

The Newsletter of the
Westminster Park Residents' Association
Bringing our community alive

WP News

Formerly the Forum Newsletter



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December 2015

Issue 67

Chairman's Piece

How the year goes! I can't believe that it's coming up to Christmas again and you can't go round a shop now without carols playing in the background. Mind you some of them started at the end of August!

Westminster Park will have its own Christmas celebration with lights and Christmas trees to cheer up the dark December days. They will be switched on by the Lord Mayor at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, 2 December when there will be hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine, singing from Belgrave School choir and more. No charge - please come along to join in the celebrations!

We are very grateful to our local councillors for financial help with the Christmas lights and for the support of our local shops in obtaining the trees and providing the "goodies". We have a superb set of shops at the moment with a fresh fish shop due to open shortly so please support them this Christmas and through next year.

Our annual quiz was held on 31 October and was a sell-out as usual. Thanks to Sandra for the superb supper and the witches, skeletons and lanterns that decorated the hall, and to all committee members who helped with the evening. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and, although we don't set out to make a profit, it has raised nearly £200.

During the Quiz I was pleased to present Mary Pole with a gardening voucher for her work as Editor of the Newsletter for thirteen years, as well as for her services to the Gardening Club. Once again Mary has purchased a large bag of daffodil bulbs which, this year, have been planted on the grass

around the shops.

In my last piece I said that Paycause Ltd (the Company responsible for the proposed 1300 houses to be built between us and the Wrexham Road) would be further consulting residents of WP in September. This date has slipped - they wrote to me in early October to say it would now be in late November/early December. We await their proposals with interest - keep an eye on our website for any further information. In conclusion can I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas with your families and friends and a peaceful 2016.

Brian Westcott

News from your Councillors

A formal Planning Application from Paycause Ltd for the major housing scheme off the Wrexham Road is still awaited, but we are already carrying out background work with Council officers on some of the issues that will be key when a proposal is eventually submitted. Meanwhile, we have called in to Planning Committee a re-submitted application by Stewart Milne Homes for 41 houses at the end of Sherbourne Avenue. We believe that this application should be considered alongside the overall larger development anticipated by Paycause Ltd.

In order to address concerns raised by some residents in Fir Tree Avenue and Cottage Road about on-road parking by Kings School 6th form students, we met recently with the School and Council Officers. Students are parking on these roads due to a shortage of on-campus space; we will be meeting again soon to try and resolve the issue.

We would like to draw residents' attention to a Council consultation on the Council budget for next year and beyond. The Council needs to find significant savings and is consulting on changes to many services. Anyone who wants to make comment on the proposals can do so. The plans can be found on the Council website and in the Library.

For those interested in our Cultural services, there is also a consultation underway into the future shape of these. It covers Libraries, Museums and Cultural events.

We recently met with local community leaders to gain ideas of how the New Homes Bonus Community Fund allocation could be spent in Handbridge Park Ward. This Funding has been made available by Cheshire West and Chester Council to help communities develop infrastructure in their local areas. It is hoped that any new ideas will help create a Community Action Plan for Handbridge Park Ward, which will enable funds to be accessed from CWaC.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact us:

razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
or 01244312492

neil.sullivan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
or 01244671099

Once a number of ideas/suggestions have been received, these will be added to: <http://chester.yourwestcheshire.co.uk/> in order to gain views from local residents and groups. Finally, we are pleased that work on the long awaited Theatre complex is progressing well and work has also started on the new bus interchange

Cllr Neil Sullivan and Cllr Razia Daniels

Apology

May we offer our sincere apologies to Councillor Razia Daniels for omitting her name from the report on DB1/DB2 published in the September WP News. Councillor Daniels has worked very hard on our behalf to secure the continuation of this service, for which we extend our gratitude.

Dates for your diary

2/12	5 pm WP Christmas lights switch-on
6/12	4 pm Scouts Advent Service
10/12	Evergreen Carols & Mince pies
20/12	6.30 pm St. Mary's Nine lessons and Carols
24/12	4 pm St. Mary's Crib Service
	11.30 pm St. Mary's Midnight Eucharist
25/12	10.30 am St. Mary's Parish Communion

Christmas Lights Switch-on Wednesday 2 December, 5 - 6pm

Come along and enjoy Christmas at Westminster Park shops, with music, carols, mince pies, hot dogs, mulled wine and not forgetting Father Christmas.

Switch-on by The Lord Mayor
of Chester at 5.30 pm

A festive event not to be missed!



Westminster Park Community Association

Events at the Community Centre: Friday 27th November

Chester Riverside Rotary Club
Fun Race Night, 7.30 for 8.00pm
£5 inc light buffet

Book with Jane on 07804 252244

Also check the notice board regarding our monthly Bingo nights. **Colin Dollimore**

Chester Model Railway Club

New members welcome in either OO or N Gauge. We will be selling surplus stock before Christmas and also buying.

Details from Colin Dollimore on 01244 629167

Evergreen

Are you over 60 and would like to meet friends and have an interesting and enjoyable afternoon? Evergreen is the 'senior' club for Westminster Park residents and meets every third Thursday afternoon between 2 - 3.30 pm of each month at the Community Centre. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. You are welcome to attend as a guest or join for the year.

At our next meeting on Thursday 10 December, there will be mince pies and other festive goodies; the children from Belgrave School will sing Christmas carols, and there will be plenty to join in with.

The 2016 programme features a talk on 16 January by Barry Hayes, who will tell us about his exploits rowing across the Pacific Ocean, and our AGM on 18 February.

The Supper Club has flourished and will start up again in 2016. We are starting a Book Club with Drop-in sessions on the first Thursday of each month at the Community Centre.

Membership costs £10 per person for a year. We look forward to welcoming you along.

Westminster Park Gardening Club

Daffodils are such a welcome sign of spring and the Gardening Club has continued its bulb planting programme throughout the estate. To date, we have planted approximately 200 kg of daffodil bulbs, most recently on the green outside the pharmacy.

You will be pleased to hear that the North West is to get its own RHS garden. Plans have been unveiled to create a stunning new garden by bringing back to life the lost historic grounds at Worsley New Hall in Salford. Highlights will include the restoration of one of the UK's largest Walled Kitchen Gardens and a new schools' Learning Centre. Called RHS Garden Bridgewater, it is scheduled to open in 2019. So, guess where the Gardening Club is going for its 2019 outing!

Our 2016 programme will be publicised in the March Newsletter, on the website, via email and on notice boards. If you would like to be kept in touch, then please email: mary-pole@zcl-uk.net

All WP residents are welcome to our meetings and outings. **Mary Pole**

Belgrave School

Belgrave Primary School is pleased to announce that we have received our Silver School Games Mark Award for achievement in 2014-15. We are now going for Gold!

In order to be "even better" we have established a Sports Council, which communicates results, takes photographs at events and writes sports reports. The school and local school sports partnership have also appointed primary school Sports Ambassadors who have attended training and will lead our Sports Council.

We are very grateful to all the parents who provide transport to sports events and to James Moss and Jane Redmond, the school's PE co-ordinators, for all their hard work.

Music:

At Belgrave Primary School all pupils in Year 4 are given either a brass or woodwind instrument for the year and have a lesson each week with specialist teachers from the Cheshire Music Service. We are delighted that over 70% decide to continue lessons in Year 5 and 6.

We also have a choir and school band which will be performing at the St Mary's Centre alongside other local schools at the end of November.

Community events at this time of year cheer up the long nights. Belgrave is taking part in the Lantern Parade in Chester on the 26 November at 7pm, starting at the Town Hall as well as the Westminster Park Christmas Lights Switch-On at 5:00pm on Wednesday 2 December. The school's pupils will be singing a selection of carols and would welcome the community to sing along.

The pupils have also been invited again to The Evergreen Club to sing carols on 10 December.

