

EARLSWOOD AND FORSHAW HEATH

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



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www.earlswood-forshawheath.org.uk

September 2018

Dear Resident.

No complaints this year about our summer weather, it's some years since we enjoyed such hot and dry conditions. Yes, it may have occasionally been a bit too hot for comfort and then there was the garden and lack of water. We were lucky in that we didn't have a hose-pipe ban and it was worth the occasional stickiness to see the sun and be able to enjoy being outside – a treat.

As for news, we have been busy with meetings upon meetings covering Antisocial Behaviour, inconsiderate parking, unruly visitors taking advantage of the weather – and the current Causeway closure – and planning issues. Speeding traffic has also been high on the agenda along with increased volume of traffic.

The storm came after our last newsletter went out and too many people had flooding disasters. Horrible business when it's your home and belongings. One suggestion from the committee was to have a store of sandbags somewhere in the area for any such future eventuality. This was consequently put to the Parish Council who would support it but don't have anywhere to store them. If you have unused storage space then perhaps you would consider storing a quantity of sandbags, please get in touch with us if so. The Causeway was affected spectacularly, has anyone seen this happen before? This event, which hopefully won't be a regular feature of our weather, brought forth questions about availability of emergency procedures. Warks. County Council were slow to respond but thankfully CRT were on the ball – and we don't often say that. CRT attended the scene first thing and did what they could. As it was a Bank Holiday, WCC couldn't do anything until Tuesday at the earliest so Valley Rd. was closed until they cleared the road of debris. It is quite astonishing how many drivers just don't believe a "road closed" warning. Seemingly they will try everything to get around what quite clearly can't be got around. We are relieved that no-one was injured in any of this.

We've talked to the police at length on the various issues reported to us. We have also highlighted the inconsistent 101 system that sees us reporting crimes and then discovering that our reports have not been recorded on data sheets. This is fundamental for several reasons. Residents want to be assured that when they make a call to 101, as we are encouraged to do by the police, that it will be acted on, or at the very least, be recorded. The failings in the system have been highlighted by the number of calls made which were not visible on the police reports. We are waiting for this to be followed up at a higher level. The recording of the data, or the lack of it, has impacted on our quest to get a Public Space Protection Order at the Lakes and surrounds.

It has now been established that it is possible to put one in place on private land such as the lakes, along with public land. It rather fell apart when the police data indicated that we don't have a high enough incidence of reported crime to justify or to meet the criteria for a PSPO. This we believe is down to the system failure of 101 to record and it is not because we don't have a high incidence of assorted nuisance and crime, albeit at its worst in lovely summer weather and mostly in the lakes surrounds. Slight advantage we had this summer was the lack of anglers fishing on Engine pool. There wouldn't be much point as there are no fish and very little water. It did help with parking overload, we had an easier time and no night fishing either, it made a difference. The two things are connected as you can see so we are asking again that anyone witnessing crime or antisocial behaviour phones 101. If there is a burglary of any sort underway then it will be 999. The drug abuse and dealing are matters that the police appear to be giving up on unless it is serious, hard drug dealing. For those of us trying to report when we see apparent drug dealing it becomes a minefield of proving what we've seen. There have been occasions when the police attitude could at best be described as negative. When **phoning 101** please be sure to ask for Warwickshire police or the Alcester Neighbourhood Team otherwise it could go to W. Mids. or West Mercia police. Ask for an incident number if you are not offered one and take a note of it. If you don't feel that the service you have received is adequate, then please follow it up with us. We need to know when it isn't working.

Our AGM will be held later than usual. Monday 22nd. October starting at 7.45pm. Yet again the village hall is busy and that is so good to hear. We will be expecting our district and county Councillors and police representation. We are also asking the new person at SDC antisocial behaviour team if she will come along, also the Rural Crime Officer might be useful. It may perhaps be a good idea to have our MP re-visit us. We don't want to be there all evening so the final agenda will depend on who is willing to attend. Please look for posters nearer the time.

Some light relief following.

Dates for your Diary. Next meeting of the **Earlswood Historical Society** 10th September 2018. "Our AGM and Harvest Supper, followed by a talk by Roy Willmott (slide show) entitled The Parish in Postcards. Looking at the parish through old and modern postcards. This meeting is a ticket event and there are still a few available. Contact Roy on 01564 702 567 or Val on 01564 703911.

Earlswood Village Hall.

