



Newsletter of the Old Village Association of Chatham, Massachusetts

Volume VI

Issue 1

Spring, 2004

WE'RE ON LINE

www.oldvillagechatham.org

As of June 25, the Old Village Association web site is up and running. Designed by Nigel Dobereiner of Bay Star Media, with substantial input from Old Village Web Site Committee members, who did all of the writing, collecting of data and gathering of pictures, the site provides a vast array of information about the Old Village and the Association. The site will include:

- a home page about the Association, with membership forms, a "contact us" email address, and a calendar of upcoming activities
- a section on Old Village history; pages on the National Register District and the review process under the Cape Cod Commission Act, profiles of the two Old Village houses which received Preservation Awards
- links to State and local preservation organizations.

The Old Village Association Web Site Committee includes Nancy Koerner, Chairman, with Debbie Aikman, Mary Ann Gray, Bill Koerner, Carol Pacun and Bob Walsh. They all hope you will visit them at www.oldvillagechatham.org, now and in the future, with your comments, questions and suggestions.

GET OUT YOUR BEACH TOWELS ANDREW HARDINGS BEACH CLOSING SET FOR JULY 2

It wasn't exactly a slam dunk, but the purchase by the Town of the Perry Beach at Andrew Hardings Lane was approved by town meeting on Tuesday, May 11. On Friday, July 2, the Selectmen are scheduled to receive a deed from the Perrys and give a conservation easement to the Old Village Association which will confirm that the property is to be used as a public beach. The total cost of the beach is \$365,000, with \$165,000 coming from the Land Bank, and \$150,000 from individual donations solicited by the Old Village Association.

The process was long and arduous. Association President Debbie Aikman and Norm Pacun, the Chairman of the Land and Properties Committee, along with (sainted) attorney Michael Ford, met a number of times over the winter with the Selectmen to iron out "the deal." Initially, the main concern of the Selectmen and the Town Manager was the ability of the Old Village to raise the necessary funds. Things became a lot easier when the money started to roll in and the Selectmen had ample proof of the commitment of Association members to save the beach.

continued on page 3

Iced Tea and Cool Conversation Planned for July

The Old Village Association Board of Directors has planned two "Iced Tea and Cool Conversation" programs for this July in order to provide to our members (especially those who are here only in the summer) some information about the issues facing Chatham today.

The first meeting, on July 7 at the home of Bill and Jane Vaughn will be a conversation with the leaders of the South Chatham Village Association and the West Chatham Association. The discussion will center around this past winter's activities, the status of planned new zoning regulations, and future efforts which could

result in neighborhoods working together to protect Chatham's historic assets and quality of life. Among our guests will be Carol Gordon, President of the South Chatham Village Association, and David Burns, President of the West Chatham Association.

The second meeting, on Wednesday, July 21 at the home of George and Mary Olmsted, will be in honor of Richard Batchelder, who has worked tirelessly on almost every preservation, conservation and quality of life issue that has surfaced in Chatham in recent years. Among his many activities, "Barch" has been a founder and

first chairman of the HBDC, and is currently chairman of the Land Bank and the Long Range Planning Committee (a multi-year effort). His knowledge of the town and its history make his advice a requisite component to the success of any preservation effort. Batch, with the help of Don Aikman, Chairman of the Historical Commission and Norm Pacun, Vice-Chairman of the Historic Business District Commission, will talk about preservation efforts in Chatham over the years as well as the challenges that face preservationists now and in the future. See back page for more details.



From the President

I'm incredibly proud of our Association.

*Proud that over 100 members care enough about Andrew Hardings Lane beach to answer the call for donations toward its purchase- and amazingly within a window of a mere 45 days. We were able to meet the \$150,000 goal and I'm pleased that the beach will now be open to the public. A special thank-you should go to Norm Pacun, who spent hours of effort in making this happen.

*Proud of our website, which is now up and running thanks to the capable efforts of Nancy Koerner. Also assisting were Mary Ann Gray and Carol Pacun.

*Proud that our Board of Directors has come together for many meetings at a moment's notice, with enthusiastic participation by all.

*Proud that so many of our neighbors have valued preservation in renovating their homes, to the point of taking great care in retaining the original defining architectural characteristics.

*Proud that we will be able to preserve documents pertaining to the Old Village in a special area of the new Archival Center of the Historical Society.

It's important to note all members should consider donations of materials that reflect the history of the Old Village. Please be in touch with Mary Ann Gray if you have documents or pictures that might be of interest.

I'm really looking forward to the summer rhythms returning to our neighborhood!

See you at "Tea and Conversation"!

