

SUDLEY AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SARA Hall, Rundle Road, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 0AQ

Registered Charity No. 508950

Newsletter

August 2011 Issue 24



Serving the community since 1977

WHAT'S ON AT SARA HALL

COFFEE MORNING AND BOOK SALE

WEDNESDAY 31st AUGUST 2011. 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Drop in for a coffee, a chat and browse our selection of paperback books. At 25p each they must be the cheapest around.

Special offer of 5 for £1

All proceeds to SARA's Charity of the Year, KIND

Residents who've never been to SARA Hall will be made particularly welcome - come along and see what's on offer

THE SREEPUR VILLAGE ORPHANAGE & WOMEN'S REFUGE

FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2011 at 7.30 pm . Tickets: £2.50

Ruby Porter, will give us a flavour of the work she has undertaken with destitute women and children in Bangladesh over the last 20+ years which has earned her a well deserved MBE.

Call SARA on 726 0805 (answerphone)

GOVERNESS TO THE CHILDREN OF THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI (PART 2)

FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER 2011 at 7.30 pm. Tickets £2.50

Norma Walmsley returns to continue her recollections of her time in the service of one of the richest men in the world.

Call SARA on 726 0805 (answerphone)

ONGOING ACTIVITIES AT THE HALL

SARA Hall has a very comprehensive programme of activities on offer. From babies to the more mature amongst us, there is something for everyone.

Please have a look at the back page where you will find details of the remaining day trips for this year. These are extremely popular so if you are interested, please make a note of the booking date and make sure you phone the Hall as early as possible that day to ensure you get your seat(s).

Dates of the Film Nights are listed (please phone for details of films). The film nights are free and everyone is welcome. Dates of the Table Sales until the end of the year are also listed. Come along and grab a bargain!

A weekly programme of events is given and while many of the activities continue throughout the year, there are some exceptions, e.g. the painting and music classes run over three terms and you will find the September starting dates for these classes alongside the titles. Learning can be fun - give it a try.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held in SARA hall on Friday 17 June 2011. 41 people including guests attended the meeting. The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. She then gave a resume of the events of the previous year mentioning the various classes including Sure Start for under 5's, Karate for older children and the various adult classes - pilates, yoga, painting, music and craft. The tea dances had continued to be very popular. Day trips and the two holidays had been well supported as had the talks/lectures. The annual visit by the Harmony Singers had been greeted with the usual enthusiasm. Unfortunately the numbers attending the Festive Evening had been adversely affected by inclement weather and illness. Table sales had been very popular with a growing demand for tables. Attendance at the film evenings had fallen slightly. The choice of films and the inability to advertise were governed by the conditions of the licence. The main financial outlays were for a new boiler and repairs following a flood in the hall in July.

Thanks to the generosity of local people 81 shoe boxes had been filled for troops serving abroad and several letters of appreciation had been received and were featured in the April Newsletter. £1070 had been collected from raffles, book sales and donations for Sara's charity of the year - KIND. It had been another successful year for SARA but the response to a request in a recent newsletter for new trustees and volunteers had been disappointing. In closing the Chairman expressed her thanks to all volunteers including the 50 people who delivered the Newsletter to 2,500 local homes. In particular thanks were given to the volunteer Trustees who gave of their time unstintingly and kept SARA functioning.

The Treasurer then presented his report on the year itemising details of the income and expenditure and confirming the Association's continuing financial stability. Copies of the full report were made available.

The election of Trustees took place followed by the election of Officers. The standing officers having confirmed their willingness to continue were re-elected: Chairman: Barbara Fielding; Treasurer: Ray Brown, Secretary: Dot Caples.

GOVERNESS TO THE CHILDREN OF THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI

Norma Walmsley started her talk on 8th April by comparing her life with Anna from the *'King and I'*. She had been teaching at the International School in Brunei which one of the Sultan's children attended, when the Sultan made her an offer "she could not refuse" and Norma began to teach at the Palace.

She gave us a little background information about the country of Brunei, the Sultan's wealth (mainly from oil) and the local people who live in houses on stilts on the coast. The Sultan is one of the richest men in the world and his lavish lifestyle reflects this – his children each had a suite of fourteen rooms with as many staff to tend to their every need.

Eventually Norma was teaching up to 12 children and also giving advice to one of the Sultan's wives, arranging birthday parties, doing an inventory of the paintings and cataloguing the room full of gifts which had been given to the Sultan and his family.

