2004, 2006, 2007 & 2009 and Britain in Bloom 2005

Community Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Community Association will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 7.30 at the Village Hall, followed by cheese and wine. This is your chance to take part in the election of the SCA Council and the Executive Committee who will run the Village Hall over the next year. It is also your opportunity to stand as a member of the SCA Council or Executive Committee. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.



Spondon triumphs again!



Well, we were always told not to blow our own trumpet, but it is difficult not to be just somewhat pleased that our re-entry to the East Midlands in Bloom competition also marked our return to victory!

In 2008, the Village Improvement Committee decided that we should take a well-earned break from the competition after 4 years, but the decision was greeted with disappointment from many residents - and the judges! So, in 2009, we bowed to the inevitable and girded our loins. Perhaps the gap did us good, because our usual high level of support seemed to increase, not only from Spondon but also the help we got from the City Council.

As ever, the choice of route was difficult - there is so much to show off in Spondon and we are only allowed 2 hours of the judges' time. Much to our regret, we felt we could not include "southern Spondon", which has so much to show off. Even using a car, we realised we would lose some 20 minutes (nearly 10% of our allotted time) just in getting them to and from the area.

We started the judges with a "bribe" - coffee and wonderful cakes at Bluebells; our thanks to Rosemary Brown for opening up specially for us on a Tuesday. From there, we took them to the Cricket Club (a surprise advantage, as one of the judges turned out to be an ex-groundsman!) and our usual star attraction of the Waste Fields allotments (which got a special "judge's award for excellence").

We decided to show them some of the "behind the scenes" work, taking them to the garden of Trish and Jack Paton and the VIC polytunnel (thanks to the Neighbourhood Board for funding a replacement this year), where all our plants are nurtured to full bloom. Then on to another new "exhibit", showing them the efforts of the pupils at Borrow Wood School.



All this early section had been done by car, but we then took them to the Village Hall site to complete the tour on foot, our "standard" route, through the Sensory Garden to the Nature Reserve. On the way, they met some local residents and judged the Hardware Shop and the Village Club as entries for judge's awards in their own categories.

A separate competition, but still part of East Midlands in Bloom invites schools to submit pupils' pictures.

West Park School entered this and walked off with 3 prizes! Hannah Brown in 8P won third prize; second prize went to Charlie Davies and Chloe Bunting in 8E was awarded first prize for the picture shown here. Well done to them all.

Our thanks to all those who contributed, either on the day or "behind the scenes", not forgetting everybody on the route who made a special effort with their front gardens (and also to West Park School for printing the leaflets we distributed all along the route!). We've always had good support from the City Council Parks Department, but this year they seemed to pull out all the stops! (We presume they provided just as much help to Littleover, entering for the first time - congratulations to them for gaining a creditable silver award.)

We have to wait until October to hear whether we have been entered for next year's Britain in Bloom competition.



VIC report

As you would expect, our activities have been largely devoted to East Midlands in Bloom over the past few months. Alongside that, we have run our annual "Spondon in Bloom" competitions and our thanks to Dawn Dagley of the Council Parks Department for taking on the difficult job of judging the entries! The winners (not in "reverse order"!) were:

- Best Planter – Ms. Anne Smith (Longley Lane), Mrs Fajardo (Lodge Lane), Mrs Paton (Dale Road)
- Best Pub frontage – The Malt Shovel, The White Swan, The Village Club
- Best Shop – Spondon Hardware, Squeaks and Beaks, Meat Loaf

Spondon bags These continue to go well and we now have only a couple of hundred bags left from the last order. This means we have sold around 2,800 bags since July 2008. They are still available in the shops, so get them while stocks last; we probably won't order another batch. Remember they make good little presents to send abroad and as stocking fillers. The Reward Voucher scheme will continue until December. The second (and final) round of the Holiday photo competition has been won by Paul Lister with his quirky shot from under the Red Sea (top). However, it was a very difficult decision and the judge's felt that Sue Sharman's picture (below) from the Athabasca Glacier in Canada was a very close runner-up.



Thanks to everyone who has sent us fascinating photographs (which can also be seen on the SCA website as well as BBC East Midlands which impressed the East Midlands in Bloom judges "...the "Spondon Shopping Bag" supporting a cleaner, greener Spondon appeared in photographs taken around the world as distant as the Sidney Opera House and the Statue of Liberty."



But thanks are due to everybody who has supported us, especially the shops who have sold the majority of the bags.

Dale Road Park Our long term project here continues, we have been in talks with the City Council Parks Department and with Groundwork Derbyshire. This latter group could prepare an overall design for us which would help us to find the significant funding needed. However, that in itself requires an outlay and we are grateful to the Parks Department for their offer to help.

