

# WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association



Bringing our community alive

*Display of flowers made  
by Belgrave pupils from  
recycled materials.*


[www.wp-ra.org.uk](http://www.wp-ra.org.uk)


@wesparkra

## Notes from The Chair

**Diary Dates: see page 2**

Welcome to our spring newsletter which is a bit larger than normal owing to the amount of local news that we have gathered. It never ceases to amaze me how much is happening in our community!

Our first event of the year is our Spring Quiz, to be held at the WP Community Centre on Saturday 12 April. An evening of questions accompanied by an excellent supper and raffle, this is a fun event not to be missed! Tickets will be on sale soon.

The following day, Sunday 13 April, we are organising our regular 'Tidy Up at the Shops' at 10am. It's astonishing what can be done in an hour when volunteers get going!

At the end of April we are holding our AGM at the Community Centre. I will be reporting on the activities of the Residents' Association and inviting you to vote on the election of the officers and committee for the coming year. Our secretary Penny White is standing down at this meeting after many years of sterling service for which I heartily thank her. This leaves a vacancy on the committee. Should you be interested in joining us and finding out more about what is happening locally, you would be made very welcome. Please come along to the meeting or contact me in advance.

Our newsletter editor Andrea Hopkinson is also leaving as she is moving out of our area. We are looking for someone who enjoys writing to join the team that put this quarterly newsletter together. No editorial experience is needed, just an interest in what is going on in our community.

Following on from our very popular First Aid courses for adults last year, we are going to organise some more, but for the younger members of our community. These will run in the summer, and we'll have more details in our next newsletter but if any of your 11 to 18 year olds are interested in taking part, please get in touch and I'll make sure that they receive details when our dates are fixed.

You may have noticed that signs have gone up on Wrexham Road announcing roadworks starting at the Park & Ride roundabout. This is to provide access into the southern part of the Kings Moat estate where the school and shopping centre are located.

Work is due to start on Monday 3 March and will last until September. A 30 mph speed limit will be put in place and existing traffic lanes will be narrowed to try to maintain flow.

Work is also due to start on improvements to Overleigh roundabout this summer. Preliminary tree work will take place this month and the main

contractors are likely to start work in July. This may lead to some crossover between the two sets of works, but the aim is to get all the work done on this main arterial route as soon as possible.

The proposed Kings Moat primary school received planning permission in December and construction work should be starting soon. It is intended that the school will open in September 2026. I have been in touch with our MP Aphra Brandreth about the need for an improvement in GP provision for our residents.

She has taken this up with the Chief Executive of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and is in the process of arranging a meeting to discuss their strategy for infrastructure development. I will update you when I have more news.

In the meantime, I hope to see you at one of our events. Otherwise, if you have any ideas for improvements in our community, please get in touch.

*Jennifer Crew*

## Westminster Park Residents' Association

*Stay informed  
and get involved!*

# AGM

*See you there!*

**Westminster Park Community Centre,  
8pm Wednesday 30 April**



## Diary Dates

### Tuesdays, 7.30pm start

Quiz at Sandstone

Pre-booking essential

### Wednesdays 10.00-12.00

Friends of Westminster Park: Meet behind the café & help maintain the Park

### Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm

Digital Friends: Lache Community Centre  
Help with laptops, phones etc. £1 donation appreciated.

### 1st Tuesday of the month 7.30pm

WI, St Mary's Community Centre, Handbridge

### 3rd Thursday of the month 2-3.30pm

Evergreen 55+ club Westminster Park community Centre

**Sunday 2 March 1.30-5.00pm** Table Top Sale at the Westminster Park Community Centre

**Tuesday 18 March 8.00pm** Local history group: 'Iron Mad Jack' a talk at WPCC, CH4 7QS

### Tuesday 18 March, 7.30pm

'Hidden Tales of Nursery Rhymes', Grosvenor Museum

### Saturday 12 April, 7.30 for 8pm start

WPRA Spring Quiz, £10 inc. supper

### Sunday 13 April 10am

Tidy Up at WP shops

### Tuesday 22 April, 7.30pm

'Excavation of a Medieval Chapel in Poulton', Grosvenor Museum

### Saturday 19 July 1.00-5.30pm

**Westminster Park Summer Fun Day**, Community Centre & school grounds

## Gardening Club: 2025 events

This year's Gardening Club programme includes trips to interesting plant collections and colourful landscapes.

### ▪ Friday 11 April, 2 pm.

**Plantagogo**, Jubilee Cottage Nursery, Snape Lane, Englesea Brook, Nr Crewe, CW2 5QN. Join us for a guided tour of this very special nursery (holders of three National Collections - heuchera, heucherella and tiarella) with tea & cake too (allergies NOT catered for but you are welcome to bring your own cake). Admission: £10 pp.

### ▪ Sunday 18 May, 2 pm.

**Brynkinalt Hall**, Chirk, Wrexham, LL14 5NS. In May the garden's focus is on the rhododendrons and woodland garden. Entrance: £6. Tea and cake for sale.

### ▪ Wednesday 18 June, 2 pm **Mount Pleasant Gardens**, Yeld Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0TB.

Boasting thousands of varieties of plants and a riot of colour throughout the summer, the tiered garden cascades down a gently sloping hillside with outstanding views over the Cheshire Plain. Visitors can enjoy tea and cakes and purchase a variety of home-grown plants and shrubs. Admission: £7; free for RHS members.

