

STIRCHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM NEWSLETTER

SPRING/
SUMMER 2010



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We try to invite six guests a year to our meetings, to speak on a wide range of subjects, mostly with the residents of Stirchley in mind.

We are now in the early stages of planning the next Stirchley fun day, which this year will be held on, Saturday September 11th



CAROL SINGERS

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

HELLO, AND WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE STIRCHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM NEWSLETTER.

WE start our year in October beginning with our AGM.

We try to invite six guests a year to our meetings, to speak on a wide range of subjects, mostly with the residents of Stirchley in mind.

The Forum had a busy year, what with helping to organise the very successful Stirchley Community School open day, as well as helping to organise the Carol Service & Christmas lights switch on in December.

Unfortunately, we have heard that the Christmas lights were stolen off the Christmas tree & the tree has been damaged to such an extent, that it will have to come down.

We are now in the early stage of



WE MEET EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT STIRCHLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 7.30PM

planning the next Stirchley fun day, which this year will be held on, Saturday September 11th.

We would like to see more residents come along to our regular monthly meetings (future dates are on the back page)

I would also like to see

more residents, particularly from the Dads Lane Estate and Pineapple Estate. As I feel that these areas are particularly under represented.

Your local councillors & community police along with ward officers come to these meetings, ready to answer your questions.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

(FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 09)

Typically, the weather remained dry until around one hour before we were due to begin, to celebrate the turning on of the Christmas lights in Stirchley Village. But did this put us off? No, Around 70 residents came

along & joined in with the carol singing, Pastor Gary Cadge & his choir led for the first half hour, then four local youths came along with their Brass instruments and led for the final half hour.

Afterwards we all had a hot drink and cakes & Mince pies,

provided by our local Co-op along with a member of staff to help Serve the Hungry Hoards. The forum would like to thank both Karen Stevens & Councillor Nigel Dawkins for help organising the event and for help with funding.



Christmas Carol Concert
in Stirchley



New Climbing Area
Hazelwell park

I am Sergeant Isobel Knowles. I lead a team of officers who regularly patrol and work in Stirchley and neighbouring Kings Heath South. I have been working in Stirchley for the past three years and I am always impressed at the hard working and community minded people who make up this neighbourhood.



SGT KNOWLES & THE
COMMUNITY POLICE

MATTHEW POWELL

(Town Centre Manager for Stirchley, Selly Oak and Cotteridge)

Matthew commenced his presentation by giving a brief run down of his career in Retail Management and Local Government Management within Cornwall and the Bristol Areas. The Role of the



MATTHEW POWELL

Town Centre Manager is to represent the Local Business community, drive forward various initiatives and act as a champion for the area.

The post has been funded from the Working Neighbourhood Fund for a period of 18 months and is designed to target the local area rather than the city centre. Local Priorities will be established, to improve the retail environment and support local businesses, particular issues in Stirchley being;

Empty retail units, lack of local investment, the on going "store wars" regarding the old BT site on Hunts Road. Marketing advice can be given

and it may be advantageous if some units were to have a change of use as this might bring some units back into use.

Council grants might be available to assist this. The plan so far is to meet the local traders to establish a form of "local traders association" to enable targets to be set and put an infrastructure in place for the future and enable a long term view to be taken.

What kind of shops would like to see in Stirchley?

LOCAL POLICE BOUNDARY CHANGES

Iwould like to introduce myself. I am Sergeant Isobel Knowles. I lead a team of officers who regularly patrol and work in Stirchley and neighbouring Kings Heath South. I have been working in Stirchley for the past three years and I am always impressed at the hard working and community minded people who make up this neighbourhood. Some of you may have heard that police boundaries are to change. From April 2010 Stirchley will be policed from Bournville Lane Police Station. The neighbourhood teams will be aligned to the council ward boundaries within council constituencies. This means Stirchley neighbourhood team will be joining up with neighbourhood officers from Bournville Lane Police Station to become the Bournville Ward Police Neighbourhood Team, covering Bournville, Cotteridge and Stirchley. We will work closely with officers covering the other three wards within Selly Oak Constituency. The move will give us more resilience to be available when we are needed within the Bournville Ward. It will also assist in our partnership work with the council and make us more effective in dealing with local issues.

If you would like to know more about changes to policing in your area or you have any policing concerns or issues that you feel we could help you with or even if you just want to get to know us better we are always willing to come and visit you, or you can call me on the below telephone number. You can also meet us at one of our monthly neighbourhood tasking meetings. These meetings are for the local community to bring issues to a panel of police, local Councillors and council staff. We take your priorities and work together with yourselves to address and resolve problems in your neighbourhood. Issues we have addressed in the past year in Stirchley have included anti social behaviour, graffiti, speeding, inconsiderate parking, litter and fly tipping to name just a few. We also hold regular daytime PCSO surgeries in Stirchley and one of us attends all Stirchley Forum meetings. We will continue to be available for you at all of these venues after April

Details of neighbourhood tasking meetings, PCSO surgeries, crime figures for your area, local priorities and feedback can be found on the police web site

www.west-midlands.police.uk/kingsheath. I also supply a written monthly feedback on neighbourhood issues by email or post to anyone who asks. Just drop me a line by email or a message on the voicemail with your details.

It has been a pleasure working with, and for, the people of Stirchley and I hope to continue to do so for some time to come.

Yours Sincerely

Sergeant Isobel Knowles

Email stirchley@west-midlands.police.pnn.co.uk

HAZELWELL PARK PLAY AREA OFFICIAL OPENING

Thursday 11th March at 4.pm

Today saw the official opening of the new play area in Hazelwell park.

