

Your quarterly newsletter for all things Curzon Park!



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

CPRA Annual Dinner

More than 70 residents enjoyed a 'French style' dinner at Chester Golf Club one warm evening in August. As well as an opportunity to meet up with neighbours and friends, £323 was raised for CPRA funds mostly through the sale of raffle tickets for prizes, which were generously provided by local businesses:

French cheeses from



116 Northgate Street

Gift Voucher for food or wine



71 Northgate Street

Table and room decorations of herbs and olive trees loaned by



16-18 Lower Bridge St

Thanks also to John Jones-Pritchard for his donation of Fragonard soaps for the raffle.

We are grateful to the Golf Club (both bar and restaurant) for their exceptional service; also to Graham Stokes for providing French music and to Adrian Neeves for photography.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

(Greensway/Northway)



At 6 pm

Monday 22 December 2014

with the

Royal Buckley Town Band

www.rbtb.jvmuk.com

Music, mulled wine, mince pies
and hot chocolate

COFFEE MORNING

Monday 10 November
10.30 am at Chester Golf Club

An opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours for a relaxing cup of coffee and the chef's delicious mince pies (£3). There will also be an opportunity to see photos of the visit to Wollerton Old Hall and Hodnet Hall Gardens in September. If you would like help with transport to the Golf Club, please contact Liz Neeves on 679888. Hope to see you there!



Visit to Media City, Salford Quays

A tour of the BBC studios at Media City, Salford is planned for the springtime. As well as looking around studios, you can also try your hand at making a news or weather bulletin!

Numbers are limited to 22 people per tour, so we'd like some indication of how many members would like to go. If there are more than 22, then we would split into two groups with a morning tour for one group and early afternoon for the other. The group not on the studio tour can explore other areas of Salford Quays such as the Lowry and, no doubt, shops! There are plenty of cafes and restaurants for refreshment during the day.

Tour times are 10.30am, 12.30pm and 3pm. The approximate cost will be £20 per person but this may change depending on numbers.

Contact John Bowyer on 07887 688871 or email johnbowyer_55@hotmail.com to express interest in this trip.

CWAC Local Plan

As many residents will know, the Council's development plan for the period to 2030 envisages some 1400 houses being built on land currently designated as green belt, south of the Westminster Park residential area, north of the A55 southerly bypass and west of the A483. There are potentially serious implications for existing residents of the City, particularly those in Westminster Park who, via their residents' association, have been active in monitoring the progress of the plan and lobbying to ensure their concerns are taken into account. They include issues affecting land drainage, sewerage, schools, shops, roads, health services, etc.

The threat to quality of life in Curzon Park may be less acute, but there is potential for us to be affected in a number of respects, not least by the likely severe increase in the already serious traffic congestion affecting Overleigh Roundabout and Grosvenor Road. So far, the plan has made no attempt to address the issue of traffic and roads.

After initial public consultation in June, the plan has been undergoing a technical review by a government inspector, whose findings are expected to be published in November. There is then expected to be a further opportunity for public involvement before the plan is sent for consideration by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Westminster Park Residents' Association have invited CPRA to join them in ensuring that shared concerns are taken into account and adequately addressed, and your management committee has agreed in principle to work with them. Maurice Terry has kindly agreed to take the lead on this issue for CPRA, and would welcome comments from CPRA members. He can be contacted via Maurice.terry@dsl.pipex.com.

HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES

Highway maintenance

Resurfacing work on the section of Curzon Park North to the railway bridge was duly completed within the specified time period.

Other highway maintenance projects in Curzon Park scheduled for the current financial year have yet to be started.

Chester Racecourse Company Community Liaison Committee (CRCCLC)

CPRA was represented at this inaugural meeting in August.

The CRCCLC reported that noise levels at the various public events had been within the permitted tolerances (decibel levels). However, some complaints had been received in relation to the Polo events and the CRCCLC agreed to monitor this event more carefully.

The Highways and Open Spaces Group has asked Councillor Daniels to request a place on the CRCCLC.

Planning Application for 13 Curzon Park South

The current application for extensions and re-development of the existing Care Home is causing some concern to local residents. This application has been previously withdrawn and although the scheme has been modified, it is generally deemed to be an inappropriate commercial development within a prime residential area of Chester. CPRA will be submitting a 'NO' vote on behalf of members (as mandated at our AGM in May this year) but this does not preclude individual residents from making their own representation should they wish to do so.

Spring Bulb Planting

CPRA volunteers will be in action during the latter part of October (hoping that we have had some rain to soften the ground). Thanks to the Community Grant from MBNA, bulbs have been purchased from Morreys Nurseries (top of Kelsall Hill) and we are grateful to them for their help, advice and generous discount. Planting areas under consideration include: Curzon Park North, Selkirk Road, Carrick Road, Earslway and The Green.

