

WP News



www.wp-ra.org.uk



@wesparkra

Come and join the fun!

The start of the year has been very busy for WPRA with a rare successful objection to the latest Taylor Wimpey plans for the Wrexham Road development, a well-received 'Driving Safer for Longer' workshop, a fun Quiz and Supper night at the Community Centre and a good Tidy Up at the shops.

There is more to come over the next few months as we prepare for our Summer Coronation Picnic and Fun Day on Saturday 1 July and also challenge proposals to erect a 15m high telecoms mast next to the Coop.

Our live music line up for the Picnic and Fun Day is now confirmed and we are very excited to announce that local acts Summit of Soul, Dave O'Connor and Just Above Above Snakes will be returning to perform again. They will be joined by Bobcat Billy's Moonshine Mission to keep us rocking all afternoon!

Children will be well catered for too with archery, football, face painting, craft activities and even a fire engine to keep them entertained. You are welcome to bring a picnic, but there will be plenty of other delicious food and drink options from local suppliers including wood-fired pizzas, burgers,

Indian snacks, cakes, Pimms and Prosecco and of course ice cream!

Put Saturday 1 July, 1pm - 5.30pm in your diary!

5G mast

You may have already seen the plans for this mast and its associated cabinets, but if not please have a look at them on the CWAC website - follow the links to 'See a Planning Application'. Not only is the mast extremely tall, but the cabinets alongside it are huge too. The plans show them positioned along the small wall near the bike park and electric scooter park next to Castlecroft Road entrance to the shop car park. Not only will they create congestion on the footpath, but they will also obstruct the line of sight of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians at this busy junction. Please add your voice to the objections to the use of this location. See our additional article on page 9 for more details. 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. I look forward to seeing you on 1 July. Jennifer Crew

Diary Dates

Sundays 10.30am

Incredible Edible gardening by the planters

Thurs 15 June 2pm

Evergreen 55+: afternoon tea and quiz, WP Community Centre

Saturday 17 - Wednesday 28 June

Chester Heritage Festival

Friday 23 June

Gardening Club visit to Wildegoose Nursery

Saturday 1 July

WPRA Coronation Picnic and Fun Day, WP Community Centre

Wednesday 12 July, 7.30pm

Stories from the Queen Hotel, by Elizabeth Allen, at The Venue, Lache Community Centre.

Lache and Westminster Local History Group.

Contact Linda Shuttleworth:

shuttleworths@talktalk.net, 01244 679791 or text 07726 425847

Monday 17 July

Evergreen 55+: Visit to RHS Bridgewater

Thursday 20 July 2pm

Evergreen 55+: Radiography in Art, WP Community Centre

Monday 31 July

Grosvenor Museum Society: Visit to Hampton Court Castle, Herefordshire

Thursday 17 August

Evergreen 55+: William Gladstone and his family, WP Community Centre

Free event - donations welcome!

Live Music **Coronation Picnic & Fun Day** **Fire engine**

at Westminster Park Community Centre & Belgrave School field

Plants **Saturday 1st July 2023, 1.00 - 5.30pm** **Tea & Cake Bar**

STALLS **Face painting** **ICE CREAMS**

Games & crafts for children **Pizzas & Burgers** **Tombolas**

Sorry no dogs on school field

Razia Daniels writes:

I am delighted to have been re-elected as councillor for Handbridge Park and thank everyone who voted for me. I would also like to pay tribute to my former colleague Neil Sullivan for his many years of hard work and commitment to the residents of Handbridge Park ward.

I will continue to pursue the issues you have told me matter most to you, including securing investment for roads and pavements, road safety, Chester Western Relief Road, improving maintenance of green spaces, scrutinising local planning applications to protect our environment, improvements to Westminster Park Golf shop, café, changing rooms and disabled toilets, and campaigning for a new school and GP surgery for the local area.

Taylor Wimpey planning application

At a planning committee meeting in April, we objected to this application for a further 212 homes on the Wrexham Road site. After deliberation, the application was unanimously rejected.

Telecomms Mast

Cheshire West and Chester Council have received a Notification of Application under the Planning Act for 5G telecoms installation (ref number: 23/01418/TEL) for a 15m street pole and additional equipment cabinets at Castle Croft Road, Chester, CH4 7QD. We responded to the pre-consultation (reference CHE25007):

- The mast is too big and out of keeping with a residential area.
- The proposed site is in the vicinity of Belgrave Primary School.

