



## Residents enjoy Christmas Carols on the Green

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

#### Thank you for your support

Trick or Treat activities were enjoyed by many of our younger residents to mark Hallowe'en.



*Mirror, mirror on the wall  
Who is the scariest of them all?*

Our day trip to Salford Quays and the Lowry Theatre in November was a sell-out and raised over £300 for Association funds. Carols on the Green in December drew more than 150 residents together who generously gave £150 for refreshments which has been donated to the Claire House Children's Hospice. The working group organising our community and social activities is encouraged to continue its efforts in 2010, but would welcome some

additional help. If you can spare time to attend our meetings (usually on Wednesday evenings once every 6-8 weeks), or be available for activities such as selling tickets or setting up gazebos, please contact Jim Shapton (tel: 678209 or email [socials@cpraonline.org](mailto:socials@cpraonline.org)).

#### Next event – Traditional Skittles

Our next event will be a trip to the skittle alley at the Bickerton Poacher Inn on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, for an afternoon of old-fashioned nine pins. A lot of fun is guaranteed for all ages, with families being particularly welcome. The ticket price of £15 includes a two-course carvery lunch. Accompanied children not taking the meal are welcome to attend without charge but must be registered with us first please, as there is a limit on overall numbers. We will be meeting at Bickerton at 1.30pm and have the use of the skittle alley until 4.00pm. We are not arranging transport, but lifts will be available and we will encourage car sharing. Please contact Andrea Segrave (tel: 679496) or Jenny Plunkett (tel: 683814) for tickets and directions to the venue.

#### Future events

Social events organised so far have been held at weekends to allow those who work to join in. However there a lot of residents who might welcome CPRA-organised activities during the daytime in midweek. Suggestions of Pilates, Yoga classes, lunch

Welcome to 2010 and the eighth edition of the CPRA Newsletter. At the time of writing we are in the middle of the coldest spell of weather for many years. Please do keep a close eye on any elderly neighbours you may have; even a quick phone call will sometimes be enough.

Already the bluebells, which have been planted on the approaches to Curzon Park, will be settling down to provide a cheery display every spring for years to come. Thanks to all concerned for their efforts. The Association has recently purchased a splendid gazebo which has already been put to use by the carol singers, and can be seen in the photograph on page one.

We are always looking for new members of the Association. Please do join us and participate in some of our excellent activities. It really is the case of the more the merrier.

Both the Highways & Open Spaces and the Community & Social working parties are looking for volunteers to help them in their work. If you are interested please contact either Andrea or Jim.

Finally, on behalf of the management committee I would like to wish all of you a Very Happy 2010.

Chris Pilsbury, Chairman

groups, card schools, and a book group have been made. If you are interested in weekday activities, please come along to an informal meeting (coffee and biscuits, £1) at 11am on Wednesday 10th February 2010 at Chester Golf Club. Alternatively, please contact the Social and Community Working Group, via Jim Shapton (tel: 678209 or email [socials@cpraonline.org](mailto:socials@cpraonline.org)). Interest has been shown in a CPRA Garden Society, as published in our last newsletter, so as the warmer weather approaches, if you would like to join in, please contact Chris Pilsbury (tel: 678076).

### **CPRA Walking Group**

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments after the walks are optional. Car-sharing is arranged where appropriate. Please contact Jenny Plunkett (tel: 683814 or [walking@cpraonline.org](mailto:walking@cpraonline.org)) or see our website, for more information

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February Parkgate**

Meet at The Old Baths car park off Boathouse Lane in Parkgate at 10:30am. This is a pleasant ramble beside the Dee estuary returning along quiet tracks and lanes to Old Parkgate. The walk is about 3 miles and will take about 2 hours. It is flat level walking, but can be muddy. Bring binoculars as this is a well known bird watching area. Enjoy refreshments afterwards, either at the well known ice cream shop, tea shops, The Red Lion or Boathouse Inn.

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March Bickerton**

Prior to the Skittles afternoon at Bickerton, the walking group will be meeting at 12 noon at the Bickerton Poacher for a ramble along local paths and lanes in the Bickerton/Bulkeley/Peckforton area. While we expect a number of people will join both the walk and the skittles event, non-skittlers are just as welcome and, of course, walking is not compulsory for the skittlers.

## **HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES**

### **Bulb Planting**

With some funding from the Council we are



delighted to report that 200 English bluebells were planted on the approach to Curzon Park by a member of the Highways and Open Spaces Working Party. They have been planted in clumps of 10 on the approach in Curzon Park North (left hand side) and set back near the tree canopy.

There is no set pattern in order to look 'natural'. Flowering is anticipated around April 2010.

### **The Leaves in Curzon Park...**

We are very pleased with the successful clearing of leaves last year which can be attributed to the diligence and full co-operation of the Street Scene Department. Communication has proved invaluable and we hope to repeat this to ever greater effect in 2010. However, it was disconcerting to be informed that the Street Scene Department are in possession of mobile phone footage of a Curzon Park resident barrowing leaves out of his garden and tipping them on the road and verges. Please use the garden waste recycling bins in future for all garden waste.

