

WP News

Westminster Park Residents' Association

WPRA

Bringing our community alive

Come along to the community apple pressing day in Westminster Park.
See details on page 11.


www.wp-ra.org.uk


@wesparkra

Notes from the Chair.....

The Westminster Park Residents' Association was established at a meeting of local residents with the then Chester City Council in 1998. A constitution was drawn up and a committee formed to represent and speak for the interests of WP residents. The definition agreed for Westminster Park included around 1200 households. The Committee set to work and published a quarterly newsletter – this is Number 108. We have run an ever-popular quiz or other social function twice a year and, for many years, an event to switch on the Christmas lights. We have purchased, sometimes with the help of our local councillors, items of use and to enhance the community including the Christmas lights in the trees, flower planters, a defibrillator and a photocopier. We have planted trees and numerous daffodil bulbs through our gardening subgroup in the green spaces. We have created an over 55s club – Evergreen. We have pored over planning applications and put forward our suggestions and objections in the interests of WP residents on numerous occasions not least in connection with the massive Kings Moat development.

This highlights the purpose and activities of your residents' association for which we charge a small voluntary subscription paid by just over a third of households. The reason for describing this is that your Committee, some members of which have been on it for many years, could do with some fresh blood with energy to join us. Jennifer Crew has been Chair for the last eight or nine years and has made an outstanding contribution, particularly through the Covid period and in her negotiating with the builders. On behalf of WPRA, I would like to thank her for all that she has done over this time.

But Jennifer resigned as Chair at the AGM last April although she is staying on the Committee and still edits this Newsletter. I have been on the Committee since 1998 and am embarking on my third stint as chairman simply because no one else has come forward to do the job. I know that everyone has family and work commitments but the WPRA work is interesting and satisfying without being onerous.

Please think about it and let me know if you would like to discuss ways in which you can help.

Brian Westcott, Chairman

Diary Dates: many more inside

1st Tuesday of the month 7.30pm

WI, St Mary's Community Centre, Handbridge

1st Saturday of the month 10.00 - 11.30am

at Westminster Park shops, Councillor Razia Daniels' surgery

3rd Sunday of the month 10.30am Join Incredible Edible at the planters by the shops

Wednesdays 10.00-12.00

Friends of Westminster Park: Meet by the metal containers, at the far side of the skate park & help maintain the Park, all welcome

Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm

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

3rd Thursday of the month 2-3.30pm

Evergreen 55+ club WP Community Centre: page 5

Save the date

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER, 10.30am

Community Tidy Up Morning

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

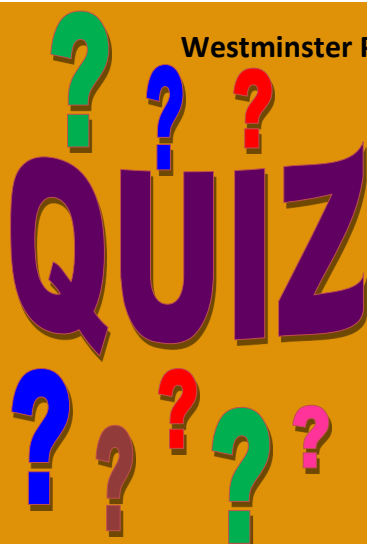
So please get out your hoes, rakes, trowels, brushes and gloves and come along to give us a hand.

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



Westminster Park Residents' Association



**Come and join us for the
WPRA Autumn Quiz
Saturday 24 October 2026**

**Doors open 7.30pm for 8pm start
Westminster Park Community Centre
Tickets £10, including buffet supper,
available from Bebbington's
or Brian Westcott 01244 675431**

New attack on our local Green Belt

Redrow has submitted a new planning application (26/02034/OUT) to build 130 dwellings on Green Belt land bordering Lache Lane, opposite the Donkey Sanctuary.

If approved, it will have severe implications for our neighbourhood particularly in relation to traffic, flooding and access to both medical care and school places.

It would also set a precedent for Redrow to apply to develop even more Green Belt in the future. For many years they have stated their intention to develop the land on both sides of Lache Lane all the way down to the A55 – another 1500 houses.

Please object to this plan!

It is vital that we show our Council how strongly we feel about this plan. The more people who comment, the more the Council will understand how strongly people feel. Details about how to comment are at the bottom of this article.

The main reasons for our objection are:

Loss of Green Belt

This greenfield site is Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Grade 3a High Protection agricultural land as defined by DEFRA and has been designated as Green Belt for many years to prevent urban sprawl.

Redrow are trying to redefine this field as 'Grey Belt' to get approval for their plans. This would have the effect of handing the Council a quick fix for their requirement to build new homes. The Council will

also benefit from the payments from the developers and the increase in the amount of Council tax they receive.

