

WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association



Bringing our community alive

www.wp-ra.org.uk



@wesparkra

Season's Greetings

It was good to see so many of you at our recent events – the Autumn Tidy Up at the shops has made a huge difference – and over 50 people enjoyed the evening of our Autumn Quiz. Thank you to all who attended and volunteered to help make these events successful.

The Big Tidy Up



Meanwhile there is lots of activity on the Wrexham Road development of Kings Moat Village. In our September issue, we highlighted the new plans that Redrow had submitted for the parcel of land at the southern end of the site between Lache Lane and Wrexham Road. This has implications particularly for the residents of Lache Lane and Greenacre Road where the new houses interface with our existing properties. Plans are still under discussion.

More recently, Taylor Wimpey have submitted an application to alter the plans which were agreed in 2019 for the building of dwellings on land adjoining properties on Sherbourne Avenue, Five Ashes Road and Rowcliffe Avenue. There is more information about this proposal in Brian Westcott's article on page 2.

It is very important that you make your voice heard in the planning process. The Planning Officers do read your comments and take them into account and the more people comment, the more they pay attention. So please look at the plans and send comments in via the Council's website or by email or letter. Once the plans are passed they will not be changed!

As the darker nights draw in, we know that we are fast approaching the festive season once again. Plans are well in hand for our **Christmas Lights Switch-On** event at the Westminster Park shops on **Thursday 1 December** to which you are all warmly invited.

The Lord Mayor and his lady have kindly accepted our invitation to lead the countdown to the switch-on, an excited Belgrave School

choir will entertain us with some Christmas songs and our local shopkeepers are organising samples of their Christmas fare for you to try. And word has it that Santa will be coming along too, to meet the children!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

Jennifer Crew
Chair, WPRA

Welcome support

The Home Office has arranged for a number of hotels across the UK, including a hotel in Chester, to be used as temporary accommodation for people whose lives were at risk in Afghanistan after having worked for the British Government and the Armed Forces. The wrap-around care includes education and health provision in the borough. The Council appreciates that the generous residents in Chester may wish to offer assistance to this project to help these refugees and would like to signpost people to the local charities and organisations who are well set up to manage donations and offers of support.

These organisations include *Refugee Assist*, chris@refugeeassist.org.uk and *Care UK*, aidlogistics@careukcharity.org.uk

Please join the WPRA

It will shortly be time to join or renew your subscription to Westminster Park Residents' Association. The committee aims to make your contribution work hard for the benefit of the local community: organising summer and winter celebrations; supporting initiatives to keep the local area beautiful and clean; keeping a watchful eye on proposals and changes in the area. We intend to keep doing the same in future so your £3 per household per year will be put to very good use, and adding the extra support for Friends of WP will enable the volunteers to continue to enhance our lovely community spaces. For more details please see the insert included.

**Join in the festive fun at our
Christmas Lights Switch-On
at Westminster Park shops**

5pm, Thursday 1st December



- *Belgrave School Choir*
- *The Lord Mayor of Chester*
- *Visit Santa*
- *Seasonal Refreshments*
- *Festive Music & Carols*
- *Shops open late*

Organised by Westminster Park Residents' Association

Councillors' update

We have 'called in' the two live planning applications on the Wrexham Road site; Redrow (22/01679/S73) and Taylor Wimpey (22/03064/FUL), and are in discussion with the Planning Officer with regard to residents' concerns. It is expected that amended plans will be submitted by Redrow with regard to proposed changes adjacent to Lache Lane and Greenacre, and residents will be consulted once again. The Planning Officer has been in discussion with Taylor Wimpey with reference to the proposed increase in numbers of dwellings, additional height of buildings and boundary management. Amended plans are expected from the developers and residents will have the opportunity to respond to their proposed alterations. We are working with Westminster Park Residents' Association as these developments proceed and forward residents' concerns to the relevant departments so please get in touch with your thoughts.

Lache Library on the move?

There is a proposal to relocate Lache Library to the Lache Community Centre. We are concerned that there has been very little consultation with users or an impact assessment for this plan. Please get in touch

if you wish to express your views on this.

