

WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association



Bringing our community alive



by Lucy, Belgrave School

www.wp-ra.org.uk



@wesparkra

Notes from The Chair

As the daffodils in our neighbourhood begin to put on their brilliant spring display it is hard to think back to the dark nights of December when we celebrated the switching on of the



The Lord Mayor of Chester and his wife, in the local shops

Christmas Lights at Westminster Park shops. On 1 December we joined together for a wonderful friendly evening filled with singing by Belgrave School Choir, food and drink kindly provided by our local shops and good cheer from all who came along. Thank you all for making it such a great start to the festive season.

Events

* **Quiz and Supper on Saturday 1 April.** You are welcome to come as a team (max. 6) or as individuals joining others to make a team – a great way to meet new people! Get your tickets quickly as this is always a popular and fun night .

* **Big Spring Tidy up** at the shops on **Sunday 23 April.** It's amazing what can be achieved in an hour or two of removing weeds and litter, so if you can spare a little time please come along.

* **Big lunch for new king.** Although WPRA is not organising a central coronation event, we encourage all of you to get together with your neighbours to mark the occasion in a similar way to our celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Guidance can be found on the Eden Project website and our Council's website has advice about street parties. The intrepid Tandem Duo, Niall and Annemarie Macfadyen, who recorded the VE Day parties so brilliantly, will be out and about again taking photos of your gatherings

* **Summer Picnic and Fun Day on Saturday 1 July.** Following the great success of our live music event last year, we have decided to do it all again (hopefully with

slightly better weather). We are looking for music acts, stall holders and volunteers to help on the day – please contact us if you want to get involved.

* **Lache Project.** A meeting was held to discuss the progress of the Lache Master Plan listed four emerging projects:

- traffic management and road congestion, currently being investigated by the highways department;
- the play area on Sycamore Fields and the equipment to be provided;
- the future of the Backies (currently an unmaintained green space);
- an environmental study taking place on The Sidings area in May to assess wildlife and ecology.

Residents are being invited to comment upon and make suggestions for the play area, anticipated to be opened by March 2024. A steering group, including local residents, has been created to have a role in the future of the Backies, where future housing development has been discounted in the light of local opposition. Funding for its future would be sought from monies available from

off-site ecological sums allocated following development elsewhere in the region. The future of the Sidings is undecided, pending the results of the forthcoming survey; again, local opinion is firmly against the development of remaining green space.

* **Local school provision.** The increase in the number of houses in our area together with the arrival of refugees at the Holiday Inn has put a lot of pressure on our local schools. WPRA and other local residents' associations are meeting in the near future with the Education Officer in charge of school provision for an update on the plan to increase places. We will put information about the meeting on our website.

As ever, if you have any suggestions for the improvement of our neighbourhood or wish to get involved with the residents' association, please get in touch. Or better still, come along to our **AGM at 8pm on Wednesday 19 April** to find out what we do and share your ideas.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Jennifer Crew

Westminster Park Residents' Association

SPRING QUIZ

Saturday 1st April, 7.30pm

1st April, 7.30pm
 Westminster Park Community Centre
 Tickets £10 to include full buffet
 Tickets available from Bebbington butchers and
 Sandra Magilton 01244 677373

Councillors' update



It was a great pleasure to join in the community celebrations, as the Christmas Lights were switched on at the WP shops in December.

Roads and Parking

We have received many complaints about the lack of maintenance of our streets which we continue to report to the Council, requesting urgent attention. There is some progress to note:

- Traffic management between Green Lane and Decoy Farm has been removed and the new footpath completed.
- The road works have finally been completed on Whaddon Drive and the



road has now been fully restored. We would like to thank residents for their patience during this period of disruption.

- After our recent street surgery, the large pothole on Claypit Road was reported and promptly repaired.
- The Highways department has rejected a request for angled parking and a one way system on the Westminster Park shops car park as it would reduce the number of spaces available and increase traffic on Five Ashes Road in the vicinity of the school. The car park surface is in a poor condition and we have asked for this to be treated as a priority by Highways.

Housing issues

- The Section 73 application for Redrow is being dealt with. The local residents' group worked very effectively to get a positive outcome. The Taylor Wimpey planning application will now need to be addressed.
- Works on the Blue Oaks development are causing problems with contractors' vehicles, building site traffic, damage to grass verges and mud on Lache Lane and Rowcliffe Avenue. We have requested that the Planning department takes a strong line over this and these issues have been raised with the developers.

