



f o r u m

Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter

Issue 64 March 2015

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Chairman's piece

It is now well into 2015 and I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holiday with friends and families. I hope you also enjoyed the Christmas trees and festive lights outside our local shops. Over a hundred of you turned up to see Deanne Garrett, Head Teacher of Belgrave School, switch on the lights on 2 December. Thanks to Deanne and the school choir for entertaining us with carols. Thanks also to Francis Thomas for providing the trees at cost price, to Stuart Bebbington for the sausages and the Co-op for the mince pies and bread rolls. I think that the occasion made a good start to Christmas in Westminster Park. I am writing this ahead of the full Council meeting on 29 January to discuss the local plan, which includes the proposal to build 1300 properties on the land between WP and Wrexham Road. My expectation is that it will be approved. If so Paycause (the development company set up to manage negotiations) will produce a detailed brief with the council, likely to take around six months. The Council has assured us that we will be consulted on this but it is our job to make sure that this happens. After that a formal planning application will be submitted and work could start sometime in 2016. As I stated in the last issue of Forum, we now need to ensure that, given all

these new houses will be built, the infrastructure issues such as transportation, education and drainage are dealt with to our satisfaction. This is not a short term matter – it is likely to involve many years of working with the Council to ensure that our quality of life is not adversely affected. To this end we propose to set up a subcommittee of the main WPRRA committee to manage the work and recognise that we will need to involve adjacent areas, such as Curzon Park, as well. If anyone feels they have the skills and interest to help in this, please let me know. **The WPRRA AGM is on Wednesday, 15 April in the Community Centre at 8:00 pm.** We plan to keep the AGM brief and use the bulk of the evening to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions and discuss Wrexham Road. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

Brian Westcott

The Local Plan

The Draft Local plan was debated at Council on 29th January and approved for adoption. The impact of this is that land off the Wrexham Road will no longer be Green Belt and will be made available for housebuilding. I voted against the Plan and Cllr Daniels was unable to attend the meeting due to a long standing commitment, but the vote was overwhelmingly in favour as the Plan has been generally well received elsewhere in the Borough. The work to ensure that any negative aspects arising from housebuilding on this land are minimised now begins. **We will be holding a meeting on 3rd March with all Community groups** to discuss how best to approach spending New Homes Bonus in Handbridge Park Ward.

**Councillor Neil Sullivan
Councillor Razia Daniels**

Front Garden Competition

Previously taking place in the summer, this year will take place in the spring.

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 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 plus shield, which they hold for the year. The runners up receive a small monetary prize. Happy Gardening.

Brian Westcott

Committee Meeting update

Editor required for Forum Newsletter – if you are interested, contact a committee member. Just a little reminder to residents to keep their hedges and trees trimmed so pathways are kept clear. The route of the DB1 bus is being discussed as the current contract expires at the end of August. There will be a bus survey in the next few weeks. **Remember – use it or lose it !**

WPRRA AGM Wednesday 15th April 8pm at the Community Centre

New Committee members needed.

If you are interested please contact a member of the committee by 25th March.

Following the AGM there will be a presentation on the Wrexham Road Development. Please come and have the chance to discuss this with other interested parties.

All welcome.

Dates for your diary

19/3 Evergreen Pre-Election Debate
15/4 WPRRA AGM
16/4 Evergreen - Albrighton Pottery
20/5 Gardening Club
21/5 Evergreen – Hill Forts,
North Wales

Friends of Westminster Park

The latest news is that Brio will cease to manage the golf course and café in Westminster Park when Brio's present contract with the Council is renewed on 1 April. The Council is currently in negotiation with other potential operators of the golf course and café and is hoping to have new arrangements in place for the start of the new season. As members who attended the Friends of Westminster Park AGM will know, we have been active in expressing the views of local residents as to how we would like to see the golf course and café developed to become much more attractive and well used facilities in Westminster Park and we are hopeful that these views will be taken into account when the Council selects a new operator.

Glan Aber Tennis Club have installed a defibrillator which is available for use in an emergency by all users of Westminster Park. The clubhouse is not open all the time but is generally open for longer hours than the café. As we leave winter behind and move forward to spring and summer with more opportunities for outdoor activities, we are fortunate in Westminster Park hosting such a wide range of sporting activities including bowls, cricket, croquet, football, golf, tennis and running as well as less formal recreational facilities such as the children's play area, outdoor gymnasium, BMX track and dog walking. There is something for everybody of all age groups. All the clubs in the park are always pleased to welcome new members and contact details can be found in the Information Section on page 3. Don't delay. Get in touch and make the most of the new season. And finally, a reminder to dog walkers to observe the restrictions which are well signed and to pick up and dispose of any dog mess in the bins provided.

David Guyton, Chairman,
www.westminsterpark.org.uk

Ellesmere Port Music Society

Come & Sing Workshop 7th March at Whitby High School 9am-5pm. Choruses from Vivaldi and John Rutter. £15 per person/£5 students/£2 music hire. Bring own packed lunch. Call 01244 340375 for more details/tickets.

Verdi's Requiem at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall. 7.30pm. Tickets £12/£6 students/under 18s free. Call 0151 339 5225 for more information/tickets, or email epmsnews@yahoo.com

Pam Byrne

Chester Croquet Club

Chester Croquet Club meets in Westminster Park Hough Green in Chester. It is a friendly, successful club with about 100 members and is always pleased to welcome new members.

There will be two 'Introduction to Croquet' sessions for which there is no charge. Part 1 on Sunday 12th April and repeated on 19th April and Part 2 on Saturday

18th April and repeated on 26th April. All sessions run 2.00 – 4.00. Beginners' courses in association croquet and golf croquet will be the at end of April.

Coaching is also available for people who have played before and would like to improve their skills. No previous knowledge of the game is needed and all equipment is provided. The only requirement is that you must wear flat-soled shoes.

If you would like to enrol or would like more information, please contact the Club Secretary, John Dawson on 01244 675929 johngdawson@onetel.com or the Membership Secretary, Sally Slater on 01244 677645

springboard_sally@hotmail.com.

Come and join in, and bring your family or friends!

Chester Riverside Rotary Club

This new club covers Handbridge, Westminster Park, Curzon Park and Hough Green. Would you be interested in coming to meet us and hear about our plans? We are volunteers working to benefit our local & international communities. With you we can accomplish even more.

Contact Julie Rowland on 01244 683024 or 07474 331781

Update from PCSO Chris Fox

Nails have been found on the road at the junctions of Rowcliffe, Radnor and Denstone. This could affect all motorists, causing punctures. We don't know who is doing this or why. Please be vigilant and if you see any nails, pick them up and report it, or anything suspicious, to the Police on telephone number 101.

Chris Fox, PCSO

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.

Gardening Club

The aim of the Club is to stimulate a knowledge and love of gardening. All members of the Westminster Park Residents Association are welcome to attend [held at the Community Centre]. Meetings are publicised via this Newsletter, the WPRA website and posters on the community notice boards. We have had knowledgeable speakers covering a variety of topics e.g. garden design, plants for small plots, productive gardening and compost making. We have a summer outing to an inspirational garden. Our trips have included David Austin Roses, Wollerton Old Hall, Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Mount Pleasant. We have regular plant swaps and can usually go home with something new and interesting from a neighbour's garden. Our meetings for 2015 are on the calendar so why not join us.

2015 meetings

Wednesday, 20th May at 8 pm in the Community Centre

How to plant hanging baskets and containers – our speaker is Andrew Johnson from Johnson's Nursery in Saughall. £3 at the door. Raffle and plant swap. Light refreshments.

Sunday, 12th July

Day trip to **Dorothy Clive Garden** plus a visit to Bridgemere Garden Centre. Coach leaves WP shops – full details in the June issue of the Forum Newsletter.

Wednesday, 7 October at 8 pm in the Community Centre

Transforming Bluebell Cottage Gardens – speaker is Sue Beesley, owner/manager of Bluebell Cottage Gardens and former BBC Gardener of the Year.

£3 at the door. Plant swap. Light refreshments.

Please come and join us – all WP residents welcome.

Mary Pole

WPRA Subscriptions

Thank you to those who have renewed. If you are not a member it's only £2.00 per annum per household, paid to any committee member or me (17 Vincent Drive) or dropped in at 'aldente'. Cheques payable to Westminster Park Residents Association and can include renewals for membership of Friends of Westminster Park.

Nick Ryan, Treasurer

The information section

Westminster Park RA Committee

Acting Chairman: Brian Westcott, 675431

Vice Chairman: Vacancy

Secretary: Penny White, pennywhite@sky.com

Treasurer: Nick Ryan, 17 Vincent Drive, Chester CH4 7RQ. 675923

Editor: newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

Website Co-ordinator: Dave Craggs

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

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

Committee members

Olwen Bellis	678719
Sue Britton	677936
Derek Butler	639746
Mandy Butler	639746
Susan 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

Cricket: 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: Frank Marnell, 07801 064211

Lache and Westminster Local History

Group: Linda Shuttleworth, 679791

Mini Soccer (5-10 years):

Frank Marnell, 07801 064211

Model Railway Club, Chester:

Colin Dollimore 629167

National Women's Register:

Betty McLoughlin, 677680

Rotary Club, Chester Riverside

Julie Rowland, 683024,
07474 331781

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 – Over 60s Club

Members enjoyed two seasonal afternoons in December with carols and mince pies in the Community Centre when children from Belgrave School came and sang carols and we joined in with most of them. A week later it was Christmas lunch at Chester Golf Club at Curzon Park which was as ever superb food in lovely surroundings. At the end of November a coach trip to Manchester to visit the Christmas market had put us in the mood.

