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Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 62 September 2014

www.wp-ra.org.uk

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Chairman's piece

The Interim Report from the Inspector appointed to review the CW&C recommendations regarding the Local Plan is imminent. Consideration was given to delaying the publication of this Newsletter but experience shows that dates are not always adhered to, so it was agreed to publish as normal. Once the Report is published, these will presumably be available in the Local Press and on the CW&C website. There will then follow a six-week period of consultation. Do not know the format, but where we have Members' email addresses we shall contact you direct with information, otherwise please keep your eyes on the various notice boards. Regarding the work which has already been done to present a case to the Inspector at the Hearing in July, I can report that WPRA received a notice of appreciation from Mollington Parish Council, impressed by the research work undertaken to support the written and verbal representations made at the Hearing. These comments together with our own debt of gratitude are due to Bob Speed, one of our residents, who spent many hours researching every aspect of the Plan, plus representing WPRA at the Hearing.

At this point, with the six-week consultation period almost upon us we desperately need additional help from residents who are able to contribute time or know-how to compile our response. Help could be as simple as distributing leaflets or delving into more complex matters.

Dates for your diary

- 18 Sept, Evergreen, 2 pm, Community Centre
- 27 Sept, Music and Readings from WW1, 8 pm Community Centre
- 8 October, Gardening Club, 8 pm, Community Centre

Moving on to other matters: My thanks are due to the Gardening Club for the time they devoted visiting every corner of our Estate to judge the gardens for the annual Best Kept Garden Competition.

Congratulations to the winners. It has been agreed that in 2015 the judges will be called upon in the spring to see our gardens ablaze with the colour of spring bulbs - the first time we have viewed the gardens at this time of year.

I regularly ask that you support our local shops as without our support businesses fail. We currently have two empty units; early days but one of these is said to be under offer. May I draw your attention to the fact that the WP Pharmacy, in order to improve their service to us, has begun extended opening hours: 9 am to 6 pm Mon- Fri and 9 to 1 pm on Sat.

On Saturday 27 September we again welcome members of the Chester Operatic Society to entertain us. On this occasion to perform music and readings to mark the centenary of WWI. Tickets are £10, including buffet, and are available from Brian Westcott (675431) or any committee member. It is anticipated this will be a popular event so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Finally, it seems strange to be mentioning Christmas whilst still in August, but by the time I am writing to you again our Christmas tree will be in position alongside the shops and duly decorated. Again I am looking for volunteers to help us with that task. Please let me have your name and contact details NOW (680880) so that I can call on you late November to help us make 2014 Christmas Illuminations even better than last year.

David Pilling, Chairman WPRA

Front Garden Competition

Once again the judges have been out looking at the front gardens of Westminster Park. This is the 10th anniversary of the competition, which started in 2005. After producing a shortlist,

the judges visit each one and mark them according to a set of criteria such as "wow" factor, variety and work put into it. There are prizes for both gardens and displays of hanging baskets and containers. They are judged on what can be seen from the road and no garden can win more than once in five years.

This year the garden winner was Terry and Val Hughes of Smithy Pathway and they kindly hosted the prize-giving ceremony in their equally lovely back garden (see photo of the winners on the website at www.wp-ra.org.uk). Other garden prizes went to Russell and Anita Carter from Vincent Drive and Brian and Sue Dickenson of Cottage Road.

The best display of hanging baskets was judged to be Richard and Jane Avory of St. Bridget's Court with Betty McLoughlin of Boxmoor Close as runner up.

We also awarded a community prize to David Needham of Five Ashes Road for his hard work, on his own, in clearing the pathway that runs around the top of the estate parallel to Wrexham Road.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Judging this year took place in mid July and we are aware that this misses the lovely spring gardens that abound in March and April. With this in mind we are planning on a spring competition in 2015. Get planting those bulbs now!

Brian Westcott

WPRA

Music and Readings to mark the Centenary of World War I

Performed by members of Chester Operatic Society

Saturday, 27 September at 8 pm

Community Centre, Five Ashes Road

Tickets £10 including Buffet Supper from Brian Westcott (675431) and Committee Members

Friends of Westminster Park

A fine spring followed by an unusually warm and sunny summer has resulted in Westminster Park being a hive of activity for much of the year and well used by residents, visitors and the many sports groups that meet there. There can be no doubt that the park is greatly valued by all sections of the community which, of course, is the principal reason why we are all concerned to see the continuation of high standards of care and maintenance against a general background of local authority cuts and austerity. Recent good news is that the park has once again retained the Green Flag award for 2014-2015 since its inaugural presentation in 2009.

