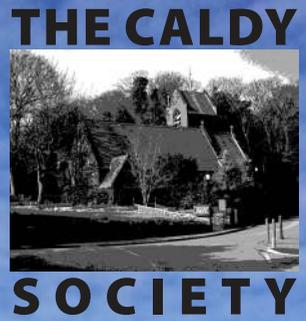


The Caldy Society Newsletter

Summer 2017



Inside:

- Are You a Newcomer?
- Broadband Speeds Update
- Car Parking Charges Result
- Summer Gardening Tips
- Do You Deserve a Blue Plaque?

Visit our website for
up to date news:
www.caldysociety.org



Follow us on FACEBOOK
Search for "CaldyVillage"



Follow us on TWITTER
@CaldyVillage

Have you recently moved into Caldý?

Let us introduce you to the Caldý Society

The Caldý Society was established in 1985 to promote the general well-being of the inhabitants and the area of the village of Caldý. The majority of the village was designated a conservation area in October 1974.

These are some of the things we are currently doing:

- Regular, high quality news magazines
- Local campaigning such as for improved Broadband
- Lobbying of important local concerns with Wirral Council
- Organising / funding popular local events such as the Christmas Tree and Carols on the Green
- Environmental protection, maintenance and planting
- Continuing to fund the outside lighting for Caldý Church
- Email updates regarding local issues and events

Joining the Caldý Society could not be easier.

Simply go to our website at www.caldysociety.org. A household subscription of just £10 a year demonstrates your support for our volunteers and funds local initiatives and events.

If you would like any more information visit our website caldysociety.org

Or to contact the Caldý Society please use any of the numbers or emails below:-

Caroline Evans (Chairman)
07816 237 532 chair@caldy.org

Donald Lamont
625 8122 treasurer@caldy.org

Eve Sorrell (Secretary)
625 0244 sec2@caldy.org

Marg Kalil (Secretary)
625 5961 sec1@caldy.org

Jacqui Walsby Tickle
625 6953 cttee1@caldy.org

Julie Kirwan
07771 733 334 cttee3@caldy.org

Colin Langford
625 4560 cttee4@caldy.org

Nick Lean (Planning)
625 1549 planning@caldy.org

David Lawrence (Website)
625 2484 drdslawrence@aol.com

Penny Hall (Minutes)
pennypeterhall@talktalk.net

The Planning Sub Committee

Nick Lean 625 1549
Roger White 625 6800
David James 625 6846
Elwyn Edwards

The Tree & Planting Sub Committee

Marg Kalil (Chairman) 625 5961
Judy Wilcox simonsfield@btinternet.com
Richard Williams 625 1445
Jacqui Walsby Tickle 625 6953
Rachel Ormrod 625 7604
John Casson 07885 716 224
Jean Taylor 625 5653

Subscriptions

Richard Lloyd
625 3172 subscriptions@caldysociety.org

Should We Have a Neighbourhood Plan?

As I write, the sun is shining and we are enjoying glorious weather. The gardens and communal areas of Caldy look at their best. This is a green and pleasant place to live.

With the protection of that in mind, the Caldy Society has been investigating the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan. To date, Devonshire Park and Hoylake are the only areas on the Wirral to have them, while Birkenhead and Leasowe both abandoned their Plans.

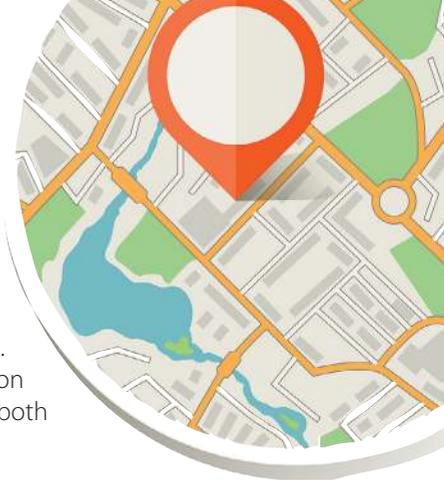
It is unclear how well these plans protect communities from unwanted or excessive development, but one consideration we need to take into account is that the developers appear to have their eyes on land in Caldy. We have already seen The Sundial sold to allow the building of apartments and there are rumours of the owners of other parcels of land in Caldy being approached by developers.

To develop a Neighbourhood Plan would be expensive and very time consuming and may not give us the powers we need to protect Caldy.

