



f o r u m

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 51 December 2011

www.wp-ra.org.uk

Chairwoman's piece

Thank you to all those who came along to our annual Quiz Night in October. It was another enjoyable evening of brain racking helped along by a delicious supper spread. I am sure there will be another one next year, but in the meantime if you have any ideas for events you would like us to consider hosting, please do get in touch and let us know.

One resident did just that at our Promotion Day. They suggested an Over 60's Club where like-minded people could get together to chat and meet new people. Consequently, we will host our first meeting in January 2012 at the Community Centre. If it is well received and attended then we will look to make it a regular monthly event. Please read Allan and Sandra's article for further details.

We are still following up with the Council to get the road markings between Claypit Road and Rushfield Road repainted after it was dug up. They have been promising to do it since August now.

Brian and Allan recently attended a meeting about the new waste

collection scheme that is due to be introduced next year. You can read their report in this Newsletter or on our website.

For those active ones amongst us, you will be pleased to know that the new outdoor gym has officially opened in the park. This excellent facility is the latest addition to an already very well equipped park. If you're heading out to enjoy the fresh air though, just remember that now the dark nights have set in that the park closes at 4 pm ... don't get locked in!

Many thanks again to those of you who are continuing to use our Website and Facebook page to get in touch. Please do keep the comments and feedback coming in, we love hearing from you.

Finally, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Julie Sams

Belgrave School

Can you help our local school? They collect the school vouchers given by the supermarkets and also the box top tokens that appear on Nestle cereal products. Should you have difficulty getting these to the school, when you have a quantity, give me a call and I will collect them from you.

David Pilling, 680880

WPRA Over 60's Club Over 60?

Come and join us

The Westminster Park Residents' Association invites all over 60-year-olds to come along to the Community Centre on Thursday, 12 January 2012, at 2 pm for a chat and a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

We plan to start an Over 60's Club, initially meeting monthly, with speakers, fun and games, etc., and if enough people are interested, visits to gardens and theatres. This will be our first meeting and so the programme is up to you - please tell us what you would like.

We are doing this in response to requests, from various residents, made to the WPRA. So please come along on 12 January and tell us what you would like on the programme.

If you cannot make it on that day please give one of us a call and let us know your ideas. Our telephone numbers are below and also on the back page of this Newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Allan Stobie (683461) and
Sandra Magilton (677373)*

Dates for your 2012 diary

- 12 January, 2 pm. Over 60's Club, Community Centre.
- 7 February, 7 pm, Police Community Meeting
- 3 March, 8 pm. Musical Evening, Community Centre.
- 28 March, 7.45 pm. Gardening Club, 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 March 2012 so send your copy to the Editor by mid February.

Westminster Park Residents Association Musical Evening with Chester Operatic Society Saturday, 3 March 2012, at 8 pm

By popular demand after their performance last April, the Society is returning. Join us at the Community Centre for another evening of delightful musical entertainment and a delicious supper.

Tickets available at £10 from Brian Westcott (675431) or other committee members.

Bus stop improvements

As you know, the Westminster Park Residents' Association works to help the residents and improve the area generally. One matter which was brought to our attention earlier this year was the overgrown hedges and undergrowth by the bus stops along Wrexham Road – one on the same side as the Nuffield Hospital entrance and one on the opposite side of the road.

The overhanging bushes obliterated the sight of oncoming traffic, unless people stood right on the edge of the pavement. (The worst one being on the same side of the road as the Hospital going towards Wrexham where the pavement is very narrow at the best of times).



Anyone who has stood on the edge of the pavement at rush hour will appreciate how dangerous it is because of the very high volume of traffic especially at rush hour times – the lorries being the worst.

The bus stop along Hough Green at the end of Cavendish Road was also particularly dangerous, again caused by overhanging bushes and the undergrowth which covered over two thirds of the pavement. This particular pavement is used by hundreds of school children who often stepped out into the road if anyone was waiting at the bus stop!

The WP Residents' Association was asked if anything could be done about the situation and therefore a letter asking for the hedges to be cut back was written to our local councillors in June. Unfortunately nothing was done immediately, but our request was followed up again and we are pleased to report that the bushes have been cut back along Wrexham Road and Hough Green and also the pavements have been cleared of undergrowth making the areas safer and tidier.

Olwen Bellis

Bins – all change again

Allan Stobie and I recently represented Westminster Park at a meeting convened to discuss the Council's proposed new waste collection system. It was arranged by our local councillors and included representatives from Queens Park, Handbridge, Hough Green and Curzon Park.

Cllr Lynn Riley, responsible for the Environment portfolio, started the meeting by explaining that the new Council had inherited three different systems from the District councils and that it had always been recognised that these would have to be rationalised.

It was explained that the Council has tendered and is on the point of appointing May Gurney to provide a waste collection service throughout CWaC from April. The aim is to harmonise the three systems, minimise cost, increase the amount of recycling from the current 49% up to 68% and provide a satisfactory service to residents.

The contract will be for 14 years and is expected to cost £126M, saving £50M on current costs over the life of the contract. The cost saving is partly due to the contractor's expectation of earning significant income from recycled products.

