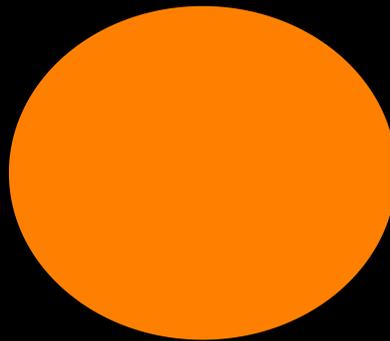


SLADE AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

October 2013

Halloween



Feel Free to Frighten The Neighbours!!!

To celebrate the bumper sales of our local history book "A little knot of narrow streets" which has given a good boost to SARA's funds, there's **NO ENTRY FEE** for this year's famous Slade Halloween House contest.

So **EVERYONE** in the area who makes their house horrible for 31 October is **AUTOMATICALLY** in with a chance of winning one of the four prizes up for grabs and there's no need to fill in a fiddly form.

So get planning how you will make your house the Slade's spookiest and let's make this the best show yet. **Judging will start at 6-30 on**

The Night.

Notice the Noticeboard!

Members who don't usually walk along Stafford Road may not know that SARA has a noticeboard in the small car park next to the school and opposite the former pub.

This is where you can find information from the committee, including minutes of committee meetings and announcements of events.

It is also free for any member to place advertisements and communicate with the neighbours in other ways. So do make use of it. Just drop in your notice to Hugh at No 20 Lodge Rd.



Tonbridge Farmers Market

Make sure you don't miss Tonbridge's wonderful farmers market. It's the second Sunday each month, 9-30 a.m.—1-30p.m. in the Sovereign Way long-stay car park.

Dates for the next six months:

- **10 November 2013** Love Cheese. A celebration of local cheese
- **8 December 2013** Christmas Drinks Special
- **12 January 2014** Farmhouse Breakfast Market
- **9 February 2014** Scallop Sunday
- **9 March 2014** Seedy Sunday
- **13 April 2014** The Big Curry. Raising money for the Soldiers Benevolent Fund.



We need your ideas!!

SARA funds are in great shape at the moment thanks to the big success of our local history book so we want to spend some of them on a really great social event where Slade people can get to know each other better.

But we're not sure what sort of occasion members would enjoy the most, so we'd like to know what you think.

Suggestions already received include:

- A family social with refreshments;
- A dance (perhaps a Barn Dance or similar);
- A games night of some kind (perhaps Bingo, a Beetle Drive or a "pub" quiz);
- Musical entertainment (perhaps a live band).

Please send an e-mail to susanbevan@talktalk.net and let us know which would be your choice — or whatever else appeals to you. And let us know too whether daytime, evening or weekend would suit you best.

If you'd rather, drop a note in the postbox at 24 Hawden Road.



Fosse Area scheme tied up in knotweed

It looks like the housing development on the land around the Fosse will be held up by the presence of Japanese knotweed on the site.

This pernicious invader from Asia is notoriously difficult to remove once it gets a hold as it certainly has on this piece of ground going by the size of the patches already blitzed with weed killer. And if it isn't completely eradicated, CML Investments will face some very angry buyers of the nine houses and three flats they propose to build.

Knotweed is capable of striking out underground even after numerous doses of weed killer and then pushing its way up through concrete and floor boards. Some mortgage lenders are now so alarmed they refuse to lend on any house in the entire street where knotweed has turned up.

Its presence on the site probably dates back to when the area was the garden of the mansion standing where the 182 High Street offices are to-day. Victorian gardeners were keen on importing exotic plants and admired knotweed's attractive appearance.

Unfortunately the natural predators which keep its spreading habit in check in Japan are absent here and it is now such a menace that it must be disposed of in specially licensed sites.

It is therefore surprising that CML didn't think it appropriate to contact residents living close to the Fosse area about the knotweed's presence and their eradication plans, particularly since it is soil disturbance that really gets the plant spreading vigorously.

Equally surprising is that the Council when contacted about the problem did not appear to know about it or to feel they had any responsibility for monitoring the removal plans.

SARA therefore contacted CML's agent, Barton Willmore, to find out what's going on. They tell us they have hired a specialist contractor, Japanese Knotweed Solutions, who treated the infestation with weed killer in May, July and September. Two further treatments are due next year "and these will continue until the site is developed when further remedial treatment may be required to the ground itself."

All this is being carried out as part of a detailed management plan which the Environment Agency recommends should be drawn up by those confronting the problem, particularly developers. We have asked for a copy but received no response as yet.



Pretty in the flowerbed...



...But not in the floorboards

Better news from Bank Street

Work appears to have begun on making good some of the damage inflicted on No 4 Bank Street in the course of its conversion into two very small dwellings.

The developer who had been ordered to put things right by the Council gained permission in August for a programme of work including replacement of the unsightly oversized dormer windows with new ones in the same style as the single original. They will also put stone sills under the other windows, do some remedial work to the brickwork and install a more appropriate door..

Meanwhile long empty No 3 Bank Street has at last been refurbished and occupied by music teachers, Music Station. Let's hope that No 3's owner will now turn his attention to No 1 next door, which he also owns and has allowed to deteriorate miserably since SARA won the long battle to prevent both buildings being pulled down in 2011.

Susan Bevan

PHOTO GALLERIES

*Share your own pictures!
Vote for your favourites
Photo competitions!*

EVENTS

Up-to-date calendar of local events

ADVERTISE

Buy/Sell/Find items!

RESIDENTS

Community pages & forums

SHARE

*Share your stories, memories, pictures, news,
events with the rest of the community*

THE SLADE

*Learn fascinating facts about the history of
the Slade; the allotments and other local
news*

**REGISTER, LOG ON AND HELP BUILD THE
SLADE'S OWN SITE**

SARA ONLINE

www.slade-tonbridge.co.uk



www.slade-tonbridge.co.uk



sara1@slade-tonbridge.co.uk

Have you logged into the website yet?

A lot of the website content is for SARA members only. To see it you must log in but you can't do that right away. The LOG IN area at the far right of the screen asks for your user name (your e-mail address) and password. Both these identifiers must, in the first place, be registered to confirm membership.

To register, click on the word Register which is directly below the LOG IN button. This takes you to a screen that asks for your name, address and the password you want to use. It then asks you to tick a box to confirm you've read the terms and conditions (the usual stuff such as you mustn't use the site for anything illegal!).

Next comes a box with two sequences of letters and numbers written in a deliberately odd way that's a bit hard to read. You must type them in the space below (another device for protecting the site).

Finally click Register. You will then be sent an e-mail accepting your registration and asking you to click on the link provided which takes you back to the site and you are logged in. In future to log in you just need to enter your e-mail address as your user name and the password you registered.

If you have any problems just contact any member of the committee.

SARA CONTACTS

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