- The mast and cabinets may obstruct sight lines for road users at the junction.
- It will spoil the look of a community garden I funded for local residents.
- At the Westminster Park Residents' Association AGM there was unanimous objection to this proposal and many emails opposing this have been received and forwarded to the planning department
- It was requested that residents' concerns are taken into consideration and that another location for the 5G mast is found.

If you wish to add your comment (by 12 June) go to the Council website: <https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/> or contact me and I will forward your document.

More information about planning applications for mobile masts is also available at <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/planning-rules-for-5g-masts-in-england/>

Neighbourhood Pride Fund

Neil and I were delighted to support the installation of the self-closing gate at Westminster Park.

If I can help you with any local issues, please do not hesitate to contact me: 01244 312392 or 07481 234411, Or email: razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Or meet me at the street surgery held on the first Saturday of the month: 10-10.45am Westminster Park Shops; 11-11.45 Kings Moat Garden Village, near the show homes.

From our PCSO



Dear Resident,

My name is Cain Jones and I am the PCSO for the Handbridge Park area covering Handbridge, Curzon Park, Westminster Park and Saltney. I have also recently taken over Pulford and Eccleston.

If you have been subject to a criminal offence and would like to make the Police aware, please ring 101 (999 in an emergency). You can also use our website: www.cheshire.police.uk to log a non-emergency report.

The incident, can then be logged and dealt with appropriately. If a similar incident occurs in the future, please report it so that we know what is going on in your area.

If you see us in your area, please don't hesitate to stop us for a chat. We are here to help.

If you witness anything suspicious in your area please email me directly:

cain.jones@cheshire.police.uk

To speak with me if you do not have access to email, ring 101 and quote my collar number **23260**.

If you are on Facebook please follow Handbridge Park Police to keep up to date with what we are doing in your area. Note that our social media pages and email addresses are not monitored 24/7.

Please can I ask that you take some time to complete our Resident's Voice Survey in order to help us improve our services (details on p 11).

Kind regards

Cain Jones PCSO 23260

New Councillor gets to work

Matt Carter writes:

Firstly, a big heartfelt thank you, to all those who voted for me in the local elections. I hope I can respond by being an approachable, active councillor, working for the residents of Handbridge Park, pursuing my five local pledges:

- Action on sewage dumping in the River Dee
- Tackling littering and fly tipping
- Supporting local shopping areas
- Tackling speeding & road safety issues
- Supporting efforts of residents in green and community spaces

Recently, residents on Vincent Drive have been in touch about issues caused by school

time parking on bends, in unsafe locations and blocking residents' drives.

Speeding issues have been raised across the ward and I am in the process of liaising with the local PCSO and Highways to see if more monitoring can be done, and if any traffic calming measures can be put in.

When the River Dee suddenly turned a murky, reddish brown colour, through contact with the environmental agency I was able to establish that this was likely to be due to a collapsed river bank and a big fall of rain. I will continue to highlight and work alongside the Member of Parliament to make sure Chester's river can be cleaned up for people to swim safely in it.

I am looking forward to meeting with the

Friends of Westminster Park to look over the many improvements they have made in the park and to see what further help might be needed for this valuable work to progress. Getting the café in the park renovated and open consistently will also be a key part of the five pledges listed above.

I will be spending time locally, listening to issues raised by residents and keeping in touch with projects and work undertaken for the benefit of the community by local people.

Contact details:

Mobile 07415 689178,

Email matt.carter@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Life in the Pond - Winkwell renamed

Talking of green spaces, it's really good to see the re-emergence of the pond on what is now known as St Michael's Park. Whilst there is evidently still a lot of recovery work to be done on this wildlife habitat, it was very busy when this picture was taken – although the ducks, moorhens and dragonflies proved to be totally camera shy!



Hedges...

At the Westminster Park Residents' AGM it was raised that some pavements are becoming difficult to navigate due to overhanging hedges. The spring weather has encouraged a huge amount of green growth, so residents are urged to look outside their property to see how easy it is for buggies, wheelchairs and people walking side-by-side to get past. Additionally, could you be a good neighbour and offer to cut back for anyone who isn't able to do so for themselves? We all benefit in the end.