### ▪ Friday 11 July, 2 pm **Bluebell Cottage Gardens**, Lodge Lane, Dutton, Nr Warrington, WA4 4HP.

There's plenty to see here, following winding paths through the nursery, the orchard and the wildflower meadow. After viewing the informal planting round the pond and the interesting choice of perennials in the borders, there are lots of enticing spaces to sit and listen to birdsong. Hot and cold drinks, locally made cakes and Cheshire Farm Ice Cream available on a self-service basis. You are welcome to bring a picnic and to use the tables by the tea room (please—no picnics into the garden).

Admission: £5; free for RHS members.

### ▪ Autumn Talk Wednesday 1 October, 8 pm.

**It's a Family Affair: Jane Allison**, one of our favourite speakers, returns with a light-hearted talk about plant relatives. Have you ever wondered which plants are in the same family? Jane guarantees you will walk around your border with new eyes!

Community Centre. Tickets: £4 at the door. Bar, light refreshments, plant and seed swap. All WPRA members welcome.



# Easter

at St Mark's Church  
Lache Saltney

Wednesday 5th March 11am: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Mon 14th to Weds 16th April 6:30pm: EVENING PRAYER

Wednesday 16th April 10am - 12pm: EASTER EGG HUNT  
(For Toddlers and primary school age Children)

Thursday 17th April 11am: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
& 6:30pm PASSOVER MEAL (Please get in touch to book meal)

Good Friday 18th April 2pm: AN HOUR AT THE CROSS

Sunday 20th April 9:30 EASTER BREAKFAST &  
10:30am ALL AGE EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE  
with Holy Communion

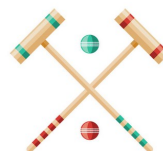
St Mark's Church Lache Saltney, St Mark's Road, Saltney, Chester  
CH4 8DE Tel: 01244 675372 Email: [church.office@stmarkssaltney.org.uk](mailto:church.office@stmarkssaltney.org.uk)



## Chester Croquet Club – Taster Day

**Fun — Sociable — Competitive — For all ages!**

We invite you to a taster at Westminster Park where you will be introduced to the great sport of croquet.



**Saturday 19th April 2025**  
**9.30 – 12.30 or**  
**1.30 – 4.30**

No special ability needed – just flat shoes, warm clothing and a desire to have-a-go. We'll supply the lawns, the coaching, the kit and the fun.

Places are limited so don't delay. To book a place or for more information please contact Sally Slater on 07711 374927 or [springboard\\_sally@hotmail.com](mailto:springboard_sally@hotmail.com)

[www.chestercroquet.club](http://www.chestercroquet.club)



## How it all works

Westminster Park Residents' Association was set up many years ago with the aims of looking out and speaking up for residents and people working in the area whilst keeping a close eye on local developments, helping to enhance the locality and promoting community spirit.

Over time, the association has brought lights and festivities to the area, represented residents' views at numerous council meetings, held talks with planners, developers, ecologists, water companies. The area round the shops is regularly spruced up, grit bins have been installed, a defibrillator provided and many quizzes organised!

Without the WPRA, there would be no Gardening Club, no Evergreen club and, of course, no newsletter.

Amazingly, some of today's committee members are part of the original team (well done and thanks to them!) but, as time passes, new volunteers are needed to bring fresh ideas and energy to the committee and we are now asking residents to consider whether they can step up and help out.

There are around four meetings a year and there are various positions to be filled. Most pressing is that of Secretary as minutes have to be taken at meetings and circulated afterwards.

To find out more, please contact Jennifer Crew, Chair of the committee: 07752 854383 or email: [chair@wp-ra.org.uk](mailto:chair@wp-ra.org.uk).

Everyone is so busy that it is easy to ignore a request like this but perhaps you and a friend could job share, which is always more fun and halves the work!

## Evergreen 55+

Thank you to everyone who has rejoined Evergreen 55+ so far in 2025, we look forward to welcoming new members to our friendly club as the year progresses.

In January, our treasurer, Tony, stepped in at short notice to give an excellent presentation on Medieval Medicine. At our AGM, we welcomed a new committee member and enjoyed a fun quiz.

We are now looking forward to talks on Meadow Foods in Rough Hill (March); 'Curiosity Corner' – artefacts of a bygone era (April) and the Origins of Nursery Rhymes (May).

We have also arranged visits to

- the local Fire Station on 24 March;
- The Town Hall to learn about Chester's regalia on 7 April
- World of Glass on 8 May

Our full programme, including the very popular Supper Club, is on WP notice board.

Our monthly sessions are held at WPC, 2.00–3.30pm on the third Thursday of the month.

Due to the rising costs of hall hire and speakers we have, reluctantly, had to raise our fee to £12 pa. Visitors are still welcome to attend a taster session for £2. For insurance, Evergreen comes under the umbrella of WPRA so Evergreen members have to live in the catchment area and be members of WPRA.