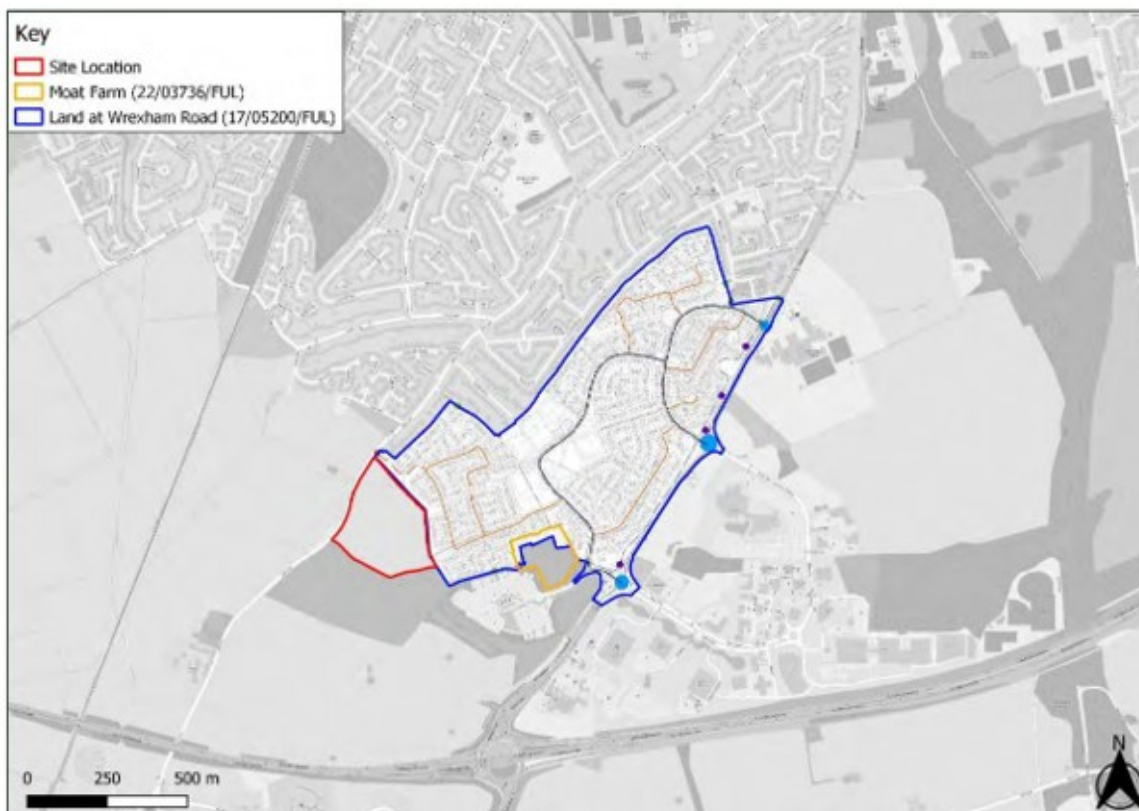
Traffic congestion and flawed Transport Assessment

Exit and entry to the proposed houses would be via the A483 (Wrexham Road), which, on its route into Chester passes through the Overleigh roundabout. This junction has been described by CWAC as one of the most congested roundabouts in Cheshire West and Chester Borough. To the south, the A483/A55 junction is also severely congested on a daily basis with long wait times to get through.

And this is before the existing Kings Moat development on the Wrexham Road has been completed. The addition of 130 houses will inevitably result in extended wait times and congestion will become unbearable and air pollution will rise significantly.

The transport assessment prepared for the developers is flawed. It uses traffic data for Lache Lane instead of Wrexham Road which, as there is no access for vehicles onto Lache Lane from the proposed development, is meaningless. The Wrexham Road and calculations are based on data from a 2011 census, so before the Kings Moat development had been started. No current data appears to have been collected.

Many of the 'calculated' walking and cycling times are inaccurate.



New attack on our local Green Belt



Impact on our local services

The Wrexham Road Development of 1400 homes at Kings Moat has already caused significant issues for local GP practices and there are still many more houses to be built. Lache and Handbridge surgeries are operating at near full capacity and after 10 years of planning, the promised new building in Handbridge seems no nearer to realisation. The residents of another 130 houses will put further pressure on the service and make appointments even more difficult to obtain.

The new Kings Moat primary school is just about to open, but there have still been problems for parents in obtaining places in schools close to their homes. There will obviously be a rise in the number of children seeking places once these houses are built leading to more difficulty.

Flood Risk

Residents will know that sections of Lache Lane from Circular Drive to Rough Hill already become flooded during heavy downpours. The existing field with its hedges and ditches form part of the soakaway to absorb rainwater. If it is built on, the water runoff onto Lache Lane and surrounding roads and properties will worsen. The surface water is planned

to enter Balderton Brook which joins the River Dee at Saltney. Balderton Brook can only discharge into the Dee when the tide is going out (twice a day), not constantly. How much more water can the brook absorb/contain before Saltney is inundated?

