WP News



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Come and Celebrate!

We are now in full swing preparing for the community Jubilee Picnic and Fun Day taking place on Saturday 4 June from 1.30pm to 5.30pm at the WP Community Centre and on Belgrave school field – we do hope you'll come along to make it a memorable occasion!

The event will feature live music, a proclamation by the Town Crier, competitions and races for the children, and plenty of games and stalls to make a great afternoon.

We are very excited to announce the live music acts that will entertain you from the stage on the field.

Music from all decades of the Queen's reign will be provided by local bands: The Summit of Soul, The Original Panama Jazz Band.



the Lovettes, Dave O'Connor and Just Above Snakes.



You can bring a picnic, pre-order one from The Emporium or just pick up some food and drink when you get here. There will be tea and cakes provided by our local WI, an ice cream van and food supplied by our Hong Kong in Chester community for you to try.

If you want to be a part of this event, we are looking for volunteers to lend a hand in a number of ways such as helping to set up/breakdown, running a game or supervising the car park for an hour. Many hands make light work, so if you can spare a bit of time we can put on even more games and activities for everyone to enjoy.

We can also offer a money-making opportunity to any teenagers who need to raise funds for their Duke of Edinburgh Award or gap year projects. Children love face painting or temporary tattoos, but we haven't managed to find anyone to do this yet, so if you think you can help please contact me.

New photocopier

The old community photocopier in the WP pharmacy, which was much used, has finally given up the ghost. However we are happy to say that WPRA has managed to obtain a new (second hand) one to ensure that our local residents continue to benefit from this facility. More details are on page 4.

Spring Tidy Up at the shops

Thanks to the volunteers who came on 10 April to help make the area around the shops

look better. It always amazes me how many bags of rubbish are collected! Thank you to committee member Brian Westcott for organising this event. Look out for details of our next one later in the year.

As ever, if you have any ideas about how we can make our neighbourhood an even better place, please get in touch.

Jennifer Crew chair@wp-ra.org.uk 07752854383

IN REMEMBRANCE

Westminster Park Residents' Association was established in 1998 and one of the founding members of the Committee and its first Chairman was Richard Short who passed away recently. We would like to record our deep debt of gratitude to him, as he continued to serve on the committee for the next 24 years. Having also served as a Councillor and as Chester's Lord Mayor, he had a great deal of knowledge about Council affairs and always gave good advice. He will be greatly missed by all. I am also sorry to report the passing of another of our past Chairmen, David Pilling. Dave was a strong supporter of WPRA, a member of the committee for many years and chaired it from 2012 to 2014, for which we are very thankful. We pass on our deepest sympathies to the families of both of our friends.



Live Music

Jubilee Picnic & Fun Day

at Westminster Park Community Centre & Belgrave School

Saturday 4th June 2022, 1.30 - 5.30pm

Tea & Cake

Crier



Plants
Food 8
Drink

STALLS

ICE CREAMS

Games & races

Crafts

Tombola

News from your Councillors

Reworking the Roads

Building work at the Decoy Farm site at the bottom of Lache Lane will continue to require road closures as the contractors install a rising main plus a footway towards Chester. Currently, the road is one-way outbound to Rough Hill and from 30 May the whole road will be closed at the same point for one week. After this, there will be temporary two-way traffic signals for 5 weeks. Councillors have requested that disruption be minimised as far as possible, with restrictions being lifted during the bank holiday.

On the Buses

Due to these road works there is ongoing disruption to local bus services. The 61/62 is currently diverted, journey times have altered and it is recommended that travellers check for alterations: https://

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/parking-roads-and-travel/public-transport/bus/timetables/cw-timetable-61-62-temporary-25-04-22.pdf

Improvements for Westminster Park

There is a great deal of activity taking place in Westminster Park. Councillors have secured funding for resurfacing all paths in the park (look out for updates which will be posted in the park before work commences) whilst the toilet block outside the café has been given a deep clean and will be

redecorated over the next few weeks. We continue to be concerned by reports of antisocial behaviour in the park and have contacted the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the installation of CCTV as a deterrent measure.

Our thanks go to the band of volunteers who continue to garden in the park – they are making a huge difference to this wonderful green space on our doorsteps. If you would like to join them, even for a short while, they are there every Wednesday from 10-12. The park has also benefitted from litter picks organised by members of Hong Kong in Chester community and we are all very grateful to them.