Our first meeting in 2015 was a New Year quiz held by John Lodge which got the brain cells working after the holidays. Our AGM was in February where the Committee was elected and matters discussed.

Our meeting on 19th March will be a pre-election debate with representatives from Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem and UKIP putting across their points of view before the General Election in May, this should be a popular event!

Our programme for 2015 is completed and any residents over the age of 60 can join (or re-join), membership forms are available at the meetings which are held on the third Thursday of each month between 2.00-3.30pm at the Community Centre. Please note that members must be paid up members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association.

As always at our meetings complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Chester Model Railway Club

THE GREAT WESTERN EXPRESS

Saturday 11th April 2015 to Worcester and Oxford via The Cotswolds. Starting Hooton picking up at Bache, Wrexham, Gobowen and Shrewsbury. Full details on our secure website www.chestermodelrailwayclub.com/railtours.htm where you can book online or download and print a booking form.

Please note this is one week earlier than originally announced.

Laurence Wheeler

Westminster Park Community Association

Membership of the licensed club is just £10 per year. You can book the hall, with bar if required; attend monthly bingo and quiz - details on the notice board, attend the Drop-In on the 1st Thursday of the month at 2pm (admission free). WPCA photocopying facility in the Chemist shop is just 5p per copy. This year's **Summer Fayre** is on Saturday 11th July. Details to follow. If you would like a stall please contact

Colin Dollimore 629167

Glan Aber Tennis Club

The public tennis courts in Westminster Park are now fully functioning and FREE FOR ALL! This is a really good resource – the nets are taken down a couple of times a week so that local footballers can also access the facility - but otherwise the courts are generally available to use. Additionally, Glan Aber Tennis Club runs a weekly adult group coaching session on these courts, 2.00-3.00pm on Saturdays. It costs £5 and is open to everyone, covering a different aspect of the game each week. The coaches are very friendly and encouraging, so if you have thought that you might like to try tennis, or pick up a racquet again after a break from the game, this could be a good way to get back on court. There are also juniors sessions: 11.30-12.00 Bronze (3-5 years), 12.00-1.00 Silver (6-10 years) and 1.00-2.00 Gold (11+ years). There will be FREE sessions for all on Saturday 25th April to promote the start of the summer season. Please visit the Glan Aber website at www.glanaber.com if you require any further information.

St Mary's Handbridge Centre

A development committee, set up by St Mary's Church Council in 2013, has been working on the concept of a new centre to meet the needs of the Church and local community with the aim of building in 2016. The new centre will consist of a large hall, two community rooms, a medical consultation room for the adjacent surgery and a cafe social area. The proposed plans have been on display in the Church since November. The feedback from this has provided many useful suggestions and these have been much appreciated by the committee. CWaC are very supportive. The latest estimate is £1.5m. Raising this amount will be an enormous challenge, but a funding plan is already in place to raise the money required. A 'Pledge Campaign' has been launched and details of this can be obtained from the contact below. Any money donated can also be Gift Aided. For further details contact Ted Graham 01244 679636 or email tedgraham@talktalk.net

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10 am to 11.30 am
01244 570205, www.cfccheshire.co.uk
Email: cfccheshire@goolemail.com

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irinawhear@gmail.com

Advertise your local business/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 June 2015 so send your copy to the Editor by early May

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is looking for volunteers with between 1½-4 hours a week to spare, who would like to help young children in local schools with reading and learning. We are looking for **enthusiastic adults** who enjoy the company of children and can bring new experiences and their own passion for life and learning to the next generation. Our 1-1 sessions are based on fun and engagement. Our volunteers are uniquely trained, nurtured and resourced. You will have your own group to allow you to develop a **consistent relationship** with the children and provide them with tailored support. It is an incredibly fulfilling opportunity which helps children flourish.

Prior experience is not necessary.

If you would like to know more then we would love to hear from you.

Call Diane on 07966 404355 or email diane.clark@passion-for-learning.com