

# WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association



Bringing our community alive

A garden in Westminster Park recently opened for viewing in aid of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.


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


@wesparkra

## Notes from The Chair

September heralds the end of summer and the start of a new term, not just for children but for adults too. Many clubs, societies and regular meetings are suspended during July and August and it feels good to meet up with friends again and get back to the routine activities which give shape to our week.

Perhaps you have been considering how to use your leisure time to pursue an interest, make new friends or join a fitness class. September is the perfect time to put your ideas into action and this issue of WP News has a big focus on some of the opportunities offered in our area – and there are a huge number!

Work on alterations to the Park & Ride roundabout allowing access to Kings Moat are progressing apace with as little disruption to traffic flow as the developers can manage; this should be completed by Christmas. In the new year work will begin on adjustments to Overleigh roundabout to improve flow as far as possible.

Our Council has been conducting a consultation over the summer on the development of a new Local Plan to meet the

Government's target of building 29,000 new homes in our borough. Several members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association committee have attended the drop-in events and submitted comments. More information about this can be found on our website: [wp-ra.org.uk](http://wp-ra.org.uk)

It has been proven that areas that are kept clean and tidy are less prone to vandalism and abuse. This is the main reason why we organise regular 'Tidy Up' mornings down at our shops. It is also a very sociable occasion and you get to meet new people! Please come and join us at 10am for an hour on Sunday 12 October - just bring some gloves and a hoe or brush.

We are also looking forward to our Autumn Quiz on Saturday 18 October which is always a great night. Our aim is to bring the community together for a fun night, but it's still fiercely competitive! I hope to see you there.

If, in the meantime, you have any ideas which will benefit our neighbourhood, please get in touch.

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

## Diary Dates: more info inside....

### Wednesdays 10.00-12.00

Friends of Westminster Park: maintenance work

### Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm

Digital Friends: Lache Community Centre. Help with laptops, phones etc.

### 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, WP Community Centre: p. 3

### Sat 13, Sun 14, Sat 20, Sun 21 September

Heritage Open Days

### Wednesday 17 September 7.30pm Lache & WP

Local History Group talk *The Welsh Slate Industry*, Lache Community Centre: p. 10

### Sunday 21 September 10 am- 3pm

Community Apple Pressing, W Park: p. 3

Wednesday 1 October at 8 pm Gardening Club talk *It's a Family Affair*, WP Community Centre

Sunday 12 October 10am, WP Shops Tidy Up

Monday 13 - Fri 17 October: Storyhouse Elders Tuesday 14 October CRAG (Chester Residents' Associations Group) Conference, Chester

Racecourse, see p. 5

Saturday 18 October WPRA Autumn Quiz, 7.30pm, WP Community Centre

Saturday 25 October Oktoberfest WP Community Centre

Friday 31 October 9pm Halloween Bingo, WP Community Centre

## Westminster Park Residents' Association

# AUTUMN QUIZ

Saturday 18 October, 7.30pm for 8pm  
Westminster Park Community Centre  
Tickets £10, including buffet supper,  
available from Bebbington's  
or Sandra Magilton 01244 677373



### WP Shops 'Tidy Up'

10 - 11am Sunday 12 October

Please get out your hoes, rakes, trowels, brushes and gloves and join us to remove weeds, litter pick and generally tidy around the shops at the heart of our estate. Just an hour's work makes such a difference! Thank you!

Brian Westcott

## Councillor Razia Daniels

It's been a busy summer in our community, and I wanted to share some of the things I've been working on recently.

### Community-Led Minor Highways Improvements Initiative

I have submitted a list of issues to the Council as part of this trial. The scheme addresses small but important tasks – such as weeding, sign cleaning, trimming overgrown vegetation, and improving public pathways. If you notice anything in need of attention, please get in touch.

### Wrexham Road – Urgent Request for Clearer Signage

I have raised concerns about the lack of clear 30mph signage on Wrexham Road. Many drivers are unaware of the temporary speed limit, so I have asked for additional signs to be installed and for overgrown foliage to be cleared.

### Westminster Park

You may have noticed a new council noticeboard highlighting recent maintenance work. While it's good to recognise the Council's efforts, I want to shine a light on the incredible work of our Friends of Westminster Park Volunteer Group who, every Wednesday, keep the park looking its best – planting, weeding, cutting back and litter-picking. My heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, and to the Council for providing tools and training. It's a great example of community and local authority working hand in hand.

### Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour & Vandalism

Sadly, there has been an increase in vandalism in the park recently. The Council's Community Safety Team is working with Cheshire Police to increase patrols.

Residents are encouraged to report anti-social behaviour, vandalism, or criminal damage on the CWAC website in the Resident Guide to Reporting Issues.

### Pavement Safety by WP Shops

Several residents have tripped on uneven paving outside the shops. The Council inspected the area but says it does not meet the criteria for urgent repair. I will continue to push for improvements.

### Parking Concerns

A number of parking issues have been raised. Unfortunately, unless vehicles are parked in contravention of a Traffic Regulation Order, Civil Enforcement Officers are not authorised to issue Penalty Charge Notices. Where vehicles are obstructing the footpath or highway, this requires intervention by Cheshire Police. The Council will increase officer visits, continue to monitor the area, and issue PCNs where possible.