Building a school for the Wrexham Road development

An update on the provision of a new primary school for the Wrexham Road development is

expected, together with an indication on the pressure on primary school places based on application for places for this September.

New Surgery in Handbridge

A meeting with NHS has been arranged for an update on plans for a new GP surgery.

Members Budget

Funding was approved for gardening equipment to support the amazing volunteers who are helping every Wednesday in Westminster Park.

Come and meet us!

We are always glad to meet residents at our monthly street surgeries which are held on the first Saturday of each month (whatever the weather!) where we are joined by WPRC committee members at the shops and by PCSO Cain Jones, when she is able to do so.

✓ Westminster Park Shops 10 - 10.45am

✓ Kings Moat Garden Village - near the Show Homes 11 - 11.45am

Surgeries can be busy so timings can be a little elastic. We can also be contacted by telephone and email:

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

City of Chester's New MP



It has been full steam ahead since my election as the Member of Parliament for the City of Chester last December. I want to say thank you to everyone who put their trust in me to serve the people of Chester.

Whether you voted for me or not, I will be an MP for all the people of Chester. After being sworn in, it was straight down to business. I attended a meeting with the Rail Minister to put forward a case for a return to direct train services to Chester, made my maiden speech in the Chamber during the Procurement Bill debate, and voted

against the Government's anti-strike bill.

A major concern is the current cost of living crisis. We have created a page on my website (www.samantha-dixon.co.uk) listing local and national organisations where advice and support can be found for those dealing with the effects of increasing energy, food and housing costs.

My team and I are working to answer the many emails that have come in since the election. If you do need my help and would like to get in touch with me, you can submit a request form on my website.

If you would rather call the office you can do so on 01244 343 229.

Centre is buzzing

There's lots happening at Westminster Park Community Centre, with activities for all ages. Babies and toddlers and their carers are meeting regularly, the monthly disco for primary-school aged children is as popular as ever - the next one is 24 March - whilst Bingo starts again on Friday 17 March.

There are plans afoot for an Easter Event on Saturday 8 April. Details of all of this and more can be found on the WPCC Facebook page.

The hall is available for hire (£12 an hour) and the bar is open 7 days a week from 19.30

and also from 11.30 - 14.00 Saturdays and 11.30 - 15.00 Sundays.

Call after 19.30 if you have an enquiry, 01244 671234.



And the weeds keep growing

Sunday 23 April, 10 am

Please will you arm yourselves with brushes, hoes and spades and come and help with the **Big Spring Tidy Up** around the Westminster Park Shops?

This will be the fourth time we have worked to make a difference to our local shopping parade and it certainly looks better for the community efforts.

Thank you.
Brian Westcott

All residents are welcome at the AGM of Westminster Park Residents' Association on Wednesday 19 April, 8pm at WP Community Centre

The AGM is to be held to report on the Association's activities in the past year and elect Committee Officers and members. Residents can raise matters of concern.

If you wish to submit any questions or propose anyone to join the Committee please let the Secretary, Penny White, know by Wednesday 29 March 2023 by email: pennywhite@sky.com or c/o WPRC post box situated in S J Bebbington Butchers, Westminster Park shops.

New Year, Old Traditions

We've been celebrating Chinese New Year at **Belgrave School**.

Reception pupils were visited by Mrs Wong, a parent at school, who told them about Chinese New Year traditions and introduced them to lucky money envelopes.

The children then tried using chopsticks, sang songs, played instruments and created their own Chinese-inspired dances.



No Matter the Weather

New lights and the all-weather surface at **Glan Aber tennis club** have made it possible for players to enjoy their favourite sport more or less continuously throughout winter and early spring. Now we are looking forward to better weather and longer days and members have been enjoying social afternoons with tea and cake to finish. There is a new session on Wednesday evenings, 6-7pm, for ladies who are beginners or returners to tennis which can be booked through the All Court Tennis Academy app (ACTA).

We always welcome enquiries from new junior and adult members and there are plenty of friendly group sessions for all levels. Visit our website www.glanaber.com for more details.



Tuition

SATS/ Entrance exams 2023/24?
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Election Special

Brownies from 18th Chester held their own election week to look into the Parliamentary system, when they chose candidates, designed posters, heard speeches and then voted.

