

**Meet the new CPRA management committee!
(see page 2 for more details)**



Standing, left to right: Jo Slater (Secretary), Jim Shapton (Chairman), Alastair Jack (Highways and Community Safety)
Seated, left to right: Diane Terry (ordinary member), Amanda White (Newsletter), Dave Plunkett (Membership Secretary) and Jim Slater (ordinary member, under 39 category)
Not pictured: Edward Shiu, Treasurer; Liz Neeves, Social and Community

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

CPRA ANNUAL DINNER 2014

Mercredi Soir



Join us for a French
'Gastronomique' Evening

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST 2014
7.00 PM for 7.30 PM

CHESTER GOLF CLUB

For tickets (£25), contact Andrea Segrave on 679496, Christine Hughes on 679592 or John Bowyer on 07887 688871.

HURRY – places are limited!

Visit to Wollerton Old Hall and Hodnet Hall Gardens - Wednesday 10 September



A visit has been arranged to the inspirational gardens at Wollerton Old Hall and Hodnet Hall, Shropshire, on Wednesday 10 September.

The coach will depart Curzon Park at 9.30 am and return at 4 pm. The cost will be £25, which includes travel and entry to both gardens.

"I can show anyone, anywhere in the world, photos of this place (Wollerton OH) and they all agree that it is a world-class example of an English Garden."
(C Beardshaw)

We have made a group booking for Wollerton Old Hall Garden in the morning. Lunch is at The Bear Inn, Hodnet before visiting Hodnet Hall Gardens in the afternoon.

Tickets are available from Christine Hughes on 679592 and Jacky Arrowsmith on 677266. Please book your ticket as soon as possible (but no later than **31 July**) so we can confirm our booking.

Meet the Management Committee

Following the recent AGM, we're pleased to announce some changes to the CPRA management committee.

We said goodbye to John Bowyer (secretary), John Jones-Pritchard, (membership secretary) and welcomed three new members: Jo Slater (secretary), Dave Plunkett (membership secretary) and Jim Slater.

We're very pleased that Jim Slater has joined the committee, occupying the position specifically reserved for someone under the age of 39 at the time of election. The purpose of designating a Committee place in this way is to try to ensure that the twenty- and thirty-somethings in our community are represented and that there is a focal point for involving them. Jim would like to identify as many of his "constituents" as possible with a view to connecting with them and collecting any views and information (e.g. about the existence or need for baby-sitting circles, or similar initiatives) as he can. Even if you currently have no specific ideas or no great desire to involve yourself in CPRA issues, please email Jim to identify yourself. His address is jimslater@post.com

WALKING GROUPS

Weekend Walking Group

Saturday 12 July – Llandudno

This is a circular walk around the top of the Great Orme with amazing views across to Anglesey and then back down into the town. The walk is about two hours and not difficult, as it is all downhill!

Saturday 2 August – Saughall to Shotton

A generally flat walk along the old course of the River Dee to the historic village of Shotton. Duration approx. 2.5 hours. Refreshments at the Greyhound Inn, Saughall.

Saturday 6 September – Erbistock

A 4.5 mile-long walk starting and ending at The Boat Inn in the ancient village of Erbistock. River and field paths with a few stiles and some uneven ground.

Saturday 4 October – Holywell

This is a historic walk around Holywell and Greenfield Valley, taking in St Winifride's Well and Basingwerk Abbey. The walk will only be about three miles long and will probably take about an hour and a half.

For further information, including starting times and car sharing arrangements, contact Jenny Plunkett walking@cpraonline.org or 01244 683814. Everyone welcome; refreshment stops optional.

Organiser needed

Over the past six years, scores of residents, both regulars and occasional participants, have benefitted from the weekend walks organised by Jenny Plunkett. Jenny now feels it's time for her to stand down and hand over to someone who can refresh the role. The essence of the job is to provide coordination, and it requires little more than chairing an annual planning meeting, providing information for the newsletter, and circulating a monthly email detailing the upcoming walk. It's not necessary to join every walk; the majority are led, and details for publication in the newsletter are provided by other people.

We do need a volunteer to come forward if this facility isn't going to fade away. If you would like to make this important contribution to Curzon Park social life, please email walking@cpraonline.org or call Jenny, without obligation, on 01244 683814.

Mid-Week Walking Group



Tuesday 23 September: Malpas, including the Bishop Bennet Way

Thursday 23 October: Vale of Clwyd, Rhewl

To join the mailing list for the mid-week walks (further information including car sharing details are sent out nearer to the date of the walk), contact Rokšana Fennell on 07765 404186 or email midweekwalking@cpraonline.org.

Stop press!

Trip to Gresford via Pulford and Rossett – Thursday 7 August!

John Bowyer (former CPRA secretary) invites you to join him on a tour of the Grosvenor Arms, Pulford, the Pant-yr-Ochain (for lunch), and the Yew Tree at Gresford, and returning to Chester via the Alyn and the Butcher's Arms in Rossett, and finally the Nag's Head in Lavister!

