



# CARA Bulletin

20 July 2019

CARA Social events: We promised to give full members a reminder about the Christmas lunch, before we open up the remaining seats to Associate Members from 1<sup>st</sup> August.

**CARA Christmas lunch at the 5-star Gainsborough Hotel - reminder.**

**Sunday 15th December at 12 noon for 12.30pm.**

On arrival in the spacious main entrance, with its beautifully decorated large Christmas tree, we will proceed to the private Somerset Room for a pre-lunch glass of Prosecco or soft drink.

The festive lunch will be your choice from a three course menu, with three options for each course. A vegetarian option is available for each course.

During the lunch, the Gainsborough has offered to gift us two bottles of Champagne so that we can run a raffle, with the proceeds to a charity of CARA's choosing.

Your Committee believes that the event will be a special experience for only £30 per person to include the glass of Prosecco (or soft drink) on arrival, the three course lunch and service charge. We have negotiated special prices for a bottle of house wine at £23 or a glass of wine for less than £6.

The Somerset Room has a maximum capacity of 40. We have, therefore, decided that priority should be given to full Members of CARA (two people per membership) to reflect our immediate community, in order of payment received. If any spaces remain on 1st August, we will open up the lunch to Associate Members and guests.

We recognise that Christmas is a long way off, but we need to commit to the 40 spaces very soon, and feel it is appropriate to ask for the full ticket amount now for members to secure their places at this special event.

**Reservation with cheque payable to CARA, or cash, for £30 per person to Mrs Rosemarie Tunstall at 10 The Circus before 31st July, please.**

## PARTY HOUSES

Please see the letter below from the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations (FoBRA) relating to the impact of party houses. Malcolm Baldwin is CARA's representative on FoBRA.

"FoBRA welcomes the refusal of the Greenway Party House Appeal ("Party's Over at Holiday House" – Chronicle 18th July) and the consequential enforcement order to close it. FoBRA has worked tirelessly over the last two years to encourage the Council to curb the growth of Party Houses in Bath, particularly where they cause nuisance to neighbours, and to urge Avon Fire and Rescue to ensure adequate fire precautions there, as Party Houses often accommodate numbers of not always sober people - an accident waiting to happen.

We have developed and posted on our website a Nuisance Log which neighbours can use anonymously (in case a formal complaint blights the saleability of their own house), and it was used by the complainants in this case.

Our other concern is the loss of long-term housing, which the city is already short of, and the 'hollowing out' of neighbourhoods when houses are occupied only at weekends and left empty all week. By our count, there are now 71 large (7 or more bed) Party Houses in Bath, offering a total of 900 bed spaces.

Importantly, the Inspector turned down the Appeal not only because of the nuisance caused, but also on the grounds of unauthorised change of use, and of undesirable reduction in the long-term housing stock: even better than expected. This has never previously been achieved in Bath so the case sets a very important precedent. If you are affected by nuisance caused by one of these establishments, there is now hope of redress; but you will need to document the impact on you and report it to the Council if they are to take action.

FoBRA is a member of the National Organization of Residents' Associations (NORA), which has been working equally hard on this problem across England & Wales. In regular talks with senior staff at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, on this and on Short Term Letting generally, NORA has been pressing for compulsory registration and mandatory Change of Use application for Party Houses. We call on our Council and our MP to help with this for Bath."

***This letter was sent to the Editor of The Bath Chronicle last week. Not yet printed.***

CARA Committee 2019/20 www.carabath.com		Our email addresses are on our website	
Barry Gilbertson	Chairman	Bernard Horn	Secretary
Richard Brown	Vice Chairman/Traffic	Anne Love	Waste
Malcolm Baldwin	FoBRA	Mike Richardson	Treasurer
George Feiger	Traffic	Ron Temperton	City Centre Action Group