



AGM issues – parking and parking – and did I mention parking?

The AGM was small but beautifully formed. Jeremy Benstead, one of our City Councillors and the current Mayor of Cambridge, came and chatted informally to the people present. Noel Kavanagh, our County Councillor spoke about the proposed citywide residents' parking scheme. This will not affect us in the first instance, as we do not have the problem of commuter parking – and there will be consultation in each area before any changes.

The discussion raised two issues which some residents feel very strongly about: insensitive parking by their neighbours and parking on the grass verges. Parking was seen as an issue throughout our area – St Thomas's Square and the Tiverton Way area were mentioned. But the biggest gripe was constant parking on the verges in Birdwood Rd. This has made some of them mud-baths in winter and concrete-hard in summer.

We were advised that parking on the road and not on the verge is preferable for two reasons. 1. It preserves the verges as green spaces that carry away run-off of heavy rain, so assisting in flood prevention, and 2. Parked cars on the road provide natural chicanes which slow the rat-run traffic which uses our roads to avoid problems at the Budgens roundabout. **So the plea goes out – please, please park sensitively, away from junctions, with due respect for your neighbours and not on the grass verges.**

The Association's finances are healthy. The City Council has given us a grant each time we have applied and our main outgoings are on our newsletter and the events we organise in St Thomas's Hall. At the AGM we recruited a new member to the committee. Hooray!

Committee 2017/8

Jane Phillips, Birdwood Rd, Chair.
Peta Ewers, St Thomas's Sq, Treasurer.
Shona Douglas, Chalmers Rd, Secretary.
Ruth Bennett, Birdwood Rd.
Janet Burgess, St Thomas's Rd.
Paola Finoia, St Thomas's Sq.
Lesley Hughes, Gray Rd.
Emma Ormond, Zetland Walk.
Glyn Phillips, Birdwood Rd.
Lewis Wilbur, Budleigh Close.

Mother's Day treats

We were disappointed by the small number of children coming to make a Mother's Day treat – ie. two in total. They both produced a beautiful plant arrangement and a chocolate treat for their mothers – plus one for grandmothers, aunts and even for grandfathers! Why not? Granddads are important too!

The plant, seed and book swap was again worthwhile – all plants went to good homes in our area and the extra books went to Emmaus. We have to thank Tesco, the Co-op and B&Q for prizes and plants. The raffle raised £26 for Red Balloon and £26 for RSPCA. Both charities were delighted with the unexpected gift.

Pavements

We will be reporting pavement problems to the County Council, especially as we have several residents who need a solid surface to walk on. At present, in Birdwood Rd, electric cables are being laid. We have been informed that a new gas pipeline will also be laid within the next couple of months. So it is really not worthwhile for the County Council to do anything until after the gas works have been completed. These things are always better if lots of people complain so can you alert the County Council to any problems in your road and we will do the same – but after the gas pipeline.

To report a highways problem (including pavements), call 0345 045 5212 (charged at local rate) or go to:

http://www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20081/roads_and_pathways/10/roadworks_and_faults

Community Action Day – the day with the skips and rubbish collecting

The Community Church has decided not to hold a Community Day this year. As this event has been so useful for residents who don't have a car, we are trying to arrange a similar event with the City Council. These things take some time to organise, so it won't be until at least the autumn. More news when we have it.

Please, please, get this by email

It is so much easier for us to send newsletters out by email. Also, you'll be kept up to date by the (very) occasional email with information that is urgent and can't wait for a newsletter. If you can receive it that way **PLEASE** send us your email address. **Send an email to birdwoodara@gmail.com** with your postal address in the subject. Thanks!

Elections

From 4th May we will have a new County Councillor as the Boundary Commission has made changes which mean that Coleridge Ward disappears for County Council elections and we will be in Cherry Hinton Ward. However, Coleridge Ward continues for City Council elections – so we're in Cherry Hinton for County and new County-wide Mayoral elections and remain in Coleridge Ward for City Council elections. Confused? Join the club!

Your memories of the area

The Museum of Cambridge was delighted to receive one of our histories. We will, in due course, collate them all – so keep them coming!

If you need to contact our local Councillors, here are their details:

County Council, Noel Kavanagh
Phone: 01223 511871 **Email:**
Noel.Kavanagh@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

City Council, Jeremy Benstead
Phone: 01223 351669 **Email:**
j_benstead@live.co.uk

City council, Lewis Herbert
Phone: 01223 721027 **Email:**
lewis.herbert@cambridge.gov.uk

City Council, Rosy Moore
Mobile: 07709 222026 **Email:**
rosy.moore@cambridge.gov.uk

If you think there is a general problem for the area, do contact us. And if you have ideas for future events or anything to increase neighbourliness, we'd love to hear from you. Our email address is birdwoodara@gmail.com This is our preferred contact point but if you would rather you can put a note through the door at 52 Birdwood Rd.

Our aims:

to promote neighbourliness and a sense of community and to form a conduit to the City and County

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