

WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association



Bringing our community alive

Sunbathing


www.wp-ra.org.uk


@wesparkra

New housing proposed for Winkwell Drive field

A new proposal to construct housing on a designated Local Wildlife Site between Lache Lane and Winkwell Drive has been met with a considerable number of objections from local residents.

The site, currently a meadow with a pond, is home to several rare species including protected great crested newts.

A consultation leaflet, distributed to residents living nearby, outlined a plan to build 21 new dwellings on 70 per cent of the land. The pond and some grassland would be retained and enhanced. Entrance to the new development would be via a drive off Lache Lane.

It is intended that the housing would be a mix of property types from 1 to 5 bedrooms and include 30 per cent affordable homes, all built to a high standard.

Some aspects of the proposal were viewed positively by residents – the retention of the pond and grassland, the mix of housing, and no through access from Winkwell Drive to Lache Lane.

However, many of our residents do not support the plans and had many objections and questions. In summary, they are:

- ◆ This is a Local Wildlife Site which supports amphibians, bats, hedgehogs, etc. Any design for the development of this site should have the preservation of this habitat at its core, ensuring that protected species are not lost. Studies of the biodiversity of the site should underpin the plan and the area available for development (if any) can then be determined.
- ◆ Who will own and maintain the wildlife areas? How will it be funded? How will access be organised to allow community involvement and yet protect the flora and fauna?
- ◆ Why is this housing needed? Cheshire West and Chester Council's deliverable housing land supply is already well ahead of target for the current period to 2024 and a further 1000 houses will be built on Wrexham Road over the following 10 years.
- ◆ The infrastructure in terms of roads, sewerage and surface drainage south of the Dee is operating at capacity and cannot cope with additional load without significant improvement. The Council and utility companies need to develop a comprehensive plan to address the future needs of residents and businesses before agreeing to further developments.

THE PROPOSED SITE PLAN

SUMMARY

- 21 new dwellings comprising 1.5–2 storey properties.
- 30% affordable housing totalling 6 affordable homes.
- Retention and enhancement of the existing pond.
- Tree and hedgerow planting
- 0.86 hectares of open space.
- Vehicular access from Lache Lane.



- ◆ 1400 houses on Wrexham Road and 20 at Decoy Farm have already been approved and will seriously impact on our roads – more traffic and air pollution.
- ◆ This will be a difficult project to deliver in terms of surface drainage and sewerage. The site sits on heavy clay and surrounding properties already suffer from winter flooding. Surface drainage systems need to ensure that important habitats are not polluted by run-off during and after construction.
- ◆ Residents are in two minds about access to the site - Lache Lane or Winkwell Drive? There are major safety concerns about the access road proposed from Lache Lane; access via Winkwell Drive however passes close to the pond and surrounding habitat may be lost.
- ◆ The density, location and design of housing is not appropriate for this site adjacent to established housing. Density is too high; some dwellings are located very close to boundaries

affecting privacy; some designs appear to be higher than surrounding properties. There is great demand in this area for single storey bungalows to meet the needs of an ageing population – build more of these.

- ◆ Properties constructed should meet the highest environmental standards. Given the Climate Emergency declared by our Council, they should include solar panels, heat pumps, heat recovery, rainwater catchment/grey water systems as well as EV points. Gardens should be interlinked to allow wildlife to pass through.
- ◆ Parking is inadequate for residents and visitors. No space to turn around at the end of the road by Winkwell Drive.
- ◆ What will be the tenure of the properties - freehold or leasehold? Are affordable properties for sale or rent?
- ◆ How will the management company be structured? What will their responsibilities be?

(continued overleaf)

Other housing applications

Meadow House, Wrexham Road

Plans to demolish the existing building at Meadow House on Wrexham Road and construct a new house will come before the Council's Planning Committee on Tuesday 1 September. WPRAs has grave concerns about the effect of the building's drainage plans on the wildlife pond at the rear of the house as well as on neighbouring properties.

It is proposed that surface water should drain into the pond which would potentially pollute it. When surveyed in 2015, this pond was found to have good biodiversity and contained great crested newts.

Increasing the amount of water entering the pond is also likely to worsen the flooding that neighbouring property The Crest has been suffering since the owners of Meadow House built a conservatory five years ago. This pond is not connected to a water course and therefore water cannot flow out, other than into the gardens of neighbouring properties on Wrexham Road, Fir

Tree Avenue and Sherbourne Avenue.

Documents and comments relating to these plans can be found on the CWaC website, application number 20/00998/FUL.

Vincent Drive plans

Another project causing concern is a plan to convert the bungalow at 63 Vincent Drive into a four bedroom, two storey house.

The effect of this alteration on neighbours would be very upsetting as previously private rooms and gardens will be overlooked. Two of the neighbouring properties are bungalows and will lose most of their privacy.

One further important objection relates to the short supply of bungalows in Chester. The stock in Westminster Park is highly valued, particularly by those aiming to down-size from larger family houses. Current housing developments on Wrexham Road offer no bungalows at all. Allowing this development would set a dangerous precedent – we could lose more of our single storey accommodation, just as our ageing population is

expanding.

If you wish to comment on these plans, they can be found on the CWaC website, application number 20/02228/FUL.

New housing proposed for Winkwell Drive field

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The site is currently owned by The Marjory Boddy Charitable Trust, an organisation which makes grants to local charities involved in the areas of health, education, welfare and the arts. Proceeds from the sale of the land would enable them to support more charities.

Although the consultation has now closed, the developer is continuing to receive comments via email: lachelane.uk@avisonyoung.com

I would be grateful if you would copy me in on any correspondence so that I can continue to represent your views fully.

Jennifer Crew

News from your Councillors

We would like to thank all the volunteers in our community who have helped out during the pandemic and continue to do so. If there is anything we can help with, please do not hesitate to contact us or visit the Council's Website for information:

Coping with Coronavirus (COVID 19)

<https://livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Categories/4854>

Meals, food shopping and other practical support:

<https://livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Categories/4855>

Blueoak Estates Consultation

We would like to thank residents for contacting us about the Blueoak Estates Consultation for 21 properties on Lache Lane/Winkwell Drive. If and when we receive the details of a planning application, we will do our best to represent residents' concerns. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chair of WPRAs Jennifer Crew for liaising with Blueoak Estates.

New Planters for Westminster Park



We were delighted to use our members' budget to purchase the planters for Westminster Park shops and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of WPRAs Committee for organising and arranging delivery of the planters.

Incredible Edibles Project



It was a pleasure to meet and support members of a newly formed Group to discuss their aspirations of bringing people of all ages together to breathe life into our underused public spaces, raise awareness of sustainable food systems and the importance of wildlife in food production, revive food growing skills and help combat loneliness and mental health issues.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Anne Pritchard on 0770 7683711, Email: annepritchard30@gmail.com

Overgrown weeds

The Westminster Park area was treated during the week commencing 1st June, as part of an initial blanket spray. All kerb channels and backlines were treated unless parked cars prevented this. Further spot spraying and gully sweeping should have taken place in August.

Members' Budget

Councillors have £5000 each to spend on community projects so if you have any projects which will be of benefit to the community please do get in touch with us.

New PCSO and Community Beat Officer

We were delighted to welcome our new community beat manager PC3984 Helen Roberts and PCSO Cain Jones.

We look forward to working closely with them and thanked PCSO Steve Edmonds for all his hard work helping out in our ward until a permanent



PCSO was appointed.

Monthly Street Surgery

Our monthly street surgery takes place on first Saturday every month at Saltney Post Office 9am - 10.15am, Westminster Park shops 10.30am - 11.45am or on the Old Dee Bridge in Handbridge at 12pm - 1pm.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any issues you wish to discuss with us:

Councillor Razia Daniels - 01244

312392 or 07481 234411

Email:

razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Councillor Neil Sullivan - 07709 376876 or 01244 671099

Email:

neil.sullivan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Deva Podiatry
Foot Health Clinic

01244 680365

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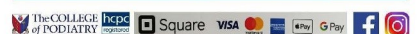
Let our fully qualified Podiatrist provide professional and friendly treatment and advice to get you back on your feet.

Daytime, evening and weekend appointments available.

Visit us at devapodiatry.com for more information on our full range of podiatry services



Sarah Webber Bsc (Hons) MSCh HCPC Reg :CH32605



Chair's piece

This has been a challenging summer in many ways, but amongst the gloom there has also been a lot to celebrate.

In particular, I would like to thank our shops for providing such an excellent service to our community in very difficult circumstances.

Although a few had to close during lockdown, as soon as guidance allowed, they bounced back into action, with the sad exception of the Beauty Lounge.

The area around our shops has been brightened in recent weeks by the addition of two planters giving a colourful display. Huge thanks to our Councillors for funding this asset to our community. We are hoping to raise funds for another planter at the opposite end of the car park in due course.

Our young people have had a very difficult time during lockdown, unable to go to school, socialise with their friends or even play in the park. It is delightful therefore to find that some have found an outlet in the arts and contributed to our 'Lockdown' exhibition. I hope that you enjoy their entries as much as I have. Their works are displayed in our centrefold and will also be exhibited in an art gallery in the centre of Chester from 5 to 27 September. What a thrill for these youngsters!

Evergreen Over 55s Club

There is little change to report in Evergreen's activities since the June newsletter. Although the Community Centre has reopened, the restrictions for use have meant that we cannot hold our meetings there for the foreseeable future. Should there be any change, we will contact members directly. This is also the case for the Supper Club.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and plan to resume our sessions as soon as we feel it is safe to do so. If there is further improvement in the National status, we may be able to go ahead with our planned Christmas Lunch at 1539.

In the meantime, we wish all our members good health, keep safe and well.

Another aspect of our community to be celebrated is the willingness of residents to volunteer to improve our environment. Plans are progressing to set up an Incredible Edibles group to grow food for all to share, litter pickers have been out tidying our streets and the Friends of Westminster Park are planning their first Volunteer Day since Lockdown started. Look out for details when a date has been agreed.

Our Local Support Network continues to function, albeit with reduced need. I am not intending to close it down just yet as we have no idea how things will develop over the autumn and winter. If you have need of assistance, please call me.

We have been very pleased with the development of the Westminster Park Residents Association Facebook page. From a pre-lockdown membership of 300, we now have over 700 members and it is well used to provide local news and information, help people pass on unwanted items, find lost pets, share photographs (sunflowers in particular!) and many other things. This is just what we hoped this community resource would be used for – thank you for participating and ensuring that it is a positive and useful way of communicating.

You may have noticed that our WPRA notice board has been moved from outside the butchers to a wall outside the fishmongers where notices can be read more easily. This can be used to advertise unwanted items, or services provided. It is free for household items and £5 for businesses. Details of access are on page 11. We also now have a new postbox in Bebbington's butchers.

Unfortunately, we and our clubs are not able to run any of our usual autumn social events, but some local organisations are embracing technological solutions. Chester Riverside Rotary Club is holding a virtual quiz and the Bridge Club are playing online. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can get together again in person. In the meantime, if you have any issues or ideas that you want to raise with me, please ring 07752 854383 or email chair@wp-ra.org.uk.

Jennifer Crew

The 18th Brownies

The 18th Chester Brownies have been enjoying zoom meetings since lockdown.

They have searched for treasure, played bingo and learnt about sound waves with a bottle and balloon.

Here are some examples of their delicious microwave 'cakes in a mug'. They didn't last long!



Jan Hooper-
Brown Owl
18th Chester Brownies

WPRA membership details and email preferences

You can view your membership details and update your email preferences via our members' portal to give you control over which emails (if any) you receive from us.

If you are not already on the system, you can also register on the portal site. There is a link on our main website - www.wp-ra.org.uk

Chester Riverside Rotary

We are holding Zoom meetings weekly and can now incorporate Business, Speakers, Quizzes and just having a chat.

We are also going out for a monthly meal and taking advantage of the deals on offer.

Guests welcome to join us

Details from Colin Dollimore, 01244 629167 .

THE RED LION

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- ♦ OUTSIDE SCREEN
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- ♦ FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR
- ♦ GOLF SOCIETY

THE RED LION - YOUR LOCAL PUB
AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



THE RED LION, HANDBRIDGE 01244 638849

Virtual Quiz Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 7pm

Come and join us for a virtual quiz to raise funds for MacMillan.

Cost of event is £5 per household.

If you are interested in being part of this event, please send an email to williams1621@hotmail.co.uk

The link and how to pay will be sent out on the day of the event to all who have registered.

WP Karate Club

It's been a strange few months for the Westminster Park Karate Club. Since we stopped training at the Community Centre and the Scout Hall back in March, things have turned out rather busy. Straight away we started doing online karate using Zoom, in partnership with Vicars Cross Karate Club. These sessions provided a way of keeping up with karate and also getting up off the sofa. Online karate has its challenges, space can be an issue as well as broadband wobbles, but on the whole it proved very successful.

We have also had the chance to train with other KUGB senior instructors from around the

country as they have also embraced online Zoom classes.

As soon as we were allowed, we started off outdoor classes, initially in groups of 6. This was all using proper social distancing and missing out the close quarter sparring. We are training in the park and also the car parks of the Scout Hall and Community Centre.

Now we can train inside in the Community Centre and outside in groups of 30, again making sure we stay safe. If anyone is interested in joining contact Dave Craggs on 07711009041. For more information check out our website:

www.wcsk.org.uk

Belgrave Primary School

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back in September but were fortunate to have seen the vast majority back before the end of term, some year groups only two days but this helped overcome worries / nerves over the summer holiday.

Reception will continue to return on a staggered start of morning or afternoon sessions which is what we always do to settle them in and will help with transition this year after not being able to have any sessions during the summer term.

Juliette Benton, Head

WP Bridge Club

Despite not being able to play physically, our club has still managed to keep in touch by playing on the internet.

Through an American website you are able to watch international matches, play in competitions, play friendly games against players from all over the world, practice on your own or, as we have done, set up individual competitions for our members. Currently we are playing in our 3rd such competition.

Although the Community Centre has opened, the rules for us returning to play there are too complicated both for bridge and social distancing plus, given the age profile of many of our members, too risky. So, for the moment we will be continuing playing on the internet despite missing the social benefits.

We are keeping the situation under review, but an early return is unlikely.

Nick Ryan



Friends of Westminster Park

Over the last few months the Park has been very busy with many people enjoying the open spaces (and latterly, facilities).

During this period, only basic maintenance by Cheshire West and Chester Council employees has been possible. Now though, we have now just received confirmation that Volunteer activities can be resumed (in accordance with strict guidelines). Accordingly, we have organised another Volunteer Day on Wednesday 9 September (10.00-14.00) and will meet outside the café. Details on our website

Recently we have observed an increase in organised activities in the park (e.g. fitness

training, sports coaching sessions). Park users need to be aware that organised sessions must be approved by the Council. This can be achieved by using the CWaC Event booking form: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/event-bookings-and-enquiries.aspx>

If you wish to support your local park, please join the Friends of Westminster Park. We hold regular volunteer days to improve the park and raise funds to improve facilities such as benches. It's only £2 to join – use the application form for WPRA/FoWP on p11 or contact me on 07976 712339.

Steve Telford

Calling all local photographers!

We like to feature photographs of our area in the newsletter, so if you take one of the Westminster Park/Lache Lane area that you think could be included, please send it to the editor at:

newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

Chester Model Railway Club

Meetings at the Clubhouse have been suspended because of Covid-19, but we are still advising and buying surplus stock that has been rescued from lofts and garages during the lockdown.

We also have stock and accessories to sell if anybody wants to start up or expand their collection.

Details from Colin Dollimore, 01244 629167 .

Tuition

SATS/ Entrance exams 2021/22?

NOW is the time to start preparing!

English/ Maths/ Non-verbal/ Verbal Reasoning

Tuition for KS2 tests, or general help with literacy or numeracy (5-11years) by experienced tutor.

Reasonable rates: ring 01244 675431.



Can you ignite the spark that helps a child blast off into a world of fun and learning?



PASSION FOR LEARNING is looking for volunteers with a couple of hours a week to spare, who would like to help support children in local primary schools with their reading and learning. We are looking for **enthusiastic adults** who genuinely enjoy the company of children and can bring new experiences and their own passion for learning to the next generation.

- ✓ We provide full training including Safeguarding, as well as ongoing support from our Volunteer Managers.
- ✓ We hold regular social events for our volunteers to recognise their contribution to the local community.
- ✓ You will work with the same children each week in fun and engaging 1:1 sessions during the school day during term time.
- ✓ We also offer opportunities as part of a volunteer team for an hour a week after school as part of our Enrichment Clubs.
- ✓ It is an incredibly fulfilling opportunity which helps the children to **flourish** and feels very **rewarding** for the volunteer.
- ✓ **Prior experience is not necessary.**

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

Please call Diane on 07966 404355 , or email diane.clark@passion-for-learning.com

Cheshire Police

Hello Everyone,

My name is Cain Jones, I am the new Police Community Support Officer for Handbridge and Westminster Park area.

I will be working alongside your new Beat Manager PC 3984 Helen Roberts. We are both friendly and approachable so if you see us both out and about in your area do not hesitate to stop us for a chat.

If you use Twitter and Facebook search for 'Handbridge Park Police', give us a like and see what your local beat team are up to. You will also see regular updates on your local area, events and surgery dates. Please note that our social media pages are not monitored 24/7. If you wish to report anything please do so by contacting us on 101 (always 999 in an emergency). You can also log a report by visiting www.cheshire.police.uk. By doing this, incidents can then be logged and dealt with appropriately.

Due to the current situation with Covid-19 our local police surgeries have been suspended until further notice. Once it is safe to run our surgeries the dates and times will be advertised on

our website and social media pages.

We are both passionate about resolving local issues and working alongside other agencies. We look forward to meeting you all on our daily patrols and working with your community!



Cain Jones
PCSO 23260

Glan Aber Tennis Club

Have you thought about playing tennis? Our Saturday Pay & Play coach-led sessions have continued to be well supported. No membership is required, just turn up: 09.30-10.00 3-5 years £2, 10.00-11.00 6-11 years £4 and 11.00-12.00 Adults £5. We can provide racquets. There is currently a maximum of 15 per group and you will need to provide contact details for track & trace purposes.

We are delighted to welcome new members and whilst our clubhouse remains closed, the courts are open and operating on the Clubspark booking system. Group coaching courses are planned for September onwards – please check the website for up-to-date information. Non-members are welcome for a guest fee of £3, in addition to any coaching cost.

Please visit our website at www.glanaber.com for current information or more detail. Or you can contact Sue Britton, Club Secretary, on 07775 577995.

New members are always welcome!

Pickling in the Park!



A new Pickleball group has recently started playing in Westminster Park.

So what is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a sport played with a racket that combines elements from badminton, tennis, and table tennis. It is played on a court with the same measurements as a badminton doubles court, but the net is similar to a tennis net, just a little lower.

The game is played with a hard "paddle" and the ball is a hard, hollow plastic one with holes in it making it about a third of the speed of a tennis ball. Also, the serve is underarm which makes Pickleball easier to learn and play and less demanding on the body, making it ideal for seniors.

Dave Smith



The Church is now open! Over the past few months services from St Mary's have been broadcast through Zoom and Facebook, but the church is now open for services on Thursday and Sunday mornings, and for private prayer all morning on Thursdays and Sundays.

The other good news is that St Mary's Handbridge Centre has finally reopened to hirers. Lots of work has been done to ensure all is fully compliant with all the requirements to protect everybody from the virus.

During lockdown the Centre has been used as the base from which Handbridge Community Association has been making local food deliveries to people who are shielding.

The garden has been well tended and the bed is a mass of flowers.



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westminsterparkgc.co.uk

WPRA Lockdown Art Exhibition for under 18s

We are delighted to present paintings and a poem produced during "Lockdown" by our local young people.

Thank you to all the contributors; we have really enjoyed your submissions and are proud to share your achievements with the Westminster Park Residents' Association.

I am sure you will agree that the collection has fulfilled the objective of uplifting our spirits whilst demonstrating an excellent use of colour, observational skills and creativity. Enjoy!

There will be an exhibition of all of the submissions of "Next Generation Lockdown Art" in the centre of Chester from Saturday 5 September. To be held at a gallery called PLACE 2 at 47 Northgate Street (opposite Storyhouse), it is part of an initiative started by a Community Interest Group called PACH (Place for the Arts in Chester). The exhibition will run until Sunday 27 September 2020. Do go along to view the works in person.

Deanne Garratt



Still life
by Sam Curtis, aged 10



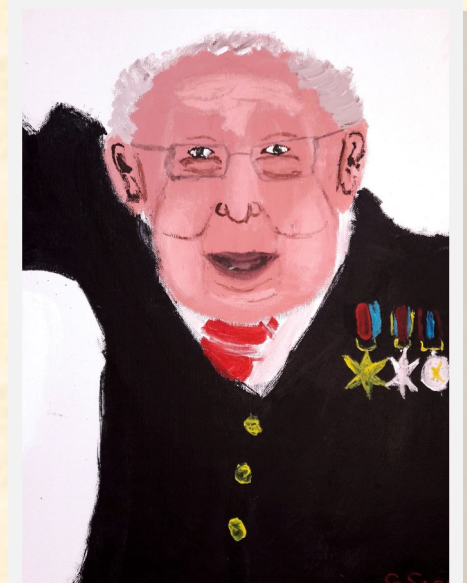
Butterfly study
by Isobelle Chambers, aged 11



Wonderful world
by Toby Ashton, aged 9



Sunflowers
by Meredith Burton, aged 8



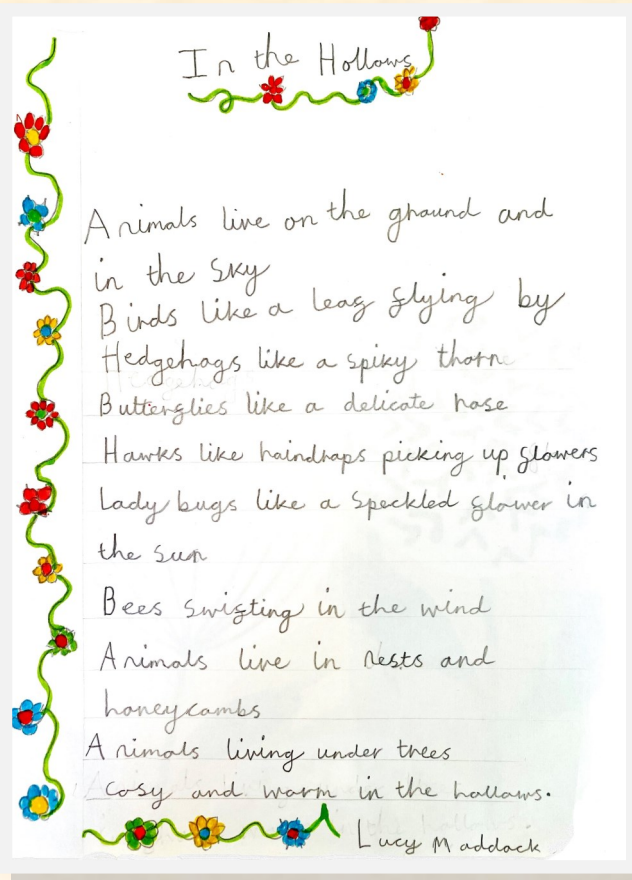
Captain Tom
by Gemma Sagar, aged 13



Butterfly
by Isobelle Chambers, aged 11



Starry Night
by Meredith Burton, aged 8



In the hollows
by Lucy Maddock, aged 7



Rainbow
by Amelie Curtis, aged 9



Bugs
by Isla Curtis, aged 6

Show off your sunflowers!

Although some of them have been slow to start flowering, we are now well into summer and it's time to show off those cheerful sunflowers that we hope you have all planted.

We have a Facebook page - *The Secret Gardens of Westminster Park* - where some of our residents have posted their photos directly. If you would rather email them to the Gardening Club that's fine and we will put them all together at the end of the season.

If you have a particularly tall sunflower, don't forget to tell us how high it has grown... it just might be a Westminster Park record breaker! We have reports of some that have reached almost 8 feet high.

You can also use the Facebook page for any garden related photos, comments or questions.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and seeing your sunflowers.

Mary Pole
pole.mary@gmail.com



There are a number of noticeboards in the area on which you can display notifications of events, etc. Here are the details of the persons you need to contact:

Community Notice board, Castlecroft Road (no trade notices)

Martin Amesbury 01244 679271

Brian Westcott 01244 675431

Notice boards at Lache Lane and Hough Green entrances to Westminster Park

Sue Britton 01244 677936

WPRA Notice board, Bebbington & Williams Fishmongers

Did you know you can advertise your unwanted items or business services on the WPRA Notice Board?

Charges are free for household/personal items, £5.00 for trade/services, for a period of 3 months.

To advertise, contact Sandra Magilton 01244 677373 or Jennifer Crew 07752 854383.

Sunflowers

I would like to extend a thank you to Julia and John Broadley for placing so many sunflower plants in the 'Westminster Park Plant Recycling Centre' at the shops and outside their house in Norwood Drive. They also kindly supplied seedlings for my sunflower distribution to many of our residents in Westminster Park.

Thank you also to Westminster Park Gardening Club for supporting the Sunflower project and providing the amazingly successful plant recycling scheme.

Sandra Magilton



Next Issue

Copy date for the next issue is Saturday 14 November. Send editorial, letters and advertising queries to:

newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

WP News 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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info@chesterhearingandbalance.co.uk · www.chesterhearingandbalance.co.uk



CONTACT US TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ON 01244 680214

Shop News

JJ's Barber Shop

Covid-19 measures to keep clients safe

Staff at the barbers have worked hard to ensure that their business is safe for customers.



They have separated the barbers' stations so that there is a gap of just under 2m gap between them.

In addition, they have separated the sofas with the bar and spread the tables and chairs around their large shop to give plenty of space in which to keep people distanced from each other.

There is a station by the entrance with all the PPE stuff - automatic hand sanitiser dispensers, gloves and masks which are all free of charge.



The barbers' chairs and equipment are cleaned after each client. Clients wear new disposable gowns and staff wear new sets of gloves and masks as well as a visor.

The staff at JJ's are looking forward to welcoming you back.

Pharmacy

Pharmacy in danger of closing

Our pharmacy is at the heart of our community and is relied on by many local residents for the supply of medication and advice. However, it is in very real danger of closing.

Reduced funding has meant that it is a challenge for local pharmacies to meet the bills for rates, rent and staffing whilst also competing with online businesses. Over half say that they have been operating at a loss.

The NHS is trying to switch funding away from prescriptions to the provision of more services in order to reduce GP visits and A & E attendance. However, this requires investment in training and facilities which many small pharmacies like ours will find difficult.

Our pharmacy has really proved itself to be invaluable in supporting our community through the Covid-19 pandemic, and is asking you to support a petition for fairer funding. You can find it at: change.org/saveourpharmacies

The Interiors Shop

The Interiors Shop would firstly like to say a huge thank you all our loyal customers who have been supporting us throughout the last few weeks. Having to close for 12 weeks was such a massive blow to a small independent business, but everyone has been so wonderful and supportive, so thank you all very much!

Those of you who have visited already will know that we have hand sanitiser and disposable face masks available for visitors and that the shop has been rearranged to allow social distancing while browsing our new and extended ranges.

We also have seating available both at the front of the shop and in our lovely little courtyard if you should wish to visit our café. We have freshly ground coffee, loose leaf teas and delicious homemade cakes on offer.

Ros Ellis



Looking after our environment - save Westminster Park's hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are one of our most loved wild creatures and we are lucky to still have some on Westminster Park, although in reduced numbers.

Over the past decade a third of hedgehogs have been lost from our towns and cities and yet they are very valuable visitors as they love eating slugs and snails.

One of the main problems that they face is that it is increasingly difficult for them to move from garden to garden as we are putting up impenetrable fences.

Hedgehog Street is a charity which aims to change that and encourage us to link our gardens by making holes in our fences. Hedgehogs travel around **one mile** every night through our parks and gardens in their quest to find enough food and a mate. If you have an enclosed garden, you might be getting in the way of their plans.

A 13cm by 13cm hole is sufficient for any hedgehog to pass through. This will be too small for nearly all pets. This can be made by removing a brick from a wall, cutting a hole in a fence or digging a channel a tunnel under your fence, wall

or gate.

If you are replacing a fence, look out for pre-made hedgehog-friendly gravel boards.

When you have created your hole, you put it on the Hedgehog Street charity's 'BIG hedgehog map'. You can also record any sightings of hedgehogs on here too.

There are a few other hedgehog-friendly features that we can add to our gardens to help to increase their numbers: a log pile, an overgrown corner in your garden, a leaf pile, a pond, a compost heap, a hedgehog home (DIY instructions are on the Hedgehog Street website).

Hedgehogs need access to lots of gardens to survive and we can all help them in Westminster Park by linking our gardens together.



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What's on

New book by local author

The Secret of the Kings by Keith Scott



It is said that we all have a book in us, but most do not put pen to paper. This can not be said of local resident Keith Scott who has recently published his first novel 'The Secret of the Kings'. He says that he was inspired to write it after despairing about what we are doing to our planet and what we might do if we started again somewhere else.

He has tried to pack a bit of everything in. "It's an adventure story, a love story, some politics,

some mystery, happiness and sadness, and some humour," he says. "Women readers might groan and think it is a bit chauvinistic to begin with, but then be interested in how the main female character makes her mark."

It's based on a planet that is like Earth with people like ourselves, but it's not science fiction as such. Just a story about somewhere else with people who face the same issues.

He is very keen for more people to read it and hopefully submit a review. Hopefully good reviews ... but honesty rules!

The most frequent comment that he has had from those who have read it has been

... "it's not what I would normally read but I enjoyed it."

The printed hard copies of 'The Secret of the Kings' have sold out so it is only available for download from Amazon, as a Kindle Edition at the moment, for £2.80.

He is currently working on the sequel.

Lache Library



Lache Library is now open with temporary revised opening hours. Items can be returned and borrowed via our self-service machines. You can also pre-book a computer for essential tasks and urgent printing as well as use the photocopier (self-service). Borrowing items and using the computers will also be self-service, so remember to bring your library card.

To support a safe and managed opening, some new measures are in place:

- limited numbers of people are allowed in the building;
- families are welcome, but to ensure spaces can be managed safely, all children under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult;
- some services will be unavailable to begin with including reservations, reference stock, newspapers, local studies materials, seating, toilets, meeting rooms and customer services;
- regular events and activities have been suspended and replaced with online alternatives where possible;
- the *Summer Reading Challenge* is online and you can find out about events and activities to do at home;
- there will be provision of hand sanitiser, one-way systems and floor markings to maintain social distancing;
- we'll also be following Government Test and Trace guidelines;
- face coverings must be worn when visiting the library.

All loans have been extended until 1 October. You can still renew your loans using the *Cheshire libraries catalogue* or by phoning 0300 123 7739 (24 hour renewals).

Revised opening hours

- Monday and Thursday: 2pm - 6pm;
- Tuesday, Friday and Saturday: 10am - 1pm;
- Wednesday and Sunday: Closed.

Any queries can be emailed to libraries@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk

or phone Lache Library 01244 973974 during opening times.

Lache and Westminster Park Local History Group

It seems like another world, but back in March this year, we had Phillip Harrison lined up to give us an illustrated talk on working as a young architect on the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. Then the May meeting was to be the blockbuster; a film and talk about the cinemas of Chester, presented by Peter Davies! Possibly even with usherettes!

Both our speakers have agreed to be rebooked, just as soon as it feels safe and comfortable to be meeting again at the Venue, the Lache Community Centre. As things stand, we are probably looking at March and May 2021, but I will let you know.

We did have a speaker offer to give online versions of his talks, but when I checked with some of our members, there were mixed feelings about zoom type talks. I think that what many of us enjoy is not only the talks, but the chance to get out and meet friends too.

Meantime, many of us have had the time to finally do those things we never quite got round to otherwise. Maybe a bit of family history, or local history research. One of the things I went back to was the unfinished task of identifying all the men named on the war memorial at St Mary's Church in Handbridge.



We're hoping to be able to publish that as a small book later in the year.