For further enquiries contact:  
Sandra Magilton 01244 677373  
[magilton@googlemail.com](mailto:magilton@googlemail.com) or  
[pennywhite@sky.com](mailto:pennywhite@sky.com)

### Westminster Park Residents' Association

## Spring Quiz Night: Saturday 12 April



**Doors open 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.  
At Westminster Park Community Centre.  
Tickets £10, including excellent supper, from Bebbington's or  
from Brian Westcott, tel 675431.**

## Don't stand — deliver!

No need to take your weapon with you! Just copies of this newsletter to help ensure that everyone in Westminster Park receives a copy.

A couple of our deliverers have recently retired and we are in need of replacements. In particular, we are looking for anyone who might like a short walk along Sherbourne Avenue, the top of Five Ashes Road and/or around Rushfield Road, pushing newsletters through letterboxes as they go.

As the newsletter is only quarterly, it's not a big ask. If you are able to help us, we would be very grateful! Please give me a call.

Jennifer Crew 07752 854383

## WPRA membership 2025

Renewals are coming in steadily – almost 400 at time of writing. If you haven't renewed yet, and you would like to join the Westminster Park Residents' Association for the princely sum of £3 per annum, we invite you to do so now – every £ goes towards community activities and improvements enjoyed by us all in the locality, and, of course, helps towards this newsletter.

Renewal forms can be found on our web site: [www.wp-ra.org.uk](http://www.wp-ra.org.uk) (on the 'Join Us' page) or are also available at the Fishmongers. Cash or cheque, with the completed form, can be left in Bebbington's in the WPRA post box there.

You can also pay by bank transfer, sort code: 60-40-08 account 32470878 (please give reference as your house number and road name).

Spare copies of the newsletter are usually available from Bebbington's, so if you aren't resident in the Westminster Park area itself, but read it and enjoy it, we would welcome your donation.

Thank you for your support.

Colin Dollimore

## Councillor Matt Carter

Following the tragically sad death of schoolboy, Evan Rothwell, on Wrexham Road in November there have been many calls for the 40mph speed limit to be reduced and for pedestrian arrangements to be reviewed outside the King's School. Two LED school warning signs have been installed on the north and southbound carriageways near the junction and an external independent review has resulted in the Council implementing an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit to 30mph for an initial period of 18 months from March.

I've been having doorstep chats on Vincent Drive and Bartholomew Way, to hear about local issues and concerns. The main items to come up are unsafe parking on the bend, anti-social behaviour and speeding around school pick up time, all of which I will try to resolve.

The subject of the glass recycling bottle banks at the shops has prompted a number of emails to me and comments on Facebook. The containers are possibly going to be removed as they pre-date the kerbside recycling collection now in place. I have relayed residents' comments on the frequency of emptying of the containers and the number of bottles left around them and asked for more information about the maintenance schedule.

At a meeting with trustees of Westminster Park Community Centre, I discussed the annual summer fun day to see how I would be able to support it from my members' budget. As always, any constituted local groups who are after some funding can send in requests for my and Razia's budgets.

It was sad that the Westminster Park lights switch-on had to be cancelled due to the localised storms. I know a lot of work goes into organising these events and I was looking forward to attending. Let's hope for better weather in 2025!

## Councillor Razia Daniels

I was delighted to be invited to join the recent celebrations at Lache Library to meet staff past and present and to have a chance to chat with library users. Lache Library plays a vital role in promoting literacy, inclusivity and community spirit and it was a pleasure to greet some of those who make it a place where everyone is welcome – a space to meet, learn and grow.

One of the highlights of my year is the Summer Reading Challenge; I find it an absolute joy to see so many children take part, immersing themselves in books during the summer holidays. From Record Breakers to Animal Agents, the exciting themes inspire the readers to explore new worlds and I have great pleasure in presenting medals and certificates to those who take part. Huge thanks are also due to the dedicated staff who make this such a success every year. Here's to the next 60 years of the library serving Westminster Park and Lache communities.



## Community tidy-up

**Sunday 13 April at 10am.**

A short time spent by willing volunteers can really improve the whole area around our local shops.

So please get out your hoes, rakes, trowels, brushes and gloves and come along to give us a hand. Just an hour's work by the group makes such a difference to the look and feel of the shops at the heart of our estate.

Thank you!

Brian Westcott



## Community Noticeboards

**Community Notice Board,**  
**Castlecroft Road** (no trade notices)  
Martin Amesbury 01244 679271  
Brian Westcott 01244 675431

**Notice boards at Lache Lane & Hough**  
**Green entrances to Westminster Park:**  
Sue Britton 01244 677936

**WPRA Notice Board, outside Bebbington**  
**& Williams, Fishmongers:**  
Sandra Magilton 01244 677373.

Advertise your unwanted items (free) or business services (£5 for 3 months).



**49 FIVE ASHES ROAD,**  
**WESTMINSTER PARK,**  
**CHESTER CH4 7QS**





## Volunteers Needed!

At GreenDay Café we would love to offer a "Chatter & Natter" table in our venue and need a volunteer to help host the sessions. It's a simple concept where members of the public are invited to sit at the table, simply to chat.

Loneliness is a silent killer and this is a great way that we can work with the community to offer a table in our café to bring people together and tackle loneliness at the same time.

