



Community News

4TH QUARTER 2006

Delay to Avon River Safety project

In March 2006 a City Council newsletter advised that work was to progress over the recent winter months on the Avon River Safety Project. The components of this project included the relocation of the main entrance, additional car parking, the addition of launching pontoons and improvement to the Owles Terrace ramp.

Since that time Council staff completed the design of the pontoons and riverbank work. It then put the project out to tender based on the original timetable for completion of the project during the winter months.

Due to only one tender being received and the price exceeding Council's estimate for this work, it was deemed necessary to provide a better "window" for construction to get a more competitive price. This has resulted in the project being delayed until after the 2006/07 summer period and rowing season, to avoid conflict and anything that may impede use of this facility. This delay should also provide for better construction conditions with work now being scheduled for April, May and June 2007

(Adapted from a Council Newsletter dated 20 September 2006)

Why was suburb given its name?

Dallington was named by either AJC Jekyll or HP Hill. These two men built the first Dallington Bridge in 1883 in a venture to span the Avon in the hope of establishing a tramway route to New Brighton.

A google search of the word Dallington is quite revealing but its hard to conclude from this why our suburb was given its name.

Dallington is a village in East Sussex, Northwest of Bexhill. It is currently leading the fight against rogue traders by being the first community in the county designated a "no calling zone"!

There's another Dallington that's a district to the west of the town centre in Northampton. Its Anglican Church is said to be haunted! Some residents are currently promoting a

petition to save Dallington Heath.

Dallington in Christchurch is bounded by a loop of the Avon River and its river reserves and the mature trees are a testimony to Richard Bedward Owen who was unofficially called "River Bank" Owen or "the River Banker". He proposed a wide tree-lined riverside boulevard stretching from the Carlton Bridge to New Brighton. Navvies were hired for the implementation of Richard's brainchild in 1928. Men wielding picks, grubbers and shovels engaged in "a massed eager attack on a line of ancient macrocarpa trees" which stood opposite Dallington Terrace. Work was done on both sides of the Avon between the Swanns Road and Dallington bridges. Houses were moved back to face onto a roadway and an extensive area of neatly grassed riverbank reserve.

EVENT TO LAUNCH FESTIVAL

Plan to be present this year at the launching of our Festival of Lights at 6.00pm on Thursday, 7 December. We have a fine venue at the Halberg Street Reserve and a good crowd has gathered in past years to share in carol singing. We also encourage you to participate in the festival by lighting up your house or garden for the enjoyment of residents and people passing through the suburb. Last year there were 11 entrants in the competition sponsored by the Dallington Residents' Association.

There are generous prizes and entry forms can be obtained from the Community Centre on the roundabout, or by ringing Richard Alderson on Tel. 386 1145. Even if you don't enter the competition we encourage you to add to the festivity with lights and decorations.

For further details see the poster on the back page.

This Community News is published quarterly by the Dallington Residents' Association with the help of the Shirley Service Centre. Contributions and queries should be forwarded to the Editor (Bill Allott), Dallington Community News, 5 Locksley Avenue, Christchurch 8061 (Tel. 389 1816).

DALLINGTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairperson: Richard Alderson (Tel. 386 1145)

Secretary: Beryl Starr (Tel. 385 1457)

Treasurer: Mary Tamplin. (Tel. 385 1044)

Members: Bill Allott, Anton Korunic, Barbara Seaton,
Tony Winder, John Mulvaney.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

SHIRLEY SERVICE CENTRE

For community information and details of City services your local Christchurch City Council Services Centre is located in the Library at 36 Marshlands Road by *The Palms*. Tel. 941 8999

OSCAR

An out-of school care and recreation programme for five to 13 year olds at Banks Avenue Primary School. If interested, please telephone Christine on 0274 382 604.

Dallington Townswomen

This group meets at the Burwood Park Tennis Pavilion at 1.30pm on the fourth Thursday each month. New members are welcome. For further details ring Val (Tel. 389 4466).

Dallington Friends

A group for all ages, called "Dallington Friends", meets on the third Tuesday each month at 1.30pm at the Biddick Court Hall in Claydon Place. For more information contact Shirley on Tel. 385 3843, call in to the Community Centre or come along (gold coin donation).

