



The Green Scene

Issue 21

The newsletter of the Seacroft Green Residents Association

Spring 2013

Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Seacroft Gala Committee would like to say a huge **“thank you”** to all our contributors for the generous financial support which we received towards the organisation of last year’s Gala/Christmas event.

Because the summer gala had to be cancelled due to the terrible weather, it was agreed that even more planning would be put into the Christmas event and I am sure you will agree that these plans really paid off!

Undoubtedly, without the generous amount of grant funding we received, it would not have been possible to organise an event of this size.

Therefore, acknowledgements and thanks go to:

- Sports Relief Community Cash
- Wellbeing Fund via LCC Area Management
- Community First
- Leeds Inspired
- Trinity Community Fund (Christmas tree)
- ENEHL (Christmas tree)

In addition we send our grateful thanks to the following local supermarket store managers for their extremely kind donations of mince pies:

- Gary at Asda, Killingbeck
- Nick at Aldi, Seacroft
- Mike at Sainsbury’s, Colton



Read more from Readmore

As with other previous events, we sent our ‘intrepid reporter’ Readmore Daley, out among the crowds at the Seacroft Christmas Jubilee Gala to get the ‘low down’ on people’s thoughts. Just a few of the attendees are quoted here:

Cllr. Brian Selby - Killingbeck and Seacroft Ward.
“Congratulations on a very successful gala. I am sure everyone involved will be delighted with the outcome”

Pamela Greene - Seacroft.
“My children were really disappointed that the summer gala had to be cancelled, but this event has made up for that. It has been a great community event”.

Michael Prentice - Seacroft.
“What a good idea to hold the gala indoors this year. It worked very well with it being in the different venues as they were so close together. However, it was a bit crowded in the Village Hall when we went there but we were advised to visit somewhere else and then come back later, so we did and this worked out ok”.

Stephanie Brightman - Whinmoor.
“What a brilliant show of community involvement. We don’t have anything like this in our area”.

Josh Bently - Seacroft
“This is a cool gala. I’ve already won two prizes and am going over the road to see if I can win some more!”

Kylie Porter - Seacroft
“I enjoyed being in the church and singing in the choir. My mum and dad looked really pleased. I had a free mince pie and made a crown. My little sister got a skipping rope from Santa”.

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SEACROFT GALA COMMITTEE

The gala committee held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12th February and we thank all those people who attended.

The usual AGM business was briskly undertaken - with the submission of the Chair's annual report and the adoption of the financial accounts for 2012.

(If you would like to receive a copy of these, they are available from the secretary. Just email Joanne at: jo@ls14trust.org.uk)

A new gala committee for 2013 was then elected.

Nicola Greenan, who has undertaken the role of the Chair for the past two years and has done a 'sterling job', decided to stand down as Chair this year. However, Nicola was re-elected to remain on the committee as Vice Chair.

Lily Woods, who previously served as Vice Chair, also stood down and resigned from the committee. Lily was thanked in her absence, for all the hard work she has dedicated to the gala over previous years.

The new Chairperson's role will now be shared between Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith and Rev. Mike Benwell.

The full list of members elected to the Gala Committee is as follows:

Joint Chair

Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith and Rev. Mike Benwell

Vice Chair - Nicola Greenan

Secretary - Joanne Curtis

Treasurer - Diane Marsden

Health & Safety Officer - Mick Firth

Plus additional committee members:

Councillor Vonnie Morgan

Shaun Cohen

Linda Goodall

Donna Templeman

Viv Gibbons

A representative from Space2

The date for this year's gala is
SATURDAY 6th July
12.00 to 4.00pm

Following last year's disappointment at having to cancel the gala due to the atrocious weather, contingencies have now been put in place to ensure that, in the event of similar weather conditions, this year's gala will still go ahead.

By using the model of the Seacroft Christmas Jubilee Gala and transferring the event indoors, we will still be able to present the gala, albeit on a reduced scale.

Arts Council

agrees £327,000 for chapELFM

The grand total of £880,000 means the project can move ahead in style.