Following much needed and much appreciated refurbishment of the public toilets and tennis courts in Westminster Park earlier in the year, the next major challenge is to secure a stronger future for the golf course and to improve the café facility so that it becomes an attractive hub and meeting place for all users of the park. We have been taking every opportunity to make these points to our local councillors, who are very receptive, and to council officials. We know there is interest in greater participation by various local organisations and members of the community but the way ahead is still not clear. The last thing we want to see is drift and procrastination, as this will result inevitably in further gradual but progressive deterioration in these particular facilities that should be at the heart of the Park. If anyone has an interest or knows of anyone else with an interest in developing the café or other facilities in the park, the Friends of Westminster Park would be delighted to hear and to discuss possibilities. Given the constraints on local government spending, it is abundantly clear that any developments will depend on local initiatives and enterprise so if you have any thoughts or suggestions do please contact the Secretary, Norman Trott, on 01244 683540. *David Guyton, Chairman, Friends of Westminster Park*

Welcome Pack

The WPRA produces a Welcome Pack to provide newcomers to the area with information about the facilities, services, organisations and social activities that take place in and around Westminster Park. If you have a new neighbour recently moved in, please pop a Welcome Pack through the door – or, better still, knock on the door and say “hello” as you deliver it.

Welcome Packs are available from committee member, Pauline Brown, 679823, pbrown@eclipseexecutive.com

About NWR (National Women's Register)

Get out more. Broaden your horizons. Make new friends. NWR is an international organisation of women's discussion groups. Each group aims to provide its members with the opportunity to take part in stimulating discussions on a wide range of topics. NWR does not raise money for anybody or any cause. It exists for the benefit of its members. Meetings are very informal and held in peoples' homes, where you will find a warm welcome whatever your age or personal circumstances. Meetings are lively, always fun and never boring. Groups organise their own programmes that explore a wide variety of topics and avoid domestic issues. Group meetings are fortnightly during the evening, you arrange them to suit yourself. A small annual subscription allows you to take part in as little or as much as you want.

Chester Grosvenor branch is mostly based in Westminster Park, for more details contact Betty McLoughlin, tel 677680.

Ellesmere Port Music Society

On 15 November 2014 at 7 pm, Ellesmere Port Musical Society will be performing **Handel's Messiah**. Soloists and full orchestra and chorus will be conducted by Lloyd Buck, in EP Civic Hall: 20 minutes drive, free car park, bar, tea and coffee, comfy seats and quality music. Tickets £13 (balcony), £12 (stalls), £5 (student). Tickets can be purchased by calling 0151 339 5225, by email epmsnews@virginmedia.com or on the door on the day

The choir meets Monday evenings starting 1 September 7.30-9.30 pm, Whitby School Hall, Whitby, Ellesmere Port. If interested in joining or just hearing the choir, call into a rehearsal and have a chat with choir members – be assured of a warm welcome. Call Pam Byrne on 01244 430424 for more information. The choir meetings are only 10 miles away from our end of Chester and there are a couple of local members that could share lifts if necessary.

Gardening Club Summer trip 2014

This year's trip took in two excellent local gardens. The first, Bluebell Cottage Gardens near Dutton, is owned by Sue Beasley, BBC Gardener of the Year in 2006.

Sue took over the gardens in 2007 and has created a delightful garden in the heart of Cheshire. Apart from the excellent

herbaceous borders, there is an orchard, a wild flower meadow and a wood to explore. Sue doesn't deadhead her plants, preferring to collect her own seed. We were impressed with the quality of the plants that were for sale, most of which are propagated from their own stock. After coffee and cake we headed off to our second garden of the day, Mount Pleasant in Kelsall.

The owners, Dave and Louise, have spent the last eighteen years creating a ten-acre haven on the side of the hill. Standing amongst mature trees, including Redwoods, are a Japanese garden, a tropical garden, herbaceous borders, a vegetable plot and a bog garden. There are ponds, cascades, and a sculpture workshop and art gallery. The gardens are dotted with amusing sculptures and carvings and have terrific views towards Chirk, the Clwydian Hills and around to Liverpool.

Dave and Louise have created all of this on their own from meadowland and we all marvelled at their vision, energy and enthusiasm. Oh, as an aside, Dave is also growing 120,000 Christmas trees for the Forestry Commission in Delamere! Again, a selection of plants was on sale.