...and road-side garden beds

Local resident Charlotte Jobse recently posted on the WPRFA Facebook page about the neglected flower beds at the top of Lache Lane on the Overleigh Roundabout. Does anyone have a few hours to join her to improve the look of the entrance to the Westminster Park area, please? Contact her via the WPRFA Facebook page.

Edible Delight



The spring weather is encouraging everything to grow really well in our Incredible Edible planters; leeks, garlic, broad beans and spring onions are making a good showing. At a spring planting day in April spinach, chard, beetroot and lettuce seeds were sown whilst runner beans, courgettes and tomatoes will be planted out in the coming weeks. Just check the signage to see what's ready for harvesting.

There's been a lot of activity at the plant swap lately, with folk leaving plants, cuttings and seedlings – much to the delight of other gardeners who

scoop them up and take them home. Everyone enjoys a good swap!

We're meeting weekly again on Sundays at 10.30am and new volunteers are always welcome. Contact us via Facebook or Instagram: @ediblewestminsterpark, email: ediblewestminsterpark@gmail.com or call Anne on 07707 683711.

Tuition

SATS/ Entrance exams 2023/24?
NOW is the time to start preparing!
English/ Maths/ Non-verbal/ Verbal Reasoning

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

Reasonable rates: ring 01244 675431

Community Gardening



A few hardy souls turned out to Tidy Up outside the Westminster Park shops on a drizzly April morning. They waged war on weeds and long grass and left the area looking much smarter – many thanks to them. The next Tidy Up is planned for autumn.

Passion for Learning

VOLUNTEER TODAY
0151 356 8717

FANTASTIC, FUN & REWARDING

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.

Friends of Westminster Park: Spectacular Growth

Spring has sprung in Westminster Park and hard work earlier in the year by the Friends of Westminster Park volunteers has resulted in blooms and blossom throughout the park. It's a delight to see tulips and alliums in the more formal beds (thanks to Councillors, Razia and Neil, for funding the bulbs); hedges that were laid are now in full leaf and flower, providing low, thick growth for small mammals and birds to nest and forage in safely and fruit trees are dressed in full blossom, promising good crops later. Foxgloves, hollyhocks and aquilegia have been planted in the woodland.

We haven't been the only volunteers – we hosted a visit from Lache Primary Willows Group and Belgrave Primary Eco Group when children planted wildflowers in specially prepared beds in the wildflower meadow. After our appeal last year, we are so grateful to members of the WP Gardening Club who delivered a carpet of wildflowers specially grown from seed to be added to the

wildflower river and the new area by the orchard. It will look even more spectacular than last year.

More and more people are discovering this truly special green space on our doorstep (see Olwen's letter). Over 90 people recently walked around the area at an event for the City Nature Challenge, supported by Chester Zoo. Using an app called iNaturalist, they spotted plants and trees on their journey round the woodland and meadow.

Of course, we are also delighted to welcome (more informally) the great variety of wildlife that has been spotted: foxes, frogs and newts, stoats, voles; damselflies and possibly badgers.....

Do come and visit and, if you sit down to appreciate the calm beauty of it all, check first to make sure that we haven't just painted the bench as we are now looking after those too!

New volunteers are always welcome – there is a wide variety of tasks. We meet every Wednesday, 10-12. Look out for gardeners wearing yellow vests!



British wild flower seedlings ready for planting.



Pupils of Belgrave School hard at work in our local park; and yellow-vested volunteers who meet every Wednesday.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,
Inspired by a recent talk at the Gardening Club given by Peter Keyte, I decided to get out and see for myself the wildlife and planting initiatives that have quietly been transforming our local park.

One sunny morning, I walked through the park gates off Lache Lane and followed a path out through the grass. Passing behind the children's play area and admiring the wild flowers there, I found myself on woodland paths surrounded by spring blooms and blossom. There looked to be plenty of habitats for wildlife and it was all extremely pleasant. I then walked past a shallow pond and turned towards the car park. I don't have a dog any longer, but this would seem to be a dog walker's paradise.

I had no idea that this lovely area existed, let alone that it was so close to home and I've lived here for 40 years! Big thanks to everyone who works so hard to create this haven – we are very lucky indeed to have such marvellous surroundings.

