



f o r u m

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 49 June 2011

www.wp-ra.org.uk

Chairwoman's piece

Firstly, a thank you to Allan Stobie for chairing the Residents' Association for the last 12 months and for the great work of all the committee. Back as Chairwoman, I sense a busy year ahead!

Following a good turn-out at the AGM in late March, a number of items are being followed up: a request for more rubbish bins along Rowcliffe Avenue to help alleviate litter issues, liaising with the land agents to bring the garages behind the shops into a decent state of repair or knock them down altogether, more bulb planting on the grassed areas to bring more colour and life to the suburb, and working with the PCSO to monitor speeding traffic down Rowcliffe Avenue. For more information, the full minutes from the AGM can be found on our website. If there is anything you would like us to be doing in the area, please do get in touch with myself, or any committee member, with your feedback and suggestions.

In April we held our first Musical Evening, which was a huge success. The Chester Operatic Society was the entertainment for the evening singing a multitude of popular songs from the musicals. Equally as

popular was the delicious buffet supper during the interval, and of course no night would be complete without the raffle. At the end of the evening, Allan presented David Dodds with a Tesco gift voucher to show the residents' recognition for his 10 years of service as our local postman in Westminster Park. We wish David a happy retirement.

The highlight of May was the trip to the BBC Studios in Manchester. A small group of 15 people were treated to a backstage guided tour of the radio and TV studios. Not sure what to expect, I think it's safe to say we were all pleasantly surprised by the informal approach to the tour and learning all about the radio drama productions, taking part in our own radio show and weather report, and getting to sit in Gordon Burn's chair in the Northwest Tonight TV studio! This was one of the final tours of the Oxford Road studios, as the BBC are moving to their new offices at Media City in Salford Quays.

In other news, we are refreshing our online presence with an updated web site. This will continue to serve as an information hub for WP-RA and a great source of local news and events in Westminster Park, but now also showcases photographs of our area, and will become increasingly interactive in the future. For those who

are already established online you might prefer to check out our updated Facebook page or Twitter account, both of which can be accessed from our website homepage www.wp-ra.org.uk

Julie Sams

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

I have been visited by two representatives of the Cheshire Police who discussed the cuts in funding that the Police are having to work with. They explained that, when the cuts start to affect them, one of the easiest ways to save money would be to seriously cut back the number of PCSOs employed by the force. Westminster Park is one of the safest and crime free areas in Chester and that, to a degree, is due to the work carried out by our PCSO - he also covers Curzon Park and Hough Green.

The Police are looking at ways to overcome this problem and they are looking at ways to raise the funds to cover one third of his salary. They have approached the Co-op with a view to them funding either all or part of the money required and they have also asked the local residents associations whether they could contribute to the 'pot'.

This was discussed at the WPRA Annual General Meeting and a resolution was passed that we would raise the annual subscription by £1.00 to cover our

Dates for your 2011 diary

18 June: St Mary's Handbridge Garden Party
2 July: WPRA Promotion Day
6 July: Sally Melvin, Community Centre
10 July: Gardening Club visit to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens
8 October: Quiz. Community Centre

Advertise your local business or service on the Notice Board and/or in the Newsletter. It only costs £5. Delivered to 1200 households in the Westminster Park area. The next edition of the **forum** will be September 2011 so send your copy to the Editor by mid August.

Westminster Park Gardening Club Visit to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens, Shropshire Sunday, 10 July 2011

- ▶ The coach leaves at 11 am from the shops on Westminster Park, returning at approx. 6 pm.
- ▶ Cost: £12 per person to include travel and entrance to the gardens.
- ▶ Café open for lunch and refreshments. Picnicking is not allowed in the gardens.
- ▶ To reserve your places please call or email Mary: 674439, marypole@zcl-uk.net ... and hurry as places are going fast!

f o r u m n e w s l e t t e r

contribution (from £2 to £3). It was felt that this was a small amount of money to ensure that the standard of Policing in our area is maintained.

At present only about one-third of the local residents pay our subscription and I am appealing to you all to let us know your thoughts on our proposal, also, how we can get non-members to contribute and what you think of the idea as a means of maintaining Police cover. You can contact me on my e-mail allan.stobie@btinternet.com

Allan Stobie

St Mary's Handbridge Parish Church Garden Party Saturday 18 June

St Mary's annual Church Garden Party will be on Saturday 18 June.

This year it will feature the Overleigh School Dancers and the Panama Jazz Band will play throughout the afternoon. Entry is absolutely free and there will be lots of fun for all the family with a bouncy castle, coconut shy, children's tabletop games and lots of other stalls, plus teas in the church hall.

The Garden Party starts at 2 pm in the grounds of St Mary's Church in Overleigh Road, Handbridge – everyone welcome.