Do you enjoy speaking to new people?  
Could you spare 1-2 hours a week to help promote and host the table? If so, please apply at:

[Thechattycafescheme.co.uk/volunteer](http://Thechattycafescheme.co.uk/volunteer)

If you need assistance with your application, please pop into the café.



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](http://www.wp-ra.org.uk)

## Community fun

Excitement is building as plans come together for this year's Westminster Park free Summer Fun Day on Saturday 19 July, 1-5.30pm. With live music, stalls and special activities for children, there will be something for all members of our local community and we look forward to welcoming residents to a fun-filled, enjoyable afternoon. If you would like to be involved and can help in any way it would be most appreciated - perhaps you can volunteer on the day or donate a raffle prize?

Meanwhile, don't forget the huge range of activities that feature at Westminster Park

Community Centre (see the notice below). Plus, you can hold your own event in our large hall which is available to hire for all occasions including birthday parties, christenings, weddings, reunions, socials, work events, wakes, meetings and charity events.

To discuss a booking, please call 01244 671243 after 19.30 any evening. Facilities include a fully equipped kitchen, tables and chairs, music facilities, projector, disco ball, Wi-Fi and on-site parking.



**Save the Date**  
**Westminster Park Community Centre**  
**Presents**



**WESTMINSTER PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

# WESTMINSTER PARK SUMMER FUN DAY

**Saturday 19th July**  
**1.00 - 5.30**

**CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES**

**STALLS**

**FOOD**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**RAFFLE**

**FREE ENTRY**



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

## What's on at Westminster Park Community Centre

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>Belgrave Pre-School</b>						
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 - 14.00 Excluding the 3rd Thurs of the month	Tai Chi 5.30-6.30	Weight Watchers 8.45 - 9.45	Church 10.00
Darts Team 20.00 - Late	Zumba 18.30 - 19.30		Evergreen over 55 club 14.00 3rd Thurs of the month	Monthly Bingo	Karate 10.00	
	Darts Team 20.00 - Late		Move Together 16.00 - 17.00	Monthly Open Mic	Pilates 12.00	
			Karate 17.30-18.30		Monthly Quiz 21.00	
			Bridge 19.00 - 22.30			



**Bar open**  
Mon - Sun 19.30 - late  
Sun 11.30 - 15.00

**Hall available to hire**

**Contact details**  
Community Centre - 01244 671243  
Darts - 01244 671243  
Belgrave Pre-School 07761816891  
Stretch and mobility for seniors - 07511759332  
Evergreen - 01244 677373  
Pilates and Zumba - 07963944640  
Karate - [www.wcsk.org.uk](http://www.wcsk.org.uk)  
Yoga - [www.teresayoga.co.uk](http://www.teresayoga.co.uk)  
Bridge - [nikeryan@outlook.com](mailto:nikeryan@outlook.com)  
Move Together - Nuffield Health 01244 689830  
Tai Chi - Michael Barker 07866266116

**Facebook - Westminster Park Community Centre**  
[www.wp-cc.org.uk](http://www.wp-cc.org.uk)



7 Manor Road, Westminster Park, CH4 7QW

### Do you suffer from painful feet?

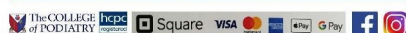
Let our fully qualified Podiatrist provide professional and friendly treatment and advice to get you back on your feet.

Daytime, evening and weekend appointments available.

Visit us at [devapodiatry.com](http://devapodiatry.com) for more information on our full range of podiatry services



Sarah Webber Bsc (Hons) MSCh HCPC Reg. CH32605





## Friends of Westminster Park



Our volunteers have started an exciting new project to transform the area next to the metal containers at the side of the park, creating a peaceful clearing with a bench, bird feeders and maybe a sculpture. After a few weeks spent removing horrendous fly tipping and cutting back brambles, it's now time to make the pathways.

The Woodland Trust is providing 300 saplings ('whips'): some will be planted as a visual screen around the metal fencing. Laying the hedge next to the football field continues and some of the new whips will be planted in the gaps to help preserve this ancient hedge.

In the woods, the bug hotel which was burnt to the ground last summer has been reinstated. Hopefully the vandals will leave it alone this year. All of the bird boxes have been scrubbed, repaired and re-installed ready for nesting season.

Good progress is being made with the area around the newly resurfaced BMX track. Most of the tangle of brambles has been removed and after the trees have been thinned, bluebells and shrubs will be planted.

Volunteers have undertaken City and Guilds training in 'safe use and maintenance of hedge cutters' so the power tools (given by the Council) can be used safely – strimmer training next! Why not come and join us, you will be most welcome: Wednesdays 10-12. Find us in the park, gloves and tools provided.



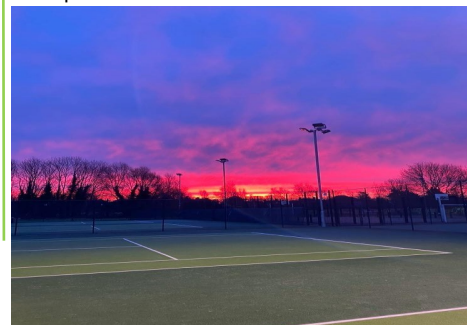
## Glan Aber tennis club



Head coaches, Lydia (07889 979801) and Phil (07540 082727) have lots of exciting plans for the 2025 programme, including a fun cardio

tennis session with Lydia on Tuesdays, 6.00-7.00pm. All welcome – contact Lydia to reserve your space as numbers are limited to 10. Cost is £10 for non-members.

