

# Old pals meet at the Fonthill reunion 2007

SATURDAY 7th July 2007 saw the 3rd Fonthill School Reunion held at Southmead Community Centre. Once again ex-pupils and spouses met up for a good 'chinwag' with old school friends.

Most of those attending had been to the previous two reunions where they had met up with many folk they hadn't seen since those days at Fonthill many years ago. Everyone had memories of their school days – good and bad, but all remembered with a great deal of affection, as was the time they had spent growing up in Southmead in the 40s and 50s. The "Good Old Days" indeed!

A fair share are still 'Meaders', having married and brought up their own children here, after not surprisingly marrying someone from the Estate. Most of the others attending still live in the greater Bristol area and are able to keep in touch with one or two school friends.

Ernie Padfield (ex-Cranmore Crescent) and his wife Ruth (née Stephens) ex Wilton Close, came from furthest afield. In 2005 they moved to Yorkshire where their son lives, but by pure chance they were back in Bristol, staying with their daughter in Henleaze when an old friend told them about the Reunion. Ernie and Ruth were very pleased they were able to attend and spent an enjoyable

evening meeting some old pals.

So once again, the old "Fonthillians" Reunion, arranged by Marion Garland, gave 85 attending a good night out.

If you happen to know of any other Southmead Reunions, please let The Mead know. We can then tell 'Meaders' about it.

**PDN**

**I would like to thank all those who supported "The Reunions". It was a lot of hard work but it was great getting so many people together after many years, some met up with old friends and said they would keep in touch.**

**Another good thing that has come out of these get togethers is we have formed a "Ladies Group". There are between twelve and sixteen of us who meet up once a month. We go out for the day, or just have a pub lunch. We also have a couple of holidays a year together. We are off to Paris very soon. But whatever we do you can bet the talk is all about Fonthill School Days and of course Southmead.**

**Once again, many thanks to everyone.**

**Marion Garland**



Ernie and Ruth at the reunion

## Small Grants Fund for Southmead

£1,000 pot is available to community and voluntary groups either based in or whose project will have a clear benefit for people of Southmead.

Small Grants Fund is available to help informal groupings of residents within Southmead to achieve a piece of work.

### TO APPLY:

You must be part of a community or voluntary group (formal or informal) which is based in a Neighbourhood Renewal area or which intends to run this piece of work for the benefit of people within the NR area you are applying to.

Your group's piece of work has to demonstrate clear community benefit in the NR area you intend to work.

If you are an unconstituted group and you are successful in your application the NR funding must be paid through a formally constituted group with a bank account requiring two signatories on a cheque.

priority is given to groups who do not have access to other sources of government funding.

If you are interested please contact Tracy or Fiona on 903 8721 for an application form.

## Signs of the times

I'M just back from delivering 'The Mead'. I lost count of the number of houses that had "beware of the dog" signs. I paused at the gate, listened carefully, tiptoed up the path, making sure the gate was open behind me, for a swift getaway, posted the newspaper through the door as quietly as possible and made a dash for the gate, closing it behind me! One house really confused me. On the gate it said "Beware of the dog", but once inside I found a lovely "Welcome" sign in the garden!

I read the instructions on a food package the other day. After telling me how long to microwave it for, there was a message - "caution product will be hot"! Don't you just love all the information on food packages - a box of eggs - product contains eggs; a packet of nuts - product contains nuts! Perhaps they think we all are!!

One of my favourite signs while out and about is "think bike". You know why they want us to think bike, don't you? I have lost count of the number of times I have seen young lads on push bikes sail down Kingsholm Road, straight through the traffic lights on red and down Doncaster Road. Think Bike - they could be anywhere!

But maybe the sign is about motorcycles. Ah, that explains why, when I am going along the road in a built up area at 30mph, I have been surprised to see a motorbike coming from behind to overtake. Look out! There is a bollard in the way! No problem! He has gone on the other side of the road. So please think bike, then the motor cyclists will be safe on the road, no matter what they do!

Another favourite was found in Bishopthorpe road. The council were doing up the houses and had scaffolding there for quite a while. The sign read "danger, men working overhead." Was that in case you were lulled into a false sense of security because most of the time there was no one there? It reminds me of the signs on the road of a man trying to put up his umbrella; I understand it means there are workmen on the roads. I've rarely seen men working, just their cones mile after mile!

But my most favourite has to be the house here in Southmead with the sign "beware killer fish"!

# On the Spot



## ESTHER ORCHARD, Southmead Resident

What would you be if you weren't human?

*An eagle. It soars so high in the sky when flying.*

Who would be your three ideal dinner guests?

*Cliff Richard, Tina Turner and Shirley Bassey.*

Favourite food?

*I love lobster in any shape or form.*

What is the best thing about Bristol?

*Its history and I love the river and dock area.*

And the worst?

*Public transport at the moment. First Bus gives a poor service at high prices.*

Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?

*I don't think I would want*

*to be stuck in a lift. I am claustrophobic!!*

What did you want to be as a child?

*A film star. I always loved to sing and dance.*

Where would you retire to?

*Inland Spain. It is so quiet and friendly.*

Why did you move to Bristol?

*In the 50s I left Kingstown, Jamaica, to do nursing in the UK. I came to Bristol because I have an aunt here. I loved it and stayed.*

What would you do with a million pounds?

*Obviously help my family and friends, some to charity and take a world cruise.*

Have you met anyone famous?

*Not really famous. I do know Tony Bullimore, the Bristol yachtsman. I would like to meet the Queen and Prince Charles.*

What one thing would you change in Southmead?

*I would like to see a secondary school back here. It is not right the kids have to go outside of Southmead.*

What is your favourite Bristol view?

*The Downs looking over the Suspension Bridge and Avon Gorge.*

Favourite holiday destination?

*New York. I have been six times and I still have not seen everything.*

# Pets Corner



TWENTY Acres residents, Ros and Steve are looking forward to the birth of their first child in October. Until then, the babies of the family are Cocker Spaniels 'Chester' and 'Sacha'.

18-month old 'Chester' was bought as a pup from Swansea and has always been fit and healthy.

Two year old Sacha hasn't had it quite so smooth. Bought from a Wiltshire Breeder, she was in a poor state, kept in a cage; she was dirty and suffering with ticks, a sad looking dog wanting a good home.

Three months on she has settled down in her new home, is very well behaved and has fitted into the family very quickly, despite still having trouble with her feet. She has a form of athlete's foot which means taking antibiotics and anti-inflammatory tablets.

Chester (named after the

Winchester Rifle, spaniels originally being gun dogs) refuses to play "fetch ball" while out. Instead his favourite trick is to search out and then chew any plastic bottle he can find. Both

dogs are very friendly (as are their owners).

so if you see them on their daily walks around the Dunmail/Charlton Road area, say "Hello".

