

**Illegal Encampment on Chester Green....again!**

Although locals campaigned to get an earth bund to protect the Green from illegal encampments last year (with 1070 signatures and which have successfully been installed elsewhere in Derby), the council decided rocks and logs were a better option. It came as no surprise that these deterrents were easily overcome by this year's 1st encampment on the Green (a log was rolled out of the way!).

What followed was vans driving at speed and handbrake turning on the green (narrowly missing a child, which was reported to the police), and the Green being used as a speedway with two motorbikes and two quad bikes travelling around the Green.

Multiple reports/videos and pictures to the police has still not, as yet, elicited any response from law enforcement, which is particularly frustrating as there has been a local campaign, from the police themselves, to tackle off-road motorcycles in the area (see the sign they've installed above)!

As I write this, the encampment is still in place, and neither the police or the council are willing to use the powers available to move them on.

The home office state that section 61 powers should be used *immediately* if the encampment is 6 or more vehicles and on an urban park (from <https://tinyurl.com/CGSection61>)

*"It is unlawful for Gypsies and Travellers to camp on land they do not own without the landowner's permission. There are locations where immediate action to remove them should be taken because the presence of the encampment is seriously disrupting the ability of the settled community to make use of facilities or to conduct their business, for instance: \* on school grounds during term time; \* on urban parks; \* on business or retail parks."*

Also, if there are problems with anti-social behavior, public disorder etc. (riding motorbikes around the green, for example) it's stated *"In these circumstances it will be appropriate for the police to deal with these issues directly using their wider powers..."* This did not seem to happen, in this instance.

A big thank you to local residents who continue to report issues and to the local councillors who responded tirelessly over the bank holiday weekend on this issue (that lack of Council legal contact was a major issue being looked at!)

Please contact local councillors and your MP to help get this issue tackled!

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**Chester Green Entertainments Team**



**QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 6th June at the Community Centre:** admission £3 per team member with no more than 5 in a team. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start, so arrive in plenty of time to find a table and get your drinks in at the bar (cash or card payments accepted).

As mentioned in the last newsletter, this is the first Quiz Night without our friend Rhian setting the questions, but we are all looking forward to welcoming Phil Teague on his first visit to the Centre as our quizmaster. No doubt many of us scratch our heads as our brains struggle to find for the answer to something we should definitely know!

Phil and Rhian set the quizzes alternately for many years at the Coach & Horses. Phil also sets quizzes on the 1st Wednesday of the month at The Furnace and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (& the 5th if there is one) at the Little Chester Ale House, with both venues playing additional games of Sticky Fingers (card bingo). We're very lucky to have such an experienced quiz master and, as with our recent quiz nights, let's have a full house to support him!

**PICNIC ON THE GREEN:** a reminder that this year's Picnic is on the afternoon of **Sunday 6th July** when several hundred local residents, their friends and families will gather on the Green with food, drinks, gazebos, chairs etc for an afternoon of brilliant entertainment with something for everyone to enjoy! Timings and more info about what's on will be in next month's newsletter and on Facebook so be sure you save the date!



**SPRING FOOD AND CRAFT FAIR:** the weather was fantastic for our Food and Craft Fair held at the Centre recently and around 500 people, local residents and passers-by, enjoyed the brilliant variety of stalls selling beautiful hand-made products as well as delicious bakes, samosas, bhajjis, cheeses and chutneys! All proceeds from the fair will help to fund the Picnic on the Green and other events throughout the year.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chestergreenents](http://www.facebook.com/chestergreenents)

Email: [chestergreenents@gmail.com](mailto:chestergreenents@gmail.com)

## CHESTER GREEN COMMUNITY GROUP

We would like to thank everyone who attended our recent Annual General Meeting at the Centre. The Management Committee reported that further investment had taken place, with improvements to the bar area which has been decorated, new storage fitted and a glass washer installed. We are still working hard to ensure the Centre is as energy efficient as possible and have introduced a smart heating system (Hive), meaning the level of heating can be controlled remotely based on the weather conditions and usage of the building.

Working in tandem with Chester Green Entertainments Team means the Centre hosts many brilliant entertainment events throughout the year and generates valuable income towards maintaining and improving facilities at the Centre for everyone's benefit!

Our website: <https://chestergreencommunitygroup.yolasite.com> has a selection of photos of the interior and exterior of the Centre plus details of our regular group activities.

For prices and availability please email: [chestergreencommunitygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:chestergreencommunitygroup@hotmail.com) or call 07957 603057



## Chester Green Well Dressings 2025

This year's well dressings looked fabulous, and a huge thank you to Caroline Astell-Burt who co-ordinated everything and ran and hosted the workshops.

We met each day in my garden studio workshop where the plan was to teach each stage of the work, from making up the clay into frames, to drawing out the designs, outlining in wool and then completing the picture with flowers and natural objects.

A huge thanks to all involved including Russ, Dave, Carole, Sian, Esther, Peter, Janine, Elizabeth Daisy and Olive. I would also like to thank Marie Meehan for donating flowers.

Some of the creations are featured below!