The Society would therefore like to hear the views of residents on this matter. Should we investigate further or would it be a waste of time and resources? Has anyone any information or advice which would help us? Please contact us with your views and comments.

Have a very enjoyable summer!

Caroline Evans (Chairman)



Subscribe to Our Email Updates

We provide regular email updates to members who have registered their email address with us. For those who have not, we believe you're missing out!

Our email updates provide local information including security issues, events and news regarding initiatives such as our Broadband Speeds Campaign. If you are a member who has email but isn't subscribed yet, please email subscriptions@caldysociety.org to register. Your email address is confidential and not passed to any third party.

For those without email, we apologise that we are unable to update you directly due to the cost of doing so. However, if you have any security issues or notice anything suspicious in the area please let us know so we can inform other residents. This can be done by contacting any of the officers listed on the previous page.



ADD COLOUR TO YOUR GARDEN FOR WINTER

Friday, 20 October, 7.30pm
Caldy Church Hall, Caldy Road

Whether you're a gardening novice or guru and whatever size your garden, come along to hear Carol Seery share her thoughts, ideas and tips on how to create a colourful winter garden. From easy, quick fixes to long term planting, learn from an expert.

Her talk will be followed by a mini Gardeners' Question Time giving you the chance to ask Carol's advice on any gardening issue that's bugging you!

Carol is an RHS Master of Horticulture and a Wirral resident, who has spent over 20 years teaching, talking, designing and maintaining gardens. She is hugely knowledgeable and very down to earth - a great combination.

Tickets are £5 including a glass of vino & nibbles. They will be available from late summer, so keep checking the Caldy Society website or make sure you're on our email list so you'll be first to know when and where you can buy yours.

Put Friday, 20 October in your diary now for a fun & informative evening.

Wine Tasting Evening



We are trying to plan a wine tasting evening, but the outlay is expensive. It would help if we knew likely numbers before we proceed. If you would be interested please email evesorrell@aol.com to confirm and the ticket price you would be willing to pay, given the choice of £7.50; £10 and £15.

Fish and Chips Quiz Night

November 17
Caldy Church Hall, Caldy Road

Look for ticket details by email. Not receiving emails from us? See the previous page!

Update on Broadband Speeds in Caldý

You may remember that we are actively pursuing the improvement of Broadband speeds for residents of Caldý, which in many cases, are far below the national average.

To this end we have successfully engaged Gavin Patterson, CEO of BT, who has mobilised an Openreach team to investigate the problem for us. Gavin's involvement has (not surprisingly) 'raised our profile' and given our case great impetus including a central point of contact providing weekly updates.

So what's happening?

Having concluded that problems with the infrastructure are to blame, BT/Openreach has started re-laying cable in sections starting at the village end of Croft Drive. A first run was completed in early June and is awaiting commissioning as I write. The intention is to continue laying cable in sections until the core problem is alleviated.

This is a major breakthrough as before now, BT/Openreach has frequently told residents that nothing will improve until fibre is provided to individual premises – which IS the future but not for a long time in Caldý. Simply upgrading the existing infrastructure should provide acceptable speeds throughout Caldý, including those furthest from the Fibre Cabinet (which for most of us is at the top of Melloncroft Drive).

This has been a long and difficult campaign, which now appears to be headed towards a positive conclusion. It's amazing what can be achieved though persistence, perseverance and dogged determination! If you have any queries, or wish to join the Caldý Society email list and receive detailed updates, please contact Richard Lloyd at:

subscriptions@caldysociety.org



To recap:

- 'Superfast' Broadband is available to all Caldý residents already* although speed has proved poor for many residents. The ongoing BT/Openreach upgrades should improve speeds for both 'normal' broadband users and 'superfast' users over the next few months.
- Superfast Broadband is sold as an option by your service provider (under a multitude of different names). If you don't have it and you are a heavy user of the internet (TV streaming / games etc) you should consider upgrading.
- 'Fibre to your door' (FTTP) is unlikely to be available in Caldý any time soon. The telegraph poles carrying fibre locally, which some residents have mentioned to us, are a red herring and are not for residential use, despite conflicting advice from some BT engineers.

* Superfast Broadband availability is subject to capacity restrictions within the Fibre cabinet. The last time I checked, there was no spare capacity, however, your demand will lead to a capacity increase, so do register if you want it.

Putting Up a New Fence?

It is a long standing tradition in Caldy that gardens are bounded by greenery; hedges, shrubberies and trees, with low fencing where absolutely necessary. This tradition has greatly contributed to the green, leafy appearance of the village which helps make it so attractive.