Everyone enjoyed the day and came home with a variety of plants to brighten our borders and test our gardening skills. Look at the website to see a photo of our day out: www.wp-ra.org.uk

Gardening Club Autumn Meeting Bumblebees in our Gardens

Wednesday 8 October 2014, 8 pm in the Community Centre
Come and hear Catherine Coombs tell us about how bumblebees live in our gardens and how we can encourage them.

All WP residents are welcome. £3 at the door. Plant swap. Light refreshments.

Chester Riverside Rotary Club

The Chester Riverside Rotary Club is planning to organise a **Speed Networking** evening in November at the Community Centre, where local organisations can promote membership and/or volunteer help.

Further details from Colin Dollimore on 01244 629167 if you are interested.

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.

The information section Westminster Park RA Committee

Chairman: David Pilling, 680880

Vice Chairman: Brian Westcott, 675431

Secretary: Penny White

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CH4 7RQ. 675923

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Welcome pack co-ordinator: Pauline Brown,
Tel: 679823

Committee members

Olwen Bellis	678719
Sue Britton	677936
Derek Butler	639746
Mandy Butler	639746
Sue Eva	676697
Sandra Magilton	677373
Richard Short	678559

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 Amesbury, 679271

Bridge Club: Nick Ryan, 675923

Cricknet: Craig Edwards, 07765 475095

Croquet: John Dawson, 675929

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

Model Railway Club, Chester:
Colin Dollimore 629167

National Women's Register:
Betty McLoughlin, 677680

Rotary Club Handbridge
Doreen Marchant-Stubbs, 300100

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

WI, Handbridge, Secretary Veronica Bull
676865

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

Our meetings continue to be well supported by members; in June we enjoyed a strawberry afternoon tea while being entertained by the Pulford Bell-ringers. Stuart Bebbington, our local butcher came and gave us a talk in July and in August our thoughts turned towards the outbreak of World War I with a talk from Tony Davies. Also in June there was a coach party to Saltaire for an all day trip that was very enjoyable and interesting.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month from 2-3.30 pm at the Community Centre and anyone wishing to join Evergreen can do so at any meeting. Please note that members must be paid up members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association.

Later in the year we will hear about Chester's ghosts and a talk about Guide Dogs for the Blind before the Christmas festivities start in December. As always at our meetings complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

We look forward to seeing you there.

WI News

Handbridge WI, is running a Produce Show on Tuesday, 7 October, 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Friends and family are warmly invited to view the exhibits at St Mary's Church Hall, where home made refreshments and a raffle will be available.

Update from Councillor Neil Sullivan

Residents may be aware that the Council Local Plan was examined in June and July. The plan included the proposed release of Green Belt land off Wrexham Road for new housing. Cllr Daniels and I both spoke against the Plan with others including Bob Speed speaking on behalf of WP residents. There will be a further period of consultation in September on changes made by the Inspector. We are still considering this and will consult with WPRRA on agreeing the next steps.

We are pleased to have been able to fund the cost of refurbishment of the tennis courts in the Park and we are working with the Friends of Westminster Park on making further improvements to the Park management arrangements.

Glan Aber Tennis Club

Pay & Play tennis on Saturdays for adults and juniors continues to be popular and we are making use of the newly refurbished public courts for these sessions with a block booking through CW&C. Glan Aber funded the painting of the courts including the tennis and football line markings. During June and July, Glan Aber booked (and paid for) the public courts for coaching sessions and we will continue to do this at times when our own courts are likely to be busy.

Group coaching courses start again on 1 September – please contact Jo on 07875 108690 if you require any further details or visit our website at www.glanaber.com.

Glan Aber has a Junior Development & Disability Fund that pays for coaches to go into local schools and will hopefully fund wheelchair and blind tennis in due course. We have been fortunate to be awarded a grant from the Dan Maskell Tennis Trust for two tennis wheelchairs. We are holding a fundraising evening at Westminster Park Community Centre on Friday, 12 September: **Wordybirdies** are two very entertaining ladies who do sketches/ monologues – some humorous – and generally take a wry look at life. All their work is written by themselves and performed from memory. It will be the start of a busy weekend as our Club Championship Finals take place on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September.

St Mary's Parish Church Sunday Services

From the beginning of September, St Mary's will be introducing a Storytelling Service at 9.30 am on every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. This will be a short and interactive service targeted at families with younger children. The first service will be on Sunday, 7 September.