Summer Services

A warm and friendly welcome awaits you at St Mary's Without-the-Walls Handbridge. There is the full range of services on Sunday and there are also weekday services of Holy Communion every Wednesday (7.45 am) and Thursday (10 am).

Our Children's Sunday Club and the Youth Group meet at 10 am every Sunday. There is also a popular Mums and Toddlers Group which meets in the Church Hall every Thursday morning in school term time.

Sunday Services

8 am Holy Communion

10 am Parish Communion

11.30 Holy Communion (Traditional)

(1st 3rd and 5th Sundays)

12.15 Baptism Services

(2nd & 4th Sundays of the month)

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

For more information contact the Parish Office,
Tel. 671202
or the Rector Revd Paul Dawson,
Tel. 675199.

Gardening Club

Thank you to all who joined us for the talk on garden design by Jenny Hendy on 30 March.

Over forty Westminster Park residents enjoyed a fascinating illustrated presentation by Jenny, which showed the potential for creating an interesting garden even within the smallest of spaces.

The talk and discussion ranged over key aspects of garden design:

- Site constraints – clay soil, sunny and shaded areas, trees etc.
- What do you want from a garden – restful areas, areas for children to play, areas to grow fruit and vegetables, etc.
- The style you want – formal, informal, etc.

The evening ended with a very successful plant swap. Again, a big thank you to all who brought and, equally important, took plants away at the end of the evening!

Our next event is a trip to Wollerton Old Hall Gardens near Market Drayton on Sunday, 10 July. This is an important modern garden in the English Garden tradition with echoes of Arts and Crafts. It covers 4 acres and is intensely cultivated.

A coach will leave the Westminster Park shops at 11 am and return around 6 pm. The cost is £12 per person, which includes travel and entrance to the gardens.

Please join us on what promises to be a delightful and inspiring trip. To book your place call or email Mary Pole: 674439, marypole@zcl-uk.net - and don't delay as places are filling fast.

Mike Pollard

Invitation from Sally Melvin Wednesday, 6 July 2.30 – 5 pm

Sally Melvin would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes on her retirement from Belgrave Primary School.

She would be delighted if former pupils and parents could join her to share memories on Wednesday, 6 July, in the Community Centre between 2.30 pm and 5 pm.

Richard Short

A familiar and well-known name will be missing from the political scene around Westminster Park. Richard Short is not continuing as our Councillor after thirty years of representing our interests.

It was in 1980 that Richard was first elected to Chester City Council for Westminster Ward, which included Westminster Park and about two thirds of Lache. With the support of his late wife, Margaret, he soon became well known for his work in the area. Richard did not want to be just part of the background and within two years was Chairman of the Housing Committee, one of the most contentious and political parts of the Council. By 1990 he was leader of the Council, losing that position after the introduction of the poll tax. He soon recovered and played a major role in the Council with the acceptance of the two opposition groups, as there was no political party with overall control.

In 1995 Richard became Lord Mayor. This gave him great satisfaction because of the close contact with all the people and volunteers who make the City work. He has many great memories of that time. At the end of his Mayoral year Richard was defeated in the local elections, regaining the seat two years later.

Richard has always been willing to help and support the residents in our area. If there was a problem be it with blocked road drains, pot holes in the road, verges not being cut, trees needing to be replaced, hedge cutting, planning applications and, when required, helping residents with their individual problems.

On the first Saturday of every month he has been available outside the Westminster Park shops to chat to and listen to the concerns of local residents. Nothing has been too much trouble for him.

Richard was one of the founder members of our residents association and the first Chairman and he still remains on the Committee. One thing he has not been successful in achieving (so far that is) is removing the ripples in the recently resurfaced Lache Lane! However, he is still trying to get this rectified.

Richard will be sorely missed.

Glan Aber Tennis Club

Summer camps will again be run during July and August 2011. There are two four-day sessions for 8-16 year olds: 25-28 July and 30 August-2 September. The courses run from 10 am to 4 pm daily and the cost is £70 per child for either course. There is also a three-day course for 5-7 year olds from 16-18 August, which will run from 10 am to 1 pm and costs £50 per child.



Our aim is to provide top quality coaching for all abilities, excellent competition and, of course, plenty of fun. If you are interested, please contact Claire Ayton on 01352 780794 for an application form or more information. Closing date is 16 July 2011.

Web hosting

If you are affiliated with any organisations in Westminster Park and are interested in link or content sharing via the web please get in contact with us.

We will host content for anyone wishing to reach out into our community, either as part of a local organisation, or a personal blog on a topic of interest, e.g. gardening or widget-building!

Visit www.wp-ra.org.uk/contact to make your requests. The contact form is available 24/7 on our site and you will receive a response within two days from a committee member.

