



forum

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 53 June 2012

www.wp-ra.org.uk

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Chairman's piece

Before looking ahead to what is happening in Westminster Park over the next few months, I would first like to thank to Julie Sams. Julie has been Chair of the WPRA for two years with a one year break whilst she and her husband, Mark, took the opportunity to enjoy an around the world trip. Since their return they have become proud parents of their baby boy and Julie has retired as Chair to enable her to devote more of her time to motherhood.

I took over as Chair of the WPRA at the AGM in April and would very much like to meet as many residents as possible to hear your views on how you think we can improve our community. With this in mind, I intend joining PCSO Chris Fox outside the WP Shops on the first Saturday morning of each month. Please stop and have a chat. Alternatively, please feel free to contact me at any time if you want to discuss any issues regarding Westminster Park.

The summer issue of the Newsletter is normally distributed in June but in order that we can give maximum publicity to our planned **Diamond Jubilee Picnic on 4 June,**

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Jubilee Celebration Monday, 4 June

Diamond Jubilee Picnic

The Residents Association, Community Centre and Belgrave School are organising a Family Fun Day and Picnic on **Monday, 4 June from 12 to 4 pm.** It will take place on the school playing field and Community Centre and, since we have arranged for cloudless skies, it will be mostly outdoors!

The event is to enable everyone who lives in WP, or whose children attend Belgrave School, to come together to celebrate this once in a lifetime event – the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Please come as a family with picnics and join in the fun. There will be prizes for the best 1950s themed fancy dress, races and competitions for children (and adults!) and a chance to try your hand at tennis and croquet. There will be performances from the school choir and band, a Karate demonstration, and circus skills tuition. There will be an exhibition illustrating the early days of Westminster Park and stalls provided by the various local organisations.

We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes - and an ice cream van has been booked. The bar at the community centre will be open.

Come and join in the FUN!!

Brian Westcott

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION

1950's THEMED

FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL AGES
TEA, CAKES AND ICE CREAMS AVAILABLE
FANCY DRESS COMPETITION
CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP
PRIZES TO BE WON
MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES

**DIAMOND JUBILEE PICNIC
MON 4TH JUNE
12-4 PM**

BRING ALONG A PICNIC

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN

AT WESTMINSTER PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dates for your 2012 diary

- 2 June, 10.30. Meet Police, Councillors and WPRA Chairman at shops.
- 4 June, 12 noon. Diamond Jubilee, Community Centre.
- 1 July, 12 noon. Gardening Club outing to David Austin Rose Garden.
- 7 July, 10.30. Meet Police, Councillors and WPRA Chairman at shops.

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 2012 so send your copy to the Editor by mid August.

Chairman's piece, contd ...

we decided to publish early. Brian Westcott is detailing the plans for this Celebration Party in this issue. It looks to be a fantastic event. I will simply invite as many of you as possible to join us for this special occasion and leave the details to Brian.

A few weeks ago some residents received a letter advising that four plots of land bordering part of our Estate had been advertised for sale. This land, together with all the land to the south of our Estate is, I understand, designated Green Belt. However, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) are currently undertaking a review of all Green Belt land situated within their authority. The Residents Association has asked CW&C to keep us informed on the results of the review and we will, of course, pass any information we receive on to you. If any information comes through between issues of Newsletters, it will be uploaded to our website: www.wp-ra.org.uk

I look forward to chatting to you on the first Saturday morning of each month!

David Pilling

Police information

PCSO Fox is now doing Police Surgeries outside the Westminster Park Shops with Councillor Neil Sullivan on the first Saturday of every month between 10.30-11.45.

The Police Surgeries are an opportunity for residents to come and talk to PCSO Fox or Councillor Neil Sullivan and raise any issues they may have. David Pilling, Chairman of the WP Residents Association, will also be there.

The next Police Community Beat Meeting is on Tuesday, 31 July at 19.00 at the Scout Hut on Manor Road, Westminster Park. The Beat Meeting is an opportunity for residents to come and hear what the Police have been doing around the local area and also raise any issues in the area.

The Police Non Emergency number has also changed and is now 101 in Cheshire. So if you have an incident to report or require the Police on a non-emergency basis the number is simple to remember.

Christopher Fox

Gardening Club – March meeting

Our thanks to Paul and Sylvia Makin who gave us all an excellent talk on the development of their Chester garden at our March meeting.

It started as an open area with all parts of the garden in view. Sylvia wanted to develop a series of view points and seating areas that held interest as you moved through the garden. With vision, determination and twenty-seven years of hard work they have realised their dream. They also have annual deliveries of up to 200 bags of horse manure, which helps considerably on our clay soil! We were all particularly impressed with the large pond that they had dug by hand.

They have followed Geoff Hamilton's book on Organic Gardening, which, Paul tells us, is still available through Amazon. Paul finished their talk with an impressive series of photographs of the wildlife that now visits their garden.

Our summer trip



Our summer trip this year is to the David Austin Rose Gardens at Albrighton. Leaving from the Westminster Park Shops at 12 noon we arrive at the Gardens for an informative guided tour, there is then time to take a note of our favourite roses and enjoy the gardens at leisure followed by tea/coffee and home baked scones with butter, jam and cream served in the marquee ... and, of course, there will be time to visit the plant centre. The cost of the trip is £18.50 per person and all participants will receive a David Austin 10% discount voucher. We arrive back at Westminster Park at approximately 6 pm. Please book your place with Mary Pole, marypole@zcl-uk.net or telephone 674439.

Thank you to all who continue to support the Garden Club. Ideas for future speakers, topics or visits are most welcome.

