



Calthorpe Residents Society Newsletter

January 2023

Welcome to 2023

The CRS Committee would like to wish its members both a happy new year and a prosperous 2023.

A new year means that the annual CRS membership fee of £10 for 2023 is now due. Most members pay by standing order, however for those of you that pay by other means, details of how to pay by bank transfer or cheque are may be found [here](#).



Meeting with the new Vice Chancellor of Birmingham University

In early January, CRS held a meeting with Adam Tickell, the Vice Chancellor of UoB. The meeting was the first CRS has had with the University for some time and we are pleased to say the meeting was both useful and productive.

In response to CRS raising residents' concerns about the recent expansion of the University and the associated issues this causes, the Vice Chancellor confirmed that they had no plans in the near future to expand further, either in numbers of students or geographically in Edgbaston. His headline message was that they are focussing on repurposing, rebuilding and refurbishing its properties on its existing site with an emphasis on working towards carbon zero.

On parking issues the Vice Chancellor agreed to remind University staff of the availability of on site parking and also outlined the work the University is doing in respect of promoting bicycle and e-scooter hire for students including investment in safety training for the students.

It was also agreed that, going forward, the University would work closer with CRS to ensure information on University based events (Barber Institute, lectures and concerts etc), which are open to local residents, is more widely publicised, and that some walking tours of the University would be organised for our members later in the year.

Assistance to Local Charities

In 2022 CRS and its members raised £750 for Ukrainian aid charities. It is clear from recent feedback from members, that they would like CRS to get more involved in assisting local charities wherever possible, through facilitating donations from CRS members, or merely by promoting local charitable activities and events.

With this in mind CRS have been working with a charity called **'Suited for Success'** to organize an event in March for our members. Details will be sent out nearer the event.

In addition, if any of our members know of any local charities requiring donations (particularly food bank charities) or are holding any events that they would like promoting, please let us know by e mailing [here](#).

Community of Communities

The first meeting of a new CRS initiative called **'Community of Communities'** has recently been held. The aim of the initiative is to bring together existing and emerging local residents' groups from across the Calthorpe Estate, with the aims of sharing common concerns, sharing best practice, and getting a better understanding of the performance of managing agents. In addition, this group will facilitate communication between CRS and local residents as well as developing a better network of links between these local associations.

A multitude of different structures exist for these local residents' bodies, hence a lot of the initial work is focussed on understanding what organisations exist across the Estate, how they are structured and managed and identifying any common issues they may have.

If any local residents' groups would like to be part of this Community, please contact us [here](#). We are particularly interested in those in apartment blocks.

CRS Litter Picking



The first litter pick in 2023 is on Saturday 28th January at 10.30. As usual, this will be followed by a complimentary beverage at a local pub. CRS currently has three regular litter picking teams – Chad Square, Templefield Square and St James Road, in addition to several ad hoc litter pickers.

For further details and for anyone wishing to join in and/or set up a litter picking team for their road, please contact us [here](#).



First Port - Walk In Surgeries

First Port (Mainstay) I holding **fortnightly ‘come and meet the team’** surgeries at the Boston Tea Party at 30 Harborne Road Edgbaston B15 3AA.

The surgeries are to be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month commencing on 10th January. These meetings will give Calthorpe Estate residents an opportunity to meet face to face with key members of First Port’s team on the Estate, to discuss any aspect of the service provided by First Port to residents.

CRS will be using these meetings to pass on any issues they have come across or which have been raised by its members who cannot attend these meetings. In this respect any members who are in this situation should send their issues [here](#).

Arts Society Birmingham Evening (TASBE)

TASBE is part of the Arts Society network of over 90,000 people worldwide, brought together by a shared curiosity for the arts and our artistic heritage. TASBE is one of the two local branches located in Birmingham (Evening and Day Societies). TASBE was set up nine years ago and has been based on the Calthorpe Estate ever since attracting many local residents to become members.

TASBE organises nine lectures a year held in the evenings at the Ruddock Performing arts Centre at the King Edward VI school in Edgbaston. The lectures last around an hour with time before hand for a complimentary refreshment and catch up with fellow members.

These entertaining lectures are given by professional lecturers and cover a wide variety of topics. Recent and forthcoming lectures have included: ‘Christmas with Dickens’, ‘The Artist Whistler’, ‘Canal Heritage’, ‘Stories about the National Gallery’, and ‘Vienna, the Melting Pot of European Culture’.

In addition to the monthly lectures, smaller ‘bitesize’ events involving visits to local places of interest, are organised throughout the year, along with a Christmas social event. Recent bitesize visits have included trips to Arts and Crafts houses, glass museums, Serbian churches and walking tours around the City

Anyone wanting further information about TASBE or is interested in joining, please visit its website at [tasbe](#) which contains further details of how to join, or e mail the TASBE’s membership secretary at [tasbe](#) for more information.



Traffic Speed Sign

Work is still ongoing by CRS in partnership with local councillors and police, on obtaining funding through the Helping Communities Fund to obtain both a fixed Variable Speed Activation Sign on Augustus Road along with a further mobile sign for the Estate. Hopefully we will receive positive news on these within the next month.

Management Charge and scheme of Management

Residents should by now have received their annual payment requests/invoices for Calthorpe Estates annual Management Charge for 2023 sent out by their managing agents First Port.

Along with this payment request was an accompanying two page document reminding estate residents of the ‘service charges summary of tenants rights and obligations’.

For general rights and obligations, especially regarding scheme of management; appearance of property, gardens , tree works, roads, driveways, parking, and consent for building works etc, it is important that residents are mindful of, and comply with the guidance in the Residents Handbook. All new and existing residents should have a copy of this handbook. If not, it can be accessed [here](#). Members should include their copy along with the legal papers to pass on to prospective buyers.

Congratulations!

CRS would like to give their congratulations to John Crabtree, who received a knighthood in the New Years Honours list for his work as Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Many of you will remember him as our speaker at the 2021 AGM.

Also congratulations to Ian Metcalfe, local resident and former Chair of Commonwealth Games England, who was recognised in the honours with an OBE for efforts in making the Commonwealth Games such a success.

Dates for your diary

The CRS AGM for 2023 will be held on Wednesday March 29th. We are also pleased to confirm that the speakers at the event will be Sue Beardsmore and Sara Blair-Manning the new Chair and CEO of Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

The next Artisan Fair at Greenfield Crescent will be on April 8th and as always, we will be more than pleased to meet current and prospective members there to discuss any issues they may wish to raise.

And finally ...

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