Norma worked at the Palace for 10 years and now speaks of her experiences for a charity which she and her family set up to look after a tribal village in the Philippines, called the *Mindano Project*. The money goes to Mely, who was Norma's amah (cleaner) at the Palace. Mely uses the money to help her village and its inhabitants to grow vegetables and to supply school uniforms for the children. These children have to pay for schooling and cannot go to school unless they wear a uniform.



SARA'S TRIP TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT 11-15th APRIL 2011

Monday we set off for Southampton on a nice, bright morning aiming to catch the 3 pm ferry to Cowes. After a stop on the motorway, we eventually boarded the MV Red Falcon and enjoyed the sea breeze all the way to the island. We arrived at our hotel, the Langham Court in Shanklin, with time to spare before the evening meal. The next morning after a hearty breakfast, we set off on a tour of one half of the island. Our first stop was at a Pearl factory and from there on to an amusement park from which there was a good view of a group of rocks called The Needles, because of their shape – a seafarer's nightmare at one time. There was also a cable car down to the beach, but the queue was quite long. There were plenty of places to eat so most of us did. From there we went to a pretty village called Godsill. The coach driver, Kevin, recommended a tea shop which sold an excellent variety of cakes (lots of cream and chocolate!) Suitably full, we made our way back to Shanklin. It was a day with some spectacular views and plenty of pretty thatched cottages.

On Wednesday our first stop was the old village of Orreton, which had lots of craft shops, and there was a demonstration of glass blowing also. From there we went to Rosemary's Winery where we were offered tastes of various wines and fruit juices – and very nice they were too! We were given the opportunity to buy some of them and most people did so. We then went to the seaside town of Ryde where we wandered around the shops and found somewhere to eat. From this point, some of the party went to see a show called *Dancing Waters* which by all accounts was quite good, the rest of us stayed in Ryde to be collected later and then we all returned to the hotel.

On Thursday we were given the opportunity of visiting Osborne House or having a free day. Osborne House was the country retreat of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The gardens were a sight worth seeing and the staff in the house were extremely helpful. A mini coach took us to the Swiss Cottage, which is where the children used to play and where they kept their collections of anything from sea shells to antiques. After our evening meal, it was pack your bags ready for an early start on Friday. The hotel was nice and comfortable and the staff and meals were excellent. Entertainment was laid on each evening as well. Many thanks are due to Barbara and Eileen for organising the holiday and to Kevin the driver. Bless them - an in joke! The raffle raised £39 for KIND.

DAY TRIP TO WINDERMERE

On Wednesday 3rd May we set off from SARA Hall on a trip to Windermere, which was to include a cruise on the lake. The weather was lovely and we arrived at the Lakeside departure point in plenty of time to have a coffee before embarking. The cruise to Bowness took about half an hour. We had an interesting commentary, the scenery was beautiful and some of the houses with gardens stretching down to the lake, were amazing. Who lives in a house like that?



We passed lots of tiny islands, one of which was used for the classic children's tale 'Swallows and Amazons'. We had time at Bowness for a wander around the shops and plenty of choice for lunch. We returned to the boat, many eating ice creams (who could resist those delicious flavours?) and then made our way up the lake to Ambleside where the coach was waiting. It was a lovely day out and the raffle raised £45 for KIND.



DAY TRIP MOLD AND BETWS-Y-COED

Showers threatened our trip to Mold and Betws-y-Coed, but in the event we were very fortunate in seeing little rain and quite a lot of sun. We reached Mold just in time for coffee followed by a look around the small but very interesting market. The plant stalls were a particular attraction and some of us returned to the coach weighed down with bags of sprouting greenery. After lunch we proceeded to Betws-y-Coed, where we spent a couple of hours wandering around the delightful gift and craft shops and refreshing ourselves further in the quaint Alpine Tea Room at the railway station. Our arrival back in Liverpool was greeted by pouring rain, so all agreed we had been very lucky with the weather and it had been a most enjoyable day. Our on board raffle raised £45 for KIND.



DAY TRIP FRODSHAM AND CHESTER

A full coach set off on Thursday 14th July for a short jaunt to Frodsham Market and Chester. Frodsham Market, though not large, offered a number of bargain opportunities with local produce much in evidence. Well worth a visit.

The historic City of Chester needs little introduction, offering the day tripper a multitude of options from first class shopping to sightseeing opportunities galore. The medieval buildings are a delight and walks along the famous walls or by river were a perfect opportunity to enjoy the wall-to-wall sunshine that day. Some people took a short boat ride on the river (half an hour) while others opted for the longer 2-hour trip. Others just soaked up the sun—it was that sort of day! The on-board raffle raised £47 for KIND.