Road Works

- A great deal of frustration has been expressed about the long-lasting road works and traffic lights sited on Lache Lane. It is good to see that some progress is being made on this. We will continue to monitor.
- We have been contacted about the issue of parking on Vincent Drive at school drop off and pick up times, particularly where this causes visibility problems, and double yellow lines have been requested. We have raised these issues with Highways who will investigate.

Bin and Gone

The large recycling bin that appeared in front of the shops has now been removed - it had been placed there without permission.

Members Budget

We were delighted to contribute towards the purchase of tulip, crocus and snowdrop bulbs to be planted around Westminster Park. It is a pleasure to see the results of the continuing hard work of the volunteers – all of the gardening activities and the creation of wildlife habitats for bugs, birds and bats. Thank you very much to all of them, from all of us.

Our monthly street surgeries are changing!

For the last 11 years we have held monthly street surgeries on the first Saturday of each month, whatever the weather. We are now adding a session for residents in the new development at Kings Moat Garden Village, so timings are slightly different from **Saturday 3 December** onwards:

- **Saltney High Street** 09.00-09.45
- **Westminster Park Shops** 10.00-10.45
- **Kings Moat Garden Village - near the Show Homes** 11.00-11.45
- **Old Dee Bridge Handbridge** 12.00-12.45

These street surgeries are an opportunity for residents to raise any council-related queries and can be very busy, so please do bear with us if we run a little late. If you're unable to attend, you can email or telephone 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

Taylor Wimpey and Wrexham Road development - WPRA Response

Taylor Wimpey were originally given full planning permission to build 786 dwellings on the Wrexham Road site as part of the overall application with Redrow for 1269 dwellings. TW have now submitted an application to increase the number of dwellings on the northern part of their site from 127 to 213, an increase of 86 (68%). Following a Westminster Park Residents' Association committee meeting, we have objected to the application and made the following comments:

1. We believe that the increase would make that part of the site too densely built upon and out of keeping with the rest of the site, particularly with the Westminster Park estate that it adjoins. It states that the new application would have no environmental impact on either the site or WP - we do not agree. The original plan was for 32 dwellings to back on to the 35 existing houses in Merton Drive, Rowcliffe Avenue and Five Ashes Road - this has now been increased to 53. In our view, the increase to 213 houses will adversely affect the whole character of the site and be detrimental to the amenity of the adjoining estate.

2. Some of the houses backing on to existing WP dwellings are planned to be 2½ storey, semi-detached houses - significantly higher than the originally proposed 2 storey houses. Sited close to the boundary, they will dominate existing gardens causing loss of privacy and reducing sunlight. We accept that TW has permission to build on the site but we think that the proposal to build 2½ storey houses shows a lack of respect to existing residents.

3. There is reference to a three metre offset between existing WP houses on Merton Drive, Rowcliffe Avenue, Five Ashes Road and Sherborne Avenue and the new ones. At the time of writing, TW has not responded to requests for information about this boundary – what will it consist of and who will maintain it.

4. The application refers to implications for the

drainage strategy and mentions feedback following consultation with the council in March 2022. It states that there is a need for an updated drainage strategy to take account of the proposed revision with supporting technical evidence. In our view, planning permission for any increase in the number of dwellings should not be given until the drainage implications have been satisfactorily resolved.

5. The application states that consultation with local communities will take place and recognises the importance of this. This TW application was not referred to at our online meeting in July with developers and we have heard nothing from them since.

Councillors Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels have called the application in and say that it will not be considered by the council until December at the earliest so there is still time for residents to make their own comments - please do. The reference is: 22/03064/FUL.

Brian Westcott



Action Girls

Brownies from 18th Chester have packed an amazing amount of activity into this term. Starting with their pack holiday: they built rockets; used barrels and rope to make buggies; followed a blindfold trail; dangled from a giant swing; tried archery and caving and enjoyed a camp fire. Closer to home, they worked with coach Matt at Glan Aber tennis club on the basics of the game.

At meetings, there has been an emphasis on recycling and energy saving, where the



girls constructed and disassembled robots from 'rubbish', the challenge then being to communicate re-building instructions to another team.

Brownies worked on the Girl Power North West electricity badge, measuring their carbon footprint and discussing small actions that they and others can take to save money and the environment.



