



f o r u m

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 57 June 2013

www.wp-ra.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Chairman's piece

●The Green Belt Issue does not go away. The ribbon of land to the south of our Estate, currently designated Green Belt, is a prime target of Developers. The Local Authority was scheduled to publish details regarding the release of Green Belt, throughout the Borough, on 29 April. As those of you who received my email just prior to that date will already know, this did not happen because all calculations in respect of the number of new properties required, between now and 2021 were sent awry by publication of new data from Communities & Local Government and consequently we have to await further developments. The information I have received, from two sources, suggests that the new data may well reduce the target for the need for new properties by as much as 40%. The planned Consultation Period which is due to follow any announcement is now suggested to be August / September at the earliest. I may have missed it but I cannot recall seeing any Press coverage relating to these changes. To keep informed of developments, as they become known to us, please become a Member of the Residents Association (annual cost £2 per

household) and let us have your email address.

●The battle to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing Wrexham Road at Ash Grove continues. Most of you will know that ideally a Pelican Crossing is desirable. This having been refused because of cost (it is justified because of volume of traffic), I have in the past 12 months made alternative suggestions including a speed limit and traffic island - not favoured by you all, I know, but an improvement on the present situation. It has been said that a FATALITY would improve our case! Thankfully that has not happened albeit several near hits have been reported including the latest of a car speeding down the bus lane! We have been asked whether the local community would be able to make a financial contribution to the cost. The WPRA has very limited funds, so I would ask you please to support any fund raising events that we arrange. Constructive ideas very welcome. I shall continue to raise this safety issue and press for a suitable safe crossing. There are more and more elderly people living on the Estate many of whom no longer run cars, or unbelievable to many, have never had a car. We are continually told to leave the car at home and Think Bus. These are the people particularly in need of our help. Returning from Chester they have to cross the road. It has been

argued that they should use the DB1 bus but good as it is, there are certain areas of the Estate that it does not cover plus frequency could be improved.

●Last year we received continuous complaints regarding trees and shrubbery overhanging pavements and pathways. I have already had the first complaint for 2013. May I please ask that where you have vegetation alongside such areas that you check periodically throughout the year to ensure that there aren't twigs, branches etc., causing a danger not only at head height for the adults but also please consider children and also people who may be using a disability scooter or wheelchair. Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation.

●We have appealed over the past year or two for you to donate school vouchers from the supermarkets, which we pass on to our local school, Belgrave. I am aware that there seems to have been a change in that only one of the major stores had such a campaign recently. However, should such schemes be reintroduced, please remember that vouchers can be left at Al Dente for my collection. Similarly, with the Nestlé cereal box tops. Thanks for your support and thanks again to Al Dente for assisting by acting as Post-box.

David Pilling

Dates for your diary

15 June: St Mary's Garden Party
20 June: Evergreen, 2 pm
Community Centre.
13 July: Community Association
Summer Fayre.
14 July: Gardening Club visit to
Cholmondeley Castle.
18 July: Evergreen, 2 pm,
Community Centre.
15 Aug: Evergreen, 2 pm
Community Centre.

Westminster Park Residents' Association

Gardening Club

Visit to Cholmondeley Castle Gardens

Sunday, 14 July 2013

**Coach leaves from the Westminster Park shops at 11 am and arrives
back at approximately 5.30 pm.**

**Cost: £14.50 to include coach journey and entrance to the Gardens.
Tea rooms open.**

Tickets available from Mary Pole: email marypole@zcl-uk.net or phone 674439.

Glan Aber Tennis Club

Following a hugely successful Open Day on 20 April, Jo Trataris our new Head Coach has started a programme of adult and junior tennis sessions. Courses run at various times throughout the week with pay and play sessions on Saturdays. There are social mornings on Mondays and Fridays from 10.00-12.00 weekly.

During half-term there are all-day activities for children as well as daily 2-hour tennis sessions for 6-11 year olds. Additionally there are daily sessions 9.30-10.00 for 3-5 year olds. Sessions can be booked for any number of days. There will be similar activities during the summer holidays – details will be posted on the website or contact Jo on 07875 108690.

Membership of the Club continues to thrive and we have club nights on Tuesday and Thursday evenings as well as six teams, which play in various divisions in the Chester & District League. There are currently two junior teams. Our Men's and Under 16s also play Aegon team tennis.

Please visit our recently updated website on www.glanaber.com or contact Sue Britton on 01244 677936 for more information.