Lack of Detailed Design

There is very little to show what mix of housing would be built, what they would look like and how they would interface with properties at the bottom of Lache Lane and in Kings Moat.

Act now and comment

The planning application number is **26/02034/OUT** which must be quoted. You can comment:

1. On the Council's website:

<https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/>

In the Simple Search box type the number above or 'Land at Lache Lane'

2. By email:

planning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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

Changes at the Emporium



After five years at The Emporium, Rob and Kate have decided to hang up their aprons! Although they are incredibly proud of the

business they have built they feel that it is time to move on to the next chapter in life.

The new owners are Jenny, Phil and Lauren Williams who have been friends for nearly 30 years and share the same passion in food, fun and wine. Jen and Phil will be taking over from 1 September and for a smooth transition Rob and Kate's last day will be Sunday 20 September. All the team will be staying the same and Rob and Kate will be back to host the festive wine events.

Following a holiday in Portugal, Rob will be joining the Bebbington's butchers team.

Kate says, "We would like to thank everyone for all your support and making us feel part of the family at Westminster Park. We would also like to thank our unbelievable team for all your hard work. You have all helped make The Emporium what it is today and long may it continue!!"

The WPRA committee wish them well in their new chapter.

New timetable for CWAC's Local Plan revamp

The government has published new legislation and guidance that requires local plans to be prepared, examined and adopted within a 30 month timetable.

The purpose of the Timetable is to set out key milestones for the preparation of the Local Plan, providing a clear, transparent programme for plan preparation and highlighting opportunities for community and stakeholder engagement.

The new Local Plan will cover the 15-year period from December 2028 to December 2043 and replace existing Local Plans. It will

include a vision and strategic priorities for the area, setting out the overall amount and distribution of new development, site allocations and other policies for the determination of planning applications.

The Local Plan scoping consultation will start on **7 September 2026** and is intended to seek views from stakeholders on the scope of the Local Plan and how they wish to be engaged during the plan-making process. **All comments must be received on or before 28 September 2026.**

Register to visit Bumpers Lane Waste Recycling Centre

The Council are modernising access to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to make visits quicker, easier and more convenient. As part of this improvement, they are introducing a new registration system.

Residents must register their vehicle(s) to use the HWRCs. You only need to register once and an annual reminder will be sent to you to keep your access active. You can register up to three vehicles per household, including one commercial-type vehicle such as a van or pickup and are permitted up to 30

visits within a 12-month period.

You will no longer need proof of address as sites will use **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** to check your vehicle, meaning faster entry. Once registered, you will only need to update your details if you change your vehicle, or you move home.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/>

Pharmacy closure

Following an inspection of Owen's Chemist in Saltney on 8 May 2026, multiple issues were found with the pharmacy's governance, operations and stock management processes. The concerns identified a fall below the standards expected and an increased risk to patient safety. This has led to the forced temporary closure of Saltney and Westminster Park pharmacies owned by the same company. We have no information about the re-opening of the pharmacies. You may be aware that WPRA provides a photocopier in the WP pharmacy for community use. We are currently looking for a new location to site it and apologise for any inconvenience.

Glan Aber Tennis Club



Summer children's 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 on 1st September. Adult cardio tennis sessions run all year on Tuesdays 6-7pm.

Our Community Outreach Fund covers the cost of coaching for local schools and youth groups (Cubs & Brownies); during the summer term, Phil coached at Belgrave Primary School on a weekly basis and Lydia coached half a term with a special needs

class at Lache Primary and half a term at Wood Memorial.

We look forward to our Club Championship Finals on 20th September when we celebrate the achievements of our players from mini red through to junior and adult.

New members are always welcome and we're offering a 3-month adult package for those that would like to try before committing. For further details, go to www.glanaber.com.

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55plus? Join the Club!

As well as our regular monthly sessions, our Evergreen 55+ group enjoyed a very interesting coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum and recently a fascinating guided tour 'Behind the Scenes at Storyhouse'.

Our Autumn programme continues in September with a talk on 'Life as the late Queen's Dressmaker'. In October, the Air Ambulance Charity will give a talk on the difference it makes, and Isobel hosts her very popular Picture Quiz in November. An outing is planned in October 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. Venues and details: Pat Hak 01244 659474.

New members are always welcome and to tempt you to come along and enjoy our atmosphere, membership between September – December will be reduced to £6.00. We meet in Westminster Park Community Centre on 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.00-3.30pm, complimentary tea/coffee/biscuits included. For further information on Evergreen 55+ Club contact Sandra Magilton – 01244 677373 sandymagilton@googlemail.com or Penny White - pennywhite@sky.com



Westminster Park Community Centre

Friends of Westminster Park

I hope you have noticed our new Green Flag. We are so lucky to have such a lovely park to enjoy and cherish. Some areas have been looking a bit dry this summer, but the flower beds and meadows managed to put on a colourful show.