Olwen Bellis



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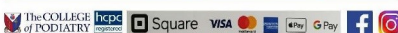
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Sarah Webber Bsc (Hons) MSCh HCPC Reg :CH32605



Putting Tea and Coffee back into the Park

Exciting news from the Golf Course and Café in Westminster Park, where local businessman, Ken Moodie of Creative Golf Design Ltd, is in the process of redeveloping and improving the 9-hole golf course to add to the many sporting activities that currently take place in the park.

In spite of a recent issue with the automatic irrigation system, which caused the storage pond to empty, it is hoped that the course will be open by mid-summer. The pond has now been refilled. Watch out for notices in the

park and on Facebook about the progress towards opening the facility.

The re-vamped Sports' Café & Community Hub will be open every day from 8.30am – 8pm during the summer, serving excellent coffee and tea, fruit smoothies, wraps, salads and simple healthy dishes plus delicious cakes and pastries. Groups will be welcome to meet at the café and the terrace area is being redesigned with outdoor seating. There are also plans for occasional themed evenings and music events in the pipeline.



Drwg. W13/03A Scale 1:200 (at A3) Date: November 2020 Creative Golf Design Ltd

Work on an 18-hole putting course in front of the café should start soon, which will be a great attraction in its own right and it could be ready to play for the school summer holidays – fingers crossed!



Artists impression of proposed Putting Course

Football Finesse at Belgrave School

Pupils at Belgrave play a wide range of extra curricular sports, competing in many mixed football competitions across the borough and nationally. Football is always very popular and a year 5/6 team recently made it to the county finals where team members Margaux, Ciara, Erin, Emily, Trudy, Amelia, Heidi, Isla, Holly and Alys won 2 and lost 1 in the group stages. The girls didn't get into the regional finals, but we were so proud of their excellent performance and their effort and enthusiasm!

Find our other achievements in the monthly newsletter on Belgrave Primary School website.



Glan Aber Tennis Club

Thanks to Aidan and his team at All Court Tennis Academy for their hard work and enthusiasm. As well as a full programme at both Glan Aber and Tarporley, the team is running tennis sessions at the King's School too. Our Pay & Play Saturday junior sessions re-start on Saturday 24 June. Sign up on the ACTA app to view all sessions including regular courses and summer camps. We have 5 adult teams playing in the local summer league and 3 junior teams in the National Team Tennis League. Many of our older juniors also play on the adult teams. Social tennis continues to thrive and we're delighted that we've recently recruited several young adults(18-25 years).

New members are always welcome. Full details of our membership packages are available on the glanaber.com website – there are options to pay annually or monthly.

Gardening Club Visit

The Gardening Club is visiting Wildegoose Nursery in Shropshire on Friday 23 June. This is a small independent nursery and garden housed within the old redbrick walls of a former kitchen garden, nestled in the Shropshire Hills.

The nursery started as specialist growers of hardy perennial violas, but the owners' passion for plants has always extended beyond this to encompass a wide range of flowering perennial and grasses. The owners

will give us a short talk about the development of the gardens and nursery.

Meet at 11.30 am at The Walled Garden, Lower Millichope, Munslow, Shropshire, SY7 9HE, £5 entrance fee per person. And yes, there is a tea room!

Our plant stand will appear once again at the WP Coronation picnic and fun day and we are hoping for lots of plant donations from our local gardeners, please! Don't forget to label cuttings and plants – it really helps with sales.



Community Coronation Joy

It was fantastic to see so many families come together to celebrate the coronation of King Charles at the special event organised by Westminster Park Community Centre. Hundreds of people enjoyed picnics, free inflatables and many stalls on the field behind the centre. Huge thanks go to everyone who helped and to all who came along. It's safe to say fun was had by all.



There's lots going on at the community centre, with something for everyone to enjoy. A wide range of classes takes place throughout the week, plus a monthly children's disco, quiz night, and bingo. Chess group is proving a popular new addition to the timetable on Saturday lunchtimes.

Holly, of Finding Harmony, is running a new baby and toddler group where parents, grandparents and carers are encouraged to come along and join in a relaxed session with plenty of activities for the children.