CHECK OUT THE HUB

The HUB (Here-U-Belong) is your local neighbourhood centre at 361 Aigburth Road (corner of Woodlands Road). Drop in for a coffee and browse the Fairtrades goods for sale.

CHARACTERS AND CURIOSITIES OF LIVERPOOL

Before the AGM we were treated to a very entertaining and informative talk by the local historian, lecturer and broadcaster Ken Pye on the characters and curiosities of Liverpool. He began by describing how King John came to choose Liverpool for his base – proximity to Ireland, the ‘pool’ large enough to harbour his fleet and the massive forest of Toxteth which became his hunting park. He offered ‘burgages’ – land, the right to build a house and run a business there, and a strip of land for farming – on the original seven streets of Liverpool for one shilling a year in order to attract people from remote areas (such as Runcorn and Ormskirk!). Those who braved the arduous journey and dared to face the unknown had that entrepreneurial spirit which has been passed down to Liverpudlians though the ages and is still very much alive today.

One such was Dr. (a title bought, not earned) Samuel Solomon who set up a practice in Marybone at the end of the 18th century. In order to attract clients to this out-of-the-way spot he came up with a wonderful medicine to cure all ills, which he advertised by posters and giving away free samples. This marvel was known as Dr. Solomon’s Cordial Balm of Gilead, marketed for half a guinea a bottle, five guineas for the family size! The recipe was eventually found amongst his papers – the main constituent being brandy, flavoured with herbs and spices! Such was his success that he was able to build two large houses, one in Kensington, Gilead House, where streets named Gilead, Balm and Solomon now stand; and one in Mossley Hill where he also had constructed a white sandstone mausoleum for himself and family. This was sited at the corner of Cooper Avenue North and Brynmor Road and was demolished, unnecessarily as it turned out, to make way for the railway. The bodies remain, and there are still people who remember playing on ‘Solomon’s stones’ in their childhood.

Another stone which we all know is the Robin Hood Stone, now on the corner of Archerfield Road and Booker Avenue – heavily scored by arrows, not those of Robin Hood but of local bowmen, since it was a requirement for all young men to become proficient with the long-bow, and the stone originally stood a short distance away from its present site, in the centre of what was once an archery field.

A lesser known curiosity is St Patrick’s Cross, remembered in the name of Great Crosshall Street. St Patrick’s Church was built on a site said to be where St Patrick preached his last sermon in 432 before crossing over to convert the Irish to Catholicism. The church was demolished 10-15 years ago, but at the end of Standish Street, a tiny cul-de-sac off Great Crosshall Street, can be found a small, railed garden containing a plaque stating that ‘On this spot St Patrick...’, as well as a time capsule and various memorial tablets. The most striking features though, are the calm and peaceful atmosphere in such close proximity to the busy business district, and against the back, wall, enclosed in glass, a Pieta statue in full colour.

Closer to home, Ken next told us of the lepers’ squint at All Saints’ Church, Childwall. This is located in the church wall opposite the lychgate, now partly below ground, the level having risen due to the need for extra layers of bodies to be buried due to demand! The leper colony was situated in Childwall Valley, and since it was a legal requirement for everyone to attend church, a bell would ring three to four hours before the service in order for people to get inside the church before the lepers came. It was a good distance for some, including the Norrises of Speke Hall. The tone of the bell would change as a signal for the lepers to make their way, and they would stand at the squint in turn and make confession to the priest. At the bell following the service the lepers would hurry away back to the valley, to be gone before everyone else came out.

We then met the star-crossed lovers of Wavertree Hall, the Percival family seat. The daughter of the family, Margaret Hall, fell in love with their coachman Edward Murphy and her father was so incensed that he told her she should never again enter the Hall, to which end he locked and bolted the gates and ploughed up the drive. (He did, however, knock through the wall in another place so that he could come and go!) The gates have been replaced in recent times but have no locks or hinges. The young lovers fled to his home in Dublin, but were rejected there also, being Protestant and Catholic, so they returned to Liverpool and lived in poverty in Eldon Road. Margaret’s mother, however, did not reject her daughter but used to visit them and take food and other necessities.

Our last character was Sir Humphrey Brooke, a privateer from Liverpool who was the first to see the Spanish Armada approaching our waters and turned back to Plymouth to give the alarm, so that a chain of beacons could be lit and the fleet set sail.

So we learned a great deal about our area that we didn’t know, and I’m sure he will be invited back to entertain us with another of his many talks about Liverpool. We were able to buy his DVD and booklet containing eight of these themed talks.



