



## **ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

**Cambridge Road Estates Community Group**

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**Registered Charity Number: 1144268**



**The CREst committee** honestly thought that the workload would ease up a little once we had all recovered a little following the Madingley Fire. Thankfully the majority of Madingley residents are now back and settled once again, although still without gas. However CREst have since been involved in such a variety of projects and events that we barely had the time to notice that another year had slipped by.

One of the highlights for us was the fact that our application to become a **registered charity** was accepted last October. This was the result of lots of hard work from both CREst and Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA) - who supported us throughout the application process. This is very good news on a number of levels. It means that we are able to claim 'Gift Aid' on donations that are made to us so long as the person or group signs a simple form. This generates 25% more income. In addition it has already proved to be advantageous when it comes to applying for funding. As you know, CREst is an independent group thanks to the fact that we are self-funding. If we need to fund specific projects, such as our quarterly Newsletter, we apply to various trusts and grant makers for the funding we need. Only last month we were lucky enough to be awarded £3000 by the Trumark Trust to fund the publishing costs of the Newsletter, although this arrived too late to show in the 2011-2012 accounts.

Another project which we spend a lot of time raising funds for is the annual **Fun Day**. Although we carry forward any cash raised at the event to the next year, we are not yet in a 'break-even' situation. To remedy this we hold raffles, organise sales and events and seek donations throughout the year. Again, we have been fortunate to receive a donation from the Siroptomists for over £1000 to help this year. Those of you who attended the 2011 Fun Day will recall that the last hour or so of the event had to be cancelled for health and safety reasons after we were virtually washed away by rain. This meant that we lost approximately 25% of the expected income. Therefore it was wonderful when Sheila Griffin, a CREst Trustee, used her year in office as President of the local Siroptomists branch to name CREst as the beneficiary of their fundraising for the last year.

As our Newsletter has reported so well, we have run a number of events and activities for local youngsters. The Half Term Horrors event during October half term week attracted more participants than ever. So did the Christmas Gala which AFC Wimbledon so kindly sponsor at Kingsmeadow.

We are very proud of our **Newsletter** and website. We receive a great number of compliments from residents, Professionals and even RBK Councillors who have taken the time to get in touch to say how informative the Newsletter is. This is all thanks to Jenny Pitt who has done such a wonderful job as the Editor. This last year she has been ably assisted by Wafiq, a young man who has attended many of our events to take pictures and help with reporting.

During the 2011-12 year Doreen Gardiner organised 3 very successful coach trips. Two of them we organised for the summer and saw three mini-buses full of locals young and old set off for Brighton in June and Littlehampton in August. In addition there was a trip in November for our older residents who used to be members of the 'Thursday Afternoon Club'. As such, CREst had been holding their remaining funds and it was agreed that this trip would be a suitable way to use the money. They were taken to Garson's Farm and treated to lunch whilst they were there.

During the summer we also arranged for a regular weekly 'Enjoy a Ball' session on Tuesday afternoons. This was led by Raj Singh who is a great favourite with the local youngsters. I suspect that the parents have become quite fond of him too - he has the children running and jumping and skipping for two hours. As a result they are all pink cheeked and exhausted by the time they are collected. We have just booked him again for this summer!

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

### **Safer Neighbourhood Police**

Our local 'Safer Neighbourhood' team has gone through many changes over the past year or so which caused a few communication problems during the summer and beyond. However, we are very lucky to have been assigned Sgt Lisa Maslen last November. This has improved things immensely. Communication is spontaneous and leads to the fast resolution of many issues.

As you will all know, we had a serious problem with gangs of young men and women hanging around Brinkley and surrounding area. This began in the summer and continued on through Autumn to Winter - when the problem became worse as the people gathering sought the warmth of the Brinkley lobby. CREst were in frequent contact with the police and housing services in a bid to resolve the matter. Eventually we asked if there could be a meeting involving residents, police, Housing Services and local Councillors.

This took place in November last year and since then there have been a number of improvements thanks to an increased police presence, raids and arrests for drugs and other offenses. Although the age of the main culprits appeared to be early twenties onwards, there was a fear that local youngsters were being encouraged to become involved on the fringes of the activities. Therefore RBK Youth Services have been on the estate to do some 'outreach work' to encourage teens to get involved in more constructive activities. Teamwork at its best!

### **Physical activities**

As I have just mentioned, CREst have recognised the benefits of working in partnership with other agencies who also work in and around the Cambridge Road Estates. During the past year CREST, RBK, DC Leisure, London Broncos and Change4Life Kingston successfully piloted two new projects; a family focused Zumba project and a running project, as well as continuing to deliver its BME 'Bikeability' scheme twice a year.