Many more items will be recycled. As well as those collected now, we will be able to recycle tetrapaks, printer cartridges, shoes, engine and cooking oil, and a range of other things. Sorting will take place at the kerbside rather than at the Bumpers Lane and other recycling plants - these will be sold off.

Our brown bins for non-recyclable rubbish will be replaced by slightly larger grey bins and will be collected fortnightly. Everything else will be collected weekly. The containers will be green bin for garden rubbish (unchanged), two boxes with lids for paper, tins, glass and other items (see above), and a small bin for food waste.

There was considerable discussion of the pros and cons of this system compared to the one currently operating in Chester with people particularly worried about lifting the boxes. It was said that the box system already operates satisfactorily in Vale Royal and Ellesmere Port on a fortnightly basis and

boxes should be lighter given the proposed weekly collection. The Council is considering providing wheels to those who wish to purchase them and pointed out that an assisted collection service is available.

Apart from Christmas and New Year, the contractor will work on Bank Holidays so that there should be fewer interruptions to the service. The contract will commence in April 2012 but will not be implemented in Chester until the autumn.

The Council says it is keen to communicate the proposals to residents and hear their views. The WPRA will do its best to ensure that you are kept informed.

Brian Westcott

Subscriptions

As you can see from the enclosed payment slip, it is that time of year when we ask for your subscription. The payment covers the calendar year 2012. On behalf of the committee please take the opportunity to join by sending the form and the £2.00 subscription to any committee member or myself.

You will note on the payment slip that there is a space for your email address. This is optional; it is so we can advise you directly of items of interest that are happening within our community. You will not be 'bombarded' with emails nor will your address be released to any third party.

Nick Ryan, Treasurer

WPRA

Gardening Club

**Our next meeting is on
28 March 2012, 7.45 pm
at the Community Centre.**

**An illustrated talk by
Paul and Sylvia Makin
on the design and
development of their garden
in Cavendish Road.**

**Plant Swap: Please bring your
spare plants and seeds to swap.**

Belgrave Pre-school

Westminster Park's local pre-school, Belgrave Pre-school, has been established for over thirty years and is situated next door to Belgrave Primary School. It enjoys a close relationship with this popular school but is not linked and entry to the school is not automatic if a child joins the Pre-school.

Belgrave Pre-school is a registered charity, and it is managed by a Committee of parents who work closely with staff to shape and develop the pre-school.



Sessional care for children aged between 2 and 5 years, from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 12 pm is offered. The cost of a 3-hour session is £8.20 and this includes a snack.

The staff and volunteers (all of whom have been CRB checked) are committed to safeguarding every child and a safe and stimulating environment is provided in which children can develop and learn. Each child is actively encouraged to 'learn through play' - enabling them to thrive and have confidence in future learning situations. Resources and activities are linked to the Early Years Foundation Stage while providing for individual needs, abilities and preferences.

Activities are planned for children to work towards the Key Stage 1 Programme of the National Curriculum. These activities include: sand and water, painting, Playdough, puzzles and games, stories and songs and construction. An outdoor play area is also available.

The Pre-school is regulated by Ofsted and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance (the umbrella organisation for pre-schools and nurseries). It is also in partnership with Sure Start, which provides government funding for children aged 3 and 4 years.

Outdoor gym officially unveiled in the Park

An outdoor gym, two running circuits and picnic benches have been officially unveiled at Westminster Park. The £53,000

Fields in Trust project was funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council and WREN.

WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by Waste Recycling Group, (WRG) as part of a voluntary environmental tax credit scheme called the Landfill Communities Fund. Fields in Trust is the only national charity whose core mission is to protect and safeguard outdoor recreational space for future generations to enjoy.

The outdoor gym project links to their legacy programme, the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, led by the Duke of Cambridge, which aims to protect 2,012 outdoor playing fields and parks by the end of 2012.

Councillor Stuart Parker, Executive Member for Culture and Recreation said: "Residents and park users chose their preferred outdoor gym equipment earlier this year. The finished project has proved enormously popular with everyone and the Council has received many positive comments."

Richard Smith, Grant Manager at WREN added "Westminster Park is an excellent resource for the local community and a number of improvements to the play area and multi-use games area have been funded by WREN in recent years. The outdoor gym is in a great location and really compliments the existing facilities; it also provides something for all ages to enjoy and is proving to be extremely popular."

Alison Moore-Gwyn, Chief Executive of Fields in Trust, said: "Outdoor gyms are a great way for everyone to be able to participate in exercise and reap the rewards of improved physical and mental health so we're delighted to be installing this facility in Chester on a Queen Elizabeth II Field."

Local Councillor Neil Sullivan said: "All the improvements to Westminster Park are enjoyed by local people and visitors and the scheme has proved to be extremely popular."

Christmas services

St Mark's, Saltney

You are warmly invited to our lively Anglican Church over this Christmas time. Sunday 18 Dec, 10.45 am. All

Age Nativity Service.

6.30 pm. Carol Service by Candlelight, followed by festive refreshments.

