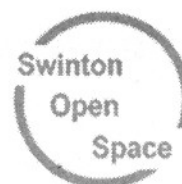




SOSCA NEWS



www.swintonopenspace.co.uk

April 2007

Issue 26

Swinton Open Space Community Association Newsletter

Council Challenge

This month we have a council challenge, which is to see how long it takes the council to clear up an unsightly area of ground running from Folly lane to Anson Road. The amount of bottles, cans and general litter is extremely unsightly and the area hasn't been touched for years. It is time something was done. We will telephone Environmental Services on the 3rd April and ask that the area be cleared of rubbish. We will report to you in SOSCA News as to what happens and see if the council really is listening.

The land that time and the Council forgot? Many years of litter dropping has reduced this passageway to a 'trashed area'.



Public challenge by Tish Wilkins

Some of our residents have brought to our attention a problem which blights the lives of all of us – that of dog mess on the footpaths and from there, on occasion, in our homes.

Most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pets, but there are a few persistent offenders who allow their dogs to run off the lead and who refuse to clean up after their animals. This problem exists everywhere, as we know, but is most prevalent on those roads that lead to the entrances to Eccles Field. SOSCA is writing to our local councillors to alert them to the problem and to ask them for some action to be taken.

In the meantime, irresponsible dog owners should be aware that local residents are upset and if you are seen not cleaning up after your dog, or allowing it off the lead on the street – if possible you will be identified and reported to Environmental Health. Allowing your dog to foul the footpath is an offence that carries a fine. Dogs must be kept under control in a public place. If your dog is untrained, this means on a lead.

Public Meeting

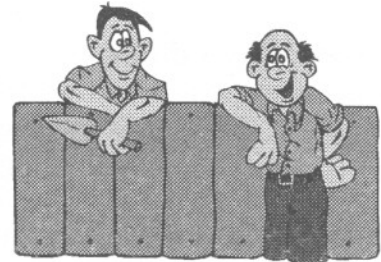
As promised at our A.G.M. we are holding a public general meeting to ratify the proposal of changing our A.G.M. date to April each year. This will allow more members to attend at a more convenient time during lighter evenings. The meeting will be held at the United Reformed Church on Worsley Road on **Thursday 26th April 2007 at 8.00pm**. All are welcome to attend. We will invite councillors and the police to speak and answer questions. Come and have your say, let us know where we are getting it right and where we are getting it wrong. Should we be campaigning for a zebra crossing on Folly Lane for instance? Come and have your say.

Who was Arthur Mathews by our local historian Gordon Purcell

In early 1971 Arthur Mathews and his family were in need of accommodation, they had just had their home damaged by fire. They were offered the old sewage works house at the end of Campbell Road on a temporary basis. In fact Arthur lived there until his death in 2002 aged 81.

Arthur was in his early fifties when he moved to Campbell Road and was working for the council laying and repairing drains. Even at this age one word would be used to describe Arthur, strong. He was about five foot seven tall and weighed about 13 stone, he had a warm, weather beaten face and a friendly smile.

Most days after work you would find him leaning on the gate to the fields chatting to the dog walkers. He loved to talk about the time when he had played rugby or about his time in the RAF. Arthur was very good with the youngsters, he would lend them a football and supply cones for goalposts. He even badgered the council to cut the grass and put up goalposts.



Though he had been a dispatch rider in the RAF he hated to see motorbikes on the field. In those days a strong word from Arthur would usually put a stop to it, if that did not work he called the police. He also sorted out any antisocial behaviour in his area or on the field by having a word with those involved and would also make a point of speaking to their parents.

Unfortunately, as he got older there were times when he was a little overprotective of the area and his interaction with local children was not always at its best. He was very protective of the fields and he worked hard at keeping the area free from litter. At one time local gardeners used to tip their cuttings on the field but Arthur soon put a stop to that practice. Often you would see him out there with his spade edging grass or clipping the hedges on the field. I have even seen him planting trees on there.

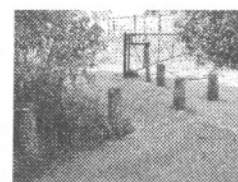


Arthur and Vera had a son, Ken and three foster children and on bonfire nights local families were invited to his bonfire in his large garden overlooking the fields. Vera would make treacle toffee and it was always a good night. At these times Arthur would invite local householders to put their unwanted disposable items on the bonfire.

When he was in his late seventies his wife Vera died. She had always given her full support in any action he had taken regarding the fields. The loss of his wife and age winning the race he lost his natural strength. Though he was no longer able to use his physical energy to protect the fields he still cared and worried about what might happen right up to his own death in 2002.

Why, since coming to Campbell Road did this man care so much about the fields? He was not employed to do it, he was never asked to do it and it was not a condition of his tenancy. Arthur was the self-appointed warden, parkie, community support worker and Home watch coordinator rolled into one. I think it was partly out of gratitude towards lady luck for giving him a nice spot to live after the loss of his home to fire. He also valued that open space; he liked its naturalness and did not want to see it spoilt by those who would misuse it.