As we plan to celebrate the first 10 years of community radio in East Leeds this summer, we will also be working hard on an investment which should mean great things for the next decade of community arts work.

We now have all the funding secured; planning permission agreed and permissions in place from the Methodist Church so that we will be able to save Seacroft Methodist Chapel from further decay and create the first-ever dedicated arts venue in East Leeds!

For more information, our press release and an opportunity to have a look through the plans - *which include the only live room in the country complete with its own 19th Century organ* - then have a look at the news post on the Heads Together website.

And one more thing...

This has been a team effort. A vast number of people have been involved over the last four years at the Chapel - **so thanks to all of you.**

This is brilliant news! Yet another positive redevelopment project earmarked for our neighbourhood. Editor.

SEACROFT BOOK CLUB

We meet at 7.30pm on the last Thursday in the month at:
The Barn, Mayfield Farm,
69 The Green, Seacroft.
We get together, informally, over a cuppa, to discuss the latest book.

It's a great way to meet other people who also enjoy reading. Why not come and join us? New members welcome.

For more information ring:

Anna on 0785 5322 565



SEACROFT GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Who's who on the committee?

Lily Woods	Chair	26 The Green
Ann Little	Vice Chair	4 Church Approach
Rita Berry	Treasurer	51 The Green
Diane Marsden	Secretary	49 The Green
Christine Bandawe		St. James Church
Roger Berry		51 The Green
Janet Cordwell		1053 York Road
Mick Firth		5 Courtney's
Tim Jones		44 The Green
Keith Nichols	Mayfield Farm	69 The Green
Thelma Sierwald		28 The Green
John Wheatley		34 Hansby Place

If you wish to contact the committee you can either phone the Chair on: **07951785845** or alternatively contact the secretary by email at: marsden858@btinternet.com

You can find out more about us at: www.seacroftgreen.org.uk

VACANCIES: We currently have two vacancies on the residents association committee. Are YOU interested in joining us? We always meet locally, approximately every six weeks, to discuss and plan for future events, agree actions for improving the local area and generally have a good 'chin wag'! Committee members are able to contribute as much or as little as they can - we don't 'twist arms' or 'railroad' folk - so why not think about it? You too could help to make a difference!

If you would like more information about becoming a committee member, you can contact either the Chair or the secretary using the contact details above.

CONDOLENCES: Members of the committee would like to express our condolences to the families of **Mavis Milnes** and **Alan Noble** who both sadly passed away before Christmas. Mavis, a local resident, was also a past member of the committee in the early days, whilst Alan was a great supporter of the association and kindly allowed us to reprint his booklet, '**Memories of Old Seacroft**' which was serialised in previous newsletters.

We will remember both with affection.

Editor.

Maureen Phillips - Scholes.

"I came with my sister and can't believe the number of people who have turned out to come here today. I have spoken to a few families and they have all said how much they look forward to the gala and I think that's because they feel it's a Seacroft event and it really belongs to them!"

Jamie and Sarah Potts - Gipton.

"We really came to get our dog Buster micro-chipped as we heard it was free. We couldn't have afforded to have it done otherwise. But we have had a cracking time and enjoyed all the different things going on, particularly the free mice pies and mulled wine!"

Sophie Jackson (aged 4) - Seacroft.

"I liked the fairy on legs. She was very tall!"

Callum Smith - Seacroft.

"I liked the dressed up dogs. One had a hoodie on. It looked like it could have had an ASBO!"

Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith - St. James Church.

"What a fabulous event - loads of people said how much they'd enjoyed it".

Cheryl Mason - Seacroft.

"The organisers need to be given credit for such a great gala. It has been a very enjoyable afternoon and the children singing in the choirs were wonderful. Not a dry eye in the place!"

The Bilton family - Seacroft.

"The stalls were great and there was lots of cheap ways to win prizes which I thought was good. Nothing was too expensive and there was also a lot of free stuff and this is a good way to keep the kids happy. My lot had a mince pie in each place! It was a good idea to have a café in the Methodist Church Hall as by the time we got there, my mum was well ready for a cup of tea and a sit down!"

Martin and Joan Dawson - Seacroft.

