

Carols on the Green 22 December

On a mild and moonlit evening, a record number of residents and friends attended the traditional 'Carols on the Green'. Music by the Royal Buckley Town Band accompanied the carol singing, while mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies and cakes added to the festive atmosphere of the occasion. Many thanks to all those residents who helped to make this another memorable event for our local community, and helped to raised nearly £200 for CPRA funds.

Thanks also to:

- the volunteers who spent three hours earlier in the day setting up the gazebos, lighting etc, in very windy conditions, not to mention taking them down after the event;
- the volunteers who made mince pies and cakes;
- the volunteers who served the refreshments.
- Geoff Brown, who led the singing and to Adrian Neeves, our resident photographer!



There are more pictures of this event on the CPRA website

NEW YEAR – *New Look!*

We decided to start the new year off with a bang by introducing our newly re-branded CPRA newsletter – designed to bring you news and information about all things Curzon Park. We wanted to create a newsletter with its own unique identity and 'brand' for CPRA – and working with High5Design, we think we've cracked it. We hope you like it! If you have any comments on the newsletter, please email news@cpraonline.org - we'd love to hear from you.

The newsletter is designed to keep you informed about all things Curzon Park - so please get in touch if you have news or information that you think should be included - or if you'd like to get involved with CPRA events, working groups, etc - please email news@cpraonline.org. 2014 was a great year for the CPRA and we organised some fun events and outings that we hope you all enjoyed. Make sure you check out the newsletter each quarter for information on upcoming events in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support – Happy New Year!

Media Centre Visit

A visit to the BBC Studios in MediaCity UK at Salford Quays has been arranged for Tuesday 12 May 2015. Tours of the studios are limited to 22 people so I have booked two tours on this date starting at 10.30 and 12.30. Those not on the tour can amble around the nearby shops, cafes and Lowry Centre. The tour lasts an hour and a half and includes trying your hand (if you want to) at presenting the news or weather forecast.

The cost of the trip will be £20 per person including travel and the tour. If the coach isn't full then the cost will increase slightly to cover fixed price of the coach hire.

The coach will depart from Curzon Park North, opposite The Serpentine at 08.30 and we should arrive at Salford Quays by 10.00. Departure time for trip home will be 3pm.

To book a place please contact me by phone or email, details below. I will need a £10 cash deposit per person by 27 February 2015. Balance to be paid to me by 10 April 2015 – please email johnbowyer_55@hotmail.com

If you have any questions, John's contact details are below:
Mobile: 07887 688871 Home phone: 01244 680865

Forthcoming Events:

John Jones-Pritchard is planning a canal trip for the May half term break, to enable children to take part, which trip will include crossing the Aquaduct at Chirk. Details nearer the time.

Coffee Morning



**Monday 9 March 2015
10.30 am at Chester Golf Club**

An opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours for a relaxing cup of coffee. If you would like help with transport to the Golf Club, please contact Liz Neeves on

**01244
679888**



Walking Groups

Weekend Walking Group

Saturday 7 February 2015: Chirk

A popular walk with weekend regulars, taking in the aqueduct, Ceiriog Valley and the Castle. This walk is slightly longer than our norm (up to three hours) and involves some steady gradients.



Walkers at Hadlow Road Station, taken on a recent walk in November 2014

Saturday 7 March 2015: Ness

This is a pleasant, easy and interesting five mile hike, starting at Ness and including the pretty village of Burton and surrounding woods, taking in the old shoreline of the Dee Estuary. It starts and finishes at the Inn at Ness (formerly The Wheatsheaf), where we can use the car park and finish with lunch, Italian style.

**Saturday 11 April 2015:
Woodside to New Brighton**

A flat urban walk full of interest, initially through old docklands with fine views of the Liverpool waterfront, then along the east Wirral promenade from Secombe to revitalised New Brighton. We will return by train to Birkenhead for Chester.

For further information, contact jjp2@live.co.uk

Mid-Week Walking Group



Walkers taking a well-earned break during the Rhewl walk in October 2014

**Tuesday 24 February:
Hawarden and Stoney Hill (5 miles)**

The walk starts in the centre of the village and uses old tracks, field-paths and a disused, traffic-free road, before going through Bilberry Wood around the edge of the Hawarden Castle Estate.

Thursday 19 March: Burwardsley and the Sandstone Trail (5 miles)

Most of this walk is along old trails which are reasonably surfaced and field-paths, skirting around ancient beech woods.

Tuesday 21 April: Overton/Erbistock (5 miles)

The 'Overton Yew Trees' walk begins by dropping down to the River Dee, and then through a wood before climbing again to give spectacular views.