Saturday 24 Dec, 4 pm. Crib Service 'On The Way to Bethlehem'. Suitable for younger children. Followed by refreshments. 11.15 pm. Midnight Holy Communion.

Sunday 25 Dec, 10.30 am Christmas Day All Age Service with Holy Communion.

For more information about what's on at St. Mark's and our Lighthouse Church at Oddfellows Hall, please call the office on 01244 675372, email stmarkchcentre2@aol.com or visit our website www.stmarkssaltney.org.uk

Revd Hennie Johnston looks forward, in the New Year, to bringing readers up to speed on all that's going on at St Mark's and the Lighthouse.

St Mary's Without-the-Walls, Handbridge

In addition to the usual Christmas Services, on 4 December there will be an Advent Service in the Scout Hut in Westminster Park, and on 11 December St Mary's will hold a Christingle and St Lucia Service.

The St Lucia Service is Scandinavian in origin, and will be a service of carols and candlelight, and anticipates the coming of the Christ Light. Do please join us for this special occasion.

Sunday 4 Dec, 6 pm. Advent Service, Scout Hut, Westminster Park

Sunday 11 Dec, 4 pm. Christingle and St Lucia Service.

Saturday 17 Dec, 7.30 pm. Chester Bach Singers Christmas Concert.

Sunday 18 Dec, 6.30 pm. Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve, 24 Dec, 4 pm. Crib Service. 11.30 pm. Midnight Eucharist.

Christmas Day, 25 Dec, 8 am. Holy Communion. 10 am. Family Communion.

The information section

Westminster Park RA Committee

Chairwoman: Julie Sams

Tel: 680378

Vice Chairman: David Pilling

Tel: 680880

Secretary: Sue Britton

Tel: 677936

Treasurer: Nick Ryan

17 Vincent Drive, Chester CH4 7RQ.

Tel: 675923

Editor: Mary Pole

36 Lache Lane, Chester CH4 7LR

Tel: 674439

Email: newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

Website Co-ordinator: Dave Craggs

Email: webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk Tel: 682407

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: Nick Ryan, 675923

Cricket: Craig Edwards,
craigandkatrina@btinternet.com

Croquet: Janet Davies, 350370

Friends of Westminster Park: Allan Stobie,
683461

Gardening Club: Mary Pole, 674439

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

Over 60's Club: Sandra Magilton, 677373

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

Dee Sports

Scuba Diving courses

Add a new dimension to your holiday and get an international diving qualification. Courses run regularly.

Water sport equipment

Wet suits, dry suits, life jackets, buoyancy aids, diving equipment, masks, fins, snorkels and much more.

Check out our prices on

www.watersportchester.co.uk

Dee Sports

67 Brook Street

Chester, CH1 3DZ.

Tel: 01244 314204

D Ryan

Painter and decorator

Interior & Exterior

For a free estimate call

Westminster Park 681908

or

07816 947687

Christian Family Church

Cheshire

Celebrating the life of Jesus Christ
every Sunday morning at

Westminster Park Community Centre
10 am to 11.30 am

01244 570205

www.cfccheshire.co.uk

Email: cfccheshire@googlemail.com

Belgrave Pre-school

Come and have fun learning through play

We offer morning sessional care for children aged between 2 and 5 years old.

Our team of qualified staff provides a safe and fun environment for children to learn through play.

To find out more call our Supervisor, Carol Welch on 07761 816891, or call in at any time between 9 am and

12 noon, Monday to Friday (term time). No appointment needed, simply pop in with your little one. Free places for 3 and 4 year olds.

www.belgravepreschool.co.uk

Chris Page Plastering

Est. 1988

For all plastering requirements including:

- Float and skim
- Plastering/Reskims
- Coving/Cornice work
- Dry-lining
- Rendering

Tel: Westminster Park (01244)
659917 or 07754 884565

Francis Thomas

Fruit Merchants

Five Ashes Road

Westminster Park

Tel: 681530

Specialists in locally grown fresh fruit, salads and vegetables

▲ Christmas Trees ▲

Free local delivery for trees and for all orders over £15

In the New Year
Seville Bitter Oranges
for marmalade

D Jones

Property Maintenance

- Flat roofs • Tiling • Pointing
- Plastering • Plumbing • Joinery
- Brickwork • Painting
- Decorating • Bathrooms
- Kitchens • Patios

All work undertaken. No job too big or too small.

Call Dave on 01244 679984
or 07707 059717

Jasmine

designer florist

Modern, exotic and traditional designs

- Weddings • Floral tribute
- Gifts • Corporate event
- Plants • Workshops
- Cards • Teleflorist

Order online at

www.jasmine-designerflorist.com
01244 680081

CH4 Accounting Services

- Tailored bookkeeping for small businesses
- Annual accounts
- Tax and VAT returns
- Competitive hourly rates
- AAT Qualified

Contact Beth on 01244

679245 or 07745 575671

or email

ch4accounting@gmail.com

The Forum Newsletter is published by the Westminster Park Residents' Association (WPRA) with the understanding that from the information presented therein, there can be no responsibility as to the accuracy or legality of the content on the part of the WPRA. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or Committee of the WPRA.