"This was our first gala having only moved into the area recently. We were very impressed with the community spirit and really felt as if we were part of something. We enjoyed the music and entertainment in the Village Hall pub when we popped in for a pint".

As always, we need to say thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation of the gala and needless to say, we are 'chuffed to bits' to have received so many positive comments.

If you would like to join the Gala Committee or get involved in the planning of the next gala, please contact the new Chair, Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith on: telephone 0113 2733 555 or email at fiona@seacroftparish.org.uk

Campanologist – would YOU like to be one?

Campanologist? That's a 'bell-ringer' to you and me!

But would you believe it, our own community church, St. James' on Seacroft Green, doesn't have its own team? It's got the bells, but not the ringers and has to bring in other campanologists from elsewhere to ring for weddings, festivals and other events.

Now we think a community church needs community ringers - so we are looking for a small enthusiastic and committed team of people, young or old, who would like to learn the art of bell-ringing.

Is this YOU? If so, please contact:

Rev. Fiona Harrison-Smith
on 0113 2733 555

or email: fiona@seacroftparish.org.uk

How NOT to catch a cold

by Judith Marsden

One of the most effective ways to help you NOT catch a cold is to - **cut back on sugar!** Although we like it a lot, sugar is actually bad for us.

Why? Well for starters, just one teaspoon of sugar can suppress your immune function for up to seven hours. A suppressed and therefore compromised immune system is not going to be able to fight off that cold or flu bug!

Recent statistics indicate that the average person consumes between 150 and 170 pounds of sugar per year! Just how many teaspoons is that?

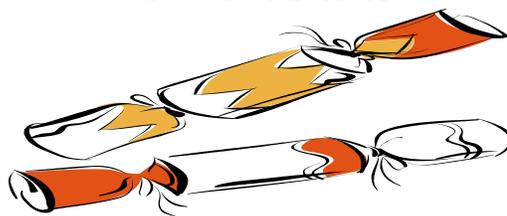
Sugar has no nutritional value whatsoever. It's just empty calories and lots of them! Sugar is hidden in ALL processed foods, ready meals, juices, even bread! Just check out the labels next time you shop; you will find that sugar is usually near the top of the list.

So take stock of how much sugar you consume and help your immune system fight back by eating less processed foods. You can start by adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet, along with good quality meats and fats. This "true" food diet will help boost your immune function and you might even lose a few pounds in the process!

Judith is a CHEK certified Holistic Lifestyle Coach, an Advanced Metabolic Typing Adviser and Functional Diagnostic Nutritionist.

For more information visit: www.twistedanatomy.com

It's a cracker!



Just what is it about Christmas cracker jokes?
We either love them or hate them!

Here are a few favourites collected by the editor over the Christmas period.

**A bottle of lemonade fell on a barman's head.
Why wasn't he hurt?**
It was a soft drink!

How do frogs send messages to each other?
They use Morse toad!

Why did the baker get an electric shock?
He stood on a bun and a current ran up his leg!

Why don't elephants like penguins?
They can't get the wrappers off!

Who was the father of the Black Prince?
Old King Cole!

Where would you weigh a whale?
At a whale weigh station!

Why can't a man's head be 12 inches wide?
Because it would be a foot!

How do you start a pudding race?
Sago!

How do you start a jelly race?
Get set!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the dance?
He had no body to go with!

What do you give a sick lemon?
Lemonade!

What animal do you look like in the shower?
A little bear!

Why couldn't the elephants go swimming?
They only had one pair of trunks between them!

Boom Boom! *The things I have to do to keep our readers amused!*
Editor.

Seacroft Grange

My story by Eric Hives

Isn't it good to see Seacroft Grange finally being restored? This beautiful building was my school from 1955 to 1962. I no longer live in the area now, but I return to Seacroft on a regular basis. I have many photographs of the Grange that I took in 1982, right up to the present day and I have made a scale drawing of the ground floor and also have a roof plan.

A while back, I came over from my home near Wetherby, with my ladders and gave the coat of arms over the east door, several coats of stone preserver as it was beginning to deteriorate badly. I would proudly tell anyone that I met on my visits, that this fine old building had once been my school. It seems to have become a bit of an obsession!