### Toilet Facilities in the Park

I continue to press for better toilet facilities, including accessible toilets, as there are no disabled facilities in the park. I have been pursuing this issue for some time and will keep raising until we see progress.

### Members' Budget: Supporting Local Projects

I am delighted to have financially supported the following:

- Westminster Park Fun Day
- WPRA Planters
- Westminster Park Café Terrace
- Refurbishment (Phase 2)
- Lache Donkey Sanctuary
- Summer Reading Challenge at Lache Library
- Christmas Lights

### Monthly Street Surgery – New Hours

I am here to listen to your concerns and ideas. You can find me on the first Saturday of every month at Westminster Park shops from 10:00 to 11:30 am.

If there is anything I can help with, please get in touch. For contact details, see p.11

Together, we can keep Westminster Park a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place to live.

## Progress on new school, play area and playing fields



Over in Kings Moat, it is good to see the children's play area open for business. The school and playing fields are also taking shape. It is expected that the school will open its doors to new pupils in September 2026 and will initially be one form entry.

The 3G all-weather pitch is due to open this autumn with the grass pitches becoming available next September.



## Councillor Matt Carter

I hope everyone enjoyed the very hot summer this year, especially after such an unseasonably hot spring as well. Thankfully, due to this hot weather and some added investment, the council has largely been able to stick to the published grass-cutting schedule and we have not had the issues locally this year that we had with grass cutting last year.

The council's rollout of street sweepers has been delayed, but by the time you read this update, they should have hit the streets and begun work to clean up the detritus and edgings of the pavements across the borough. I hope this will show a marked improvement to the street scene look across the ward.

It was good to attend the Westminster Park Fun Day – great to see so many people enjoying themselves. I was very happy to put money towards making this event a reality.

In terms of local casework, I have been working with residents in the new build Stewart Milne properties on Sherbourne Avenue regarding the formal adoption of the highway by the council now that the area is complete. Unfortunately, this is going to be an ongoing issue since before Stewart Milne went into administration, the necessary steps had not been carried out to transfer ownership to the council.

I have also, in recent months, called in a planning application on Lache Lane because of concerns about the scale of the development. This will be heard and decided by the council's planning committee, where I will speak on local residents' behalf.

Over a four-day period at the start of August, the council allowed a film company to use part of Westminster Park's car park to store their filming equipment. What is more notable is that, as part of this agreement, the council negotiated a £4000 fee that has been donated to the Friends of Westminster Park group to allow them to realise more great projects.

Finally, I am also happy to say I have approved a Member's Budget request to help partially fund the annual Westminster Park Light Switch-on at the shops. Let's hope there are no incoming storms this year!

*Surgery Details:*

I am available for face-to-face meetings to discuss and help in ward related issues on request. I also complete monthly door knocking sessions talking to you about what matters most and what I can do to help.

All contact details are on page 11.



## Gardening Club

Our Plant Stall at the Community Fair in July had, thanks to our generous WP gardeners, lots of interesting plants to sell. We made a good profit for WPRA funds and were pleased to welcome our local MP, Aphra Brandreth, and local councillor Razia Daniels to our stall. Also pictured are Gardening Club members. Many thanks to all who supported us.

Our final get together of 2025 is our Autumn Talk on **Wednesday, 1 October at 8 pm** at Westminster Park Community Centre: *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?



Photo courtesy of Razia Daniels

Jane guarantees you will walk around your border with new eyes! Tickets: £4 at the door.

Bar, light refreshments, plant and seed swap.

All WPRA members welcome.

## Evergreen 55+

Evergreen continues with 87 members joined so far this year. New members are always welcome and to tempt you to come along and enjoy what we have to offer membership between Sep – Dec will be reduced to £6.

Our autumn programme in September starts with a talk by Liz Allen on *'Crimea 4 star collide'*, a fascinating history of four eminent people. We will find out about the work of FLINT RNLI in October, and David Ebsworth will tell us about his life as an author of murder and crime in November. An outing is planned in November to the Bickerton Poacher for the ever-popular lunch and skittles afternoon.

Our Supper Club continues to thrive, meeting on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The venues and details are available from Pat Hak: 01244 659474

For further information on Evergreen contact Sandra Magilton: 01244 677373/ [sandymagilton@googlemail.com](mailto:sandymagilton@googlemail.com) or Penny White: [pennywhite@sky.com](mailto:pennywhite@sky.com)

Sandra Magilton - Chair

## Garden raises £1300 for Hospice!



If you have not walked along the cul-de-sac Meadowfield Road before, I highly recommend it. At the end of the road you will find the beautifully tended garden surrounding Jim and Peggy Aitkenhead's house.

In July, some lucky people also saw their equally colourful back garden which was opened to the public to raise funds for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Despite poor weather, over 90 people visited the garden and so far over £1300 has been contributed.

Thank you to Jim and Peggy for sharing their treasure with us for such a good cause.



01244 680365

7 Manor Road, Westminster Park, CH4 7QW

### Do you suffer from painful feet?

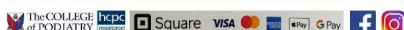
Let our fully qualified Podiatrist provide professional and friendly treatment and advice to get you back on your feet.

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



## A pressing appointment! Community apple pressing day

### Incredible Edible and Friends of Westminster Park

invite you to come and take part in their apple pressing day on Sunday 21 September between 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Come and find us near the Café in the park.

Bring your own apples (or there may be some to pick from the trees in the park). Do bring containers for the juice you will make!