Just to let you know about an event that we are holding on **Saturday 15th September from 7pm.** For the first time we are holding '**An Evening with ...**'. Our guest after supper speaker is **Ian Scott-Hunter**. Ian has been a Royal Footman for a number of years and has served in the Royal Household for most of his working life. He is able to tell many interesting stories about his life in the Royal Palaces. With many amusing anecdotes and special memorabilia this is a night not to be missed. Tickets are £12 and include a two course hot supper. They are available from Fiona on 01564 703 674 or through the village hall website. Also;

Flicks in the Sticks:

21 st Sept. -- Finding Your Feet:	15 th Feb. -- A Street Cat named bob
19 th Oct. -- Suffragette:	15 th March -- The Book Thief
16 th Nov. -- Darkest Hour:	19 th April -- The Post:
1 st Dec. -- Hampstead:	26 th April -- The Greatest Showman
18 th Jan. -- Victoria & Abdul:	

Doors/Bar open from 7pm. Admission: £4 members, £5 non-members.

Earlswood Wildlife Partnership Annual General Meeting. This year's Annual General Meeting will be held **8pm on Monday 8th October** at Earlswood Village Hall and we would be very pleased to see as many of our members, and new members, as possible at this event. This year we are very lucky to have **Gina Rowe** from **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust** talking about The River Blythe, Gina is Living Landscapes Officer and Chair of the Local Biodiversity Action Partnership so it promises to be a very informative talk.

Dates for your Dairy:- **Moth Night Wednesday 12th September** – meet 7.30 pm booking essential – please contact us for further details. If you would like to receive our regular newsletter please contact us at ewp2010@btinternet.com or phone 07528 595444

BARN DANCE - Earlswood Village Hall, Shutt Lane, Earlswood - **Friday 26th October 2018 starting at 7.30pm** - doors open 7pm. Tickets are £10.00 each (Bargain) and this includes a free drink of fizz on entry and a fish and chip supper. Family ticket i.e. 2 adults and 2 young people under 16 years of age is £35.00. There will be a raffle and a reasonably priced bar (so no need to bring your own). Book tickets early to avoid disappointment on 01564 702145. Organised by the Earlswood Lakes Fundraising Committee, who raise funds for the benefit of the community. Find out more by looking at our website at [Earlswood Lakes Fundraising Committee](#)

The **Parish Council is launching a 'Tommy Trail' on Friday October 26th** in time for half term where 6 silhouettes of WWI soldiers will be sitting on benches around the parish. The trail will finish on Friday November 9th. The locations of the 'Tommies' are yet to be confirmed as we are still getting permission but all locations and details will be advertised on our website. We invite people to send in photos with each Tommy and we will publish them on our website. The Vicar will be holding a short Service at Midday at the War Memorial on October 26th and then there will be tea and cakes at the village hall - again details to follow - see website for details www.tanworth-pc.org.uk or phone Julie on 01564 70 3200.

SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 10.30AM - 3.00PM. EARLSWOOD METHODIST CHURCH CRAFT & GIFT FAIR (Corner of Wood Lane & Rumbush Lane B94 5JR). BARGAINS GALORE! WIDE VARIETY OF STALLS IDEAL FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS. HOME MADE CAKES, PRESERVES, LIGHT LUNCHES & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE. Free Car Parking. Admission £1. Proceeds in aid of Church funds.

Earlswood Lunch Club goes from strength to strength. Over many years the Lunch Club has provided a weekly social event for anybody who wants to go along, have a chat and a tasty lunch. There is a very small charge, I don't think they are in it to make a profit. The need for Volunteer Drivers is ever present and, if you have any spare time around lunchtime on Wednesdays and have a car to pick up or drop off some local residents then please get in touch with Rachel; 01564 742365.

Talking of volunteer drivers, here is a reminder of the **UBUS Service**. For our area it runs every week day between 9.30am and 2.30pm. A return journey would cost £6.80 wherever you want to go. It doesn't do medical appointments/hospital visits which is a pity. Phone number for the service is 01789 264491. There is a small discount for those living in Orbit housing. There is help for medical appointments from **VASA**. This is a voluntary service and there is a moderate cost of £1 up to 6 miles, £2 up to 40 miles and so on. The service asks for 3 days notice of your request if possible. If you are struggling to get to Doctor's or hospital appointments, then this may help. Phone 01789 763117. The service also needs volunteers locally.

