



f o r u m

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 50 September 2011

www.wp-ra.org.uk

Chairwoman's piece

Thank you to those of you who dropped by to meet us at our Promotion Day in July outside the Westminster Park shops.

It was a successful day with lots of feedback and ideas from residents, all of which we are following up – from road markings needing re-painting to removal of dead trees, and from the suggestion to improve security in the area to a request for disabled parking bays outside the shops. We will keep you posted on progress. Congratulations go to Susie Woods who was the winner of our Guess the Name of the Teddy Bear Competition on the day. Bertie the Bear has now gone to his new home.

Our annual **Quiz Night** will be here again before you know it. A guaranteed night of fun with a fantastic supper spread included. Tickets cost £6 and can be purchased from any committee member. Tickets usually sell out, so make sure you get yours early to avoid disappointment, and put the date, Saturday, 8 October, in your diary.

And finally, many thanks to those of you who are using our Website and

Facebook page to get in touch. Please do keep the comments and feedback coming in – remember we are *your* Residents' Association.

Julie Sams

Only a small cul-de-sac but residents who collectively show great pride in the appearance of their community. Excellent.

David Pilling

Garden Competition Best Front Garden Best Container Display 2011

The judges enjoyed a rare beautiful summer morning viewing the twenty properties that had been short listed in this year's Garden Competition.

Our route took us from St Bridget's Court, Vincent Drive, Norwood Drive, Rushfield Road, Claypit Road, Cowhey Close, Cottage Road, Castlecroft Road, Lowerfield Road, Meadowfield Road, Rowcliffe Avenue, Radnor Drive, Lache Lane, Whaddon Drive and finally Smithy Pathway.

The winner of the Best Front Garden - Jenny Parkes, 8 Radnor Drive.
Commended - Jackie Stringer, 6 Smithy Pathway
Commended - Chris Castell, 11 Whaddon Drive

The winner of Best Container Display - David Brown, 33 Rowcliffe Avenue.

Smithy Pathway, yet again, impressed!

Free - freshly pressed apple juice

On Saturday, 8 October, Transition Chester will be running an Apple Pressing session between 10 am and 2 pm at the Westminster Park shops with their recently acquired apple crusher and 12 litre apple press.

All you have to do to get your free apple juice is to bring along your washed surplus apples together with containers. The juice will keep in the fridge for three days or it can be frozen.

WP Residents' Association Annual Subscriptions

If you haven't already done so for this year, please take the opportunity to join our residents' association - it costs just £2 per household.

Please forward subscriptions to me at 17 Vincent Drive (cheques to be made payable to Westminster Park Residents Association).

Nick Ryan, Treasurer

Dates for your 2011 diary

14 September: Police Surgery,
10.30-11.30 am, Café in the Park
28 September: Gardening Club, 7.45 pm,
Community Centre
8 October: Apple pressing at the Shops from 10 am
8 October: Quiz. 7.30 pm, Community Centre
12 October: Police Surgery,
10.30-11.30 am, Café in the Park
23 November: Police Surgery,
10.30-11.30 am, Café in the Park

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 December 2011 so send your copy to the Editor by mid November

Westminster Park Residents Association

Quiz Night

**Saturday, 8 October
WP Community Centre**

**Tickets cost £6 and include an excellent supper
Bar opens at 7.30 pm and the quiz starts at 8 pm
Tickets from committee members**

St Mary's Handbridge

In August, two of the Assistant Clergy at St Mary's, Handbridge, Revd Robin Mosley and Revd Richard Burton have "moved on" to pastures new.

On 19 September, after just over two years as assistant Curate at St Mary's, Robin Mosley will be licensed as Vicar at St Oswald's, Brereton, near Sandbach. Robin says that his two years at St Mary's have been packed with happy memories of different aspects of ministry, from worship to baptism, from weddings to funerals, and a wide range of pastoral work, including visiting the Luncheon Club (not only for the sausages!), as well as reading stories to the Baby and Toddler Group.