Change4Life Kingston has worked to build relationships and develop physical activity provision in and around the Cambridge Road Estates and offers families an opportunity to participate in healthy activity with a one hour Zumba session at Piper Hall on Thursday evenings. This proved popular with a regular group of 8 people attending. The original pilot of 6 weeks has recently been extended, and the scheme will now offer Zumba on-going until Christmas as an open-to-the-community project that continues to focus on family friendly sessions.

This trial pilot has been so successful that CREst and Change4Life Kingston are now working together to develop an additional dance session to run immediately after the Zumba, ensuring that Cambridge Road Estates residents are extremely well catered for with low-cost dance activities.

The BME 'Bikeability' focusses on training residents from a BME background in the skills required to competently and safely ride a bicycle, and at the end of the course provides the participants with a free (refurbished) bicycle to utilise. Both courses for the last year were fully booked, with a graduation rate of around 85%. The scheme offered those who participated an opportunity to become more physically active, an easier means of transportation within the borough, and the skills to utilise existing 'social rides' available locally.

### **Family Learning**

Over the past year CREst have become more actively involved with RBK Family Learning and were delighted to welcome Veronica Storey to the CREst Committee. Veronica has proved to be a great asset and has provided a wealth of guidance and information that we have used to the benefit of CRE resident families. One key event was the Family Learning Festival which CREst helped to organise with Veronica and her team.

This was a celebration day that took place during the national Family Learning Festival on Saturday 15th October. The aim was to have number of different activities taking place at Piper Hall on the Cambridge Road Estate. The Cambridge Road Estates are a prime target area for Kingston Family Learning as it is situated in Norbiton ward, identified as one of the most deprived areas of the Borough. The event was well supported by local agencies involved with family learning and was attended by approximately 200 adults and children. Following the success of the event plans are already taking shape for this year.

### **Drama Group**

For the past nine months we have been working with Jim Reynolds from Kingston University Drama department. During that time we organised a drama project aimed at local youngsters. The project ran on Wednesday evenings, from five until eight, and took place in the Studio at the Rose Theatre in Kingston. The first four sessions were creative workshops run by Jim and four MA Drama students.

The MA students then continued working with the students to create a 'work in progress' performance that was performed in early May before a small audience.

As a follow on from this project, there is the possibility of taking the work forward to the International Youth Arts Festival where Kingston University are prepared to book and pay for a slot at the Festival, and work with the group to develop the project into a public performance. The follow-on project may be directed by one or two of the MA students, and it could also be supported by students from the second year of the undergraduate Drama programme at Kingston. This is an exciting project that CREst have been delighted to play a part in. We very much hope that it can develop in to something that will be a life enhancing experience for CRE youngsters.

## Community Wellbeing

CREst have been part of the Community Wellbeing Group since it first started in 2010. Since then we have done our best to attend as many of the meetings as possible where the focus is on ways to improve the mental wellbeing of RBK residents - especially those who are marginalised in some way, be that through that through ethnicity, religion or social deprivation.

In October 2011 Doreen Gardiner and I were part of a group who met with Sylvie Ford, PCT Commissioner for Mental Health Services. As a result of that meeting, and the work put in beforehand by Jo Gikuyu from Equalities and Community Engagement Team (ECET) a £10,000 grant was made available to the group. This was ultimately shared with all group members able to demonstrate that they had a project plan in place which would benefit the mental health and wellbeing of their members. CREst successfully applied for a portion of these funds and were awarded £800.

In February I accompanied Jo Gikuyu to a Local Integrated Services ( LIS) meeting which was attended by a variety of key personnel who are on the front line of delivering Mental Health services within RBK. This was an informative meeting in that it revealed the scope of the work being done and at what level. I specifically reported how CREst have used the £800 funding to improve services and information locally. Including details of the problems faced by service users who have found themselves excluded through no fault of their own:-

Last Autumn CREst were approached by two former attendees of the Piper Hall mental health 'drop in' that was originally organised by Roselands Clinic. This had ceased when the service was transferred to the Fircroft Centre in Surbiton. Unfortunately, only those who had a healthcare professional assigned to them were transferred to the Fircroft facility. This left several others who did not have this support but nevertheless suffered with mental health problems with no on-going support .

Some of these residents had decided to get together and start their own 'drop in café' in Piper Hall, the original venue. However, they were hampered by lack of funds or any kind of formal support. They were invited to our October meeting to explain their dilemma and we have since 'adopted' the group and offered whatever support they need.