We had a "clean-up" day there at the end of June and used it as an opportunity to talk to people there who used the park. Their views on any future development were very helpful - if far from unanimous!

You may recall that one element of our plans is a toposcope, to exploit the position of the park with views far across the Trent Valley. Our idea has been taken up by Rolls-Royce as a possible design project for their apprentices. We have to wait until November to find out whether we have been selected.

Derbyshire Magazine Hot on the heels of the excellent article in April's *Derbyshire Life* by Ashley Franklin, Spondon has featured again, this time in October's *Derbyshire Magazine*, which is now available at newsagents. We await a call from *Vogue* and *Good Housekeeping*!

SCA Committee

My last appeal in SCAN brought us Chris Parsons, who as well as becoming a new member of the committee, will be running our bars in the future. His appointment as Bar Manager means that we can once again take bookings for events with a bar. Over the last few months we had started to lose some bookings because we could not provide this amenity.

However, we are still short of a Chair for the SCA. Over the last year Anne Hathaway and I have chaired SCA meetings. The members of the Executive find running this successful business for the community a very rewarding job. We now have a turnover over of around £20,000 a year and employ three members of staff. Annually, the Hall has over 30,000 people using it. We are responsible for all that entails. At the moment there are six of us on the committee, plus two ex-officio members – our Hall and Bar Managers. The more there are of us, the easier the job becomes. Please consider standing for the committee, we won't expect you to become Chair !

Anita Hayes, Secretary

West Park Nature Reserve

Springtime saw the efforts of Springfield Primary School pupils, who last autumn planted dozens of wild flower plants, come to fruition when all their cowslips bloomed. Later on these were followed by Meadow Cranesbill.

This summer visitors to the nature reserve have been pleased to see the newly installed stone and chipping path across the top of the pond dam, pictured here. This is a great improvement to what had been a hazardous, very muddy clay path. The work was done by a team from BTCV with the job serving as an NVQ project for a BTCV member. The materials are being paid for by the SCA from monies earned by various SCA members who have worked on WildDerby activities.



One late evening in July twenty or so people gathered on the reserve to take part in a Bat and Moth Watch as part of a WildDerby event. As the light faded we saw two species of bat: the Noctule and the Common Pipistrelle and, using ultrasonic detectors, heard two others: one the Soprano Pipistrelle and the other probably the Serotine. Once it went dark the moths came out attracted by a mercury vapour lamp set up by members of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Entomological Society (seen here, right). They collected dozens of different species in plastic vials for people to inspect. There was a tremendous range of sizes and colours. We await with interest to learn exactly how many they found and if any were of local or national rarity.



The resident moorhens have had a number of broods this year; mallards continue to visit the pond in goodly numbers as does a local heron. It was pleasing to hear that a pair of Little Grebes was seen but they turned out to be only short term visitors.

David Hayes

Dave Dickinson

We are sorry to report the death of David Dickinson in August. David had always been a stalwart supporter of community facilities in Spondon. Following the demise of Spondon Parish Council in 1968, he was instrumental in setting up the first Community Association to look after the old Village Hall, which at that time was well used by various organisations. When the Hall deteriorated to such an extent that it had to be demolished in 1977, the Community Association was dissolved. However in 1978 the people of Spondon rose to the challenge to build a new hall in place of the old one and so the SCA as we know it was born. David played his part on the building committee and in 1981 the new hall was finished. After that Dave went on to become a City Councillor for Spondon and for many years he and his wife Fay contributed much time and effort to village activities, particularly in organising the football teams for Spondon Dynamos. Dave was also a Trustee of the Community Association until a couple of years ago when he resigned through ill-health. Our condolences to his wife, Fay and his son Phillip.

Battelle's BBQ

What can I say about our BBQ, we were entertaining 85 friends in the middle of July, which is not normally recognised as the monsoon season. Our annual event is an excuse to gather a few friends together also as a thank you to individuals who work so hard for the Village during the year. Any profit we make goes into the coffers of the VIC to fund next year's activities. Everything went to plan, the helpers did their job admirably, a marquee and four gazebos erected, chairs and tables borrowed from everywhere and if the laughter was anything to go by, everyone was having a good time. We had 3 chefs doing the outside cooking but black clouds overhead were very threatening; unfortunately everyone managed to be part way through their main course when the heavens opened. Talk about moving quickly there was a mad dash into the marquee, garage or house. The laughter increased with detailed explanations of wet under garments etc. The evening was unfortunately pushed into a premature ending but not before everyone had the opportunity of sampling the fabulous selections from the sweets' table. Everyone left with a smile on their faces saying it was a good evening which made all our planning and hard work justified.