All the usual group coaching sessions are running: children (all ages); adult beginner; intermediate and advanced. Pay & Play junior and mini sessions resume in March, as advertised on GA website and Facebook page. More information and booking can be found on the All Court Tennis Academy (ACTA) app. Adult P&P on Saturday mornings is open to all players. This informal coaching session runs if sufficient numbers have booked; please message a coach if you'd like to join the What's App group for this opportunity to play and learn! Junior Easter Camps are planned for 7-11 and 14-17 April.



Junior and mini teams have been competing in National Team Tennis whilst adult teams play in Wirral Winter and Chester District Summer Leagues.

Glan Aber Tennis Club welcomes new members – visit our website [www.glanaber.com](http://www.glanaber.com) for more details.

## Green for Go – exciting plans for the park and café



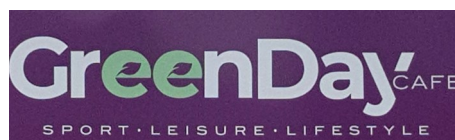
The Friends of Westminster Park have raised an amazing £10,000+ to improve the public terrace area outside GreenDay café. Thanks to all the local people, businesses, and sports' clubs in Westminster Park who have provided fundraising support. Work will begin in March and should be completed in time for Easter.

The space will be transformed to include attractive planting beds and new tables, seating, lighting and surfacing which will be fantastic as the warmer weather approaches. If anyone would still like to donate, cash or card payments can be taken in the café.

Meanwhile, work will be carried out on the greens on the 9-hole golf course to make them more attractive for regular golfers. The popular Footgolf continues and both golf and Footgolf competitions will be held through the summer. Working with England Golf and the Golf Foundation, GreenDay is also

planning coaching sessions for kids, women, and family groups. Contact [cafe@greendayuk.com](mailto:cafe@greendayuk.com) for more details.

There are lots of fun activities happening: Pancake Day (4 March); Mother's Day (29/30 March); and the Easter weekend (18-21 April). Look for updates via Facebook 'Green Day Café and Golf' or call in to ask.



## Lydia's Cardio Tennis

**Comes to Chester!!!!**

All skill levels, burn 600+ calories, tennis to music, SO MUCH FUN 🎾



Westminster Park tennis courts  
Tuesdays 6-7pm  
Starting 25th February

GLAN ABER TENNIS CLUB MEMBERS £7  
NON MEMBERS £10  
THIS CLASS IS PAY AS YOU GO

CONTACT LYDIA TO BOOK  
YOUR SPACE 07889979801



## Celebrating our local public library - 60 years old!

As Albert Einstein said: 'the only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library' and Westminster Park residents are extremely fortunate to have a fine example on the doorstep - Lache Library, which recently marked its 60th birthday.

It's hard to imagine the area without the library which came into being following a petition to Chester City Corporation by the Lache Community Association in 1957. The site was purchased in 1959 and building work began in 1963. Records show that some furniture was ordered from Conran and the entrance desk (incorporating a hand washing basin for children), shelving and some chairs were made from African mahogany. The doors opened on Wednesday 20 January 1965.



1960s interior of Lache Library

All libraries are in a constant state of development and today our library offers so much more than free access to all types of reading materials (which is, of course, still hugely appreciated!). It is also a hub for research and fact finding and a place of companionship where advice can be sought for social and health care. There are social activities for all ages including craft and hobby clubs, jigsaws, holiday reading challenges, story and rhyme times and Lego sessions for children.



Jess Hughes, harpist, in Lache Library

Recently, a series of winter afternoon classical concerts delighted local residents. A grant funded performances in the library, enabling local people to stroll from their front doors to hear and enjoy a range of instruments and composers at a

reasonable cost (£10 per ticket). These have been very well-received and it is hoped that there will be another season in the future.

Opening hours and a list of what's on and available at Lache Library can be found here:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/find-a-library/lache-library>



Chetham's Library, Manchester

or drop in and have a look around. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Of course, the north-west has other notable public libraries that are considerably older than ours and which are well worth a visit.



John Rylands Library interior

Chetham's Library in Manchester has been in continuous use as a public library for over 350 years. Housed in a beautiful sandstone building dating from 1421, built to accommodate the priests of Manchester's Collegiate Church, the library's collection has been growing since its opening in 1653. It contains medieval manuscript diaries, letters and deeds, prints and paintings plus the oldest history of Manchester – Richard Hollingworth's 1656 'Mancuniensis' and a very large collection of further material relating to Manchester and its region.

It was in this place that Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels met to discuss their revolutionary ideas and, much earlier, Dr John Dee supposedly summoned the devil.

It's only possible to look around on a guided tour and tickets can be easily bought and booked online. <https://library.chethams.com>.

John Rylands Research Institute Library in Manchester celebrates its 125th anniversary since doors opened in 1900. It was founded in memory of Rylands by his wife, Henriqueta, who was closely involved in the design and construction of this notable neo-Gothic building. She also oversaw the acquisition of two hugely significant collections of books and manuscripts that form the foundation of the catalogue.

