



CPRA residents enjoy the views at Pontcysllite

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

Spring 2009 Coach Outing

Our annual spring coach outing raised over £130 for Association funds. Indifferent weather conditions at both Pontcysllite and Llangollen did little to spoil our enjoyment, as pictured above.

CPRA Walking Group



Peter Bingham led a tour of Chester City buildings on 2nd May, demonstrating the work of the noted local architect, John Douglas, and ending with tea and cake at Bishop Lloyd's Palace. Those privileged to take part are very grateful to Peter for an entertaining and educative afternoon.

Future Events

Saturday 1st August

Burwardsley (Sandstone Trail) CH3 9PF

Meeting at the car park next to the Candle Workshops at 10am, this walk will take us along the Peckforton Hills. For refreshments there is an excellent pub [The Pheasant] in the village, a cafe at the Candle Workshops, or ice cream at the nearby Cheshire Ice Cream Farm. The walk will take 3-4 hours and is about 5 miles, with some steep climbs and several stiles to cross. If anyone needs a lift to the start point or is able to offer lifts, please contact Jenny Plunkett – details below.

Saturday 5th September

Shropshire Union Canal.

Meeting at the rail bridge by the entrance to the Golf Club at 10.30am, the plan will be to walk towards Ellesmere Port along the towpath for an hour or so, and return by the same route, so that those who wish can end by refreshing themselves at Telford's Warehouse. This will be easy level walking.

If you're interested in taking part in future walks, please register with Jenny Plunkett walking@cpraonline.org or Tel 683814.

Welcome to the 'new look' Curzon Park Residents' Association newsletter. I am sure you are aware that our two main methods of communication with you are this newsletter and the website. For some time the management committee have felt that the latter was not achieving its full potential and, therefore, we are in the process of redesigning it. We hope it will be fully operational by the end of this month when we will have much more up to date information for you. The address, of course, will remain as before. Please do log on; I'm certain you will find it useful.

Chris Pilsbury, chairman@cpraonline.org

Community Support

If you are aware of anyone in Curzon Park who would benefit from practical support, or someone who finds it difficult to get out, then please encourage them to contact Geoff and Shirley Brown on 682020 or communitysupport@cpraonline.org as we have received more response from people offering help than opportunities to serve.

Sea Fishing Trip

Don't forget to book for the sea fishing trip on Saturday 29th August. It's planned that we will be at sea for five hours sailing out of Rhyl with Blue Shark Fisheries. Cost: approx £18 per head. Car pooling will be arranged if required. Please contact Geoff Brown on 682020.

August Bank Holiday Monday Family Day

Following the success of our Curzon Park Discovery Trail on August Bank Holiday 2008, this year we're staging a similar event for all ages to come and join in, on **Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August**. Starting at the green space on Northway/Greenway from 2pm, the trail will end on the green with refreshments, fun sports and other attractions. Residents and non-residents welcome. There will be a small entry fee and donation requested for refreshments.

October Quiz Night

Building on the enthusiasm from our first curry and quiz night in February, we will be holding a similar event on **Saturday 24th October** starting at 7.30pm. Make a note in your diary now. Further details to be announced in the October Newsletter.

RACECOURSE ISSUES

Riverside Walkway

Most will agree that the development of the promenade alongside the River Dee has been laudable and welcome. For regular users, however, there has been irritation about the closure of the section alongside the new stable block during race meetings. This is a particular nuisance for those walking or cycling from Sealand Road, who have no warning of the closure until reaching a locked gate and then have to retrace their steps over several hundred metres.

Following complaints, we have taken the matter up with the Race Company, whose reason for closing it was to limit the risk of thefts from horseboxes. This seemed a less than justified position as the locked section abuts the stable yard, not the area outside it where horseboxes are kept.

The Race Company has no absolute right to close off the relevant section of the promenade, but under the terms of the original planning permission for the stable block, needs the agreement of the local authority to do so. Accordingly we approached one of our ward representatives, Councillor Razia Daniels, to voice concern and ascertain the Council's position. Councillor Daniels's reply was to pass on an email from a council official stating that it is "totally reasonable" that the section be locked to safeguard horses.

In reply, we pointed out that anyone seeking to access the stable-block would need to scale a wall in full view of security cameras, overcome vandal-proof paint, and then climb over the roof and avoid a 24-hour guard.

The locked gates, particularly at the Sealand Road end, are easily circumvented, and present no obstacle to anyone sufficiently determined to enter the stables. In other words, the closure is more about window-dressing for the benefit of the racing authorities than for any practical reason of security.

We have taken the position with Councillor Daniels that far from being “totally reasonable”, the present position is not even arguably so. She has “noted” our concerns. We do not believe there will be any change in the position unless more people directly make known their dissatisfaction. If you are concerned, please contact a member of committee or write to or telephone Councillor Daniels direct on 312392 or razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk and let our Chairman, Chris Pilsbury know in any event on 678076 or chairman@cpraonline.org so that we have a full picture of who is concerned.

HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES

Hogweed Control Riverbank

After many letters and emails, and also some shambolic organisation and communication problems, we are advised that spraying has now been completed for all those who wished spraying to take place, although the timescale for these works kept changing (month on month) and some householders decided to tackle it themselves. Where there are continuing issues with the hogweed growth, please contact Gary Hulmes, Open Spaces Supervisor, Cheshire West and Chester Council on 0300 123 8 123 or email at gary.hulmes@chester.gov.uk or gary.hulmes@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

With regard to the future, we are advised by Gary Hulmes that the land behind properties on the riverbank is **not** owned by the Council, and only a land registry search/planning search will conclude who owns the land. We are writing to Dee Valley Water to establish whether they own the land and, if so, will ultimately be responsible for on-going spraying. The saga continues.

Verge Parking Signs

As reported in the last Newsletter we formally wrote to Councillor Short over the erection of new signs. He replied that he had forwarded this request to a Council official, but they were not enthusiastic about this because it has been difficult to enforce in Lache Park Avenue. We emphasised that double and single lines on the highway carriageway are in situ in large areas of Curzon Park North and Curzon Park South and any parking on verges is, in effect, within the highway boundary and is in contravention of the waiting restrictions and accordingly liable to prosecution. With parking control within Chester now undertaken by the Council, **they** have the responsibility to provide resources for enforcement. The feedback we have been receiving from Lache Park Avenue is that they are pleased with the notices and there is a visual improvement to the verges.

Highways response for Mount Pleasant

We have just received a written response to various points that have arisen both with regard to Mount Pleasant and parking concerns in Curzon Park. Their reply is being considered by the Working Party and we will report back once we have had the opportunity to digest their reply.

Bulb Planting

A bulb planting initiative has been raised within Curzon Park and Mount Pleasant. We propose planting the British bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) on the left hand side of the entrance to Curzon Park North under the canopy of trees. In the grass verge they will naturalise and give bold impact. After initial planting, the bulbs will multiply annually.



Additionally, we propose to plant miniature daffodils on the green by the sub station at Mount Pleasant. Most daffodils will multiply quickly and the idea would be to plant in groups of ten or more, creating irregular shapes for a more natural look. Eventually, these will form yellow drifts. These proposals are at an early stage of development and permission, funding, and volunteers for planting still have to be addressed.

Earlsway Verges

We received correspondence from residents concerning the deteriorating state of the verges, especially between Selkirk Road and Mount Pleasant. A meeting was convened with Mr. Williams, Highways Engineer, Cheshire West and Chester Council who explained that Earlsway, along with Blacon, had the **worst** verges in Chester. Unfortunately, there is a very limited budget for maintenance (currently £25 per household is designated from Council Tax). With such limited funding and slim resources he was unable to agree to fundamental improvements. However, he did agree to the following:-

- make good the verge outside number 6 (resulting from damage from Welsh Water repairs) in September 2009
- Address epocormic shoots growing from the base of tree trunks in Earlsway which were blocking the footway (now completed)
- write to householders whose actions are damaging the highway verges

In order to improve the verge situation in Earlsway, he is not adverse to residents keeping the grass verges (outside their own properties) in good order. There are a number of public spirited residents already doing this. Concern was also expressed regarding residents who may not have complied with regulations in widening drives for vehicle access. Please contact the Highways if you are considering work of this nature on 0300 123 8 123.



We will continue to liaise with the new local authority to encourage them to put increased resources into this work, but residents themselves should not anticipate 'miracles'. In view of the limited expenditure we will inevitably have to live with damage to verges. However, we hope the new signs

(see last Newsletter), if implemented, will at least **deter** parking on the verges within the area.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The next **Police Community Action Meeting** is on **Monday 17 August 2009** at Chester Golf Club. There were a number of minor incidents at the beginning of June but we understand the Police have made some progress in identifying the culprits. However, residents are reminded not to leave their doors and windows open unattended, keep their cars locked 24 hours a day, and close any driveway gates at night. Further information about home security can be found on Cheshire Police's website

<http://www.cheshire.police.uk/showcontent.php?pageid=141>

Please report **all** incidents to the Police including minor ones; it would be helpful if you could also inform Liz Neeves on 679888 or communitysafety@cpraonline.org as she is keeping a record of incidents.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police www.cheshire.police.uk

Community Action Team 0845 458 6375
[Voicemail]
chester.outer.cat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Crime/Incident Reporting

[Non-Emergency] 0845 458 0000
Emergency [inc culprits at the scene] 999

Cheshire West and Chester Council

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

General enquiries 0300 123 8 123
enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Waste Collection 0300 123 7026
chester.waste@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Litter, dog fouling or graffiti 01244 402477

This newsletter is delivered to all residents of Curzon Park. If you have not yet joined the Association, CPRA membership forms are available from Liz Neeves secretary@cpraonline.org or Tel 679888.