Councillor Nigel Dawkins officially opened the new play area today and even though it was short notice around 50 residents and more importantly their children came along to mark the occasion.

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum has been campaigning for many years for an improved play area in Stirchley, along with Friends of Hazelwell park.

There is a new rock climbing area with a rope bridge and scrambling net, along with new swings.

The children soon took to the climbing area with great enthusiasm.

The cost of the project was over fifty thousand pounds and along with the spring bulb planting organised by the friends of Hazelwell park, we are starting to see signs of great improvement in the park. There are more activities expected in the park in the coming months.

Look out for the thousands of spring bulbs that have been



NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT IN HAZELWELL PARK

planted by, the Friends of Hazelwell Park

See website for details.



THREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



NEW SWINGS



THIS IS HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

STIRCHLEY HAPPENINGS

Hello, we are Stirchley Happenings: a group of residents who are committed to making a difference in Stirchley. A fledgling organisation, our first project was a litter-pick on the patch of land adjacent to the Bourn, on the corner of Sparrey Drive, Ribblesdale Road and Bond Street. Although it was a

blustery, wet and cold day, 11 committed residents worked against the elements, helping to fill 28 bags of recyclable and household waste. Two people even gave up part of their birthdays to join in!

We would like to thank the participating residents for their spirit, and enthusiasm, Selly Oak Constituency Staff for the loan of the litter-

picking equipment and Birmingham Environmental Partnership for their support.



STIRCHLEY HAPPENINGS

Hello, we are Stirchley Happenings: a group of local residents who are committed to making a difference in Stirchley.

STREET CHAMPIONS

Monday 8th March saw Andrea Holmes manager of Street champions, come and talk to around 50 residents about the role of a street champion, and how they can improve the quality of their neighbourhood. The scheme is where a resident, accepts the responsibility for their local area, whether it be just their road or a wider area, By this they mean, should you

see anything that isn't quite right, for example, fly tipping or graffiti or even a street light not working. You would have a free phone number where you could report the fault. Although the scheme began a couple of years ago, it didn't get off to a very good start.



Andrea Holmes & Jeremy Shields

Washwood Heath Road, Birmingham B8 2HB 0121 303 2846

But Andrea is confident that the problems of the past, have now been overcome. Street Champions

C/o Dolphin Centre, Ward End Park,



ANDREA HOLMES STREET CHAMPIONS



AROUND 50 LOCAL RESIDENTS CAME TO THE MEETING

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

c/o Stirchley Community Centre
1326 Pershore Road
Stirchley
Birmingham
B30 2XS

07551 481 4559
stirchleynf@googlemail.com
www.stirchley.co.uk/neighbourhood_forum

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.STIRCHLEY.CO.
UK

HELP TO MAKE A
BETTER
STIRCHLEY



FUTURE MEETING DATES

MONDAY APRIL 12TH

MONDAY MAY 10TH
(STIRCHLEY
COMMUNITY CHURCH)

MONDAY JUNE 14TH

MONDAY JULY 12TH

MONDAY AUGUST
9TH

MONDAY SEPTEMBER
13TH

MONDAY OCTOBER
11TH
(ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING, STIRCHLEY
COMMUNITY CHURCH)

Useful Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles, Bulky Waste Collections, Recycling and Waste Management	303 1112
BASBU (Birmingham Anti Social Behaviour Unit)	303 1111
Bournville Environmental Warden	464 9764
Bournville Ward Support Officer	303 8738
Constituency Engineer	464 2781
constituency Street Scene Officer	464 9762
Contact Birmingham (the Council's contact centre)	303 1111
Cotteridge Neighbourhood Office	303 4950
Housing Repairs	0800 0736688
Library, Stirchley	464 1534
Parks	454 7810
Planning	303 1115
Police	0845 1135000
Rats/Pest Control	303 6007
Rivers, Brooks and Streams	303 7235
Road and Pavements potholes - repairs and maintenance	303 6644
Roads - damage/obstructions/flooding (out of hours)	303 4149
Selly Oak Constituency Office	464 9072
Stirchley Community Centre	464 0886
Street Lighting Queries	303 6000
Town Centre Manager (Stirchley & Cotteridge)	464 2780
Trees	464 8728
Stirchley neighbourhood forum	07514814559
Friends of Hazelwell park	079 802729 40

The next Stirchley fun day will be held on Saturday September 11th from 12 noon until 4pm.

We had an excellent day last year, despite the worst of the weather, this time we hope to make it even better.

What with duck races, bouncy castles, face painting and a tombola and raffle you couldn't help but to have fun.

Do you know of any charities, who would like to have a free table in September or any local group who would like to put on a display in the arena? Or maybe a dance group who would like to put on a performance and hopefully attract more members for their group. Would you like to lend a hand

on the day? Or just donate a prize for the raffle or tombola. Once again, we will be asking local business's to support us



Stirchley Funday

by sponsoring the duck races and raffle.

Can you suggest something that you felt was missing from last years event?

To make a suggestion, either leave a message on the forum boards at www.stirchley.co.uk

Or email me at:
stirchleynf@googlemail.com
Or phone and leave a message on:0751 481 4559.

Or alternatively leave a letter at the community centre marked for the attention of Peter Walker, Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum, or better still, come to a forum meeting, dates in the column on the left side of the page.

So put the date in your diary and bring the children and grand children for a great day out.

So lets hope for a little more sunshine this year
I would like to thank all the Traders of Stirchley for the generosity last year and hope that in the present economic climate that they will be able to do so for this years event.