Grosvenor Bridge

Cycling on the footpath over the Grosvenor Bridge is still causing many complaints. Our local PCSO, Chris Fox, has been monitoring this as much as his time will allow. Signing on the bridge is not permitted due to the Listed Status of the bridge. We are grateful to him for his efforts to date and hope that a satisfactory solution can be found soon.

Shropshire Gardens' Visit



Wollerton Old Hall

On a beautiful September morning, nearly 40 residents set off for a visit to Wollerton Old Hall and Hodnet Hall Gardens. The photographs [there are more on the website including a musical slideshow!] can only give you a taste of how beautiful they were. Wollerton Old Hall, owned by Lesley and John Jenkins, has three north-south and three east-west vistas, resulting in a number of separate gardens, each one with its own style and ethos. The gardens are renowned for their salvias, clematis and roses. We were even fortunate enough to meet and chat with Lesley Jenkins on our tour of the garden.



Hodnet Hall Gardens

By contrast, Hodnet Hall Gardens, owned by the Heber-Percy family, comprising of over 60 acres of ponds, waterfalls and secret glens of ancient tree, gave us an opportunity to 'walk off' our lunch enjoyed at the Bear Inn at Hodnet. We were fortunate to have one of the best days of the summer for our visit, but on our way home we were already looking forward to CPRA's next garden visit in 2015! Thanks to Christine Hughes and Jacky Arrowsmith for their first class organisation of the trip.

WALKING GROUPS

Weekend Walking Group

Saturday 8 November – Saughall to Shotwick

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

Saturday 6 December – Christleton

This is a fairly short walk (about an 1.5 hours) along the canal, across the fields and through the village, finishing at The Cheshire Cat pub for lunch, for those who want to stay.

Saturday 3 January – Duke's Drive and the Meadows

This is a flat walk along the Duke's Drive and around The Meadows. Duration about 1.5 hours. We plan to have lunch afterwards in a city centre pub for anyone who would like to join in. At this time of year the walk can be muddy, so good walking shoes are recommended.

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

Mid-Week Walking Group

Tuesday 18 November: Willaston and Eastham

Thursday 15 January: Curzon Park to Mickle Trafford via Greenway

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 Roksana Fennell on 07765 404186 or email midweekwalking@cpraonline.org.

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 below:

- 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

And here's another good reason to be a member of CPRA ...

The Rohan outdoor clothing shop in Chester is offering a discount to members of the Walking Groups if they show their copy of the CPRA newsletter when they buy outdoor clothing there.

Emails

If you have registered as a CPRA member with an email address, you will receive emails providing local updates and information, as detailed above.

Under Data Protection principles, CPRA is required email addresses up to date where possible. If your email address has changed, please use this link on the CPRA website, and re-enter your details <http://cpraonline.wordpress.com/membership/membership-form-v-2/>

Friends of Westminster Park

We would like to encourage Curzon Park residents to join Friends of Westminster Park (FOWP) - visit FOWP <http://www.westminsterpark.org.uk/> to find out more.

This fantastic amenity is on our doorstep, and membership is just £2 a year. If we support FOWP, it strengthens discussions with the council about park management.

(Note: FOWP is solely for the park, nothing to do with the Westminster Park residents association).

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Update from PCSO Fox



As the dark nights approach, it is important that residents remain security conscious and ensure they take basic security measures. These include locking house and car doors and windows, keeping valuables away from display, setting alarms and being vigilant for signs of suspicious activity.

Recently, two thefts from motor vehicles were reported around Curzon Park. On both occasions, machinery and tools were taken from the vehicles. These crimes show that someone was active around the area looking for opportunities to steal items from vehicles. If you see anything suspicious, please call and report it on the Police non-emergency number 101.

Bag it, bin it!

Dog faeces can be dangerous, as well as unpleasant – and Toxocariasis (a parasite found in dog faeces) can cause blindness in children.

We often see bags of it left around Curzon Park. Perhaps these 'pet-lovers' think someone will take their mess away. If you see anyone throwing their bag away, suggest they take it home and put it in their own bin. You can also report dog fouling online using the CWAC website. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 carries a fine of up to £1000.

Ticket to Ride – visiting villages along the Arriva No.1 bus route

On a sunny day in early August, five residents went on a trip to Gresford – via Pulford and Rossett – and more importantly, on a tour of a number of local real ale pubs in the area!

John Bowyer, organiser, commented: "We had a lovely day and the wonderful weather meant we could enjoy lunch outside. One of the pubs we visited – The Griffin near Gresford – is located next to the 15th century All Saints Church whose bells are one of the seven wonders of Wales. We eventually got back to Chester about 7 pm after a thoroughly enjoyable day."

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police www.cheshire.police.uk

Crime/Incident Reporting

Non-Emergency [new number] 101
Emergency [including culprits at the scene] 999

Community Safety

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