The library is free for everyone to discover. Check opening times and visitor guidelines: <https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/visit/visitor-information/>

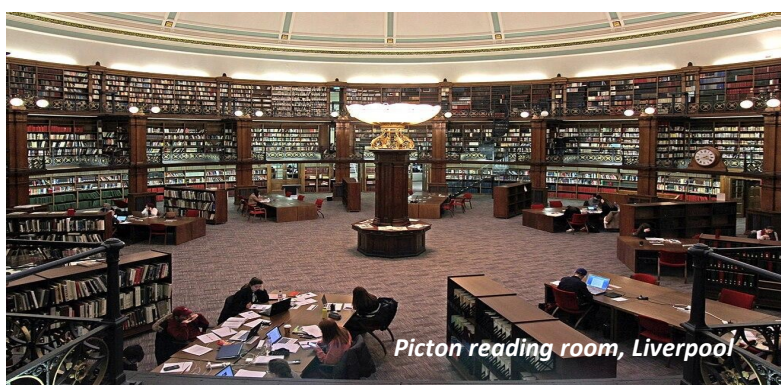
Liverpool's strikingly modern Central Library, is a remodelled building in the vicinity of St George's Hall, the Walker Art Gallery and the World Museum. It offers a wide variety of talks, activities, support groups, discussion and story time sessions in addition to usual lending and reading facilities.

Rare collections are housed in the 19th C Picton Reading Room and the 1906 Hornby Library. Both of these Grade II listed buildings are attached to the Central Library and are a delight to visit. Every Wednesday, a page is turned on the library's cherished copy of John James Audubon's book on Birds of America - the most famous and valuable of the library's natural history books - and there is a spectacular rooftop view over the local area from its top floor outdoor terrace.

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/libraries/explore-central-library/central-library/>

central-library/central-library/

Thanks to Linda Shuttleworth for her research on Lache Library.



Picton reading room, Liverpool



## Work starting on Wrexham Road roundabouts and Kings Moat School

Road works are due to begin on 3 March on the Heronsway South (Park & Ride) roundabout when a 30 mph speed limit will be introduced. Some lanes will be narrowed but hopefully traffic will continue to flow freely.

Alterations to the roundabout are necessary to complete the spine road passing along the length of the development and link with the junctions at the King's School and Heronsway North roundabout. This road provides access to the new school and commercial centre as well as the Park & Ride site. Work should be completed by September.

Plans are advanced for alterations to the Overleigh roundabout. Work should start around July/August, but lead up work will take place soon to remove trees before the nesting season. Some trees earmarked for removal have already fallen down in recent storms.

### Primary School planning application approved

On 3 December the Council's planning Committee approved the plans for the construction of the new primary school on the Kings Moat estate. Construction should begin soon and the school is scheduled to open in September 2026.



### 54 more homes to be built

Redrow's planning application to build 54 more homes on the Moat Farm site was also approved by the Council in December. The homes will range from 1 to 5 bedrooms and the site will have 30% affordable housing, some rented and some shared ownership. Construction is due to start in six months' time.

## International film time

Chester's International Film Festival will run from 21 March – 3 April at Storyhouse, in partnership with Storyhouse and University of Chester. Founded by Chester Film Society, it is an annual celebration of world cinema including specially chosen international film previews, short film programmes, guest speakers and an animation film festival.

Find ticket details (discounts are available) and the full programme at: <https://www.storyhouse.com/seasons/ciff25/#full-programme>. Audience members can vote for their favourite after each screening; the winning film will be announced at the closing drinks reception, sponsored by VAIN hair salon, on 3 April.

## WI Handbridge - busy bees

A wide variety of activities is planned for members this spring. In March, there will be a visit to the Bee Exhibition at Liverpool's World Museum, in April there's afternoon tea and a presentation to the group by the John Lewis Partnership whilst future talks include 'Staying Safe online', 'Chutney and Cheer' and 'An Embroiderer's Tale'.

All are welcome to come to our meetings on the first Tuesday in the month from 7pm in St.Mary's Handbridge Centre – friendship is at the heart of all that we do! Contact Jane 07801 184570 for more details.





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## Eco efforts at Belgrave School

Eco club members are working hard at Belgrave School – clearing paths in the woods at the after school club and keeping everyone fully eco aware. The Team's competition to design a flower out of recyclable materials was a huge success with a record number of entries – making judging a difficult task! All of the flowers will make a fantastic, colourful display in future to keep the possibilities of recycling in the forefront of everyone's mind.



The school's rhino has been repainted, the vegetable allotment tended and bird feeders are being refilled on a regular basis. Together with teacher Mrs Childs, the team is making a big difference to school life and local wildlife.

## New Year Delight

18th Chester Brownies have been creating artistic theatre sets using recycled materials. Each Six chose a fable and then designed themed staging together with pictures made from masking tape.

To celebrate the Year of the Snake, two parents helped the girls make snakes, model special clothing and hair pieces and sample some delicious food. The Brownies voted the red envelopes containing (chocolate!) money as their favourite thing.

Now everyone is looking forward to the Chester Gang Show and the pack holiday in Pettypool.