Deanne Garratt, Headteacher

WPRA Subscriptions

As you will be aware from the enclosed payment slip it is that time of year when we ask for your subscription of £2.00 to cover the calendar year 2016. Please take the opportunity to join by sending the form and subscription to any committee member or myself. Alternatively, the WPRA has a post box in the **al dente** deli where they can be posted, so saving on postage. Cheques should be made payable to 'Westminster Park Residents Association'.

You can pay the subscription for both the WPRA and the Friends of Westminster Park (FOWP) using the same form. The FOWP represent all organisations and local residents with an interest in Westminster Park by pursuing discussions with the Council and helping to raise external funds for improvements. Their annual subscription is also £2 (if paying both by cheque, one will suffice made payable to WPRA).

Nick Ryan

Ellesmere Port Music Society

Christmas Gala Concert

7.30pm Saturday, 12 December
Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port

Programme includes: Bach: Christmas Magnificat, Haydn: Little Organ Mass
Vivaldi: Gloria, Corelli: Christmas Concerto

Tickets: Adults £15, Students £7.50, under 18s free
Tel: 0151 339 5225 or
Email: tickets@epmsonline.co.uk

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers

18th Chester Scouts, who meet in the Scout Headquarters in Manor Road, are joining up with St Mary's Church for an Advent Service at the HQ at 4.00 pm on Sunday 6 December. Please come along and join us for this informal service to mark the beginning of the Christmas season.

Deeside Oddfellows

Get more out of life with the Oddfellows, from eating out, day trips, playing scrabble, travel and the theatre or just a good chat in friendly company. Formed in 1810, the Oddfellows is a not-for-profit friendly society. Its aims are to help people join together to socialise, as well as provide care, advice and support in times of need.

Oddfellows run a regular Coffee Club every Thursday at 10.30am at the Oddfellows Hall, 65 High St, Saltney. Denise Turner, District Secretary says, "There's no need to book and refreshments are just 50p. We're a friendly bunch and are always looking for new faces to join us, so why not come along, relax, have some fun and find out what the Oddfellows could do for you."



Call Denise on 01244 675757 or email denise.turner@oddfellows.co.uk or contact Olwen Bellis (WPRA)

Westminster Park Shops news

Our new fresh fish shop is due to open on 26 November, stocking a wide range of fresh fish and complementary products, and is taking orders for Christmas.



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The information section

Westminster Park Residents' Association Committee

Chairman: Brian Westcott 675431
Vice Chairman: Pauline Brown 679823
Secretary: Penny White pennywhite@sky.com
Treasurer: Nick Ryan, 17 Vincent Drive, CH4 7RQ 675923
Editor: Jennifer Crew newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk
Website Co-ordinator: Dave Craggs 682407
Email: webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk
Welcome pack co-ordinator: Pauline Brown 679823

Committee members

Olwen Bellis 678719
Sue Britton 677936
Susan Eva 676697
Richard Lewis
Sandra Magilton 677373
Rosemary Mason
Richard Short 678559

Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

Please let the Editor know if any details are incorrect or if you have a club or organisation that you would like listed.

Belgrave Badminton Club: Keith 671077
Belgrave Pre-School: Ashley Middleton 07761 816891
Bowls: Martin Amesbury 679271
Bridge Club: Nick Ryan 675923
Cricket: Craig Edwards 07765 475095
Croquet: John Dawson 675929
Evergreen (Over 60's Club): Sandra Magilton 677373
Friends of Westminster Park: David Guyton 675978
Gardening Club: Mary Pole 674439
Healthy Walking Group: Mike Lloyd 680328
Junior Football: Frank Mamell 07801 064211
Lache and Westminster Local History Group: Linda Shuttleworth 679791
Mini Soccer (5-10 years): Frank Mamell 07801 064211
Model Railway Club, Chester: Colin Dollimore 629167
National Women's Register: Betty McLoughlin 677680
Rotary Club, Chester Riverside: Jane Monro 07804 252244
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