The group will catch the Arriva No 1 bus at 12.22 pm and return to Chester at approx 6.30 pm. The cost of transport will be approx £5 for a 'rover' ticket (unfortunately Chester bus passes do not apply). Contact John Bowyer on 07887 688871 if you would like to join him on his leisurely summer tour. We will consider having future trips at the weekend, if there is demand.

HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES

Highway Maintenance to Roads & Footways

Following a meeting with the CWAC Highways Department to discuss and inspect the condition of the roads and footpaths in Curzon Park, we were advised that all roads and footpaths are subject to an annual evaluation and grading process to assess the current condition of the surfaces.

We were informed that residents could report a fault online in the event of a situation which was likely to cause injury/accident e.g. pothole or subsidence etc.

The contact website is

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/highways, click on 'report a fault'. This would be classified as a 'Categorized Defect' and will be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The 2014 Highway Maintenance programme for Curzon Park is as follows:

- Curzon Park North (from Earlsway to Railway bridge) – new surfacing to carriageway and footway.
- Earlsway – generating complaints, therefore under survey this year for potential scheme in 2015
- Curzon Park South – generating complaints, therefore under survey for potential scheme in 2015
- Howe Road – in poor condition included in potential scheme for 2015
- Mount Pleasant – identified for future scheme – including replacing footway flags to flexible surfacing.

All other roads – no current plans.

Several driveway access areas have already been marked for resurfacing.

Grass Verges

Seasonal mowing is currently operational, but due to further budget cut-backs the frequency of mowing will be seriously affected.

Residents who are looking after their own verge area certainly highlights the inadequacy of the Council operation. Can we encourage more residents to look after their own patch? Would there be any support for a neighbourhood scheme? Let's be honest, the Council grass cutting operation is awful and likely to get worse! Suggestions would be welcome to newsletter@cpraonline.org.

And last but not least ...we are still awaiting new 'No Parking on Verges' signs, which have been requested.

Trees in Curzon Park



Readers may have seen the recent Sunday Times article, warning of the "galloping extinction" of the Horse Chestnut tree which are very much part of our Curzon Park landscape.

Experts are recommending 'cutting down' these trees to prevent the spread of disease caused by a combination of pests & diseases, bacterium & fungi which cause branches to fall off.

We are still awaiting some replacement trees and the Council reminded us that, it was expected that local residents would look after and water these young plantations during dry spells.

Bulb Planting



Last year the CPRA received a community grant of £1,000 from credit card company MBNA.

The application requested funding for the newsletter (hopefully everyone will agree that's being used to good effect!), our Christmas event, Carols on the Green, and bulb planting. We have not spent the money on bulbs yet, and would be interested to get any views/advice from residents on what bulbs we should get, and where we should plant them.

Email suggestions to newsletter@CPRALine.org.

Coffee Morning



Gaynor Roberts of Trading Standards gave a very informative talk at the June coffee morning.

She stressed that we should always say 'no' to any cold caller (you are advised to get at least two, preferably three, written quotations).

Contact Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06 if you are concerned about any doorstep trader, and their Rapid Response Team will check them out. Contact Liz Neeves for further information about the talk on communitysafety@cpraonline.org or tel 679888.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Are you a member of CPRA?

Just because you're receiving this newsletter doesn't automatically mean that you are actually a member of CPRA.

There are lots of good reasons for joining, some of which are listed here:

- Regular, informative emails about a number of topics, from security matters, to offers of home-grown fruit, to tradesmen recommendations
- A stronger, united voice when dealing with authorities (eg highways, tree maintenance etc)
- Invitations to some great social events, where you can meet friends and neighbours

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.

If you'd like to join CPRA, please contact Dave Plunkett on membership@cpraonline.org.

There is no annual fee for membership, but a number of members make one-off or occasional donations to our funds – which are obviously welcome, however large or small. If you would like to make a donation, please use the bank details below:

Bank: NatWest (33 Eastgate St, Chester, CH1 1LG)
Account name: Curzon Park Residents' Association
Sort Code: 60-40-08
Acct No: 32916922

Last call for any budding newsletter template designers!

Could you help us come up with a refreshed new look for our newsletter template? We asked for help with this back in April, but we haven't had any response so far.

So ... if you'd like to be in with a chance to win **£50 of Amazon vouchers**, email your suggested template design to newsletter@cpraonline.org by **Thursday 31 July**.

The prize will be awarded to the designer of any template the Management Committee decides shall be used for future editions and the winner acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Good luck!

Remember **PCSO Christopher Fox** (Local Officer for Curzon Park, Westminster Park and the Cheshire side of Saltney) can be contacted by email Christopher.fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or by phoning 101.

Police and Councillor Surgeries continue to take place on the first Saturday of every month in front of the Post Office on Chester Street, Saltney between 09.00 – 10.15 am and in front of Westminster Park shops between 10.30 – 11.45 am.

CPRA Community Safety contact: Liz Neeves
communitysafety@cpraonline.org or tel 01244 679888.

Diary dates:

Wed 5 November: visit to Media Centre, Salford
Mon 22 December: Carols on the Green

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police www.cheshire.police.uk

Crime/Incident Reporting
Non-Emergency [new number] 101
Emergency [including culprits at the scene] 999

Police Community Support Officer
Christopher.fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

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