## The Kreative Room welcomes new staff

The hair and beauty salon The Kreative Room, above the Co-op, has expanded with the addition of experienced hair stylist Melanie Artell, beauty therapist Maria and brow expert Emily.

Melanie will be working at the salon on Wednesdays and Fridays. With over 31 years of experience in the hairdressing industry, she is a seasoned professional who has worked in premier salons throughout her career.

She told us, "I specialize in cutting and colouring, combining my expertise with a passion for creating beautiful, personalized styles for every client." She is dedicated to expanding her knowledge and skills through regular, ongoing training to stay ahead of the latest trends and techniques.

Melanie is looking forward to welcoming both new and current clients to the Kreative Room and offering them a warm, professional experience.

Maria, a fully qualified beauty therapist and reiki master, is also joining the team. Born in Finland and living in the UK since 2012, Maria has over 17 years of experience offering a range of treatments, healing and training for overall wellbeing. She is also trained in the use of Ayurvedic practices and massage to promote healing. Initially she will be offering a range of beauty treatments such as facials.



Melanie Artell has joined The Kreative Room

The third new member of the salon is Emily. She is trained in HD brows and will be available on Saturdays for eyebrows and eyelash lifts.

Katie and the team are planning to hold an evening event in the near future to celebrate the success of the salon and welcome new customers with special offers.



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## Are you concerned about traffic speeding on Lache Lane?

Have you noticed a rise in the volume and speed of traffic on Lache Lane? Have you found crossing the road stressful? Have you been concerned for the safety of cyclists or just annoyed by the noise of high-speed traffic, day and night?

If you recognise any of these issues, you are not alone. Many local residents are concerned about the speed and behaviour of some drivers on the Lane. Drivers often fail to slow on entering the 30-mph zone next to the 'Donkey Field'. Travelling away from the city, many accelerate to illegal speeds long before leaving the 30 zone; but concerns are expressed all along Lache Lane.

Speeding is a long-standing problem, but a 'culture' of disregard for the speed limit - by some, not all - seems to have become entrenched. Accidents traceable to speed have occurred on Lache Lane. During 2023, 29,711 people were seriously injured or killed (1624 fatalities) on UK roads. Speed was the main factor in 56% of the incidents.

Measurements of vehicles numbers and speeds were made by Cheshire Highways during February 2024, at a point 250 metres towards the city from the start of the 30-mph zone (outside houses 140 / 167). These confirmed that, particularly at peak times, most vehicles exceeded 30 mph.

Cheshire Police have primary responsibility

for enforcing legal limits, but resource limitations restrict the time our PCSO can spend by the roadside.

Therefore, some residents have formed a Community Speed Watch association to supplement Police activities. Several members of the group have undergone training by the Police in procedures, safety and reporting. The training covers where to stand and how to collect and report observations of speeding vehicles. These reports trigger a warning letter from the Police to offending drivers.

Towards the end of 2024 volunteers participated in sessions measuring vehicle speeds using a hand-held radar monitor loaned by Dodleston Parish Council. They worked in the section of Lache Lane within Dodleston Parish from the Donkey Field to Greenacre Road. During sessions lasting 30

to 60 minutes, they recorded and reported only vehicles that were exceeding 35 mph - a total of 70 during these trial periods. It was very worrying to observe vehicles, some of them larger commercial lorries and vans, travelling above 40 or even 50 mph.

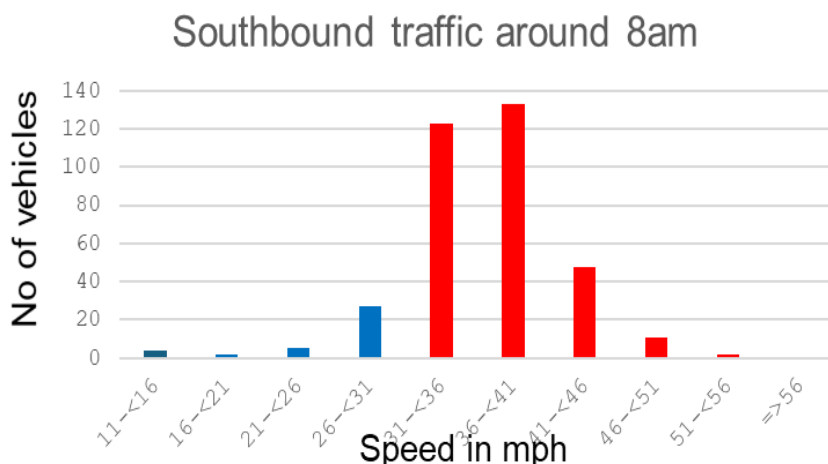
The efforts are paused while the team investigates the purchase of their own equipment. The volunteers are keen to extend their activities along the road and encourage road users to observe the legal limit - it's not difficult!

Speeding along a heavily used residential road is a deeply antisocial behaviour that all too often has tragic consequences.

The volunteers have been encouraged by vocal support from residents for their early efforts.

*This chart shows the speeds recorded in February 2024.*

*Red bars show vehicles exceeding the limit - so nearly all of them!*



## Chester South Alliance

It's just over a year since Chester South Alliance (CSA) was set up and fairly soon we will be arranging our first public meeting. Lache, Westminster Park and Saltney have some great community groups supporting the internal working and communications within our community but the driver for CSA was that South of the River we didn't have a co-ordinated team focussed on taking on those external agencies whose actions and decisions impact on us all.