As a result, on **all** Sundays the start time of the Parish Communion Service will be moved back from 10 am to 10.30 am. The 11.30 am Holy Communion Service will be discontinued.

All other service times will remain unchanged.

Forthcoming social events

Sat 20 September: 7.15 pm French

Evening

Sat 4 October: Harvest Bring & Share
Supper

Fri 24 October: Russian Choir Concert
in Church

Fri 7 November: Beetle Drive

Further information available from the
Parish Office (01244 671202)

It's for Macmillan Cancer Support



**Come for
Coffee &
Cake**

Friday, 26 September 2014
15 Fir Tree Avenue, Westminster Park
CH4 7QY
10 am to 2 pm

Our local shops

<p>aldente Taste the freshness •Bread •Cakes •Pies Ready to eat products are made on the premises •Sandwiches •Salads •Cooked Meats •Ready meals</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Francis Thomas Fruit Merchants Five Ashes Road, Westminster Park Tel: 680448 Specialists in locally grown produce <u>Now available</u> English apples Wessex Mill Bread Flours including gluten free and spelt; also yeast A range of quality, selected fruit juices, cordials & preserves Arriving soon: autumn & winter bedding plants <i>Free local delivery for all orders over £15</i></p>	<p>S J Bebbington Butchers of Chester 53 Five Ashes Road, Westminster Park. Tel: 682424 Purveyors of premium quality British produce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traditional British meats ● Innovative speciality products ● Homemade pies and sausage rolls ● Award winning sausages ● Dry cured bacon ... & much more ● Online reserve & collect service <p>All our products are made on the premises so quality is assured</p>
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Our local butcher, Stuart Bebbington, writes: Well it seems the summer is behind us now following an abrupt end to the warmer weather. What a summers it's been though, plenty of sunshine has allowed the barbecue trade to thrive with locals enjoying a true summers worth of garden time. This summer has also seen the launch of our new online reserve & collect service. We're very proud to be the only butchers shop in the Chester area providing this service, something that reaffirms our commitment to leading the way as a modern, innovative Small Business. Why not take a look at www.sjbebbingtonbutchers.co.uk. You'll also find us on Facebook and Twitter. As a local shop it's important to connect with the community, in this age of technology, social media allows us to keep customers up to date with new products and forthcoming events. It's also a great way to receive feedback, allowing us to improve and build upon the service we provide. Speaking of community I'd like to thank everyone who attended my recent talk at the local community centre, the healthy turnout was a pleasant surprise and I'm grateful to the Evergreens for the invitation. After another whirlwind year autumn is upon us. We're working hard developing new dinner delights to keep you warm, while people are mentioning Christmas already, I'll leave you to decide if that's a good thing or not! Believe it or not we've taken our first order already. Many thanks to the many people that chose us to provide their barbecue fare this summer. *We're very fortunate to be blessed with such a supportive, local community and even more fortunate that they appreciate good food.*

<p>Is walking a pain? Contact InStep Podiatry HPC Reg Podiatrist / Chiroprapist Nails / Corns / Callus / Cracked Heels Gait Analysis and Orthotics Sports Injuries Nail Surgery 1a Moorcroft Mews, High St, Saltney, Chester Tel: 01244 671226</p>	<p>Chris Page Plastering Est. 1988 For all plastering requirements including: *Float and skim *Plastering/Reskims *Coving/Cornice work *Dry-lining *Rendering Tel: 659917 or 07754 884565</p>	<p>Numeracy / Literacy Tutor Shaun Mohan KS1 to GCSE standard Patient and friendly 14 Sherbourne Avenue, Chester, CH4 7QU 07902 071065 shaun.mohan@hotmail.com</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Ken Bennetts Joiner & Builder General joinery, Kitchens Bathrooms, Windows Doors Fascias and Gutters 38 Vincent Drive, Westminster Park Tel: 629213, 07976 801977</p>	<p>D Ryan Painter and decorator Interior & Exterior For a free estimate call Westminster Park 681908 or 07816 947687</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 Email: plumbstruct-services@fsmail.net</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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 2014 so send your copy to the Editor by early November.</p>		<p>E&F Natural Healthcare Chinese acupuncture & massage 30 minutes acupuncture and 30 minutes massage (1 hour treatment) only £35 for the first treatment For pains and emotional problems Tel: 01244 315889 Mob: 07917821629 16 Commonhall Street, Chester, CH1 2BJ (off Bridge Street)</p>