

LCA AGM 26th Mar 15 - Chairman's speech

At last year's AGM (my first as Chairman), I drew attention to our new website, and I make no apology for doing so again, because it was from its content that the Newsletter was generated by our splendid Webmaster, Mandy Shaw. I hope you've all read it. I just want to pick out a few items, but, first, I want to make one correction: membership is now up to 124, not 109, following a campaign by our Treasurer, Corinne Taylor!

1. The field is ready for its first sheep of the year, and James Whatmore has been planting flowers and trees again at the east end of it, as you can see by the beautiful daffodils and blue pulmonaria there.
2. We held **two** Winter parties last year, organized by Judith Liddell, which were most enjoyable. I not only want to thank her, but also Beccy Derry-Evans and Cat Heale for allowing us to use their houses for these. Judith has also organised the refreshments we are to have at the end of this AGM.
3. This summer, on 22nd May, Marian McNeir and Corinne Taylor have organised a visit to the gardens at Highgrove. I can't offer you a place because it's sold out, and, most unfortunately, Sarah and I can't be there, but I'm sure it will be great!
4. Anthony Pearson continues to be our Planning Adviser, and very busy he has been too. Most importantly, the Hope House site now has full Planning Permission for 58 dwellings, and we await the start of work there; but the developer, Square Bay, may sell instead.
5. At the last AGM, I gave you a report on Beccy's Finials project. Fundraising has been slow, though we have applied to several charitable trusts, and have high hopes of their generosity. Almost certainly, however, they will expect some contributions also from the house owners and from the Association.
6. Delia Jay helps to keep us safe, running Neighbourhood Watch in liaison with our two beat officers. Even more importantly, she has been our Secretary for over 2 years and is now standing down, to be replaced, I am pleased to announce, by Simon Brand. Delia has worked tirelessly for the Association.
7. Lastly, most of you will know that David Anderson, our Treasurer for over 2 years, had to resign due to pressure of work in the Autumn, and I wish to record our thanks to him for his hard work. Corinne Taylor valiantly stepped into the breach, but, unfortunately, is having also to stand down due to the grave illness of her father, though she is remaining on the Committee, and retaining the membership aspects of that job, thereby easing transfer to another candidate. In the interim, Christopher Shaw, who is an accountant by training, has agreed to keep it ticking over until the Summer, so we have temporarily co-opted him onto the Committee, as is permitted under the Constitution.

Now – on with the important part – the Elections!