Local infrastructure and flooding are notable examples and, of course, the likely impact of more housing. The emergence of CSA is typical of what is happening across the UK where communities are having to come together to ensure they don't get steamrollered by the 'system'.

We have no political allegiance, but we do have a belief that the 'system' is failing us and

key decisions are not being made in the best interests of the local community. Currently we are trying to reach out to other groups in Cheshire and across the border with similar concerns.

Our goal for 2025/2026 is to grow our influence and to push for a safer, cleaner and healthier locality and to resist those things that do not benefit our community as a whole.

Our group started off literally as two men and a dog but a year on we are a constituted group and a recognised 'player' by the powers-that-be and we would now like to get more people onboard to make our voice even stronger. So if you are interested in helping, please make

contact by messaging us via the Chester South Alliance facebook page.

We are grateful to WPRA for giving us space in their newsletter to publish the above.

*Keith Scott*

*Joint Co-ordinator, Chester South Alliance*



*Saltney a few years ago. The whole area is also served by Balderton Brook which takes run-off to the River Dee.*



## Chester

### Model Railway Club Exhibition and Open Day

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## Ding, dong bell—the talks are going well

The Grosvenor Museum Society programme continues this spring with three fascinating lectures covering the secrets conveyed by much-loved children's songs, local digging at a medieval chapel and a virtual pub crawl. Everyone is welcome at the Grosvenor Museum on:

- Tuesday 18 March, 7.30pm: Hidden Tales of Nursery Rhymes, by Jean Finney
- Tuesday 22 April, 7.30pm: Excavation of a Medieval Chapel, Poulton by Kevin Cootes
- Tuesday 20 May, 7.30pm: Beer, Bars and Boozers by Ken Pye

Tickets cost £3 for members, £6 for guests.

Contact Andrea Hopkinson, 07792474504

## Opera at Chester Town Hall

Chester Operatic Society's next production will be the ever-popular 'Merry Widow' by Franz Lehár at the Town Hall, 19-21 June. The operetta includes many well-loved songs and tells of infidelity, social climbing, bankruptcy and (of course!) romance. It will be semi-staged, with the audience seated night-club fashion around tables.

Tickets are £22, with a discount if a table of 10 is booked. Contact Brian Westcott – 01244 675431, or Ticketsource.

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## Lache and Westminster Park Local History Group

### IRON MAD JACK

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**A talk by Brian Gresty**

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**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at 8pm.**

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The Secretary, [shuttleworths@talktalk.net](mailto:shuttleworths@talktalk.net) 01244 679791  
or text 07726 425847



## The information section

### WPRA Committee

**Chair:** Jennifer Crew [chair@wp-ra.org.uk](mailto:chair@wp-ra.org.uk)

**Vice Chair:** Colin Dollimore 629167

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**Treasurer:** Sue Britton 07775 577995

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### Other Committee members

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Macfadyen; Sandra Magilton 677373;  
Anne Ord Sykes [anneordsykes@gmail.com](mailto:anneordsykes@gmail.com)  
or 07973 151410; Brian Westcott 675431

**Councillor Razia Daniels** 07481 234411

[razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Councillor Matt Carter:** 07415 689178

Facebook Page: 'Cllr Matt Carter,

Handbridge Park Ward'

[matt.carter@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:matt.carter@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

### Clubs & organisations in Westminster Park

**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](mailto:chesterroadrunners@gmail.com)

**Cricket:** Tirumala Dayama  
[dayamatirumala@googlemail.com](mailto:dayamatirumala@googlemail.com)

**Croquet:** Sally Slater 07711 374927

**Digital Friends:** Terena  
[terenamcgarr@gmail.com](mailto:terenamcgarr@gmail.com)

**Evergreen (55+):** Sandra Magilton 677373

**Friends of Westminster Park:**  
Steve Telford 07976 712339

**Gardening Club:** pole.mary@gmail.com

**Junior Football:** Peter Burke  
07798 576790

**Lache & Westminster Park Local History  
Group:** Linda Shuttleworth 679791

**National Women's Register:**  
Betty McLoughlin 677680

**Nordic Walking Group:** Ted Rose  
01928 722334

**Shotokan Karate Club:** Dave Craggs  
07711 009041

**St Mary's Church Parish Office:** 671202

**Tennis - Glan Aber Club:** Sue Britton  
07775 577995

**Westminster Park Community Assoc:**  
671243

**Westminster Park Walking for Health  
Club:** Fred Whiteley 675085

**WI, Handbridge:** Jane 07801 184570

### SCOUTING:

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[info.westminster.park.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:info.westminster.park.scouts@gmail.com)

**Hall booking enquiries:**  
[hut.hire.westminster.park.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:hut.hire.westminster.park.scouts@gmail.com)

### GUIDING:

**Rainbows (Wednesday):**

Krystina Littlehales 07860 845402

**Brownies (Tuesday):** Janne Hooper  
674701

**Guides:** Krystina Littlehales (see above)

(Please let the Editor know if details are incorrect or you have an organisation to list.)

## Our local businesses



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