Evergreen 55+ Club

We are pleased to record Evergreen membership reached 105 by the end of the year. We have now produced our 2023 programme with again a good variety of interesting speakers, activities and outings planned. December will see us enjoy our Christmas party with entertainment provided by the popular musician, Dave O'Connor. To round off the Evergreen year we are going to the Chester Golf Club for our annual Christmas Lunch.

We look forward to welcoming both new and existing members next year. We are retaining our membership fee of £10 per year and will continue to meet in the Westminster Park Community Centre on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.00-3.30pm.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Evergreen Committee

Get your kit on!



The coaching team at Glan Aber Tennis Club in Westminster Park is planning to run **Beginners/Returners tennis courses in January**, in the afternoon and under floodlights in the evening. There's also space on the **junior programme for 5-8 year-olds**. Look out for full details on WPRFA Facebook page and also the Glan Aber TC website or call Aidan (07808657765).

Getting out in the fresh air, meeting new people and raising your pulse – what a great way to start 2023!

Tuition

SATS/ Entrance exams 2023/24?
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A very Dee-cent review for Belgrave School

It was exciting to be chosen as Dee Radio 106.3 FM's 'School of the Week' recently. We were delighted to welcome Darren as he interviewed our school ambassadors who talked fluently and confidently about Belgrave school rules, our motto and our learning styles. They also told him all about our clubs and residential visits.

To hear how they shone as radio stars go to the Dee Radio website to listen to the podcast: <https://www.dee1063.com/on-air/podcasts/school-of-the-week3/episode/belgrave-primary-school?autoplay=1>

With Christmas fast approaching, we are planning to enter Dee Radio's Christmas song competition, whilst the choir is also preparing for the Westminster Park Lights Switch-On, The Christmas Story at the Cathedral and not forgetting our own Christmas Fair and Christmas performances at school.





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Park Champions

Friends of Westminster Park volunteers continue to work tirelessly in the park (a gardener's work is never done!). At the Cliveden Road entrance, overgrown shrubs and trees that were cut back are now showing fresh growth and we added bulbs and chrysanthemums before mulching with bark chippings. A new path meanders through the copse next to the play area – it should be very pretty when the spring bulbs push through



next year. A further section of brambles was cut back to encourage better blackberries in the autumn.

We now have four Wildlife Champions who have all completed the Chester Zoo training course and we are planning some family activities in the woodland area – watch out for more information!

Did you see the colourful wildflowers planted by the council? FoWP and Gardening Club members are nurturing plants to be added to the Wildflower River next year – it should be spectacular.

Recently, a Scot's Pine and heather bed were planted by family, friends, colleagues and volunteers to commemorate Alan Reid, who died this year. Al was responsible for maintenance activities in the park and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Gardening Club news

The extraordinary summer heat is behind us, lawns have miraculously turned lush green again and now it's clear from the gaps that some plants did not survive the devastating heat/drought assault. However, gardeners are always keen to try something new and will not need a second invitation to visit local nurseries and garden centres to seek out replacements. Don't forget to keep an eye out on the plant shelter by the Co-op as donations appear there from time-to-time.

During December, take care that vulnerable plants are protected from frost damage. Other jobs for the 'to do' list include:

- Continue feeding birds, ensuring seed and other edibles are safe from mice
- Prune fruit trees that grow in open areas to prevent freezing of extremities.
- Check that your greenhouse and pond heaters are working
- Harvest winter crops like cabbage and root veg
- Insulate outdoor taps
- Prune vines early in the month
- Plant or transplant deciduous shrubs and trees
- Take cuttings from hardwood trees
- **Finally, enjoy cosy indoor 'gardening' chores, such as planning, perhaps with the aid of seed catalogues!**



Dunham Massey Winter Garden

Activities being planned for 2023 include a visit to the Winter Garden at Dunham Massey (self drive/car share) on Friday 27 January, plus spring and autumn trips to RHS Bridgewater (self drive/car share) to see the progress of this new garden endeavour.

Our next talk, in either March or April, will be about gardening work and future plans undertaken by the Friends of Westminster Park - check the Residents' Association website nearer the time for more details.



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Mary Pole, pole.mary@gmail.com

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

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.



