



Community News

Making Sopwell a better place to live, work and play



Take a Break! Warm Welcome for All

See Page 4 for list of local 'Warm Welcome Spaces' where everyone is invited! Refreshments, advice on offer, stuff to do. St Albans Community Pantry sessions have FREE food rescued from supermarkets for take away! All ages, friendly faces.

Sopwell Community Trust (SCT) acquires Christadelphian Church building

Nazir Uddin Chairman of SCT said "We are grateful to the community and the wider public who have helped with getting us over the line!"

SCT - a registered charity - has been serving its local community over ten years, and after all the hard work it's a huge milestone that we have a hub to further our objectives.



The site will allow for the Muslim community in the area to finally offer their 5 daily prayers in congregation whilst offering a variety of

services to local community such as Women's' Circles, coffee mornings, children and adult religious education, language and food services.

The site is now being refurbished internally and will open to the local community late November 2022. **Nazir Uddin**

For further information email sopwellct@gmail.com

St Albans District Foodbank Referrals

Official referral agencies: Leeanna's Wish leeannaswish@gmail.com
St Stephen's & Julian's Church office@ststephenandstjulian.org and
Community Pantry stalbancommunitypantry@gmail.com

Welcome

Janet Charles, chair Sopwell Residents Association (SRA) writes...

This is a time of immense struggle with the cost of living, food prices and rising energy bills -and that makes it important to stay in touch with others- we all help each other in different ways! Pop down to the new Cottonmill Centre; get a cuppa and see what's going on. 200+ people enjoyed the Autumn Festival with food, music, competitions and new playground survey!

Communication is key – the SRA Facebook group has nearly 1000 residents – do join if you haven't already! And email me if you'd like to get the SRA monthly e-mail news. info@sopwell.org.uk



Friday Night Project

Herts Youth Services youth project Fridays 6-8pm for young people 13-17 years at the Cottonmill Centre



To hire space at Cottonmill Centre email

MartinePalmer@everyoneactive.com See FB @eaCottonmill



Coffee Morning Tuesdays 10-12

At the Cottonmill Centre - coffee, cake/bacon rolls. FB @leeannaswishcic



SRA FACEBOOK

Join 900+ people
Search FB Groups for
Sopwell Resident



SRA WEBSITE

Info, News & Events
sopwell.org.uk



COTTONMILL CENTRE

Search FB groups for
**All Things Cottonmill
Community & Cycling
Centre**

Councillors Update

Since the last newsletter, the largest District Council project in the ward, the new Community and Cycling Centre is completed. As chair of the User Forum, Emma is frequently fielding 'snagging' issues but generally the centre is running well, and Sandy is working with County Council officers to improve the cycle access to the centre on the highway (LCWIP).

5G has come to Sopwell, with both Emma and Muki Gorar putting up a fight against the 5G masts proposed; we won the Abbots Ave fight, but sadly lost on Vesta Ave.

On housing, the King Offa hoarding has changed because work is imminent on site to build more council houses; it won't be long until this area is transformed. The paving slabs outside Abbots Ave shops, owned by District Council, will also shortly have a make-over.

Crime prevention: all four Councillors meet with police officers regularly to discuss the motorbikes and scooters on the Alban Way, drug dealing and car theft. We all continue to represent you at Council committees.

We know it's a desperately difficult and uncertain time for all of us, given the current economic picture, so please contact us if you're in need of help and do look at the community pantry and breakfast club initiatives at the new community centre.

With best wishes from Muki, Sarwar, Emma and Sandy

Your Councillors

Cllr Sandy Walkington

sandy.walkington@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Cllr Muki Gorar cllr.M.Gorar@councillor.stalbans.gov.uk

Cllr Sarwar Shamsher

cllr.s.shamsher@councillor.stalbans.gov.uk

Cllr Emma Matanle cllr.e.matanle@councillor.stalbans.gov.uk



St Albans Cycle Hub

In its fourth month of trading the Hub is really enjoying being part of the community! We've fixed over 350 people's bikes so they can get back on the road, taught over 25 children to ride and even more about the rules of the road via Bikeability! We have kids' training and soon adults' courses will be announced.

Book www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk In the next few months, the first of our volunteers are in the workshop, getting their hands dirty. If you want to volunteer, get in touch info@stalbanicyclehub.org.uk. Keep updated @stacylehub
See you soon! Mat and the St Albans Cycle Hub Team

4th St Albans Scouts Group

The 4th St Albans Scout group celebrated 100 years of continuous scouting in 2009. The original Troop of 12 scouts was at St Peter's Church with Reverend Cassan- Horne as the first scout leader. In 1912 Charles Dymoke-Green "CO" became Group Scout Leader (for 36 years). He lived in Avenue Road-his garden became the focus of many scouting activities as did the grounds of his mother-in-law's house in Marshalswick (drive to the house is now Marshals Drive).

With the outbreak of World War 1 the scouts were employed as messengers and observers. The upper age limit was 18; many were mobilised and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Then the Group met in Pageant House, Victoria Street. In 1933 they purchased land in Old London Road in 1933 and began building our new headquarters: the Jim Green Memorial Hall was opened in 1935. Jim Green was the CO's son who died tragically young. He was a popular scout leader and an enthusiast for our own HQ.

