

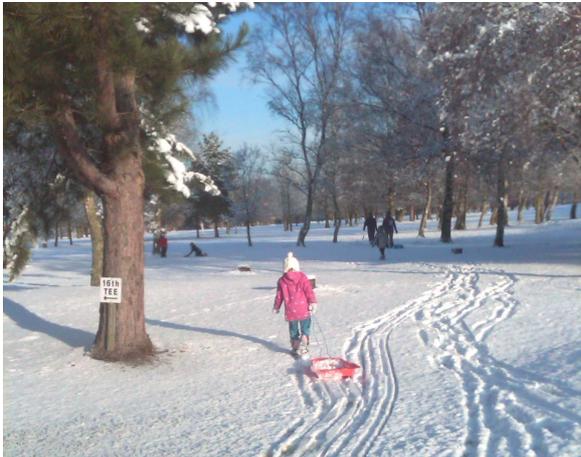
Welcome to the ninth edition of the CPRA Newsletter. After what has seemed an almost unending winter the first signs of spring, albeit rather late this year, are most pleasant. As can be seen below, at least some of the residents of Curzon Park enjoyed the snow and cold.

The past twelve months have been one of constant endeavour by many members of CPRA and now is the time to take stock and evaluate what has been achieved. Part of that process is our AGM, details of which you will find below. Please do make every effort to attend, as your input into the association is vital. You will also notice that Dr Peter Bingham will be giving a talk on Heritage Open Days at the end of proceedings which, I am certain, will be totally fascinating. Do please join us on Monday 10th May.

Chris Pilsbury, Chairman

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

The severe weather of January and February showed just how much good can be achieved with a little community organisation to help those, particularly the elderly, who found themselves in difficulties. Thanks to Geoff Brown and his volunteers for showing the kind of neighbourhood spirit CPRA was always intended to generate. We have to admit that not much could be done to help distressed golfers but, as our photo shows, younger members of our community were not too 'putt' out about that!



With the winter over, we enjoyed an excellent walk and afternoon of traditional skittles at Bickerton on 6th March.



CPRA Walking Group

Everyone welcome; just turn up. We usually have a refreshment stop after the walk, but that's entirely optional. Car-sharing is arranged in appropriate cases. See our website for more and latest information, or to be included in an emailing list to receive updates, contact Jenny Plunkett at (walking@cpraonline.org). Our future outings are:

Chirk on Saturday 8 May:

This walk will begin at 10am at the car park at Chirk Station (which the eco-friendly can reach by taking the 0930 from Chester Station). It will include the spectacular Chirk aqueduct and railway viaduct, canal tunnel and marina, with the outer section of our walk circling the equally spectacular castle. This is generally easy walking with no serious gradients. The Hand Hotel will be our highly recommended venue for those wishing to stay on for lunch.

Provisional plans have been made for walks in the Christleton area on 3rd July and Llangollen on 7th August.

John Douglas Tour on Tuesday 22 June:

While there is no country walk planned for June, Peter Bingham has kindly offered to repeat his walking tour of the achievements of John Douglas, the local architect responsible for so much of what makes Chester distinctive. Those who took part last year found it highly entertaining and educational, and the re-run is in response to requests from a number of people who missed the original. To participate, just turn up at 7.00pm. on the day at the railway bridge by the Golf Club. The walk will take about two hours, and we hope to arrange some refreshment at the end.

Spring Coach Outing - Sunday 6th June

Our coach excursion this year will be to Southport with an option to travel on to Martin Mere Wildlife and Wetlands Centre. Those staying in Southport will have 4-5 hours to enjoy the resort's many attractions, including the pier and tramway, extensive marine lake, fairgrounds, parks, beach, model railway village, arcades and other quality shops; plus its many cafés, pubs and restaurants. A luxury coach has been reserved, and will leave Curzon Park at 10.30am, returning by 6.00pm. Tickets are £12 each, £5 for children of 12 and under (if occupying own seat) and £10 for parents accompanied by their children. Contact Melody Reynolds (680036) or Jane Mercer (682128) for tickets and further information. More details are also available on our own website, or visit the Southport tourism and Martin Mere websites.

Midweek Lunches

In February, we held a meeting in response to requests to provide more social activity on weekdays. The main outcome was a decision to form an occasional lunching group. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Segrave (679496).

Jazz – Monday 24th May

In last year's questionnaire we received a number of responses about possible future social activities including jazz. While tastes and available venues vary, a good starting point is a jazz evening at the Mill Hotel on Monday 24th May. If you would like to go, please let either Howell Roberts (679682) or Jim Shapton (678209) know, so that they can try to reserve an appropriate amount of space, but feel free to just turn up anyway from 8.00pm. Dining is optional.

HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES

Good News

The Highways Superintendent advises that the vandalised trees in Curzon Park South 'are to be replaced with more substantial specimens than the previous saplings and have ample guards'. Two replacement horse chestnuts will be planted on entering from CPN and one maple further along.

Overhanging Trees/Vegetation

It's that time of year when everything has started to grow. Please ensure footways are kept clear of overhanging foliage for the safety of pedestrians.

Relocation of Footbridge across the River

It is rumoured that there are plans for a new pedestrian bridge which may have implications for CP residents. If anyone has any information on this could they please contact us - by Tel. Andrea Segrave 679496 or emailing openspaces@cpraonline.org

Street Lighting

Street lights in Carrick Road and Earlsway are to be replaced shortly.

