



# f o r u m

## **Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter**

**Issue 58      September 2013**

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### **Chairman's piece**

#### ● **Local Plan**

The Greenbelt continues to dominate the CW&C Planning Issues. The Strategic Planning Team has produced a Draft Local Plan, which proposes that some areas of Greenbelt are released to the Developers. You may well have read in the local press that these proposals include land on the Wrexham Road to accommodate 1300 homes and a school.

My understanding is that a Planning Application has NOT, at this stage, been submitted so consequently rumours that are circulating relating to type of properties, access points on to the proposed site, drainage, traffic flow are simply rumours. Such issues will only become apparent when a planning application is received. Greenbelt can only be released for development in exceptional circumstances and there are still ongoing arguments as to whether such circumstances have been proven.

#### **Ongoing programme:**

- ✦ Continuing meetings within CW&C.
- ✦ Consultation Period involving all interested parties (during which

Public Meetings are proposed locally and Spatial Planning has indicated they are prepared to attend to explain their recommendations.

- ✦ Judicial Enquiry.

***We will endeavour to keep you advised about meetings, etc.***

#### ● **Newsletter**

Many residents receive WPRA information via email or our website. This is possible primarily because of the work done by Dave Craggs, Leah Dollimore and Mark Sams. However, prior to the advent of today's technology our main channel of communication was via our Newsletter, and of course this continues today thanks to Mary Pole and Susan Eva and they are supported by a team of volunteers who deliver the Newsletter to approx 1200 homes in our area.

In July it became apparent that it would be a great help if we could recruit some additional volunteers to assist on a quarterly basis or to be willing to act as a reserve to be called upon when the regulars are unavailable. If you are able to volunteer please contact Susan (tel. 676697).

May I take this opportunity to say thank you to all our volunteers, many of whom have delivered the Newsletter over a long period.

#### ● **Wrexham Road crossing**

Nothing positive to report. Please be assured negotiations are continuing.

#### ● **Quiz Night**

Our social event for the autumn is the Quiz Night, to be held on Saturday 5 October, at the Community Centre. All residents are very welcome – remember that tickets sell fast so put the date in your diary and get your ticket from any committee member. This is a fun evening and the ticket price includes an excellent supper – it's great value for money. I hope to see you there.

#### ● **Christmas lights switch-on**

On Friday, 6 December, our community Christmas lights will be turned on at 4.30 pm. The ceremony will be enhanced by Christmas music from the school choir and other seasonal treats. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

*David Pilling*

### **Community Centre**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations Fête was a fantastic day and "thank you" to all who helped make the day such a success. Special recognition to Colin Dollimore who coordinated everything - it was great to see the Community working together.

We would also like to thank the local Councillors who provided the grant for the Centre refurbishments and the Lottery Grant for the kitchen, which has given the Centre a much-needed face-lift.

All events will be posted on the Community Notice Board by the shops and we are currently in the process of putting together a website which will enable us to provide information regarding the Community Centre such as User Groups and Events.

*Phil Williamson*

#### **Dates for your diary**

- 19 September: Evergreen, 2 pm, Community Centre.
- 5 October: Quiz, 7.30 pm, Community Centre
- 9 October: Gardening Club, 8 pm Community Centre.
- 17 October: Evergreen, 2 pm, Community Centre.
- 21 November: Evergreen, 2 pm, Community Centre.
- 6 December: Christmas Lights. 4.30pm. Switch-on at the Shops.
- 12 December: Evergreen, 2 pm, Community Centre.

**Westminster Park Residents' Association**

### **Quiz Night**

**Saturday 5 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**

## Front Garden Competition

The competition was started in 2005 to choose the best front gardens from the 1200 or so properties in Westminster Park. It was seen as a way of encouraging people to keep their gardens tidy and make them attractive for passers-by to look at.

Whether it provided an incentive or not, there are certainly many lovely gardens in WP and the judges had great difficulty in choosing the winners. We left the judging a little later this year because of the late spring.

In the end we awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize to Ray and Mary Pulsford for their lovely corner garden at 2 Forge Way. Jennifer Crewe of 7 Dennis Drive came second and Chris and Paul Castell of 11 Whaddon Drive were third.

We also awarded a prize for the best display of hanging baskets and containers and had no hesitation in selecting Malcolm and Helen Tyce of 28 Lache Lane for this.

A special prize went to Derek Bithell of 35 Firtree Avenue who not only tends his own garden but also looks after the public space around the cut-through to the bus stop on Wrexham Road.

Congratulations to all the winners – the picture shows them at the prize giving ceremony held in the winner's garden.

*Brian Westcott*

## Westminster Park Gardening Club Wednesday, 9 October at 8 pm

Our next meeting of the Westminster Park Gardening Club takes place in the Community Centre at 8 pm on Wednesday, 9 October 2013. Our speaker is Martin Ford, writer and radio broadcaster, who will be talking about AUTUMN & WINTER COLOUR - the talk will include live material of plants suitable for this time of year and slides will also be included. Our usual Plant Swap table will be there so bring along your surplus plants, seeds, bulbs, etc., to swap. All residents are very welcome. £3 at the door. The bar will be open.

