



## Christmas Carols on the Green

### COMMUNITY & SOCIAL

#### CHRISTMAS MUSIC

It was certainly a braw, bricht, moonlicht nicht as residents young and old gathered on the Green for our second Christmas music concert. Tea candles in decorated jam jars issued to the children added to a great atmosphere. Mulled wine and mince pies - hot chocolate and biscuits for the children - and some hearty singing to guitar accompaniment, soon took attention away from the freezing temperature. Apparently more immune from the cold than many of her younger neighbours, one of our more elderly residents observed: "This is how winter and Christmas are supposed to be!"

#### WALKING GROUP

Monthly walks resume in February and the first three planned for 2011 are:

**Sunday 6th February:** Northern end of the SANDSTONE TRAIL. Meet at the car park in Church Street, Frodsham (by the Railway bridge) at 10:30am prior to marching up the hill; great views of the Mersey Basin and many interesting features; walking time about 2 hours; refreshments at the Bull's Head in Frodsham on return.

**Saturday 5th March:** A circular walk with some steep paths, from LLANGOLLEN around Castell Dinas Bran and along to the Sun Trevor pub, returning along the canal towpath (2.5hours); spectacular views; meet at 10:00am outside Llangollen Railway station.

**Saturday 2nd April:** A flat walk starting at Eccleston ferry (meet at 11:30am), along the banks of the river Dee to Aldford with a stop at The Grosvenor Arms for refreshments before returning along the same route; walking time about an hour and a half.

More details are available on our website or for further information and car sharing contact Jenny Plunkett on Tel: 683814 or by email to [walking@cpraonline.org](mailto:walking@cpraonline.org). All refreshment stops are optional. Everyone welcome!

If the cold weather persists, please think of helping an elderly or infirm neighbour. If you, or anyone you know, needs help with snow clearing, shopping, getting to medical appointments etc., we have a team of eager volunteers available to assist. Please contact Geoff and Shirley Brown on telephone number 682020 for more information.

## **CPRA Management Committee**

*Maurice Terry, one of the prime movers in establishing CPRA, has resigned as Treasurer. We are grateful to Maurice for his considerable contribution over the past three years. I am pleased to announce that Alison Booth, an Earlsway resident, has agreed to succeed him and has been appointed as our new Treasurer.*

*Most of the Management Committee, having served three full terms by the time of our AGM in May 2011, will be ineligible for re-election (except as may prove necessary to ensure a future quorum). The Curzon Park Residents Association's constitution was deliberately written to require a turnover in members of the Management Committee so that it didn't become the preserve of an in-crowd. However, we need fresh volunteers to come forward to replace the old hands. Membership of the Committee requires little more than attending about 8 or so meetings a year, for about 90 minutes each, usually on Monday evenings. Involvement in the Working Groups that, for example, organise our social events, is optional. If you're interested, and would like to know more, please contact our Secretary, Liz Neeves (Tel: 679888) for further information.*

*As I am one of the members who will have served on the Committee since the founding of the Association, I will be stepping down as Chairman in mid-February. Geoff Brown of Park Road West has agreed to succeed me, and to offer himself for election in May at CPRA AGM. He will then continue as Chairman for at least the following twelve months. I wish him well.*

Jim Shapton  
Chairman

## **HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES**

### **Getting to know Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC)**

At our September meeting we met with Steve Kent, Environmental and Community Director of the new Council, in order to understand who we should contact for a whole range of services that we depend on if Curzon Park is to continue to be maintained at a good standard. Mr Kent was very helpful, and advised on how to contact his Directorate on matters of tree and verges maintenance, household waste collection, parking restriction and enforcement, etc. We then followed this up by inviting his Area Highways Manager, Kieran Collins, to discuss parking issues on Curzon Park North/South, Selkirk Drive and Mount Pleasant. He has promised to monitor the situation and will respond to the various points we made. We could not resolve the continued inappropriate parking on Mount Pleasant. This is an enforcement issue that we will be taking up with the community police officer.

