



## Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter.

In this edition we have accounts of our AGM in March, the recent "Shakespeare in Birmingham" lecture at Harborne Academy, along with updates on our work and an invitation to complete our survey about the maintenance of grounds and amenity areas across the Estate. Finally, there are details of various events in the area in what we hope is a fine summer! I hope you enjoy this edition; the next will be in September 2026.

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## AGM 2026

The 55<sup>th</sup> Calthorpe Residents Society AGM was held on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026, at Edgbaston High School for Girls, Westbourne Road, Edgbaston.

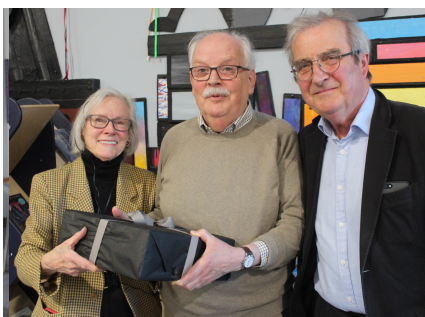
The meeting was chaired by Peter Arnold with Nick Brown (Secretary), 75 CRS members in attendance along with CRS Committee members and Councillors Deirdre Alden and Matt Bennett.

The business part of the meeting reflected the work of the Committee particularly in holding the Managing Agent to account, attempting to impact some of the problems on our roads including speeding, and overseeing planning applications across the Estate. The Society accounts were presented. After almost a decade of steady surpluses we reported a loss for the year of £2,132. This resulted from the one-off investment we made in updating the Society's website, which was in urgent need of being restructured to ensure its security and its ease of use for both our members and the Committee members who manage it. Excluding this one-off cost, we would have made a small surplus, despite spending more on social events.

Finally, the Chair paid tribute to retiring Committee members Sheila Hirst (Membership Secretary), Pauline Luget Owen (Planning and Litter Pick Lead) and Joanna Fursman.

After a short interval The Chair then introduced the speaker - Glenn Howells - who gave an address titled "Calthorpe Masterplan 1958-1973" which reflected greatly on the pioneering work of John Madin. Glenn immediately won over the audience with his opening statement that Calthorpe Estate was "the best kept secret in the UK"! He described how work to design and rebuild Birmingham following the devastation of bombing in 1940 during the Second World War. His main theme was the contrast between the approach of John Madin, who sought to "preserve the best of the old", with that of others including City Engineer Herbert Manzoni, who razed the ground and then tended to build in uniform rows and ranks with roads and parking but little natural environment. Glenn showed how this area had benefitted from what he called Madin's "softer modernist approach" which preserved trees, levels, and character in simple but elegant plans. His mantra appeared to be to have one-third building, one-third car parking and one-third landscaping and this was exemplified across the Estate in examples of views familiar to the audience from different parts including Warwick Crest, Chad Square and Hartford Close.

Glenn closed by underlining how fortunate we were to have inherited this plan which still holds good and makes for the environment we all enjoy but reminding us that this was a legacy worth preserving!



## Shakespeare and Birmingham

There was a splendid turnout on April 28<sup>th</sup> for the latest in our lecture series at Harborne Academy, which is proving to be a super venue with free parking and an open-plan reception area, ideal for a pre-talk drink and canapé! Our lecturers, Shakespearean scholars Professors Patricia Lennox and Russell Jackson ensured Calthorpe residents and their guests were fully aware of Shakespeare's presence in Birmingham's history. Professor Lennox spoke of the Birmingham Library's extensive collection of Shakespeare material and the "Everything to Everybody" programme that took the library's edition of the First

Folio to 16 local sites during 2020-2022. Both professors spoke of the productions by Barry Jackson's Repertory Company (1913-1948) and Professor Jackson, Kenneth Branagh's text adviser, spoke of working with Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company which played at the Rep in 1988 when Derek Jacobi, Judi Dench and Geraldine McEwan all directed as well as acted in various productions. Our thanks to both.

