



Chessington
District
Residents'
Association

June 2024 Newsletter

Dear Members, Residents and Councillors,

Welcome to our June Newsletter.

CDRA Annual General Meeting (AGM): Tuesday 25th June, 7.30pm, Chessington Methodist Church Hall, Moor Lane, KT9 2DJ

A reminder that our 47th AGM is being held this coming Tuesday.

Our first speaker will be UK Power Networks. UK Power Networks is responsible for maintaining the electrical networks across London and the South East. During 2025/2026 a major project to replace the under-ground network of power cables along the A243 from Malden Rushett to Kingston will take place and will impact us all. At our AGM Tien Bang, UK Development Manager of UK Power Networks, outlines the project, why it's necessary, the timescales, and what the work involves.

Our second speaker was to have been Elisabeth Carter, Criminologist. However, she is now unavailable. In her place we are very pleased that Claire Maillet has agreed to be our speaker. Claire is Fraud Prevention Product owner for Europe Vanguard (investment company). She is a multi-award-winning counter-fraud expert with 10 years of experience, having progressed from Analyst to Director level in 4 years. Claire will provide us with practical tips to help us avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

Please come along to our AGM which we expect to be an interesting and informative evening. Everyone is welcome. Just turn up. You do not need to be a member of the Association to attend.

Those attending our AGM will be entered into a **FREE DRAW**. Prizes include a £50 Sainsbury's voucher, hampers, and a robotic vacuum cleaner.

CDRA Annual 2024/2025 Subscriptions are now due

Our financial year began in May, we would, therefore, appreciate receiving payment of your annual subscription. You can pay by cash or cheque at our AGM. It's just £5 per year, per household. Alternatively, you can pay online. Our membership form for joining or renewal is at the end of this newsletter.

New Era Community Projects - Food growing volunteers wanted!

While we were at Celebrate Chessington on 30th May, we met Michele and Bob from New Era Community Projects and heard about how they support and help Chessington families and individuals with the cost of living and social isolation. They have been redistributing surplus food to local people since COVID times. Now they run the Square 1 Wellbeing Café at Chessington Sports Centre, the Chessington Community Fridge and Pantry at St Mary's, and two working allotments behind Hook Rugby Club.

At the Hook allotments volunteers grow food to give away through the cafe and pantry. And they take some for themselves too.

They desperately need more food growing volunteers ... could this be you?

Growing together and being outdoors is fun; it's time away from screens, being closer to nature, and helps people find peace of mind.

If you've never grown food before they'll help you learn. And if you have, you're welcome too.

For more information contact bob@newera-communityprojects.org or michele@newera-communityprojects.org

Boots Pharmacy, North Parade, Chessington

When Boots Pharmacy at Hook closed it had a huge impact on Boots at Chessington North. Everyone who had previously collected their prescriptions from Hook was persuaded to transfer to Chessington North. However, it appears that no extra staff were recruited at Chessington North. This has caused long queues and a 20-minute-plus wait if you need to collect a prescription. The fact that they close for an hour at 1pm does not help the situation. Our Executive Committee has been in contact with Sebastian James, Managing Director of Boots UK, who has promised to investigate the problem and fix it. Let us hope that he does.

Post Office at Morrisons, North Parade, Chessington

The Post Office Counter (under McColls) moved from being a dedicated fortress counter at the rear of the store with room to queue and carry out transactions both by the postmaster/postmistress and the customer (under the newly refurbished Morrisons Store) to a constricted check out position in a very dark corner alongside the food check out position at the front of the store.

In response to residents' complaints, our Chairman Colin Punch and Executive Member Rob Robb attended a meeting on 1st February with Lee Watson, Regional Manager, Morrison's Convenience; Stuart Frost, Regional Operations Manager, McColl's; Jason Collins, Network Provisions Manager, South Retail Team Post Office; and Billy, Strategic Partnership Manager, Post Office. However, little has changed. Therefore, we are attempting to meet with Morrison's Chief Customer and Marketing Officer. Due to a change of staff this is proving difficult. We will keep trying.

Kingston Hospital car parking

Anyone who has recently driven to Kingston Hospital will know how difficult it is to park. We realise that the obvious solution is to travel by bus. However, for people who have serious medical conditions or poor mobility this is not always possible. A member of our Executive Committee has written to the Chief Executive Officer of Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The letter acknowledges that Kingston Hospital is a place of excellence and that funds are tight but asks what plans they have to tackle the parking problems at the hospital.

Next CDRA Executive Committee Meeting

Our meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd July. If you have anything you would like to discuss or even if you would like to just come and listen, you are very welcome. The venue is the room next to St Paul's Church, 280 Hook Rd, Hook, Chessington KT9 1PF.

Membership Renewal

Below are ways that you can join or renew your membership. The cost is £5 per year, per household.

A reminder that we changed our bank account to Metro Bank last year. Our new bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Chessington District Residents' Association

Sort Code: 23-05-80

Account Number: 47570425

You can pay directly into our bank account. Please put your address in the reference. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque at either of the addresses on the membership form. If you are a new member, please scan in the completed membership form and email to chessingtondra@gmail.com

I wish to join/renew my membership of the Chessington District Residents' Association 2024/2025

I agree that my details will be kept in accordance with CDRA's [privacy notice](#).

By ticking this box, I confirm that I wish to receive our newsletters together with any other information thought to be of interest and relevance.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

Email

Amount £5 per household, or more if you would like to make a donation.

Please return to CDRA, 296 Hook Road, Chessington, KT9 1NY or Whitford News, North Parade, Chessington, KT9 1QL

Sign.....

Take care,
Best regards
Diane Brannan
Secretary to the Association