The Group marked its 50th anniversary by adding an extension to the building and when Riverside Road came into being the main entrance was moved. During the 2nd WW scouts continued to meet at Gorhambury. In 1948 the CO handed over the reins to Cedric "Skip" Bickerton who was Group Scout Leader for 25 years - during which time the Troop was recognised as one of the finest in the County.

Now the Group flourishes with two Beaver Colonies (6-8 year olds) two Cub Packs (8-11 year olds) and two Scout Troops (11-14 year olds) with 150+ young people enjoying a wide range of activities traditional and also more 21st century. This all needs a dedicated team of volunteer leaders who are always ready to welcome new helpers as the Group moves toward its 120th year.
Ian Woods



Fly Tipping which includes leaving rubbish by a full waste bin, can be reported: email photograph and location to Veolia, the council's waste management contractor. When I have done this, I have found Veolia remove the fly tipping within a day or two. Email Veolia uk.veolia.waste.sadc.mailbox@veolia.com **Ed Jankowski**



Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday 10.30am Alban Way greenery collection walk
Dec 4 4-6pm Workshop | St Julian's Church Hall



Grow Community-Sopwell Wreath Making Workshop 4th Dec
Forage for foliage in the morning; make in the afternoon. Limited places: book here <http://bit.ly/Wreath-making>

Grow Community - Sopwell: your local 'gardening for food and nature' group - main site is the Community Garden - end of Berners Drive. New volunteers always welcome to help at food growing sites, events, wildlife sites. See more <https://growsopwell.org>

Watling View School NEW Cafe

Watling View School is a special needs school for pupils with a range of complex and profound learning difficulties. Our curriculum emphasises the development of pupils' communication abilities and life skills. Our new community café '**Nourish to Flourish**' will be a place for pupils to learn and practice life and employment skills such as cooking, cleaning, and interacting with members of the public; older pupils will access regular work experience and preparation for adulthood lessons there. To see the impact of this project and our pupils' amazing work, come on down and join us for a cuppa at **Nourish to Flourish**.

- **Planned opening 14th November,**
- **Daily Open Hours: 09:30am - 14:00pm**

Get in touch to find ways you can get involved with the school: admin@watlingview.herts.sch.uk



Do you have access to a vehicle? Can you spare an hour a week? St Albans Community Pantry deliver fresh fruit/veg boxes to the most vulnerable in the community and have a growing wait list. With your help we could reach more people, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch
Tel: 01727 649070 stalbanscommunitypantry@gmail.com

Sopwell Memories

As part of my research into the St Julian's area I have been finding about more interesting history in Sopwell concentrating lately on *Woad Mead*. I'll wager you have never heard of it but you will know where it is!

It was once a large field with a strip of land in the middle belonging to the poor of St Peter's Parish. This strip eventually became the gasworks and then when they were demolished, it became the Abbey View office development and Sainsbury's. Its name suggests that it was a meadow used for growing woad to dye wool in the medieval period.

I plan to publish a post on Woad Mead soon so you can read all about it. Do explore the website - there are fascinating stories on it www.sopwellmemories.org.uk

Please leave your comments. **Sandy Norman -**

Project Manager for Sopwell Memories website.

Check out my blog at blog.sopwellmemories.org.uk

Cottonmill and Nunnery Allotment Association does BioBlitz



Thanks to funding from St. Albans Civic Society, the CNAA did BioBlitz sessions on our Cottonmill site, in June and October. A BioBlitz finds and identifies as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. In BioBlitz 1 we discovered wildlife like Bank and Field Voles, Wood Mice, Yellow-Necked Mice and Pygmy Shrews. Also 95 different wild plants were recorded - including rushes, Sedges, Purple Loosestrife and Water Speedwell. We also built a fantastic new insect hotel and some bee nests. BioBlitz 2 surveyed earthworms, mosses, and lichens. We were amazed how beautiful our orchard's mosses and lichens looked under a hand lens. **Michelle Mackenzie CNAA**



St Stephen's and St Julian's Churches

Everyone warmly invited to our special events and services.

St Julian's Church

Thurs 24 Nov lunchtime	Community Café 10th Anniversary - lunch
Sat 26 Nov 11.30 - 2.30pm	Christmas Fair
Sun 11 Dec 5-6pm	Traditional Carol Service
Thurs 15 Dec 2 - 3.30pm	Memory Worship - a simple service for those living with dementia and their carers
Sat 17 Dec afternoon	Community Carol Singing
Christmas Eve 4-5pm	Crib Service - especially for toddlers/families
Christmas Day 10-11am	Holy Communion Service with Carols

St Stephen's Church

Sun 27 Nov 6.30 - 7pm	Advent Carol Service - a special service of music and readings for start of Advent
Sat 10 Dec 6 - 6.40pm	Christingle Service- for families, children -all ages.
Sun 18 Dec 10-11am 6.30-7.30pm	Nativity Play-morning service Traditional Carol Service
Christmas Eve 4-5pm 11.30pm	Crib Service for all ages Midnight Mass with Carols
Christmas Day 8-8.45am 10-11am	Said Holy Communion Parish Family Communion Service with Carols
New Year's Day 6.30pm	New Year Service

Sopwell Warm Welcome Spaces

Community spaces - safe, warm, friendly. Free or low-cost refreshments/hot food.

