



STRUTT'S PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021

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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

Austwick - A Unique Grade II Listed Home

Amongst the houses along the east side of Duffield Road is this magnificent Arts and Crafts property which has retained many of its original features. The current residents, Sandra and Tez, would like to share their joy in this property with you.



The solid engineering brick exterior walls, clad in Harling (a Scottish form of render), have lasted 120 years as have original lead glazed, early Crittall steel windows.

Commissioned by a local resident, the civil engineer J D Robins, and built in 1902, the house is strikingly modern in appearance and exemplifies the Geometric Art Nouveau style of architecture favoured in Europe and pioneered in the UK by C R Mackintosh. The house was designed by the partnership Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin, local architects who are most famous for their role in the design of Letchworth,

the First Garden City.

The interior provides very comfortable living accommodation with four double bedrooms on the first floor, each with its own washbasin and fireplace. Two more double bedrooms on the top floor were originally the servants quarters and one room still has its call bell. The range of call bells in the kitchen still function but, these days, they are unlikely to be answered.



The ground floor's mullioned corner bay windows, set at 45 degrees to the front wall of the house, form feature windows in the two front reception rooms.

Much of the original joinery survives including the splat baluster staircase, glazed hall screen, planked doors with original brass door furniture along with the copper canopied fire hoods on the ground floor fireplaces.

The low archways, deep timber picture rails and internal glazing, (some stained glass) provide a friendly cosy scale for the rooms. The 66 exterior windows ensure all of the rooms are well lit and able to show the splendour of the original internal decoration and the unique architectural design.



Saint Alkmund's Green, Darley Lane

Local residents are trying to rekindle interest in The Green and encourage the City Council to do something positive with it.

At the moment, save for the beautiful mature trees, it is a neglected wasteland prone to fly tipping and vandalism.

For further details on the campaign: www.saintalkmundsgreen.org



SPRA Annual General Meeting

The continuing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic made it impossible to gather for a physical annual meeting for a second year, so on 29 April 2021 we 'met' by *Zoom* with 15 members/residents 'present'. The residents were joined by Cllrs Stanton and Repton, City Council Officers Rebecca Hudson and Sarah Do-sunmu and PPO Alexander McBean who took part in the informal discussion.

After the formal business of the AGM, Joan Dutton reported on the preliminary results of the Residents' Survey (see below). In the informal discussion on the survey, concerns were expressed about bins left on streets, the growth in numbers of Houses in Multiple Occupation, enforcement of the conservation area regulations, dog fouling and the non-availability of electric vehicle charging points. All of these matters are being pursued with the Council by the SPRA committee.

Clive Lemmon

SPRA Survey

Thank you to everyone who took part in our residents survey which ended in April 2021. Helen Pinnock, who prepared the survey questions, has kindly prepared a report on the results and this can be found on the SPRA website. Summarizing the results of the survey:

Strutt's Park residents' value:

- A good physical environment in terms of green space, clean air and infrastructure
- Community spirit
- Access to shops, work, study, and education/childcare

The top priorities for improving the area are:

- Improving the environment: dog mess was cited as a significant problem
- Reducing crime, which is seen as increasing dramatically
- Improvements around parking, traffic and pollution

The issues people would most like the focus on for the area are:

- Reducing crime
- Keeping the area clean/attractive
- Encouraging community spirit/activities

And, for future, residents wanted SPRA to:

- Promote community events/activities and publicize local activities
- Share information on policing initiatives
- Provide news on planning/development enforcement and updating of regulations

SPRA will continue to pursue these areas but most require the City Council for effective action. We will ensure these issues are considered by the Council, in particular through the Neighbourhood Board.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There has been considerable local concern over the numbers of family residences being converted into houses in multiple occupation. Unlike almost all other university towns, Derby does not require planning permission for this type of change in use. SPRA is encouraging the Council's Planning Control Committee to exercise its powers under Article 4 of the Local Government Act to introduce the need for planning permission so that it is able to control the numbers of HMO conversions in areas of the City.