It would be interesting to hear what others have done with their lockdown time...maybe when the local history meetings resume, or in the pages of this newsletter?

Linda Shuttleworth, Secretary

Poppy Appeal - Adopt a Poppy

2020 has marked the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII. To celebrate this special year, instead of displaying a few poppies on lamp posts around the shops in Westminster Park, I would like to display 75 poppies throughout the Community.

I would ask for your support in 'Adopting a Poppy', adding your own message, name or just road address, with a donation of £3 per poppy. These will be displayed on a lamp post as close to your homes as possible. All money collected will be given to the Royal British Legion 'Poppy Appeal'.

I will have a table outside one of the shops (weather permitting) on each Saturday during October, commencing 3rd October, to enable you to make your donation.

Finally, an army of volunteers is needed to help put them up – perhaps you have a teenager who would like to get involved? If you can spare a little of your time, it would be most appreciated.

Please contact me on 01244 677373 / e-mail: sandymagilton@googlemail.com

Sandra Magilton

**WESTMINSTER PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2020**

Names in household: _____

Address: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Email (optional): _____

Please confirm that we can contact you at the above email address **Yes / No**

Your email address would only be used to advise you of items of interest that are happening within our community. You will not be 'bombarded' with emails nor will your address be released to any 3rd party. Your email preferences can be changed via our website: www.wp-ra.org.uk

How to pay your £3.00

- Cash or cheque (made payable to: 'Westminster Park Residents Association')
Post this form and your subscription in our post-box in Bebbington's or give it to Sandra Magilton, Treasurer, 31 Rowcliffe Avenue, Chester, CH4 7PN.

I / We enclose our annual subscription fee of £3.00 per household.

Or

- Online banking - Sort code: 60-40-08, Bank Account number: 32470878, Payment reference: your name, house number and road (e.g. *Magilton 31 Rowcliffe*).

I / We have paid our subscription fee of £3.00 per household by online banking.

Add your support to the Friends of Westminster Park

I have added an extra subscription fee of £2.00 per household for membership of the Friends of Westminster Park:

Email: (optional) _____

Please confirm that we can contact you at the above email address **Yes / No**

The information section

Westminster Park Residents' Association Committee

Chair: Jennifer Crew chair@wp-ra.org.uk
07752 854383

Secretary: Penny White sec@wp-ra.org.uk

Treasurer: Sandra Magilton, 31 Rowcliffe Ave.
677373

Editor: Jennifer Crew newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

Website Co-ordinator: Dave Craggs 682407
webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk

Other Committee members

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Olwen Bellis | 678719 |
| Sue Britton | 677936 |
| Pauline Brown | 679823 |
| Susan Eva | 676697 |
| Richard Short | 678559 |
| Brian Westcott | 675431 |
| Annemarie Macfadyen | |
| Tracey Casey | |
| Carina Edwards | |
| Karen Liddle | |

Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

Please let the Editor know if details are incorrect or you have a club/organisation to list.

Belgrave Badminton Club: Khal 07786 080089

Belgrave Pre-School: Ashley Middleton
07761 816891

Bowls: Martin Amesbury 679271

Bridge Club: Nick Ryan 675923

Chester Road Runners: Gill Warburton
chesterroadrunners@gmail.com

Cricket: Robert Aldridge 07759 695084

Croquet: John Dawson 675929

Evergreen (Over 55's Club): Sandra Magilton
677373

Friends of Westminster Park: Steve Telford
07976 712339

Gardening Club: Mary Pole 674439

Junior Football: Peter Burke 07798 576790

Lache and Westminster Park Local History Group: Linda Shuttleworth 679791

Model Railway Club, Chester: Colin Dollimore
629167

National Women's Register: Betty McLoughlin
677680

Nordic Walking Group: Ted Rose
01928 722334

Rotary Club, Chester Riverside: Colin Dollimore 629167

Shotokan Karate Club: Dave Craggs
07711 009041

St Mary's Church Parish Office 671202

Tennis - Glan Aber Tennis Club: Sue Britton
677936

Westminster Park Community Assoc:
671243

Westminster Park Walking for Health Club: Fred Whiteley 675085

WI, Handbridge: Maureen 671304

SCOUTING:

Group Scout Leader: Sue Jones 675538

Beavers (Wednesday): Jane Shortall 682136

Cubs (Monday): Michael Glass

Cubs (Thursday): Christine Owens 676691

Scouts (Friday): Terry Coe 676734

Explorer Scouts (Tuesday): Sharon Johnson

GUIDING:

Rainbows (Wednesday): Krystina Littlehales
07860 845402

Brownies (Tuesday): Jan Hooper 674701

Guides: Contact the District Commissioner:
Krystina Littlehales 07860 845402

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