## St Mary's Church New & Nearly New Sale Saturday 14 September 10am to 12.30pm

Many stalls selling books, toys, games, crafts, cakes and preserves as well as household and other items. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available and there will be a raffle with good prizes. Proceeds from these will go to the new Church Hall fund. Come along! You may find exactly what you have been looking for.

## Friends of Westminster Park

Westminster Park has received its third national Green Flag award as one of the best public parks and green spaces in the country. It has also been designated as one of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust, which gives assurance of permanent protection as an outdoor recreational site and access to external funding.

Public use of the park continues to increase. Chester Road Runners have made it their base and meet there on Sunday mornings to complete their running circuits. And thanks to the better summer, more people have been playing golf and using the other sporting and recreational facilities in the park.

Discussions have been continuing with the Council regarding the urgent need to improve the public toilets and to establish a more systematic hedge-cutting programme, and with Brio over the range of food and beverages offered by the café. Progress in all these areas has been disappointingly slow and steps are being taken to escalate the issues with the support of our local councillors, Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels.

Please add your support on these and matters of interest concerning the park by becoming members of the Friends of Westminster Park.

*David Guyton*



Competition winners (from left to right) Paul and Chris Castell, Ray and Mary Pulsford, Jennifer Crewe, Mrs Bithell and Derek Bithell

## 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

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**Website Co-ordinator:** Dave Craggs

Email: [webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk) Tel: 682407

### **Committee members**

Olwen Bellis	678719
Pauline Brown	679823
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, 683847

**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

Over the summer we have continued to meet each month on the third Thursday of the month, in June we had a fascinating quiz with June Corner and her astonishing range of vintage artefacts, and enjoyed afternoon tea with a quiz in July.

We also enjoyed outings to Chatsworth, Derbyshire and to the BBC Studios at Media City, Salford. There was a very enjoyable coach trip to the Lowry theatre to see Evita at the end of July.

Local trips are being planned to the Records Office in Chester and to Airbus among other destinations. We put posters advising of our meetings in the Community Notice Boards and on the WPRA website and look forward to seeing you soon.

### **Future meetings of Evergreen:**

**19 September:** The very popular Idris Evans will be taking us through the 'A-Z of Collectables'

**17 October:** Peter Murray will talk to us about Pets as Therapy

**21 November:** Bernard Dennis will give a talk on the History of the English Longbow

**12 December:** Carols and Mince Pies.

**18 December:** Christmas Lunch.

## Draft Local Plan

Cllr Daniels and I want to draw to the attention of residents the Draft Local Plan that is now out for public consultation.

There is in the plan a proposal to release land off Wrexham road from the Green Belt to allow the building of c 1300 new homes.

David Pilling has mentioned this in the Chairman's Piece on page 1 and we wish to alert residents to the fact that we will be organising a public meeting to cover this issue and we will let residents know when this is arranged.

*Cllr Neil Sullivan*

## Glan Aber Tennis Club

Summer holiday camps for mini and juniors have run throughout the summer and have been well supported. These are offered to members and non-members alike. The courts have been busy and Jo, our new Head Coach, is totally enthusiastic and inspiring.

The new coaching programme for adults and juniors starts on Monday, 2 September. Check out the website for full details or contact Jo on 07875 108690. Pay-and-play mini and junior sessions are offered on Saturdays throughout the year and are open to all: 11.30-12.00 Bronze group (3-5 years with parent) £2; 12.00-1.00 Silver (6-10 years) £3.50; 1.00-2.00 Gold (11+ years) £4.

The coaching team has been into four local schools (Belgrave, Overleigh and St. Clare's

Primary and Queen's Park High) and provided two hours of free coaching to each school. Glan Aber has started a Junior Development Fund to provide coaching in the community. Sponsors are being sought to support this initiative. Additionally club members are to take part in a 'longest rally' on 22 September to raise funds.

Please visit our website on [www.glanaber.com](http://www.glanaber.com) or contact Sue Britton on 01244 677936 for more information.

## Update from PCSO Fox

Recently, in the Overleigh area, there has been an incidence reported where a resident has had problems with door-to-door tradesmen. The tradesmen managed to convince the resident to let them onto their roof to do work and then has asked for money for work that was possibly unnecessary or substandard. When Police and Trading Standards had attended it was clear that these workmen had not followed the procedures that they should by law. I advise that residents don't take on door-to-door tradesmen. However if you choose to do so, a door-to-door salesman should provide a cancellation notice and a written quotation for the work to be undertaken. If this hasn't been done and you are unsure, contact Trading Standards on 0845 4040506 or the Police on 101.

As Cheshire Police continue to strive to combat bike thefts around Cheshire a new system has been introduced. The Council has now funded the purchase of plastic electronic tags that can be placed down the seat post tube. The tube will have a unique number that will show up when scanned by Police patrol with a scanner. This service is free of charge and if you contact me via email on [christopherfox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christopherfox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) leaving your name, address and telephone number I will be happy to visit your address so we can get your bike registered. Your frame must have an uninterrupted set post tube with a diameter between 25.4mm and 32.0mm and it would be helpful if you could remove your seat post prior to my visit.

Police and Council Surgeries continue to be held on the first Saturday of every month and take place in the front of the post office on Chester Street, Saltney, between 09.00-10.15 and at Westminster Park Shops between 10.30-11.45. Please feel free to come along and raise any local issues with the local councillors or myself.

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.



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