Any queries, contact Linda Shuttleworth:

[shuttleworths@talktalk.net](mailto:shuttleworths@talktalk.net) or 07726 425847





## Westminster Park Community Centre News

It was a delight to see so many people enjoying the Summer Fun Day in July. All the performers were incredible, and the weather held out for the day. Thank you to everyone who joined us and for creating such a nice atmosphere and for leaving the site so tidy!

As always, we have lots coming up at the community centre. One thing we are really proud of is our ability to bring people together and support people within the community, especially those who may be lonely or have difficulty accessing social activities.

We have plans to expand this further by creating a monthly group supporting families with elderly relatives suffering with various age-related illnesses. We aim to create a welcoming and supportive environment, and we look forward to making this vision a reality.

We are always exploring new ideas and this year we are excited to be holding an **Oktoberfest on Saturday 25 October**; more details will follow shortly.

**Spooky Halloween Bingo.** Entrance from 7.30pm, eyes down at 9pm.

Our annual **Children's Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday 6 December 2.30-4.00pm. The children always enjoy the disco, crafts and visit from Father Christmas and it is a lovely way to bring the children together to celebrate.

The **Christmas Bingo and Draw** will be held on Saturday 20 December. This is always a really popular evening with fantastic prize money, an incredible raffle and scrumptious buffet.

Follow us on Facebook at Westminster Park Community Centre to keep up to date with what is going on, how you can be involved and when and where you can purchase tickets for all of the upcoming events.

If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer at the community centre, please contact [wpca2008@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wpca2008@yahoo.co.uk)



A poster for Halloween Bingo. At the top, the word 'BINGO' is written in large, colorful letters, with numbers 42, 26, 25, 83, and 7 scattered around it. To the left is a spiderweb and to the right are three bats. The text reads: 'Halloween Bingo Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October Starts 9pm £10 all in Prizes dependent upon ticket sales Westminster Park Community Centre'. There are ten bingo balls with numbers 12, 13, 5, 4, 15, 6, 2, 9, 10, and 3 arranged around the text.



A poster for Children's Christmas Party. It features a festive background with balloons, a Christmas tree, and gifts. The text reads: 'CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER TIME: 14.30-16.00 AGE: UP TO 8 YEARS OLD COST: £4 PER CHILD DISCO AND MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS GIFT INCLUDED ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASE ESSENTIAL'. The Westminster Park Community Centre logo is at the top.

## Glan Aber Tennis

Summer camps have been really busy. Thanks to Phil & Lydia and the team at All Court Tennis Academy (ACTA) for their hard work and enthusiasm. It's been great to see so many playing tennis and having fun!

Holiday camps and Pay & Play coaching sessions can be viewed and booked via the ACTA app. Group coaching re-starts week commencing 1 September. Adult cardio tennis sessions run all year on Tuesdays 6-7pm. The Friday night adult socials (coach led drills followed by match play) proved popular.

Our Community Outreach Fund covers the cost of coaching for local schools and youth groups (Cubs & Brownies); during the summer term, Phil coached at

Lache Primary School on a weekly basis and will head to St. Clare's in September. Lydia has also been funded by Cheshire Tennis to provide some coaching for Visually Impaired Adults. We look forward to our Club Championship Finals on 14 September when we celebrate the achievements of our players from mini red through to junior and adult.

New members are always welcome.



## Fitness and Wellbeing with Viv

Viv MacDonald is well known locally as a Personal Trainer running classes at both the Nuffield Gym and Westminster Park Community Centre. However, she offers far more than that to our community. Viv says 'I'm here to offer people support with gentle stretching exercise in the comfort of their own homes as well as helping them get out, perhaps to the park or the local shops.'

'I can also give advice on nutrition, help you try out some new recipes or provide transport and company when going to an appointment. Whatever is right for you, I'm here to help.'

You can contact Viv on 07511 759322 or email [personaltrainerviv@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:personaltrainerviv@hotmail.co.uk)

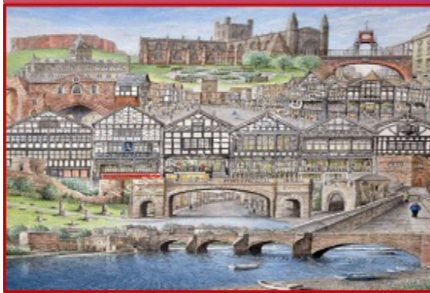
## Membership news

We are delighted to say that over 450 of you have joined the Residents' Association so far this year – we are very grateful for your support. A high number of members strengthens our hand when we are in discussions with the Council, the Wrexham Road development companies and others.

If you have not yet had time or opportunity to join or are new to the area, it is not too late! You will find a copy of our subscription form on our website ([wp-ra.org.uk](http://wp-ra.org.uk)) on the 'Join Us' page. Subs are only £3 or £5 if you wish to join the Friends of Westminster Park too. These can be paid by bank transfer (details are on the form) or in cash or cheque and left in Bebbington's in the WPR post box there. Thank you again for your continued support.

## CRAG conference - be part of the discussion!

### What makes **Chester** tick



An event organised by residents for residents

You are invited to the third FREE conference for Chester residents to find out more about what is going on their city.

