



Scenes from the CPRA annual dinner (Photos by Adrian Neeves)

CURZON PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

A glass of Prosecco (aperitivo) on arrival set the scene for our Italian-inspired Curzon Park Residents' Association annual dinner in August. 45 neighbours mingled and enjoyed drinks on the terrace of Chester Golf Club on a sunny evening whilst admiring magnificent views of the Welsh hills – not quite Tuscany, but the next best thing!

The tables were dressed 'Italian style' and created a great first impression of things to come. We were not disappointed.

Antipasto arrived on slate platters followed by secondi (mains) and dolci – delicious Zabaglione with biscotti/Chef's tiramisu, rounded off with coffee and amaretto biscuits. CPRA Chairman Jim Shapton added to the evening by welcoming everyone with a smattering of his best Italian.

Organiser and social committee member Jane Mercer commented: "Our thanks to all those involved in organising the event, for their attention to detail and their inspiring ideas. I'd also like to thank everyone who came – their support has resulted in raising £245 for CPRA. Additionally, thanks to all the staff at the Chester Golf Club for making the evening a great success."

The event was generously supported by Carluccio's, who donated a picnic hamper voucher for two (worth £45) – consisting of eight dishes, all contained in an

'Italian blue' cooler bag. Elizabeth Downey and Catherine Parkes also kindly provided raffle prizes.

The MBNA 20 Community Grants Programme



Thank you MBNA!

The Curzon Park Residents' Association recently received a community grant of £1000 from credit card company MBNA.

CPRA members Amanda White and Ben Smith, both of whom work at the bank, recently applied to the MBNA 20 Community Grants Programme* on behalf of the CPRA.

The MBNA 20 Community Grants programme was established to build on MBNA's 20 year legacy in Chester and surrounding areas, and formed part of a year of company initiatives designed to celebrate and recognise the support that local communities have shown MBNA since it launched in the UK.

The application focused on the funding requirements for the newsletter, the Christmas event (see page 4 for details) and bulb planting – activities which help to enhance the community and social cohesion of the area, one of the main eligibility criteria for grant applications. The CPRA application was rated "strongly recommended" by the Cheshire Community Foundation, who administered the programme on behalf of MBNA. Well done to Amanda and Ben!

(*the programme was available to MBNA employees only)

WALKING GROUPS

Weekend Walking Group



We have had a very successful summer of walks. Many thanks to Peter Bingham for leading a Chester city centre walk, looking at some of Chester's newer architecture. It was a beautiful summer evening and 25 people came along, finishing up at The Architect for Drinks.



We also had a very good turnout for the walk around the Great Orme in Llandudno, when once again we had superb weather and enjoyed some stunning views.

Thanks to Sue, Christine and John for organising the other good walks in the summer. If anyone has a favourite walk that they would like to lead please let Jenny know (contact details below).

Our next walks are:

Saturday 2 November around Frodsham and the Sandstone Trail

The walk covers the Northern end of the Sandstone trail. There are great views of the Mersey Basin and many interesting features. Walking time about two hours. The route is mostly easy walking, though there are some steps and steep inclines for short stretches in two or three places. Start details to follow.

Refreshments at the Bear's Paw, Frodsham, after the walk for those who wish to join in.

Saturday 7 December – Duke's Drive and the Meadows

Meet at 11 am at the entrance to The Duke's Drive on the Overleigh roundabout.

This is a flat walk along the Dukes Drive and around The Meadows. Duration: about 1 hour and 30 mins. We plan to have a Christmas lunch afterwards in a city centre pub for anyone who would like to join in.

Saturday 4 January – Willington

Meet at 11am at The Boot Inn Willington.

This is a walk through country lanes and Delamere forest. It does include 39 steps but otherwise it is fairly easy going. Duration: 1 hour 30 mins. The Boot Inn is a lovely pub for anyone who wants refreshments afterwards.

