

CRA NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday 15th December – Annual Christmas Social

Mulled wine and Mince Pies at No.135 3:00 to 5:00 pm

This get-together is held outside by the car port and although there will be the usual blazing chiminea to warm us you will need to wrap up! This year we have brought the start time forward to 3pm so come along with the kids and meet your neighbours – old and new!

NEW RESIDENTS

Over the last few months we have been delighted to welcome several new households to Chalklands and October saw the arrival of a further four, at Nos 22, 25, 43 and 60. Please introduce yourselves to each other and give the Chalklands community spirit a further boost.

AUTUMN SOCIAL / AGM

Annual General Meetings are necessary for the proper management of association business but they can be uninspiring and poorly attended. This year we broke the mould and held an Autumn Social which incorporated only the minimum essential elements of our annual business - and your response was marvellous! 80 residents from 37 households attended, more than double than that of 2018, and we were delighted to welcome more than 12 children who were kept happy in the children's section of the Library. Drinks and nibbles helped to promote a great deal of socialising against the backdrop of a rolling screen presentation which demonstrated the range of CRA activities through 2019 and introduced our ideas for the coming year. Printed copies of the slideshow were available on the night and additional copies have since been distributed to all of those who were unable to be there. We welcome your feedback and invite your comments and ideas, on any topic, especially actions for the coming year. Don't be shy – tell us!

During the short formal session the audited CRA annual accounts were presented and approved, and the existing committee was re-elected but strengthened by the addition of two new members, Avril and Clark. Tim gave a short presentation on the Chalklands pavements project (see below), and much other useful information was exchanged between residents and with members of the Committee. We think the event was a great success and we look forward to using a similar format for the future but do let us know what you think.

CAN YOU HELP?

After 5 years of invaluable support our treasurer, Caroline, is having to stand down. Her new commitments mean that the handover to her successor is pressing and a new treasurer is required as soon as possible. The duties require a certain amount of organisational ability but no specialist knowledge or skills although familiarity with Excel spreadsheets would be an advantage.

If you would like to help us in this essential role then please contact either Bill or Caroline.

We are also seeking occasional help from someone with legal knowledge/experience who would be willing to help with ad hoc advice to the Committee as and when the need arises. One such example would be to review our redrafted Constitution when this work is completed early next year. If you can help, Bill or our Secretary, Margaret, would love to hear from you.

PAVEMENTS

In our last newsletter we noted that the state of our pavements continues to be a major concern and we advised you that Committee member Tim is investigating the possibility of a “group purchase” project to offer residents the option of a quality job at a discounted rate. As explained in his presentation at our social, Tim has approached several potential contractors and confirmed that this approach is a viable option which could offer worthwhile savings, although these have yet to be fully quantified. There were several strong expressions of interest among residents at the meeting and we hope that more will consider participating in the scheme once further details are available. We continue to refine our ideas and obtain further quotations and we will be contacting all residents shortly to firm up expressions of interest. Our note will explain the scope of the work and the likely costs and will ask for a YES/NO indication of interest. Your combined response will enable us to finalise our requirements and obtain the best possible quotation(s). Please look out for Tim's note and please reply promptly.

ROAD SAFETY

Pavement surfaces apart, by far the most frequent and anxious complaints are of blocked pavements, inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking, and speeding - with one or two specific culprits being identified. We are not yet going to name and shame – you know who you are! There is a **20-mph speed limit** in Chalklands – please respect it. And please: do not park close to blind corners, do not damage fragile kerbs and, above all, **do not block pavements** causing mothers with prams and children and those using mobility scooters into the road. Help keep Chalklands a safe place for young and old alike, and make sure that your friends, visitors and delivery drivers are aware of these concerns.

SECURITY

Following reports of suspicious trespassing at a number of properties we are investigating the installation of deterrent CCTV cameras in the road. In the meantime there are some simple actions that we can all take to help to deter unwelcome visitors and keep our own properties safe:

- **ENSURE SIDE ACCESS TO YOUR HOUSE HAS A GATE WHICH IS KEPT LOCKED**
- **LOCK UP ANY SHEDS WHEN NOT IN USE, DAY OR NIGHT**
- **DO NOT LEAVE COMPUTERS, ETC IN FULL VIEW THROUGH WINDOWS**
- **USE TIMERS TO LIGHT YOUR HOME WHILE YOU ARE AWAY**
- **BE VIGILANT FOR STRANGERS AROUND THE STREET**
- **ALWAYS ASK FOR IDENTITY PROOF FROM TRADE VISITORS AT THE DOOR**
- **WATCH OUT FOR VANS - DELIVERY OR OTHERWISE - TOURING THE STREET**
- **MORE BUILDING SITES MEAN MORE STRANGERS – BE AWARE !**

VILLAGE MEETING (FOOV) Thursday November 14th

The Future of our Village (FOOV) committee meets every few months to discuss village matters and addresses any issues that arise. This is not open to individuals and our representative is allowed to attend because we represent a community ie YOU. Our local Councillors and the Chairperson of the local Parish Council all attend.

The FOOV Committee decided that it would consider taking over some of the tasks of the recently dissolved “Bourne End Residents Association “ and examine the range of activities and implications that this would bring.

The minutes of the recent meeting will be posted on our website.

However, if you would like a paper copy please contact Bill or Margaret.

Thank you again for your continued support

Your Committee:

Chairman: Bill

Secretary: Margaret

Treasurer: Caroline

Brian G

Brian J

Jennie

Pam

Laura

Paul

Tim

Avril

Clark

Email: info@chalklands.com

Web: www.chalklands.uk (site evolving)

AUTUMN CLEAN-UP

In light of the continued flooding, the Committee has decided to employ a professional company to carry out this clean-up and on Friday 22nd, a 3000 gallon tanker duly arrived and Tim, Bill and Brian instructed and helped the operator to pump out the drains and jet clean their soakaway pipes in a 4 hour operation. In the end 23 drains and soakaway pipes plus the Soakaway chamber at the bottom of the road were all cleared – 4.5 tonnes of sludge removed according to the tanker driver.

This should certainly make an impact on our road drainage capacity and we will, of course, review this and keep you informed of the effect of this project.

However, please make an effort to keep your own frontages clean and free of leaves as this will not only enhance the appearance of the estate, it will help the newly cleaned drains to stay that way.

You may also have seen or heard about the Bucks CC road sweeper that cleaned both sides of the road on Wednesday 6th November. These two activities mean that the planned Residents' Autumn Clean-up day has been duly cancelled – something of a relief in view of the weather!