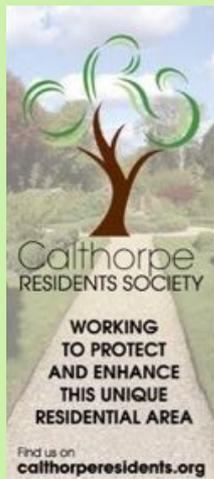


Newsletter



From our Chairman:

Dear Member,



You will be well aware that the Society has been energetically involved in a number of important local issues. Our attention is now focused upon an issue which is causing as much concern as any over the last few years.

The proposed development of land adjacent to the Botanical Gardens promises to be the largest development on the Estate for many years. Many residents have approached us expressing their worries over a wide range of issues concerning the plans—the

possible dramatic effect upon the visual environment, disruption over many months and increased parking and traffic problems.

We recognise the important part that the Gardens play on the Estate. Development is required if they are to survive. However any changes must be proportionate and sympathetic to the surrounding area and the Estate as a whole. Some of the existing proposals seem to have little to do with improving the Gardens ; they represent an attempt to squeeze as much financial benefit out of this rare area of green space and as such they must be subjected to rigorous scrutiny. The National Planning Policy Framework 2012 gives the community rights to contribute to the shared vision before plans are drawn up. We are seeking the views of residents at a forum to be held on 27 October 2016 which will involve local councillors, residents and stakeholders.

The Society is growing in strength and numbers. We are now regularly sought out by the policy makers so that we can provide the views of the community to be taken into account in the decision making process. Our success comes at a cost. The amount of work that is involved is growing significantly. We encourage residents to come and help us in the important work that we are doing.



Peter Arnold

In 2016 CRS has welcomed 149 new members

JOIN

in our campaigns
Traffic & Parking see p.5
Scheme of Management &
Service Charges see p.4

SUPPORT our Events see p.8

HELP

us to build bridges with our
neighbours see p.8

CARE

for our historic
environment see p.6

Our community is sustainable
if we bring people together

TO JOIN CRS VISIT
www.calthorperesidents.org

RESIDENTS MATTER

ENVIRONMENT

EDGBASTON, WHERE THE TREES BEGIN

CRS receives many enquiries from members relating to trees. John Worwood, one of our committee members provides the following information which has been endorsed by Steve Richards of Mainstay.

We all value the contribution made by trees to our surroundings. However, trees are living things and need attention from time to time. Are you aware that:

- Trees on private land are the responsibility of the of the land owner? Residents can take legal action to ensure that unsafe trees on private land are made safe. The owner of the tree would normally have to pay for the necessary work. See Birmingham City Council website page <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/trees>
- Before work is carried out on a tree check that there is no tree preservation order (TPO). There is a link on the page <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/treepreservation> to a map showing trees with a TPO and their locations.
- There are special provisions for trees in Conservation Areas. There is a link via the page www.birmingham.gov.uk/conservation . The link to the Edgbaston Conservation Area page is www.birmingham.gov.uk/edgbastonca
- Before work is carried out, Calthorpe Estate via Mainstay require notification of work on trees (except fruit trees). See Scheme of Management Trees S24 &25 also Scheme of Management Policy Guidelines Trees on the Estate p18. The Guidelines make clear the responsibility of a resident for a tree(s) on his land.
- On private road developments that pay a Service Charge, the tree consultant to Calthorpe Estate, Treework Environmental Practice, Bristol, maintains a computer-based map and inventory of the trees. This does not include trees on private land. Residents pay for maintenance of the computer-based information, an inspection of trees and subsequent arboricultural work by contractors through the service charge.
- The High Hedges legislation applies to a hedge of two or more trees or shrubs and can require a hedge to be limited to 2 metres high.
- If leaves fall on your property, it is your responsibility to clear them and to deal with them, for example by composting them to leaf mould or using the green waste bin, even if the leaves do not come from a tree on your property.



Mainstay maintains a list of approved tree surgeons. They include:

G Davies, South Midlands Tree Services, 8 Moors Lane, Northfield , Birmingham B31 1DH Tel No 0121 477 4134

B. Kenward, Westside Forestry, The Stables, Harbourhill, Belbroughton, West Midlands, DY9 0XE Tel No 0121 457 9457



JAPANESE KNOTWEED, a problem which ECS can solve.

Japanese Knotweed is an ornamental plant introduced to these shores by the Victorians. Although a spectacular plant whilst in bloom, it also has the ability to seriously damage buildings and homes. Many mortgage providers will not lend on a property where Japanese Knotweed has been identified.

Eco Control Solutions are a recommended specialist
Kings Chambers 197-201 Streetly Road, Birmingham B23 7A
Tel: 0121 348 7992 Web: www.ecocontrol.co.uk



TOPPING OUT EVENT MARKS MILESTONE AT AUDLEY ST GEORGES PLACE

Audley, St George's Place, the luxury retirement village on the Estate, celebrated the completion of the roof of its centrepiece building, St George's House with a Topping Out ceremony on Friday 23 September 2016. This was a key milestone in the development of Audley St George's Place celebrated with champagne and lunch. The unique development was previously the home of the Royal School for the Deaf.



RESIDENTS MATTER

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR IMPROVED WALKWAYS?

We have the indefatigable CRS committee member Roy Watson to thank for his invaluable contribution to the pathways on the Estate and surrounding area. Roy is working tirelessly towards securing a continuous pathway through the Estate. This involves careful negotiations with Calthorpe Estates. Why not have a 'Calthorpe Way' to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Estate and to serve future generations? Roy is supported in his work by an equally tireless former GP Dr Ewan Hamnett. Ewan is Chairman of the Birmingham Well Being Board and Champion for Tackling Physical Inactivity. Ewan lives on the Calthorpe Estate and is a member of CRS. We dread meeting him at Waitrose when we have a trolley filled with alcohol and Pringles!

Roy and Ewan are 'Blue Skies thinkers'. The implementation of their ideas need not cost huge sums of money but could bring massive benefits to the health of residents of all ages and reduce the school drop off and collection problems.



Roger Gower was a helicopter pilot who was shot down and killed by elephant poachers in Tanzania in January. He was working for a charity which was seeking to protect the massively diminishing elephant population which is under enormous threat.



Roger was brought up in Edgbaston living on Augustus Road for many years.

His parents David and Madelyn had three sons who all went to Hallfield School. David was a partner at Pinsents solicitors and a captain of Edgbaston Golf Club. Roger had spent almost ten years flying helicopters in Africa after qualifying as a chartered accountant. He was playing his part in preventing the decimation of the elephant population by ivory poachers in Tanzania which sadly continues. Without the support of charities, the wild elephant population in Africa faces extinction.

His brothers John and Max have set up a crowdfunding page at Justgiving which met its initial target of £50,000 in just three weeks. You may have seen on the local news that they are donating 100% of all money raised to fund the rebuilding of Kipsung Secondary School in Kipsung, Mpungu, Kenya. The target is £150,000 of which £105,000 has already been raised..

Please consider a contribution by searching for Roger Gower via the Justgiving website: <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/roger-gower>



BUT OUR NOT SO GOOD ROAD SIGNS?

Conservation Area - really!? Our roads and pavements are tidily tarmac. [Albeit there are most probably original granite set gutters below.] And Harborne Road benefited from brick paving, whilst the rest of us - tarmac. **This issue's Grumble is Street Signs in Conservation areas.** Say no more than demonstrated by the 5 images here from the collection of 7 signs in Carpenter Road. The close up being the latest Birmingham City Council offer - fibreglass sign with black shiny PERSPEX letters stuck on the face!



<

Send your grumbles to info@calthorperesidents.org



CONTACTS

General enquiries
Membership
Events
Planning
Local groups
Telephone
Website

info@calthorperesidents.org
membership@calthorperesidents.org
events@calthorperesidents.org
planning@calthorperesidents.org
localgroups@calthorperesidents.org
0121 684 1362
www.calthorperesidents.org

SCHEME OF MANAGEMENT & SERVICE CHARGES

CRS has established regular meetings with the two Directors of Mainstay responsible for the Scheme of Management on the Estate and for the management of some developments on the Estate.

All freehold houses on the Estate are subject to the Scheme of Management. Leaseholders are excluded from the scheme because they are subject to the terms of their respective leases. If a freeholder's home is on a private development, such as Norfolk Park or Westfield/Chad Hill they will pay both a Scheme of Management charge and a service charge. The latter covers the upkeep of any shared amenity land as well as any estate roads and footpaths.

Relating to the Scheme of Management, we have asked Steve Richards (Mainstay) to address the following questions:

- *What is the Scheme of Management for?*
- *Is it still important?*
- *Does it have a future and, if so, what are the challenges it faces?*

Relating to service charges, Neal O'Grady (Mainstay) has made a commitment to CRS to raise operational standards across the Estate in three main area of focus:

- *Communication*
- *Response times*
- *Transparency on costs.*

We are working hard to encourage the formation of a local group on each development.

John Worwood (CRS Committee) has clarified the roles of CRS and local groups relating to service charges.

The role of CRS is to:

1. *Co-ordinate and facilitate*
2. *Meet with Mainstay and other managing agencies at a strategic level to obtain improvements e.g. communication, value for money*
3. *Develop a network of contacts for each development ensuring that representational roles are agreed by residents*
4. *Provide a means of information exchange between developments*
5. *Provide guidance for developments to analyse and understand their service charges*
6. *Provide guidance to enable a development to pursue its particular issues with the managing agent.*

CRS aims, when requested, to help a development form a local group.

The local group should:

1. *Understand the scope of the assets that are subject to service charges e.g. trees, landscaping, roads, pavements, drains (surface and foul), lighting, structures*
2. *Maintain contact with the managing agent through representatives. The agents are spending your money!*
3. *Analyse and understand the service charges*
4. *Request the provision of invoices so that all charges can be verified before the year end accounts are agreed*
5. *All charges should be supported by an invoice. Challenge unjustified charges*
6. *Discuss and agree budgets*
7. *Discuss and agree the arboricultural work that is to be included in the budget*
8. *Vet quotations for work e.g. gardening, road repairs, painting*
9. *Monitor the activities of contractors in terms of times on site, work carried out and quality of work. This will be needed to verify invoices and to feedback to the managing agent*
10. *Monitor the implementation of the long term maintenance plan.*

Contact: localgroups@calthorperesidents.org FAO John Worwood

TRAFFIC & PARKING CAMPAIGN

CRS is campaigning to reduce the number of cars on our local roads Monday to Friday and to improve school drop off and collection arrangements.

CARPENTER ROAD & TEMPLEFIELDS SQUARE

Money is now available to implement the much-needed double yellow lines at Templefield Square and lower Carpenter Road; the changes should happen shortly.

Unfortunately, after a very positive response from Trident Housing for introducing parking controls in the small car park in Templefields Square that would eliminate all day parking and make space for customers, the shop leaseholders could not agree a unanimous approach which has prevented implementation.



BRISTOL/EASTERN ROADS

Following campaigns, the new arrangements along Bristol and Eastern Roads seem to be working well.

WOODBOURNE ROAD & LARA CLOSE

We are very pleased to report that, following energetic consultation, Calthorpe Estates is reviewing the proposed site for an annex for Harborne Primary School. Access from the corner of Woodbourne/Meadow Roads would be both dangerous and chaotic.

OUR LATEST FORUM

St Monica's Hall, 28th June 2016

This was very well attended by members, our local Councillors, representatives of Mainstay, and Sgt Sandhu, the local officer with special responsibilities for traffic and parking.

Councillor Matt Bennett provided an update on Council intentions that will affect Traffic & Parking. A 'Master Plan' for the city is in preparation. It will include strategies to encourage a 'Modal Shift'. In commuter travel; persuading people to use alternative modes of travel and improving infrastructure, including more Park & Ride schemes. Councillor Bennett highlighted his concern over the intended move of the Children's Hospital to the QE site, noting the massive additional burden this would bring to the already unacceptable traffic and parking issues around the QE and Women's Hospitals. He described this as a major neighbourhood challenge.

Updates from our ongoing Traffic & Parking Project teams provided some lively debate. Many thanks to our 50+ participating members.



PRIORY SCHOOL

Following requests from our local group and action by councillors, the school will encourage more staff to use the parking arrangement they have with Priory Club. Hopefully, this will be an improvement.



PRIVATE ROADS

Thank you to members who have collected data on morning rush hour traffic in the Berrow Drive/Norfolk Park area. Positive liaison with Mainstay has been established and a local group is being formed for Westfield/Chad Hill.

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

University and CRS have liaison meetings every three months. A positive relationship has been established. Excellent new footpaths provide safe and attractive passage for pedestrians and cycles. However, we are disappointed that a planning application has been successful for a new hotel on Edgbaston Park Road.

Furthermore we are concerned about car parking provision for the new sports centre. The University is hoping to attract 2-3000 community members. Road parking remains a major issue to be addressed.

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

Although BCU has been proactive in organising parking arrangements for an expanding student population, these will not be wholly effective until Traffic Restriction Orders are imposed on local roads. Thank you to the University and BAM contractor for their site traffic management arrangements.

THANK YOU TO OUR ELECTED COUNCILLORS FOR WORKING CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH US ON OUR CAMPAIGN. STILL MUCH TO BE DONE BUT WE WILL NOT GIVE UP. MEMBERS' SUPPORT IS NEEDED.

HISTORY

BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS: THE FIRST 20 YEARS

The information contained in this article is an edited version of "Early Days of the Botanical Gardens" - written by C.V. Hancock for the Birmingham Post in the 1970s, when Calthorpe Residents' Society was created. It was found in the archive of the late Miss B Bellis of 13, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston.

In 1829, the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society was founded and three years later, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens were established. This was largely due to the efforts of the president of the society, Lord Dartmouth, and his strong committee which included Dr Withering of Edgbaston Hall, author of the *magnum opus* on British flora and discoverer of the foxglove's value in the treatment of heart disease. In 1831, Lord Calthorpe leased 'Holly Bank' to the society and landowners donated horticultural specimens from lordly gardens. JC Loudon – the chief horticultural writer of the day – was engaged to plan the gardens, conservatories and hot-houses. The first curator, appointed at £100 a year with accommodation, was David Cameron from Surrey.



Rural Peace near the heart of industrial Birmingham

On June 4th 1832, the gardens were opened to shareholders and subscribers. David Cameron travelled extensively to collect desirable plants. These collecting tours produced seeds from all parts of the globe and within a few years, the collections numbered 9000 species and the garden was returning plants and seeds on a 'quid pro quo' basis to various benefactors.

It was not long before the committee was embroiled in controversy about finance. The take-up of the £5 shares was slow and a mortgage had to be raised on the lease. Furthermore, there was opposition from members of the committee to making access more inclusive.

Even though tickets of admission were granted to regiments based in Birmingham, the committee was apprehensive about opening gardens to the general public.

Eventually several members of the committee resigned when Thomas Goodman (described as a 'combative shareholder') carried motions to reduce the price of shares from £5 to 2 guineas. Other attempts to encourage membership included opening on Mondays to 'bona fide' members of the working class for one penny.

In order to guard against disorder, no baskets, hoops or smoking were allowed and two policemen were put on duty. The new committee was pleased with the response but David Cameron – the devoted and expert curator – could not work with the new regime. When ordered to brighten up the gardens with geraniums, azaleas, petunias and other showy flowering plants, he flatly refused and resigned.

Although there were 45,000 subscribers in the following year, finance remained a concern to the new committee. Attention focused on extended opening hours, promenades and entertainment by military bands

In 1852, Birmingham was presented with a giant Mexican Water, Lily '*Victoria Regina*', which Sir Joseph Paxton, architect of Crystal Palace and superintendent of the ducal gardens of Chatsworth, had succeeded in flowering for the first time in Europe. The balance of entertainment and botanical character was achieved. A Lily House was speedily built. The purpose of Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society and the Birmingham Botanical Gardens was restored to 'direct their attention to the picturesque and ornamental without sacrifice to the gardens' botanical and scientific character.'

Edited by Liz Dancey

ARTS & CULTURE

Why not join BIRMINGHAM EVENING DECORATIVE & FINE ART SOCIETY.

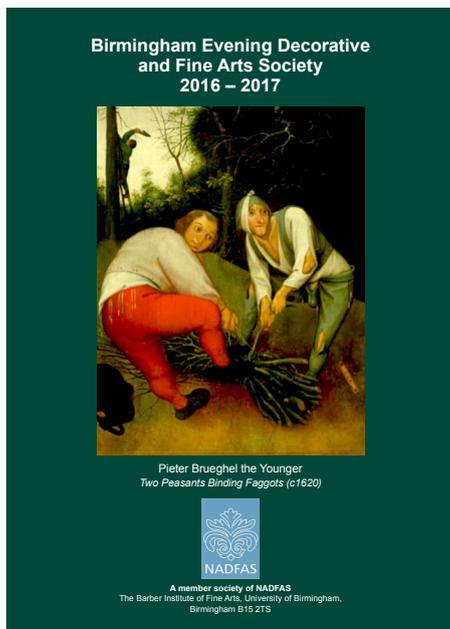
Lectures take place at 7.00 pm at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, located at the University of Birmingham (B15 2TS) with the doors opening at 6.00 pm. Every lecture begins with an opportunity to meet with other members and visitors over a glass of white wine or a soft drink, and the Barber's galleries will be open from 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm with free admission to the permanent collection and temporary exhibitions.

The Barber Institute is fully accessible and there is plenty of free onsite parking in the evening. Further information can be found on the Barber's website www.barber.org.uk

Membership costs £55 per year plus a one-off joining fee of £5 for new members.

Non-members of BEDFAS are welcome to attend our lectures for £10 in cash per lecture paid on the door. Students with valid ID card pay only £5 in cash per lecture.

For details of the BEDFAS programme and membership visit www.bedfas.org



OR BECOME A PATRON AT THE BARBER

It's amazing how many people one meets who know about the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, but have never got round to visiting! Here in Edgbaston, we're lucky to have as our local art gallery that's 'of that standard or quality required by the National Gallery or the Wallace Collection' – in the words of its founder, Lady Barber!

With free admission to its amazing collection - and even its great temporary exhibitions - the Barber really is a delightful place to visit. And for those who want to support the work of the gallery financially while enjoying an unrivalled range of special events and benefits, there's a wonderful Patrons' group too, with membership available at different subscription levels from £200 to £1,000.

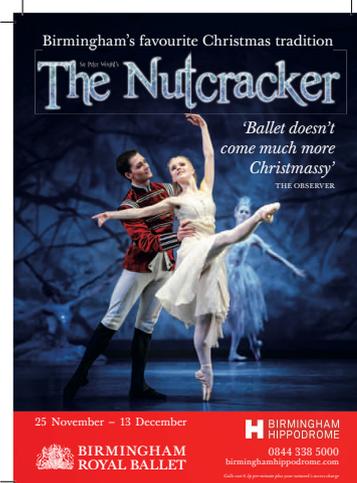
Patrons enjoy an unrivalled range of benefits and a programme of special events, the most popular of which being the Talking Pictures receptions in the gallery. These offer a chance to meet and mingle with like-minded art-lovers over a drink before being treated to a private talk about works in the collection, displays and exhibitions from the Director and other curatorial staff. There are also annual visits to collections and exhibitions around the UK, and invitations to selected Barber exhibition launches and other events, and discounts on Barber events and in the Barber shop.

Recent events have included an exclusive viewing of some new watercolours and prints acquired for the collection, and a Russian-themed evening to welcome back to the gallery after an absence of more than a year of the iconic Portrait of Countess Golovine – which had been on loan to a high-profile Elizabeth Vigée-Lebrun exhibition in Paris, New York and Ontario.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Barber Patrons' scheme, or would be interested in attending an event to sample the Patrons' scheme for yourself, please contact the Barber's Communications and Marketing Manager, Andrew Davies on 0121 414 2946, or info@barber.org.uk.



Two patrons with Nicola Kalinsky, Director of the Barber



St. GEORGE'S CHURCH
1 Westbourne Cres. Edgbaston
B15 3DQ
Free Monthly Lunch Time Concerts
1st Wednesday in the month
1.15 - 1.45.

| | |
|------------|----------|
| 2 November | 5 April |
| 7 December | 3 May |
| 4 January | 7 June |
| 1 February | 5 July |
| 1 March | 2 August |

CALTHORPE ESTATES
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
will be turned on at
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
Friday 18 November 2016



EVENTS

Thursday 10 NOVEMBER 2016
7 for 7.30pm

MEET THE MEMBERS

CHEESE & WINE EVENING
opportunity to meet/chat with other
members and 'catch up' with what is
happening on the Estate.

MEMBERS ONLY or
COME ALONG AND JOIN CRS
[£10 per year per household]

WALKER MEMORIAL HALL

Ampton Road
EDGBASTON B15 2UJ

Event £7.50 per person

Thursday 23 MARCH 2017
7 for 7.30pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OUR GUEST SPEAKER
Gisela Stuart MP



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL
GARDENS

Westbourne Road,
EDGBASTON B15 3TS
Members only

Saturday 22 JULY 2017
12pm - 2.00pm

OPENING OF CRS ART EXHIBITION

TO CELEBRATE 300th
ANNIVERSARY OF CALTHORPE
ESTATES
drinks and light refreshments,
musical entertainment by
SECOND CITY SAX

MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS
[£5.00 per person]

**BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL
GARDENS**

CALLING ALL ARTISTS 22 JULY 2017 - 6 AUGUST 2017 CRS ART EXHIBITION
if you are interested in submitting an exhibit - please see further details on CRS website.

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Thank you to the University of Birmingham for hosting CRS September 2016 Event "A ROOF WITH A VIEW - VIEW FROM THE TOP" of the new Chamberlain Tower. The 360 degree views from the 18th floor were stunning, the accommodation fitting of most 4* hotels.

Members then enjoyed a presentation by Roy Watson on the opportunities/possible linking up of walkways across the Estate.



Lesley Stewart, University of Birmingham, Peter Arnold CRS chair, past chair Mark Kenchington

CRS has developed positive relationships with the university. Meetings are held with key staff every 3 months. We are arranging for members to visit the 360 Sports and Fitness Centre and the Library.



The state-of-the-art University Library



360 Sports & Fitness to open January 2017



Parking remains a major issue to be addressed - see Traffic & Parking Campaign Report, page 5.

CRS - Just £10 annually per household