Run by the Chester Residents' Associations Group (CRAG), it will explore the theme 'What makes Chester tick' and consider the character

of the city, the priorities of residents, progress made in the past year, the options we have in shaping the future, and highlight the sorts of interventions that might steer Chester along a more beneficial, prosperous, and inclusive pathway.

At this 'Meet the decision makers' event, you have the chance to hear in person about the decisions that affect you as a resident and meet members of the Council, business leaders and volunteers who, together, shape our city.

The conference starts at 9am with a keynote address by Jamie Christon, Chief Executive of Chester Zoo and closes at 4.30pm.

Register for the conference on the Ticket Tailor booking site which can be accessed via the CRAG website: [www.crag.uk](http://www.crag.uk)

### Keep the Date!

## CRAG Conference 2025

at Chester Racecourse on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Be part of the discussion about plans for the future of Chester and help to shape the management of our city centre.

A free event organised by residents  
for residents.

Chester Residents' Associations Group

## Our MP is fighting for action to improve our roads

If you live in Chester I don't need to tell you that our roads are in a sorry state. Whether it's potholes on the school run or bumps and cracks on your commute, our roads have been neglected.

I am writing this piece having secured an Adjournment Debate shortly before summer recess on the condition of roads in Cheshire because the current condition is not acceptable.

Too many residents are battling with unsafe roads, long waits for repairs, and what can only be described as a reactive, short-term approach to maintenance. Instead of smart investment in lasting repairs, we're seeing a patchwork of pothole fixes that often fail before the month is out. It's a waste of time, money, and public trust.

I've raised these concerns directly with CWaC Council. However, the answers are always the same: vague promises, delayed assessments and an ineffective strategy to tackling highways issues.

Many of you in Westminster Park have written to me about this issue and it can be frustrating, as an MP with no direct influence over the devolved matter of highways, not to be able to directly fix the issue. Every time a pothole or highways issue is raised with me, I write to the Council to report it.

But I am calling for a change in strategy to be supported by the Government, to take a proactive rather than a reactive approach. This is why I held my debate, because poorly maintained highways are not just an inconvenience. They are dangerous.

Sadly, the trend is clear: piecemeal, reactive fixes that don't address the root problems. We need proactive, cost-effective and long-term maintenance. We need accountability for how and where funding is spent. And we need a strategy that recognises that people in rural and urban areas alike deserve safe, reliable roads. During the debate, I made these points loud and clear. And while ministers responded with the usual lines about investment in

infrastructure, I was disappointed not to hear concrete proposals for how they plan to fix what is happening on the ground. More money will not solve this issue. It requires a change in strategy.

There is more to be done and I will continue to campaign on this matter, represent your views, and have an impact where I can.

As ever, if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me:  
[aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.uk)



Aphra with Razia Daniels and the St John Ambulance staff at the Westminster Park Summer Fun Day

## Chester South Alliance news

It's continued to be a busy time for CSA despite it being the holiday season and it is more and more a case of keeping an eye on what the 'powers that be' are up to that might impact our community. This seems to be the pattern across the UK - not just here!

Recently CSA have been trying to drum up support to make inputs to the CWAC local plan on housing. Though there is undoubtedly a need for some housing, particularly social housing, the target set by the Government has created a farcical situation that will pitch communities against each other as they try to avoid the worst effects in their own areas - in our case the possibility of an extra 1,500 houses on the land between the Donkey Sanctuary and Rough Hill, which would almost certainly lead to extensive flooding and Lache Lane trying to handle unimaginable traffic levels. There would be 'promises' to address the infrastructure of course, but we've heard it all before - and it never happens.

On a brighter note, CSA successfully applied to CWAC Members Budgets for financial support for the Donkey Sanctuary and financial assistance for Lache Digital Friends group to help with the rent for use of the Lache Community Centre.

Keith Scott, Joint Co-ordinator CSA

### Can you lend a hand with our website?

Keeping our website up to date is important and we could do with a bit of help if you have time to spare! We will provide training to show you how to add information and photos. If you have a computer and would like to help, we would love to hear from you. Jennifer Crew 07752 854383

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 WPRA Editor or Committee.



## Get out, get active, make friends - there's a lot to choose from in our area!

As autumn and winter approach, whatever your age and circumstances, you may find yourself at a bit of a loose end sometimes and want a bit of company.

Luckily, there's a lot going on in our neighbourhood and we have put together a few suggestions. Have a browse through our information – I'm sure there will be something to tempt you! A bit of socialising? ...or exercise ...? Or singing ...?

### **Westminster Park Community Centre:**

**Monday:** Yoga 17.50– 19.20; Darts 20.00  
**Tuesday:** Stretch & Mobility for Seniors 16.00 – 17.00; Zumba 18.30– 19.30, Darts 20.00  
**Wednesday:** Karate 17.30– 19.30,

Bagatelle 19.30

**Thursday:** Baby & Toddler Group 13.00 – 14.00 (except 3rd Thurs of month), Evergreen 55+ club 14.00 (3rd Thurs of month), Karate 17.30–18.30, Bridge 19.00 – 22.30

**Friday:** Tai Chi 17.30–18.30, monthly Bingo  
**Westminster Park**

**Tuesday** – The WP Walking Group 10.15 – 12.15 (meet at GreenDay café - coffee afterwards!)

**Wednesday** – Friends of Westminster Park (gardening group) 10.00 – 12.00 See p.8  
 Other activities: Chester Croquet Club, Glanaber Tennis Club, Westminster Park Bowling Club, Saltney Bowling Club, BMX Track, Outdoor Gym

