



Welcome
to your update

Dear Resident

Welcome to the autumn edition of our CRS newsletter.

In this edition we have accounts of our two recent social events along with updates on our work regarding the Calthorpe Estates land and road sales. Also, there is the first in an occasional series about local history with a piece on local road names which we hope you find interesting and entertaining! Finally, there are details of events happening in the area, including our own autumn poetry event on October 2nd. This builds on the success of last year's Christmas poetry evening, also held at the Ruddock Centre which was enjoyed by many of you.

I hope you enjoy this edition; the next will be in early December 2026.

Peter Arnold (Chairman CRS)

----- 0000000 -----

Recent Social Events



Exceptional Visit to BCU Campus

Edgbaston has a notably high concentration of medical infrastructure, students and healthcare professionals compared with elsewhere in the UK. Birmingham City University South Campus off Westbourne Road is home to their Health Professions, Nursing and Midwifery, Life Sciences and Social Work courses. Students benefit from practical learning facilities - from a mock operating theatre and hospital wards to a microbiology lab and simulated ambulance and home environments. Our CRS visit was fascinating as we learnt not only about the amazing facilities on our doorstep, but also the exceptional wrap-around care for students, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds within Birmingham.

Our visit group leaders and staff shared their enthusiasm and genuine care for their students. as one remarked "we are not only teaching but also shaping lives". The medics amongst us were bowled over with the state-of-the-art equipment, whilst also noting the requisite need now for first class IT skills! We had a truly exceptional visit which was capped off with a delicious surprise luncheon and a feeling that we had visited a pure gem.



Architectural and Sculptural Walk with Viv Astling. A walk with Viv Astling is a real treat. Viv's knowledge of Birmingham's local history is impressive; he opened our eyes so that we saw and appreciated masses of public art in just one street of Birmingham. Meeting at the Joseph Sturge statue, we then took in the stainless steel sculpture in the Five Ways underpass and met Field Marshall Claude Auchinleck outside the old Edgbaston Shopping Centre. We then came face to face with William Mitchell's nineteen brutalist concrete abstract reliefs adorning the Quayside Tower, and the Inner Spirit slate and glass sculpture by Amanda Brisbane. After crossing Broad Street we visited the Golden Boys, admired the design of the Rep by one of our own residents - the late Graham Winteringham - and finally visited the Hall of Memory, which Viv arranged to have opened especially for us. The walk was followed by much needed refreshments in The Exchange Building. We all had a wonderful morning and a reminder to 'always look up'.

----- 0000000 -----

Forthcoming CRS Event

Following the success of last year's Poetry Evening CRS has organised a similar event this year: Autumnal Poetry Evening, The Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, B15 2UA on Friday 2nd October 2026, 6.30pm - 9.00 pm. We would love you to join us for seasonal drinks, nibbles, poetry, and merry conversation. Free parking and wheelchair access. Tickets £9.50. To confirm attendance please email events@calthorperesidents.org and make your payment to Calthorpe Residents Society, sort code: 60-07-41, Account no.: 89007018, reference: "your name/poetry"

----- 0000000 -----

Calthorpe Estate Land and Road Sales

Further to the detailed update we sent out on the 18th August, a link to which is [HERE](#), we are pleased to report that on the sale of the Green at Sir Richard's Drive, significant progress has been made by the local residents, energetically led by Sally and Mark Newton, towards securing this green space for the local community for the future. We are optimistic that in the coming weeks we will be able to report that the funding has been secured to purchase this land, and the legal and other operational arrangements are in place to do so. In the longer term the local team are intending to set up a Community Interest Company to look after and manage the Green. This will obviously represent a terrific result for all involved - the local organisers, the whole local community who came out in support of the purchase, individual donors, CRS, and local politicians.

On the sale of the private roads there are now a number of groups working toward the potential purchase of their roads. CRS is supporting them in their endeavours. We have produced a guidance note which can be found [HERE](#) which we have written to assist those interested in buying roads and green spaces. Calthorpe Estates have themselves produced a short template which can be found [HERE](#). On the smaller lots, while some have been or are in the process of being bought by local residents, there are some, such as the large grass verges at Greville Drive and Michael Drive, going to auction in the next week. CRS will watch on with interest and report the outcome to you.

We know that many of you have asked us to request a more detailed and far-reaching plan of sales from CE but sadly they remain unwilling to share a schedule of sales beyond a month-to-month listing. We will continue to ask for this on your behalf but in the meantime, we know that numbers of you are either making approaches about small plots adjacent to your property or are organising to move ahead with larger purchases such as roads under your own timetable. We will continue to offer support with these and keep all members updated with significant developments through regular emails.

-----oooOooo-----

Edgbaston Planning Applications

CRS is registered with Birmingham Planning Department as a Consultee body and as part of what we do, we monitor and review planning applications and developments on the Estate to ensure, as far as possible, that the estate remains an attractive and desirable area in which to live and work. This is an important part of our work as your committee, and we would like to invite anyone who is interested to consider joining us to help with this task. We review all local planning applications, and we register our objections where we identify issues. We also look in detail at any proposed works affecting trees in the plans, and we will also draw some of the larger proposed developments to our members attention so they can review the details themselves. One such large development included in the latest batch of planning applications for the Edgbaston are is the development of the old school buildings and grounds at the Oratory on Hagley Road, involving the demolition of some existing buildings and the development of 77 residential units. If any members would like to review this application further, it can be found by searching on the Planning Portal on the Birmingham City Council website.

