



# NEWSLETTER #4

## Pudding & Wine Evening

**7.00pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at the Good Shepherd Church Hall, Mansel Way**

This is a reminder about our first social event of the year. It will be an opportunity to meet neighbours old and new, and to share ideas in an informal atmosphere.

Please bring along a pudding to share. Complimentary soft drinks and wine will be available (a small donation to cover the cost of these would be appreciated).

We would love to hear your ideas about how the residents' association and its website might serve the community in the future.

Oh yes, there is also the small matter of an AGM which we hope to get through fairly quickly. We need to get approval for the draft constitution (see <http://hpera.co.uk/about>) and to elect a committee for the forthcoming year.

If you did not do so last time, **please complete and return the reply slip, or telephone or email us** as indicated below, so that we can get some idea of numbers attending.

## Parking

Parking is the next big issue we need to deal with. It originally affected the lower half of Hurst Park Avenue and the corners of Orchard Avenue/Leys Avenue and Leys Rd/Arbury Road, but commuter and displacement parking is gradually creeping into the whole area.

Many of us believe that freely available parking in residential streets is one of the main causes of traffic congestion in Cambridge. It acts as a magnet for commuters seeking to avoid using the official Park and Ride sites, and also causes safety hazards at junctions. If something could be done about this then there might be no need to expand the capacity of arterial roads like Milton Road.

Smarter Cambridge Transport have carried out a detailed study and have produced an excellent document (see [www.hpera.co.uk/documents](http://www.hpera.co.uk/documents) ) in which they suggest a 7-month trial of controlled parking zones throughout Cambridge. We think this is worthy of serious consideration. See the petition at <http://bit.ly/act-on-parking>

## Speeding

The residents of Orchard Avenue probably suffer from this more than most of us on the estate. Riki McDonald has taken the initiative of getting herself and two others trained by the police in the use of portable Speedwatch cameras (not the 'gun' type but those with a large display visible to the motorist). Her team will be carrying out the first trial on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, but she needs more volunteers to be trained so that this can become a regular event.

The idea is not to be confrontational but more to get drivers to realise that they might be speeding and to learn to reduce speed in our neighbourhood. Anyone interested should contact Riki by email at [eam21@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eam21@cam.ac.uk) or pop along to see her at 9 Orchard Avenue.

Yes, I/we would like to attend the AGM and Social Evening

Name(s)/address/tel nos .....

.....

Email addresses (to join our mailing list) .....

I would be interested in standing for election to the committee

Please return this slip to one of the addresses shown overleaf or email your reply to [secretary@hpera.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hpera.co.uk) or telephone Mary Pountain on 01223-311055 or Michael Page on 01223-365985.

## FeCRA

For those of you who have given us your email addresses we recently forwarded a message from the **Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations** <http://fecra-web.blogspot.co.uk>. In it we explained that they are in need of some assistance in carrying out research and other tasks in order to keep on top of the many and varied developments that could threaten the townscape and environment of Cambridge.

Extract: ". . . we are asking all members of RAs to help. If we spread the load, it won't involve a lot of time for any one person. We need people who can keep track of developer plans that could threaten the Local Plan; help those dealing with aggressive proposals for the expansion of student accommodation or densification and 'garden grabbing'; alert us to proposed changes likely to impact on 'streetscape', the river or green open space; gather data about climate change, air quality, water and/or flooding; identify gaps in developer promises; collate evidence of flaws in process and consultation.

**Urgent projects:** FeCRA needs to improve the resources RA members can access, and to develop its website so that it holds (1) a library of key documents as a first port of call for RAs wishing to know what work has already been produced in relation to a given topic; (2) an up-to-date list of RAs, so that members can contact each other to discuss common interests; (3) links to organisations which provide advice and training in effective communication with

*governmental bodies, the media etc.*

*We need some help to raise our profile as serious 'stakeholders': things such as writing press releases and letters; attending meetings and asking questions; increasing our presence on social media; organising events at which issues can be aired, researching relevant Select Committees.*

**FeCRA is holding its AGM at 18.30 on 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Perse School, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 8QF** at which campaigner and conservationist Dame Fiona Reynolds will give a talk on **'The Fight for Beauty'**. If you would like to support FeCRA in some way or attend their AGM, please inform [wendy.blythe.fecra@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.blythe.fecra@gmail.com) and copy us at [committee@hpera.co.uk](mailto:committee@hpera.co.uk).

## City Council Elections

With the local elections due on 5<sup>th</sup> May we can all expect visits from canvassers and leafleteers over the next few weeks. HPERA is a non party-political organisation but we thought it might be a useful exercise to ask existing and prospective councillors in the W.Chesterton and neighbouring wards to complete a questionnaire – particularly focussing on the City Deal proposals for Milton Road.

**We will then publish the results so we can all see the responses of each councillor or candidate before polling day.**

We don't have a lot of time to get this organised, but if you have specific questions you would like to see included then let us know and we'll do our best to include them.

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS TEAR-OFF SLIP AND RETURN TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES

26 Highfield Ave, 65 Hurst Park Ave, 32 Orchard Ave, 44 Leys Ave,  
13 Leys Rd, 14 Highworth Ave, 22 Mulberry Close

OR SEND YOUR RESPONSE TO US VIA EMAIL OR TELEPHONE

Email: [secretary@hpera.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hpera.co.uk) Tel: Mary Pountain on 01223-311055 or Michael Page on 01223-365985