

Lady Bay Community Association Public Spring Meeting Minutes Wednesday 22nd May 2024 8pm All Hallows' Church Hall

Pre meeting there were performances on the piano from Richard Arblaster's pupils.

Present: 47, including Rushcliffe Borough Cllrs Richard & Sue Mallender

Apologies: County Cllr Penny Gowland (PG); Keith Rainford (KR) Lady Bay Birdwatchers; Mike Scott, Chair of FIELDS.

Sian Trafford, former Chair, LBCA, kindly chaired the meeting as LBCA currently have no Chair elected from the committee.

Miranda Cumberbatch CEO of Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) Home Efficiency & Heating:

NEP is running a workshop on the HEAT Hub project on Sat 15 Jun 10:00-12:00 at Lady Bay Scout Hall. This will give residents in-person advice on retrofitting their homes. The HEAT Hub project focuses on traditionally built properties pre 1919 & pre-1930. They are often cold & draughty & hard to retrofit. NEP has run several HEAT Hubs in Derbyshire & Notts, 2 so far in Rushcliffe.

At the event there will be manufacturers and installers, e.g. of air source heat pumps, solar panels, insulation. Bio-based materials are recommended as appropriate for insulation in older properties, e.g. sheep's wool & wood fibres, as often old properties are built to be permeable; obtaining good advice as to materials saves expensive errors.

NEP will provide homeowners with a free survey to give 'future fit' energy plans, tailored for the individual properties & owners.

In Lady Bay the scheme will work in a similar way to that in the Meadows Conservation Area where NEP has surveyed 100 properties to ascertain property types & create archetypes for the area. Residents will be able to go online & choose the appropriate archetype for their property looking at the design of doors, windows, extensions etc. in order to create a plan for their home. There will also be hard copies of the archetype information made & kept in the local library.

There may be groups of people who are interested in solar panels, air source heat pumps, batteries.

Always start with insulation: NEP will help you make a step-by-step plan. There may be grants available. When a contractor is employed, the householders will have knowledge & confidence to make sure they receive exactly what they need.

Take a leaflet, available at the door, & register for the event in Jun & a home survey.

Questions & comments

Is there charity funding?

NEP has 5 years' funding from the Climate Action Fund & for Nottingham City Council work from the Central Government Midlands Net Zero Hub.

Are there examples of houses already retrofitted?

Every property is unique & they are all private homes so e.g. looking at a house with a heat pump may not be appropriate. A heat loss calculation is carried out & if you are on mains gas it is probably not yet time to move to a heat pump. In older properties insulation can be very expensive to install. A good idea is to start at the rear of the building & 1 elevation. It depends very much on the condition of the property.

The project has been running for 8 months. In the 1st 3 months Home Energy plans were devised. It should be easy to understand. The project has been out in Bunny

village where a range of people from eco-home owners to people with no insulation at all have benefited from the scheme.

You can read the plans at leisure & make an appointment with an expert 'retrofit coordinator,

Steve Charters (SC): I was part of the group that started the interest in home energy efficiency in Lady Bay. Good to share tips, e.g. if replacing a carpet, insulate the floor at the same time. Knowledge could be shared on Lady Bay website.

Case studies can be collected to share knowledge in the community. People become aware of the challenges, gain knowledge, perception & trust.

History of Lady Bay Volume 2; 1914-1945, War & Peace Rev. Robert Breckles

(RB): It has been 6 months since the 1st volume was produced, covered printing costs with 390 copies sold so far.

Thank you to everyone who has loaned deeds, photos etc.

80 copies of volume 2 have been sold so far. Available from Central News, Central Av, Trent Boulevard P.O. & the Poppy & Pint.

Volume 3 is nearly complete in terms of text. It should be available at the end of Jul/beginning Aug '24.

Vol 2 starts with the announcement of WWI - Jeff Mackintosh's (JM) research was very helpful. There is a feature on John Dunford of 71, Lady Bay Rd., his relative, David Dunford, provided the information. The volume covers voluntary efforts & refugees & the work of the Lady Bay Belgian Relief Committee. There were also refugees with Flemish/Dutch names living in Lady Bay & perhaps their descendants still live here today.