We continue to host many private events such as birthday parties and christenings. If you would like to discuss a booking, please call after 19.30, 7 days a week: 01244 671 243.

The bar is open each evening from 19.30, in addition to Saturdays 11.30-14.00 and Sundays 11.30-15.00 and a warm welcome is offered to all. Accompanied children are very welcome and are offered free juice during weekend daytime opening hours. All events are featured on our Facebook page – search for Westminster Park Community Centre.

Westminster Park Community Centre




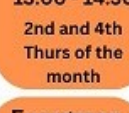








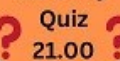
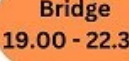
BABY AND TODDLER GROUP




Hosted by Holly from Finding Harmony
 Date - 2nd and 4th Thurs of each month
 Time - 1.00 - 2.30
 Cost £3.50 per family
 All proceeds go to Finding Harmony a not for profit organisation helping to support local families.




What's on at Westminster Park Community Centre

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Westminster Park Community Centre
Belgrave Pre-School							
8.30 - 16.30	8.30-15.00	8.30-16.30	8.30-12.00	8.30-16.30			
Yoga 17.50 - 19.20 	Stretch and mobility for seniors 16.00-17.00 	Karate 17.30 - 18.30 18.30-19.30 	Baby and Toddler Group 13.00 - 14.30 2nd and 4th Thurs of the month 	Monthly Childrens Disco 18.30 - 19.30 	Weight Watchers 8.45 - 9.45 	Church 10.00 	Bar open Mon - Sun 19.30 - late Sat 11.30 - 14.00 Sun 11.30 - 15.00 Hall available to hire
	Zumba 18.30 - 19.30 		Evergreen over 55 club 14.00 3rd Thurs of the month 	Monthly Bingo 	Pilates 12.00 		Contact details Community Centre - 01244 671243 Belgrave Pre-School 07761816891 Stretch and mobility for seniors - 07511759332 Evergreen - 01244 677373 Pilates and Zumba - 07963944640 Karate - www.wcsc.org.uk Yoga - www.teresa4yoga.co.uk Bridge - nikeryan@outlook.com
			Karate 17.30-18.30 		Monthly Quiz 21.00 		
			Bridge 19.00 - 22.30 				

Facebook - Westminster Park Community Centre

And it's not over yet!

Free Event - donations welcome!

Live
Music

Coronation Picnic & Fun Day

at Westminster Park Community Centre & Belgrave School field

Saturday 1st July 2023, 1.00 - 5.30pm

Sorry no dogs on school field



Come along and join us for a great afternoon of fun, food and music. We have a wonderful live music line up for you, with three acts returning from last year's fantastic Jubilee Picnic & Fun Day - Summit of Soul, Dave O'Connor and Just Above Snakes. Joining them this year is Bobcat Billy's Moonshine Mission, a rock and roll band who will have us all on our feet.

You can bring your own picnic or try some of the food on offer on the field - Three Fellas Burger from our local shops are doing a pop-up kitchen, we've also got wood-fired pizzas, Indian snacks and of course plenty of ice cream. Handbridge WI will keep us supplied with tea and cake and local bar Sandstone will be supplying Pimm's, prosecco and craft beer as well as soft drinks.

There's plenty for the children to do too - we've got a fire engine for them to visit, Beat the Goalie, craft activities, face painting, archery and tombolas.

Even the local croquet club are bringing some mallets along for you to have a go!



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.

St Bridget's Court-iers



A coronation Bar-B-Q at which a 'cardboard cutout' King Charles was present, was held by St Bridget's Court-iers in blazing sunshine, unlike coronation day itself. But at both events a crown was centre stage, in this case a magnificent iced Victoria sponge cake topped by a marzipan crown. The baker and creative marzipan sculptor, resident Richard Avory, says he is never taking another commission!

Evergreen 55+

Evergreen continues to enjoy a healthy membership, with 95 members signed up and our sessions are well attended.

In the coming months, we will have an Afternoon Tea with fun quiz in June; in July a talk on Radiography in Art and in August a talk on William Gladstone and his family. In addition, we have planned a Midsummer Dinner at the Mill Hotel on 20 June and a coach trip to RHS Bridgewater on 17 July, which has places available.