Friends of Westminster Park

We have been continuing to represent the views of the many users of Westminster Park at various meetings with Council officials and with Brio who now manage the golf course and café.

In response to concerns about deterioration in the quality of the golf course, I am pleased to report that the tees have been tidied up and some replacement mats installed. Efforts have also been made to clear undergrowth away from the boundaries and fairways and the overall aspect of the golf course is much improved. After a long, wet autumn and cold winter, it is pleasing to see more visitors playing at the golf course.

With regard to the café, Brio assures us that they are still planning to improve the range of food and beverages on offer but implementation remains slower than we have been hoping.

We have also discussed dog regulations. Throughout the park, dog owners are responsible for keeping their dogs under control and for collecting any mess deposited and disposing of it in the waste bins provided. In addition, dogs must be kept on leads in the fenced junior football area and the adjacent tennis courts and hard surface areas, and no dogs are allowed in the children's play area. Plans showing the restricted areas have been posted on notice boards at the Lache Lane and Hough Green entrances. To ensure better compliance, dog wardens will be visiting the park to offer advice and more formal intervention if necessary.

Andy James, the Park Ranger who is well known to many users of the park and has had an excellent working relationship with the Friends of Westminster Park, is moving to Ellesmere Port. We wish him well in his new role and are looking forward to meeting his successor.

David Guyton

Westminster Park Gardening Club

Our 2013 programme got off to a great start with an inspirational talk on growing fruit and vegetables from Harry Delaney of Reaseheath College.

Aware of our clay soil with its sometimes boggy, or is it soggy, gardening conditions he gave a series of helpful tips on managing our garden soil. On the plus side clay soil holds onto plant nutrients with the exception of nitrogen, which is essential for healthy leaf growth. He recommended the addition of small quantities of ammonium sulphate to replenish the nitrogen that is readily washed from our soil by rain.

When planting fruit trees he pointed out that they don't like their 'feet' in water. Know where your water table is at the wettest times of the year. When growing apples he recommended varieties such as James Grieve, but grown on dwarf rootstocks such as M26 or MM106 to ensure your trees don't grow too big.

Harry's talk was packed with more information and advice than could be summarised here. Suffice it to say there was something for everyone who had ever even thought of picking up a garden fork! We would hope to invite him back for a follow up and trust you would welcome that.

Our summer trip this year is to Cholmondeley Castle Gardens on Sunday, 14 July. The coach leaves from the Westminster Park Shops at 11 am, arriving back in Chester at around 5.30 pm. One of the Cheshire Gardens of Distinction, Cholmondeley Castle stands on a high rise above a lake. Sweeping lawns and a variety of mature trees, including cedars of Lebanon, oak and chestnut, surround the castle. The gardens provide a lovely mix of colour and height, with intriguing walks around the lake. There is a temple water garden, rose garden, a variety of mixed borders and plantings are planned to provide colour at all times of the year. There is a children's play area, picnic site and farm animals including llamas and African pygmy goats and aviary with many varieties of birds.

The pretty tearoom will be open for coffee, light lunches, homemade teas, ice creams and snacks and there is a gift shop and plant sales.

The cost is £14.50 per person and includes the coach and entrance to the Gardens.

Tickets available from Mary Pole: email marypole@zcl-uk.net or phone 01244 674439.

Westminster Park Community Association Summer Fayre Saturday, 13 July

Westminster Park Community Association celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and the planned activities will include a Summer Fayre on Saturday, 13 July 2013.

This will be held on the field behind the Community Hall and local clubs and organisations are invited to participate.

Supporters of this event will have the opportunity to raise funds and the WPCA will only charge a modest rental to cover costs.

If you would like to participate please contact me as soon as possible on 01244 629167 or colin@thedollimore.freemove.co.uk

Colin Dollimore

The information section Westminster Park RA Committee

Chairman: David Pilling

Tel: 680880

Vice Chairman: Brian Westcott

Tel: 675431

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
Pauline Brown	
Leah Dollimore	683100
Sue Eva	676697
Sandra Magilton	677373
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

Cricket: Craig Edwards, 07765 475095

Croquet: Janet Davies, 350370

Friends of Westminster Park: David Guyton, 675978

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:

671243

SCOUTING:

Group Scout Leader: Sue Jones, 675538

Beavers (Wednesday): Jane Shorthall, 682136

Cubs (Monday): Michael Glass,

Cubs (Thursday): Christine Owens, 676691

Scouts (Friday): Terry Coe, 676734

Explorer Scouts (Tuesday): Sharon Johnson,

GUIDING:

Rainbows (Monday): Pat McGettigan, 677134

Brownies (Tuesday): Jan Hooper, 674701

Guides: Contact the District Commissioner:
Sue Fryer, 679945

EVERGREEN – Our Over 60s Club

We continue to meet each month on the third Thursday of the month, and in March enjoyed a talk/presentation on 'Old Chester' with Angus Tilston seeing some fascinating film footage of Chester in the 1920s and 1930s, the River Dee frozen over during the winter of 1962/63 as well as other historic footage. In April David Mitchell, Chester's famous Town Crier gave an amusing talk about Town Crying and some of the situations he has found himself in.

Our programme for the rest of 2013 has been finalised which includes outings as well as theatre trips and meetings.

Membership has almost reached capacity so anyone wishing to take out membership please do so as soon as possible. Forms for taking out or renewing membership will be available at meetings. Please note that members must be paid-up members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association. We put posters advising of our meetings in the Community Notice Boards and on the WPRA website.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Future Evergreen meetings:

20 June: 2pm: Quiz with vintage artefacts with June Corner. Strawberries and cream tea.

27 June: From 9.30am: all day trip to Chatsworth, Derbyshire.

18 July: 2pm: Afternoon tea meeting.

31 July: (Wednesday) 2.30pm production of Evita at the Lowry, Salford.

5 August: (Monday) 10.30am a tour of the BBC at Media City, Salford.

15 August: meeting when our MP, Stephen Mosley, will give a talk on life as a new MP.

St Mary's Church, Handbridge



**St Mary's Church is holding its
Garden Party on Saturday, 15 June
at 2 pm**

~ COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN WITH ~
Bouncy Castle • Tombola • Stalls Galore
Grand Raffle • Lots of Side Shows
Ice Cream • Teas • Panama Jazz Band
Special Dancing Display by Overleigh
School Children
ADMISSION FREE

WPRA AGM

At the recent WPRA AGM there was a lively discussion about three issues.

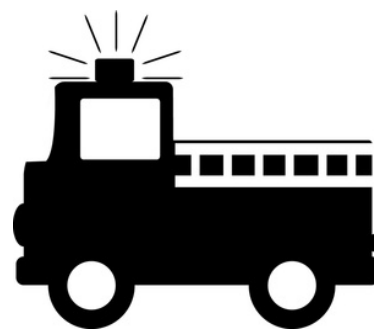
a) Ward councillors Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels are working with the Residents Association to deal with concerns raised by neighbours from two properties in Vincent Drive being used for supported living accommodation for adults with learning difficulties. We have had a useful meeting with the property owners and a further meeting with CWaC Adult social care team is being arranged.

b) We are working to find a cost effective and fundable solution to crossing Wrexham Road from the bus stop next to Wrexham Road day nursery. This is a long-standing issue and not easy to resolve but we are pursuing all options available to us.

c) The timetable for the Draft Local Plan has slipped a little due to new census data projections. We will convene a public meeting on this in Westminster Park during the consultation period (likely to be late summer).

Clr Neil Sullivan

Chester Lions Charity Fun Days 22 and 23 June 2013 Ladies-Only Drive Challenge Poulton Airfield, Near Chester, CH4 9EB



In aid of Brain Injury Centre, Anya Bentham Appeal, Dorin Park School and Local Lions Charities, the Chester Lions Club is organising a sponsored ladies-only Drive a Fire Engine (or bus, ambulance, JCB, mini digger, articulated lorry, tractor, etc) fund-raising challenge. Full details at chesterlions.co.uk or call 01244 300759.

Subscriptions

For those who were members in 2012 but have not renewed their membership we hope you will renew and have either sent you a reminder email or included a slip with this newsletter; we look forward to receiving your subscription.

We also wish all households to consider membership; the subscription fee is only £2.00 per household.

Cash or cheques (made payable to Westminster Park Residents Association) can be handed to any Committee Member.

Nick Ryan, Treasurer

Update from PCSO Fox

I would continue to urge all homeowners to lock their doors and windows to prevent opportunistic burglaries, particularly before you go to bed at night.

Also remember to put car keys in a safe place out of sight. Please remember also to activate any intruder alarms if you have one and leave your vehicle locked and secure.