Debbie Aikman, President

CONGRATULATIONS!

During National Preservation Week in May, Preservation Awards were given by the Chatham Historical Commission and the Chatham Historical Society to property owners who have shown special care in preserving and maintaining their historic residences.

Winners from the Old Village

The MacDaniel family for the restoration of the Snow House (c.1850) at 58 School Street.

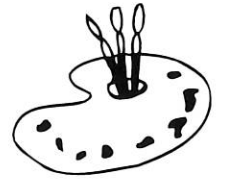
Roberta Seymour for the restoration of the Barzilla Harding House (1818) at 89 Water Street.

AND

A special thank you to all Old Village homeowners who have honored the Old Village by renovating, restoring and beautifying their homes.

Editor's Note:

ART AND ARTISTS OF THE OLD VILLAGE



At the back of the last Newsletter, I more or less promised you an article on art and artists in the Old Village. At that time I had just started to research what I had thought would be a narrow topic. I had figured that I would write some profiles of people like Harold Dunbar, then move on to the few artists I knew who are working in the Old Village today. In a neighborhood of about 200 homeowners, how many artists could there be? Plenty! The numbers of artists, past and present, who have lived in and painted the Old Village are- at least percentage-wise- staggering. As the winter wore on, each interview uncovered another name and another wonderful story of creativity. A small article fast became a booklet.

Looking at art in our neighborhood has turned out to be an exciting project, but one that required some fairly strict guidelines. I determined right away that my focus should not be on art alone, but rather on the artists themselves and their part in Old Village history. I therefore limited the list of former artists to those whom people knew personally, and to those, past and present, who actually owned homes in the Old Village proper. This meant I trimmed away from consideration earlier artists about whom no one living today had any clear memories as well as artists who may have painted wonderful Old Village scenes but lived beyond the limits of the Village or visited us for a few weeks or months. These decisions have caused me more than a few sleepless nights, and I do hope that my choices make some sense to most members.

I truly hope the book will be ready by the end of the summer, and I am grateful for the help I have received from so many of you who have shared their memories, their art and their experiences with me. Because I live in constant fear that I have missed artists, I have listed below those I have found. **If you have any additions, please let me know ASAP!** Thanks so much for your patience and your help.

Carol Pacun

OLD VILLAGE ARTISTS... Any More?

Deceased: Grace Chapin, Mary Chisholm, Tracy Clayton, Margaret Dole, Harold Dunbar, Spaulding Dunbar, Lisa and David Eizenberg, "Good Walter" Eldredge, Anne Fallon, Lulu Gay, Harriet Jaqueth Fitz Hutchinson, Bob Jones, Spencer Kennard, Ingolf Lamberg, Thomas and Charles Seymour, Andre Snow, Kathryn Stone, Pieter Domineck Thompson, Charles Watkins.

Moved: Annora Aasen, Shirley Bentley, Harry Merkel, Dorothy Snow.

In Chatham today: Betty Davis, Maryalice Eizenberg, Lynn Fear, Marie Griffin, Joan Horrocks, John and Jacqueth (Jay) Hutchinson, Peg Kennard, Ann O'Connell, Bob Staake, Linda Simonitisch, Clyde Smith.

With that out of the way, the real negotiations with the Selectmen began. Ted Keon, Director of Coastal Resources, played a pivotal role in defining the issues and clarifying the status of the beach and future needs. Still, the terms of the easement were not finalized until the end of May. Later on, when the process involving State regulations allowing the easement to be in perpetuity seemed to be headed for delays beyond the closing date for the purchase of the property, the Town agreed to sign an easement, good for 25-30 years, with the understanding that the Association and the Town would then move ahead with the necessary State paperwork as soon as possible. The signed conservation easement has been recorded and will in effect keep the beach in its present rural state and guarantee that the beach is now and will be open to the public, free of charge. Other issues addressed in the easement include the town's good faith intention to renourish the beach with sand whenever possible, to add temporary structures (porta-potties) on the beach only if required for health reasons, and not to add parking for 15 years and at that point only to consider it if the beach has accreted. The Town has also retained the right to install a revetment (subject to all necessary permits) if renourishment is not a viable alternative, with every effort made to make the beach accessible. The Old Village Association will, of course, continue to monitor the easement where appropriate.