Caring in Chester

A consultation is underway to create a more co-ordinated community-based care service, possibly with a view to bring all care and support for all ages into one Community Led Care and Carers Service once current contracts end in September 2023. Full details can be found at: https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/community-led-care-and-carers-consultation

You have until 19 June to respond to this consultation either by email:

chesterlocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk; or write to Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire CH65 0BE.

Ukrainian Refugees

An information pack and question and answer webpage containing information on the Council's response to enquiries regarding refugees has been created. It is regularly updated as more information becomes available:

refugeesupport@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Jubilee Community Picnic

It has been a pleasure to approve councillors' funds for the local Jubilee Picnic and Fun Day to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There is a lot of work underway preparing for the event. We would like to thank all the volunteers and are looking forward to the celebrations.

Community Care

If you have any community projects or ideas about how we can facilitate improvements to the local area, please do not hesitate to contact your local councillors - Cllr Razia Daniels and Cllr Neil Sullivan or you can attend our regular street surgery on the first Saturday of every month at Westminster Park Shops from 10.30 - 11.45.

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

Going out with Evergreen

A group of **Evergreen 55+ Club** members enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at Ruthin Castle in April, as our photo shows. It was the first time we have introduced this event and judging by its

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success it will certainly be something we will include in our additional events in the future.

In addition to our regular monthly sessions and Supper Club programme for 2022, we have booked a Midsummer Dinner at



the Wild Goose, Dodleston on 21 June, a visit by coach to RHS Bridgewater Gardens on 26 July and a guided walk of Chester in September. We try to introduce varied and interesting events throughout the year and are always happy to welcome new members. Places are still available for our Midsummer Dinner, contact Mary, 01244 675515 and RHS Bridgewater, contact Jill, 01244 679204. To date we have 95 members and were pleased to see 12 new members join us so far this year. We meet in the Westminster Park Community Centre on third Thursday of each month at 2.00 – 3.30pm.

Membership is £10 per head per year, but if you would like to come along and have a taster session for a charge of £2, we would be pleased to welcome you as our guest. All Evergreen members have to be members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association for insurance purposes.

For further enquiries contact: Sandra Magilton; 01244 677373/sandymagilton@googlemail.com or Penny White; pennywhite@sky.com.

Helping Hearing Dogs

18th **Chester Brownies** received their promised visit from Ruth and her hearing dog, lker, and the girls saw how the pair work in



partnership for the benefit of both of their lives. Brownies then held a raffle and Beetle Drive which raised £176.30 for the Hearing Dogs charity and they thank all the local businesses who donated prizes.

On a trip to Pictura Studios, Brownies designed and painted mugs whilst other outings included bell boating, a visit to the nature reserve at Chester Zoo and time at DangerPoint near Talacre.

Excitingly, Brownies are looking forward to someone achieving the Gold Award this term,

which would be a first for the Pack.



Belgrave School

Sock Support

Pupils at **Belgrave Primary School** celebrated World Down Syndrome Day in



March by wearing odd socks, representing the 3 strands of Chromosome 21, which just happen to look like socks! On the day, students and staff met Steve from Cheshire Down Syndrome support group and then raised over £200 by buying (and eating!) gingerbread socks.

Sing Out Loud

A group of children from Belgrave School Choir recently took part in a Singing Day in Stockport as part of the Northwest Singing Partnership. In addition to performing a song



that they had been taught by Mrs Hancock, who leads music at the primary school, they then learned several new ones which they sang alongside other choirs and schools.

Take a spring stroll in Westminster Park

In the Woods

There is such a lot to see and hear in the park at the moment. Walking through the woods on the newly wood-chip covered paths, you'll see signs of children playing in the woods; the dens, the new welcome sign. Keep a look out for the Bug Hotels and the Bird and Bat Boxes in the trees. They are still very new so might not be in use yet. (Thanks to Woodwork to Wellness for the bird & bat boxes). Bluebells planted last year are spreading beautifully under the trees. The



pond level looks quite low but it hasn't completely drained. Our contacts at the Zoo recommend that it be left to set naturally then plants should populate it in summer, encouraging tadpoles and then frogs and toads by next year. Recently we repaired

the fence between the wildlife area and the children's football field. We tidied up the overgrown hedge and planted whips in the gaps. Overgrown brambles are being cut back on a 3 year cycle, one patch at a time to promote new growth with fuller berries.