Verges

The Highways Superintendent has noted the verge damage on Curzon Park North and says he intends to put 'verge marker posts' in this area to help prevent the verges deteriorating further.

NOTICE BOARD

With the aid of a grant from CWAC, CPRA was able to purchase 2 **gazebos**. They are available to borrow for up to 3 days in exchange for a donation of £10 to Association funds. (Sizes: 6m x 3m with side panels and 3m square without sides).

A **Chester Theatre Club** is being formed, with a varied programme of monthly outings to local theatres, alternating on Monday or Tuesday evenings. For further information please contact Sue Heather on 341936 or sueheather62@hotmail.com.

Chester Croquet Club welcomes new members from absolute beginners to more experienced players. The club meets in Westminster Park. This year the club is offering 2 free taster sessions for golf croquet at 2pm on Monday afternoons (12th and 19th April) and a comprehensive beginners' course at 6.30pm starting on Wednesday 28th April 8 weeks. All equipment will be provided by the Club but players must wear flat-soled shoes. If you would like more information, please call the club secretary, Janet Davies (350370).

NOTICE

Annual General Meeting of the Curzon Park Residents Association
to be held at Chester Golf Club, Curzon Park North, Chester,
at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th May 2010.

AGENDA

1. Report on the Association's activities since 1st April 2009.
2. Presentation of the accounts of the Association for the 12 months ended 31st March 2010.
3. Election of a new Management Committee, as follows:
 - (i) election of Chair (Chris Pilsbury offers himself for re-election);
 - (ii) election of Secretary (Liz Neeves offers herself for re-election);
 - (iii) election of Treasurer;
 - (iv) election of no fewer than two nor more than six ordinary members (Andrea Segrave, Tracey Geary, Geoff Brown, and Jim Shapton offer themselves for re-election).
4. To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution:

That the constitution of the Association be amended by altering Paragraph 6.1 (e) by the addition of the words shown in italics below: "The existing MC members will stand down. (They may stand for re-election, subject to the proviso that no member may serve more than three consecutive terms of office *unless the number of members standing for election or re-election is insufficient to result in an MC of six members*)".

5. Discussion on proposal that CPRA sponsor a charity.
6. Questions and comments from the floor.

NOTES:

- A. The Association's constitution requires that all Management Committee members stand down at each AGM and that all nine seats are subject to election. Of the six vacancies for ordinary members, one is required to be reserved for residents of each of three geographical "constituencies" and a fourth for a member who is under 39 years at date of election. None of the present Committee offering themselves for re-election is under 39 years old.
- B. The purpose of agenda item 4 is to recognise the difficulty that may arise under the constitution as it stands because, with one exception, those current Management Committee members who seek to remain for 2010/11 will be ineligible for re-election in 2011, having served three terms. Unless sufficient new members come forward by the time of the AGM in 2011 to make up an MC of at least five, the Association will then be required to dissolve itself.

Following the formal business of the meeting there will be a presentation by Dr. Peter Bingham on Heritage Open Days in Chester to mark the 50th anniversary this year of the Chester Civic Trust.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Update from our PCSO

Since the turn of the year the structure of neighbourhood Policing around Chester has seen a number of changes. The aim of these changes is to have Neighbourhood Police on the streets over a greater period of time. The thinking behind these changes is that local officers know the people living in a certain area and their presence is the great tool in the fight against crime, because they have the local knowledge to recognise and target offenders.

I am pleased to be able to report that [at the time of writing this report] there have been no burglaries or thefts from motor vehicles in Curzon Park over the past month. However this is not the time to be complacent if we are to keep crime down to a minimum; remember to **lock doors** and **keep valuables out of sight**.

PCSO Fox

The next **Police Community Action Meeting** [CAM] is on Monday 7 June 2010 at 7pm, Chester Golf Club.

PCSO Fox is continuing to hold **Police Surgeries** at the Golf Club House in Westminster Park on Saturday mornings from 10.30 – 11.30am. He also provides a bike and garden tool security marking service at these surgeries. Future dates are every third week, i.e. 1st May, 22nd May and 12th June.

House security advice is available to all residents. To arrange an appointment, contact PCSO Fox by email Christopher.Fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or Tel 0845 458 6375 and leave a message for his attention, leaving your name and number.

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

Did you know that **Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service** will complete a free Home Fire Safety Check and fit free smoke alarms? Telephone 0151 355 5129 to arrange a visit.

The Future of Home Watch in West Cheshire

It is 28 years since the first Home Watch schemes were created, and Home Watch volunteers were recently invited to a meeting at St Mary's Centre, Chester to discuss the future of Home Watch in the area. As a result of the meeting, a 'West Cheshire Home Watch Group' has been formed, with the aim of improving communication between individual Home Watch schemes.

For further information, contact Liz Biddle, Home Watch Officer, Cheshire Constabulary Western Watch Office on 614291 or email Western.Watch@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Household collections – we have received a large number of requests for clothing and other goods recently. If you have any doubt about any of these requests, you can contact the Charity Commission helpline 0845 300 0218 or visit their online register of charities at www.charitycommission.gov.uk to check they are a legitimate registered charity. You can also visit the 'Watch out!' section of the Consumer Direct website www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police www.cheshire.police.uk

Community Action Team 0845 458 6375
[Voicemail]
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

General enquiries 0300 123 8123
enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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

Consumer Direct – Trading Standards
[eg doorstep traders] 0845 405 0506
www.consumerdirect.gov.uk