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Friends of Westminster Park

2015 has been another good year for Westminster Park. The new operators of the golf course and café, Golfstorehouse, have made an excellent start in reviving the golf course, introducing new junior and corporate golfing sessions, and improving their range of food and beverages. The park also hosted, for the first time, the national Croquet Association two-day All England Handicap Tournament, attracting competitors from across the country. Sporting and recreation groups that use the park - bowls, cricket, croquet, junior football, golf, road running, tennis and walking - have reported record levels of participation. The children's play area and BMX track have been hives of activity and dog walkers have been active throughout the year. The spring bulbs and the summer flower displays have provided a bright splash of colour and the fine late summer weather has shown the autumn tints of the trees at their best. For the seventh successive year, the park has received a national Green Flag award for excellence.

David Guyton

Glan Aber Tennis Club

There have been several notable achievements recently: we have just been awarded Cheshire County LTA Club of the Year 2015, with additional trophies for Jo Trataris for coaching and Sue Britton in the Unsung Hero volunteer category; our adult Men's A and Ladies A teams finished top of their divisions in the Chester & District League and our mini-red and men's teams also won their Aegon Team Tennis divisions. In addition, we have raised over £2,900 for Cancer Research UK this year.

Our membership is a mix of adult, student, junior and mini players. We run regular club nights, internal competitions, adult and junior team matches in summer and winter leagues, a funded outreach programme to local schools and charities, and a comprehensive coaching programme.

Pay & Play tennis sessions are on Saturdays throughout the year: 09.30-10.00 for 3-5 years, 10.00-11.00 for 6-10 years, 11.00-12.00 for 11+ years and 12.00-13.00 for adults. Our New Year group coaching courses will start at the end of February. Contact Head Coach Jo on 07875 108690 for details. For information about the club visit www.glanaber.com

Cheshire Police

In my role as a Police Community Support Officer covering Westminster Park, I have started producing Handbridge Park Crime Updates sent out via Cheshire Police Alerts. This information service, received by phone, text or email, informs residents about local thefts, criminal damage and burglaries. To receive alerts, type 'Cheshire Police Alert' into Google and register. As Christmas approaches, there can be an increase in thefts and burglaries. Please report

anything suspicious to the Police on 101. Adequate security measures can minimize the chance of being affected by crime. Make sure that you remove valuables from gardens and vehicles and lock them away. Ensure that car doors are locked and keep house doors locked at all times. If you have a house alarm, set it when you leave your property. Please remember, if there are any issues that you wish to raise, the Police and your local Councillors hold a Surgery on the first Saturday of every month at Westminster Park Shops from 10.30-11.45 am. I can be contacted also by email: christopher.fox@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Christopher Fox

Chester Riverside Rotary

Who are we? Formed a year ago, we are an all-inclusive club for men and women of varying ages, backgrounds and interests. Our common aim is to raise awareness and money to help others in our area. We have supported a lot of local charities, most recently the Alzheimer's Society and BIRD, an Eccleston-based charity, treating those suffering from brain injury.

We meet on Wednesday evenings, 7 - 8pm at the Handbridge Inn, but there is no commitment to attend every week. Anyone is welcome to join us for conversation, listening to invited speakers and social evenings. Thank you to everyone who has supported our events thus far. Watch out for notifications of upcoming events on local noticeboards, Westminster Park websites, or on [facebook.com/rotarych4](https://www.facebook.com/rotarych4) or [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/). For more information, call **07804 252244**
Jane Monro, President



Advent & Christmas 2015 at St Mary's Church, Handbridge

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 December

7.30pm Chester Operatic Society Concerts
Sunday 6 December

4.00pm Advent Service at the Scout Hut, Westminster Park

Saturday 12 December

7.00pm Jan Modelski Community Orchestra Christmas Concert

Saturday 19 December

7.30pm Chester Bach Singers Carol Concert

Sunday 20 December

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Thursday 24 December: Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Friday 25 December: Christmas Day

10.30am Parish Communion

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WP News is delivered to 1200 households in the Westminster Park area.

The next edition of WP News will be March 2015, so send your copy to the Editor by early February