Our monthly supper club continues to be well supported and its variety of local venues ensures there is something for everyone to enjoy.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Westminster Park Community Centre 2.00–3.30pm. Membership is £10 p.a with complimentary tea/coffee/biscuits. For insurance purposes you need to be a member of the Westminster Park Residents' Association. Sandra Magilton: 01244 677373 sandymagilton@googlemail.com
Penny White: pennywhite@sky.com

Ladies in Waiting!



With talks on Chester Zoo, Styal Prison, Chester Walls, the history of libraries and a promise of ice cream tasting at the October meeting, Handbridge WI has a very full programme organised.

There is also an outing to Gresford Festival of Crafts, plus a tour of Overleigh Cemetery and members are busy planning the refreshments they will be offering at the WP coronation picnic and fun day in July.

After celebrating their own coronation with fizz and a garden party they were puzzled by the disappearance of their beautiful knitted crown which disappeared from the top of the post box in Queens Park – does anyone know what happened to it?

A warm welcome is guaranteed at meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 in St Mary's Handbridge Centre. Please contact Maureen on 01244 671304 for more details.

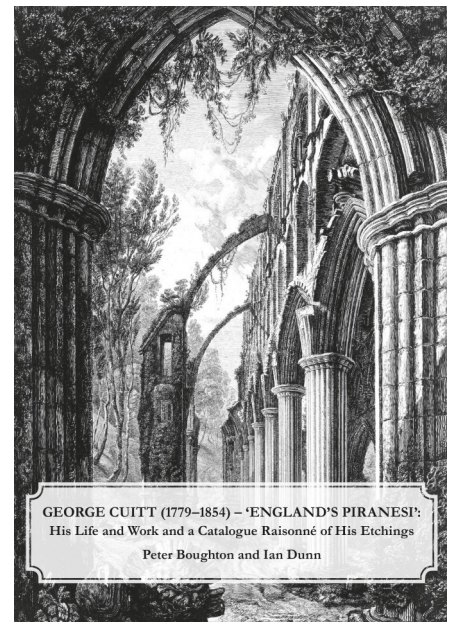
Talk of Murders and Riots at the Museum

It's been a very satisfying season of talks for members and guests of the Grosvenor Museum Society, including one to celebrate the publication of a book written by the late Peter Boughton, the much-missed Keeper of Art at the museum. Ian Dunn, Peter's collaborator, completed the book and gave a special lecture on its subject, George Cuijt the Younger, whose early 19th century etchings depict many of the famous landmarks in Chester. The Grosvenor Museum has a comprehensive collection of the etchings which will be the focus of a special exhibition next year. Copies of the book are available at the Museum shop.

Next season's lecture programme is nearly complete. The first two are:
Tuesday 12 September - Liverpool Murders and Misdemeanours by Ken Pye
Tuesday 17 October - The Kinmel Bay Riots by Celia Drew.

Doors open at 7pm, talks commence at 7.30. Admission is £3 for members and £5 for guests. A day trip to Hampton Court Castle, in Herefordshire, is organised for Monday 31 July and is open to guests as well as members. Cost is £45 which includes coach travel and entry to the gardens plus a private guided tour of the castle.

For more details, contact Andrea Hopkinson 07792474504, email: andreaHop@talktalk.net





WPCA Bingo Night

Friday 30th June

Starts 9pm

£10 all in

Prizes dependent upon ticket sales

Westminster Park Community Centre

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Staying Sharp in the Driving Seat

Taking your place behind the wheel generally feels completely natural and the skills required seem instinctively easy. But what can we do when confidence begins to fade and concern about driving on today's busy roads increases? These concerns are not groundless as national statistics show a steep increase in injuries in car drivers and passengers where the driver is aged 75 and older.

At a recent 'Drive Safer for Longer' workshop, held at the Community Centre, a group of Westminster Park residents took steps towards reassurance – after all, a responsible driver is an aware driver.

Led by friendly, informative officers from Cheshire West and Chester Road Safety department and two driving instructors, the group explored many areas of concern for older drivers, including:

- personal health – deteriorating eyesight, medication (including over-the-counter drugs) that can affect perception
- mental preparation – speed of perception and reaction can be reduced
- lifestyle – the effects of drugs, alcohol, tiredness
- car suitability – features to look for in a car that will assist an older driver

The session covered many issues, including the difficult question of when it is timely to give up driving and make use of other means of transport and the emphasis was on making

personal choices and remaining aware of one's own capabilities.