This winter we will be planting 26 new trees, part of our 80th anniversary celebration. The trees and planting costs have been funded by the Mersey Forest Urban Trees Project; look out for the 'handkerchief tree' which should appear near the café.

Other jobs coming up. We have started to cut back the wildflowers that have gone to seed. Some plants like teasel and knapweed are useful food for birds in the winter, but most seeds will drop to produce next year's flowers. We've also been collecting some seeds to plant elsewhere.

After bird nesting season, we'll be cutting back 1/5th of the blackberries in the bramble patch. We do this on a 5 year cycle to improve the health of the fruit and are now back to the first patch we cut 5 years ago.

You'd be very welcome to join us. We do a variety of jobs from snipping the heads off weeds to pulling up brambles. Perhaps you'd like to learn how to lay a hedge? Come along on Wednesday morning 10 til 12 (9 to 11 during hot weather) then coffee afterwards. Tools & gloves provided. Meet us at the containers behind the BMX track or find us in the park wearing yellow jackets.



The land on which the community centre sits was donated by the Duke of Westminster and built with donations from contractors, the council, the Royal Air Force and local residents who bought a brick. It is a charity set up specifically for the benefit of the residents of Westminster Park and is run by a committee of loyal and dedicated volunteers led by Phil Williamson. It is used for many local events as well as housing Belgrave Preschool which opened in 1973 and is still thriving. Every year the centre hosts charity events raising thousands of pounds.

We have a packed timetable of classes and groups each week including yoga, stretch and mobility for seniors, Dancefit, karate, bagatelle, bridge, tai chi, Pilates, church, Evergreen every third Thursday, and monthly bingo. Our three thriving darts teams are always looking for players. We are looking to start monthly quizzes again and to get tribute acts in—keep your eyes peeled for upcoming dates.

Our well-stocked bar is open each evening from 7.30pm and on Sundays 11.30am-3pm. Everyone, including Kings Moat residents, is very welcome to come for a drink - come and try us out. Children are offered free juice during Sunday daytime opening hours and we have a selection of games to keep them entertained. We host private events such as birthday parties and christenings - to discuss a booking, please call after 7.30pm, 7 days a week on 01244 671243. In addition to our active Facebook page Westminster Park Community Centre wpcawhatson, we now have a website – wp-cc.org.uk (always looking for someone to help with it) featuring news and events. We are constantly looking for ideas and help so if you would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you.

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What's On this autumn

Broadway comes to Chester Town Hall

Our next production is Stephen Sondheim's "*Follies*", to be performed at Chester Town Hall from Thursday 1 to Saturday 3 October at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinee at 2.00pm.

The occasion is 1971, the imminent closure of the Weissman Theatre in New York, home to the spectacular Follies shows of pre-war years. A reunion of former stars is taking place, plus the ghosts of their former selves to remind them of happy times but also some skeletons in the cupboard! The show features many catchy songs (*Broadway Baby*, *Losing My Mind*) and some lively dancing.

As with last year's successful *Merry Widow*, the audience will mainly be seated around tables so that you can really feel part of the scene.

Tickets are £20, from 01244 675431, Chester Visitor Information Centre or [Ticketsource.com/chestermtc](https://www.ticketsource.com/chestermtc)

Chester Music & Theatre Company (formerly Chester Operatic Society)

Lache Library: Music concerts return, and Meet the author - Claire Back

First, some exciting news for those who remember our classical concerts, 'Music for an Autumn Day'. There will be three concerts again over September, October and November as part of our **Bump into Culture** programme. Follow Cheshire Libraries on social media, or call at the library to find out more. Tickets from Ticketsource.

Music for an Autumn Day - Rumava

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Join us for a mixed genre of music styles performed by the talented string trio Rumava. This fantastic group is made up of violin, viola and cello and perform with kind permission of the Royal Northern College of Music. Not to be missed.

Meet the author - In conversation with Claire Back

Thursday 22 October, 7.00pm

Join us at Lache Library for an evening with debut novelist Claire Back, author of *A Deadly Summer*.

Discover the story behind the story as Claire shares her journey to publication, offers a behind-the-scenes look at how a novel is written, and answers questions about the creative process. A wonderful opportunity for book lovers to meet a local author and gain a unique insight into the world of writing.

Refreshments will be available to purchase and books will be for sale which the author will be happy to sign. Tickets £7.87 from Ticketsource.

Lache Library, Lache, CH4 8HR



Chester RNLI Fish and Chip Supper with Fiddlestone Shanty Band

7.00 – 10.30 pm, Friday 16 October

St Columba's Church Hall (just across the car park from the church), Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA

A relaxed and informal evening with the **Fiddlestone Shanty Band**, and a fish and chip supper.

Fiddlestone is a well-known 5-piece acoustic folk band from the Wirral and Ellesmere Port area, performing traditional and contemporary English, Scottish, Irish, and

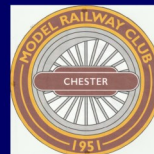
maritime-fused songs and tunes.