It has been drawn to our attention that recently there has been a rash of new, high fencing surrounding properties in the village. Whilst residents are entitled to erect fences of up to six feet, may we respectfully plead that they are kept to a minimum and that greenery is used wherever possible to ensure privacy and preserve the appearance of the village. The alternative is that we risk a drive through the village looking like we are going through a wooden tunnel!

Let's keep Caldy green!

Car Parking Charges

We are pleased to say that thanks to the many petitions from the public totalling over 15,000 signatures and people turning up to the Council meetings where the matter was discussed, The Council decided not to enforce the charges for on street parking. However they are still to introduce parking charges for the country parks around Wirral to £4 a day or £240 for an annual permit and eventually increase car park charges.

Melloncroft Drive Phone Mast

The planning permission for this mast was granted by the Council and has since been erected here's hoping it works and we get better broadband speed and thank you to Richard Lloyd for all his efforts with Open Reach and the broadband providers to get us better speeds.

VILLAGE WILD LIFE



Otters were seen recently in village gardens and streams and as always several foxes and hedgehogs. If you spot wildlife let us know!

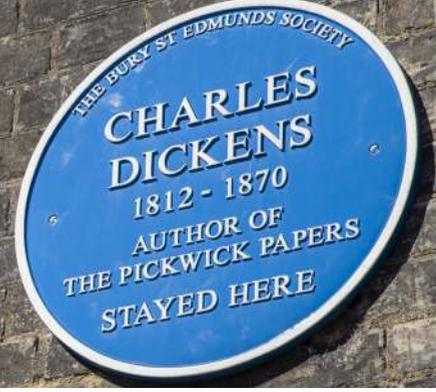
SUMMER JOBS IN THE ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

1. Use waterbutt water in dry spells so the next rain can be collected to refresh the container. Proprietary organic treatments are available if you find the water becomes in any way unpleasant.
2. Deadhead anything and everything to encourage new blooms to appear, not just roses. All sorts of herbaceous plants (eg geraniums, foxgloves, alchemilla, aubretia, dahlias) will produce another crop of flowers if encouraged by having the old ones removed.
3. Check for weeds regularly, even if you think there are none growing, you'll find a two foot tall alien in the middle of the tidiest of beds and borders. Hoe on a hot dry day.
4. Summer propagation works well on rosemary, lavender, thyme and sage. Cut off a few semi ripe shoots from an established plant and pop around the edges of a plant pot filled with gritty soil. Stand outside in a sheltered spot and water from the base.
5. Fill any gaps that have appeared in the borders as bulbs and early bloomers (eg oriental poppies) have died down. It's a good excuse to visit the garden centre to see what they are displaying that is in flower. If you dig anything in, then water well until it is used to its new position.
6. Raise the blades on the mower so the grass stays longer.. it will help to keep the lawn greener should drought conditions prevail.
7. Chop side shoots and new growth on wisteria to five or six leaves. Take any tendrils right out if you have established your framework and want to maintain the present shape.
8. Trim hedges but beware of nesting birds..it is an offence to damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird whilst it is being built or is in use.
9. If mildew appears on any foliage, cut it back and water gently, it will usually regrow.
10. Keep an eye on ponds and water features.. algae can build up in warm weather.
11. Prune deciduous magnolias if outgrowing their allotted space.
12. Dust the garden furniture and crack open the Gin & Tonic - you deserve a rest, though it may be a good idea to have an umbrella handy!

Blue Plaques

Conservation areas Wirral have asked us to propose sites for blue plaques in the village

If you know the history of your home and would be interested in a blue plaque on your home please email or telephone the Chairman Caroline Evans.



Community Gardening & Bulb Planting

The Caldly Society is very pleased with what it has achieved over the past few years. Our 'Community Sessions' have involved bulb planting and improving the entrance to the horse fields and other verges and banks around the village, all carried out by a band of volunteers.

The Society has some new initiatives that we would love to implement, but to continue this programme of improvements, we need the help of a few more residents.

Join us, and you'll meet other residents, get some gentle exercise and fresh air, and light refreshments, as well as helping make Caldly look even more attractive.

If the idea appeals, please contact:

- Judy Wilcox simonsfield@btinternet.com
- Rachel Summers 625 7604
- or Marg Kalil 625 5961



Thank You

Welcome and thank you to our new deliverers Jenny Jones, Vanessa Orrell and Jan Cunningham and to all our existing helpers without them our newsletters would never reach you. Also thanks go to Penny Hall for taking on the onerous role of Minutes Secretary.