This included allocating them £100 from the £800 grant as they had not been deemed eligible to apply for a portion of the grant and were therefore funding the group from their own pockets. In addition we have donated the computer which used to belong to the 'Pied Piper Homework Club' which they are able to set up during their meetings and access the internet. We have also helped set up an email account for the club to improve communications for them

Our on-going challenge is to help them increase their membership and reach the other people who used to attend the Piper Hall drop in but have now moved to Fircroft. Confidentiality means that they are not allowed access to the contact details of these people.

## Euphonix Choir

This was another joint project which we ran with the already formed Euphonix Choir. They had received some funding to participate in some 'outreach' work within the community and approached us to see if we would like to work with them. Between us we arranged for sessions every Wednesday afternoon in Queen Mary's Hall and, after an initial slow start membership rose to 24. The highlight of CREst's annual Mince Pie Munch and Christmas Tree lighting event was a performance by the choir. We were therefore very disappointed to receive an email in January to say that the funding had been spent and the choir had decided that it would continue but would no longer have a meeting on the CRE. We are currently considering the possibility of undertaking a similar project either with a new partner or by ourselves. Volunteers welcome!

## 'Fit as a Fiddle'

In the spring of 2011 CREst worked together with Age Concern to run two, 6 week 'Fit as a Fiddle' classes in Piper Hall. These offered an hour of gentle exercise followed by a relaxation period to anyone over 55. Again, this ceased because the course leader was no longer available.

## AFC Wimbledon

Earlier this year, Doreen Gardiner and I met with representatives from AFC Wimbledon to discuss ways that we could possibly work together in the future. We are currently looking at an increased participation from AFC on the CRE, including greater involvement with the Fun Day and the possibility of offering some activity programmes to replace those that ceased after the Fulham FC/ Positive Futures project ceased.

## CAMBRIDGE ROAD ESTATES PLAY SCHEME [ CREPS ]

The joint working party convened to bring this project to fruition continued to meet throughout 2011/12. During that time Quadron were appointed as project managers and the group focussed on consulting with residents to find out what kind of equipment would be favoured. There was an all-day resident participation event held in Piper Hall last July and in December a 'knock and drop' exercise was carried out to further consult with residents. Given the inevitable delays the project deadlines seemed to slip past and before we knew it a year had passed with very little to show for it.

However, since the start of this year plans have moved on far more quickly and we have now reached the exciting stage of the project. Following all the necessary tenders and company evaluation procedures, **Proludic** has been confirmed as the contractor who will build the play areas and they have submitted a draft outline of what it could look like. The plan shows a layout of what equipment could be put where, including the 'Fresh Air Fitness' equipment and the creation of areas where residents can sit and relax. This was delivered to all residents in CRESt's newsletter recently with a letter urging them to respond with their thoughts and views. There is also now a Facebook page for people to review the project and give feedback and we plan to hold a series of more detailed resident consultation events led by Proludic in the near future. There is a link to the Facebook page on CRESt's website.

We are now confident that this time next year we will be reporting that this project has been successfully completed.

## ONE NORBITON WORKING TOGETHER

This pilot project has now been running for over a year. During that time several CRESt Committee members have become active members of the recently formed 'Community Working Group' [CWG] and the priority sub groups that had been identified by ECET following a small survey and 'desk top exercise' aimed at establishing key priorities within Norbiton. There are currently several sub groups that were set up based on the results of this survey including Police & Safety, Community Engagement, Finance and Admin, Housing, Youth Activities & Employment Maximization. These meet regularly and are expected to report back to the CWG.

The past year has seen many frustrations as communication lines became tangled and sometimes broken. The project outline made it clear that the One Norbiton pilot was to have a 'bottom up' approach, thereby empowering the Norbiton Community to take some responsibility for how funds are spent and establish what the key priorities actually are. Initially there were concerns that those invited to attend briefings about the pilot project did not necessarily represent a cross section of the Norbiton Community. Efforts are on-going to remedy this by involving more residents. Another key problem that we have had to work hard to overcome is allowing volunteers to have a valid voice. This has led to periods of friction as the governance is settled and those who are employed to work on the project find ways to work with volunteers on an equal footing. A huge problem has been the lack of available funding for the project which has hampered any meaningful progress.