The volume also refers to the 'home famine' in 1916 & the provision of allotments on Holme, Lady Bay & Rutland Rd. A 'Citizens' Army' was set up which initiated 'glee singing'.

In the post WWI world, there were smaller families & the rise of consumerism – as Dr Hunter, Medical Officer of Health, put it: “The middle classes prefer a car to a 3rd child”. Electricity arrived & in the mid-1920s both All Hallows' & Trent Boulevard Methodist churches had it installed. There is an old man hole cover with text relating to the 1st electricity in Lady Bay by the substation on Pierrepoint Road.

The Rutland Rd housing development of 'Homes Fit for Heroes' was bounded by Ropsley Crescent & included the extension of housing on the side roads between Trent Boulevard & Rutland Rd. RB met the grandson of Edward Summerfield (ES) who built houses on Rutland Rd & sold plots to other builders. Ropsley Crescent was named after the Lincs village where ES was born. RB has brought along a selection of deeds & plans which you can view at the end of the meeting. ES built the bowling green, tennis courts & what is now the Poppy & Pint.

2 new bridges spanned the Grantham Canal, a pedestrian footbridge & the rather noisy 'pivotal track' lifting bridge - 1 of only 2 in the UK, many such bridges can be seen in the Low Countries.

Lady Bay industry - Michael Barrett's Mother worked at the Boots lab, more recently the Wishing Well Day Nursery & Rutland Windows, as an animal carer. The building was used by Boots from 1920-60. Tonic wine, bottled water, sun cream & Ibuprofen were made/developed there. In the 1930s toilet rolls were manufactured in Lady Bay.

All Hallows' church documents were excellent sources of information for RB. All Hallows' church activities increased with dances & whist drives etc.

Lady Bay Scouts began in 1924, set up by a church Sunday School teacher.

There is information about Lady Bay Guides in WWII & photos from the '60s, hoping to find more information from earlier times.

Politics – In the 30s the Labour Party was not successful in W. Bridgford. The Liberal party was virtually eliminated as the Liberal Cllrs on West Bridgford Urban District Council became Independents. One of these was Cllr Ronald Ross who lived at 97, Mona Rd, another was Jesse Gray.

In 1937 Cllr Ross became the air raid precaution (ARP) head warden. The curate of All Hallows' Church was the Deputy ARP warden, he pulled people out of the rubble after the 8 May 1941 bombing. There were 8 fatalities, more than the number of fatalities of service people from Lady Bay.

Volume 2 closes at an exciting time with the changing role of women both at work & as volunteers, they led not only Guides & Brownies but Scouts too. There were about 12 new organisations set up & many cultural activities began - drama, music etc.

In the late '40s the forerunner of the All Hallows' Dramatic Society was set up.

RB is still looking for post 1945 photos, especially of organisations, if anyone that has any please get in touch.

Questions & comments:

What happened in the '47 flood?

There were floods at the Boots lab, but Lady Bay was not as badly affected as central W. Bridgford

Update from Friends of the Hook (FrOTH) Jane Browne (JB) Secretary & JM,

Chair: Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the Discovery Day on Sat 16 Mar, including RB. More than 250 people attended & there were 25 volunteers. Thanks to PG for the funding.

John A. Stephens & Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) provided huge bags of gravel/stones to make a firmer path, the gravel/stones will be spread at the working party on Sun 3 Jun. Please join us!

On Thu 2 May the book '100 Walks from the Poppy & Pint' was launched at the Notts Wildlife Trust quiz '100 Questions at the Poppy & Pint'. The book is written by Jenny McGavin & Trevor Riddiough with profits of book sales to FrOTH. The cost of printing has already been covered.

The Lady Bay Community Fund (LBCF) has provided funds for another self-guided wildflower trail with labels showing common & scientific names, uses etc. for each plant. This will be set up at the end of Jun.

There will be another moth watch at the end of Aug.

There have been 46 volunteers working at the Hook working parties on the 1st Sun of the month 2-4pm. This amounts to 314 volunteer hours, worth £5,000.

Thanks to Roger Ibbett for his work on the 3 new noticeboards & raising grant funding of £1,725 for them. 1 of the noticeboards (near Holme Gr) was funded from the Co-op Community Fund.

