

Good morning and thank you for coming to the ARCH AGM.

Today is an opportunity to reflect on what the Association of the Residents of Canford Heath has been doing for the last year but it's also a chance for us all to celebrate our diverse and vibrant community – after all, we have all chosen to live in Canford Heath which is both an urban housing development as well as being one of the greenest parts of Poole – Canford Heath has space to have green verges and tree lined roads as well as one of the largest remaining areas of heathland in Dorset, a Site of Special Interest due to the rare habitat and wildlife that live there. Darcy will be providing more information about this in her forthcoming talk.

And there are many other green spaces around Canford Heath such as Sherborn Cres/Verity Park open space which the Parks Foundation have been involved in over the last year and which ARCH has developed a link with and has provided funding for a walkway – we will also be hearing more about the work happening in that area later in Tanyas talk.

And then there is also Hatch Pond – you can read about the latest ARCH project to reinstate the Art Interpretation board in your AGM report on page 6-7 with an invitation to come and hear about the History of Hatch Pond at the next Residents coffee morning on June 26th in the Canford Heath Library. Hatch Pond has had over 145 species of bird recorded there over the last 20 years.

Canford Heath was also the recent go-to area for birders to get a rare sighting of the Waxwings that were seen near ASDA having not visited this area since 2012 – even the birds realise how special Canford Heath is.

The AGM brochure includes my Chairs Report all on the events, meetings, projects and communications that ARCH has been involved in since the last AGM. The information is there for you to read on all the tasks we have done.

So this morning I'm not going to read that out but instead I want to focus on the people that make it all happen. And that is us, the residents of Canford Heath.

Thankyou especially to the ARCH committee who each give of their time and skills to oversee all that ARCH does.

Sasha Morgan (Chair)
Bernard Corby (Treasurer) (until Aug 2023)
Nigel Leahy (Treasurer) (from Aug 2023)
Karen Leahy (Secretary) (from Aug 2023)
Julie Caines (Events Organiser)
Paul Allpress (Webmaster)
Sheila Allpress (Promotions Officer)
Manoj Pillai (Social Media Officer)
Sandra Moore (ordinary committee member)

Thankyou also to the many other resident volunteers that get involved in a really diverse variety of ways throughout the year – this can be anything from helping to put up the poppies on the lamp posts (usually in the pouring rain), or making teas and coffees at one of our coffee mornings in the library, or marshalling at our Christmas lights event in Adastral Square or helping at our Saturday Friends group, or proof reading one of our art boards before it goes into production and the list goes on. We are also pleased that we facilitate student volunteers from Magna Academy at Saturday Friends.

Thankyou everyone for your ongoing support and commitment and if you want to get more involved in your community, then please do have a chat with one of the ARCH committee members at the end of the meeting