A traditional fish and chips supper will be provided by award-winning Western Grove chippy. There will be a raffle and a few paper-based quizzes to keep you entertained. Please bring your own drinks. We will supply all crockery and cutlery.

The venue is accessible for wheelchair users and there is a disabled toilet. There is no induction loop.

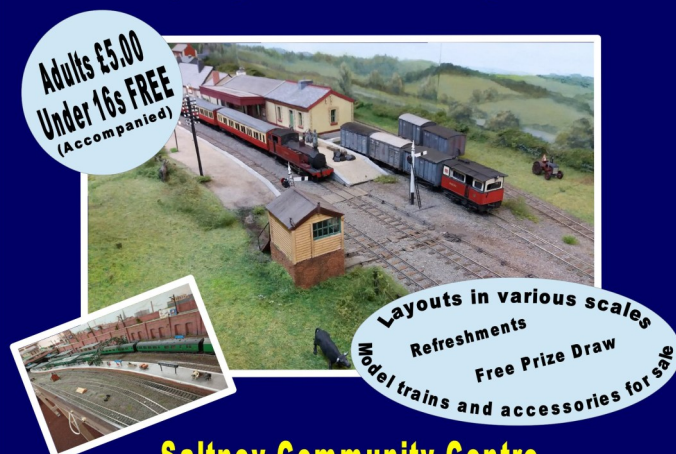
Chester Model Railway Show 2026

**Saturday
October 10th
10.00 am – 5.00 pm**



**Sunday
October 11th
10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

Celebrating 75 years of modelling excellence



**Saltney Community Centre
Sandy Lane
Saltney
CH4 8UB**

Organised by Chester Model Railway Club
Find us on Facebook or www.chestermrc.weebly.com

Music at Wesley

Lunchtime concerts are performed at 12.45pm on Tuesdays at the Wesley Methodist Church on St John's Street. There is no need to book and there is a retiring collection.

<https://www.wesleychester.co.uk/>



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devapodiatry.com
01244 680 365



@devapodiatry



Chester Music Society

Chester Music Society has been promoting and performing classical music in Chester since 1946. Every year, we bring you around ten concerts including three stirring Choral concerts, normally with soloists and orchestra, usually held in the beautiful Chester Cathedral, and six concerts featuring national and international musicians and two local amateur concerts in St Mary's Creative Space.

We also run a Young Musician of the Year Competition followed by a winners' concert.

2026/27 Concert Series

16 September 2026 Piano 4 Hands: Martin Roscoe & Nicola Eimer

21 October 2026 Khrystyna Makar, soprano and Jeremy Heald, piano

11 November 2026 Sam Haywood, piano

21 November 2026 Choir – Walton – Belshazzar's Feast

For more information and to buy tickets go to <https://chestermusicsociety.org.uk/>

Chester Philharmonic Orchestra

Our next concert **Romanticism** is at 7.30pm on **Saturday 14 November** at Chester Cathedral and features soloist Braimah Kanneh-Mason on violin. Tickets £7 - £23 from the Cathedral booking office.

Chester Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the premier non-professional orchestras in North West England.

Our repertoire, led by conductors of the highest calibre, maintains a balance between challenging and familiar works.

We perform four or five concerts a year, including an annual carol concert with Chester Music Society. We rehearse in Hoole, Chester and always appreciate interest from new, prospective players. <https://www.chesterphilorchestra.co.uk/>

St Mary's, Handbridge

4 September, 7pm:

Music by the Bridge with the Nottingham University Chamber Choir

11 September, 7pm:

Back to School Quiz

9 October, 7pm: Music by the Bridge with the Kelsborrow Choir

11 October, 10:30am: Harvest Festival Family Service

8 November, 10am: Remembrance Sunday Service

13 November, 6pm: Music by the Bridge with The Thursday Saxophone Quartet

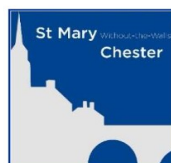
28 November, 12-3pm: Christmas Fair

29 November 6.30pm: Advent Carol Service

4 December, 7pm: City of Chester Blue Coat Band Concert

Please contact St Mary's Parish Office for more information: 01244 671202

office.stmaryschester@btconnect.com



St Mark's Church, Saltney

First and Third Sundays: 9.00am

Traditional Holy Communion Service

10.30am Morning Worship with band. Youth & Children's sessions

Second Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship & Holy Communion with band. Youth & Children's sessions

Fourth Sunday 10.30am Café Church – a relaxed service with free breakfast; church set up café-style

First, second and fourth Thursdays

11am Service of Holy Communion

Community Café at St Mark's

Wednesdays during term time: 11am to 1pm

- Light lunches, drinks and cakes; crèche room for little ones.

Thursdays (except third Thursday of the month) **10am to 12pm** - Free cuppa & biscuits as Place of Welcome; **12pm to 1pm** - light lunches, crèche.