For further information and car sharing arrangements contact **Jenny Plunkett** (walking@cpraonline.org) or telephone 01244 683814. Everyone welcome. Refreshment stops are optional.

Mid-Week Walking Group

Tuesday 22 October – Daresbury and Two Canals

Meet in the All Saints' Church car park, Daresbury Lane, Daresbury, WA4 4AE at 10.30 am.

The walk goes across fields to the village of Preston-on-the-Hill and then along the towpath of the Bridgewater Canal, before returning to Daresbury.

There will also be an opportunity to visit the All Saints Lewis Carroll Centre in Daresbury as well as a coffee/light snack at The Ring o'Bells Inn. Flat circular walk of approximately 6 miles.

Thursday 21 November – Saltney Ferry/River Dee

Meet at the green at the top of Mount Pleasant at 10.30 am.

The walk will take us along the banks of the River Dee to Saltney Ferry Bridge and we will return along the opposite bank to the canal basin. There will be a chance to stop for refreshments at Telford's Warehouse. It's easy, level walking and will take about two hours.

Contact Roksana Fennell on 07765 404186 or email midweekwalking@cpraonline.org for more information.



Coffee/lunches at Chester Golf Club

Jo Sykes, Chairman of the Chester Mystery Plays Company, gave an interesting talk at the golf club recently about the plays and how the original medieval text and drama of the plays were adapted for a modern audience.

The next coffee/lunch get together is at 11 am on **Monday 18 November** when we hope to sample some of the chef's mince pies!

We shall be inviting speakers to future coffee/lunches in the New Year – if you have any ideas, contact Jane Mercer on 682128 or email socials@cpraonline.org.



Christmas Party Nights at Chester Golf Club

Saturday 6 December
Friday 13 December

Fabulous food, fine wines - great live entertainment!

£30 per head - no party too small!
Limited places - book early
Tel 677760 - ask for Sue

HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES

Railway Footbridge

At last! We have received an official progress report from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC), which states that engineering work (ground stabilisation) should be completed by the end of October. The report lists a number of complicated technical reasons for the extended closure, most of which are much too boring for this exciting newsletter...!

The Council report does acknowledge the great frustration and inconvenience caused to so many regular users of this important access to the City and beyond. With any luck we will all be using this bridge crossing again in November.

Grass Verges

The extremely wet Spring weather this year resulted in a very late start to grass cutting operations. We were informed (by Streetscene) that the ultimate target for verge cutting would be every two weeks in the growing season. However, the reality this year was over four weeks and due to the very warm conditions during the early summer months, the verges were in poor condition. We are hopeful of an improved performance next year. Many residents are now looking after their own grass verge area and this is much appreciated by those of us who enjoy the enhanced appearance of our living environment.

Please note that residents who have placed large stones, blocks or bricks (to prevent parking and protect the verge) at the entrance to their property should be aware that, in the event of an accident resulting in a claim for injury or vehicle damage, the Council would probably deny responsibility. This is simply a precautionary warning.

Garden hedges and trees on property boundaries

In general, garden hedges are very well maintained by residents. However, there are a small number that appear a little neglected and can be a nuisance factor to pedestrians. Overhanging branches from garden trees can also be hazardous to pedestrians. It would be appreciated if residents would ensure that the footway outside their property was clear of any obstruction.

Parking on grass verges

The existing parking restriction signs are few and far between, are not very visible and don't seem to work.

Consideration is being given to requesting more visible signs (similar to those on Lache Park Avenue, which do seem to be very effective).

20 mph in Curzon Park

Following the Council's recent press publication concerning a possible 20mph policy in appropriate locations, it was agreed that the Working Group should examine the published criteria in order to establish whether Curzon Park would qualify for this special speed restriction – and whether or not residents would want it.

All speed limits are assessed against national criteria to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the country.

Trees

The removal of epicormic growth from trees has been carried out in Curzon Park South, but the problem still exists in other areas, notably Selkirk Road and Park Road West. It was also reported that new replacement trees would be planted in the Autumn when weather conditions were more appropriate, as agreed with the Council.