This term they are working on their Orange section and their charities badges. They are hosting an Easter bingo fundraiser together with Jennifer from Girl guiding.

Then the girls have their pack holiday in Queen Charlotte's Wood and the pack's belated 50th birthday celebration on Saturday, 16 September, 2:30pm at the Scout Hut. Former Brownies are warmly invited to join us.



Evergreen 55+ Club

2022 was a good year for **Evergreen**. Our membership subscription total at the end of the year was 105, with many new members joining us. Our new year so far has signed up 84 members, with 55 attending our first speaker session in January. February was our AGM followed by a fun quiz.

For those who have yet to join and are undecided if Evergreen is for them, why not come along for a taster session as a guest for £2. Whether you come with a partner, friend or just on your own, our sessions are friendly and informal and a warm welcome is always assured.

Our 2023 programme is again well planned and interesting, with a variety of good speakers, activities and trips. The programme is displayed on the Community notice board and the WPRAs website with full details.

Our popular Supper Club has its own planned programme for 2023. We meet in the Westminster Park Community Centre on 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.00 – 3.30pm.

Membership is £10 per year with complimentary tea/coffee/biscuits. For insurance purposes all members need to be members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association.

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





VOLUNTEER TODAY

0151 356 8717

Passion for Learning

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Volunteers needed to support a large number of Afghan refugee children at Overleigh St Mary's Primary School, Chester.

If you could spare a little time during their school day and would like to help, please contact us for further details.

Louise@passion-for-learning.com
07592 503042/0151 356 8717

Full training, DBS and ongoing support provided.

Flying the Green Flag



As spring approaches, please come and enjoy a walk around the woodland area in Westminster Park and feel the benefit in heart and mind. The many hundreds (probably thousands) of carefully planted bulbs are pushing through the soil and the park's wildlife is gearing up for a busy season. You might decide to spend a couple of hours

helping to maintain these wonderful green spaces – everyone is welcome! Volunteers from the **Friends of Westminster Park** meet every Wednesday, 10-12. Tools and gloves are provided and there's always a wide variety of tasks to be tackled.

It's great to report that the park has retained green flag status - awarded to public parks that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways. The flag is now flying proudly at the entrance.



Lively activities at Lache Library

In the last issue, there was speculation about a possible move for the library from its current situation on Lache Park Avenue but it is now clear that this will not be happening. Meanwhile, the library continues to offer a warm and welcoming space to all, with plenty going on for all age groups in addition to the usual books, papers, magazines and audio visual items.

For opening times and details of the various activities such as Scrabble, crafting, Lego club and rhyme-time sessions check the library website:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/find-a-library/lache-library.

If you want to subscribe to the green waste collection service, which recommences at the beginning of March, this is the link to follow for full details.

cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/garden-waste-collection

Go Gardening



Sunshine at Dunham Massey

The Gardening Club has already had its first outing of the year to see the Winter Garden at Dunham Massey where, on a sunny January morning, members enjoyed glimpses of scented daphnes, early daffodils and a spread of snowdrops.

The programme for 2023 (full details on the Westminster Park Residents' Association website) includes a talk by Annemarie

Macfadyen on gardening and wildlife initiatives undertaken in the park by the Friends of Westminster Park, on Wednesday 26 April at 8pm in the Community Centre, cost £4. Everyone is welcome to join us, light refreshments are available and there will be a plant and seed swap.

We are planning two visits to RHS Bridgewater, in spring and autumn, to compare the planting schemes. The first is on Friday 12 May; meet at the entrance at 11am. Entry is free for RHS members; tickets must be booked in advance via the RHS.

After the success of the plant stall at the Community Picnic last year, this will appear again by popular request! Please get your green fingers working taking cuttings and sowing seeds so that it will be even more abundantly stocked.

For more details contact Mary Pole: pole.mary@gmail.com.

Growing Together



Incredible Edible had a brilliant first year growing and harvesting herbs and vegetables in the lovely planters on Castlecroft Road.

There's been so much enthusiasm for the project shown by the community – particularly the juniors! The apple pressing day in November was a great success. In collaboration with Transition Chester, we helped folk to press their crops for cider and juice and we hope this will become an annual event.

Thanks to the people who signed up to the Co-op Community Fund scheme to support Incredible Edible; their contributions will enable us to continue to fill the planters and to plan other projects such as planting fruit trees and bushes in the area.