Autumn Events

Tabletop Sale:

Saturday 26

September, 10am

to 2pm – Cream tea

£3 & Tombola

Harvest

Celebrations

Sunday 4 October, 9.30am, FREE Harvest breakfast

10.30am Harvest Holy Communion Service with Bishop Mark of Chester followed by children's activities and Apple Press. Bring your apples and a bottle to make your own apple juice!

Bereavement Service

Sunday 25 October, 3pm. An opportunity to spend time remembering lost loved ones; their name can be read out, you can light a candle and bring a bloom to add to a floral tribute.

Craft Fayre

Saturday 7 November, 10am to 3pm - Refreshments available

Service of Remembrance: Sunday 8

November, 10.30am – first part around the War memorial. After the 11am two-minute silence, the service will continue inside church.

Do get in touch for more information:

The church office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm. Tel: 01244 675372

Email: church.office@stmarkssaltney.org.uk

Website: www.stmarkssaltney.org.uk

St Mark's Church, St Mark's Road, Saltney, Chester CH4 8DE

Join the Neuro Therapy Centre on our

Together Trail

Sunday 27th September, 12-3pm

Westminster Park

Hough Green, Chester CH4 8JW

- ★ Hot and cold drinks
- ★ Entertainment
- ★ Treasure Hunt
- ★ Bake Sale
- ★ Nature Trail
- ★ Competitions
- ★ Games
- ★ Accessible Course

Adults - £6, Children over 5 - £3, under 5s free.

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Councillor Matt Carter

Hello everyone, I hope you have enjoyed or endured the hot weather we have had over the last few months. It certainly has reduced complaints regarding grass cutting to near zero this year! This shift of extreme weather is certainly scary, as each summer seems to be getting hotter and hotter. Anyway... onto my update for the last few months.

Firstly, I am extremely glad to see that the **brick wall at the shops** has been repaired. **The gullies on Castle Croft Road** have been cleared out, so there should be less localised flooding around the entrance to the shop car park in the winter months.

The council is due to renew the **SLOW road markings on Lache Park Avenue**. I am continuing to chase up the renewal of the **weight restriction access only signage for Lache Lane**, and roads off Lache Lane up to Hough Green. This does not stop HGVs accessing local shops but deters them from using it as a cut through.

I have had a lot of correspondence regarding the updated **Heronsway Roundabout on Wrexham Road**, regarding the safety of those exiting from the Park and Ride roundabout, with cars failing to stop for red lights. The lights on the roundabout have

been adjusted, so the green light is not visible on medium-distance approach. This has slowed traffic and reduced those going through on red. I continue to press the council to keep me updated about a more long-term fix. At present, the developer's consultant is looking at what changes can be made. I will keep you informed via Facebook and my next update.

In response to my most recent ask on progress of the long-sought-after improvement work for **Overleigh Roundabout**, the council again think the developers will put this onto next year's programme due to the level of potential disruption and the Christmas shutdown of major planned work leading up to Christmas. I continue to highlight the wait and need for these improvements as the development at Kings Moat gets more and more substantial.

Another update is regarding an **application I called in to planning committee on Lache Lane** proposing the demolition of a 3-bed bungalow to build two 5-bedroom houses on the site. The planning inspectorate has upheld the local authority's decision to refuse the application.

Finally, I have called in the **outline planning application that has been submitted by Redrow** to increase their section of the development by up to 130 dwellings along the edge of Lache Lane. I have done this on the grounds of the effect on existing highways infrastructure.

Surgery Details:

I am available for face-to-face meetings to discuss and help in ward related issues on request. Please send me an email, contact my Facebook Page: Cllr Matt Carter – Handbridge Park Ward; or give me a ring. I also complete monthly door knocking sessions talking to you about what matters most and what I can do to help.



WPRA is grateful to our Councillors for their generous support of the replanting of our planters. And many thanks to local resident Mandy for keeping this one watered throughout a very hot summer - it looks wonderful.

Medical Centre

I continue to work closely with our MP, Apha Brandreth, to push for the delivery of a new medical centre. Securing improved local healthcare provision remains a high priority and I will keep residents updated.

And Finally....

It was great to see the damaged wall at the shops restored.

I will continue campaigning for a safer crossing on Wrexham Road as well as for improved changing rooms and toilet facilities at Westminster Park.

Please contact me if I can help with anything (details on page 11). I will always do my best to assist. My monthly street surgery is held on the first Saturday of every month:
Westminster Park Shops: 10.00am–11.30am
Old Dee Bridge, Handbridge: 12.00–1.00pm

Councillor Razia Daniels

I have been busy dealing with a range of issues raised by residents:

Planning Application – Lache Lane

We have received notification of a planning application for 130 homes on land at Lache Lane. Ref: 26/02034/OUT. Full details of the application are on the Council's website. I have "called in" this application and asked the case officer to contact me to discuss residents' concerns. The reasons for my "call in" include the lack of infrastructure, traffic concerns, flooding and the capacity of medical facilities. If you wish to comment on this application, please get in touch with me.