Walking Group

A walking group meets outside the Community Centre/Shop every Monday at 10.00am. Walks are arranged in the local area and last about an hour. To join this group all you have to do is turn up.

Art Classes

Every Monday 1.00pm to 3.00pm at Biddick Court in Claydon Place. For more information please ring Jayne on Tel. 942 1239.

Action needed

The Dallington Residents' Association welcomes suggestions and encourages participation in its activities. Letters and items of local interest are also sought for this quarterly publication

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their help with costs.

Some additional copies of this
Community News are available at
the Community Centre/Shop.

Church anniversary celebrated

There would be little within our distribution area that could claim to be 140 years old but one thing that can is the Shirley Methodist Church.

There were three main events in its recent 140th Anniversary celebration. This event commenced with a celebration morning service on Sunday, 15 October 2006 with an attendance of more than 200 worshippers. It was followed by a lunch at the Richmond Club. In the afternoon opportunity was taken to view photographs and memorabilia and the past was recalled over a cup of tea. People attended from as far away as Hamilton.

The Rev. David Bush has been the minister at Shirley for four-and-a-half years after spending nine years as Methodist minister in Rangiora.

The current church programme includes Sunday services and a number of things that happen during the week. There is a youth programme that includes Girls' Brigade on Monday evenings and Boys' Brigade on Thursday evenings. A play-group operates on Thursday mornings and an open house and opportunity shop is open two days a week. The church interacts with the local community in providing services for families and for young people. Sunday School and Youth Group are held on Sunday mornings. A Women's Fellowship meets as an afternoon tea meeting on a monthly basis and it features guest speakers.

David said, "The proximity to *The Palms* has both a positive and negative impact. In terms of visibility and people being able to find us it's great. The problem is that we become a bit isolated by the amount of traffic, the loss of on-street parking and the difficulty of getting on and off the site. These have had a significant affect."

The church is currently discussing a number of issues in response to future development of *The Palms*

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SHIRLEY METHODIST HISTORY SPANS 140 YEARS

Christchurch was envisaged by the promoters of the Canterbury Association as a Church of England settlement and all intending emigrants required a certificate of membership from the Established Church. However, at that time there wasn't complete separation between the Church of England and the Methodist Churches and many "Methodists" were baptised in the parish church and received Holy Communion there. Hence it was possible for the Methodists to come out on the first four ships, and some did so.

THE FIRST CHURCH

The Methodist Church started its life in the Shirley District as a preaching place within the St. Alban's circuit. Between October 1866 and January 1867 a meeting was held in the home of Mr Brice, in the vicinity of Lake Terrace Road on what was then the road to Brighton.

Shown in the model deed of the Church is the registration of a portion of land given by Mr Buxton on the corner of Quinn's Road and what was then known as St. Albans Road (now Shirley Road). It had been a dying request of Mrs John Buxton that her son should give a site for a Church. He fulfilled her request and Mr Hamilton, a member of the congregation, drew plans for a building that would cost 80 pounds. As soon as the erection of the church was underway the question of giving it a name began to exercise the minds of the local Methodists. Mrs John Buxton had been a Miss Shirley, and it was considered fitting that her dying request should be honoured by calling the church after her maiden name. The Church then ceased to be known as Brighton. Later, the district took its name from the church at its centre.

The opening function of the Church was a monster tea meeting held on Good Friday, 10th April 1868. In 1869 a Sunday School was commenced with 10 members.

THE SECOND CHURCH

By the beginning of the eighteenthies the population in the neighbourhood of the Church had increased to such an extent that a larger Church was needed. In 1884 it was

Based on a Centennial History by
Rev. F. G. Glen, C.F. published in
1966.

felt that the Church would better serve its purpose if it were a little further east so it was decided to move to the north-east corner of Golf Links and New Brighton Roads. The old site was sold for 50 pounds and the new one purchased for 100 pounds. The Church was then renamed the Windsor Methodist Church and two services were held each Sunday.

THE THIRD CHURCH

The Trustees of the Church then obtained a valuable section on the south-east corner of New Brighton Road and North Parade. A new Church was proposed for this site as the old Church had become too small and needed extensive renovations. The new Church was estimated to cost 1,500 pounds and was designed to accommodate 200 persons with ample provision for a choir. In 1916 a Trust Meeting resolved "that as this Church stood in the centre of the Shirley district, and was a full half mile from the nearest point of the locality called Windsor, it should return to its former honourable name, Shirley. Windsor is a charming name, but our Church is at Shirley."

