This report comes after a busy year for our association.

**Committee update**

Since our last AGM, several members have stepped down and we thank them for their contributions over the years. Claire Bouverie-Brine has been an acting member and Judith Randall-Sly has also recently joined as an acting member and we ask that these roles are proposed and accepted today. Whilst no other committee roles are due for re-election in 2013 our constitution supports a committee of up to 16 members. Do we have any additional candidates today?

**Communications**

Our website has a ‘new coat of paint’ as have our seasonal newsletters. Due to interest from the wider area we have extended distribution to Croft Road, Tismeads, Glenwood, Pleydell and Fitzroy. Should you wish to be on our email distribution list please let the registration table know.

We have continued to build on our relationship with the Old Town Group and have begun working with other residents’ associations across Swindon to share knowledge and experience.

**Our Old Town**

Sprucing things up has been a key activity with the successful Diamond Jubilee tree planting in November on the Marlborough Road/Lane embankment and the most recent Old Town Clean Up+ on April 28th.

Both events had large turnouts of all ages from school children to cubs to MPs to businesses to residents to Cllrs all having fun and contributing to a better environment for our Old Town. All made possible by the donations of time, money and expertise from those involved.

The good news is that there is still ‘money in the pot’ to seed the next endeavour in what we hope is a long term program of events in which our ethos is to continue to use local products from local businesses.

The Mela is a popular festival hosted in the Old Town Gardens and parking was well managed by the 2012 organisers. Corn Exchange development proposals have been shared with the public and a further update will take place today.

**Croft School**

We have initiated engagement with the White Horse Federation, who have the responsibility for the running of the Croft School, on matters relating to the local community.

**Swindon Borough Council**

The association has also continued its focus to ensure that residents have the opportunity to participate in consultation on matters which will affect our Old Town area. Examples include Wilmer’s Yard, Mela Parking and the Croft School completion and traffic mitigations for which Highways plans for a school operating at capacity are still outstanding.

This theme continues with assessment of the Swindon Borough Council Local Plan 2026 to which several members of the committee submitted their concerns re culture and leisure, protection of open and green public space, engagement with the public, transport and the highways strategy for the proposed > 20,000 additional homes. We continue to review local planning applications.

**Open and Green PublicSpace**

We continue to work to ensure that the remainder of the Croft Park as well as the Hesketh Crescent Play Park remain for public use. A detailed plan for the Play Park upgrade is due later this financial year.

**Membership and Subscriptions**

Membership numbers have increased. We are grateful to have received an administrative grant from SBC, However £5 residents’ subscriptions are key to our operations and communications and these can be made at the registration table.

**Want to get involved?**

Our committee meetings are open and held on the 2nd Monday of the month from 7.30-9.30pm at the Croft Centre. Feel free to come along. For further information please visit us at **www.pipersarea.co.uk** and/or contact our committee members.

Colin Doubleday, Chair , Pipers Residents’ Association