

EDITORIAL

Welcome to your first newsletter of 2025

It was wonderful to see so many residents at the carols just before Christmas. The next social event is a Scottish themed meal (see opposite) and I do hope you can join us.

There are some exciting updates on The Dingle Project, a new book on the area has just been published, and I've included a list of useful links about what is happening in Chester.

We really need some new volunteers to help deliver this free newsletter so if you can spare a bit of time each quarter let me know. If you have any comments or ideas for the next newsletter please drop me a line at cpraonline@gmail.com

Best wishes from Andrew, CPRA Chair

WALKING GROUPS

A wonderful social activity for all

Given the unpredictability of the British weather please make contact first to arrange car sharing and check any changes depending on the weather and numbers.

Please email alisonella@btinternet.com or call Jenny on 683814

WEEKEND WALKS

- 1 Feb - Llangollen (picture below from Pixabay)
- 1 March - Eccleston
- 5 April - Shrewsbury
- 10 May - Delamere

MID WEEK WALKS

These are being arranged - please contact Alison or Jenny.



SCOTTISH-THEMED MEAL

27 February 2025 at Chester Golf Club

Building on the success of previous themed meals we are delighted to announce a Scottish-themed meal on 27 February at Chester Golf Club.

We are a month late for Burns Night but we hope to include a few elements. Tickets are £40 per person. If you'd like to come along please email us at treasurer1@cpraonline.org and copy cpraonline@gmail.com



NEW LOCAL HISTORY BOOK

More history from Hough Green

The Hough Green Local History Group have published a new book (their third) on the history of Hough Green.

Mansions, semis and terraces

More history from Hough Green, Chester



The Hough Green Local History Group

Hough Green has a long history as the main route from Chester to Wales and Ireland and as an area of industry.

The title of this new book embraces the different types of dwelling built on Hough Green or on roads leading from Hough Green.

The series has had great feedback from readers and has a chapter on the origins of Curzon Park.

The book is available for £10 by emailing:

local.history@raycar.plus.com

or by calling: Carol on 01244 674955, or Ray on 01244 671684.

THE DINGLE PROJECT

Take a look at one of the three boards

We are delighted to share the good news that Cheshire West and Chester Council have now approved our third interpretation board (shown here) and work is progressing with Shelley Signs to finalise the remaining two boards.

We hope that these boards will be finished in 2025 and positioned in and around The Dingle to provide visitors with fascinating information about the rich history of this wonderful area.

You can find a larger image of the board on our website (available as an image and as a PDF file).

The Dingle Woodland - a Hidden Oasis

The need for a new bridge

At the start of the 19th Century the only river crossing in Chester was the Old Dee Bridge. Due to fears for Chester losing important trade and the Irish ferries, a committee was appointed in 1818, and Thomas Harrison (1764-1829) was requested to supply plans for a new bridge.



Chester Archive CALS MS2

Grosvenor Bridge

The foundation stone was laid by the 2nd Duke Grosvenor in 1827. The abutments, founded on rock, were completed in 1829, and the massive centre ring was erected in 1830. With a span of 200ft (61m) and a height of 60ft (18m) to accommodate the High Tide, it was the largest arch in the world at the time of its construction, and it remains the longest masonry span in Great Britain.



© West Cheshire Museums

Road to NOWHERE

As you leave the Dingle passing under Grosvenor Bridge, spare a thought for Mary Jonas, at rest in the Overleigh Cemetery on the right. Mary was judged by Time, a popular magazine of the day, as having contributed most to the population of the British Empire by giving birth to 33 children, including 15 sets of twins. (Mary passed away in 1899 at the age of 85).



Grosvenor Bridge from Overleigh Cemetery by Steve House

"I did it because it was there"

In 1940, local fighter pilot James Stannard (1918-1995) shot down a German aircraft on a quiet Sunday morning by flying his Hawker Hurricane fighter aircraft under Grosvenor Bridge. He said in 1994, "I made a flight on 10.30am on a Sunday morning as I was on my way back to Croydon from RAF Sealand after spending a weekend at home."



Courtesy of Chester Art College

Cheshire West and Chester



CERA



Cheshire



green Chester



Cheshire



BULB PLANTING

Can you help?

Daffodils are showing growth and we look forward to a colourful Spring after recent cold weather.



Following the success of snowdrop planting last year, we have been in touch with Ashwood Nurseries and we are expecting a delivery ready to be planted mid-February.

We would really appreciate volunteers to get involved with planting the snowdrops and donations are always welcome.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN CHESTER?

A list of useful links of what is happening in our city

In our last newsletter we included sections about the Friends of Overleigh Cemetery Facebook page and the Chester u3a. We hope you've had chance to take a look at those and found the articles helpful.

There is so much going on in this fine city and the pace of positive change is increasing. We wanted to share some of the most useful websites we've come across. So, whether you want to know what is happening next week or whether you want to dive deep into history there is something for everyone.

From our discussions with residents, some people know about some of these sites, but we wanted to share our top 5 in one place.

If you think we've missed any good resources, please drop us a line at cpraonline@gmail.com

Equally we always welcome suggestions about stories for this newsletter - so don't be shy and drop us a line!

TREES IN CPS

Replacing lost trees

Thanks to the help of our Councillors, Razia Daniels and Matt Carter, we have received a budget to replace 'lost' trees in Curzon Park South. The Council's Tree Officer is involved in this work, and expect an update soon.

HIGHWAYS HEADACHES?

Get in touch

If you have concerns or suggestions about trees, verges, kerbstones please, contact our Highways & Open Spaces lead Allan at highways@cpraonline.org

Chester One City Plan

www.chesteronecityplan.co.uk

What big projects have been delivered over the last 12 years and what is coming?

We Love Good Times

www.wlgt.co.uk

Probably the best site for finding out what is happening across Chester each day.

The Chester Blog

www.thechesterblog.com

If you want to keep up to date with local news and views, this is the place to visit. Hundreds of posts each year.

The Chester Wiki

chester.shoutwiki.com

Packed with detailed info about the history of Chester. A site to get lost in!

A Virtual Stroll Around The Walls

chesterwalls.info

A very detailed stroll around the walls with a lot of history and stories. Like spending time with a wonderful tour guide.