Local Bus Route

Discussions are currently underway with the DB2 bus operators to examine the possibility of a re-route so that more passengers (particularly those in Curzon Park South and The Paddock) can take advantage of the service. One suggested route change was for the bus to turn left at Dingle Bank into Curzon Park South and travel anti-clockwise around Curzon Park (via Park Road West) and exit at the traffic lights on Curzon Park North (instead of Selkirk Drive). Stay tuned for further updates.

CPRA – are you a member?

It's free to join, but a small donation would be appreciated to assist with printing and insurance costs (cheques payable to CPRA). Membership is open to everyone who owns or rents a home in Curzon Park and to those who own property here but are not resident.

Benefits include:

- Continued development of a local community
- A stronger, united voice when dealing with authorities (eg highways, tree maintenance)
- Regular, informative emails about security and general local information
- A chance to meet new people and get involved in local activities and events

Email membership@cpraonline.org or obtain a printed copy from CPRA Membership Secretary John Jones-Pritchard at 26 Curzon Park South, Chester, CH4 8AB (mbl: 07876 381652)

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Nuisance Phone Calls

Be extremely cautious if you receive a call from someone claiming they can protect you from unwanted calls. The caller may claim to be ringing on behalf of the BT Telephone Preference Service (this does not exist). You can prevent unwanted phone calls by registering with the Telephone Preference Service for free (visit <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk> or call 0845 070 0707).

Trading Standards Advice

Watch out for automated calls to your landline offering free telephone calls if the recipient presses the '2' key on the phone. The calls are described as 'free' but there is a monthly charge made after joining the service, which may amount to more than the consumer is already paying for their current service.

Always be cautious when dealing with cold callers and **NEVER** give out your bank or personal details. If the caller says they are from your bank or building society, phone your bank directly on the number which you normally use, making sure you have disconnected the call from the previous caller before dialling.

For further information contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06 or visit <http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/>. You can also report incidents to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit <http://.actionfraud.police.uk/> as well as the local Police on 101.

CPRA Community Safety contact: Liz Neeves
communitysafety@cpaonline.org or Tel 01244 679888.

Police Update

As **Halloween and bonfire night** approach, the risk of youth-related anti social behaviour increases around the country. In general Curzon Park is very fortunate and does not have a high rate of this behaviour. However during this period of 'trick or treating' and bonfire night, there is the potential for youth-related anti-social behaviour to occur. Cheshire Police has extra officers on duty to deal with this risk and therefore please do not hesitate to call **101** for assistance if you experience any issues.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that basic security measures can play a big role in preventing residents being affected by crime. Please remember to **lock the windows and doors of your house and vehicles** even when you are in your residence. Ensure your vehicle is locked, as it is very easy when using a key fob to lock your vehicle to believe it is locked when it is not. It is also important to remain vigilant for your neighbours and report anything that looks suspicious to the Police. I am a great believer that if something doesn't look right, it often isn't right, and even if it turns out to be genuine when the Police attend, no harm will have been done.

Police and Councillor Surgeries take place on the first Saturday of every month in front of the Post Office on Chester Street, Saltney between 09.00-10.15, and in front of Westminster Park shops between 10.30-11.45. Please feel free to attend and discuss any issues with myself or the local Councillors.

Many thanks
Chris Fox
Local PCSO for Curzon Park

Date for your diary...

CAROLS ON THE GREEN



Where: Greensway/Northway
Date: Monday 23 December 2013
When: 6 pm
With: Royal Buckley Town Band
(www.rbtb.jvmuk.com)

Refreshments including mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and biscuits will be available on the night.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police www.cheshire.police.uk
Crime/Incident Reporting
Non-Emergency [new number] 101
Emergency [including culprits at the scene] 999

Cheshire West and Chester Council
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Local Councillors
Cllr Razia Daniels 01244 312392
razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Cllr Neil Sullivan 01244 671099
neil.sullivan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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

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