### **Lache Library**

**Monday** - Scrabble Club 10.00 – 12.30, Reading Group 14.30 – 15.30 (1st Monday of month),

Digital Buddy 16.00 –17.00

**Tuesday** - English Conversation Group: 10.00 – 11.00, Baby explorers 10.30 – 12.00, Craft & chat 14.15 – 15.15

**Thursday** – Family History 9.30 - 12.45, Rhymetime for under fives: 14.15 – 14.45,

Digital Buddy: 16.00 – 17.00

**Friday** - Read, Listen, Share (ReLiSh): 10.00 – 11.00,

Coffee, colouring & chat 14.30 - 15.30

**Saturday** – Lego Club 10.00 – 11.00 (6+ with parent)

### **St Mary's Handbridge Centre:**

**Monday** –Stretch & Strengthen 10.00 – 10.45; Gentle seated exercise 11.30 – 12.30, Rhyme Time 10.15 (Toddlers), 11.00 (Babies)

**Tuesday** – Over 50s T Club 11.30 – 14.00 (includes lunch!),

WI 19.00 (on 1 st Tues of month)

**Wednesday** – Tiny Tales (stories for tots)

**Thursday** – Fine Art classes 10.15 – 12.45, Flower Club, U3A History & U3A Science groups (once a month)

**Friday** – Baby & Toddler group 10.00 – 11.30, Local Vocals (friendly singalong group) 14.00 – 15.00 (plus tea!), Orchid Society 19.00 (3rd of month)

This list is not exhaustive – have a look at the websites for the above locations for more ideas and details. There are lots of activities at the Storyhouse and other city centre venues to explore too.



## Storyhouse—a selection for older readers

From Monday 13 to Friday 17 October 2025 a festival called **Storyhouse Elders** is taking place: five days of art, film, singing, dance, photography, workshops, wellness activities and crafting all celebrating ageing creatively.

At Storyhouse we believe everyone is an artist and it is never too late to try something new, to return to a creative passion or to experience and celebrate the work of older artists. As a society we have much to learn from the older members of our community and creativity is the perfect vehicle to share and connect.

**Who is Storyhouse Elders for?** Storyhouse Elders is for anyone who is looking for opportunities for creative expression or the desire to simply have a good time!

In addition once a month there's a drop-in for Elders at the **Garrett Bar, Storyhouse 10.30-12.00**

**Monday 1 September – Healthy Cooking for One on a Budget**

Lisa Hinze from All About Greens will demonstrate how to batch cook delicious and nutritious meals with ease: saving time, enjoying wholesome nourishing dishes throughout the week and bringing more joy to everyday cooking. Includes a live demo, tasters and plenty of tips to take home

**Monday 6 October – A talk and/or walk with Iona from Record LERC** which collects, collates and manages environmental information for our area, supports wildlife recorders of all abilities and shares data to help protect wildlife.

**Monday 3 November** – Vision Support Event - A talk by Ash from Vision Support. [www.visionsupport.org.uk](http://www.visionsupport.org.uk)

**Monday 1 December – Chester Cinemas Talk**

Peter was the last ever chief technical manager to work at the Odeon in Chester. Listen to the engaging story of his career.

Free to drop in or book a place so we know to expect you.

**Shared Reading Groups** on Fridays (2.00-3.30) and Mondays (11.00-12.30). Monday is less busy. See [www.thereader.org.uk](http://www.thereader.org.uk)

## Chester Civic Trust

Chester Civic Trust is a leading local voluntary organisation influencing the quality of Chester's built environment. All you need to qualify for membership (£25) is to be interested in Chester.

### **Upcoming events:**

**Thursday 18 September:** Bishop Lloyd's Palace 2.00pm. David Mottram talks on *The history and brilliance of Eastham Pleasure Gardens*.

**Thursday 25 September:** A walk in Eastham Pleasure Gardens. .

**Thursday 2 October:** Cathedral Refectory 7.30pm Our AGM with key speaker Lady Alexis Redmond MBE, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire & President of Chester Civic Trust.

**Tuesday 7 October:** Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 7.30pm Professor Martin Heale on *The Abbot's Residence in Chester Cathedral*.

**Wednesday 8 October:** Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre. 7.30pm Lecture: Paul Fielding of Lovelock Mitchell on *Chester's other architect – T M Lockwood and Sons and their ongoing architectural heritage*.

**Wednesday 12 November:** Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm Rose McArthur, Director of Highways, Transport and Climate Change for CWAC Council on *The Achievements, Forthcoming Plans and Challenges facing the Council*.

**Friday 28 November:** Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 7.30pm. David Ebsworth on *French Fun: We'll Always Have Paris*.



## Heritage Open Days



This is your once a year opportunity to visit some iconic buildings and sites in Chester—free and often with tours given by informative guides. Here's a few, but there are many, many more! [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

Booking not required \*\* Booking required \*\*\*

### **Saturday 13 Sept: Bishop Lloyd's Palace\*\***

51/53 Watergate Row South, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2LE Visit this late Tudor town house with Arts and Crafts modifications, now home of Chester Civic Trust

### **Saturday 13 Sept: Riverside Museum \*\***

Drop in between 10am - 4pm for a free self-guided tour of the University Riverside Museum

**Saturday 20 Sept:** St. Oswald's Church, Backford \*\* A wonderful opportunity to see a church which is not usually open to the public.