Could you be a school governor? One of the great advantages that Tanworth School & Nursery has enjoyed is the extent to which people in our local community, not necessarily connected with the school or Church, have been willing to serve as governors and thereby help the Headteacher and her staff provide the very best education for our children. Some of our governors are parents who are prepared to give up their precious time to bring their unique perspective to running our school and nursery. Other governors have an education background and are able to use that experience to help shape and monitor the learning that we offer. Equally important are those who can bring a strong business background and experience to the governor role. At present we would be very interested to hear from anyone with a business background, particularly in commercial accounting or financial management, or in buildings and asset management, either from the private or public sector, who would consider becoming a school governor. If this is something that you think that you might be interested in, please give me a call on 07891 432881 or e-mail me at "perks_robert@hotmail.co.uk." Bob Perks

If you have concerns regarding the lakes we would like to invite you to come to the meetings with **Earlswood Lakes Stakeholders Group**. We will advertise the dates on our website and any other local website that has an interest. Have a look at the noticeboard for further info. These meetings have representatives from Earlswood Wildlife Partnership, the PC, CRT and from us, the RA. The next one is on **Thursday 4th October starting at 1.30pm**. We will be in the Parish Council office, not our usual venue but the hall is very busy. We are grateful to the PC for agreeing to lend us the office in emergencies. We are pleased to note that CRT have put up signs around the lakes asking anglers to take their fishing line and other litter home. The signs also say that the litter is a danger to wildlife and gives the contact number for Swan Rescue. Not before time.

Electric Blanket testing. This is a free service but you do need to book an appointment. We have asked if there will be anymore nearer to home but no answer as yet. Monday 1st October, Stratford Briar Croft; Tuesday 2nd October, Leamington Town Hall; Thursday 4th October, Kenilworth Library; Friday 5th October, Nuneaton Fire Station: Book today by calling Trading Standards Service on 01926 414024 (office hours) or email: ebtesting@warwickshire.gov.uk

From County Cllr. John Horner. "**Arden Division August 2018 Report**. "WCC delivered its annual accounts last month. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Council only spent 55% of its discretionary income on children and adult social care to support a small number of residents. Public Health accounts for 9% and this year has mainly focused on prevention of obesity and smoking which again affects a relatively small number of residents. A third initiative, on mental health, has a wider application. Highways accounts for 9% of the Council budget and this sum explains why the roads and pavements network appears neglected. However, tax payers consistently resist higher taxes and the consensus is to fund social care as a priority. CSW Broadband and Stratford District Council will be jointly organising a **Gigabit Voucher Scheme Event** on Thursday 20th September 11am – 3pm. Place: Stratford Council, Elizabeth House, Stratford CV37 6XH. This will take a "marketplace" format with a number of infrastructure suppliers present. This is your opportunity to find out how you could get Government support to bring full-fibre broadband with speeds of 100Mb to 1Gb (1000Mb) to your home/business/community. The Gigabit Voucher Scheme is supplier-led, so this is a chance for you to ask any questions you may have and to learn which suppliers would be best placed to help you. Further details about the Gigabit Voucher Scheme can be found at: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>.

No Rogue Traders scheme can be found at <https://www.noroguetradershere.com/> or on 0800 233 5000.

Support for carers is provided in Warwickshire by the Carers Trust. One in ten people in Warwickshire are carers and a free confidential service is available to help with any issues a carer might be having. The telephone number is 024 7610 1040 – option 4. County Cllr. John Horner, Tel. 01926 842068 "Chair of Governing Board"

Planning. We did have the promised meeting with a planning officer at Stratford D.C. If you remember we told you about the Birmingham/West Mids. Overspill Report, the Hearn Report. We were concerned about the report findings and perhaps looking for some reassurance. Cllr Atkinson kindly arranged a meeting. Ewen and I attended along with Cllr. Atkinson. The officer was straightforward and helpful we felt. We weren't at all reassured however by his interpretation and development coming from Birmingham and Solihull will be something that we will be watching closely. We have asked to be informed should any approaches to Stratford D.C. to give land to either of these authorities be made.

Having tried to get an update regarding the NDP there wasn't one available. I can say that 21% of those issued with the Draft NDP proposal returned it. Some people think this is about par for the course, but we do hope that when the final one comes through that it will get full support from the community.

The **Big Community Switch** is an independent collective energy switching scheme in which a large group of local authorities throughout Great Britain join forces. These councils collectively offer their residents the opportunity to group together and pay less for their energy. Signing up for the scheme is free and without obligation. Completing the registration form takes less than 5 minutes. You can pre-register for the October scheme now. "Our next reverse auction will take place on **9th October 2018**. The supplier who offers the cheapest tariff will get to offer you a new contract. From **22nd October 2018** you will receive your personal offer and you can see how much money you could save. You have until **27th November 2018** to decide whether to accept your personal offer or not. If you accept the offer we will take care of the entire switching process. **08000 48285**
<https://bigcommunityswitch.ichoosr.com/product/customizableinfo.rails?actionId=712>"

Fracking. Just in case you've been worrying whether this could affect you this statement has been issued. "Of the main potentially prospective shale gas rocks, none are present in Warwickshire in thicknesses or depths that might be expected to be commercially viable. Fracking then may be less of an issue in this county than elsewhere."

