

SOSCA NEWS



June 2007

Issue 27

www.swintonopenspace.co.uk

Swinton Open Space Community Association Newsletter

Council rise to Challenge

In our last issue we challenged the council to clear up the rubbish that had accumulated on Anson Avenue and the rough ground that runs to Folly Lane. We telephoned Environmental Services on the 4th April 2007 and spoke to 'Margaret' who explained that the council would visit the site and if it were council land they would clear it of rubbish. We were given a job reference number so that they could trace any call made subsequently regarding the land. We were told that if the land was not council owned they would be able to trace the owner for us. On 6th April Councillor Joe O'Neil, having read the article in SOSCA News, sent an email to our secretary offering help to sort the problem out. The councillors at the Swinton Community Committee noted the challenge (we send the committee 20 copies of SOSCA News) at the meeting on the 10th April 2007 and pointed out that this was **not council owned land**. However, the site was cleared the following morning. SOSCA News wishes to thank the council for this goodwill gesture and for 'listening'.



An email from Dawn Davidson:- I just wanted to drop you an email regarding the latest news bulletin. I live on Anson Road (number 5) directly opposite Anson Avenue (ground between Anson Road and Folly Lane) and am delighted this has been brought to light. I have battled with the Council and my local councillor for 8 years in an attempt to get this disgraceful land tidied up - to no avail!!!! So a big thank you from me!!!

SOSCA have written to the council's lead member for the environment and asked for a litter bin to be installed and we hope residents will find it useful. In the same letter we have also drawn to the attention of Environmental Services the Fly tipping at the side of Cooper Clarks. Fly tipping, like littering drags the neighbourhood down. We don't want to live in a tip. If you see someone fly-tipping rubbish like this make a note of the vehicle number and report it. We don't believe it is anyone who lives locally.

Fun Day - Sunday 15th July

SOSCA's *fourth* annual Fun Day seems set to be a winner again this year. The committee has been busy arranging lots of entertainment. In addition to the usual attractions of Bouncy Castle, Eccles Brass Band, Plant stall, lots of competitions for youngsters and pets we have booked 'Talons', Birds of Prey who will, if the weather is kind to us again, give a flying display of the birds' prowess. More important than any of the events is **your** attendance, to help make this event a success. There has been talk that we should expand the event to include other communities and perhaps call it the Swinton Show. Do you have any views on this? Should we stay a local community event or become a citywide event? Let us have your views. We also **require items for the Bric-a-brac stall and the Tombola stall**. We are more than happy to collect them from you. Just call one of the committee nearest you or our Secretary, Liz. Don't forget to put the Fun Day date in your diary!

Acknowledgement – Our Fun Day is aided financially with money from the Swinton Community Committee. This year we were awarded £761 towards the cost of the marquee and a toilet facility. The money is greatly appreciated; the event would not be possible without this financial assistance.

Dentists pulls the other one

With many dentists wishing patients to go 'private' and having to register, it has left many residents wanting NHS treatment with difficulty in being registered. This difficulty was brought to the attention of the Community Committee by SOSCA and our concerns were noted and passed on to the Primary Care Trust.



Groundwork

The Steering Committee, set up to help us realise our vision of Swinton Park on the council owned land (at present called Swinton Fields) and hopefully the old sewage work site owned by United Utilities has been meeting for some months now. It has asked the charity Groundwork, who have worked closely with the council on similar developments to carry out wider consultation on SOSCA's vision. SOSCA applied for a grant for this work to be done and once again we are thankful to the Community Committee for providing the cash (over £7,500) to enable this to take place. We are working closely with Groundwork not only on the consultation but also in applying for grants for future work. A grant application to the Peoples Millions for over £79,000 has already been completed and we are waiting to hear the response. SOSCA Officers have met with Moorside South Residents Association and with Ellesmere Park Residents Association to keep them up to date with developments and consult them on their views for the land. These meetings will smooth the way for Groundwork when they do their wider consultations.

Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM)

On the 26th April 2007 SOSCA's EGM formally moved our Annual General Meeting to April of each year. We are hopeful that the lighter nights will encourage an even bigger turnout at this event. Present at the EGM were invited guests, Councillor Val Burgoyne, Councillor John Cullen and Councillor Joe O'Neill and our Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Nicola Bentley. The meeting was attended by over twenty people (the SOSCA chairman and half the committee were absent due to holidays and other commitments). Residents asked many questions about issues that affected their lives including:-

- a) The road resurfacing of Houghton Lane.
- b) Traffic calming on Thorn Road.
- c) Problems of alcohol being sold to young people.
- d) Motorbike nuisance.
- e) Dispersal orders
- f) Zebra crossing on Folly Lane.
- g) Parking restrictions at the junction of Thorn Road and Folly Lane.
- h) Homewatch Scheme.
- i) Local crime figures.

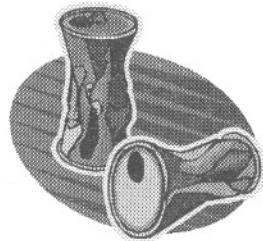
Councillors gave advice and took up some of the issues for action. Our Secretary Liz James made copious notes on these issues so that we could follow them up. The meeting finished about ten pm when tea and biscuits were served by Robert and Margaret Balham. Robert is a specialist in real ales but he also makes a good brew of tea! Many thanks to all those people who attended the meeting and aired their views and concerns. Without your support nothing would get done.

SOSCA hope to hold another open meeting later in the year so you will get another chance to raise issues that are important to us and hear what progress has been made on our efforts to make improvements to Swinton Park.