Bird Spotting

Soon, we will be carrying out a wildlife survey to record birds, animals and insects



using the area. This will help us to track changes over the next few years. Watch out for our bird spotting guide with details of the species seen in the park including: Song Thrush, Fieldfare, Red Poll, Redwing, Woodpecker, Buzzard, Chaffinch, Chiff Chaff, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Goldfinch and, of course, Blackbirds and Magpies.

Flowers and Grass

An agreed mowing plan is in place, with some areas of grass cut short regularly for play and picnics whilst other areas will be 'meadow cut' to encourage wildflowers (including dandelions and daisies!). Looking ahead, a Wildflower 'River' is envisaged near the metal sculptures and we would love local people to grow pots or trays of native wildflower seeds to help us with this substantial planting plan. Can we suggest the following: Ragged Robin / Cow Parsley / Corn Cockle / Betany / Viper's Bugloss / Primrose / Snakes Head Fritillary / Columbine?

Of course, you might be busy digging these 'weeds' out of your own garden – in which case, why not pot them up and nurture them? You can then contact Annemarie Macfadyen (annemarie@macfadyen.net) for instructions on what to do with them or join the volunteers in the park to plant them up yourself – maybe bring the children to help!

Find information on native species via this website: Gardener's World.com/plants/20-uk-native-wildflowers-to-grow/. Suttons & RSPB sell suitable wildflower seeds on-line. Alternatively, many supermarkets sell wildflower seeds in packets, but they must be described as **NATIVE** to the UK, please.

All help welcome!

While it is bird nesting season, we'll move out of the woods and volunteers will be working on the areas at the Lache Lane gate and the Cliveden Road gate, tidying up and planting and keeping the formal beds looking their best. Meet us at the café on Wednesday mornings, 10 till 12, or find us in the park.



Come on down!



Just a guick reminder that the bar at the Community Centre is open every evening

from 7.30pm and you are warmly invited to come and have a drink in the heart of our community!

We are delighted that the Jubilee Picnic is taking place at 'our place' and look forward to welcoming friends old and new on Saturday 4 June.

If you are interested in playing darts, bingo, bridge, pool or table football, taking part in karate, yoga, Weight Watchers or organising a function or charity event please contact Phil Williamson (details on the photo).

and raising a tray or two of native wild flowers

in their own garden, to be planted out in the park either late summer or next spring. With a

community effort we could really make an

contact Gardening Club when your tray of

plants is ready for planting.

2022 programme for this summer:

recreating these historic gardens.

impact on the proposed wildflower river. Just

There are lots of interesting events in our

Saturday, 4 June 2022 - Plant stall at the Jubilee Picnic at the Community Centre.

Wednesday, 6 July, 1.45 pm Greenfield

Valley Heritage Museum - Tour the historic

gardens in the company of Ray Bailey. Ray

came to speak to us last year and we look forward to seeing the results of his work in

Gardening Club working with Friends



Wild flowers for Westminster Park

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01244 629167 or email

works of WPRA.

colinIdollimore@gmail.com.

Membership of Westminster Park

Residents' Association is approaching last

year's total of 500, which is very good news.

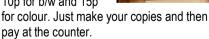
you have already paid your £3 subscription, please contact me (Colin Dollimore) on

If you would like to join, or are not sure if

All funds are used to support the various

Many of you will be aware of the work that

There is a new photocopier located in the pharmacy for community use. It has been supplied by the Westminster Park Residents' Association



Many thanks go to Colin Dollimore for

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



the Friends of Westminster Park have been undertaking in the Park - from building wild life habitats in the woods to renovating the formal borders. The Friends are working to increase the diversity and variety of wild flowers in the Park and hope that Gardening Club members will be interested in sowing

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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?

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To advertise, contact Sandra Magilton 01244 677373.