Mike Pollard



In June St Mary's will be celebrating the anniversary of 125 years of worship in the church. Plans for the celebration include:

- Saturday, 9 June. Performance of the Fauré Requiem by the Chester Bach Singers. Tickets available from Chester Tourist Office (Town Hall). Box Office: 0845 241 7868
- Saturday, 16 June. Garden Party/Open Day with an exhibition of Handbridge history and what goes on at St Mary's, past and present. The exhibition will be on display until 27 June.
- Saturday, 16 June. Barn Dance in the church hall in the evening.
- Sunday, 17 June. The day of the anniversary. Services at 8 am and 10 am, followed by a Parish Lunch at 12 noon.

Also being planned is a special peal from the bell ringers, a recital on the pipe organ and a celebratory flowerbed planted by the Brownies.

WPRA Gardening Club Summer Trip

Sunday, 1 July 2012

David Austin Rose Gardens Albrighton

Coach leaves Westminster Park Shops
at 12 noon

Informative guided tour of the rose
gardens

Time to enjoy the gardens at leisure
Tea/coffee and home baked scones with

jam and cream
Plant centre

10% discount voucher
Tickets: £18.50 pp

Contact Mary Pole to book your
place: marypole@zcl-uk.net
Tel: 674439

Evergreen WPRA's Over 60s Club

2012 meetings will be held on the following dates:

19 June, 19 July, 23 August, 18 September, 25 October, 20 November, 20 December.

Front Garden Competition



Started in 2006, the Westminster Park Front Garden Competition is a popular annual event. We are lucky to have so many green-fingered residents in the area who take pride in their gardens.

The rules are very simple:

1. You do not need to enter. The judging panel automatically considers all 1200 front gardens in the Westminster Park Residents Association area.
2. Previous winners are not eligible for the following 4 years.
3. Gardens are judged by what can be seen from the public highway. It is important to note that we do not request/require access to your home or property.

Approximately 20/30 gardens are normally short listed for a second visit and letters will be delivered to every house on the shortlist.

The winner receives a small monetary prize and a shield, which they hold for the year. The runners up receive a small monetary prize.

We look forward to viewing your gardens. Happy Gardening.

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
17 Vincent Drive*

Neighbourhood Watch

There are a few people who question the usefulness of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes but there are times when looking out for your neighbours pays dividends.

Very recently a member of Lower Field Road Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was clearing out her garage when she observed a rather shifty looking individual, carrying a holdall, coming out of the garden gate of a neighbouring house, where the owner was at work. The individual, keeping his head down, left at some speed when he noted her watching him.

She immediately phoned the police and gave a detailed description of the individual then jumped in her car to slowly and safely follow him through the estate. As a result of her description and follow up action the police very shortly afterwards apprehended the individual, who was found to have jewellery and a jewellery case in his holdall. It transpires that, although he had not broken into her neighbours house, he had broken into an unoccupied house on Lache Lane, where the elderly lady owner was in hospital after having suffering a stroke, then jumped over the rear fence to make his exit through Lower Field Road. It further transpires that this individual's description and trainers etc., linked him to evidence gathered from a number of previous burglaries.

If it had not been for the vigilance of one of our residents who knows how long he could have carried on doing these burglaries. Let's hope the Justice System gives him his due comeuppance. Whilst I don't advocate following a suspicious individual in your car the act of phoning the police straight away, with a detailed description, could help apprehend a burglar. I think we are all guilty, in varying degrees, of looking the other way rather than confronting a situation like that. However a simple phone call could be the answer to helping keep our estate a low crime stat area.

Jim Moffat

Classic cars in WP

Local resident Martin Williamson is hoping to form a network of classic car enthusiasts to meet socially and to help each other out. So, if you fancy meeting up and having a natter about cars, please contact Martin.

*Martin Williamson
Tel: 683331*

Email: martin@kewengineering.co.uk

Glan Aber Tennis Club



We are pleased to have links with our local schools. We are working with Belgrave Primary School and offering taster tennis sessions during the summer term. We have also been asked to help with after-school tennis coaching at Queens Park High.

Summer Camp Dates 2012

10-16 years: 24 to 27 July inclusive, 10 am to 4 pm
5-9 years: 31 July to 2 August inclusive, 10 am to 1 pm.
10-16 years: 21 to 24 August inclusive, 10 am to 4 pm.
5-9 years: 29 to 31 August inclusive, 10 am to 1 pm.

5-9 years play with red/orange balls.
10-16 years play with green/yellow balls.

Please contact Claire Ayton on 01352 780794 if you are interested in any of the courses or want any further information. Places are limited, so apply early to avoid disappointment.

Sue Britton

Box tops/vouchers

Just a reminder to continue to collect Nestlé cereal box tops and supermarket school vouchers. You can either pass these on to me or, when you visit the shops you can leave them with Al Dente. These collections are a great success and we would like to continue them to help our local school. Thank you to all the residents who have collected so far and thank you Al Dente for acting as post box.

David Pilling

The information section

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Chairman: David Pilling

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Olwen Bellis	678719
Leah Dollimore	683100
Sue Eva	676697
Sandra Magilton	677373
Lesley Morris	679793
Mark Sams	680378
Richard Short	678559
Allan Stobie	683461

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

Cricknet: Craig Edwards, 07765 475095

Croquet: Janet Davies, 350370

Friends of Westminster Park: Allan Stobie, 683461

Evergreen (Over 60's Club): Sandra Magilton, 677373

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

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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& more ...**

James Hull

Mobile: 07889 020444

Email:

james@jameschoolgardens.org

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