Caught in the act

One vigilant resident noted a van draw up at the end of Campbell Road and watched the occupants unload numerous cans of beer and bottles of vodka, which they then started selling to the youths on the fields. The underage drinkers then started getting rowdy and went on the rampage damaging seven cars on Campbell Road. One resident claimed there was two thousand pounds worth of damage. Fortunately the youths were reported and caught as were the men selling alcohol. We hope they get a suitable punishment. 'Well done that man' who noted the car registration number and reported the gang of youths to the police !

Unfortunately only three cars were reported to the police as being damaged. These are the figures that the police will be used to gauge the level of crime in the area. This in turn will have the police believing we have a lower level of crime than is the case resulting in lower levels of policing. Please report crime and get a crime number.



Don' suffer it - Report it!

Police – 856 5171 or 872 5050, **Emergency** 999. **CPSO Nicola Bentley's office** 856 5228.

Victim Support – 0845 3030900. **Childline** - 0800 1111. **Samaritans** – 0845 7909090.

Anti-social behaviour - 0845 605 22 22. **Emergency Social Services after 4:30pm** – 794 8888

Dog Fouling – Response

SOSCA wrote to Councillor Burgoyne with copies to Councillors Cullen and O'Neill about the dog fouling in the area after the last issue of SOSCA News. Councillor O'Neill responded very quickly with 'dog fouling signs'. Councillor Burgoyne passed our letter to the principal Streetscene Officer and this is his response.

I write further to your letter dated 23rd March 2007 addressed to Councillor Burgoyne, which has been referred to me for reply.

Unfortunately, this is not a matter for which Street Cleansing can resolve for you, so I have passed this to our Enforcement Team who have Wardens patrolling throughout the City and will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to any offender allowing their dog to foul.

I have asked the Officer responsible for the service, Phil Morton, to update you with any action they take on your behalf.

Regards,

Mark Hattie - Principal Streetscene Officer

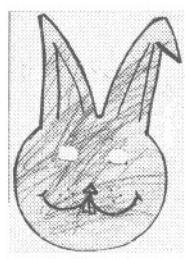
Competition Winners

Congratulations to Alicia, Ciaran, Barnaby and Alex.

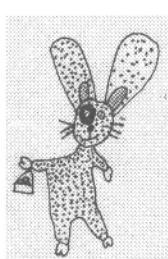
We had four entries to our Easter Bunny painting competition but no entrants to the 11 to 15 age group. The committee decided that each entrant should win a chocolate Easter egg. Our apologies for not being able to publish the pictures in colour.



Alex Monk
aged 4



Barnaby Connelly
aged 3



Ciaran Davis
aged 7



Alicia Mathews
aged 9

Local Knowledge Quiz – by our own local historian Gordon Purcell.

Open age competition. The winner becomes famous with their name and picture in SOSCA News or ten minutes on the Bouncy Castle for yourself or the child of your choice at the Fun Day. The contestant with the most correct answers will be deemed the winner. Answers please before the end of June to Liz James (contact details at bottom of page).

1. What did Mrs. Critchley sell?
2. What was the name of the ‘pop’ works, situated at the end of Granville Street in Swinton?
3. How many arches did the railway bridge have near Pilkington’s works?
4. What year did the Burton Factory close on the East Lancashire Road?
5. What was the main product that the UCP sold?
6. What year was the East Lancashire Road opened and who opened it?
7. What was the famous plane associated with the Magnesium Electron Company?
8. Name two of the several families that made up Gerrards the Builders?
9. Where in Swinton could you buy a ‘pint’ that came from the ‘Worsley Brewery’?
10. What was the name of the cinema below Swinton Palais?

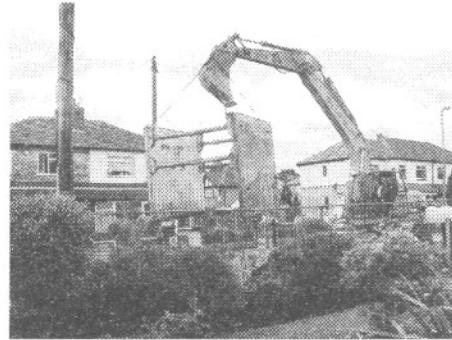
Your name
and picture.

*June Quiz
competition
winner*

Good Neighbours – become good friends!



Houghton lane has been closed to traffic for some weeks whilst United Utilities has been laying 175 metres of new sewer pipe from 57 Houghton Lane and the junction with Holly Road. An additional 85 metres will be laid from



12 Holly Road to Houghton Lane. It was estimated that the work would take 20 weeks. Residents in Houghton Lane have demonstrated what good neighbours are all about. Many residents have been unable to gain access to their own drive to park their car during this period and many neighbours have shuffled their own cars to allow them to park on their drives. This ‘share a drive with your neighbour’ has shown what it is like to be part of a nice neighbourhood. Well done folks.

Honoured - Congratulations are due to our Councillor, Val Burgoyne. She is honoured to be the city’s new Mayor. Val was born in Salford and elected as a councillor in 1990. Last year she served as deputy mayor in the run up to this honour. Well-done Val!

Congratulation to our new councillor

Our newly elected councillor for Swinton South is Steve Cooke who will serve until 2010; we look forward to working with him in the future. SOSCA would like to thank John Cullen for all his hard work and his efforts on our behalf during his term of office.

SOSCA is a non-political association and we are happy to work with all of our elected councillors for the betterment of our area.

Swinton Open Space Community Association
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