Whilst continuing in his role as Parish Mission Development Officer for the Diocese of Chester, Richard Burton is leaving Handbridge, as he and his wife, Sarah, are moving to Whittington, near Oswestry, where she is to become the Rector.

On 2 October St Mary's will celebrate Harvest Festival. This year we will be thinking of the lives and risks of seafarers, a group of people (and their families) upon whom our island nation relies upon but often forgets. During the service we will be thinking about the things we use everyday which rely on ships and seafarers, not least of course much of our food. We will also be remembering some of the dangers seafarers face: storms, piracy, poor maintenance and loneliness. It is possible that the service may be interrupted by unforeseen perils of a nautical nature! Some people may get wet!

We hope to see you soon at St Mary's.

Stuart Bull

Police Surgeries



Police Surgeries are to be held between 10.30-11.30 am at the Golf Club House / Cafe, Westminster Park (Opposite Hough Green entrance) on the following dates:

27 August, 14 September, 12 October, 23 November, 10 December and 9 January.

Police Surgeries are your chance to discuss any issues or concerns affecting your local community with PCSO Fox.

Christopher Fox

Gardening Club

Our thanks go to Mary Pole for organizing our mid summer trip to Wollerton Old Hall, just south of Whitchurch.

In 20 years the owners, Lesley and John Jenkins, have transformed this 4-acre plot into a masterpiece of garden design. The grounds are divided into a succession of separate themed gardens with clever plantings of roses, delphiniums, hollyhocks, phlox and salvias. A garden that is both delightful and inspiring.

Despite a brief heavy shower, to remind us all that it was the English summer, it was a great visit with our coach packed with both plants and passengers for our return journey.

Our next Gardening Club meeting is on Wednesday, 28 September, at the Community Centre. Our speaker is Karen Atkinson and her topic is 'Permaculture and your garden'.

By observing the natural world we can see a set of principles at work. Permaculture design uses these principles to develop integrated systems that provide for our needs of food, shelter, energy and community in ways that are healthy and efficient. We can use these design methods to improve the quality and productivity of our individual lives, our society and our environment.

Karen left a career as a law lecturer in 2009 in order to pursue a new career as an organic gardener, gardening tutor and permaculturist. She has recently started studying for her Permaculture Diploma and will be sharing a presentation of permaculture ethics and design principles, as well as showcasing some of the amazing and beautiful projects that such approaches can produce, and considering how it can be applied in the garden setting.

This is sure to be an enjoyable and informative evening and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Mike Pollard

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

Catholic Church Saint Clare of Assisi

Downsfield Road, Chester, CH4 8HH.

Parish Priest Fr. Martin Onuoha.

Mobile: 07748 229598.

Tel. 01244 671015. Parish email:

st.clareschester@btconnect.com

Parish Website:

www.st.clareschester.co.uk

Mass Times:

Saturday 6.00 pm. Confessions 5.00-5.45 pm.

Sunday 9.30 am.

Tuesday 7.00 pm

Wednesday 9.30 am.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Contact Fr. Martin on his Mobile.

Tea / Coffee after each Sunday Mass.

Police Community Support Officer

The item included in our last Newsletter regarding increased subscriptions caused concern to a few local residents.

I can now report that the police have dropped the idea of local resident groups and business people paying a third of the PCSO's salary because the Police Authority have stated that they are safe for, at least, the next two years. The WPRA subscription will therefore remain at £2.00 per annum per household.

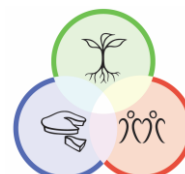
It might be of interest to know that Saughall and Great Boughton have been contributing to the salary of their PCSO's for the last few years.