Our thanks go to Margaret and the WI ladies whose sweets and speciality cooked dishes were delicious. Also to our 3 excellent chefs, to Iain for the marquee erection and many more for raffle donations, the fetchers and carriers and everyone who put so much effort into making the event run so smoothly. I am afraid the weather has been an unknown factor on outside events especially this year, despite the deluge we raised £248 for VIC funds, well done everyone.


Congratulations to the VIC their brilliant achievement in winning the top award of Silver Gilt in the East Midland in Bloom Competition.

Roy and Irene Battelle

Contacts

Chairman	Vacant	
Hall Manager/ Bookings	Dave Borrington	07906-373049
Treasurer	Joan Pugh	674073
Hall Treasurer	Jennifer Slatcher	670989
Membership Secretary	Anne Hathaway	677377
Committee member	Pete Green	675300
Hon. Secretary	Anita Hayes	662963
Village Improvement Committee	Margaret Kelley	664221

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Locko Amateur Dramatic Society
8th, 9th & 10th October 2009

present

Fur Coat & *No Knickers*

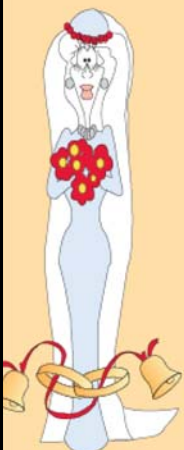
by
Mike Harding

This hilarious play centres around the wedding of Deirdre Ollerenshawe and Mark Greenhaigh. The fun begins on Mark's stag night, which almost ends in disaster when a very drunk Mark is found chained to a lamppost with a blow-up rubber doll purloined from a night-club.

As Mark is the son of Councillor Greenhaigh, however, the police let him off. The wedding day itself turns out to be rather a disaster too, with half the guests (including the priest) suffering from blinding hangovers, and the play ends in chaos when Father Molley once again paralytically drunk, stumbles in on the reception clad only in his ecclesiastical underwear and brandishing the blow-up doll!

This play contains adult themes and language.

7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)
Spondon Village Hall, Sitwell Street, Spondon
All tickets are £6.00
Available from Mrs C Eyre
Tel: (01332) 669138
Visit our web site at: www.theladsdrama.co.uk or
For ticket sales e-mail: corinneeyre@hotmail.com



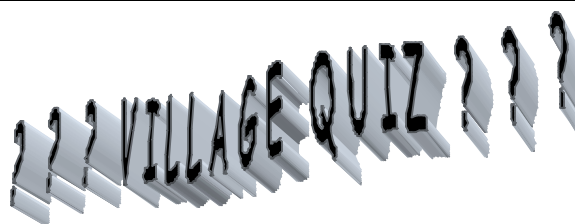
Café Praise Friday 2nd October

Spondon Methodist Church Hall

You are warmly invited to share in an informal evening, starting with coffee & tea from 7.30pm.

There will be music from the Praise Band and our speaker this month is **Geoff Holland** former director of Derby City Mission.

A separate prayer 'zone' will be available, for those wishing to share in prayer time after the music and speaker have finished.



Come along to this popular annual event at the Village Hall on Friday 13th (unlucky for some?) November - either as a spectator, or join in the fun. Einsteins not necessary - or welcome!

The evening will kick off at 7.30pm and will include a picture quiz. There will not be a bar (that will stop the bar staff winning again!) but you are welcome to bring your own drinks.

Its to the usual table-top format, for teams of 4, entry fee £5. We'd appreciate teams booking in advance (so we can prepare), please ring Roy on 722858.

Spondon Methodist Church Barn Dance

Saturday 14th November, 7.30pm in the
Village Hall

Music provided by caller, Colin Tristram

Bar available

Tickets £5, phone 603219

WHAT'S ON

Fri 2 nd Oct	7.30pm:	"Café Praise" - see above	Methodist Hall
Thu 8 th (- 10 th) Oct	7.30pm:	"Fur coat and no knickers" - see above	Village Hall
Wed 14 th Oct	7.30pm:	SCA AGM, followed by cheese & wine	Village Hall
Fri 13 th Nov	7.30pm	Village Quiz - see above	Village Hall
Sat 14 th Nov	7.30pm:	Barn Dance - see above	Village Hall
Sat 21 st Nov	9.30am:	Asterdale WI Victorian Market	Village Hall
Wed 2 nd Dec	6.30pm:	Spondon Neighbourhood Forum	Asterdale School