



Calthorpe Residents' Society Newsletter

April 2023

March was a busy month for CRS. It held its Annual General Meeting, had its quarterly meeting with Calthorpe Estates, and organized a successful charitable event, in addition to carrying on its normal work reviewing planning submissions and responding to members' queries.

Read about these March events and other news in this April edition of our newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

Almost 100 members attended CRS's 52nd Annual General Meeting held on the 29th March at Edgbaston High School for Girls. Members heard Peter Arnold, Chair of CRS provide an update of the Society's activities over the last year and introduce some of the Committee's plans for this year. Those present also formally approved the accounts for the year, which show the Society to be in a strong financial position, and elected the Society's Officers and Committee for the year ahead.

Once the more formal business of the meeting was complete, members were informed and entertained by a presentation entitled 'Growing our Green Heritage', from Birmingham Botanical Garden's senior staff which focussed on the current state of the gardens and the urgent need for significant investment to secure the garden's future. They outlined their plans for the gardens including replacement of the Glass Houses and their strategy for securing the required funding.

The presentation was given by Sue Beardsmore (Chair), Sara Blair-Manning (CEO) and Elizabeth Frostick (Development Director) of the Botanical Gardens (shown below with CRS Chair Peter Arnold).



Following the presentation members enjoyed socialising together with a glass of wine or some thing non-alcoholic.

Members appear to have had an pleasurable evening and feedback received to date, on both the BBG Presentation and the AGM as a whole, has been very positive.



Many thanks for Mrs Clare Macro, Head of Edgbaston High School for Girls, for once again allowing us to use their hall and facilities for our AGM.

Suited For Success



On Saturday 25th March CRS held a successful suit donation coffee morning with local charity '**Suited for Success**'. The charity, based in Ladywood provides free interview clothes, styling advice and interview presentation skills for local unemployed people looking for work.

The coffee morning was kindly hosted by **Chapter** in Greenfield Crescent and thanks to the generosity of our members the charity collected a fantastic haul of donations including a mix of high quality suits, shirts, dresses, jackets, shoes and accessories in addition to a couple of financial donations.



Pictured above are members of Suited for Success, Chapter and CRS with just some of the donations received during the morning.

Patricia White, Chief Executive of Suited for Success, passes on her many thanks for our members' invaluable charitable support and looks forward to working with us again later in the year on another suit donation drive.

Two further photos below again showing the generous donations received on the day along with members of CRS and the Charity.



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 team for their road, please use this [email address](#).

Meeting with Haydn Cooper, CEO Calthorpe Estates

CRS held its regular quarterly meeting with Haydn Cooper the CEO of **Calthorpe Estates** at the end of March.

As expected, the meeting covered various concerns over specific ongoing property developments that residents have raised recently with CRS. In addition, CRS highlighted the dreadful state of several buildings and areas on the Estate (Five Ways Tower for example). Other issues covered were progress on development of the updated Edgbaston Conservation Area Plan and the performance of First Port.

It has been agreed that the minutes of this meeting will be made available to CRS members once formally agreed.

Please keep providing us with all of your questions or concerns you would like us to raise with Calthorpe Estates at these regular meetings by using this [email address](#).

Artisan Market Returns

The sunshine of the Easter Weekend welcomed the first Edgbaston Village Artisan Market of the year on 8th April in Greenfield Crescent.



As usual, the market was well supported with the numerous stalls of handmade arts and crafts, artisan food and drink, attracting a large number of people to the Crescent.

The CRS stall, run by Committee Members, was also busy throughout with a regular stream of members wanting advice, taking an opportunity to pass on any current issues they have, or simply popping over to say hello to us. We were also very pleased to recruit some new members to CRS.

A reminder that the next artisan market will take place on Saturday 13th May, albeit CRS will next be attending the market on the 10th June.

Planning Defeat

CRS was very disappointed with the recent decision of Birmingham City Council's Planning Committee to approve the revised plans for the high rise blocks of

Community Garden Progress



As you may remember, late last year, work was delayed while Japanese Knotweed was removed from the site. This has now been removed and Calthorpe Estates expects works to fill in the holes created by its removal and erection of new perimeter fencing will take a month or so to complete.

CRS and the other stakeholders involved in this project, will then meet to agree the next steps. An initial design has been produced by students at King Edward VI School (see image above). It is hoped that a site visit will be possible for all interested members of CRS sometime in May. We will keep you informed.

CRS Litter Picking



Our next litter picking event is planned for Saturday 29th April. CRS currently has three regular litter picking teams:

student flats for the site on the Bristol Road next to McDonalds.

As you will be aware, CRS, along with various other local groups, opposed the initial and revised plans for the site. However the objections, which centred around, among other things, the development's impact on the nearby Edgbaston Conservation Area, were ignored and the planning was approved by five votes to three!

The proposed development on Bristol Road.



Mobile Recycling Centre



Mobile Household Recycling Centre
coming to an area near you

The next appearance of the popular Mobile Recycling Centre is on the morning of the 27th April (7am to 12.45) in Ampton Road. Please see [mobile](#) for further information and in particular details of what can be accepted by the centre.

Bringing Real Bread to Edgbaston

Members may be interested in learning that they can pick up from **Chapter** in Greenfield Crescent real artisan bread baked by artisanal baker Adam Cross in his independent bakery, **Ten Four Bakehouse**, in Stinchley.

Chapter is acting as a collection point on Saturdays for pre ordered freshly baked sourdough breads as well as a changing weekly selection of delicious pastries.

Simply order online from [tenfourbakehouse](#) by 6pm Wednesdays choosing chapter as point of collection when prompted and collect your baked goods from 9am to noon on the following Saturday thereby helping to support two local independent businesses.

Edgbaston Village News



Calthorpe Estates produces a regular e-mail newsletter covering shopping and entertainment activities in and around the Edgbaston Village (Greenfield Crescent). Anyone wanting to receive these newsletters or find out more about them, please click on [villagenews](#)

FirstPort Surgery

A reminder that the next FirstPort 'Come and meet the team' surgery will be held on 25th April at the Pineapple Room in the Boston Tea Party at 30 Harborne Road from 2.30 to 4.30pm.

The Surgery gives Calthorpe Estate Residents the opportunity to meet the dedicated FirstPort team face to face to discuss any aspect of their service.

Sad News

At the end of January CRS was sad to learn of the death of long time CRS member and local architect, Graham Winteringham, just a few weeks before his 100th birthday.

Graham and his wife Lesley had long associations with the Calthorpe Estate moving to Sir Harrys Road in 1978 and then more recently to The Audley St Georges Place.

After serving in the Navy during the war Graham studied at the Birmingham School of Architecture before joining ST Walker in Birmingham where he became Senior Partner until his retirement in 1988.

Graham will best be remembered for his design of Birmingham Repertory Theatre where he attended nearly every opening night performance in its 52 year history.

Additional details about Graham and his obituary from the Guardian can be found here on our website [inmemoriam](#)

And finally ...

A reminder for any members who have yet to pay the 2023 annual membership fee of £10. Details of how to pay may be found at [membership](#)

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