-----oooOooo-----

What's in a Street Name

In your travels around the estate, as well as admiring the cast iron road signs that adorn our roads, many of you may have wondered about the origins of the names on these signs. In this and the next few issues of our newsletter, we will enlighten you on the background to a few of these names starting with those roads named after two of the first Edgbaston 'Calthorpes'.



Sir Richard Gough, shown here, an MP and director of the East India Company, acquired the Edgbaston Estate in 1717 and rebuilt the Hall, Park and old church, hence it is appropriate that at least two roads on the Estate bear his name - Gough Road and Sir Richards Drive. His son Sir Henry Gough is remembered by Sir Harry's Road. However it is his son's wife Barbara Calthorpe, who he married in 1741, that a lot of the Estate's roads owe their names to.

Barbara was heiress to an extensive 2,000 acre estate in North Norfolk, a significant land holding at Elvetham in Hampshire and also a hall at Ampton in Suffolk. Barbara and Henry's son - Sir Henry Gough Calthorpe inherited their names and all their estates and became the first Baron Calthorpe. Calthorpe and Norfolk Roads were named after Barbara and many of the Beeches Lane Estate roads reflect the settlements associated with her North Norfolk Estate - Blakeney Avenue, Norwich Drive, Fakenham Croft, Hunstanton Avenue and Cockthorpe Close. Other roads reflect Barbara's extensive land holdings in Hampshire - Hampshire Drive, Hazeley Close, Winchfield Drive, Wintney Close, Crookham Close and Elvetham Road. Lastly, Ampton Drive remembers Ampton Hall in Suffolk which she owned.

-----oooOooo-----

We Welcome two new Community Partners to CRS. We look forward to working with them in the future.

Harborne Planning Watch is a small group which evolved after the dissolution of Harborne Society. Their main focus is on reviewing all the planning applications relating to the Harborne area. They, like CRS, are registered with Birmingham Planning Department as a consultee body.

Harborne Academy is a co-educational secondary school on the edge of the Estate. We have benefitted from use of their facilities to host two of our recent social events.

-----oooOooo-----

What's On

While the hot weather may have subsided, summer events across the estate are still in full swing. Here is just a taster of what's on over the next month or two. For further details please click on the bold text.

Lunch at Chapter Wednesday September 23rd Noon for 12.30

Come along to Chapter and enjoy a delicious seasonal two course lunch and hear from Head Gardener Bethan Collerton and Senior Display Glasshouse Horticulturalist Alberto Trinco at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. They will take you through their work to prepare the BBG plant collections ahead of the essential restoration works and development plans for the Gardens. Sue Beardsmore, Chair of the Gardens will welcome guests and Sara Blair-Manning, the Garden's CEO will give an update on the development plans for the gardens. Preserving and future proofing the gardens will mean they can continue to play their unique role in reconnecting people with nature, science and the environment. Two Courses - £30 per person. Ring 0121 200 3020 to book (full payment will be taken at time of booking)

[Chapter](#), whilst their BBG lunch is featured above, it is also worth noting that they are hosting the Obsessions Autumn Fashion Show on October 5th, involving a drinks reception, two course lunch and fashion show.

For good food and something a bit different the [Physician](#) continue their midweek 'Brush and Tipple Painting Party' on October 1st and Distant Strings feature on their live music night on Friday September 25th.

As always, the [University of Birmingham](#) have a packed diary over the next two months. Events range from family friendly story telling with sculptures, a lunchtime cello recital in the Elgar concert hall, to a music evening in the Lapworth Museum.

[Birmingham Botanical Gardens](#) feature in Birmingham Heritage Week's activities hosting a BBG "through the lens" event on September 12th, giving you an opportunity to explore the photographic records of the gardens from their archives.

[Martineau Gardens](#) are celebrating the start of autumn with a "Community Connecting Autumn" Lunch on Saturday September 19th, featuring a pay what you can vegetarian lunch in the beautiful setting of the Gardens, catching the last of the sunshine.

[Winterbourne](#) is still buzzing with activity running a six week 'introduction to beekeeping' course through October as well as hosting the Birmingham Honey Show on the weekend of the 12-13 September.

And finally, shoppers don't forget the [Edgbaston Village Artisan Market](#) which will be on Saturdays September 12th and October 10th.

-----oooOooo-----

Closing Statement

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

Our final edition for 2026 will be published in early December but in the meantime, we will keep you updated on all matters relating to the Calthorpe Estates sales programme.

The best way for you to contact us is through the website [Contact form](#) or use the [email address](#). 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 our poetry evening in October!

Thank you for being part of the Calthorpe Residents Society!

With all our best wishes

Your CRS Team

Your CRS Team

-----oooOooo-----