



From the Chellaston Residents' Association

THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

The last year has once again been dominated by the Rose and Crown and Lidl supermarket issue and although the CRA has spent three years trying to stop the development, ultimately, we had to concede that we were up against the planners and a large company that knew exactly how to work the planning system. Even now, recent events have shown that, even after permission has been granted, neither Lidl nor the planners have any qualms about the destruction of the last two oaks on site which were supposedly protected.

Nevertheless, there have been some positive things which have come out of this campaign. One is that the CRA has developed a much closer working relationship with Chellaston Academy which will be beneficial both to residents and the school itself. For publicity, we started up the "Chellaston Matters" newsletter, delivered to every house at least three times a year, we have this monthly page for additional information and we have been using social media more effectively. We have held fund-raising events which have been important not only for providing funds but also to foster more community involvement. Finally, we started our "100 Club" prize draw, which continues with monthly prizes up to £50 – contact us if you want to join in!

The Community Action Group has continued to meet throughout the year in all types of weather and we have concentrated on areas in the High Street. This year we are entering the "It's Your Neighbourhood" section of the East Midlands competition with our "Chellaston-in-Bloom" project and I believe that we can really improve the appearance of the High Street as well as making residents feel better about their own neighbourhood. In addition, the acting Neighbourhood Manager and Councillors have arranged a "Deep-Clean Day" for April 23rd which will focus on High Street (from 10 am). We know that a number of local community groups have signed up to help, but we would really like to see Chellaston's residents really give this some support, even if it's just for a short time.

I'd also like to thank local businesses who have sponsored activities this year. With this generosity, we have been able to purchase the Tommy statue, helped also by donations from other groups. Tommy played a part in the Remembrance Day service and went on tour around Chellaston to visit schools and local interest groups. We also were able to obtain gardening machinery with a grant from the Co-op and we donated a prize for the Academy's awards evening last Summer.

Finally, thanks to all those who contribute time, effort, money, and sweat to the continuation of the work of the CRA, and to all those who help us to achieve what we do, including Councillors, the 42 newsletter deliverers, businesses that help with funding, this publication, everyone in the Action Group and others too numerous to mention.

The CRA is run by a small but enthusiastic group but we need new people to come forward who will be the committee of the future. As well as its involvement in planning and local matters, the CRA's role is becoming increasingly diverse, being an information channel and fostering community spirit and this is why it's important that it continues.