



From the Chellaston Residents' Association

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At the start of a new year, many of us will be thinking about the year ahead and what it will bring. Events at national level may even make us feel nervous about the future and wondering what is happening to our country. And yet, we have to carry on with the business of living and, whatever happens, life will go on and Chellaston will still be here. We can often only influence what the politicians decide through the ballot box and although the CRA is a non-political organisation, we would strongly urge everyone to make use of their vote on every occasion. There is, however, a way of having an impact on your neighbourhood which does not involve becoming a politician. That is to become involved with one of the groups which have been formed to make a difference locally. In Chellaston, there are several organisations:

The **Chellaston Residents' Association (CRA)** was formed to represent the views of Chellaston's residents when matters affecting our community are being considered and it has been involved in many campaigns over the years. (www.chellaston.org.uk);

The **Chellaston Neighbourhood Planning Forum (CNPF)** was formed to develop a plan for the future development of Chellaston in order to make sure that this continues to be a great place to live and that future growth is properly planned. (www.chellaston-npf.org)

The **Chellaston Community Association (CCA)** looks after the Community Centre and other community facilities. (www.chellastonca.org)

The **Friends of Chellaston Library** was set up following a decision by the City Council to allow libraries to be run by private concerns or voluntary groups. (See Facebook page)

The **Friends of Chellaston Brickworks** maintain the Brickworks Nature Reserve which lies to the east of Chellaston (car park off Bensley Close, Pit Close). A work-group meets monthly to tackle specific tasks. (www.chellaston-nature-reserve.co.uk).

The **Chellaston Events Group** organises the "Spirit of Chellaston" event in June and also the Christmas-tree lights switch-on in December. (See Facebook page)

The **Chellaston Action Group (CAG)** tackles problem areas in the locality and has been improving areas on High Street in particular. It is behind the "**Chellaston-in-Bloom**" project to improve even more areas of our district. (info@chellaston.org.uk)

Most of these groups welcome new volunteers – indeed it is essential for their survival because the existing ones cannot be expected to carry on forever and, in any case, all organisations need new ideas and expertise from time to time.

May we suggest that your New Year Resolution should be to join one of these local voluntary groups? You won't regret it and you will help to secure their continuation for many years to come. If you contact us in the first instance at info@chellaston.org.uk we can put you in touch with the particular group.