Attendees were offered the opportunity to book an informal driving assessment by a local driving instructor – all with the aim of keeping people driving safely for longer and maintaining this important facet of independence.

Feedback from one person after her driving



assessment was that it was not exactly relaxing but not too terrifying either. She reported that she got plenty of sensible advice on assessing road hazards to help improve her reading of the road. The comment that: 'Speed limits are not just advisory', was somewhat chastening as she said she considered herself to be pretty law abiding, but the point has very much been taken on board!

A further workshop is planned for Thursday 2 November, at 2.30pm in Westminster Park Community Centre. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Andrea Hopkinson, andrea.jane.hop@gmail.com / 07792474504.

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.

Payments can be made by cash, cheque or BACS. If you aren't sure whether you have paid this year, please contact 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

For all plumbing repairs and installations, including kitchens and bathrooms, ring Jack on 07957 438541.

Please object to this 5G mast near the Coop

Planning application 23/01418/TEL has been submitted to the Council to erect a 15 metre high mast and large cabinets close to the Coop at Westminster Park shops. WPRA is aware that 5G masts are needed, but considers this to be the wrong place and urges you to object. The more objections received, the more the Council listens, so please don't think it's not worth doing!

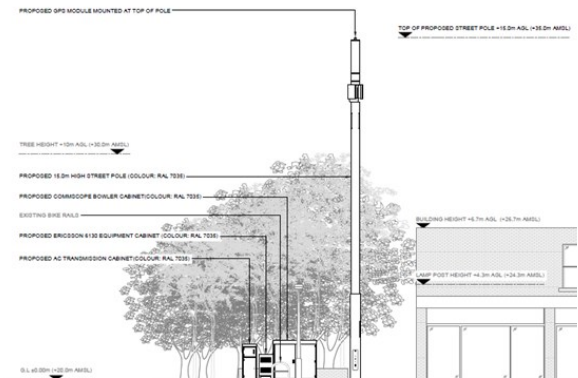
The key points of objection are:

- 2m tall cabinets will cause **road safety problems** by interfering with the line of sight of motorists and cyclists using the car park.
- They will **interfere with the line of sight of pedestrians** crossing the car park entrance.
- Narrowing this busy pavement will **cause congestion and upset**. The Site Plan does not show the electric scooter park.
- The adjacent wall is used as a resting place by those visiting the shops or waiting for the bus. **This amenity will be lost.**
- At more than double height of surrounding buildings, the pole will dominate the area. The Proposed Site Elevation drawing is very misleading, showing tall trees

close to the pole which do not exist. The pole will be highly visible and have an **adverse effect on the character and appearance of the area.**

- Residents living nearby are very upset at the prospect of their outlook being changed. **Their visual amenity will be lost.** This equipment also emits noise which will be disturbing to local residents.
- We have worked hard to improve the attractiveness of this area by planting trees and installing planters. It is where our Christmas tree is sited and is the location of Incredible Edible's raised beds.
- The plans are inaccurate and misleading and the search for sites has not been robust.

Our view is that this application should be refused and a more suitable location should be found such as Westminster Park. Every objection counts, so please comment now. Quote planning application number: 23/01418/TEL, your name and address. The



closing date for comments is 12 June.

How to comment:

Via the CWAC system - to comment on a planning application you will need to register. The system will update automatically, publish your comments online and make them available to the planning officer.

Email: planning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

By post: Planning, Cheshire West & Chester Council, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA

Brownies come out to play

With the arrival of the better weather, the girls are out and enjoying many different sporting activities. They all loved a cricket taster session from Kerry @ Cheshire Cricket and then Brownie Ciara organised a football evening to celebrate being presented with her Gold Award, assisted by former Brownie



Gold Award holders. Recently, two Brownies ran the specially organised Race for Life event raising funds for Cancer. Nia and Annabelle were excellent ambassadors. Badge work includes 'Grow Your Own' and a visit to Erlas Walled Garden should help inspire the girls to complete the tasks! There's a sports theme planned for the pack holiday, together with baking, crafts and a campfire – lots to look forward to, including our 50th birthday party.