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



Bicycle wheel-track facility on footbridge



For those of you who might not already be aware, when the footbridge over the Dingle was reconstructed, a new bike wheel-track facility was also added at the side of the steps up from the Dingle.

As a reminder, please see the photo (right) on how to use the new bike wheel-track facility on the footbridge. It will make life easier for all you keen cyclists out there!

Bulb Planting in Curzon Park



Several hundred Spring bulbs have been planted in various locations in the area. Grateful thanks are due to all the willing volunteers who turned up to help. Already there are signs of early shoots appearing and we are hoping that the recent severe frosty nights and mornings will not do too much damage.

Experts did advise us not to expect a 100% success rate in the first year following planting as some varieties can take longer to become established in the ground. Areas planted include Selkirk Rd/Rothsay Road, Selkirk/Earlsway, Carrick Road, Mount Pleasant and Curzon Park North. With any luck we will have some photos to display in the Spring edition of the newsletter.

Grass Verges



Residents will remember that last year was one of the worst years for damage to verges by large delivery vehicles, due in part to the extremely wet conditions. It is acknowledged that some large vehicles have no option but to mount the kerb and verge in order to access the driveway to some properties. It is the responsibility of the delivery company to 'make good' any damage caused and drivers should be made aware of this responsibility.

We know that some companies will respond and make amends, so we feel it is worth reminding drivers that they should report any damage caused back to their HQ. A photograph could be useful ammunition.

Friends of Westminster Park

We would like to encourage Curzon Park residents to join Friends of Westminster Park (FOWP) - visit FOWP 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).

CWAC – Community Engagement Officer

Janet Walters from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) has been appointed as a liaison officer, with a brief to assist and advise local community organisations (such as CPRA) in all matters Council-related. We are very pleased that she has agreed to attend our Working Group meetings and is already proving to be a most useful Cwac contact.

Community Safety



Continue to be cautious and do not leave items outside for opportunist thieves. Also remember to lock your car and garden gates! For up to date information about Neighbourhood Policing in our area, see the Cheshire website www.cheshire.police.uk/my-neighbourhood/chester-outer/overleigh.aspx

Helping birds in your garden

Alice Buckley, of Selkirk Road, and a student at Queen's Park High School, has been selected to attend the Girl Guide Jamboree in Adelboden, Switzerland this July. She has to raise £800 by her own efforts, and, as part of this, she is selling handmade bird boxes (one for blue/great tits and the other for robins/flycatchers etc). Fixings are included, together with an information leaflet on the best location for different types of birds.



If you would like to buy one of Alice's bird boxes in time for this Spring (£12.50 each; cheques payable to Cheshire Forest International) and support her in her challenge, please contact Alice on **01244 629219** or email her at cbuckley65@gmail.com



Membership of CPRA

As mentioned in previous newsletters, just because you're receiving this newsletter doesn't automatically mean that you're actually a member of CPRA.

Membership is open to everyone who owns or rents a home in Curzon Park and to those who own a property here, but are not resident.

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

There is no fee for membership, but a number of

members choose to make one-off or occasional donations to our funds – which are obviously welcome and help us to organise events such as the Carols on the Green. If you'd like to make a donation, you can do it electronically through your own bank directly into the CPRA account – or you can set up a standing order. The CPRA account details are as follows:

Account name: Curzon Park Residents' Association
Bank: NatWest (33 Eastgate Street, Chester, CH1 1LG)
Sort code: 60-40-08 **Acct no:** 32916922

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Police www.cheshire.police.uk
Crime/Incident Reporting
Non-Emergency **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

Waste and Recycling

A reminder to older residents: if you are finding it difficult to put your bins out by the kerbside, you can apply for an assisted collections service, either by telephone **0300 123 7026**, online via Cheshire West and Chester Council's website www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or email enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Following your request, a 'Confirmation of Request' letter will be sent out to you, which you should complete and return to the Waste Management Team. Once your application has been assessed, the Council will contact you to let you know the outcome and, if your application is approved, the assisted service should commence on the normal scheduled collection day, one week after the date of request. There is no charge for this service.

Diary Dates

Weekend Walks

Saturday 7 February 2015: **Chirk**

Saturday 7 March 2015: **Ness**

Saturday 11 April 2015:

Woodside to New Brighton

Mid-Week Walks

Tuesday 24 February:

Hawarden and Stoney Hill (5 miles)

Thursday 19 March: **Burwardsley and the Sandstone Trail (5 miles)**

Sunday 5 April: **Easter**

Tuesday 21 April: **Overton/Erbistock (5 miles)**

MediaCity trip - Tuesday 12 May

May half-term break - A canal trip to the Aquaduct at Chirk. Details nearer the time.