**Saturday 20 Sept:** Chester Quaker Meeting 10.00-16.00, Union Walk, Chester, CH1 3LF \*\*

**Sunday 21 Sep:** Big Battlefield Walks Weekends - Battle of Rowton Heath 1645 \*\*\*

### **Bridgegate House - Donald Insall**

**Associates** Chester CH1 1SA Multiple dates \*\*\*A mid-18th century townhouse with a particularly fine staircase and now the offices of a historic buildings architect.

More visits, talks and walks are being added to the list as this goes to print.....

## Chester Shot Tower

Ever wanted to see what's inside the Shot Tower? Now's your chance!

On **Saturday 20 September from 10am to 4pm** there will be an Open Day at the Shot Tower across the canal from Waitrose. Lead shot was manufactured here using a patented technique that was first pioneered in the late eighteenth century. Now a Grade II listed building, it still stands today amid the new housing development that has encompassed the site. It is one of the oldest remaining shot towers in the world and a prominent feature on the Chester skyline, providing a lasting reminder of one of the city's oldest industries.

This is a rare opportunity to see the inside of the tower where there will be a display as well as information from ex staff.



## Chester Archaeology Society

The Society promotes the preservation, study and enjoyment of archaeology, history and architecture in Cheshire and neighbouring areas. Membership is open to everybody, and our activities include monthly lectures from autumn to spring, summer excursions, undertaking or encouraging research, campaigning on local heritage issues, publication of an annual journal and a twice-yearly newsletter, and maintenance of our own specialist library.

Admission to our Wednesday lectures is free to members of the Society; visitors are welcome (£5 fee, free for students, except for the Newstead lecture). *Why not join CAS for £20 or £10 for a student member?*

The next lecture is on **Wednesday 19 November 7.00pm** Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre "Victorian Housing" Speaker: Gareth Carr, Senior Lecturer, University of Wrexham.

## Grosvenor Museum Society's autumn programme

The new lecture season run by the Grosvenor Museum Society starts on **Tuesday 2 September** with a sold-out talk by Bendor Grosvenor on 'The Invention of British Art'. To apply for returned tickets, please email [info@grosvenormuseumsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@grosvenormuseumsociety.co.uk).

The programme continues with:

**Tuesday 9 September at 7.30 pm**

### **Barry Cave - A Detective's Lot**

Barry served in the Metropolitan Police's Special Branch and CID and will give us insights into his 'life of crime' with the Met.

**Tuesday 14 October at 7.30 pm**

### **Celia Drew - John Summers - a rise from Rags to Riches**

The imposing five storey office building opposite Hawarden Bridge Station was the head office of John Summers and Sons, the steel company started in 1851 by a Bolton-born shoemaker. John Summers visited The Great Exhibition and bought a nail making machine. From this beginning grew one of the British Empire's largest iron and steel companies.

**Tuesday 11 November at 7.30 pm**

### **Ken Pye - A Nest of Crows**

Cestrians are often guilty of overlooking Liverpool's place in the English Civil War, which was the site of major battles, sieges and the destruction of Liverpool Castle. Ken Pye will make sure we cannot ignore this history any longer!

**Thursday 4 December at 7.30pm**

### **Seasonal Social Evening and Concert with Duo Aerius £10**

Join us for our December social evening with Duo Aerius. Christopher Karwacinski, violin, and Christopher Godhard, guitar, professional musicians from The Royal Northern College of Music who will play their own arrangements of well-known pieces including 'Lark Ascending' and 'Concerto de Aranjuez'. Wine, mince pies etc will be served.

All talks start at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Entry charge is £3 for members and £6 for guests.

Membership for the year September 2025 to August 2026 costs just £10 and all fees help

to fund new acquisitions for the Museum. Email [info@grosvenormuseumsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@grosvenormuseumsociety.co.uk) for more details or come along to a lecture where you can join in person.

## Chester U3A

**U3A Chester** offers two free meetings per month where you can meet other members, hear about social events and other news, and listen to guest speakers on a wide range of interesting and thought-provoking topics.

There are more than 75 Special Interest Groups (with help available to start a new Group if your interest isn't currently covered). Not quite A-Z, but A-W (wine appreciation). 'The Chester Times', our online newsletter, with articles of interest, reports from the Groups, details of meetings and general news about the Chester U3A.

## Rock Choir

Singing is good for the soul - join the **Rock Choir** at the Wesley Methodist Church, St. John Street, CH1 1DA on Tuesdays 7.00pm



## Friends of Westminster Park news

Our new wildflower meadow is looking glorious just now. Walk past the BMX track, turn left then right. Facing the container compound, go into the trees on the left and you'll see the new meadow. We were very grateful for the help of some pupils from Belgrave Primary who planted whips round the compound fence. In a few years this will be a lovely green screen.

Speaking of the BMX track, since it was re-surfaced, it has been great to see so many children zipping round on their bikes. We are planning to plant some colourful low growing shrubs in the areas between the tracks.

The wildlife pond was home to several ducklings earlier in the year and we also spotted plenty of frogspawn, dragon flies and frogs. The bullrushes sown by children last year have really taken hold; we might need to weed some out. A bit further on from the wildlife pond you'll find a new scrape especially for our doggy friends to play in. It doesn't look much at the moment but hopefully it'll soon fill up.