Crimestoppers have launched a campaign to highlight how criminals are inflicting pain and suffering on vulnerable people. This campaign aims to raise awareness of a criminal activity called county lines. County lines is when criminals from major cities such as Birmingham expand their drug networks to other areas of the country. This activity brings violence, exploitation and abuse to rural communities. If you have any information on county lines drugs networks, you can contact us anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via our [anonymous online form](#).

Scrap Collectors - Anyone going door to door asking for, or collecting scrap from the roadside must have a Licence issued by the Local Authority. This Licence must be displayed in the vehicle. If you see a suspicious vehicle and / or people that appear to be looking for scrap, please report to Police on 101 with a description and the registration number of the vehicle.

Nuisance Phone calls - Unsolicited nuisance phone calls from call centres and from those with a criminal intent are still a problem. Callers purporting to be from BT, Microsoft, TalkTalk and HMRC are just some of the scams.. These callers are trying to get your personal information, or are asking for payment to solve non-existent problems. There are a few ways that can prevent these calls getting through including Call-blockers and Caller ID screens. For further information on how you can prevent these calls check out the Internet or contact your phone provider. Here are some useful websites.

- <https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-to-stop-nuisance-phone-calls>
- <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/Nuisance>
- https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z_of_fraud

ALCESTER POLICE NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Team email - Alcesternorth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk;

Team Sgt 542 Robert Shaw - Robert.shaw@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Alcester Police Office Phone Number - 01789 44 4816 (not to be used for emergencies or priority calls. Always report incidents on 101)

Canal and River Trust are undergoing massive internal re-organisation. It is difficult, at the moment, to know who is responsible for what, who to contact for updates etc. We will put any updates onto the website as there is nothing to tell you at the moment. The project ongoing, and we do have sympathy for CRT regarding the road works, has been handled by Robert Warner, who we have found to be very helpful.

Parish Council. There may be **allotment plots** coming up at the end of the year, next to the Reservoir Pub, and if anyone is interested please call the Parish Council office on 01564 70 3200.

The Parish Council is keen to support residents suffering antisocial behaviour. If there is any action that residents would like to see the PC, taking please get in touch on 01564 70 3200.

Residents are fed up with cars parked on the pavements. We do go on about this, but it is not just annoying, it is dangerous. We get many complaints from residents on this subject

We are asking you to make sure that neither you, or any visitors or workmen at your property, block the pavements. You could be responsible for an accident if you block the pavement. Pedestrians, wheelchair users, parents with baby buggies, children, joggers. People should not have to go onto the road to get around a car or van selfishly parked. It's difficult to understand why anyone would think it acceptable to block the pavement and it is a police offence, they will issue a fine to anyone caught doing it. **Please think before parking and ask your visitors to do the same..**

This following was included in the weekly Police Reports.

“**Neighbour disputes** - We would all like to live in peace with our neighbours, but unfortunately that is sometimes not how things work out. Here's what you can do if you are having problems. Unless a crime has been committed or someone is in immediate danger, the police are unlikely to intervene but will give you advice.

I'm having a dispute with a neighbour about our property boundaries. If you can't find an amicable solution with your neighbour, we suggest seeking the advice of a solicitor to resolve this. You could also contact your bank, building society, or whoever holds your deeds, to confirm the boundaries. The following resources may also be of use: •The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) www.rics.org •The Land Registry www.gov.uk

I'm having a dispute with a neighbour about their CCTV camera pointing at my property - Many people are installing closed circuit television (CCTV) as a home security measure as it has proved to be an effective tool in fighting crime. Cameras used for limited household purposes are not subject to the Data Protection Act 1998. However, if the footage covers areas beyond this, such as neighbouring streets or other properties, problems may arise. There could be issues regarding privacy and harassment if you are being recorded in your home. In the first instance, speak to your neighbour to see if it's possible to reposition the camera so that it does not point at your property. If this is not successful, and you want to take further action, we recommend seeking legal advice from a solicitor. •To find a local independent solicitor visit The Law Society web site www.lawsociety.org.uk .

My neighbour plays music to an excessive level - The police within England and Wales have very limited powers to deal with noise nuisance. Police should be contacted if there is a risk of harm to an individual or damage to their property. They should also be contacted if there is a person present at the private dwelling who has been identified as vulnerable. Where domestic violence is suspected to be linked to the noise please contact the police as soon as possible on 999. Issues such as faulty house and car alarms or music from nearby entertainment premises or pubs can cause annoyance and stress to residents if not addressed. More often than not making people aware of the problem will resolve it. If the noise is coming from a private dwelling, or is as a result of a party within a private dwelling, then contact your local authority, Stratford upon Avon District Environmental Health department on 01789 260835 or online at www.stratford.gov.uk Further advice on what to do to resolve a neighbour dispute can be obtained from the Gov.UK website www.gov.uk . This independent website also offers advice www.problemneighbours.co.uk .