As mentioned earlier, one of the chief concerns that many residents had with this project was the lack of consultation with Norbiton residents to establish what the top priorities actually are, rather than basing the plans on the results of a 'desktop exercise' However, plans have now been made to actively consult with the Norbiton Community via all the standard communication channels ; Leaflets and letters, Facebook, Website and text messaging. In order to fully consult with the community and assure them that this truly is a resident led project we required a Norbiton address where responses could be sent but did not look 'official'. In an effort to speed the process CRESt agreed to allow their office address to be used on the reply paid envelope rather than wait for the funds to be made available to pay for a PO Box. Plans are in hand for a public meeting to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> June in Kingsmeadow Stadium. A letter inviting all of the Norbiton Community is being drafted and will be delivered by a team of volunteers in mid- May.

In addition to the 'One Norbiton' project, Norbiton Ward has also been selected to take part in a 'Community Budgets' scheme which will become active in April 2013. I attended the launch of this project in February in company with Hilary Garner from KVA, Dean Tyler ( who is now Project lead on behalf of RBK) and Tony Willis from ECET. This follows the same idea as One Norbiton in that it expects those responsible for administering Norbiton's budgets to isolate what is spent where and then consult with residents to ensure that they are happy with how the spending is being prioritized. We are the only ward to participate in both schemes.

## **RESIDENT PARTICIPATION**

During that past 12 months CREst have continued to work hard looking after residents interests. We have continued to participate in site inspections, represented your views at Safer Neighbourhood panel meetings and resolved several problems on residents' behalf. For example, we have continued to 'keep an eye' on the returning Madingley residents and were able to ensure that the allowance that they currently receive because they have no gas supply was re-instated when an administrative error caused it to stop being paid for 7 weeks. We also intervened when work to convert our television aerials to receive digital caused both the electricity supply and the television service to be disrupted.

We have done our best to help residents whenever we are asked, frequently calling on the services of our Norbiton Ward councillors when individual cases are serious. There have been a number of problems over in Cambridge Gardens, some involving individual problems but others, such as broken fencing and failed lighting in the play area which affect more people.

One of the consequences of the Madingley Fire was the loss of the Community Shop that is based at the bottom of Madingley. We had previously made good use of this facility and are now anxiously awaiting the go ahead to resume access once the health and safety checks have been completed.

We were delighted to meet with Edward Davey MP in January of this year when he came to our office for a coffee and catch up. A matter very close to his heart is that of loan sharks that are ever present on the CRE's. After many years of hard work he was delighted to tell us that 'Surrey Savers', a Credit Union, is now working in partnership with KVA in Kingston.

CREst are doing everything we can to spread the word about this, including an item in our recent Newsletter and plans to have an area dedicated to this which is being planned in conjunction with the police at our Fun Day.

## **CREST MEMBERSHIP**

As always, we have been actively building support for CREst throughout the past year. In order to be accepted as a Charity we needed to revise our Constitution, which involved some changes. The key change is the fact that every resident of the CRE and Cambridge Gardens are automatically CREst members unless they get in touch to request being removed.

In terms of Committee membership we are stronger than ever. We now have 2 committee members who represent us on Cambridge Gardens, despite having lost Victor who moved away. There are also a number of other volunteers from Cambridge Gardens who support us in other ways. Unfortunately part of the way through the year Georgie, our Treasurer, had to resign due to time restraints, although she continues to support CREst in other ways. We were sad to lose John Higson, who resigned as Vice Chair and Committee member at the last AGM, although, again he remains a willing helper whenever we need him. We have recruited a number of residents who are willing to be called on when we need help in areas such as helping at events and delivering Newsletters and leaflets but do not have the time to commit to becoming a member of the Management Committee. Brendan and Joan from the Piper Hall drop in café have also become welcome regular attendees at our meetings.

In addition we have expanded our committee to include more Associate Members, people such as Veronica Storey from RBK Family Learning, Nathan Issom from Change for Life and Jim Reynolds from Kingston University. Kingston Voluntary Action have continued to support us, as have the three Norbiton Ward councillors and Police Safer Neighbourhood team. Sadly support from the RBK Housing and Resident Participation Team has dwindled. We offer our thanks to everyone who spares the time to support us. However, we are always seeking new volunteers and we are anxious to be sure that the CRE residents are adequately represented, especially men and those from the BME communities. I have recently been in touch with the new Director at Refugee Action and have invited him to attend our Community Group meetings as and when his workload allows. We are also anxious to forge closer links with our younger residents.

## **TRAINING**

CREst have once again actively sought training in several key areas. In particular I am grateful to Sanja Kane and Pat Stanley from KVA/KVC who have delivered training sessions that have outlined our responsibilities as Charity Trustees. Various members of our committee have also attended training on a variety of topics: 'Volunteers and the Law', 'How to run a press office on a shoestring', 'Governance', 'Outcomes' and others. In addition we have benefited from one to one sessions with the Community Accountant who has worked with us to ensure our accounts are suitable for a charitable group (they are!)