An interesting footnote: CRS member Cameron Woodrow got in touch to say that the 19<sup>th</sup> century Shakespearean scholar Clement M. Ingleby (1823-1886) lived on the Calthorpe Estate for much of the first c.37 years of his sadly short life. "If memory serves me correctly, he was born at an address on the Hagley Road. I don't know for certain exactly where he grew up but, immediately after his marriage, he and his family lived at 35 Carpenter Road. I believe that they

were the first occupants, c.1850-1860, after which they moved to a palatial property that his wife had inherited, located in what is now the London Borough of Redbridge. His father, also named Clement, was the founder of the law firm that became Wragge & Co. (originally, 'Ingleby, Wragge & Ingleby' and now part of the merged Anglo-Canadian firm known as 'Gowling WLG').

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### **Forthcoming CRS Events**

CRS has two upcoming events and look forward to seeing many of you at these. Please book using this [email address](#).



#### **Visit to Birmingham City University South Campus, Westbourne Road, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 10am – 12pm**

City South Campus in Edgbaston is the training ground for health professionals, including those undertaking nursing and midwifery studies, life sciences and social work courses. Come and see how students today benefit from practical learning facilities that simulate the real situations medical staff may come across. It is a most impressive site. Places are strictly limited to 30. Parking, including disabled parking is available. Booking opens on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, to reserve a place, please complete the booking form [here](#)

#### **Local History Walk, Monday 24th August 2026, 10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

We shall be meeting at the Joseph Sturge Statue at Five Ways and taking a leisurely stroll down Broad Street with our knowledgeable guide Viv Astling who is hoping to have the Hall of Memory in Centenary Square opened specially on our behalf. Booking for this event will open on Monday July 13<sup>th</sup>, to reserve a place please complete the booking form [here](#)



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### **Community of Communities**

CRS continues to attempt to co-ordinate efforts for all our Communities regarding Principle Estate Management (PEM), who are now in their third year of a Managing Agent contract with Calthorpe Estates. A strong network of residents' representatives in over half of the 21 service charge areas has been established. CRS is keen to add representatives from the remainder of these areas. CRS and residents' representatives correspond and meet with both Calthorpe Estates and PEM on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, problems continue concerning transparency regarding the work undertaken by a number of suppliers. Residents are not confident that they receive good value for the monies expended on our behalf. CRS leads on this with Peter Wall persuading PEM and Calthorpe that alternative suppliers need to be approached, both for the possibility of increased quality and more reasonable cost.

Finally, and sadly, Calthorpe Estates and their lawyers have still not been able to extract from FirstPort the remaining historic accounts and financial data from the last 3 of the 21 development areas. However, Peter has recently contacted FirstPort directly with some success.

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### **Grounds Maintenance on the Estates**

Many of you have reported concerns and disappointments about the state of the grounds and quality of maintenance works in various parts of the Estates area. While we have been and continue to be, happy to report these concerns directly to Calthorpe Estates and their managing agents to secure a better level of service, we think that our arguments would benefit from fuller information. Therefore, we would ask that you spend a few moments completing the website survey at your earliest opportunity. The link is [here](#). Many thanks for your assistance!

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### **Edgbaston Conservation Area**

Many of you will recall and may have attended the consultation events for the proposed revisions to the Edgbaston Conservation Area held last summer.

Birmingham City Council has perhaps been busy of late, but now, following the recent elections, CRS will be back in contact with the Council to chase progress. We will keep you informed!

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**Our Streets**

One of the key areas of work of the CRS Committee concerns our local streets and in particular, the number of traffic collisions and speeding vehicles.

We were pleased to see that after a long wait, the traffic calming measures planned for the junctions of Norfolk Road/Westfield Road and Carpenter Road/Wheeleys Road have been completed. We are grateful to Councillors Alden and Bennett for their persistence on these works and now hope that we see some reduction in the frequency and severity of accidents at these dangerous junctions.

You may have noticed that speeding vehicles in Birmingham hit the headlines recently with a huge increase in the number of offences and some incredible speeds being recorded including 110 mph on the Hagley Road!