FrOTH reps have met with the contractors for the foot & cycle bridge who have guaranteed that all building work will be carried out away from the Hook. A 'haulage route' will be tarmacked & will become a cycle route. The ramp for the bridge is going on the Trent Bridge side. The site has been surveyed for badgers & an otter has been seen! There is 1 live badger sett.

FrOTH have an RBC Infrastructure Levy grant of £7,800 to refurbish the pond. The work will be carried out in Jun so the pond is reestablished for the winter.

FrOTH have applied for Green Flag status.

Last year FrOTH won the 'Environmental Group of the Year award at the RBC Community Awards.

West Bridgford Canal Group (WeBCan) Paul Abel (PA) Co-chair: Thank you to all volunteers who have been working over the last 18 months on the Grantham Canal in Lady Bay & Gamston. The aims of the group are to maintain the water level & enhance biodiversity. Volunteers have been removing Norfolk reed & reed mace, there have been almost 100 work parties. Naturescape have advised as to what species to plant.

WeBCan is also raising funding in order to repair the leaks in the Lady Bay stretch to prevent water loss. An expert has identified 8 separate leaks near the spill weir. Working groups meet for an hour on Wed evening, Sat morning & Sun afternoon. The work is limited at the moment as it is bird nesting season but there is plenty to do on the tow path. The main reed removal sessions take place Aug-Feb. Please come along - all welcome - we have active members in their 80s! We have recently formed a partnership with St Luke's Church, Leahurst Rd & volunteers from there are helping us.

WeBCan has a Facebook page where you can find more information e.g. times & places for working parties.

Lady Bay Birdwatchers, RM spoke on behalf of KR:

Birds seen in Lady Bay: 116 species including Birds within the Hook: 89

Latest additions - Common Redstart; heard & photographed on Regatta Way plus one heard on the Hook. Hook Watch Sat mornings 08:30

Birds seen in Lady Bay 2024 - 73 species

Garden Watch: Birds seen this year so far - 49 species. Just take 15 minutes to look in your garden & let KR know what you see. Includes birds flying over.

Swift Group; Swift Nest Boxes: 16 erected with 14 in Lady Bay & 2 outside the area.

A photo was shown of 3 boxes being put up by KR & Gary Mitchell at 135, Trent Boulevard. Contact KR if you are interested in having some installed.

Swifts have been noted this year but not many.

Liaison is being undertaken with other Swift groups to share knowledge

The Hook Nest Boxes: 7 erected to date.

2023 success – 5 used for successful nesting, 1 by mice, 1 not used

Note the website address on the newsletter is incorrect. It should

be: ladybaybirdwatchers.wordpress.com

Lady Bay Open Gardens, Maureen Mitchell: 22/23 Jun. At the end of Mar there were only 5 gardens, now there are 23 on each day, 35 in total. A new feature this year is the 'Garden in a Wheelbarrow' in front gardens. Funds raised from the event go into the LBCF, the next application period is 1-31 Oct '24.

Plastic Free Lady Bay, Monica Pallis (MP): On Sat 6 Jul it is the Surfers Against Sewage national 'Million Mile Clean' we plan to organise a litter pick with Lady Bay Litter pickers around Lady Bay including the Hook & Pinder's Pond. Please join us. Plastic Free Lady Bay has adopted the planter outside Trent Boulevard P.O which will be planted up with herbs. We would like a mosaic with the name of Plastic Free Lady Bay & Surfers Against Sewage on the wall of the planter. Is anyone able to help, please? Contact MP at the end of the meeting.

AOB:

Parking, Celia Easteal, Vice-chair: Recently had a letter from Ruth Edwards, MP about parking problems in Lady Bay. Suggest we all respond or contact her about this problem.

New Electric Buses: Wider than the previous ones, increasing the problem of pavement parking with more vehicles parked further over the pavement. The problem is very severe near the Co-op where the pavement paving has become loose & has created a trip hazard.

ACTION; RM & SM & LBCA will report to Notts County Council

Inappropriate use of the Hook, PA: Seen 2 motorcyclists on the Hook.

RM: Advise report to Police on 101, always worthwhile.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm