

WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association



Bringing our community alive

Wishing you all a better year!


www.wp-ra.org.uk


@wesparkra

Christmas Lights at WP shops

As with everything else this year, our Christmas lights at the shops will be different. Although we had high hopes earlier in the year that we would be able to organise our usual Christmas Lights Switch-on get together, sadly it soon became obvious that this was not to be.

However, we have still been able to improve our show of lights this year. Our thanks go to our Councillors Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels for their generous support from their Members' Budget to enhance our display, and also to Sandra Magilton for organising the purchase and installation of the new lights.

In another change, we will not install a cut Christmas tree this year, but have arranged for a permanent one to be planted. This tree will remain all year round and will be more eco-friendly.

As usual, the lights in the trees opposite the shops will be on throughout December and January to brighten up the dark winter nights!



Chair's piece

Reflecting on 2020, I am struck by the extreme highs and lows that we have experienced. The Covid pandemic has caused much hardship and social isolation, but has also produced great moments of community fellowship such as the Thursday Applaud the NHS, the VE Day celebrations and the growing of sunflowers.

Inasmuch as we have been allowed, members of our community have been continuing to volunteer to help one another and to enhance our environment. Our local support network continues to operate to assist those shielding and isolating and volunteers have been working at Westminster Park, cutting back hedges and planting bulbs. Thank you to all of our volunteers.



During the autumn, we canvassed residents of the Lache Park Avenue/ Marlston Avenue area to see if they wished us to extend our area to cover their streets. They do not have their own residents' association and although some are already WPRA members, the area is not covered in our constitution. We were delighted with the unanimous response in favour of joining, and are therefore inviting households to join us in 2021.

At our last committee meeting our Treasurer Sandra Magilton decided to stand down from the position in 2021. Huge thanks go to Sandra for all of her hard work over the last two years in a demanding volunteer capacity, keeping our accounts, managing our membership and applying for funding as well as organising social events. I am extremely grateful to her and pleased that she is remaining on the committee.

My thanks also go to Sue Britton for volunteering to take on the Treasurer's role and to Colin Dollimore who is taking responsibility for Membership matters.

I hope that you have enjoyed the colourful planters at the shops and agree that they have greatly improved the look of the area. Now planted up for winter, we look forward

to them brightening up our shopping trips in spring. Our next aim is to get a planter for the Claypit Road end of the parade.

In addition to the permanent Christmas tree being planted on near the Co-op, another tree is being planted outside the pharmacy by the National Women's Register (NWR) in celebration of their 60th Diamond Jubilee year. The NWR is a flourishing organisation with two groups in Chester. It aims to provide the opportunity for women to share and explore ideas and experiences, enjoy lively and stimulating conversation and make new friends. It is particularly good for women who have experienced a big life change such as children leaving home or moving to a new area.

As we approach the festive season, we are very sorry not to be able to celebrate in our usual way at our Christmas lights switch-on. We are holding on to the thought that this time next year we will once again be able to enjoy the singing of Belgrave choir and share a mulled wine and mince pie.

But for now, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to a safe and healthy New Year.

Jennifer Crew

News from your Councillors

We would like to thank everyone for all your hard work, help and support during the pandemic. So many volunteers have come forward to help and support our community; we are very lucky to have such fantastic community spirit in Westminster Park during such challenging times. There is a lot of help available and information on the Council's website but if you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help with anything.

The Council's online engagement platform, Participate Now, is being used to host **Inspire Cheshire West** at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/inspire

This interactive digital space allows the Council and local people to share and celebrate positive stories that illustrate how individuals and communities have made a difference during the pandemic and share ideas for physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Financial support for businesses

Details of the Government's package of

measures to support businesses during the current period of disruption can be found at www.gov.uk

A number of grants are available and you only need to complete one application form. The Council will make a payment for each grant you are eligible for. To apply, visit:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/incidents/coronavirus-covid-19/business-information/financial-support-for-businesses.aspx>

Council Budget Consultation

The Council's consultation on next year's budget closes on 2 December. At the time of writing 98% of Council additional costs for Covid-19 have been met from Central Government. To take part, visit participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

St Mary's Nursery statutory consultation Proposal:

To amalgamate Overleigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School and St Mary's Community Nursery School.

It is proposed this amalgamation is

achieved through the related proposals to discontinue (close) St Mary's Community Nursery School and to extend the age range of Overleigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years of age. Further details can be found at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/stmarysconsultation

We encourage everyone to respond and welcome feedback by the deadline of **midnight Wednesday 09 December 2020**.

'Adopt a Poppy Appeal' raised £730 for The Royal British Legion

Thank you to everyone for supporting the 'Adopt a Poppy Appeal' and raising £730 for the Royal British Legion. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped Sandra Magilton put the poppies on the lampposts.

Members Budget

We were delighted to support the hard-working volunteers of the WPRa Gardening Club and Friends of Westminster Park by providing funds for plants, seeds and daffodils bulbs to improve the park. We also look forward to supporting the Westminster Park Incredible Edible Group with their exciting project.

We have also paid for the line marking of the pickleball court requested by WP Pickleball Group and additional Christmas lights for the trees at Westminster Park shops. Please contact us if you have any community project that requires funding.

Councillors' monthly street surgery

COVID Pandemic restrictions have prevented us holding our regular monthly street surgery. We resumed in July, but were not able to hold our November surgery. We hope to resume in December, but it will depend on national government guidance. We are always available to help so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Councillor Razia Daniels - 01244 312392 or 07481 234411

razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Councillor Neil Sullivan - 07709 376876 or 01244 671099

neil.sullivan@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Westminster Park - Gas main replacement

The replacement of main gas pipes has started at the southern end of Westminster Park, undertaken by Balfour Beatty. The old metal pipes have been subject to leaks and urgently need to be replaced with plastic ones.

This work is scheduled over a 12 week period (not including Christmas) and started at Boxmoor Close/ Rowcliffe Avenue.

Residents will get a 10 day advance notice letter and a visit from myself or a colleague to explain the procedure. Leaflets are also being issued with information about the Covid procedures that are in place to keep everyone warm and safe while we do this essential work.

While the work is taking place we will supply hotplates and electric heaters to any resident off gas. Please let me or a team member know so we can supply these items before the gas goes off. Ring me or the customer service desk if you have any queries or issues, or speak to a team member on site.

We hope to complete each phase over two weeks, one to replace the main gas pipe followed by one to reinstate (and get back to normal). Delays can occur occasionally.



	Est start Pipework	Est Finish	Reinstatement start	Streets
Phase 5	30/11/20	04/12/20	07/12/20	Merton Drive
Phase 6	07/12/20	11/12/20	14/12/20	Merton Drive
Phase 7	14/12/20	18/12/20	21/12/20	Rowcliffe Ave
Christmas Break				
Phase 8	04/01/21	09/01/21	11/01/21	Rowcliffe Ave
Phase 9	11/01/21	15/01/21	18/01/21	Rowcliffe Ave
Phase 10	18/01/21	22/01/21	25/01/21	Denstone Drive
Phase 11	25/01/21	29/01/21	01/02/21	Radnor Drive
Phase 12	01/02/21	05/02/21	08/02/21	Radnor Drive

These are all planned estimated dates subject to change, but at all times we will do our best to communicate any changes.

We appreciate our customers' understanding and patience. Thank you

If you have any questions about it please do not hesitate to contact me, **Paul Hennis** on 07523 505830 - If engaged please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible or email: mailto:paul.hennis@balfourbeatty.com

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.

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

newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

WPRA Membership / 2021

Please join us for 2021

Thank you to all of you who joined the WPRA this year – we hope that you will renew your membership for 2021 to help us continue to support and enhance our community and its environment.

This year has been challenging for all our residents in common with the rest of the country, but we hope that you feel that your residents' association has stood up to the test.

Early on in the pandemic we realised that many residents would need assistance to remain safe in their homes and established a local support network of volunteers. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of all who volunteered to help their neighbours – we can't thank you enough. Our network continues to operate for those in need of a helping hand.

Our role as a residents' association is varied and includes amongst other things:

- representing residents' views about planning applications;
- communicating with our Councillors and

Council officers to bring about improvements to our environment;

- providing information to residents via our newsletter, website, Facebook and Twitter pages;
- organising social events (when permitted), e.g. Christmas Lights Switch-on, Summer Fayre, Quiz nights.

Membership of WPRA also gives access to our Gardening Club and Evergreen, our club for over 55s.

When representing your views, it is important that we can demonstrate that a high percentage of households in the area are members. We continue to ask for only a nominal amount as a subscription, so please make the effort to join us for 2021. Our subscription form is printed on page 11 of the newsletter with details on how to join and pay.

Many thanks for continuing to help our community.

Colin Dollimore
Vice Chair, Membership

Evergreen Over 55s Club

After the initial Coronavirus lockdown in March, there were hopes that there would be some return to normality, certainly by the end of the year. However, this was too optimistic.

Now as a consequence of the recent increase in reported infections, particularly across the North West and the latest tightening of restrictions, at the last Committee meeting on 15 October it has been decided to cancel the annual Christmas Lunch, which was to be held at 1539 and there will be no further 'Evergreen' activities for the remainder of the year.

Nevertheless, there are hopes the situation will improve in 2021, and there is a draft 2021 programme; the situation will be monitored carefully until there is confidence that it is safe and practical to resume 'Evergreen' 55+ Club meetings when all members will be contacted.

Membership subscriptions for 2020 will be carried over as 2021 subscriptions.

Welcome to residents of the Lache Park Avenue neighbourhood

We are delighted to invite residents of Lache Park Avenue, Marlston Avenue, and the streets in between to join the Westminster Park Residents' Association.

Although we already had some members in the Lache Park Avenue and adjoining roads, we did not previously technically cover this area and did not distribute our newsletter there. Following an approach by a resident to canvas opinion as to whether they would like

to be able to join us, we carried out a consultation and received a unanimous positive vote from respondents.

We are therefore pleased to offer 2021 membership to all households on these streets. Our subscription form and details of how to join are on page 11 of this newsletter. Welcome to all!

Colin Dollimore

Poppy Appeal - Adopt a Poppy



A huge heartfelt thank you to the Community of Westminster Park for the overwhelming support for the 'Adopt a Poppy' Appeal. Messages and salutations that were on the adopted poppies raised an amazing £730 for The Royal British Legion. It was interesting to hear the many stories of family members and I know many have enjoyed reading the messages in honour of them. My initial idea of placing 75 poppies throughout the community was far exceeded by the demand to adopt a poppy.

The generosity of the community shows we have a fantastic community spirit and I was proud to have initiated the idea on behalf of the British Legion.

I am especially grateful to the wonderful

volunteers who came forward, gave their time and braved the weather to place the poppies on the lampposts.



Sandra Magilton

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 (5-11 years) by experienced tutor.

Reasonable rates: ring 01244 675431.



**Christmas
Services**

16th December, 7.30pm

An evening of poetry and music
Proceeds to Christian Aid

20th December, 6.30pm

A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

24th December, 11.30pm

Midnight Mass

25th December, 10.30am

Christmas Morning Eucharist

24th January, 6.30pm

Epiphany Carols – readings and music

From Monday to Friday, our services of
Morning Prayer are live-streamed via
www.facebook.com/stmaryhandbridge

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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

WP Karate Club



It's been a busy few months for the Westminster Park Karate Club. We have been mixing outdoor classes with indoor classes albeit with limits on numbers for the classes in the community centre. These have proven very popular and we have had to add extra slots to cope with demand. We are extremely pleased to have many parents training alongside their children.

In October we welcomed Sensei Jimmy Brennan to the club to grade some of our

students to their next belt. Everyone trained really hard and I was very pleased with their performance.

Now we are in a temporary lockdown we are back training online using Zoom, not the same as training in class, but still a good workout. We are very much looking forward to getting back to normal classes.

Dave Craggs
07711009041

www.wcsk.org.uk

Belgrave Primary School

◆ Eloise, now in Year 6, won an animal drawing competition run by King's Moat Garden Village. Her painting is displayed in one of the show houses at King's Moat Garden Village and she also got to choose to adopt an animal at Chester Zoo. Eloise chose a tiger and now has her name printed on a plaque at Chester Zoo. Belgrave Primary are very proud of her!



◆ We are delighted to have been awarded the Good Diabetes Care in School Award. Our school has been recognised for our approach to good practice diabetes care and management, ensuring children with diabetes are safe and fully included at Belgrave. We were grateful to Freddie's Mum for nominating us and to Mrs Redmond for completing the application and supporting documents. We are very proud to have received this award and proud that Freddie attends Belgrave – he is a superstar! We had a non-uniform day and raised £255 for Diabetes UK in October.



◆ Belgrave PTA ran a pumpkin Carving Competition with over 120 entries, raising £250 for school resources. There were cats, monsters, princesses, pirates and creative ideas including a couple of Belgrave bees to reflect our motto: **BEES – Belong, Enjoy, Enthuse, Succeed.**

Juliette Benton

Handbridge WI

Handbridge W.I. are enjoying their monthly meetings via Zoom.

In October we had an illustrated talk about the work of The Cheshire Gardens Trust. November was our AGM followed by a talk from a Climate Change expert and learning about Eco Homes.

In December we will "all win" the Christmas Quiz, enjoying a mince pie and a drink of our choice, wearing Christmas hats!

The craft group have made a fabric bird and learnt cross stitch, ribbon embroidery and decoupage.

The book group continues to flourish.

We are planning a programme for 2021 and are really looking forward to returning to the St Mary's Handbridge Centre.

New members very welcome. Try us!

Ring Maureen, 01244 671304



7 Manor Road, Westminster Park, CH4 7QW

Do you suffer from painful feet?

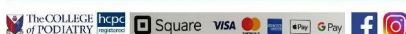
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Sarah Webber Bsc (Hons) MSCh HCPC Reg. CH32605



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

Friends of Westminster Park

A very generous donation received by the Friends of Westminster Park from our local councillors Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels, will enable us to plant a range of new shrubs in the formal borders, bluebells and anemones in the woodland area, and work with local schools to grow and plant wild flowers in the wildlife area, whilst teaching the pupils about the benefits of biodiversity.

Like many of you, following government advice in April, we took an hour's exercise every day, usually walking round the park, or Westminster Park streets enjoying the front gardens. The current plan developed from ideas generated on those walks.

We have been involved in a few volunteer sessions organised by Chair Steve Telford, weeding the circular flowerbed at the Lache Lane entrance, planting Lavender, and tidying up in the park.

We were unable to work until Lockdown was relaxed, but now there is a group of volunteers who meet every Wednesday morning at 10.00 outside the park Café, and then work together on whatever project is decided for the day, until we finish at 12.30. We will be starting again in December, so just turn up if you want to join us! If you are on the email list of the WP Gardening Club or the Friends of WP, you can get notifications.

Most recently we planted several hundred daffodil bulbs (funded by Razia Daniels), just the day before the start of the second Lockdown and look forward to the display in March.

The plan for the formal borders near the café includes planting flowering and fruiting shrubs selected to provide year-round pollen for insects and food for birds. We will also put down weed barrier and cover it with a bark mulch to minimise future maintenance.

The woodland and grassland area beyond the play area and bike track is much larger (1.5 hectares). The council is currently carrying out a consultation on its wildflower and grasslands strategy, aimed at increasing biodiversity across the borough and working with the Park Development Officer we are planning a trial in small areas to complement the consultation.



We will be planting native bluebells and anemones in the woodland area, in compliance with the plans to create a wildlife area using native species indigenous to this area. We also plan to grow perennial wild flower plants from seed in the spring, and plant them out on the grassy mounds next to the sculpture.

We've had a lot of positive comments from passing members of the public. We are always looking for additional volunteers, so if you are interested please contact Steve Telford or Sue Britton (details on page 11 or on the FoWP website).

Niall Macfadyen



Volunteer gardener Niall Macfadyen with Councillor Neil Sullivan. The Leylandii hedge has been trimmed to make it easier for people to pass at a safe 2m distance.

Glan Aber Tennis Club



We are pleased to welcome Aidan Wiggins of All Court Tennis Academy (ACTA) who took up the role of Head Coach at the beginning of October. Coaching sessions have been well supported and Aidan has successfully introduced cardio tennis followed by match play on Thursdays. As with all our activities, pre-booking is required to manage numbers. Non-members are welcome for a guest fee of £3, in addition to any coaching cost. Aidan can be contacted on 07808 657765.

We are delighted that tennis has been able to continue during most of this year and that we have enjoyed increased interest and welcomed new members. 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. The sessions have been on hold during the November lockdown but weather-permitting we hope to continue sessions year-round. Please check our website or Facebook page for up-to-date information.

Please visit our website at www.glanaber.com for current information and further details. New members are always welcome.

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.



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Hough Green,
Chester
CH4 8JQ
Tel: 01244 680231
westminsterparkgc.co.uk

WPRA Gardening Club

Gardening? It's good for us!

Fortunately, gardeners are generally optimistic types and never has that been more important than during 2020 – the year our bins went out more than we did! Without a garden to tend many of us would have struggled with the challenges that the pandemic has thrown at us.

The act of gardening allows us to concentrate on the task at hand instead of worrying about other issues or problems in our lives. This helps us unwind, relax, and feel less stressed and anxious.

While gardening, the body also benefits



from regular moderate to vigorous exercise from raking, cutting grass, weeding, digging and pruning. And then there is vitamin D - a lack of vitamin D can cause many health issues and exposure to the sun for just half an hour a day can help generate enough to keep us healthy.

When sitting in a cosy room during the winter months, it is sometimes hard to get motivated and get out there. So, unless the weather is really foul, put on a warm coat and boots and set yourself one simple task. Once you are out and working you will probably spot all sorts of jobs that need doing and end up having a really good workout. Winter jobs, that can be done over the next few months, include: planting fruit trees, planting bare-root roses, pruning fruit trees, raking leaves, protecting less hardy plants from the worst of the weather, sowing broad beans and sweet pea seeds, general tidying of borders

And when you come in, make a hot drink and curl up with a seed catalogue to plan for next spring and summer.

Sunflowers for Cheerfulness

Many thanks to all who sowed seeds, shared seedlings with the community and nurtured sunflowers over the past months.

They have given a great deal of pleasure to many of our residents. The tallest we heard about - and with the evidence to back it up - is Rosemary Mason's giant that measured 10 feet 2 inches (3.098m).



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For more details please contact us
on 07877 735794 or 07572 679544.

Building work

Meadow House

You may have noticed that the existing house at the Meadow House site has been demolished and work is now ongoing to build a new house on the site. The houses built next door in the adjoining orchard are also nearing completion.

Don't forget to save a few seeds for next year's plants and feed the rest to the birds!

Mary Pole

pole.mary@gmail.com



Kings Moat houses nearing completion

The first houses on the Wrexham Road Kings Moat development are now nearing completion and occupancy. Both Redrow and Taylor Wimpey have sold several houses and continue to build apace.

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CONTACT US TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ON 01244 680214

Quiz

Chester Riverside Rotary Christmas Quiz

Wednesday 9th December 2020
at 6.50pm, for 7.00pm start

Come and join us for a virtual quiz, to raise funds for RNLI.
Cost of event is £5 per household, including a free raffle.

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.

Chester Riverside Rotary



Rotary and Crocus Planting

For many years the Rotary movement has raised funds to eliminate Polio from the world. Helped by the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation which matches funds raised by Rotary, the project is almost complete. Nigeria was recently announced to be Polio free with only a few cases still in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The colour purple is associated with Polio elimination and Chester Rotary Club arranged for the Town Hall to be illuminated in purple during the last weekend in October to commemorate Eliminate Polio Day on 26 October.

The club also purchased 2000 purple crocus bulbs for planting around Chester and donated 500 of them to Westminster Park.

The photo shows the planting by members of the WPRA Gardening Group and Rotary Club on the grass area between the Wrexham Road and Vincent Drive. Hopefully they will provide a mass of colour (purple) in February or March!

Brian Westcott

The 18th Chester Brownies

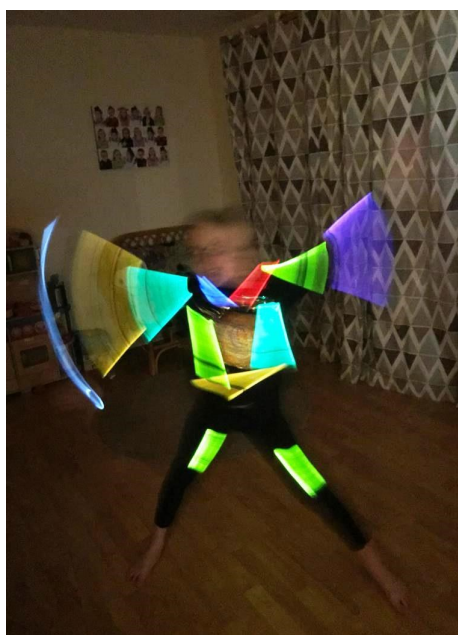
Coronavirus has not stopped the Brownies from meeting either on Zoom or outdoors this term.

During Zoom meetings the girls have faced many challenges and games including 'heads and tails', 'knife (plastic), fork and spoon' and 'Bingo' with chocolate prizes.

They have helped free Cinderella from an Escape Room, achieved an alphabetical scavenger hunt and tried blind drawings.

Up to half term we also enjoyed activities in Westminster Park with reasonable weather. The girls enjoyed socially distanced skipping challenges and kicking rounders. We hunted for nocturnal creatures with torches in small groups. Unfortunately, they were very shy that evening. The girls are liking the 'different' meetings and seeing their friends.

In November the Brownies joined Pudsey to celebrate his 40th birthday, by getting sponsored for 'Acting their Age', e.g. reading eight books in eight days, walking seven miles or baking nine batches of cupcakes or other challenges.



The Brownies enjoyed games and dancing with glowsticks. The girls were inventive with their moves and designs.



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Buy a bag to raise money

These hessian bags are being sold by St Vincent's School for the visually impaired, based in Liverpool, to raise funds to purchase 36 pairs of glasses with the special lenses for students with Albinism in Tanzania.



If you are interested in purchasing any, just drop me an email as below

along with your order, name and delivery address and I will then forward details on how to make payment.

The animal bags, medium hessian bags with the coloured stripe down the side, and the heart and flower bags (all 8 inches square) are £2 each.

Single wine bottle bags are £2 and doubles £2.50

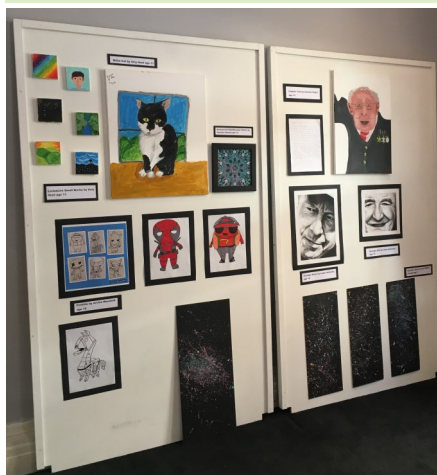
Larger bags, up to 14" x 16", some with a coloured stripe down the side, are all £2.50 each.

The very small bags (5" x 5") with cane handles or draw strings are £1 each. Please email me, williams1621@hotmail.co.uk, or call me on 07525 145524.



Angela Williams

Next Generation Art Exhibition



A Festive Fun idea!

So many children love drawing Christmas pictures as the festive season draws near.

Wouldn't it be nice to spread a bit of festive fun around Westminster Park?

So if your child likes drawing or painting why not put their Christmas pictures up in the window similar to what was done with the rainbows in the first lockdown.

Then we can all go looking for Santa in the window whilst out for a walk!
(Thank you Steve Cornes for the idea)



Following our request for children's lockdown art and poetry, it was a delight to see their work displayed in the gallery opposite Storyhouse in July and August.

I hope that they all went along and got a buzz from seeing their work on show!

Well done to all of you!



Environmental Issues

Climate Emergency Update

After the Council declared a climate emergency last summer (along with about 75% of all councils in the UK), they agreed to produce a plan of how they expected to achieve their goal of making the borough carbon neutral by 2045; the Climate Emergency Response Plan is now out for consultation and is available for comment until January.

The council has also created a Climate Emergency Task Force to monitor progress towards delivery of the plan, involving council officers, industry, commerce and other interested parties such as the Zoo. There are three community representatives on the taskforce and I have been asked to be one of them, so I intend to represent the interests of Westminster Park and raise any issues you may have with the climate response plans. Positive feedback also welcome!

The borough produces about 4 million tons of carbon gases or equivalent every year; much of that comes from Transport (23%) and Residential Housing (14%)

75% of residents who work travel to work by car. The council is planning to achieve a 17% reduction in transport emissions by 2024, through more cycling and walking, more bus travel, and the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles. Although the Wrexham Road development was planned before these

policies were proposed, it is clear that the council was already hoping the new residents would not be wanting to drive to work as much as they used to!

Total emissions from buildings, mostly from heating, represent 25% of the borough's emissions. Perhaps the biggest problem is that 80% of the buildings we will be living and working in in 2050 have already been built, and do not meet the standards that will be required. There will need to be a massive programme of housing upgrades.

The most concerning aspect of emissions from housing is that we are still building, and will continue to build, houses that do not meet the required standards. The Wrexham Road housing is being built to the current national standards, but the Government has stated that it will introduce new building standards by 2025 that will result in new houses with 75% less emissions (and therefore 75% lower bills).

The new houses being built today will all have to be upgraded, perhaps at the owners' expense, within a couple of decades. It seems a shame that the local builders are not adopting higher standards now. It is usually a lot cheaper overall if you do a high standard job in the first place, rather than going back to do an upgrade later. Apparently these decisions on standards are made at a National level, and Cheshire West and

Chester cannot apply higher standards even though they would like to.

Finally, many of the problems we will have to learn to live with due to climate change are already "locked in" to the environment for the next few decades. Current actions will only significantly affect the climate in the second half of the century. For example, it is probable that annual rainfall in the area will increase by up to 20%, in particular with warmer wetter winters and hotter but wetter summers. Are our old and new drainage systems designed to cope with this increase?

In this article I have focussed on our local issues, but the big picture for Cheshire West is very positive, with the prospect of thousands of new jobs in the green economy and one of the UK's first low carbon industrial clusters, but that is for another newsletter!

Please take the opportunity to read the council's draft plans and submit your comments during the consultation.