It's our (belated) 50th Birthday and we'd love former & present Brownies to join us to reminisce and eat cake!



Saturday 12 September from 2.30pm
At the Scout Hut on Manor Road.

For more information email Brown Owl:
18thchesterbrownies@gmail.com

History happening in June

Heritage Festival returns between 17 and 28 June. Many local residents and organisations are involved, producing unique events and experiences for all ages. The festival, which aims to "tell the story of the city and its people", partners with Chester Racecourse, Chester Cathedral, Chester Civic Trust, Marketing Cheshire, Cheshire West and Chester Council and many other organisations and individuals.

Reflecting the rich and varied history of Chester, the highlights include the Midsummer Watch Parades, Medieval Chester at the Castle, town crier David Mitchell's one-man show at Storyhouse, a walk along the river with conservation organisation the Welsh Dee Trust, and a free, day-long, drop-in event called 'Talking Chester' at the Festival Church on Queen Street which features many expert guest speakers.

Some of the events close to Westminster Park include a free walk entitled 'Stories in Stone' with Paul Woods, during which you'll hear about Mary Jonas, mother of 33 children including 15 sets of twins and even Mabel Blackburne who is said to have died from chewing too much gum. Guide Chris Clayton will be leading a walk around Chester Racecourse and at the Cross Keys pub, the infamous hangman Samuel Burrows - the man who sent criminals from Cheshire to meet their maker in front of thousands of spectators on the gallows of New Chester Gaol - comes under the spotlight. At Lache Library, researcher Linda Shuttleworth will be discussing some simple practical ways to get started, with examples from her work uncovering Lache Park Estate. To learn more about the many events taking place, please visit: www.chesterheritagefestival.co.uk/



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New Hair & Beauty salon

The Park Salon opened above the Coop in the spring and Linzi, Gill and Lois are offering a full range of hair, nail and beauty treatments. The completely redesigned salon and treatment rooms are relaxing and inviting spaces.



Expert hair stylist Linzi is passionate about colour and is up to date with all the latest techniques. At a consultation she will discuss your goals, assess your hair condition and offer advice on the best hair treatment and cut. Hair can be finished with a beautiful blow dry, or hair up for a special occasion.

Linzi is also qualified to carry out luxury facials including microneedling and dermaplaning to address fine lines, wrinkles, rosacea and scarring. Facials include the provision of products to use between treatments to ensure the best results. Other services offered include waxing, lashes and brows. Festival braids and Thai massage will soon be available too.

She has been joined by nail technician Lois who is an expert in gel nails for hands or toes. Full pedicures are also available including hot towel, massage and polish.

Special offers are applied to multiple sessions and there are also fun pamper packages for children including hair and nails. Keep an eye on the Park Salon Facebook page for offers. They can also be contacted via Instagram and phone: 07391 558 522 for queries and appointments.

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If you can't scan the code you can go to www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicechester

Your community area is:



How to report crime:
On our website: www.cheshire.police.uk
Telephone: 101
In an emergency dial 999

Community Noticeboards

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

Community Notice Board,

Castlecroft Road (no trade notices)

Martin Amesbury 01244 679271
Brian Westcott 01244 675431

Notice board at Lache Lane entrance to Westminster Park

Sue Britton 01244 677936

WPRA Notice Board,

Bebbington & Williams Fishmongers

Here you can advertise your unwanted items (free for household / personal items) or business services (£5 for 3 months)
Sandra Magilton 01244 677373

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

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

Evergreen (55+ Club):

Sandra Magilton 677373
Gardening Club: Mary Pole 674439

Other local clubs & organisations

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
djayamatirumala@googlemail.com

Croquet: Sally Slater 07711 374927
Friends of Westminster Park: Steve Telford 07976 712339

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 6.15-7.15pm): Jane Shorthall 07890 159545

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

Cubs (Thur 6.30-8pm): Christina Owens 01244 676691

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

Explorer Scouts (Tues): Sharon Johnson

GUIDING:

Rainbows (Wed): Krystina Littlehales 07860 845402

Brownies (Tues): Janne Hooper 674701

Guides: Krystina Littlehales 07860 845402

Contact the Editor to change or add to this list.



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Tel: 01244 674179 Mobile: 07526 238646
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