Planning Applications

January - June 2017

To check out any applications go to www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building to search by address or ward.

The following applications have been submitted to the Council Planners

17 Croft Drive East

Remodeling of existing dwelling to include the erection of 2 storey side and rear extension

10 Croft Drive

Proposed residential development including extensions to all elevations new roof and rear balcony

6 Mereworth

Rear two-storey extension to create enlarged kitchen/dining area at ground floor and new en-suite bathroom to the first floor extension to the existing balcony at first floor level and replacement of balustrade with laminated glass.

Wyle Cop, 126 Caldly Road

Erection of additional detached dwelling and attached garage within grounds

Drayton, 46 Croft Drive East

3 New Detached Dwellings

10 Caldly Wood

Single storey extension to rear and side

Woodland Hey, 463 Telegraph Road

Reducing the massing of the front elevation from a 2 storey to a 1 storey extension with hipped roof and erecting a garage in lieu of a second extension

Rhu, 3 Links Hey Road

Single storey front side and rear extensions with roof terrace above and a 2 storey front extension internal and external modernisations

Kensington 26 Croft Drive East

Removal of existing fence and hedge and erection of a new 1.8 metre high wooden fence fronting Croft Drive East..

High Close Thorsway

Erection of a two storey rear extension to the rear of the existing Garage

Chestnut House, Kings Drive

Extension and alterations to the existing dwelling including replacement of all the existing windows

Edge, 10 Croft Drive East

Two storey front, side and rear extension, including side and rear dormer windows. Single storey rear extension and demolition of conservatory.

Membership Subscriptions

Historically, membership fees were based on a three-year cycle. The current cycle covers the period 2015 – 2018. This was not a totally satisfactory system. One of the problems with a 3-year cycle was what to do with members who paid part way through the cycle. These could either be existing members who were slow to pay at the start of the cycle or new members seeking to join. Another issue was that many people now wish to pay by electronic means rather than by cheque or in cash.

The Society has now made two changes. From 2016 new members will be charged an annual subscription of £10 per household per year from the date of registration. From 2018 all members will pay an annual subscription. Payments can now be made electronically.

On the 1st January 2016 there were 86 members who had paid in the first year of the current cycle. Thanks in part to the efforts of Richard Lloyd who has introduced electronic payment methods a further 70 former and new members have paid their subscriptions during 2016. This has both boosted the Society's funds and the representation of the

Society within Caldý. Hopefully this increase in membership will continue in 2017.

Online Membership

Remember that we now maintain membership records (and encourage subscriptions) online which makes administration far easier for us – and for you to renew. This is also how we are able to easily correspond by email. Joining is quick and easy by going to our website www.caldysociety.org and following the link to 'Join us or renew'

Here are some of the things we are currently doing:

- Regular high quality news magazines
- Lobbying of important local concerns with Wirral Council
- Organising/funding popular local events such as the Summer Picnic, the Christmas Tree and Carols on the Green
- Environmental protection, maintenance and planting
- Email updates regarding local issues and events
- Continue to fund the outside lighting for the Caldý Church

Please help us to help you by joining the Caldý Society if you haven't already. Membership costs just £10 per year.

Do you think you are a member already? You may not be!

Many residents still believe they are members of the Caldý Society but are not. This is partly because of previous manual registration confusion and partly because everyone in Caldý is currently distributed a copy of our magazine.

How can you tell?

If you or somebody else in your household has received email correspondence from us recently you are definitely a member. If you haven't received correspondence by email or letter, then you are not registered.

It's now very easy to register (or check registration) by following the links on our website: www.caldysociety.org or you can email subscriptions@caldysociety.org and we will check for you.



THE CALDY SOCIETY

Registration online is simple, secure and strongly recommended via our website:
www.caldysociety.org

However, the form below is provided for those who still wish to subscribe by cheque. If you are unsure if you are a member or not, please contact Richard Lloyd at: subscriptions@caldysociety.org

Membership Form

Name:

Address :

.....

.....

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

Please make cheques (£10 per household per year) payable to: "The Caldys Society"

I would like to 'top up' my cheque for membership renewal with a donation towards the Caldys bulb planting of £.....

Please complete and return this form with your cheque to:

The Hon Treasurer,
Dr D Lamont
10 Caldys Chase Drive
Caldys
WIRRAL
CH48 2LD