Seacroft Grange had been boarded up and empty for at least 18 years and was in a very sorry state. This saddened me as it did many other people and when Springfield Healthcare announced that they wanted to 'save' the Grange and develop the site, everyone was delighted. However, there were so many false starts and by 2011 the building was deteriorating rapidly.

Then one day, when the boarded up doors had been forced open yet again, I decided that I would go into the building myself and have a look around. I hadn't been inside for almost 50 years!

So in September 2011, I left my wife outside in the car and told her that if I didn't return within an hour, to immediately contact the police! I acknowledge that it was risky and probably a quite foolish thing to do - but there you go!

With my oldest clothes on and a good torch, I very nervously edged my way inside! After a few yards, apart from my torch, I was in total darkness as all the windows were boarded up. However, I was extremely shocked to see what an absolute mess the interior was in. There was plenty of evidence of other people getting inside, including discarded needles and other drug related items, empty alcohol cans and bottles, discarded clothing and human waste!

Most of the upper floor had gone. So the roof was visible. Some of the huge oak beams had collapsed and there was lots of charred timber where fires had been started. Large areas of the ground floor had given way and there was rubble everywhere.

The feral pigeons began flying around as I disturbed them and their droppings were piled high on the ground below where they roosted. In addition, lots of dead pigeons in various states of decay littered the floor.

Fireplaces had been stripped out and stolen, the walls were covered in peeling paintwork, showing colour after colour from the many years of painting. All in all it was a sad and disgusting sight! My only fear though, was that I would bump into some 'undesirable' and I decided that if I did, I would not speak, but quickly leave. Luckily, the only company I had on this occasion were the pigeons!

I explored all the ground floor rooms, around 11 in total. I also went down the stone steps into the cellar! I was very nervous and said to myself, "Eric, are you mad?" I didn't get an answer!

In total I spent around 50 minutes inside and I felt quite relieved to come out into the daylight. I felt that what I had just seen was surreal. All my childhood memories had been of happy children, noisily playing and running around inside. Now it was eerily silent!

As I lay in bed that night, my mind was racing. I felt annoyed and disgusted that Seacroft Grange had been allowed to get in to such a sorry state. This beautiful 17th century Grade II listed building was a wreck and no one in authority seemed to care!

From what I had seen I was convinced that the Grange was beyond saving; that it would either fall down or have to be demolished as this is what had happened to Seacroft Hall, which was lost forever in 1953/4, without any proper historical records being made.

I decided then that I would go back into Seacroft Grange and make a proper photographic record of the building, but rather than go alone and for a bit of security, I decided to 'enlist' a friend to accompany me. The very next day I rang the 'lucky person' I had nominated and after I explained my plan to him, he told me I was "crazy" and quickly declined!

Undaunted, I decided that my friend Simon would be 'up for it' as I had known him for many years and he liked a bit of 'adventure'! Just a few days later we went together into the Grange and this time I was much more relaxed. I took lots of photographs and we explored every 'nook and cranny'! We eventually came out and I thanked Simon for his support. He had enjoyed the 'adventure' but wasn't really interested in going in again. I was though!

Once I get my teeth into something, there are no half measures and I had to decide on my next 'lucky' accomplice. I quickly thought of my oldest friend, Graham. We have known each other since we were four years old when we both started school at the Grange together in 1955. I rang him in early October 2011 and within an hour we were inside!

Eric Hives. To be continued in the next issue.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O
P Q R S U V W X Y Z

New Alphabet

A is for apple and B is for boat,
That used to be right, but now it won't float.

Age before beauty is what we once said,
But let's be a bit more realistic instead!

A's for arthritis; B's a bad back,
C's for the chest pains, perhaps cardiac?

D is for dental decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, can't read the top line!

F is for fissures and fluid retention,
G is for gas which we'd rather not mention.

H for high blood pressure, we'd rather have low,
I's for incisions with scars we can't show!

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when we bend.

L's for libido, what happened to sex?
M is for memory; we forgot what comes next!