MONDAYS

St Albans Community Pantry & People's Kitchen
Mon 12-2pm Cottonmill Community & Cycling Centre; off Old Oak, off Cottonmill Lane, AL1. All welcome; **FREE** hot meals/refreshments. Support/ advice. **Free** supermarket-rescued food, including fresh fruit/ veg. Also nappies. stalbancommunitypantry@gmail.com

St Bartholomew's Church, 'Bread and Soup'
Mon 12.30-1.45pm St Bartholomew's Church Hall, 47 Vesta Ave. All welcome. **FREE** lunch-soup/bread in friendly environment. Info stalbanssouth@rcdow.org.uk

Warm Space – by St Albans Community Pantry & SRA
Mon 3.30pm - 6pm Cottonmill Community & Cycling Centre; all welcome; **FREE** drinks/bread/pastries. Some free supermarket-rescued food/nappies. Social activities, laptops, board games, table-tennis, support & advice. info@sopwell.org.uk & stalbancommunitypantry@gmail.com

TUESDAYS

Leeanna's Wish 'Cuppa & Cake' Tues 10am - 12pm Cottonmill Community & Cycling Centre All welcome. Support/advice available; social activities. Bring your own refreshments or available for a small charge; Info: leeannaswish@gmail.com

WEDNESDAYS

St Stephen's Church Hall 'Coffee Morning' Wed 10am - 12pm
 All welcome; **FREE** refreshments. Friendly place for a chat. Info: office@ststephenandstjulian.org



Verulam Cycling Club Muddy Monsters is back!

Muddy Monsters - off-road cycle racing fun - at the Cottonmill Centre on **10th Dec and 23 Feb**. Up to 14 years no prior experience. Any bike

with two working brakes; helmet required. Registration 8.30am. £5 each entry.

Also, **VCC Sat morning club at Cottonmill Centre for youth members** develops cycling skills with exercises/games on cyclocross—otherwise known as riding around and having fun in the mud. **Join the club to take part** – see <https://www.verulamcc.org.uk/youth>



Sopwell eco-stars is a new sub-group of Sopwell Residents Association. Supporting local people to manage the uncertainties we are all facing because of climate change, ecological breakdown, and related disruptions around food, energy, and the cost of living. See more and how to get involved: <http://sopwell.org.uk/sopwell-eco-stars>

WED cont..St Albans Community Pantry Community Breakfast Club
Wed 10am-12pm SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ONLY at Cottonmill Community & Cycling Centre. **FREE** refreshments + Cooked Breakfast. Support & Advice. stalbancommunitypantry@gmail.com

THURSDAYS

St Julian's Church 'Coffee & Cake' Thurs 10.30am-12pm.
 St Julian's Church Hall. All Welcome. Friendly environment for a chat. Refreshments - small charge. office@ststephenandstjulian.org

FRIDAYS

Leeanna's Wish 'Community Nights' Fri 8-11pm Cottonmill Community & Cycling Centre; all welcome. Support and advice available; social activities. Bring your own refreshments. Small voluntary charge on door. leeannaswish@gmail.com



NEW WOMEN'S FOOTBALL SESSIONS

- All skill sets & levels of fitness welcome
- No footballing experience necessary
- No judgement, just fun
- FA Qualified Female Coach
- Sessions **FREE** of charge

AGES 30+

EVERY SATURDAY
MEET UP FROM 1PM, PRACTICE FROM 1.15PM - 2.15PM
COTTONMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE (PLAYING PITCH) AL1 2EF

Email to register & be part of it.

leeannaswish@gmail.com

t: 07708 793445

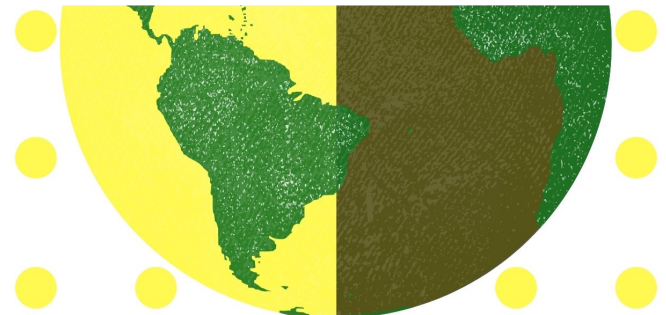
www.leeannaswish.org



COMMUNITY FUND



LEEANNAS WISH CIC



COMMUNITY NIGHTS

Bringing the social back to Cottonmill

JOIN US ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

8PM-11PM

COTTONMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
OLD OAK (OFF COTTONMILL LANE)

AL1 2EF

Ask staff for schedule of events....

www.leeannaswish.org

leeannaswish@gmail.com