Niall Macfadyen

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

New Book

**LIVES LOST IN
THE GREAT WAR
1914-1919**

St Mary's Parish
Church War
Memorial,
Handbridge, Chester

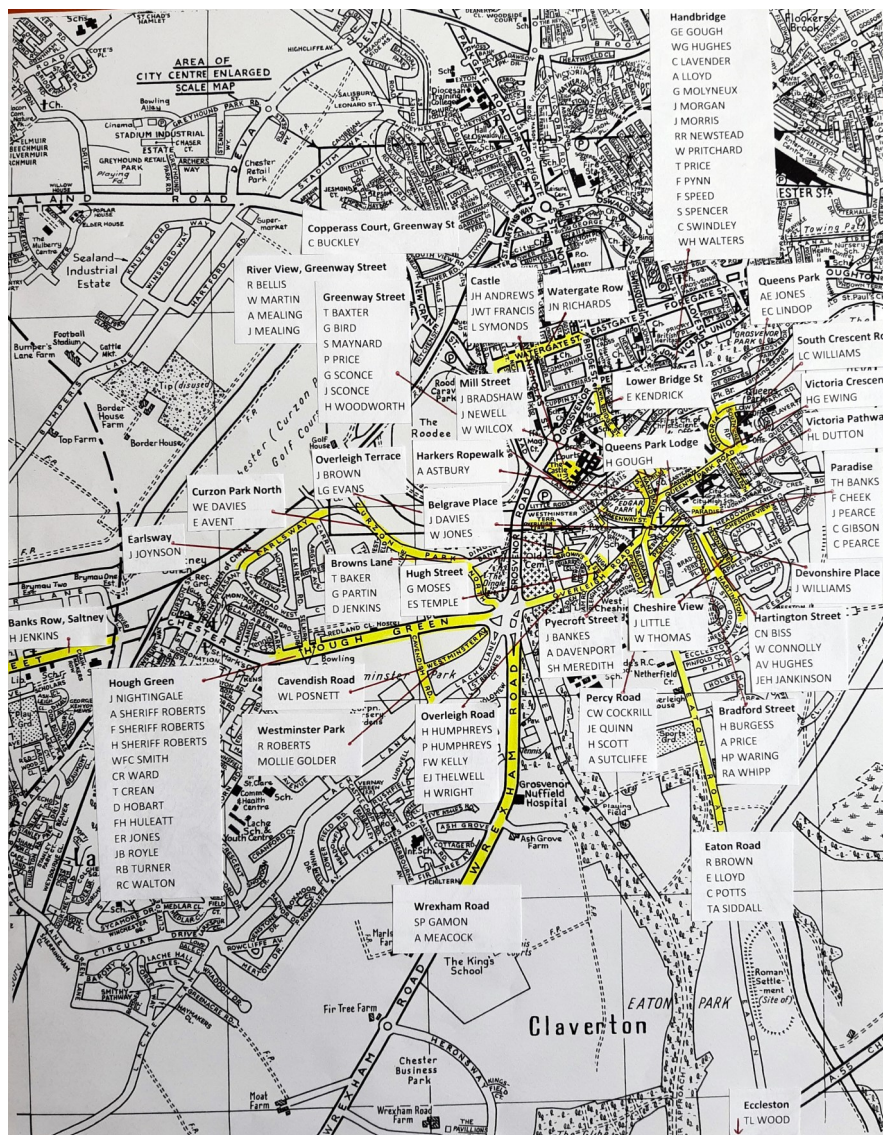


by Linda Shuttleworth,
published by Handbridge History Group

This is an account of the stories behind the names of the 94 individuals named on the memorial, almost all of whom have now been identified. The research was begun in 2018, to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, and was completed this year.

Just after the book came back from the printers, Linda decided to try to map out the home addresses of those who were named on the war memorial. Few of the streets which were south of the river then were left untouched by sorrow.

The book is now available, price £5. Copies are available from Linda (01244 679791, shuttleworths@talktalk.net) or from St Mary's Church office (exact money in a marked envelope please, office open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9.00am to 3.00pm, Wednesday 9.00am to 12.30pm).



Grosvenor Museum Society

Activities have been put on hold for members of the group that supports the Grosvenor Museum. It is hoped that we will be able to re-start the popular lecture series next spring and the committee has had discussions about social events. Of course, everything depends on how we are all feeling about mixing again - rest assured, all precautions will be taken and members will be consulted before we formalise any offerings!

When we can meet again, our support for the Grosvenor Museum will be more valuable than ever so we do hope to see friends and members in the lecture room as soon as we can. If anyone has any suggestions for lecture topics, possible venues for outings or fundraising ideas, please get in touch. (Telephone GMS Secretary Andrea Hopkinson, 01244-675555, or email info@grosvenormuseumsociety.co.uk)

Meanwhile, the most recent addition to the newly renamed Peter Boughton gallery has been installed. The Grosvenor Museum Society supported the purchase of this surrealist portrait which Peter was planning to acquire for the collection just before he died in September 2019. In recognition of the long and fruitful association the Grosvenor Museum Society had with Peter Boughton, the sadly-missed Keeper of Pictures, we were pleased and privileged to contribute towards the purchase of this striking picture and we really recommend a visit to appreciate it fully.

The Museum is currently closed once more until 2nd December, when it should re-open. Admission is free, but opening times will be reduced and prior booking is recommended as numbers are limited. Full details on the Grosvenor museum website:
grosvenormuseum.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk



*A portrait of Loelia, Duchess of Westminster
by William Acton (1906-1945) - The most
recent addition to the Art Gallery in Chester's
Grosvenor Museum.*

Shop News

Online writing workshops

Libraries' creative writing workshops on-line for 2021

With at least four published authors in our area, I thought that some of you might be interested in this opportunity!