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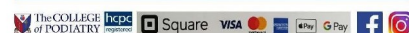
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**Westminster Park
Community Centre**

Christmas Party

Sunday 11th December
Time: 2-3.30
Age: Up to 8 years old
Cost: £3 per child
Disco and meet Father Christmas
Gift included
Advance ticket purchase essential

Westminster Park Community Centre has a sparkling new look and has added lots of activities to its already busy programme. There's a new monthly baby and toddler group and a children's disco, whilst plans are well ahead for the children's Christmas party and a lively New Year's Eve party – tickets from Bebbington's or WPCC.

The hall is available to hire for events and parties and costs £12 per hour – you are welcome to pop in for a look when the bar is open – maybe stay for a drink! (7 days a week, from 19.30 and 11.30-14.00 on Saturdays and 11.30-15.00 on Sundays).

Further information, plus contact details, can be found on Westminster Park Community Centre Facebook page or by calling 01244 671243 after 19.30.



**Westminster Park
Community Centre**

New Year's Eve Party

7.30PM - 1.00AM
TICKETS £15
LIVE BAND - THE REMNANTS
HOT FORK BUFFET



From our stable

We, and the animals, would like to thank the local community for its much valued support – it makes such a big difference to us.

As winter approaches though, there is no denying that (like all of us) we are looking at our increased costs. We now have to find nearly £120 every week for animal food and bedding, whilst the farrier's regular visits cost a further £50. If you can spare any veg, fruit and brown bread, there is a box by our gate to leave produce. Other ways you can help us are by adopting an animal or purchasing a calendar. Please join our Facebook group (Lache Animal Sanctuary) to find out more and maybe encourage friends and neighbours to look out for us, too.

Merry Christmas – from us all at the Animal Sanctuary!

Chester Model Railway

Keep in touch with the club activities on our club website and via Facebook. Our membership is full at the moment but, if you would like to join, please send me your details and I will advise you if vacancies arise. If you have stock to sell or would like advice on buying please let me know.

Colin Dollimore - 01244 629167,
colindollimore@gmail.com

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or Committee of the WPRA.

St. Mark's Church Christmas Services

Sunday 4th December

4.30pm Christingle Service

A fun service for all ages, where you will be making a Christingle and hearing about its meaning.

Sunday 11th December

10.30am All Age Service with Nativity

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service
Followed by Mulled wine and Mince pies

Saturday 24th December

3.30pm Crib Service

Telling the Christmas story for families with little ones
&

11.15pm Midnight Service of Holy Communion
Welcoming in Christmas day together

Sunday 25th December

10.30am All age Christmas Day Service

Join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning, with Holy Communion

Sunday 1st January

9am Service of Holy Communion

stmarkssaltney.org.uk

church.office@stmarkssaltney.org.uk

Tel: 01244 675372

Christmas Concert - Opera Style!

Chester Operatic Society concludes its Centenary year with these ever popular Christmas Concerts, at St. Mary-without-the-Walls in Handbridge, on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December. Tickets cost £15, including mulled wine and mince pies, £10 for under 12s; available from Brian Westcott (01244 675431);

brianwestcott48@gmail.com or Ticketsource.

New members are always welcome - why not come along in the New Year to our rehearsals at St. Mark's in Saltney, when we'll be getting ready for the next concert in May?

For more information contact Chris Westcott as above.

Christmas Cheer with the Grosvenor Museum Society

You are cordially invited to a festive evening of music, mince pies and merriment on Monday 12 December at the Grosvenor Museum, doors open 7pm.

Well known local musician Philip Chidell will perform a popular programme and there will be a good opportunity to chat with friends over a glass of wine and seasonal treat.

Everyone is welcome - tickets cost £10, in advance, and are available from Andrea Hopkinson (andreaHop@talktalk.net, 01244 675555).

WI Local Knowledge

Keeping it local this autumn, members of the **Handbridge WI** have enjoyed a talk about the work of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd and heard stories of the people of the Lache Park Estate. There were also trips to Erdigg and the Western Approaches Museum in Liverpool.

The spring programme is well in hand: a visit to the Lady Lever art gallery to the Pure Brilliance exhibition of Boodles jewellery; a talk from a Life Coach; plus a session on Biodiversity.