We have a Community Speedwatch group working with PCSO Scott Ohren and have conducted recent sessions on Augustus Road, Westfield Road, Kingscote Road, Nursery Road and St James Road. Sadly, we are finding very large numbers of vehicles driving at speeds substantially above the limits. Our highest recorded speed remains 59mph on Augustus Road. Unfortunately, the equipment we are provided with does not function at night, so whilst we are aware of significant issues on several of our streets during that time we are unable to operate. The powers of Community Speedwatch are limited to issuing warning letters. However, we hope that by presenting the police with hard evidence of the problems locally, we can attract the attention of the WM Traffic Police who have full enforcement powers.

Anyone wishing to join the group please contact Nick Brown [here](#).

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**Lime Bikes**

Notwithstanding the potential value and benefits of the relaunched Lime Bikes bicycle hire scheme, several members have expressed concerns to us about their use and abuse. The link for reporting of illegally parked vehicles is [here](#). The link for reporting unsafe or disrespectful driving of vehicles is [here](#).

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**Edgbaston Cricket Ground**

A reminder that CRS is a member of the Edgbaston Cricket Ground’s Community Liaison Group. This meets several times a year to discuss any issues being experienced by nearby residents from the use of the Ground and any wider community initiatives that the Ground are involved in. At the last meeting, arrangements for the upcoming summer games were discussed and we an update was received on the development of the new stand and hotel (more details on this in our next Newsletter). If you have any issues that you would like to raise with the ground, please let us know.

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**Martineau Gardens Charity Summer Party**

Our friends at Martineau are holding their annual charity event on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June between 1500 and 1900 and have cordially invited CRS members to a relaxed afternoon in their lovely gardens. You will have the opportunity to socialise with a fizz reception, drink unlimited glasses of wine or soft drinks (beer/lager drinkers please bring your own supplies) and eat a fantastic range of fresh, delicious food, all to the accompaniment of background music. Raffle tickets and a charity auction with fabulous prizes will take place midway through the proceedings.



Tickets cost £20 per person. To purchase these, you can either (a) call into the gardens at 27, Priory Road, Edgbaston, B5 7UG and pick them up, (b) book over the phone on 0121 440 7430 or (c) [email](#) them.

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## Whats On Summer '26

Summer is here, which means there is something for everyone on the Calthorpe Estate.

For those who want good food and sport [Chapter](#), alongside their mid-week offers of Fish and Chip Tuesdays and Steak Fridays, are showing live the England v Croatia World Cup match, combined with a three-course dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

For good food and something a bit different the [Physician](#) in June have a midweek 'Brush and Tipple Painting Party' and their live music is back on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

For those that just like good food outdoors, [The Highfield](#) is welcoming the warmer weather with events including in June a 'Dinner at Dusk' and a 'Summer BBQ'.

The arrival of Summer also means cricket is back at [Edgbaston](#) with a full programme of T20 Blast fixtures starting on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

If music is what you are looking for the [University of Birmingham](#) have a packed summer of music. Their musicians (Chamber Music) are making the most of the acoustics at St Peters Church in Harborne on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, whilst the Sekine Quartet are at the Lapworth Museum on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June performing their string tribute to Queen, ABBA David Bowie and many more.

Music also features in summer at the [Birmingham Botanical Gardens](#) with weekends of 'Gardens Yoga' on Saturdays and music on Sundays with their summer programme of 'Live on the Bandstand'.

And for anyone who likes a party [Martineau Gardens](#) will be celebrating the summer with their annual garden party on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, a fantastic fundraising event featuring music, tasty food and a raffle packed with prizes all in a beautiful setting (see also above).

And finally, shoppers don't forget the [Edgbaston Village Artisan Market](#) which will be on Saturdays June 13<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>

Finally, for those that like live performances [Winterbourne](#) brings you 'Murder on the Lawn' on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June and 'The Three Musketeers' on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

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### Closing Statement

We hope that you have enjoyed this Newsletter and found items of interest. Please let us know what you think and contact us with your news and events so that we can publicise them to fellow members.

Our next editions will be published on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The best way for you to contact us is through the website [Contact form](#) or use the [email address](#) where contact form submissions are collated. All communications will be acknowledged, but it should be noted that detailed advice will only be provided to paid up members of CRS.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming events!

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