Dogs fouling and barking - Dog mess is not just a public nuisance, it is also a threat to health, however it is not a policing matter. Please follow this link to report; envhealth@stratford-dc.gov.uk or phone: 01789 260835

- In the first instance, you should contact your neighbour direct as they may be completely unaware of the noise their pet is making. You should report this issue as a noise nuisance to your local authority. If you believe a dog is being neglected or abused, you have a duty of care toward the animal and should report this. In the first instance, the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). You can report this on the following link www.rspca.org.uk . Contact the RSPCA's 24-hour cruelty line on 0300 1234 999. Alternatively, call your local district council or report this to Warwickshire Police on 101.”

The **planters in the village** are looking lovely and we must thank Dave White, Lisa and Jackie from Earlswood Landscape and Garden Centre for planting them up so beautifully. We also thank the staff at the Co-op for keeping the planters watered, full time job this summer. Fiona and Dave keep the village hall planter, which is also ours, well tended. Thanks to both.

From the Police and Crime Commissioner. “Dashcam uploads website can help the battle against poor and dangerous driving: A pioneering new initiative has been launched to help improve road safety in the county. ‘Operation Snap’ is being rolled out by Warwickshire Police to help motorists report incidents of dangerous or unlawful driving and giving them the opportunity to use their own digital footage from dashcams and other devices to help keep the roads safer across Warwickshire. The force has joined the National Dashcam Safety Portal, which has the support of Brake (the road safety charity) and Cycling UK (the national cycling charity). The platform allows members of the public to submit digital footage showing potential traffic offences direct to Warwickshire Police. This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists. Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads is one of the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan and I welcome any initiative that supports the police in being able to tackle dangerous and unlawful driving. Dashcams have become increasingly popular in the last few years as the technology has become cheaper and more accessible, so it’s only right that the public have a simple way in which they can provide potential evidence of poor or dangerous driving to the police. The extension of the National Dashcam Safety Portal to Warwickshire is very welcome indeed and I will be looking closely to see how it can support the police and improve the evidence available to take action against motorists who flout the rules of the road which are there for good reason – to keep people safe. To submit footage to Warwickshire Police visit: www.warwickshire.police.uk/operationsnap”

We are keen to encourage **website visitors**. Sarah has been doing a great job of managing it, but this is only useful if you visit it. www.earlswood-forshawheath.org.uk
We have two new members on the committee, Kate Clark and John Doidge. Both live on The Common and John has very recently moved there. We are delighted to have them with us.

Committee Members 2018: Jenny Buckley - Chairman; Ewen Cunningham - Vice-chairman; Cheryl Roberts – Treasurer; Sarah Adams – Website Administrator; Roy Willmott; Hazel Sandford; Joanna Wilday; Kate Clark and John Doidge. We also have another resident interested, good news for the association.

Thank you to all our volunteers, we can’t manage without you all. The lakes volunteers braved the worst summer day to clean up the lakes. It was the very wet Sunday, a heroic effort. Please get in touch if you can help with clean ups or newsletter deliveries.

It’s that time of the year again and we are asking for your support. The year runs from October to October.. There are a few who are in credit, electronic payments, so please get in touch if you need to check. The money makes printing of the newsletters possible

Please return to Eva at 61 The Common, Jenny at 101 Malthouse Lane, Ewen at Copperfield, Umberslade Rd., or the Parish Council office will accept them if you put it in a sealed envelope. just put in their post box at Earlswood village hall. Also Hazel will take those in Forshaw Heath at 35 Oaktree Farm. Thanks Hazel.

You can pay electronically with these details; Sort code: 09-01-54 Account number:13991903

“When making your payment all banks allow you to include a reference that will show on the receiver’s bank statement, please use this reference space to include as much of your address as possible, starting with your house number or name and not including any spaces e.g. 122MalthouseLane. This will allow us to identify who is making the payment and issue your membership cards.”. Things are moving on in how we do our banking business thanks to Cheryl.

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Membership Subscription Form

I enclose my subscription for the year **October 2017 - October 2018**. The yearly subscription is **£5 per household**.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount-£ ____ Cheques payable to E&FHRA please or the long-winded version.

Best wishes from your committee. Please get in touch for further info and to give us your feedback

Jenny B.