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - SEPTEMBER 8GTH-11TH 2011.

Some of the region’s buildings not usually open to the public will open their doors. Check website or local press for details - www.heritageopendays.org.uk.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- A group of frogs is called an army, colony or knot.
- A group of rhinos is called a crash.
- A group of kangaroos is called a herd, mob or troop.
- A group of ravens is called a storytelling or unkindness.
- A group of prairie dogs is known as a coterie.

SHOE BOXES FOR THE TROOPS

SARA will again be taking donations of goods during the period:

3rd - 20th October, 2011

Please check at the Hall or phone for a list of items that are required/allowable before you make any purchases.

If you would like to make up your own shoebox to be sent along with those from SARA, that would be good. We suggest that you cover your box with Christmas paper and perhaps include a Christmas card.

Contact us:-

Sudley Area Residents’ Association
S.A.R.A. Hall
Rundle Road
Aigburth
Liverpool L17 0AQ

Tel: 0151 726 0805

Email:

dot@dotcapes.wanadoo.co.uk

IT'S PARTY TIME AT S.A.R.A. HALL

Hold your childrens parties at SARA from £25 for 2 hours and £6 for each additional hour thereafter

726 0805

sorry, no bouncy castles!

SAVE THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

DAY TRIPS 2011

DATE	DESTINATION	COST	BOOKING DATE
TUESDAY 13 September	BARDEN MILL , BURNLEY (incl. Cruise) (with optional 2-course Lunch £23)	£16/£23	from 23 August
WEDNESDAY 12 October	LOWRY OUTLET MALL (Including Lunch, Film , Dancing and Shopping)	£18	from 21 September
FRIDAY 18 November	FLEETWOOD AND BOURNE POACHER, (Including 3– course Christmas lunch, entertainment, dancing, etc).	£28	from 28 October

Bookings may be made by telephone to 726 0805 (answerphone) on or after the date shown above. Please leave your name and telephone number and we will get back to you to confirm. (Please note the maximum number of seats per telephone call is 4)

Film Nights 2011

Fridays at 7 pm:-

August 26th; September 23rd; October 28th and November 25th, 2011.

All welcome - Free Admission

Table Sale Dates 2011

Saturdays at 10.30 am:-

August 20th; September 17th; October 15th and November 19th, 2011.

A table costs £7 payable at the time of booking. To book for any of the dates listed above call 0151 726 0805. If you are looking for a bargain pop in for a browse and perhaps have a coffee - admission only 20p.

S A R A H a l l W e e k l y E v e n t s

For weekly updates, please visit <http://www.sudley.org.uk/timetable.html>

Monday

09:00 - 11:00 Sure Start Sessions*
13:45 - 15:45 Painting and Drawing for All (starts 26th Sept.) ***
17:30 - 18:30 Karate (age 5+ Boys & Girls) **
18:30 - 19:30 Karate for Adults**
19.45 -21.00 Yoga Call Philippa - 727 3133

Tuesday

10.00 - 12.00 Learn to Paint with Acrylics (starts 27th Sept.)***
13:30 - 15:30 Tea Dance
17:45 - 18:45 Pilates)
19:00 - 20:00 Pilates) Call Sarah - 724 2060 for details
20:15 - 21:15 Pilates)

Wednesday

10:30 - 12:30 Music For Pleasure (starts 28th Sept.) ***
13:00 - 15:00 Craft/Card making
17.00 - 18.00 Zumba Call Lucie –07811301554
18:30 - 20:00 Yoga Call Philippa - 727 3133

* For Sure Start sessions, contact Justine Merton on 233 5399

** For all Karate sessions, contact John O'Neill on 07590 309462

*** Further details 726 0805 (answerphone)

DISCLAIMER: The publishers accept no responsibility for misinformation or incorrect spelling therein. All articles, adverts & information are accepted on individual merit & in good will.

Wednesday (cont'd)

20.15 SARA Committee Meeting (1st Wednesday of the month)

Thursday

09:30 - 11:30 Craft
14.00 - 15.00 Sure Start Session*
17:30 - 18:30 Karate (age 5+ Boys & Girls)**
19:00 - 20:00 Pilates Call Sarah - 724 2060 for details
20:15 - 22:15 Wu Shu Kwan Call Steve - 07525 032511

Friday

09:30 - 10:30 Pilates Call Sarah - 724 2060 for details
11.00 - 1.00 Sure Start Session*

Saturday

10.00 - 12.00 Cllr. Hurley's Surgery (1st Sat. of the month)