### **Potholes and other road issues**

We have raised a subsidence issue in the roadway approaching the bridge to the Golf Club. The Council advise that Network Rail has to demolish and rebuild an adjacent retaining wall before they can re-instate the roadway, which may result in the road being blocked for approx. one week.

The Council has introduced a new reporting system for pot holes, loose paving slabs, broken or damaged street lights. To report a problem, visit the council's website at [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) and select 'On line Services', then 'Highways', and then the appropriate section. Alternatively, call 0300 123 8 123 and ensure you are given a reference number.

### **Tree Damage in Curzon Park**

Along with the Highways Superintendent we are disheartened at the continued vandalism of trees in Curzon Park. We agree that some other protection needs to be employed, but he writes '*planting of young trees is relatively inexpensive but larger specimens with substantial guards may prove prohibitively expensive*' (guards costing more than the tree). '*Previously in other areas we have made two attempts at re-planting and if, after the second attempt, they are vandalised, we would remove and **not re-plant!***' Currently there is no budget, but the Highways Superintendent is looking into this further for us.

### **Waste Removal from Mount Pleasant**

Paper sacks currently in operation in Mount Pleasant are not sufficiently waterproof to resist being left out in the rain and we have requested to the Council that the specification be improved to ensure that they can sustain overnight dampness and rainfall.

### **Grass Verges**

Verge erosion resulting from extended vehicle access at some properties continues to be of concern in discussions with the Highways Superintendent. Modifications to access can lead to an unexpected expenditure liability for residents in the region of £500 to £1000 to repair damage depending on the extent of the works. It is essential that Highways approval and any necessary planning consent are obtained prior to any vehicle access alterations to properties in Curzon Park.

### **Your Involvement and support**

If you are interested in involving yourself in issues concerning highways and open spaces within Curzon Park and, in particular, anything linked to the areas we regularly report on, please make your interest known by contacting Andrea Segrave (tel: 679496).

### **NOTICE BOARD**

**Part-time gardener required**, a few hours a month with a good knowledge of plants. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Sue Hudson - telephone 677895.

### **Charity Requests:**

We all receive many charity bags through our letter boxes asking for clothing, bric-a-brac etc., but how much of what we donate actually goes to our chosen charity? If you would like to find out more about the charities requesting donations then contact the Charity Commission on 0845 3000 218 or visit their website [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) where you can find out more information about individual charities including their annual accounts.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

The next **Police Community Action Meeting** is on **Monday 22 February 2010** at **7:00pm** at Chester Golf Club. If you have any concerns about recent incidents and/or police action in the area, this is an ideal opportunity to meet with Police officers from the local Community Action Team including our Police Community Support Officer, Christopher Fox.

PCSO Fox is continuing to hold Police Surgeries for residents at the Golf Club House in Westminster Park on **Saturday mornings from 10.30am – 11:00am**.

Future dates include:

- 6<sup>th</sup> February
- 27th February
- 20th March
- 10th April

House security advice is available to all residents. To arrange an appointment, please contact PCSO Fox by email [Christopher.Fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Christopher.Fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) or telephone 0845 458 6375 and leave a message for his attention, leaving your name and number. He will then contact you to arrange an appointment.

As a result of security checks around Curzon Park during December, Police Officers found a number of insecure vehicles with valuables inside. To avoid becoming a victim of crime, residents are asked to ensure their cars, as well as their property, are secure. Residents registered with CPRA and on email were alerted to this problem at the time. If you are not a member of CPRA but would like to register, a form can be obtained from [www.cpraonline.org](http://www.cpraonline.org) or by contacting Liz Neeves (tel: 679888 or email [secretary@cpraonline.org](mailto:secretary@cpraonline.org)).

Do visit the Cheshire Police website at <http://www.supportcheshirepolice.net/curzon-westminster/follow-up/> which gives up-to-date information on local policing issues.

Residents are reminded to report **all** security incidents to the Police including minor ones. It is also helpful to notify Liz Neeves [contact details above] who can warn residents via email of any current problems.

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

Community Action Team 0845 458 6375  
[Voicemail]  
[chester.outer.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chester.outer.npt@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](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

General enquiries 0300 123 8123  
[enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Waste Collection, litter 0300 123 7026  
[chester.waste@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:chester.waste@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Consumer Direct – Trading Standards  
[eg doorstep traders] 0845 405 0506  
[www.consumerdirect.gov.uk](http://www.consumerdirect.gov.uk)

This newsletter is brought to you by funds raised by the CPRA Community and Social working Group and donations offered by CPRA members.

If you are not a member of the Association, we hope you will consider joining us - contact Liz Neeves on 679888 or email [secretary@cpraonline.org](mailto:secretary@cpraonline.org) for a membership form or visit our website [www.cpraonline.org](http://www.cpraonline.org).

Perhaps you think you are too busy to belong to the Association? For the vast majority of members there is very little time commitment required, although new members are always welcome on the Working Groups, and our social events aim to please all age groups. For residents on email, there is the added advantage of being notified immediately about any Police/security issues.

We hope you find this newsletter and the Association helpful in bringing our community together.