Please come to a meeting as a visitor and try us out - a warm welcome for all. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Handbridge Centre.

Contact Maureen on 01244 671304 for more details.





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Sandstone Rocks

Since its opening in August, Sandstone has served many craft beers, measures of gin and glasses of wine to appreciative local customers. Plans for Christmas include the usual drinks menu plus mulled cider and hot drinks. There will also be plenty of take out beers or gift vouchers, for those seeking gifting-inspiration.

Sandstone's doors will be open as usual during the festive period, but closed Christmas Day and open on Boxing Day.

Additionally, they are planning an unticketed event on New Year's Eve. More details on Facebook, Twitter or Untappd.

Stollen goods (sorry! ed)

Sensational spices are in the air at Emporium as a Christmas touch is added to their famous cinnamon buns, together with bakewell-influenced mince pies, mulled wine, gingerbread coffee and Black Forest hot chocolate. There's also plenty of gift potential in the seasonal cheese boxes and hampers. Emporium will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and will be offering a little taste of Christmas at the Lights Switch-On. Details of more events can be found on the Facebook page.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2022

THE PARISH OF ST MARY WITHOUT THE WALLS, CHESTER

27TH NOVEMBER, 6:30PM
ADVENT CAROLS - A SERVICE OF READINGS & MUSIC

18TH DECEMBER, 6:30PM
A TRADITIONAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

19TH DECEMBER, 6:30PM
THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR - A SERVICE FOR ALL OFFERING A REFLECTIVE APPROACH TO CHRISTMAS

24TH DECEMBER, 10:30AM
A CRIB SERVICE FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

24TH DECEMBER, 11:30PM
FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS

25TH DECEMBER, 8AM (SAID) & 10:30AM (SUNG)
CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST

29TH JANUARY 2023, 6:30PM
EPIPHANY CAROLS AT THE END OF 40 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

www.facebook.com/SIMaryHandbridge



Home news from 'As you like it'

Since the business moved from Westminster Park, I have been delighted to welcome some familiar faces to my new studio where you can still find Little Greene paints and wallpapers, tons of fabric and wallpaper books and, of course, my experienced advice on your interiors' dilemmas.

From as little as £75 for an informal consultation, I offer to help you create a home that brings a smile to your face.

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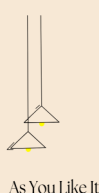
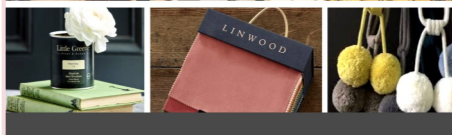
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The information section

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Susan Eva 676697
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Annemarie Macfadyen
Sandra Magilton 677373
Brian Westcott 675431
Anne Ord Sykes 07973151410
anneordsykes@gmail.com

Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

Please let the Editor know if 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: Tirumala Dayama
dayamatirumala@googlemail.com

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: 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: Susan Jones
bsusanjones@aol.com

Beavers (Wed 6.15 to 7.15pm): Jane Shorthall
07890 159545

Cubs (Mon 6.30 to 8pm): Simon Duggan
18rowallancubs@gmail.com

Cubs (Thur 6.30 to 8pm): Chris Owens
01244 676691

Scouts (Wed 7.30 to 9pm): Michael Glass
eighteenthchesterscouts@outlook.com

Explorer Scouts (Tuesday): Sharon Johnson

GUIDING:

Rainbows (Wednesday): Krystina Littlehales
07860 845402

Brownies (Tuesday): Janne Hooper 674701

Guides: Krystina Littlehales 07860 845402

Window to the mind

Abbey Windows, the local window and gutter cleaning people who are regularly seen in our area, recently raised £1280 for the mental health charity, Mind, by organising a prize draw that was supported by many local

businesses – Chester FC, Chester Racecourse, Dee Radio, Hickory's Smokehouse and the new Chester Market, to name but a few.

Together with colleague Nathan, Nic handed over a cheque and acknowledged the fantastic work of the charity, its support for those in need of help and their families, and the improvement that increasing openness in discussion of mental health matters has meant for many people.

You can find the full video prize draw, pictures and more information on the story at

AbbeyWindowCleaning.com and if you or a loved one are struggling with your mental health, Mind.org.uk are there to support you.



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