



2020 certainly was a very different year to the one we had planned for and were expecting and so it was challenging in lots of ways. The ARCH word for the year was going to be consolidation but along the way and finding ourselves in a pandemic we also dug deep to learn new ways of doing things and so can add adaptable, determined, persistent and resilient to the list of words that best summed up our year. March was a sad month when we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Canford Heath Fest which had been in the planning stage for a while and was to be themed with VE Day 75th Anniversary in **May**. We also had to stop our regular and popular residents' meetings.

However, the ARCH committee are not ones to let the grass grow under our feet, and so to move forward we learnt how to do Zoom Calls so we could continue with our planning meetings and also set up WhatsApp groups for our various sub-committees. During the first lockdown, we kept residents updated with the many changes happening locally and in the wider Poole area and sent out near daily updates to everyone on the ARCH database.

We had already planned to update our logo so lockdown gave us the opportunity to redesign this to embody the vibrant and dynamic work ARCH has undertaken over the last 5 years and so after much hard work and help from ARCH member Nigel Leahy, it was introduced in **June**. At the same time, we also planned a new 3-year strategy to reset the direction and focus of the group. As part of the ongoing rebranding exercise, it was also timely to revamp the ARCH website which was launched in **September**. We seemed to busier than ever even in a lockdown!

During the Autumn, things were still a little different again and so we wanted to plan events that were within the Covid-19 regulations.

October/November saw ARCH join forces with the Canford Heath Link Magazine to remember our fallen heroes by placing 120 Red Poppies on all the Lamp-posts along the main trunk roads of the heath. This felt particularly poignant in the year of the 75th Anniversaries of VE and VJ day as well as the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Adastral Road was named after the motto of the RAF "Per Ardua Ad Astra" which translates as "through adversity to the stars" - very appropriate for the year in which we faced much but adversity but by pulling together we also connected as a community in supporting one another. It was another first for ARCH and Canford Heath and raised £836.47 for the Royal British legion.

December proved that Covid-19 was not going to spoil ARCH attempts to raise some festive cheer at the end of an unusual year. Obviously, things had to be a little different after 2019's successful inaugural Christmas event in Adastral Square due to Social Distancing guidelines.

ARCH organised a **Community Christmas tree** in Adastral Square and decorated the rest of the trees in the square with fairy lights. Additional **fairy lights** were put up in the tree lined path at the Neighbourhood Centre. **Light-Up Canford Heath** was a competition that encouraged all residents to decorate the outside of their homes. Hampers and additional prizes provided by ARCH were given to the winners by the Mayor of Poole Cllr Marion le Poidevin and it was great to see so many houses in the community get involved. Judging by the many photos uploaded to the Competition Facebook page and the many lovely comments received, Canford Heath had never looked so festive! **A FREE Children's Treasure Hunt** was also organised so that the children could have a socially distanced fun activity to do in the school holidays with some "real" treasure at the end for every participant.

All this was made possible due to the generosity of our two local sponsors, Chester Pearce Funeral Services and Brown and Kay Estate Agents and also because The National Lottery Community Fund allowed us to divert funds to this event after our VE Fest had to be cancelled earlier in the year.

Looking ahead to 2021, and we will continue to serve our community as best we can whatever situation we find ourselves in. We will continue to act as an information portal using our various media of e-bulletins, website, social media, noticeboard and magazine articles etc. to keep our community informed of what's going on locally.

We are also planning to introduce a **Community Fridge** and a **Community Vegetable patch** to the heath working in partnership with our friends at the Canford Heath Community Centre and the Hub. We will also complete the Adastral Square project and run events such as the circumstances allow.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to support ARCH during 2020– too many to mention with many people getting involved in various ways – but in particular the hardworking committee; Sasha Morgan (Chair), Julie Caines (Events Organiser) Jackie Lowe (Secretary), Bernard Corby (Treasurer) Paul Allpress (Website Administrator) Sheila Allpress (Fundraising supporter) and Hannah Porter (Social Media) and to Cllr Sandra Moore for all her ongoing support and also to Malcolm Simpson who continues to do weekly checks on the 2 ARCH defibrillators.

So, what should be the word for 2021? Please do email me your suggestions!

You can sign up to receive the ARCH ebulletin at www.canfordheathnetwork.org/newsletter or follow us on social media. We are always looking for new volunteers to help make our projects and events happen - please do email me if you would like to get involved canfordheatharch@gmail.com

take care, stay safe

Sasha (ARCH Chair)