Recently some of us have been working on the shrubbery running from the bowling green towards Cliveden Rd. This area can be a bit gloomy and the soil under the trees is very dry. Our plan is to renovate the hedge bordering the field. Laying this hedge and



planting new whips in the gaps will allow light into the border as well as improving the hedge health. Eventually we'll plant some colourful, drought resistant shrubs. Watch this space.

On Aug 4 we were visited by the RHS judges for the Britain in Bloom awards. We've achieved the highest award for the last two years, so fingers crossed for this year. If you'd like to read our supporting document, I've put it and lots of photos on the WPR Facebook page.

Finally. Have you recently retired? Or are you a 'senior' who would like to meet some new friends in an active outdoor setting? You'd be very welcome to join us. We do a variety of jobs from pottering about snipping the heads off weeds to pulling up brambles. Perhaps you'd like to learn how to lay a hedge?

Come along on a Wednesday morning 10 till 12, then coffee afterwards. Tools & gloves provided. Meet us at the containers or find us in the park wearing yellow jackets.



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## WP Walking group

The Westminster Park Walking Group meets at the Green Day café in Westminster Park every Tuesday morning – rain or shine. We meet about 10.15am for a walk starting at 10.30am – usually about 3½ miles, meeting back at the café at 12.15am for coffee and a natter.

The pace is leisurely – after all this is a leisure activity, not a route march! There can't be a road or a footpath within roughly 2 miles of the park that we haven't walked on at some time or other.

We have about 40 people on our current register, with our average weekly attendance about 20 walkers. We have been going for about 17 years and in that time have only missed doing a walk once, other than during Covid. With the agreement of the café we also tend a small planter garden on the café terrace, in memory of previous members of the Walking Group who are no longer with us. We also have a WhatsApp Group to keep everyone abreast of happenings and hold an annual Christmas lunch at Chester Golf Club.

If you want to know more, please get in touch with Peter Cocker 01244 680828 or [p.m.cocker@btinternet.com](mailto:p.m.cocker@btinternet.com) or, better still, just turn up on a Tuesday morning – you will be very welcome.

## Brownies go boating

The 18th Chester Brownies had an energetic evening bellboating. With Simon at the helm, they paddled up the Dee. Of course, the activity had to end with a water fight....



At our outing to Gulliver's World we joined over 500 others and with good weather everyone loved the rides, particularly the water ones!

In the new term, Florence and Olivia are planning a special evening to celebrate their Gold Award ceremony. This is the highest award a Brownie can achieve. Our September programme also includes evenings experiencing Taekwondo and tennis – the girls are keeping very active.



## Variety is the spice of life at Handbridge WI

To give you a taste of what we do, these are the topics of just a few of our recent meetings: a demo of chutney making; a return visit from a dressmaker to the late Queen; talks on Working Women in Medieval History, DNA testing and family history!

Getting out and about, we ran a very successful homemade cake stall at the Westminster Park Fun Day and enjoyed a city walk looking for the painted BT boxes.

Next up is a trip to Liverpool to see the Vivienne Westwood: Designer in Focus exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery. The Chat and Craft group have just learnt the technique of quilling and are going to make 'fantasy' flowers. And our Christmas lunch is already booked at Chez Jules!

We are a friendly group of ladies who meet from 7pm on the first Tuesday of each month in St. Mary's Handbridge Centre.

Come and try us, first three visits free!  
Contact Jane 07801 184570

The WI stall at Westminster Park Fun Day

## Chester Film Society 2025/2026

Our films are hosted at Picturehouse in their 218-seat Screen 1. Drawn from many different countries, films are shown on a Thursday starting at 7.30pm.

The first film, on 18 September, is the Oscar winning Brazilian film 'I'm Still Here' based on the true story of Eunice Paiva, a mother and activist, coping with the forced disappearance of her husband.

The programme continues with 'Misericordia' (France) on 9/10/25, 'The Girl with the Needle' (Denmark) on 30/10/25, 'Santosh' (India) on 20/11/25 and 'The Marching Band' (Belgium) on 11/12/25. A season's membership is £10 and with this you can buy tickets in person, in advance or on the night, for £5.00 on production of your 2025/26 membership card (digital or printed). Non-members' tickets are £10.  
Further details on : [chesterfilmsociety.co.uk](http://chesterfilmsociety.co.uk)



## Another thought ...

NWR is a social organisation for women, and our style is informal and relaxed. Local group and online activities offer conversation, friendship and fun. Our lively minded members are interested in everything and talk about anything!

Our local group, NWR Grosvenor, meets fortnightly on a Tuesday mainly in the Westminster Park area. The current programme includes walks, talks, discussions and a theatre visit.

If you would like to know more, see contact details in the Information Section on p11.

## Can you help us produce this newsletter?

Do you get pleasure from doing a bit of writing? Enjoy finding out what's going on in the local area? You may be just the person we're looking for!

This quarterly newsletter is produced by a small team of volunteers and we're looking for someone to join us who could assist with researching and writing small items and sourcing photos.

Age and experience are irrelevant. Give me a call if you want to know more.  
Jennifer Crew 07752 854383

## City Nature Challenge: Chester's wildlife

For a third year, supported by Chester Zoo and iRECORD, Westminster Park hosted an event for the City Nature Challenge. Visitors walked round the woodland with iPads lent by the Zoo, recording the species they spotted.

