

# CCA NEWS

## THE NEWSLETTER OF CHURCHDOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**AUTUMN 2009**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Since its formation in the early '60s, the Churchdown Community Association has, of necessity, changed a great deal. What was initially a volunteer organisation where no-one was paid, or expected to be paid, has changed to, I hope you will agree, a professionally run body generating an income of over £80,000 per year and spending close to that amount in keeping our £1m premises open from 9.00 am to 11.00 pm, seven days a week.

Some changes have not necessarily been for the good, and I am conscious of the need to improve communication with all our members and users. Some time ago, we had a very large Committee which enabled representation from most groups but this proved unwieldy. We have also tried holding meetings on an annual basis with representatives of the group but this again, whilst fine socially, did not bring about the dialogue we were seeking.

More recently, thanks to the work of Mary Williams, we established a newsletter which Jane Attwood and Maureen Smith have volunteered to develop into something I hope will become a two way stream of news and views, but it is very much up to the members for it to succeed. This is the first of the new look Newsletters. Jane and Maureen would very much welcome your views, news and ideas for future editions – contact details at the end of the Newsletter.

### **BUILDINGS UPDATE**

Help from Tewkesbury Borough Council, Churchdown Parish Council, the Market Towns Forum and the Churchdown Players has enabled work on improving the stage to be planned for September in time for the Drama Group's first play. It is hoped if funds permit to include with this work the provision of a hearing loop in the Main Hall.

A grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council has enabled the car park to be resurfaced and relined and a new pedestrian access to be completed at a total cost over the last 12 months of £24,500.

Other work which is now needed is the relaying of the patio outside the bar area and a revamp of the Main Hall kitchen. The latter will run into several thousand pounds and we would appreciate views from users on what is or is not required. We will also consult with Environmental Health.

**RICHARD SMITH, CHAIRMAN**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!**

All the following information has been passed to Jane by the Groups concerned. If your Group is not mentioned, then it's because we haven't heard from you. It also means that you're missing a valuable opportunity to get yourself noticed and perhaps pick up new members. Contact details at the end of this Newsletter.

### **CCA EVENTS IN THE MAIN HALL**

**Saturday 21 November – Abba Tribute Night/Comedian/Compere**

**Saturday 23 January 2010 – Return visit of international band Pat Jordan & Finian's Rainbow –** an evening of popular, rock and roll, country and Irish music.

Reserved seat/tables at both events. For further information contact the CCA Office on 01452 712553. Please try to support both these CCA events – they are expensive to run but all profits are ploughed back into the Centre for the benefit of the Members.

### **COMMUNITY EVENT IN THE MAIN HALL**

**Friday 16 October – Flu Clinic –all day** Surnames **A-B** 8.30-9.30 am; **C-E** 9.30-10.30 am; **F-H** 10.30-11.30 am; **I-M** 11.30-12.30 am; **N-P** 1.30-2.30 pm; **Q-S** 2.30-3.30 pm; **T-Z** 3.30-4.30 pm

## CCA SOCIAL CLUB

Why not pay a visit to the Social Club? It's open lunchtimes from 12.00-2.00 pm, evenings 7.15-11.00 pm. Quiz Night is on the first Tuesday of each month and there's Bingo every Sunday together with live music/entertainment every Saturday evening. In addition, there are two major social events both in the **Main Hall**:

**Saturday 31 October – Family Halloween Disco**

**New Year's Eve – Danci'Easy – 6 piece showband.** Welcome in the New Year with friends, reserved tables, bring your own food. Further information as before from CCA Office on 01452 712553.

## GROUPS AND SECTIONS

We are delighted to welcome the Churchdown Players to the Community Association "family" and will leave Ian Clarke, the Secretary to the Players, to introduce themselves:

March 2009 saw the birth of a new drama group in Churchdown with the arrival of the Churchdown Players at the Community Centre; except of course all those in the group are already familiar faces because this is the re-launch of the old St Andrew's Drama Group who have been around in the village for over 50 years. Writing this in what's left of the summer, dark and dismal October seems a long way off but in terms of staging a production it is very close indeed and there is a lot to be thought through to get the play staged and the hall filled with audiences. Before talking about the play, on behalf of the drama group I would like to say a huge thank you to all the people who have worked so hard to make the move happen, in no particular order: the CCA Executive Committee and its Chairman, Tewkesbury Borough and Churchdown Parish Councils, the CCA office, and all the various groups at the Centre who have welcomed us. We really hope that in time we will become part of the family at the Centre.