A38 Road Works

On 8 July 2021, the High Court took the decision to quash the Development Consent Order issued by the Department for Transport for the Derby Junctions (A38) scheme. The DCO is the legal document which allows Highways England to undertake the work which would add flyovers to each of Derby's three A38 junctions. This decision will force the Government, if it wishes the work to go ahead, to review its impact assessment, especially of the effect of the changes on the climate and the carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the increased traffic flows.

Several groups submitted evidence to the review, most of which cited environmental concerns as reasons why the scheme should not go ahead. The City and County Council's submissions supported the A38 works, pointing out that the changes will have minimal impact on the Government's overall climate commitments. It isn't clear when a new Development Consent Order might be issued to allow substantive work to begin.

Derby City Council - Darley Neighbourhood Board

The Board includes our councillors, representatives from public services and community organisations - including SPRA. It meets several times a year to discuss local issues and decide on priorities for the area.

Car Parking in Strutt's Park

Parking continues to be an issue in the area. This is highlighted by the majority who voted for residents' only parking in last year's Council survey, although the low number of returns meant the Council decided not to extend the current zone (Arthur Street, Edward Street, North Parade) to the whole of the Strutt's Park area. The results for similar surveys for Cedar, Longford and Sherwin Street and most of Chester Green were sufficient for new schemes to be introduced. SPRA will continue to gauge residents' attitudes on this - in particular the possibility of a limited extension to the current Zone 31 to cover the whole of Arthur Street along with Otter Street., Margaret Street and Milford Street.

New Traffic Lights at Five Lamps

The installation of the additional traffic lights for north bound traffic at the Five Lamps Junction has highlighted the lack of a controlled crossing for access to the north side of Kedleston Road (west side of Duffield Road). The numbers of children from Strutt's Park crossing this very busy junction on the way to and from school make this a particular concern that we hope to pursue through the Neighbourhood Board.

Public Protection Officers

The Public Protection Officers in Derby are assigned to specific wards and act as a named point of contact for local issues such as antisocial behaviour, bins on streets, dog mess, noise, littering and parking offences. The Neighbourhood Board sets their broad local priorities but you can contact the PPOs directly on specific issues - full contact details can be found on the SPRA website.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

As part of its strategy on pollution and congestion, the Government is keen to promote Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. These use a mixture of speed limits, raised junctions, parking controls and restricted access to reduce local traffic. SPRA will be seeking to help the Council prepare a proposal for Strutt's Park ready for submission for Government funding in 2022. We would welcome any comments or suggestions.

Strutt's Park's location makes it ideal for a scheme of this type which would see the whole of the area between the A6 and the river being restricted to local traffic - alleviating the constant problems of parking and rat running through the area and producing a significant improvement in the local environment.

Electric Vehicle Charging

The City Council is piloting the installation of on-street electric vehicle charge points in the Darley area. With many houses in Strutt's Park lacking off-street parking and the ban on new petrol engine cars coming in just eight years there is considerable interest in this pilot scheme and whether some of the EV charge points might be located in Strutt's Park.

The pilot scheme would allow the Council to determine whether residents would prefer a larger number of low charge rate points - typically outside of people's houses - or smaller numbers of high speed charging points at central locations. They also need to decide on the booking process for the charge points and if use should be restricted to local residents. SPRA will be seeking to take forward the provision of EV charging in Strutt's Park either as part of the current pilot scheme or as part of a future initiative.

Planning for the Future. What will happen next?

The 2020 Newsletter included an item outlining the Government's proposals for radical changes to the planning system in England. These met with substantial opposition, not least from influential back-bench Conservative Members of Parliament, and the departure from office of Mr Jenrick, the Secretary of State for Communities, Local Government and Housing has given his successor, Mr Gove, the opportunity to reconsider the proposals. It is not yet clear what changes, if any, will now be made to the planning system, so SPRA will continue to monitor planning applications, particularly those impacting the Conservation Area, whilst keeping an eye open for any new proposals as they are announced.

