

HCERA AGM 2024 Chairman's Report

I would like to review the past year.

THE HCERA AGM 2023

The 2023 AGM returned to its previous venue of the main hall at St George's Catholic College. A donation of loaf cakes for refreshments was much appreciated. The annual subscription was confirmed at £5.

CAROLS 2023

Carols on the Green, was as always a lovely community event. Ocean Brass were out in force this year with 10 members playing beautifully. Thanks as always to Lawrence and Louise for leading us in song, and the seasonal readings and poems. HCERA met the full cost of the band. Donations of £100 were collected for the Lord Mayor's Charities, a change this year as the Lord Mayor was Val Laurent, who lives in the Estate.

LITTER-PICKING

There was an Autumn litter-pick over the weekend 11-13 November. The equipment was borrowed from the Council and the bags of litter left in Field Close for collection. The Spring litter-pick was over the weekend of 19th-21st April. Both were successful and collected a useful amount of rubbish, 13 sacks in the Autumn and 24 sacks in the Spring. Hardly anyone took up the offer of free coffee and biscuits at the end of the Saturday morning litter-pick.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

It was a disappointment that the Scarecrow Competition had to be cancelled through lack of entries. One or two had already made their scarecrows. Perhaps we will do better in 2025 when it will be combined with the Open Gardens Day.

THE SUMMER PARTY

The party was held a little earlier than usual, on 8th June. Thank you to Ken and Michelle Hickling for the meat BBQ and to Mark and Josephine for the vegetarian option. The party started with an entertainment by The Shanty Women.

Verity Robson organised all the usual children's games: sack, egg and spoon, three legged and wheel barrow races and ending up with the tug-of-war.

Unlike last year, the weather was calm enough to have the bouncy castle which was particularly attractive to the younger children.

The invitation said "bring a garden game, if you have one" and a large jenga set was the result.

STREET REPS

The position of street rep for Stoneham Lane has remained vacant throughout the year. A street rep for Ethelburt Avenue resigned in July through pressure of other commitments. The street rep plays a pivotal role in the functioning of the residents association, so please consider volunteering and making this contribution to the community.

MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

The Association is a member of the City of Southampton Society, North Southampton Community Forum and Southampton Voluntary Services. It looks as if the City of Southampton Society is taking a less active roll because of difficulties with filling its committee posts. Southampton Voluntary Services has a monthly Friday Forum on the first Friday of each month which is generally on Zoom. I quite often "go to" these. Last year I suggested that the North Southampton Community Forum was gradually fading away. Last January HCERA did receive an email which included the line "Unless we have enough ongoing support then NSCF will inevitably fold". Since

we have heard nothing.

THANKS

I would like to thank all those who make HCERA possible. Thank you to all the people who give up their time to attend committee meetings, to the secretary and treasurer, to those who moderate the Facebook Group, to Dan Hopgood who convenes the Road Improvement Group, and to our webmaster Nic Monks. I also thank St George Catholic College for hosting this meeting.

Ray George, HCERA Chairman.