Tree Works on Wrexham Road

Work was carried out at night but could not be completed within the time available. I have raised this with the Council's Tree Officers, who confirmed that the outstanding work will be completed when they get permission to use traffic management on the road again.

Wrexham Road/Park & Ride Junction Traffic Lights

Residents raised concerns about the sequence of the traffic lights, road safety and drivers failing to comply with the signals at the Park & Ride junction. I contacted the Council's Highways Service and interim safety measures are now in place. The developer's

traffic signal specialist is due to attend the site to investigate and identify a permanent solution.

Overleigh Roundabout

I have raised concerns about congestion, traffic light timings and road safety at Overleigh Roundabout with the Council's Highways Department. The Council recognises it as one of Cheshire West's most congested junctions, but significant improvements would require major investment and additional land. There is no confirmed start date for developer-funded improvements linked to Kings Moat Garden Village. I will continue to press for progress.

Lache Park Avenue

I have received many complaints about speeding and road signs, including the fading "slow" road markings. I reported this, and am pleased to say that the markings are due to be repainted.

Hough Green Entrance to Westminster Park

I recently met with the Council's Tree Officer to discuss concerns about the gaps and deterioration in the hedges at the entrance to Westminster Park on Hough Green. We explored several possible solutions and I await his recommendations.

Grosvenor Museum Society: autumn programme

Everyone is welcome at our interesting talks held at the Grosvenor Museum. Doors open at 7pm, for 7.30 start. Entrance costs £3 for members and £6 for guests. Membership renewal is in September, £10pa. More details contact: grosvenormuseumsgociety@gmail.com or 07792 474504

Tuesday 15 September

Gareth Williams (Curator of the Derby Collection) Knowsley & The Earls of Derby

Knowsley Hall is one of Britain's most remarkable historic estates and has been the ancestral home of the Stanley family, Earls of Derby since 1485 -more than six centuries. From the 1st Earl's pivotal decision's at the Battle of Bosworth to the 14th Earl's American tour and his three tenures as Prime Minister, this talk explores the fascinating story of the Earls of Derby and their influence.

Tuesday 13 October: Dr Anthony Annakin-Smith: The Early Neston Collieries: Seven Reasons Why They Were Remarkable!

Dr Annakin-Smith's talk looks at the many reasons why the early collieries at Neston deserve to be better known. We will hear about underground canals, the region's first steam engines and tales of 'devastating sabotage!' Anthony is a local historian with interests often focused on maritime and industrial history in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



Tuesday 10 November: Sir James Vernon: The RMS

'Lusitania'. Her loss and the aftermath. The RMS Lusitania was a true leviathan; a Cunard ship of 32,000 tons built in 1907. Powered by steam turbines developing 78,000 horsepower, she had 25 boilers in four boiler rooms with 192 furnaces. On 7 May 1915 she was torpedoed off the Old Head of Kinsale. Her loss might have been avoided but for the action or lack thereof by the Admiralty and what ensued was, as Lord Mersey (HM Receiver of Wrecks) recorded in his memoirs, 'a dammed(sic) dirty business'.

Lache Library: Get FREE online magazines and books

We'd like to introduce you to our fabulous **BorrowBox** and its new eMagazines feature. With bestselling UK and world titles and magazines it's a fabulous resource whether you are a cyclist, angler, golfer or want to learn to crochet! There are TV listing mags, fashion and lifestyle publications such as *Elle*, *BBC Gardeners' World* and *Good Housekeeping* along with selections like *The Spectator* and *New Scientist*, *Classic Cars* and the *Sky at Night*. Even *Horse and Hound*! Do give it a look, you won't be disappointed!

There are still eBooks and eAudiobooks too, including children's publications, and the ePress feature also gives access to a range of eNewspapers and their backcopies, from the

Chester Chronicle and *Liverpool Echo* to the daily tabloids, the *iNewspaper*, *Guardian* and *Observer*. You can install BorrowBox from your app store or search on your PC if you prefer. Use your library membership details to get started.

An App called Ulibrary gives you access to even more audiobooks with a range of titles from popular authors including Rev Richard Coles, M.J. Arlidge, Rob Rinder and Sara Cox to name but a few. To start borrowing, select Cheshire Libraries within the App and enter your library details. With simultaneous access to all titles, you will never need to wait! We told you in the last edition that we weren't just about books!

Digital Friends Boot up

We will be resuming after our Summer Break on Wednesday 9 September so if you have a problem with your IT equipment you are very welcome to come along for some free help and advice.

If the item is portable (Laptop / Phone / Tablet) bring it along, or if it is a query about your installed Home Equipment, or you want advice on changes and updates we will offer what advice we can.