Back to Town Meeting – where “You Never Know”

A positive vote at Town Meeting was the second essential element to the purchase. Although Ted Keon made a strong presentation, the going was far from smooth. The discussion centered on the Old Village Association as an appropriate entity to hold an easement, with Harbor Master Stuart Smith, (speaking as an individual), indicating that he would

prefer it to be in the hands of the Chatham Conservation Foundation. However, Andy Young, President of the Foundation, told the meeting that the Foundation generally does not accept easements on property which is to be used by the public. He further remarked that he had been a part of the negotiations and fully supported the Old Village holding the easement. Norm Pacun, Bob Walsh and David MacAdam spoke in favor of the sale. After a few negative remarks concerning the price of the beach (too expensive) and the advisability of easements in general, Selectmen Ron Bergstrom cemented public opinion by stating that the Selectmen had made a deal with the Old Village Association, and “a deal’s a deal”. Those attending the meeting from the Old Village breathed a sigh of relief when a wide majority voted in favor of the sale and the easement.

The Old Village Association Board unanimously supports this purchase as a wonderful example of private-public cooperation which will benefit Chatham now and in the future. The Board continues to be impressed by the number of donors—over 100—and the continuing support among members and non-members alike for preservation and conservation. Speaking for the Board, President Debbie Aikman wants people to know that “those who gave to the beach fund have our gratitude. If not for their full and immediate support, the sale would not have happened.” An accounting statement and formal acknowledgments of gifts will be sent out within the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, Ted Keon has arranged for the dredge “Currituck” to dump sand offshore at Andrew Hardings Lane. More sand, brought in by piping from Chatham Harbor, should be coming in the fall. The only important player not to sign an agreement—or express any opinion—is Mother Nature. With a little help from her friends, all involved expect her to behave in an appropriate manner during the next several years.

ANNE ROGERS (1934-2004)

Anne Rogers, who lived at 27 Eliphamets Lane, was THE OFFICIAL Old Village historian, at least to those of us who had any questions about neighborhood people, places and events. If she didn't know the answer, there was none to be had. What made Anne so special, however, was the depth of her love for what she called, in the old-fashioned way, “the Village,” the vividness of her memories, her joy in simple pleasures and her keen sense of family and community. She lived very privately in the house her parents had owned before her and which she had changed little over the years. But while she reveled in memories and worked endlessly to “get things right” about Old Village history, she did not let her interest in the past shade her concerns for the future. She avidly supported preservation efforts, deplored demolitions of historic properties and was a proponent of the National Register District (although it probably pained her that such a step was needed and, worse, that those advocating for the Old Village were mostly wash-a-shores).

Anne, with David MacAdam, wrote two books on the Old Village, *A Family Album of the '20s* and *Mill Cove*. Her own words speak volumes about who she was and the values she held dear.

On the Eliphamets Lane Shucking Shanties (from *Mill Cove*): “The shanty beckons to the returning harvester from far down the Mill Pond. Following a productive day on the water, the dory is hauled up at Mill Cove and the copious bags are wrestled from the bottom of the boat. A few steps in rubber boots—pluck, pluck—to dry shore and then a scant fifteen feet more brings the tired harvester up to the shanty. There the bags of shell encased delicacies are slung down by the weathered door beneath the shanty's square, multi-paned windows.”

On the 4th of July (from *A Family Album of the '20s*): “Oh, to be a child again, to slurp that wonderfully refreshing (watermelon) nectar and to blow forth those shiny black seeds hither and yon over the dunes.”

Good-bye Anne. Our loss is great.

CAP

ICED TEA AND COOL CONVERSATION

Session One: July 7 at 4:00 p.m.

“Forming Alliances – Solving Problems Together”

*A conversation with
South Chatham Village Association and
West Chatham Association representatives*

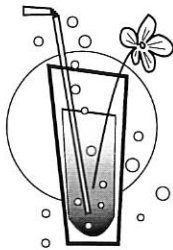
At the home of
Bill and Jane Vaughn, 95 Silverleaf Avenue

Session Two: July 21, at 4:00 p.m.

Richard Batchelder, honored guest
“Preservation in Chatham: Past, Present and Future”
With Don Aikman and Norm Pacun

At the home of
George and Mary Olmsted, 62 Chase Street

These are wonderful opportunities to talk “preservation” with people outside the Old Village in an informal setting. Because of space problems, each session is limited to a maximum of 20 people. Please call Debbie Aikman (945-8969) or Carol Pacun (945-1627) if you would like to attend one or both programs.



ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY AUGUST 22, 2004 CHATHAM BEACH AND TENNIS CLUB

Honored Guest
Ted Keon

Director of Coastal Resources

Come and say “thanks” to Ted for his help with the beach purchase. Ted will entertain members’ questions about the future of the beach.

6:30 p.m.

Coffee and dessert

7:00 p.m.

Annual meeting

All members are urged to participate.

The Old Village Association, Inc.
Box 188
Chatham, MA 02633