## ACCOUNTS

Our audited accounts follow this report.

CREst's accounts are peculiar in that portions of our funding have been donated with specific beneficiaries in mind and are therefore 'ring-fenced'. This means that although we may have a fairly impressive 'bottom line' we are restricted when allocating these funds.

However, each year we endeavour to agree our budgets for the coming year. This year we have successfully stuck to the targets set at the start of the financial year. In particular we have dedicated budget codes for items such as the Newsletter and the Fun Day and when those fall short of what we require we actively seek the funding to continue. In this respect we are lucky to have Mary Graham who is our member dedicated to sourcing the funds needed. We made an active decision as a committee last year to spend more of the 'ring fenced' funding and reduce our reserves. It is clear from the above report where this money has been spent.

However, there are occasions such as the Newsletter and Fun Day where we need to pursue alternative funding as has been reported earlier.

## THE FUTURE

CREst has grown a lot over the past couple of years - both in numbers and experience. With the advent of projects such 'One Norbiton' we have had to take a step back and review the way we work to ensure that CREst residents remain our key priority. Progress is wonderful - we are just making sure that we do not throw the baby out with the bath water!

The past year has not always been easy for the CREst Committee. There have been a number of occasions when we have had to refute spurious allegations and rebuff attempts to make trouble. Thankfully the CREst committee is a strong team of people who support one another totally, even when others chose not to. As such we have chosen to simply ignore such allegations on the basis that our time is far better spent working on behalf of residents. This is a policy we intend to continue.

## **LINKS TO KEY WEBSITES**

CREst: [www.e-voice.org.uk/crest](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/crest)

KVA : [www.kva.org.uk](http://www.kva.org.uk)

One Norbiton: [www.onenorbiton.org.uk](http://www.onenorbiton.org.uk)

Play scheme: [www.facebook.com/CREplayandrecreationsscheme](http://www.facebook.com/CREplayandrecreationsscheme)

Credit Union: [www.surreysave.co.uk](http://www.surreysave.co.uk)

RBK: [www.rbk.kingston.org.uk](http://www.rbk.kingston.org.uk)

Change4Life: [www.nhs.uk/Change4Life](http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life)

Police: [www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods](http://www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods)

Age UK: [www.ageconcernkingston.org](http://www.ageconcernkingston.org)

Young People [www.kingston.gov.uk/young\\_people](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/young_people)



**COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBERS  
2011/12**

Jill Preston	Chair
Doreen Gardiner	Secretary
Jenny Pitt	Editor
Mary Graham	Committee Member
Alma White	Committee Member
Dorothea Lloyd	Committee Member
Sheila Griffin	Committee Member
Joan Stone	Committee Member
Brendan Lynes	Committee Member
Geraldine Burgess	Supporting Member
Wafiq	Supporting Member
Clare Gardiner	Supporting Member
Michael Eustace	Supporting Member
Anthony Burgess	Supporting Member
Doreen Tilly	Supporting Member
Veronica Storey	Associate Member
Nathan Issom	Associate Member
Jim Reynolds	Associate Member
Cllr Penny Shelton	Associate Member
Cllr David-Ryder Mills	Associate Member
Cllr Steven Brister	Associate Member
Jill Darling	Voluntary Sector Partnerships Officer
SNT Team Representative	Sgt Lisa Maslen
Maria Tunmer	KVA Support
Mercy Bolus	Hawks Road Liaison
Des Gordon	RBK Resident Participation Officer

**CREst Income and Expenditure – 2007 - 2012**

	<u>2007 - 2008</u>	<u>2008 -2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010 -2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>
Total Revenue	<b>26,069.47</b>	<b>8,322.95</b>	<b>23,075.36</b>	<b>7,610.41</b>	2891.92
Balance Carried Forward	2,992.16	£23,262.42	21,797.51	33,029.36	27126.25
	<b>29,061.63</b>	<b>31,585.37</b>	<b>44,872.87</b>	<b>40,639.77</b>	<b>30018.17</b>
Total Expenditure	<b>5,799.21</b>	<b>9787.92</b>	<b>11843.51</b>	<b>13545.15</b>	9936.49
<b>Account Balance</b>	<b>£23,262.42</b>	<b>£21797.45</b>	<b>£33029.36</b>	<b>£27094.62</b>	20081.68
Petty cash in hand		0.06p		£[31.63]	£119.00
				<b>£27126.25</b>	<b>£ 20200.68</b>