Cheshire West and Chester Libraries Service is offering online creative writing workshops for adults from January 2021 and is looking for people to take part.

Author Charlie Lea will run six writing courses, each lasting eight weeks. All courses will take place online via Zoom rather than at libraries. There will be a maximum of 15 free places on each course and registration will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

There is no need to have had any experience in writing before as this is a beginner's course and Charlie will guide all new writers on what they need to know to write amazing stories.

Charlie Lea said, "The course is designed to be easy to follow, fun, relaxed and yet informative at the same time. I hope that this will be a stepping-stone for people to become published authors in their own right." He will use examples from novels to guide the writers on how to, amongst other things, set the scene, build characterisation, plot and plan their stories.

Eight-week courses (from the week beginning 11 January 2021) are available on the following days/times:

Monday afternoon:	2pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday evening:	7pm to 8.30pm
Wednesday afternoon:	2pm to 3.30pm
Thursday morning:	10am to 11.30am
Friday morning:	10am to 11.30am
Saturday afternoon:	2pm to 3.30pm

If you are interested in attending choose one of the above sessions and then email charles@readnowwritenow.org.uk to book.



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The Interiors Shop

The Interiors Shop has remained open through lockdown as we sell hardware items as well as paint, brushes, lightbulbs etc. and provide take away hot drinks.

We have recently enclosed our rear courtyard so that we can still cater for café customers once lockdown lifts.

To enable our customers to shop from the comfort of their own homes in a fun interactive way, we are hosting live Facebook sales. They have been so popular that we have booked some more. All you have to do to join us is go to The Interiors Shop on Facebook, click on Events and join. You will then get a reminder when the event starts.

If you are not free at that time, you can catch up later by watching the video on Facebook when it suits you. Then simply message me with the products that you like and we can arrange everything. Easy!

There are several other ways to shop with us: everything from gifts, to greetings cards and gift bags is in our online store or if you already know what you want then phone us on 01244 678444, email info@theinteriorshop.co.uk or message us via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

We have three ways to arrange delivery:

1. Click & Collect - select free In-Store Pick Up at checkout and we'll let you know as soon as it's ready to collect
2. Free Local Delivery - select this option if you live within 10 miles of our store in Chester and we'll deliver your order in our

electric van free of charge.

3. Postal Delivery - we reuse all our packaging which not only helps save the planet but also allows us to keep delivery costs low, most at a rate of £2.50; delivery is free for purchases over £75.

These are difficult times for us all, none more so than small independent businesses.



The big online retailers will undoubtedly survive but with your help and support your lovely local, friendly and unique retailers will survive too!

Looking forward to seeing you all virtually or from a social distance very soon!

Ros Ellis

New Deli coming!

We should soon have a new business in the old Beauty Lounge premises called The Old Grocery Shop. A licence has been granted and work should start in the new year, hopefully opening in the spring.

Business owners Kate and Rob John said, "We are planning to operate a British biased delicatessen to complement the fantastic work of Stuart and Dave at the butchers and fishmongers who, incidentally, supply our restaurant in Hawarden.

"We will also be operating as a coffee and wine bar opening throughout the day during the week and into the evenings initially at weekends only.

"We look forward to expanding our business into your community and hope that we can work together to ensure its success."

Access to Community Noticeboards

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.



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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 Colin Dollimore, 5 Ludwell Close, 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. Dollimore 5 Ludwell)

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
Vice Chair: Colin Dollimore 629167
Secretary: Penny White sec@wp-ra.org.uk
Treasurer: Sandra Magilton 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	
Carina Edwards	
Tracey Casey	
Karen Liddle	

Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

Please let the Editor know if any details are incorrect or you have an 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 Shorthall 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

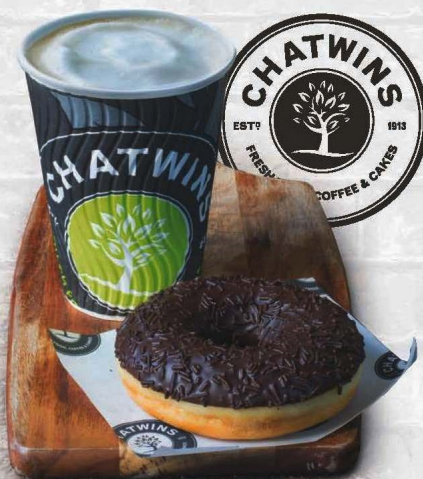
Brownies (Tuesday): Jan Hooper 674701

Guides: Contact the District Commissioner:
Krystina Littlehales 07860 845402

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