Clive Lemmon

Strutt's Park's Wildlife

The wildlife in our gardens does seem to be thriving. The Great Tits we normally see have, this year, been displaced by Green Finches. The finches aren't new to our gardens but this year has seen a significant increase in their numbers. They are so beautiful and, for me anyway, much more attractive than their arch enemy, the domestic cat.

A welcome return this year was to a long absent friend, the hedgehog - scurrying across the lawn and through the undergrowth on summer nights - hopefully consuming the slugs in my vegetable plot en route.

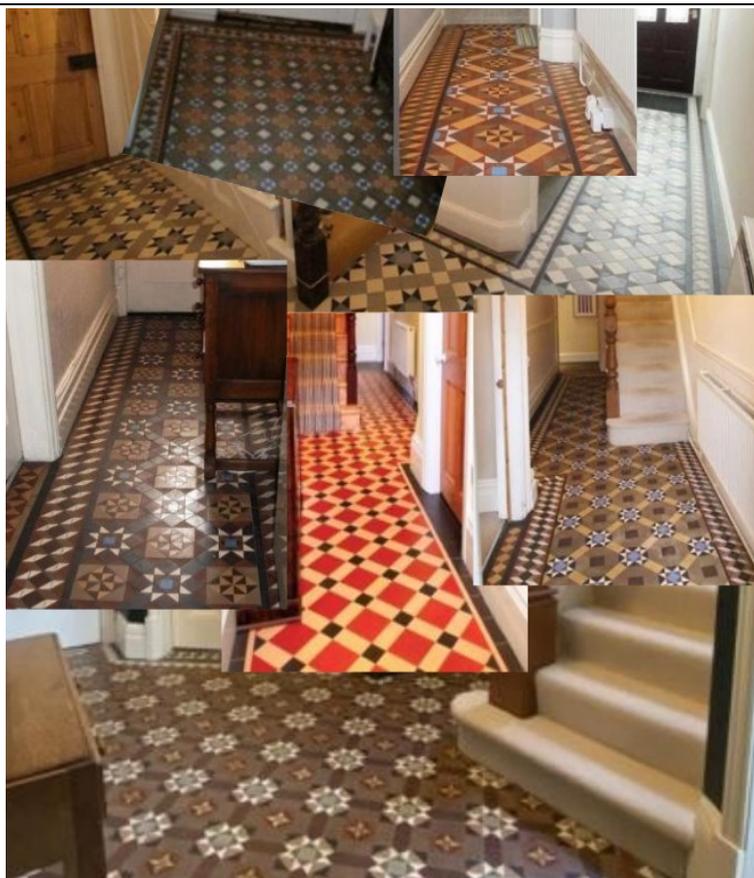
Whilst their sudden movement often surprises me, our resident frogs continue to entertain us. A recent visitor, surrounded by freshly fallen rose petals, remained stationary for long enough for me to snap this lovely image.



Joan Dutton

Underfoot

Tiled hall floors are a feature of many of the houses in Strutt's Park. Courtesy of Right Move, this collage shows the variety of designs enjoyed by the households who walk over them every day. They highlight the rich internal features of many properties in the area.



Our Local Friendly Community Group

The Strutt's Park Community Facebook page covers day to day local news and issues. The Group encourages and supports people to create their own groups, clubs and activities. They are non-profit, non-religious and non-political.

The Group's Facebook page provides an excellent opportunity to discover what is going on locally and raise issues important to you, so get involved.

SPRA Committee 2021 - 2022

Acting Chair: Sandra Butcher

Secretary: Clive Lemmon

Treasurer: Joan Dutton

Graham Lobb

Neighbourhood Board Rep: Ian Eperson

Darley Ward Councillors

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Or 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
- National Organization of Residents Association (NORA) newsletters
- Further details on many of the items in this newsletter.

GET INVOLVED - YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU