



Calthorpe Residents Society Newsletter December 2022

Season's Greetings

As we come to the end of 2022 the CRS Committee would like to wish all its members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Feedback on our first e-newsletter has been positive, so we hope you enjoy this December issue. Once again, we would love to hear your news as well as what you would like us to include in future editions. Please submit comments and news by [email](#).

CRS Botanical Gardens Tour



The morning of 23rd November saw 30 CRS members enjoying themselves on a guided tour of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The two hour visit began with delicious mince pies and coffee and a warm welcome from the newly appointed CEO of BBG, Sara Blair-Manning, who provided an update on BBG's plans for the Gardens and Glass Houses following its recent award from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The rain just about held off for the tour with the group being taken round the glass houses and gardens by BBG's experienced Head Gardener Wayne Williams. Wayne proved to be an excellent tour guide providing both informative and interesting facts about the many plants living in the Gardens.

Many thanks to the Friends of BBG for organising this complimentary tour and hopefully we can organise a further similar visit for members in 2023.

New venues opening in Edgbaston

[Smoke and Ash](#) - an independent pizzeria, wine and cocktail bar - has opened up on Greenfield Crescent



[Damascena](#), a Middle Eastern coffee shop, which some of you will know from its site in Harborne High Street, has opened another café at Lyndon House, 62 Hagley Road.



Martineau Gardens New Gates



Some of you who travel down Priory Road will have noticed a new look at the front of the Martineau Gardens. New steel *Gates of Welcome* have been unveiled as the first stage of a Creative City project funded by the City Council.

The gates, attractively covered with sculptures of plants and wildlife, have been created by award-winning sculptor Tim Tolkien, with design input from local volunteers & schools.

The project will be completed over the next month or so, with further enhancements including additional depictions of plants from across the Commonwealth and wildlife from the Gardens themselves.

If you have never visited these charity Gardens, we recommend that you consider paying them a visit. For further details of this quiet oasis on the Estate next to the busy Bristol Road, please go [here](#).

Chamber of Commerce Development



Plans have been lodged to refurbish the Chamber of Commerce House, located on the corner of Highfield and Harborne Roads, which was designed by the famous local architect John Madin. This building was the first tall office building built in Birmingham. The mosaic mural in the foyer by John Piper has been described as a colourful expression of the hope and optimism of the 1960s.

In addition to the refurbishment, the proposals include the building of two apartment blocks next to the Chamber building, providing 130 new apartments. The blocks are planned to be nine and four storeys respectively.

CRS Litter Picking



The pleasant morning of Saturday, 26th November saw another successful litter picking event organised by CRS. In spite of being ankle deep in soggy leaves in places, teams at Templefield and Chad Square collected an impressive pile of rubbish bags. Councillor Dierdre Alden, who again joined the litter pick has made arrangements with the Council for the collection of the resulting bags.

The first litter pick in 2023 is set for Saturday 28th January at 10.30. As usual, this will be followed by a complimentary beverage at a local pub. For further details and for anyone wishing to join in and/or set up a team for their road, please contact info@calthorperesidents.org.

Residents Scheme of Management

As many of you will have received notice that the annual fee is now due to Calthorpe Estates it is a good time to remind our members that a copy of the Scheme of Management Rules for Residents of Calthorpe Estates can be found on our website [here](#),

Trees site development plans opposed

CRS has formally objected to the proposed new development at the site of the former Trees pub on the Bristol Road. The overall basis of the objection is that the scale of the proposed development would cause a level of harm to the significance of the Edgbaston Conservation Area that would not be outweighed by the public benefits of the development. The full detailed objection by CRS may be found on our website [here](#).

Meeting with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Birmingham

In early January, CRS has arranged a meeting of Committee members with Adam Tickell, appointed Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Birmingham in early 2022. The meeting will give CRS a chance to highlight local issues concerning the University which are important to our members, and also to develop useful links with the University. If members have issues that they would like us to discuss at this meeting, please let us know by [email](#) by 5th January.

Artisan Market Christmas Lights switch on



The combined Artisan Market and Christmas Lights Switch on event on Saturday 12th November attracted big crowds to Greenfield Crescent. As well as the usual range of artisan food and drink, handmade arts and crafts and Farmers market stalls, this event incorporated the turning on of the Christmas Lights, featuring various stage acts. The festive singing was led from the stage by local choir group 'Got2Sing' based in Harborne. If any members are interested in joining this choir (all singing voices welcomed) please [email](#) them for more details

Birmingham Botanical Gardens Luminare Event



Any members looking to brighten up their evenings during the Christmas period, are reminded that the Birmingham Botanical Gardens are running their Luminare nights all through December until the 2nd January. Luminare involves almost a mile long trail through the Gardens of lighting elements and fabulous light displays, all set to ambient music. For more details, please go [here](#).

Dates for your diary

The CRS AGM for 2023 will be held on Wednesday March 29th, 2023. Further details regarding the venue and speaker will be published on our website in due course.

And finally ...

Once again, we hope you have enjoyed this issue and look forward to your feedback. Please send us any local news by [email](#).