The laying of the foundation stone of the new Church took place on Saturday 14th December 1918. Notwithstanding the enforced postponement, owing to influenza, and in spite of unfavourable weather, the attendance was good. Provision was made for a tower, which would be erected when funds were forthcoming. The opening of the new church was held on the second Conference Sunday, 9th March 1919.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

In March 1923 the Trustees decided to raise the necessary funds for the building of a new Sunday School at the rear of the Church. However, in 1924 Mr Rowe, one of the oldest members of the Church, died in Auckland. He left a legacy of 2,200 pounds for the erection of a tower included in the original plans. A Supreme Court decision permitted

the use of this legacy for the erection of both a tower and a Sunday School. This new Sunday School hall was opened on 3 June 1928.

Continued from page two Church anniversary celebrated

which owns the adjacent land on New Brighton Road. This is a favoured site for the relocation of the Shirley Library and the development of a Bus Exchange. David added, "Whether we'll be here for another 100 years is a mute point."

The site where the church now stands was known as Craddock Corner. Mr Craddock was a very generous member of the congregation and he donated the land before he became insolvent. The Church trustees had to pay the official assignee for the property they had been given!

The majority of the present congregation are older long-time residents. There are also a number of young families and children. Most live within three kilometres of the church. In 1966 at the time of the centenary the Church had 310 members and was in contact with 605 families totalling 2,500 people. Less than 10 percent of this number were over the age of 50.

David commented, "This shows how much church life and community life has changed over a period of 40 years. Today we have 80 members and the vast majority of those would be over 50. There has been quite a significant social change. The reality is that it's less easy to be Christian in today's society. There's increasing questioning of the relevance of the Christian faith, particularly in a public way in the media. That makes it more difficult for people who might want to look at spiritual issues, to do so."

Contact Details

Rev David Bush
6 New Brighton Road,
Shirley, Christchurch 8001
Office Ph: 03 385 3473
Fax: 03 385 3423
e-mail: shirleychurch@clear.net.nz

Pre-Christmas Community Stall

To mark its third birthday, the Dallington Community Centre will be having their annual stall, with lots of Christmas goodies, in addition to the items stocked in the shop. There will be lots of good quality hand made craft items, as well as cakes and preserves, so this is a good opportunity to support local people and to do your Christmas shopping at the same time. Look out for our lovely selection of Christmas and birthday cards, trimmings for the tree, stockings and fillers, jewelry, knitted goods, paintings, pots, toys and ceramics. Lots of practical things are also for sale, including a great selection of children's and babies' clothes.

The stall is on Thursday, 30 November from 10am - 4.30pm. Come and enjoy a fruit juice and some Christmas cake and please don't forget to buy some raffle tickets in our wonderful raffle.

If you are new to the area, we are situated at the Dallington shops, 46a McBratneys Road. We look forward to seeing you.

Jayne

Pre-Christmas Community Stall

Thursday, 30 November
from 10.00am - 4.30pm.

Community Centre
46a McBratneys Road
Dallington

URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A draft of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy has been released for further discussion. If it is adopted Dallington residents will be indirectly affected. Shirley, in the vicinity of *The Palms*, is identified as a suburban intensification area. It is described as a centre that provides for services, employment and social interaction. An Open Day is planned for the Burwood/Pegasus area from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Monday, 27 November, when information can be viewed and questions asked. The venue is Te Amurangi, corner Pages and Woodham Roads.

Light up Dallington Carol singing to launch Festival of Lights

at the Halberg Street Reserve, near the
Scout Hall, at 3 Halberg Street, on
Thursday, 7 December from 6.00pm.

Features include:

A gold coin Sausage
Sizzle by and for the
Scouts

The Balloon Man
with a Bouncy Castle

A Linwood Salvation
Army Brass Group

Sponsored by local
businesses, the Christ-
church City Council
and the Dallington
Residents' Association



Residents are encouraged to attend and to plan now to decorate houses and gardens this December. Entry forms for the *Light Up* competition can be obtained up to 12 December from the Community Centre or by ringing Richard Alderson on Tel. 386 1145.

The Dallington Residents' Association acknowledges, with thanks, the support of the community and wishes all a Happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.