



STRUTT'S PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2019

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SPRA is non-political and aims to:

- stimulate public interest and opinion
- promote a sense of community in the Strutt's Park area
- improve the safety and amenities of the area
- improve the preservation, protection, development and enhancement of features of beauty, historic and public interest
- further the welfare and interests of the residents of the area and encourage an awareness of the neighbourhood

One of our residents has made the Walk of Fame



While Joseph Wright is Derby's most famous artist, Strutt's Park's Marion Adnams has a more recent claim to artistic accolade. The former Otter Street resident has been awarded a place in Derby's 'Walk of Fame' on College Walk—the pavement alongside the Cathedral. Marion is famous for her surrealist artwork with last year's exhibition at Derby Museum and Art Gallery and the article in our 2018 newsletter encouraging those who knew her to share their memories.

"I first met Marion at a party, when already nearly blind; she loved nothing better than a good party. I was unacquainted with her painting, having only seen one of her carriage drawings which, as an engineer and draftsman, impressed me greatly. We immediately hit it off and spent the entire evening talking about music and France, both subjects dear to my heart as I am a pianist and musical instrument maker and had been recently working in Paris. She played the recorder and piano and had a long love affair with Burgundy and Provence.



We soon became close friends and I regularly visited her in Otter Street, where I first became familiar with her surrealist paintings. The feature that immediately struck me about her art was that, unlike other surrealists, she never distorted the objects she depicted but always drew them true to life but in conjunction with strange and unrelated objects and landscapes.

I visited the house she shared with her close friend Francis in Burgundy, where she and Marion would sit by the river playing the recorder. I already knew Semur-en-Auxois, having stayed there some years before my meeting with Marion, but now the association of the scenery, the neighbouring churches and the sculptures therein are very strong reminders of dear Marion and her art.

She had total recall and, after she became blind, she recorded her experiences in several volumes of writings, typed for her by her Otter Street friend, Bob Cunningham. Her writings, as well as her paintings, deserve to be better known." - *John Rooks*

"My husband Monty first met Marion in the early 1960's. He admired her art work, and I think she admired his work in architecture. We were invited to her Sunday lunchtime gatherings, where we met artists and local politician, the MP of the constituency was usually there plus a group of other interesting individuals. She was very welcoming and told me I could bring our young children too.

I was very impressed at the time with the way she presented her house. The walls were covered in hessian and with white paintwork, it was very different. Of course her art was hung and was also impressive. She had made a lovely terrace at the back of the house which was overlooking Darley Park and the river.

As a teacher at Homelands, she was very strict and in life drawing her students were made to study bones and muscles before drawing!

A lovely lady with her shock of white hair - she told us that she started to lose her sight as she drove home from her house in France. It was traumatic for her. We still have a collection of some of her drawings and sketches" - *Kate Montague*



The Gadsbys: A family history through our own house

When we moved to Belper Road, like many people moving house, we were interested to discover a little about its previous occupants. This revealed the story of the Gadsbys - one of the nineteenth and early twentieth century's notable Derby families.

Census returns, local directories, Derby Local Studies Library (and its equivalent elsewhere), and ships' passenger lists, all helped build up a picture of the life of the family and gives an illustration of what can be revealed about past lives.

Our house was built in about 1912 for Alice Litchfield (1847-1940). She was the fourth child of John Gadsby (1818-1883) and Sarah Linley (1820-1906). John was a solicitor with a local practice, was Town Clerk of Derby for several years, and Mayor of Derby for a year. The family lived at first in Larges Street, but moved, as they prospered, into the Old Mayor's Parlour, in Tenant Street. This was sited behind where QUAD now stands and was, unfortunately, demolished as part of an intended town centre improvement scheme. In addition to Alice they had seven other children: John (1842-1859), Edward (1843-1919), William (1845-1924), Beatrice and Reginald (who both died in infancy), Henry (1852-1902) and Constance (1862-1954).



Alice Gadsby

William Gadsby became a painter of some distinction. He studied with John Everett Millais and, apart from his own work, undertook some copying work for Queen Victoria. He also contributed a miniature picture for Queen Mary's Dolls' House. Derby Museums' collection includes some of his pictures, including a self-portrait.

William took in one of his elder brother Edward's daughters, Beatrice, and it was on his way to buy medicine for her when he was killed in a motor accident in a fog in Tufnell Park, London in 1924.

Alice's youngest brother Henry followed his father into the solicitor's practice and also succeeded to the office of Town Clerk of Derby on his father's death in 1883. He prospered in the town and eventually bought the large and imposing Derwent Bank House (which used to stand where Bank View Road is now), in which he lived with his wife, Beatrice (1862-1935) and their family, John (1884-1970), Reginald (1886-1937), Cecily (1888) and Henry (1890-1962).



Constance Gadsby

Harry also met an untimely end in a fishing accident at Rocester in 1902. He is buried along with his wife Frances in the churchyard at St Matthew's, Darley Abbey. His son, John Gadsby followed the family tradition of going into the law and practised in Japan and the far east. He made a large collection of Korean porcelain which now forms part of the South Korean national collection.

Alice, the first owner of our house, married a barrister, Henry Charles Litchfield (1843-1907) in 1894. The wedding took place in Yokohama, Japan, where he was a Queen's Council in the English settlement. She returned to England on Henry's death in 1907 and initially lived with her sister Constance at 'Kinross', a house in Duffield Road, a couple of doors south of the Ruskin Road steps, where Constance had been living with her widowed mother. It was presumably while there that she conceived the idea of having a house built on Belper Road to suit her own requirements.

Knowing this background on the Gadsby family proved invaluable when, some years later, we met two of Reginald Gadsby's grandchildren. They were piecing together their family history and had called asking to take a photograph of the house. They were able to supply us with much more information about the family, including that Alice had been unwell for several years before she died in 1940, but that Constance had lived on in the house until her death in 1954.