The results were uploaded to a national database to help scientists monitor biodiversity across the country. We were very pleased to be second in the UK behind London.

If you'd like to do your own wildlife survey in the park I recommend these apps:

**Merlin** tell you which birds you are hearing.

**Seek** identifies plants, fungi, birds & insects and will keep a photo record for you of what you've seen.

**iNaturalist** is similar and links to the iRecord database.



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## Lache and Westminster Park Local History Group



### The Welsh Slate Industry: from Toil to Leisure

A talk by Lyn and Ian Lawrence

Wednesday 17 September, 7.30pm

After the completion of the renovations, our meetings are back in the Lache Community Centre, Hawthorne Road. All welcome, no need to book. £2 pp on the door.

Refreshments included as usual.

Linda Shuttleworth, Secretary

[shuttleworths@talktalk.net](mailto:shuttleworths@talktalk.net)

01244 679791

text 07726 425847

## The Tiger's Revenge by Evan Morris



A new book tells the story of Operation Jaywick, an audacious mission undertaken during the second World War to strike at the heart of the Japanese command in Singapore. Local resident Evan Morris, son of Ron Morris, the only British survivor of the force post WW2, reveals the story in 'The Tiger's Revenge'.

The successful operation was the deepest surface waterborne penetration behind enemy occupied lines undertaken by Special Forces during WW2. Yet few know about this incredible endeavour by British and Australian military personnel. This hand-picked band of men achieved what some thought impossible, a major strike at the very heart of the Japanese in their newly acquired Empire in south-east Asia. And all without loss and with minimum expenditure of resources.

This story ranks and deserves the same acknowledgement as exploits such as the Dambusters or the Cockleshell Heroes. Evan explains, "Don't miss the opportunity to discover this crucial piece of WW2 history. The Tiger's Revenge is more than a book; it's a testament to the extraordinary bravery of ordinary men and a vital addition to the understanding of the war in the Pacific." See: <https://thetigersrevenge.com/>

## Hough Green History

In 2015, a well received book of local history called 'From Bricks to Villas' about our neighbouring area of Hough Green was published, and this was followed in 2019 by "The Green by the Hollow Way".

A third book, "Mansions, Semis and Terraces" is now available, (£12, or £10 with one of the earlier books). Contact the team at [local.history@raycar.co.uk](mailto:local.history@raycar.co.uk)

An early idea for a Christmas present?

## Mansions, semis and terraces

More history from Hough  
Green, Chester



The Hough Green Local History Group



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## Fresh Faces, Fresh Energy at Kreative Room!

There's a real buzz around Kreative Room this summer and we're thrilled to introduce two exciting new arrivals bringing even more talent and energy into our Chester salon.

Welcome Abbie, a hugely talented stylist who trained at Toni & Guy before spending the last six years in Australia. Abbie's passion for cut and colour, creative eye and warm, down-to-earth vibe make her the perfect addition. Whether you're after a sharp new style, colour refresh, or full transformation, Abbie's ready to work her magic.

We're also delighted to open our doors to Catherine Reed Beauty, who will be taking

over our beauty space every Thursday and Friday. Catherine is an experienced therapist with a background at luxury spas including The Chester Grosvenor and DoubleTree by Hilton. Her treatments range from expert waxing to glowing facials, soothing massages and nails, all delivered with her signature mix of professionalism and care.

Special offer - for all hair appointments throughout September we are offering a complimentary treatment to revive and moisturise your hair after the hot summer. Call 01244 726199 or book via the Booky app.

We're looking forward to seeing new faces and welcoming others back.



## 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:**  
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## The information section

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**Vice Chair:** Colin Dollimore 629167  
**Secretary:** Annemarie Macfadyen  
**Treasurer:** Sue Britton  
**Editor:** [newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@wp-ra.org.uk)  
**Website Co-ordinator:** Dave Craggs  
07711 009041 [webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk)  
**Committee members:**  
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679823; Tracey Casey; Sandra Magilton  
677373; Neil Sullivan; Anne Ord Sykes  
07973 151410 [anneordsykes@gmail.com](mailto:anneordsykes@gmail.com) ;  
Brian Westcott 675431

**Councillor Razia Daniels** 07481234411  
[razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:razia.daniels@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)  
Facebook.com/cllrraziadaniels  
X @CllrRDaniels

**Councillor Matt Carter:** 07415 689178  
Facebook Page: 'Cllr Matt Carter,  
Handbridge Park Ward'  
[matt.carter@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:matt.carter@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Aphra Brandreth M.P.**  
[aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.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:** Keith Scott  
**Evergreen (55+):** Sandra Magilton 677373  
**Friends of Westminster Park:**  
Steve Telford 07976 712339  
**Gardening Club:** [pole.mary@gmail.com](mailto:pole.mary@gmail.com)  
**Junior Football:** Jonathan 07747 848676  
**Lache & Westminster Park Local History**  
**Group:** Linda Shuttleworth 679791  
**National Women's Register:**  
Betty McLoughlin 677680  
**Nordic Walking Grp**  
Elizabeth Kerley [kerley@walxwithkerley.co.uk](mailto:kerley@walxwithkerley.co.uk)

**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:

**Joining & general enquiries:**  
[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)

For additions / corrections:  
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