N's for neuralgia, in nerves way down low,
O is for osteo, bones that don't grow.

P's for prescriptions, we have quite a few,
Just give us the pills and we'll be good as new!

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?
R is for reflux, with one meal or two.

S is for sleepless nights; counting our fears,
T is for tinnitus and bells in our ears!

U is for unary; troubles with flow,
V is for vertigo, that's dizzy you know!

W's for worry, now that's going round,
X is for X-ray and what might be found.

Y's for another year that we're left behind,
But Z is for zest, do we still have our mind?

Now here's the good news!

We've survived the symptoms our body's deployed,
And we're keeping twenty six doctors employed!

*Thanks to Janet Cordwell who found this on the internet
and decided to share it with us all!*

*If you have any similar - poems, jokes or stories that you
think we would enjoy, please send them to the editor via the
secretary at the email address on page 3.*

Hanging Baskets



The residents association continues to look at ways of providing hanging baskets on the lamp posts around the village green.

There are 14 lamp posts with suitable double hanging brackets which would mean we would be aiming for 28 baskets in total!

We have received a costing from LCC parks dept. which covers the provision of the planted baskets, a secure tamper proof fitting to the lamp posts and feeding and watering throughout the summer period.

Unfortunately the total cost of providing the baskets is in excess of £2,000 and this would be prohibitive to the residents association without grant funding and/or sponsorship and this is currently being pursued.

Therefore, we would like to offer the opportunity for individual families or local businesses to sponsor a basket. A name plate would be added to the basket to identify the sponsor.

This is done in other areas such as Scholes and Barwick as part of their 'in bloom' season and the baskets always look fresh and attractive.

If you are interested in supporting this project or would like more information on costs etc. please contact the secretary in the first instance.

Full details can be found on page 3.

Church Information

St. James Church, Seacroft Green

Sunday worship - every Sunday at 10.00am.

All ages are welcome.

Little Angels under 5s and carers group - every Wednesday at 1.00pm. during term time.

For more information go to
www.seacroftparish.org.uk

Seacroft Literature and Art Society



The Seacroft Literature and Art Society held their first Festival early in November last year and it proved to be quite successful. The events were held in a variety of venues around the area. It is hoped we will have another festival this year.

The writing competitions had some interesting entries and the winners of the Neil Walker Memorial Prizes were:

Childrens Story:

Amy Lawrence and **Emma Flay** were joint winners

Adult Story: **Martin Harrison-Smith**

Veteran Story: **Rita Smith**

Adult Poetry: **David Walton**

We hope that there will be more entries next year.

The society meets each Tuesday at the North Seacroft Community Centre, Kentmere Avenue, from 1.00pm to 3.00pm and all are welcome

Bill Askin and Geraldine Beattie

I.N.I.T.I.A.L. ENCOUNTER

What is it with initials? Why do we all speak this way? Do we know what the initials used actually refer to? NO? Well here are some 'regulars' oft used in local publications (*this one included!*).

- **LCC** - Leeds City Council
- **PACT** - Partners and Communities Together
- **ENEHL** - East North East Homes Leeds
- **CLT** - Community Leadership Team
- **NIP** - Neighbourhood Improvement Plan
- **NEET** - Not In Education Employment or Training
- **POCA** - Proceeds Of Crime Act
- **LTF** - Leeds Tenants Federation
- **VAL** - Voluntary Action Leeds
- **AGM** - Annual General Meeting
- **SSFN** - South Seacroft Friends and Neighbours
- **SGRA** - Seacroft Green Residents Association

If you know of any more, do let us know.

Editor.

Did you see?

Did you see - the Community Payback Team clearing the notorious 'grime' area at the top of the ginnel behind St. James Church?

This particular eyesore has been an on-going issue for the residents association as the area has been used for many years as a drinking and drugs den, a toilet and a general dumping ground for rubbish and litter.

Now, thanks to the work of Paul Hodges and the team at ENEHL, the area has finally been cleared and is to be fenced off to avoid it becoming an eyesore once again.

Did you hear?