After her death Constance's relatives had found that the house was in a poor state of repair. Eventually a builder from Chesterfield bought the house and carried out extensive upgrades and some alterations (in which some of the more interesting arts and crafts features of the original design were lost) before selling it on.

We enjoy living in the house, all the more because we now know something of the folk who were living here before us - those who have walked across our floorboards, opened our doors and looked through our windows. We have become part of the house's history - *By Clive Lemmon*

Traffic

Parking

The start of the new University term has meant that parking issues for our neighbours in the Six Streets area have increased their calls for a new residents' only parking scheme. In Strutt's Park the extension of the residents' only scheme along Arthur Street has displaced the parking problems with many residents, on the most affected streets, attending a recent public meeting with Council Traffic Officers to discuss the problem.

The Council agreed to a ballot on an extension of the scheme (the Council's Area 31) to cover the whole of the area between the Derwent and Duffield Road. If this has adequate response in favour of the extension the funds will be sought with the introduction possible in 2020.

Pollution

Problems with traffic pollution have resulted in Derby being identified as one of a number of Local Authorities where air quality measures need to be introduced, as a result of predicted exceedances of the EU Limit Value for NO₂.

The two sites in the Strutt's Park area which are monitored by the City Council for air pollution caused by traffic are at St Mary's Court and West Avenue. The average figures for NO₂ were, in the last year for which they have published figures (2017), 41.3 and 35.6 µg/m³ compared with the legal limit of 40 µg/m³. The peak (January) monthly figures at the two sites were 99.4 and 56.1 µg/m³.

On other pollutants, "Derby City Council have not undertaken any PM10 monitoring since 2013", they "do not currently monitor PM2.5 concentrations and have no plans to do so in the future" and they "do not currently monitor SO2 concentrations and have no plans to do so in the future".

Accidents at Five Lamps

There have been two major accidents at the Five Lamps junction within two weeks – one ending with a car on its roof, the other a car on its side. Both occurred when cars travelling south from Kedleston Road hit vehicles coming from Garden Street north onto Duffield Road. The Council's Traffic Officers are proposing a new set of traffic lights at the junction to ensure traffic coming from Garden Street can only proceed if it has a clear run either north up Duffield Road or the U-turn south back toward the City Centre.



A38 Roadworks

The Council is concerned by the knock on effects of the major updates to the A38 (<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/derby-news/your-say-massive-a38-flyover-1971083>) which are anticipated to start in the next two years. The expectation is that the consequential, wide spread congestion around the A38 works will result in additional traffic on all of the roads north of the City Centre with more people using 'rat-runs' to avoid the resultant queues.

Links to the relevant web pages can be found on the SPRA website: <http://www.strutts.org/>

Darley Ward Councillors

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Call 01332643640/07812 301543

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Martin Repton

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Derby City Council—www.derby.gov.uk

Call 01332640000

Email: customerservices@derby.gov.uk

Contacting Strutt's Park Resident's Association:

by email to: clivelemmon@aol.com

or by post/letterbox to:

SPRA c/o The Secretary, Gaddesby,
78 Belper Road, DE1 3EN

Visit our website www.strutts.org for:

- AGM minutes
 - Past newsletters
 - The Conservation Area Booklet: general advice for those wishing to make alterations to their property
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Flood Defences—Strutt's Park area

After what has seemed an age the landscaping of the local section of the Derwent's flood defences—from the Rowing Club to St Mary's Bridge has now been completed. The workmen have worked tidily and efficiently, cordoning off dangerous or difficult areas over which to walk or cycle. Given the height of the wall the result does look tidy and inviting. Thanks to all who have made this improvement possible.



Work has now moved to the piling on the Chester Green bank of the river. The work forms part of a 13 km stretch of the Derwent with new flood defences being created or existing barriers raised. Council officials believe the work, due to finish in 2022, will reduce the annual risk of flooding from once in 25 years to once in 100 years. On the BBC News 26 February 2016 a Council spokesman stated there is no issue with funding for the scheme although it was admitted its timeframe relies on obtaining planning permission to build defences on sections of land along the river not owned by the authority.

Full details of the plan for the Derby City element of the work can be found in Council's "Our City, Our River—Masterplan" (2013) available on the Council's web site.

Kings Crescent Development

The finishing touches are now being made to the development at Kings Crescent, with work being carried out on the finer details internally. With its sweeping curved Georgian inspired design it stands proudly gracing the sky line, displaying its mix of one and two-bedroom luxury apartments, including penthouse suites and three spacious town houses. Parking for residents is provided by an underground car park.



Some useful contacts:

Police / Fire & Rescue:

Emergency: phone 999 .

Police non-emergency - call 101

Websites: www.derbyshire.police.uk

www.derbys-fire.gov.uk

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

If you need non-urgent medical help/advice phone: 111

SPRA Committee 2019-2020

Acting Chair: Sandra Butcher

Secretary: Clive Lemmon

Treasurer: Joan Dutton

Neighbourhood Board Rep: John Austin

Keen to become involved in caring for your neighbourhood—please join us. (See our contact details on page 3).

Developments on Duffield Road around Queen Mary Court.

Work is now complete in this area of Duffield Road, which sits in the Strutt's Park Conservation area. "Cranfield Lodge" stands proudly in the mix, designed to be in keeping with the neighbouring Victorian houses .



In a private cul-de-sac in Queen Mary Court, these nine three storey townhouses are tastefully landscaped and enjoy the view of Oaklands Lodge, a Victorian house which sits in splendour as a result of careful refurbishment. It is now used as offices.



Cranfield Lodge , Duffield Road



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