Campbell Road entrance in Arthur Mathew's day.



Diary Date

The date of the fourth annual Fun Day has been set for the 15th July 2007 and the committee is busy arranging the event again. Due to popular demand the bouncy castle will be there and of course Eccles Band but we have some new surprises in store that we hope you will enjoy. More about this in our next issue. We will require items for our Bric-a-brac stall so please put any items you feel might be suitable to one side and of course if you would like to get involved or run a stall just contact our secretary, Liz. She will be only too happy to let you know anything regarding the day. If you are new to the area this is an excellent opportunity to meet the neighbours and have some fun. Don't forget that you can bring the kids too.

Website Please accept our apologies for any difficulty you may have had with our website, we have been unable to update it for some time. We are however keen to get it updated and are working to resolve the problems. For the computer buffs amongst us why not 'Google' SOSCA? You get some interesting sites such as Superintendent Of Schools Classified Association, Secondary On Screen Curriculum Assessments and Southern Society Of Chartered Accountants. They are in good company with us, we hope they think so too!



Thank you by Tish Wilkins, Treasurer.

Thank you very much to all SOSCA members who have so readily paid the annual subscription and a special thank you to those of you who felt able to give over and above the suggested £2. We (the Committee) appreciate your generosity very much. Thank you too for all your kind messages of support.

Everyday running costs, such as telephone calls, stationery, photocopying, typing, postage and travel expenses are all borne personally by the Committee members, who also give willingly of their time, hard work and commitment. So – all the money you give goes directly to the main aims of SOSCA – to prevent the destruction and development of our open spaces and to enhance the local environment for all of the residents in any way we can. Once again – thank you all.

Houghton Lane

Dear SOSCA members on Houghton Lane, our last issue went out to residents with an envelope for membership fees (£2-00) or donations. Unfortunately many of the envelopes were missing from the Houghton Lane route; this was SOSCA Chairman's fault not the fault of your Road Representative, Audrey. If you feel you would like to contribute using your own envelope please feel free to do so, they can be posted at 55 or 57 Houghton Lane with your name and address on.

Wider Consultation and support.

The Steering Committee set up to help realise SOSCA's Vision of Swinton Park wanted to widen the consultation process to take in other areas viewpoints. This was done last month when SOSCA invited adjoining residents groups to a meeting at the civic centre. SOSCA displayed its vision with the aid of Groundwork, a group with many years experience in helping make improvements to areas with residents support. The groups were very keen on the idea and SOSCA have been invited to attend Ellesmere Park Residents Association and Moorside South Residents Association group meetings to address their members.

Congratulations to Helen Neaves-Wilde for winning the 'picture of the day' competition run by Granada Northwest News. Her picture of *Swinton Fields* in morning mist was taken on the 13th March 2007 at 7am. when the frost and mist was just starting to clear. It was shown that evening on the television by the weather presenter Jo Blythe. The prize was a 'Granada Goody bag' which consisted of a plastic mug, drink bottle, trolley key, pens, pencils, sports rucksack and 'phone stand all with the Granada logo. Well done Helen.



Last issue

SOSCA News congratulates the Worsley Road United Reformed Church on its many activities for people in the area and wishes them well with their new building. Unfortunately, due to lack of space we were unable to print the contact details for members of the United Reformed Church and so we do so now, they are:-

Minister	Secretary	Room Steward
Revd. George McCleave	Dr. Brian Sides	Mrs K Briggs
276 Worsley Road	2 Longley Drive,	16 Beatrice Rd
Swinton,	Worsley,	Worsley
M27 0AG	M28 2TP.	M28 2TN

EASTER BUNNY PAINTING COMPETITION

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN AN EASTER EGG?

All you have to do is paint a picture of an Easter bunny and if it is judged by the SOSCA committee as the best picture in your age group, you will win a *SCRUMPTIOUS EASTER EGG*

There are 3 age groups 3-6 Years, 7-10 Years and 11-15Years.

SEND YOUR ENTRIES (with your name and address on the back)
TO:- Liz James, 68, Thorn Road, Swinton, M27 5QT.

A youngster's corner is to be a regular feature in SOSCA News. Previous competitions have proved to be popular and we are of course only too happy to oblige. After all this is what a community newspaper is for. If you have something you feel would make interesting news just let us know and we will try very hard to include it. Won an award? New addition to the family? Exam success? Just let us know.



Please Note

Our secretary, Liz James has a new email address liz@emjames.eclipse.co.uk

Swinton Open Space Community Association
The Secretary, 68, Thorn Road, Swinton, City of Salford, M27 5QT:
Email:- liz@emjames.eclipse.co.uk
Website - www.swintonopenspace.co.uk