Allan Stobie

Gardening Club

Wednesday, 28 September
7.45 pm at the Community Centre

Karen Atkinson will be talking
about
Permaculture and your garden



Parkies privileged

Westminster Park Cricket Club (Parkies) were privileged to play a 20 overs friendly at Eaton Hall. The ground is in a magnificent setting: the Hall, visible beyond mature trees, the estate railway track skirting the boundary rope and the pavilion which was built in the 1890's, positioned perfectly to take in the whole scene.



Having lost the toss, the Parkies took to the field; there was plenty of evidence in the outfield of the herd of deer (first encountered on entry), but the pitch was beautiful and the home side took advantage of their familiarity by posting 128 for 3 with 2 retired not out. Park scored 129 for 2 with 2 balls to spare and 2 retired not out.

The hosts were generous with their congratulations and with the tea they provided. It was well past dark when the last of the Parkies said their goodbyes and we are looking forward to our return next year.

A big "Thank you" to Martin Wells and the Eaton Hall team for their invitation and hospitality, it was very much appreciated.

Craig Edwards

Grand opening of new pavilion in Westminster Park

Chester Croquet Club and members of the bowls clubs enjoyed a gala opening of the new croquet and bowls pavilion in Westminster Park on Saturday, 9 July.

Guests at the opening included the Lord Mayor of Chester, Councillor Eleanor Johnson, and her Consort, Derek Johnson, and the Chairman of the Croquet Association, Barry Keen, who performed the opening ceremony. Also present were the MP for Chester, Stephen Mosley, and Councillors for the local wards, Razia Daniels and Neil Sullivan for Handbridge Park, and Alex Tate for Lache.

The former Councillor for the old ward of Westminster Park, Richard Short, was unable to be present as he was away on holiday, but his interest in Westminster Park and support for the new pavilion over many years has been greatly appreciated. Among other guests were David Barrett, the Chairman of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs, and Allan Stobie and Norman Trott representing the Friends of Westminster Park. Members of Chester Croquet Club were also delighted to welcome Margaret Povey who was one of the founder members of Chester Croquet Club when it was formed in 1977.

Barry Keen formally opened the pavilion by cutting a multi-coloured tape representing the four primary colours of the game of croquet: blue, red, black and yellow. After cutting the tape, he then presented the Chairman of Chester Croquet Club, David Guyton, with the Apps Heley Award cup, which is granted by the Croquet Association every other year to the club that has achieved the greatest progress.

After the opening, members and guests enjoyed a glass of champagne and tea and cakes, and many took advantage of a fine summer afternoon to have a game of croquet on the lawns that were looking lush and green after rain during the previous week.

Friends of Westminster Park

The Council cancelled the Play Day due to the fact that the Open Spaces staff have been decimated and they were not certain whether enough people would be available to run it. I cannot comment because this Newsletter is read by children - needless to say, the Friends were very annoyed.

As reported in the last Newsletter, the Council is now running the café and they are purchasing a pizza oven, coffee machine and jacket potato oven in an effort to provide a more acceptable menu. Few people use the café during the winter so the new equipment might not be in use until next Easter. The café will have to, at least, break even so please use it to purchase tea, coffee, ice cream, sweets, cold drinks, etc.

After many years of confusion, the Council's legal department is looking at the four existing by-laws regarding where dogs can be and cannot be on/off leads. When a single law is approved it will be displayed on the notice boards and a special dog-walking day will be arranged. Please do not worry because nothing is going to change - it is purely an exercise in making the law enforceable.

The toilet block is 'number two' on the list of toilets to be refurbished by the Council. If you have used it you will appreciate that it is long overdue ... but the question is when?



The National Playing Fields Association has awarded the Park its second Green Flag, now flying from the Hough Green entrance flagpole. Our park is the only one in Chester that has such an award.

Allan Stobie

The information section

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Chairwoman: Julie Sams

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Committee members

Olwen Bellis	678719
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

Cricket: Craig Edwards,

craigandkatrina@btinternet.com

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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or

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www.cfccheshire.co.uk

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