### **Cycling Issues**

The local authority has announced the withdrawal of the proposal to build a new cycle and footway bridge alongside the railway viaduct. In its place they are proposing a much reduced scheme of minor improvements that include a Toucan Crossing on Hough Green and minor adjustments to the footway and cycleway on the Overleigh roundabout and down Overleigh Road. Members of the group have met with Bethan Vaughan who is the CWAC officer at Backford Hall, and have sent her our comments and observations. Detailed drawings of the proposals, and our comments, are available on our website, [www.cpraonline.org](http://www.cpraonline.org).



## 6 November Parking Problems

Did you encounter traffic congestion on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> November, when the annual firework display was taking place at the Chester Racecourse? If so, please make a note



to put **Wednesday, 9th March** in your diary to attend the Police Community Action Meeting to be held at Curzon Park Golf Club, where you can air your views in an endeavour to avoid a recurrence in 2011.

Householders in Dingle Bank (a private road) might consider wheel-clamping of illegally parked cars as a collective initiative. If so, obstructions caused by increased car parking in other areas of Curzon Park is likely to result, unless some positive action is taken by the authorities to alleviate the situation.

## Conservation Area

Those who live within the Curzon Park Conservation Area are reminded that there are strict limits on where satellite dishes can be erected on their properties.



Broadly, they must be out of sight unless specific planning permission has been obtained. We understand that CWAC has recently taken enforcement action against one property owner. More information about the conservation area, and a map showing its extent, can be found on the CPRA website.

## Grass Verges

We receive more correspondence from irate, unhappy, and passionate residents on this subject than any others. A number of building works, both recent



and ongoing, are being carried out in the area and damage to the verges appears an inevitable consequence. However, the onus to repair the verges is the responsibility of the 'householder' once the work has been completed, and householders should therefore seek to exercise control over their contractors to minimise damage. We have notified Highways in writing, but they are adamant that they will not organise or fund repairs to verges, and there is no money to do so.

## Dog Fouling

Unfortunately this problem is now becoming increasingly evident. Residents have reported that there are Enforcement Officers stopping dog walkers and offering



'poo bags'. We have contacted the Council Environmental Street Scene Department/ Animal Health who advise that offenders will be fined up to £1000. Please phone 0300 123 7038 if you notice a problem and 0300 123 7026 to organise street cleansing. If you have any problems with this, contact Colin McPhilips directly by phone, 01606 288656.

## Leaf Clearance

As no adverse comments/observations were received this year we assume that this was successfully carried out and managed by Andy Moulton and the Council Street Cleaning Team.

## NOTICE BOARD

Reminder - Gazebos for hire - Our larger (6mx3m) for £10, and smaller (3m square), for £5. Please contact Jim Shapton on telephone 678209 if you are interested.

## Bulb Planting



On a very cold dry sunny morning a number of volunteer Curzon Park residents' donned fluorescent attire to plant 400 pale lilac wild *Tommasiniamus* crocuses – you may have noticed the activity whilst driving through The Dingle. These were placed on the left hand side on the approach to Curzon Park North from the Overleigh Roundabout. We hope we have been successful (fingers crossed), and residents enjoy the spring optimism. Thanks to all those who gave up their time.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Update from PCSO Fox

As we enter the New Year, I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone of the need to continue to be security conscious.



Please remember:

- Do not leave valuables on display, either in your house or in your car.
- If you are away consider setting timing devices on lights / radios to deter thieves.
- Record the serial numbers of valuable items in case of future loss or theft.
- And remember to lock both car and house doors.

During 2011, I will be continuing to hold Police Surgeries on Saturday mornings at the Golf Club House / Cafe in Westminster Park. This is an opportunity for residents to discuss any issues they may have. The Police Surgeries are between 10:30am and 11:30am on 29th January, 19th February, 12th March and 2nd April 2011.

The next Police Community Action meeting to be held at Chester Golf Club is Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7:00pm. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

PCSO Fox

Tel 0845 458 6375

[Christopher.Fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Christopher.Fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

### 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 [including 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)