We wanted our first play to be something that was instantly recognisable, something that used as many actors as possible and something which should be a good crowd puller, and to that effect we voted for "Allo Allo". Based on the hugely popular T.V. comedy series, the stage version of 'Allo Allo' follows the adventures of Rene, the hapless cafe owner in war torn occupied France. The play will be staged at 7.30 P.M. on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October inc, at the Community Centre. Tickets cost £5 or £4.50 for concessions obtainable from 01452 724589. The CCA office has also kindly agreed to help with ticket sales, will take your details, forward them to us and you can then collect and pay for the tickets on the night of the performance (01452 712553).

And finally, if you would like to know more about the group, see news updates, learn about the current production or perhaps be reminded about previous shows why not have a look at our new website – [www.churchdownplayers.co.uk](http://www.churchdownplayers.co.uk)

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ART GROUP

We are a group of like-minded people who love art and get together on Wednesday afternoons. Although we do not have a tutor, there is always someone on hand to give help and advice on oils, watercolours, pastel, acrylic and colour pencil in a friendly and sociable way. Each term we have a demonstration by a visiting artist and guests are welcome to attend. Our Autumn term starts on **Wednesday 23 September** from 2.00-4.00 pm. New members are always welcome. Contact Sandra on 01452 713976. The major event in the Autumn is the **Churchdown Art Groups Exhibition – Saturday 14 November 10.00 am – 5.00 pm in the Main Hall.**

## BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club meets every Monday at 1.30 pm and at 7.00pm except Christmas and New Year. The Club is very successful with close to the maximum number of tables possible (10) at most sessions. Our stated aims are friendly competitive bridge. We are affiliated to the English Bridge Union (EBU). We welcome new members of all standards and endeavour to help those from bridge classes to get started at Club level. We can be found at [www.churchdownbridgeclub.org.uk](http://www.churchdownbridgeclub.org.uk) or contact John King on 01452 610555.

## CHURCHDOWN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Local History Society was founded in 2001 and has rapidly become a very popular CCA group. It meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Purple Room. The programme for the end of the year is as follows: **10 September: Hidden Gloucestershire, Philip Moss; 8 October: A Story of Racing History and Two Local Characters, Adam Lindsay and Tom Pickernell; 12 November: Strangers Who Came To Town During WW2, Peter Grace; 10**

**December: Poems and Yarns of Old Gloucester, Eileen Fry.** Contact Joan Hughes on 01452 857383.

#### **CHURCHDOWN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

This long established Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 o'clock for a 7.30 pm start. The programme till the end of the current year is as follows: **2 September: Autumn, the Forgotten Season, Donald Everitt; 7 October: Wild Flowers of Dolomites or Turkey, Alan Clarke; 4 November: Annual General Meeting.** After the break, the Society meets again on 3 February 2010. Contact Bert Gledhill on 01452 856994.

#### **CHURCHDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR**

The last six months have been an amazing period for Churchdown Male Voice Choir. It started in April when 30 members were privileged to sing at Twickenham before the EDF final between the Gloucester Cherry and Whites and Cardiff Blues. In May the choir recorded 8 hymns for the BBC Radio Two programme Sunday Half Hour, and these were broadcast in June and on Sunday August 24.

On August 2 the choir took part in a concert which marked the conclusion of the Morgan Cars Centenary Celebrations at Cheltenham Race Course. Also taking part were the Gotherington Singers and the Saint Michael Singers from Coventry Cathedral. The main stars of the evening were the English Symphony Orchestra, with soloists, John Hudson and the glamorous soprano Natasha Marsh. The concert, which was attended by around 3000 to 4000 people concluded with a traditional Last Night of the Proms and a spectacular firework display.

Now, local supporters can get a chance to see this popular choir in a concert on **September 19 at Churchdown Community Centre** beginning at 7.30 pm. The choir will be hosting old friends the Stevenage Ladies Choir and the proceeds are in support of the Sanders' Chorister Scholarship, which was set up in the name of the late John Sanders, organist at Gloucester Cathedral for many years. Tickets for the concert are £6 from either Colin Acton on 01452 714360, from Pete Wilson on 01452 423 257 or on the door.