These simple precautions are an effective measure to safeguard your home and valuables.

To reduce the chances of becoming a victim, please record serial numbers and other identifying marking on property of value such as mobile phones, laptops and power tools. All serial numbers should then be registered on the immobilise database (www.immobilise.com)

If you contact me on christopher.fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk I will also arrange to visit your address and register any pushbikes on the property database.

I also encourage residents to take a picture of any high value bikes for their records.

Police Surgeries are held in front of Westminster Park Shops between 10.30 and 11.45 am on the first Saturday of every month (local councillors and David Pilling from the Residents Association are also in attendance).

Lache School Reading Project

Volunteers to help with a very exciting project in Lache Primary School (and other schools) are being sought.



Diane Clark runs a service that provides schools with well trained and supported volunteers who work one to one with children who need the attention of an adult to help them to learn to communicate effectively, listen and read. The project is all about giving children a love of books and reading but they also do many other activities with the children much as a very interested grandparent or aunt/uncle might do.

The volunteers go into school twice a week for an hour and a half and work one to one with three children. They see the same children each time so they build up a very special relationship with their little groups.

The children really love their sessions and the results to date have been excellent. The project is already working with over forty children and the school now wants another ten volunteers.

The volunteers don't need any special experience as they are well trained, supported and resourced. They just need to be able to make a child feel special. All the volunteers love the work that they do and the difference that they make is sometimes life changing.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and they are all ages and both men and women. Consistency, reliability and passion are the qualities that are required and in return they can expect to be supported, well appreciated and feel that they have made a real difference to a child's life.

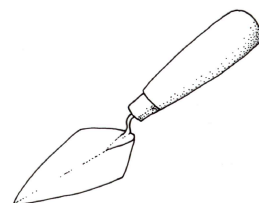
If you are interested and wish to find out more please contact Diane Clark: email Diane.clark@passion-for-learning.com or phone: 07966 404355.

Lache and Westminster Local History Group

This small and informal group would be pleased to welcome new members. We meet six times a year, in member's houses during the winter, and at outdoor locations during the summer months.

Recent talks have included a history of the Chester Lead Works, reminiscences of local businesses – a Bakery and a Newsagent, presented by the retired proprietors, and discussion of research projects on local history undertaken by individual members.

In the summer, when the evenings are longer, we arrange visits to local places of interest led by expert guides. In the last couple of years, these visits have included the Poulton Archaeological Dig (a Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Medieval site), a tour of Chester's canals and a tour of the Overleigh cemetery.



Upcoming events include a walk around Chester walls and a city centre tour discussing Preservation and Progress.

Talks in the autumn will discuss Curzon Park and the Lache.

If you would like further information or are interested in coming along, please contact Linda Shuttleworth. Email shuttleworths@talktalk.net, tel 679791.



For Non-Emergency Dial 101; In an Emergency always dial 999

Front Garden Competition 2013



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.

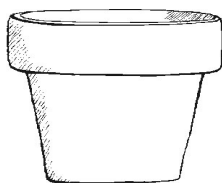
2. Previous winners are not eligible for the following 4 years.

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 shortlisted 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 Community Centre

Tel: 01244 671243 (from 7.30 pm)

Email: wpca2008@yahoo.co.uk

The Members Bar is open as follows:-

7.30 pm till 11 pm, Mon to Thurs.

7.30 pm till 11.30 pm Fri

12 pm-2 pm & 7.30 till 11.30 pm Sat

12 pm-3 pm & 7.30 pm till 11 pm Sun

The Centre has a bar, pool table, dartboard and jukebox and the main hall is available for private hire. Come along and enquire about membership.

The Centre also has a Bingo Night every third Friday of the month and Quiz Night the last Saturday of the month. The Community Centre can offer free hire for Charity/Fundraising nights, please call or email to discuss.

Please note that Bingo and Quiz Night dates may vary and visitors are welcome.

Courier Scam

Scotland Yard has recently reported that one crook who posed as a courier from a bank managed to trick unsuspecting householders into handing him £244,500 of their cash.

He used the so-called Courier Scam, which has been used to steal millions of pounds from innocent Brits in the last couple of years. Londoners alone lost £2,408,800 last year.



Meanwhile Financial Fraud Action UK reported that the scam caused £7.5m worth of fraud in the first six months of 2012, with 1,600 people caught out, losing an average £4,200.