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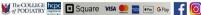
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A Royal Jubilee is an occasion to celebrate the life and reign of a monarch and celebrations can range from international and national events through to local street parties. Historically, there are hardly any records of how fifty years on the throne were marked for Henry III (reigned 1216-72), Edward III (reigned 1327-77) and James VI and I (reigned Scotland 1567, then England and Ireland – 1603-1625).

A striking local memorial to George III's golden jubilee (reigned 1760-1820) is visible on our horizon: the Jubilee Tower on the top of Moel Famau, designed by Thomas Harrison.



Queen Victoria celebrated both a Golden and a Diamond Jubilee during her reign (1837-1901) which must have seemed amazing to the population when the average UK life expectancy was around 50 (skewed, of course, by dreadful infant mortality figures).

Our current monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 and has reigned for the longest period in British history. She has celebrated a number of significant Jubilees: Silver in 1977; Golden in 2002; Diamond in 2012 and Platinum in 2022. In her recent Jubilee message, the Queen records her thoughts on the opportunity that the anniversary gives her to 'reflect on the good will

shown to me by people of all nationalities, faiths and ages in this country and around the world over these years.'

There is a wealth of special events planned to mark this anniversary over the specially extended bank holiday (Thursday 2-Sunday 5 June). These range from the traditional Trooping of the Colour and lighting of many hundreds of Jubilee Beacons (2 June), a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's (3 June) and a Platinum Party at Buckingham Palace (4 June). The Big Jubilee Lunch takes place on 5 June with neighbours coming together to enjoy their own street parties on the same day that the Platinum Jubilee Pageant enacts the story of the Queen's reign, including a River of Hope made of silk flags rippling down the Mall in London. Over 20 million wildflower seeds have been planted in the medieval moat at the Tower of London for people to wander through (June to September, superbloom.hrp.org.uk).

In Chester, the Lord Mayor will host celebrations on 2 June centred around the Town Hall including a city centre sing-a-long, a military parade and lighting a beacon.

Longer term, the borough is participating in the Queen's Green Canopy - a unique UKwide, tree-planting initiative to mark the occasion in an environmentally-enhancing way. Perhaps the community in Westminster Park could involve itself in identifying a space to plant trees and (most importantly) nurturing the saplings whilst they put down roots in our local



area? There is a special plaque that could be set in place and the location of the trees could be added to the on-line commemorative map being created. The WPRA committee would be very keen to work with anyone who would like to plant trees for the Queen!

Here in Westminster Park, there will be Jubilee festivities at the

Community Centre and on the field of Belgrave School on Saturday 4 June. You are invited to bring a picnic, a table and chairs or a blanket and relax and enjoy live music, competitions and



Residents have had lots of fun at previous Royal celebrations

games whilst Chester's famous Town Crier, David Mitchell, will announce his presence and judge the 'Create a Crown' competition.

This is a free event, curated by Westminster Park Residents' Association and supported by funds from the local councillors' budget. Let's make this a very special occasion to honour the lifetime of service given with such dignity and generosity by Her Majesty the Queen!

JUBILEE



COMPETITION

Go wild with your imagination and design a special crown to model at the Jubilee Picnic & Fun Day on Belgrave School Field at 2.30pm. Following a 'Parade of Crowns', a winner will be chosen by Chester's Town Crier, David Mitchell.

Why not take a picture of your crown and email it to creativechallenge@dcms.gov.uk where a selection will be featured on their website. Just include your first name, age and town, alongside your entry.

Have a look at the Platinum Jubilee website for a video

and more details.

Short trip to village with longest name



Handbridge Women's Institute is busy as ever with forthcoming meetings to include style advice on scarf wearing, a talk on the Pettypool Project for Girl Guiding and stepping out in flamenco fashion after hearing all about the Story of Flamenco.

Additionally, a royal-themed garden party for the Queen's Jubilee and trips to

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch and Plas Cadnant Gardens are planned.

Recently, the Craft group has been knitting little hats for the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

We are always happy to welcome new members – come

and meet us on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in St Mary's Handbridge Centre.

Contact Maureen: 01244 671304.

Shop Talk

After the recent departure of *AI Forno* comes the latest news that *The Interiors* shop is closing by the end of May.

It remains a challenging time for retailers and the current cost of living situation does not particularly loosen purse strings.

As much as possible, let's cherish those who occupy the units in Westminster Park, whilst sending our best wishes to those who move on to different ventures.