To remind all, our session is 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm in the newly refurbished Lache Community Centre which now has an excellent cafe in full operation so you can enjoy a coffee while getting your IT sorted out ... can't do that in Currys.



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P.S. We are seeking a volunteer to take books out for our Home Library Service. This would be a couple of hours every four weeks delivering and collecting books for those who aren't able to make it here themselves. Pop in if you think you could help. Mileage offered.

WPRA members can view their membership details and update their email preferences via our members' portal to give control over which emails (if any) are received 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

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Sandy Lane: Water quality testing

The designation of the River Dee at Sandy Lane as bathing water this summer doesn't mean that the Dee is automatically safe for swimming, but does mean that it must be tested by the Environment Agency for two types of bacteria – E. coli and intestinal enterococci (IE); both indicators of faecal pollution, a potential health risk to swimmers.

Sampling is taking place from mid-May to the end September, and the first 12 samples show large variations in water quality. At times, bacterial levels have been relatively low and well within excellent bathing water standards: on 26 May, both were recorded at fewer than 10 organisms per 100ml. However, E. coli reached 560 on 10 June, 800 on 22 July and, most strikingly, 2,200 on 5 Aug, the same day when IE also reached its highest recorded level of 420/100ml. Sampling isn't yet complete, but results so far indicate that Sandy Lane is likely to be classified as 'Poor'.



Flows at Chester are stable because water is released from reservoirs in the upper catchment. So large variations cannot be explained by heavy rainfall washing pollution into the river, or falling river levels concentrating it. For example, E. coli increased from just 73/100ml on 29/07 to 2,200 on 05/08, despite both samples being collected during similar conditions. There is also no obvious correlation between high bacterial readings and the tidal cycle. Potential sources of the pollution include misconnected drains, sewage discharges and livestock, all of which can introduce harmful bacteria into the river at points across the large upstream catchment above Chester.

Finding & tackling pollution across the Dee

The Dee Trust is an independent charity with the objective of creating a River Dee free of pollution and full of wildlife. Achieving that means tackling pollution from all its different sources. Our focus is on identifying problems and then delivering targeted action to solve them.

To tackle pollution effectively, we first need to know where it is coming from, so we train citizen scientists to monitor water quality

across the Dee catchment, including smaller streams and tributaries feeding it. By testing at different locations and working progressively upstream, we can narrow down where previously hidden sources of pollution are entering the river. Once a problem is identified, we work with farmers, businesses, communities, water companies and other organisations to find a solution.

Our **Water Wise Farming** programme focuses on improving farmyard drainage, separating clean and dirty water, and improving soil health. Meanwhile, our **It Shouldn't Be in the Dee** programme focuses on installing sustainable drainage systems in urban areas to capture rainfall, reduce runoff and ease pressure on sewers during wet weather, alongside mass litter picks to tackle plastic pollution. Together, this work will help improve the long-term health of the River Dee and make it a better environment for both wildlife and people.

If you would like to follow our progress, visit our website at Deetrust.co.uk or follow us on Instagram, Interpreting Facebook or TikTok.

A taste of autumn at WI

Handbridge WI have had an enjoyable summer learning about how Robot Companion cats help people with dementia, the life of the editor of Cheshire Life (we each got a complimentary copy!) and the discoveries of treatments for cancer and the Nobel prizes awarded for them.

Our outings took us to Calendar Girls at Chester Little Theatre and Mama Mia at the Moonlight Flicks. Meanwhile, our craft group have made macrame coasters and lace snake bookmarks and knitted!



The autumn programme is full of goodies with a tasting of Cheshire Cheeses in September, cake and fizz to celebrate WI Day in October and first aid training from St John Ambulance. Even our Christmas lunch is booked at Chez Jules!

If you would like to join us, we meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the St. Mary's Centre Handbridge from 7pm. We are a very friendly group of ladies, and your first visit is free! Please contact Jane on 07801 184570 for more information.

heritage open days

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Outdoor Brownies



The 18th Chester had an outdoor summer term with visits to Erles Victorian Walled Garden, outside Wrexham and the ice-cream farm at Tattenhall.

At Erles the girls explored the garden to find numbered Robins and used rubber hammers to create calico flower designs. The girls loved the indoor and outdoor activities at the ice cream farm (and the ice cream!)

Next term, the Brownies will be going on a scavenger hunt around Chester and creating happy thoughts in a jam jar. We will also be joining the Friends of Westminster Park to help them, and the vicar of Handbridge is coming to explain the importance of Remembrance Sunday.



Community Apple Pressing Day

Incredible Edible and Friends of Westminster Park Sunday 11 October 2026 10 am to 3pm

Hoping there will still be some apples on the trees by then...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 a container for the juice you will make!

Any queries, contact Linda Shuttleworth on shuttleworths@talktalk.net or 07726 425847



49 FIVE ASHES ROAD,
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Shotokan Karate Club: Dave Craggs 07711 009041
St Mary's Church Parish Office: 671202
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