Looking ahead, the choir will be singing in **St Paul's Church, Stroud Road, Gloucester** on **Saturday October 3** beginning at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 with concessions £3 on the door or from Brian Rose, 01452 301915. On **Wednesday October 7** the choir is to take part in a concert at **Gloucester Cathedral** in support of Help for Heroes. Groups taking part are Churchdown Choral Society, Gloucestershire Constabulary Band, Cotswold Male Voice Choir and soloists. Details about tickets will be given nearer the time.

On **Thursday November 26** the choir will be the guest choir at the Military Music Spectacular with the Central Band of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan in **Cheltenham Town Hall**. This should be a great concert with military music, jazz and swing and classical from the band and popular pieces from the choir. Tickets £14, £15 and £16 (concessions available) from Cheltenham Town Hall Box Office. The choir's **Christmas Concerts** this year will be on **Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday – 14/15/16 December at Churchdown Community Centre**. As usual, tickets will be in demand so people are advised to get their tickets early. Tickets will be available in early December from Colin Acton on 01452 714360.

Details of all these concerts plus other details about the choir can be found on the choir website at [www.churchdownmvc.com](http://www.churchdownmvc.com)

#### **CHURCHDOWN PATCHWORK & QUILTERS**

Our recent exhibition was a great success and we have been able to donate £1000 to the Winston's Wish Charity. The Group worked very hard to produce a wonderful display. The weather was good and although our attendance was a little down on last time, we still had many visitors to admire our work. We are very grateful for the continuing support from all our visitors in helping to raise funds for our chosen charity. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the Main Hall 7.45-10.00 pm. Visitors and new members are very welcome. Contact Gill Banks 01452 713892.

#### **CHURCHDOWN WINE CIRCLE**

We meet monthly in the Purple Room with a different speaker covering a wide range of topics. We are a friendly group and new members are always welcome at any of our meetings – a knowledge of wine is not necessary! We usually meet on the fourth Thursday of the month (although the October meeting this year will be on the third Thursday, 15 October). Our **Christmas Dance** is always a very popular event in the Churchdown calendar and this year it will be held in the Main Hall on **Saturday 19 December** with dancing to Top Mix. Tickets will be on sale shortly. The next meeting is on **24 September** which is the **AGM** followed by a **Wine Tasting**. Contact Liz Petley 01452 855544

## YOUTH

No news as such but members may like to know that we now have two table tennis tables and both are available for hire for use in the CCA, subject to room availability. What about having a table tennis tournament as a change from skittles or even for a spot of slightly different Keep Fit?? Contact CCA office 01452 712553

## OBLIGATORY INFORMATION – HOUSEKEEPING!

1. If your group is the only one on the premises, please ensure that the outside doors are locked until you leave and then ensure that they are re-locked.
2. Fire doors should not be used other than for emergency purposes.
3. **The fire alarm system has been extended. Users are reminded that whenever new members are present at any gathering, all present should be reminded of the fire exits and place of assembly.**
4. May we remind users that any lost property items left on the premises will be disposed of after one month as we just do not have space to keep them.

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We hope that you've stayed with us to the end of this rather long Newsletter – we felt it important that the arrival of the Drama Group on to the CCA scene was just too big an event to warrant just a few lines! Please do support this brilliant Group in all their future productions. The Male Voice Choir has had a particularly busy few months with some more to come so it was also important to pass all this on to members. And, of course, you won't necessarily be getting a long introduction from the Chairman! That said, we are hoping to keep the Newsletter down to two pages at the most in future, and to this end, we should be grateful if groups would keep news and dates down to a reasonable length paragraph.

It will not have escaped your notice reading this Newsletter just how much money it takes to keep the Centre up and running for its members, and to maintain the superb facilities that are available. The Association is a registered Charity and to this end would **gladly** welcome any donations from the user groups to help with the maintenance and improvement of these facilities. It also helps to be seen as helping ourselves when applying for grants from outside bodies!

## AND FINALLY!!

Please can Chairmen/Secretaries of Groups make sure that this Newsletter is seen by as many of their members as is humanly possible. We would like to build up a list of as many email addresses as possible of contacts within the Groups so that we can email the Newsletter to you and you, in your turn, can then email it to your members. We realise that not everyone yet has access to a computer but the number is steadily growing and it really does make things so much easier, quicker and more effective. If you could let the CCA office have this information as well it would help enormously, thank you!

As Richard said in the introduction, news, views and ideas from user groups eagerly awaited!  
Contact Jane on 01452 713838 or [maja62@talktalk.net](mailto:maja62@talktalk.net)