The old adage: 'Use it or lose it', never seemed so pertinent.

Books and so much more

One of the many services that we are lucky to have in the Westminster Park area is the *Library* on our doorsteps – still thriving on Lache Park Avenue. In addition to its large collection of fact and fiction in book form for readers of all ages and interests, the library hosts lots of other groups:

Monday – Scrabble Club 10.00-12.30 Tuesday – Knit and Natter 2.15-3.15 Thursday – Rhymetime (under 5s) 2.15-2.45 Friday – ReLiSh Reading Group 10.00-11.00

A reading group meets on the first Monday of the month from 2.30-3.30; a series of *Baby Sensory* sessions is running on Tuesday mornings 10-10.30 – limited places, booking essential; on alternate Fridays there is an adult colouring session from 2.30-3.30. There will be reading challenges for all ages over the summer period.

It's free to join and use the library. No identification or proof of address is needed to join. Members can borrow books and return at any library. There are no late charges for the Under 13s. Or try a virtual book; ask about the Borrowbox scheme and try reading on your device – it's really easy to borrow and return ebooks and audio books without even leaving home! You can also access other



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The Library is open:

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 2.00-7

 Tuesday
 9.30-1
 2.00-5

 Wednesday
 Closed

 Thursday
 9.30-1
 2.00-7

 Friday
 9.30-1
 2.00-5

 Saturday
 9.30-1
 2.00-5

More information available via www.facebook.com/cwaclibrary; www.twitter.com/cwaclibraries www.instagram.com/cwaclibraries or telephone 01244 973974.



A brief history of Newton Hall - a talk by local historian Chris Fozzard



While Newton and Upton are the primary focus of his recent book, Chris has tried to relate the content to changes taking place in Chester and, to some extent, the wider world during the period covered (broadly 17th to 20th century).

One property that features is Overleigh Hall (long since demolished, sadly).

7.30pm Wednesday 25 May, 2022 At Lache Community Centre, Hawthorn Road, Chester CH4 8HX

£1 per person on the door, but please book your places in advance, as we continue to keep numbers to a safe and comfortable limit. To book, email

shuttleworths@talktalk.net or phone Linda on 01244 679791 or text 07726 425847.

Linda Shuttleworth, Secretary, Lache and Westminster Park Local History Group

Hip-Hip-Hip Hooray!

Chester Operatic Society is celebrating its centenary with a production of 'Me and My Girl' on stage at Storyhouse, 8-11 June.



Including well-known

songs like 'Lambeth Walk', 'The sun has got his hat on' and 'Leaning on a lamp-post', this feel-good show will have the added bonus of the chance to spot one or two Westminster Park residents in the chorus!

Tickets start at £14, (group reductions available) from Storyhouse: www.storyhouse.com or 01244 409113.

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Junior Zing

With the tennis season in full swing, *Glan Aber Tennis Club* in Westminster Park is buzzing with youngsters keen to pursue the sport.

In an exciting programme designed to give hundreds of children their first taste of tennis, the well known coach Phil Leighton visited twelve local schools with his exciting road show and introduced over 700 3-8 year-olds to racquet and ball skills through fun activities. This culminated in an invitation to two spectacular Activity Days at Glan Aber and Chester Lawn Tennis Clubs who, together with sponsorship from the Lawn Tennis Association, funded the whole programme.

The children were clearly delighted to see Phil again as they participated in fitness challenges; throwing balls, jumping hoops and target practice and then watched a brilliantly simple demonstration rally that got them all revved up to sign up for the special course being offered by both tennis clubs.

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Head coach at Glan Aber, Aidan Wiggins, said that he was delighted with the response to the programme and is looking forward to seeing so many new faces on his youth programme. He also praised the Young Leaders who assisted at the Road Show as these youngsters, aged 12-15, had just completed the LTA Leaders' course at Glan Aber in order to be able to assist the professional coaches in group lessons.

More details of what's on offer for all ages and abilities at Glan Aber

Tennis Club can be found on the website: glanaber.com or via the All Court Tennis Academy (ACTA) app.



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Clubs & organisations based in

Westminster ParkPlease 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

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 Maureen 671304

WI, Handbridge: 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

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