If anyone is interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you, after all, "if you eat, you're in" is the Incredible Edible motto. We are particularly looking for a Treasurer.



Please contact us: ediblewestminsterpark@gmail.com or Facebook or Instagram: @ediblewestminsterpark or call Anne on 07707 683711.

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Talks at The Grosvenor Museum

The series of talks organised by the Grosvenor Museum Society continues through spring. On Tuesday 14 March at 2.30pm, Mike Royden describes the last voyage of RMS Lusitania and the liner's link with Farndon. Doors open at 2pm and complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

On Tuesday 16 May, the ever-popular speaker Ken Pye returns to give us a Night to Remember. Doors open 7pm, and the talk follows a very brief AGM at 7.30pm. Entrance costs £3 for members and £5 for guests for each lecture.

The Society is very pleased to be offering an additional special lecture and reception on Monday 3 April to mark the publication of Peter Boughton and Ian Dunn's catalogue of the etchings of George Cuitt, the younger (1779-1854). The Grosvenor Museum holds a fine collection of Cuitt's etchings and Peter was still working on his study of Cuitt's work when he died in 2020. The catalogue has been completed by Ian, who previously worked at the Cheshire Records Office. The talk will shed more light on the artist who has been called 'England's Piranesi' and the catalogue will be available for inspection and purchase on the evening.

This is expected to be a popular event and so **a reservation is required**. Places should be booked via email or text: Andrea Hopkinson (andreajanehop@gmail.com / 07792 474 504). Tickets cost £3 for GMS members and £5 for guests which includes a reception sponsored by Aaron and Partners in the Newstead Gallery from 6.45pm; the lecture commences promptly at 7.30pm.

Chester Model Railway Club Open Day

There will be a small exhibition on 20 and 21 May at Sealand Church CH5 2LQ, so why not pop along for a look? We purchase collections and advise on sales. We will also be selling a large quantity of spring plants. Contact Colin Dollimore, Deputy Chairman, 01244 629167 for more details.



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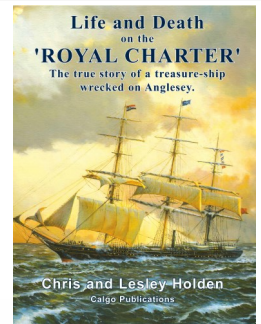
Lache and Westminster Park History Group

The Royal Charter A talk by Chris Holden

The Venue (Lache Community Centre)
Hawthorn Road, Chester CH4 8HX
Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 7.30pm

The Royal Charter was built only a few miles away, at Sandycroft, on the River Dee.

Chris Holden is an amateur diver who first visited the wreck of the 'Royal Charter' in the mid-1980s. Having spent many hours underwater, searching for and failing to find the gold, he became fascinated by the loss of life and treasure when only yards from the coast of Anglesey. Having researched the disaster in the archives, he and his wife published their findings in 2009, the 150th anniversary of the tragic event.



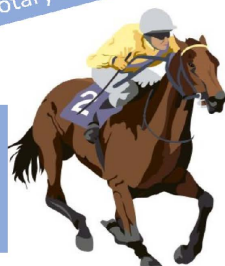
All welcome, no need to book. £1 per person on the door.
Refreshments will be available.

Linda Shuttleworth,
Secretary, Lache and Westminster Local History
Group shuttleworths@talktalk.net
01244 679791 or text 07726 425847



A NIGHT AT THE RACES!
Money raised in aid of Rotary chosen charities

Place your 20p bets
Test your luck.
Roll the dice
See if your horse wins!!!



7:30pm

Saturday 22nd April

Includes Supper
Licensed Bar Available

Westminster Park Community Centre
Five Ashes Rd Chester CH4 7QS

Tickets can be obtained from Brian Westcott (01244 675431).

Through the hoops



Croquet simply requires 6 hoops, 4 balls, 2 mallets and a patch of grass but it's also a game of skill and strategy and one that offers friendship, fun and competition. Everyone plays on an equal footing and the handicap system means that people can play at all ages and levels - our members are aged between 21 and 88!

Why not have a go? Whether you have never played or are a rusty returner, do come along to one of the friendliest clubs in the North West and join the taster session on Sunday 16 April, in Westminster Park. All equipment is provided.

CHESTER CROQUET CLUB TASTER DAY

Come and try croquet in Westminster Park and be introduced to a new sport and make new friends.

