

Chair's Report 2014

This year has been a very busy one. We started off with another successful Squares day and thankfully the rain kept away.

In September we held a meeting about parking at St Laurence with over 100 people in attendance. After much discussion, some of it quite heated, over two thirds of voted to keep the status quo. I would like to point out that this was an event funded by the CGRA – many people were under the impression that it had been funded by the council. We worked hard on improving the foot path known as Occupation Rd between Canadian Ave and Bromley Rd. Thanks to Martin Wrigley and his friends we removed years of accumulated rubbish and dumping. The path has now had new gravel laid. We were able to do this through the Community Development Fund.

Improvement on the Green continues with our bulb planting programme and many of you will have noticed that we now have a new tree which was planted in memory of Brenda Ward, a much missed committee member, who was not only active with in the CGRA but other bodies as well.

At our Winter Meeting in January we had a very interesting talk from Geoffrey Smith, a local historian, and I am hoping that in the future he will agree to do a film about Catford and Bellingham but this will require funding.

We have also hosted a number of other events including two Yard sales, Carol singing and an Easter Egg hunt as well as delivering the newsletters to 1,000 households.

This year much of the committee's time has been taken up with problems to do with London and Quadrant (L&Q) and their contractors. CGRA worked with residents and L&Q setting meetings and corresponding with the relevant parties with the support of our MP, Heidi Alexander. The issues are slowly being resolved but there are residents whose lives have been totally disrupted for over a year due to the failings of the contractors. I understand these contractors are no longer being used. However it is nice to see that the houses are looking smart and the area is beginning to regain a flavour of its former glory.

Planning matters also continue to take up time. Many of you will be aware that there are properties within our area whose owners flout the planning laws. This is particularly galling for the majority of residents who follow the rules and wait for the planning department to come up with a decision and this can take some time! We correspond on a regular basis with the planning department and have voiced our disquiet about the continuing rise of non-residential use of properties in our area. We have felt for some time that saturation point has been reached. Understandably many of you have made your concerns known to us. We continue to work on this issue and have raised with the planning committee the impact that this volume of non-domestic residential use is now having.

We are looking into securing a bid to renovate our historical post boxes which have been allowed to deteriorate. We are also looking to see if it would be feasible to list the K2 phone box at the junction of Canadian Avenue and Bromley Rd.

Lastly we have a web site. You can find us at www.culverleygreen.com or on twitter @CulverleyGreen or email us culverleygreenresidents@gmail.com.

Kate