Julie Sams

Friends of Westminster Park

The vandals have been at work! The new bird table placed in the old tree nursery was broken away from its support and was eventually found dumped elsewhere in the park. Many thanks to Andy James for repairing it and then refixing it. If you are in the park please put some food out on the table for the birds.

The cricket season is now underway. If you fancy a stroll out on a Wednesday evening, the Westminster Park Cricket Club are playing their home matches on the square, why not stop, relax and watch a few overs.

The cafe is no longer under the control of CADSART. It has been revamped



and, hopefully, will have an extended range of snacks and drinks (and not keep running out of milk).

The Play Day is scheduled to take place on Monday, 1 August. Last year the day was a great success with approximately 1500 people attending – let's beat that this year and, also, pray that the weather will be hot and sunny again.

Allan Stobie

Local history

Chester History and Heritage at St Michaels in Bridge St is keen to put on an exhibition this summer featuring our area: Westminster Park, Lache Park, Lache Lane, Lache and the Buddicom. While we have quite a few documents and images of Lache Park, we are lacking elsewhere. Please can residents look out items of potential interest; such as early photos, house adverts, photos of community activities, maps, etc, which could be lent to CHH for the exhibition. If you can help please contact Linda Shuttleworth, Lache and Westminster Local History Group, tel. 679791, email shuttleworths@talktalk.net

Home Watch

Some parts of Westminster Park are covered by Home Watch schemes whilst others are not and some of the schemes are more active than others. A meeting of Home Watch coordinators was held at the end of March, with a Police representative, to exchange views, raise the profile of HW in the area and obtain Police support where appropriate.

It was agreed that we would work together as a group and circulate our contact details. One person attended who plans to set up a new group in her road and, after identifying the areas not covered by schemes, we agreed to encourage residents in these areas to set up their own schemes.

The Police email a weekly report containing details of criminal activity in the area and offering advice on how to combat crime. Although crime is low at present that is no reason to be complacent. HW coordinators receive the reports and can forward them on to their groups.

It was felt that we should obtain more HW stickers for residents to display in their windows, etc. The Police have now provided some and these can be obtained from your HW coordinator or from Brian Westcott.

We also discussed the use of Smartwater kits that enable people to treat all types of property from jewellery to TVs with a unique mark only visible to ultra violet light. This gives you a better chance of identifying stolen property recovered by the Police. We are able to buy these kits for £18 including VAT and will buy a batch if there is interest in doing so. Please let me know if you are interested.

Brian Westcott

Police contact details

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

Voice mail: 0845 458 6375

Email:

chester.outer.npt@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

CRIME/INCIDENT REPORTING

Non-emergency: 0845 458 0000

Emergency only: 999

WPRA Annual Quiz Saturday, 8 October 2011

It's a while off yet but put the date in your diary!

The information section Westminster Park Forum Committee

Chairwoman: Julie Sams

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Leah Dollimore	683100
Sue Eva	676697
Sandra Magilton	677373
Lesley Morris	679793
Mark Sams	680378
Richard Short	678559
Allan Stobie	683461
Brian Westcott	675431

Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

Please let the Editor know if any of the details are incorrect or if you have a club or organisation that you would like listed.

Belgrave Badminton Club: Keith, 671077

Belgrave Pre-School: Carol Welch, 671243

Bowls: Martin Fraser, 07966 334293

Bridge Club: John Arrowsmith, 682588

Croquet: Janet Davies, 350370

Friends of Westminster Park: Allan Stobie,
683461

Healthy Walking Group: Mike Lloyd, 680328

Junior Football: Tracy Sheedy, 680544

Lache and Westminster Local History

Group: Linda Shuttleworth, 679791

Mini Soccer (5-10 years): Tracy Sheedy,
680544

National Women's Register:

Betty McLoughlin, 677680

Shotokan Karate Club: Dave Craggs,

07711 009041

St Mary's Church Parish Office 671202

Revd Paul Dawson 675199

Tennis-Glan Aber Tennis Club:

Sue Britton, 677936

Westminster Park Community Assoc:

Gill Williams, 671243

Youth Club: Linda Eite, Chester 679559

SCOUTING:

Group Scout Leader: Sue Jones, 675538

Beavers (Wednesday): Jane Shorthall, 682136

Cubs (Monday): George Coward, 679259

Cubs (Thursday): Christine Owens, 676691

Scouts (Friday): Terry Coe, 676734

Explorer Scouts (Tuesday): Simon Ashton,
0151 339 4759

Network: Kath Kitchen, 379031

GUIDING:

Rainbows (Monday): Pat McGettigan, 677134

Brownies (Tuesday): Jan Hooper, 674701

Guides: Contact the District Commissioner:

Sue Fryer, 679945

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