How does it work? Crooks call you pretending to be from your bank. They say your credit or debit card needs collecting and replacing after fraud on your account.

To trick you into believing that they are genuine, they tell you to hang up and call your bank for confirmation. But the caller simply stays on the line so you're not actually on a new call. The caller

then asks for your PIN and arranges for a courier to come and collect the card.

If you hand your card to the 'courier' the crooks, armed with your PIN, can go on a spending spree.



But a bank will never ever ask for your PIN and will never ever ask to come to your home or work to pick up a plastic card.

The fraudsters tend to target older people who they presume are more vulnerable. So police ask you to pass on the warning to older friends and relatives.

Simon Read

Fault reporting

Did you know that you can report potholes, missing signs, broken street lights, etc., by simply visiting the CWaC website and filling in an online form?

Go to the Do It Online page at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ and click on Pot Holes.

No mention of how long it will take to action though!

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.

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 2013 so send your copy to the Editor by early August.

Our local shops

aldente

Taste the freshness

•Bread •Cakes •Pies

Ready to eat products are made on the premises

•Sandwiches •Salads •Cooked Meats
•Ready meals

A large range of deli products are stocked including a selection of wines

Bespoke gift hampers

Outside catering both corporate and private

To discuss menus call 01244 675994

Francis Thomas Fruit Merchants

Five Ashes Road, Westminster Park

Tel: 680448

Specialists in locally grown produce

Now available

Wessex Mill Bread Flours including gluten free and spelt; also yeast

A range of quality, selected fruit juices, cordials & preserves

Summer bedding plants

Free local delivery for all orders over £15

S J Bebbington Butchers of Chester

53 Five Ashes Road, Westminster Park. Tel: 682424

Finalists in 2012 top shop awards

Award winning sausages & dry cured bacon
Top quality beef, pork, lamb and chicken – all sourced from trusted suppliers

Pies: Pork & Apple (current Northwest champion) and many other varieties. Sausage rolls, Scotch eggs. Large selection of marinated meats.

Full range of BBQ products for summer.

All our products are made on the premises so quality is assured.

Pain in the Neck?

Chartered Physiotherapy & Sports Injury

Back/Neck Pain

Sports Injuries and Home Visits

10% off first appointment

Phil Cabral

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy MCSP

BSc (Hons) Sports Science

Natural Balance,
Chester Wellness Centre,
Chester Business Park
01244 680214

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

D Ryan

Painter and decorator
Interior & Exterior

For a free estimate call
Westminster Park 681908
or
07816 947687

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

Rich Fagan

Domestic & Commercial
Tree work, Hedge work, Landscaping,
Fencing, Grass Cutting

- Grounds maintenance •Landscaping
- Site clearances •Tree work
- Inspections •Tree stump grinding •Tree felling
- Wood chipper •Crown reduction
- Fencing

NPTC qualified and fully insured.
Age Concern registered.

01244 661555

01244 318578

07932 120278

richtreeworks@hotmail.com

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

Is walking a pain?

Contact

InStep Podiatry

HPC Reg Podiatrist / Chiropodist
Nails / Corns / Callus / Cracked Heels
Gait Analysis and Orthotics
Sports Injuries
Nail Surgery

1a Moorcroft Mews, High St, Saltney,
Chester
Tel: 01244 671226

DJE Electrician

I offer a complete domestic electrical service. Part P registered. No job too small. Why not try me, an experienced professional, for a reliable and friendly service. Call for a no obligation quote and advice:

Dom: 07905 468817

djelly@tiscali.co.uk

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

PLUMBSTRUCT SERVICES

Chester based company providing a wide range of skills and trades.

- Plumbing and heating
- General building work
- Bathrooms and kitchens
- Joinery • Floor and wall tiling
- Guttering and outside drainage
- Decking, fencing and landscaping
- Loft Insulation • All aspects of property maintenance

All work insured and guaranteed
City and Guilds qualified

Totally trustworthy, references available
Please contact Russ for a free quote on any job whether large or small.

Mobile - 07944 685260

Office - 01244 679200

E-mail

plumbstruct-services@fsmail.net

CBS Electrical Services

All types of electrical work undertaken

Your local electrician – no job too small

- Rewires ■Lighting
- Outside lighting ■Sockets
- Switches ■Showers
- Consumer unit upgrades

NICEIC approved contractor

01244 681470

07973 654680