Sunday 16 April 2023
9.30-12.30 or 1.30-4.30

To book a place, or for information, please contact Sally Slater: 01244 677645, springboard_sally@hotmail.com, www.chestercroquet.club

Looking for Layout Assistance

The layout of this newsletter has been in the expert hands of Adina for the past 3 years, but she is leaving and we are seeking someone to take over for the next edition (May/June) and beyond. Can you help? It's put together via Publisher and takes a few hours every quarter. If you are interested, please get in touch – there is time for a proper handover and there is lots of support from the editorial team! Contact Jennifer Crew.

Westminster Park Residents' Association would like to thank Adina most heartily for her dedication to the newsletter and send their best wishes to her and Mike as they move south.



Adina with her silver medal won at the 2022 English national pickleball competition.

WPRA membership rallying call

Thanks very much to all who have already paid their subscription for 2023. As you are probably aware, the committee ensures that all of these £3 contributions are put to good use enhancing our locality and holding events for the community, so we encourage everyone to consider joining the association.

If you aren't sure whether you have paid this year, please contact me. There's a membership form enclosed with this newsletter and payments can be made by cash, cheque or BACS and the completed slip left at Bebbingtons or with me, Colin Dollimore, (membership secretary) at 5 Ludwell Close CH4 7RD, 01244 629167.

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

WP News is published by the Westminster Park Residents' Association 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.

Fizzing into 2023

Handbridge WI has a packed schedule of events planned for 2023. After celebrating its 49th anniversary in February with fizz and cake, which included a look back at previous national resolutions such as Equal Pay for Women (1943) and Keep Britain Tidy (1954), the ladies are now looking forward to a film night at Chez Jules, a river trip, a jigsaw race and talks about biodiversity, Fairtrade and the history of Chester Zoo. They are also taking Pilates classes via Zoom.

Meanwhile, the craft group continues its output of knitted items for the neonatal unit, plus hats, mittens and scarves for the Afghan refugee children at Overleigh school.

For more details, contact Maureen (01244 671304) to join or go along to a meeting at St Mary's Handbridge Centre, 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.



JM

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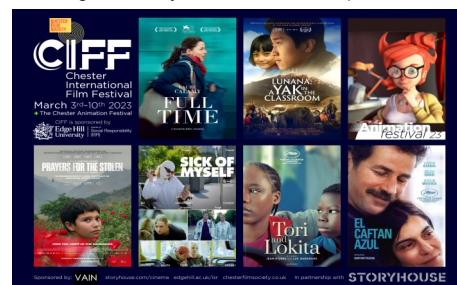


Chester International Film Festival 2023

This festival, curated by Chester Film Society, features acclaimed and awarded films from France, Norway and Mexico, among others. Examining themes of relationships, migration, teaching, work and family, we think there is something for everyone, so we do hope that you will join us!

CIFF incorporates the Animation Festival - an international competition for both amateur and professional animators.

For details, go to chesterfilmsociety.co.uk



Mature Driver Workshop

Westminster Park Community Centre
Five Ashes Road, Chester CH4 7QS

Thursday 23 March 2023, 2.30pm – 3.30pm

This event is aimed at people aged 60 years and over who have an interest in updating their driving skills and knowledge, as well as for those who want help in adapting to a new vehicle or simply want to gain more confidence.

**This session is free, places are limited,
booking is essential !**

To book, please call Andrea Hopkinson (07792474504) as soon as possible or email andrea.janehop@gmail.com

Local Raw Natural Honey

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this is the last chance to buy our local honey. It comes from our hives in Handbridge, and is a set honey. We have 12oz jars at £5.00 or 1lb jars at £6.50.

Please contact Alan 07877 735794
or Kathy 07572 679544.

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.

Wills - Lasting Powers of Attorney - Trusts - Inheritance Tax Planning GPW Tax and Law Limited

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The information section

WPRA Committee

Chair: Jennifer Crew chair@wp-ra.org.uk
Vice Chair: Colin Dollimore 629167
Secretary: Penny White sec@wp-ra.org.uk
Treasurer: Sue Britton 677936
Editor: Andrea Hopkinson

newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk

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

Other Committee members

Oiwen Bellis 678719
Pauline Brown 679823
Tracey Casey
Susan Eva 676697
Karen Liddle
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: Sally Slater 07711 374927

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): Christina 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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