Did you hear - Lily Woods, the Chair of the residents association, responding to Mark Burns-Williamson, the new Police and Crime Commissioner, during a phone in on Radio Leeds in January?

The subject under discussion was the 'proceeds of crime' and Lily phoned in to emphasise the view that *all* proceeds of crime funding should be returned to the police and not as it currently stands, with a large percentage going directly to the government.

Lily stressed that the local police force should be able to benefit directly from their own achievements with regard to apprehending local criminals and increasing crime reduction rates.

Where do you think the money should go? Why not write and tell us your views?

Did you know?

Did you know - it is now an offence to allow a dog to roam?

Dog control orders came into effect last year, under section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, making it illegal to allow dogs off their lead on footpaths and verges adjacent to roads.

Any unaccompanied dog should be reported to LCC Dog Warden by contacting them at: eneaction@leeds.gov.uk

Overheard in the park...

"I've warned you before, if you fall out of that tree and break a leg young man, don't come running to me!!"

Let's talk about Walkabout!

Our readers may or not be aware that on a three-monthly basis at least one representative of the residents association joins up with Paul Hodges, Housing Support Officer for ENEHL, to undertake a 'walkabout' around the area. The purpose of the walkabout is to highlight any issues raised by residents and/or identify things that may require attention.

Some examples of work identified and dealt with over recent months include:

- The replacement of a missing drain cover and some resurfacing of sunken tarmac on a footpath in Hansby Place.
- Graffiti removed from communication boxes and litter bins.
- Clearing of rubbish from the ginnel behind St James Church.
- Repair of litter bin adjacent to footpath on The Green.
- Removal of dangerous defunct street sign post adjacent to 51 the Green.

When taken individually, these examples appear small, but if left unattended for any length of time would pose significant health and safety issues - not to say, make the area look untidy and uncared for!

Therefore, the walkabout is a very useful exercise and allows the residents association, working in close partnership with ENEHL, to keep the area looking good at all times.

If you have issues you would like to bring to our attention, just contact the Chair or the secretary. Details on page 3

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jennie Reeve - who was the lucky winner of a £50 shopping voucher for Asda. Jennie, who lives on Inglewood Drive, attended the Christmas Jubilee Gala and managed to get all the venues stamped on her programme which was then entered into the prize draw. Well done Jennie, we hope you spent it well!

Just prior to going to print:-

We were informed of the sad death of another local resident (**Councillor**) **Suzi Armitage** whose funeral was held at St James Church on Monday 25th February. The residents association therefore, wish to send condolences to Suzi's husband Terry, step-son Ben and all her family.

Seacroft Area PACT meetings. (Partners and Communities Together)

The meetings are held every six weeks at Seacroft Village Hall - 6.30pm. to 7.30pm.

The purpose of each PACT meeting is to give YOU the opportunity to meet your local police officers and to voice any concerns you may have about issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour.

As local authority and police budgets are reduced, this could impact on the funding made available to police the area. Therefore, your regular input in PACT meetings is important.

Forthcoming PACT meetings for 2013

Thursday 7th March 2013
Thursday 18th April 2013
Thursday 30th May 2013

NPT Facebook live:-

Killingbeck and Seacroft NPT are now live on Facebook. If you 'Like' our page you can follow what your local team has been up to and what's been happening in your area.

For the latest news & updates go to:

[@WestYorksPolice/Facebook-WestYorkshirePolice](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/north-east-leeds)

Don't forget:

Burglaries increase when it gets dark. Light up, lock up, be secure - it only takes a minute!

Phillip Haigh - Neighbourhood Policing Support

Don't drop it - just bin it!

Two new litter bins have been provided in the ever increasing effort to keep the local neighbourhood tidy.

The new bins have been positioned - one outside the Best One shop on York Road and - one at the end of the pathway leading past Mayfield Farm and on to Redmire Drive.

Both areas have been local 'hot spots' for litter in the past and so hopefully, with the extra provision, the widespread littering just might be reduced!

The Green Scene is published four times a year in March, June, September and December. Any articles or items for inclusion in the next issue need to be with the editor by the middle of May 2013.