



# f o r u m

## **Westminster Park Residents' Association newsletter**

**Issue 61 June 2014**

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### **Chairman's piece**

The Green Belt issue (Local Plan) continues to progress, albeit slowly. The appointed Inspector, Kevin Ward, has scheduled the hearing for June/July. Whilst appreciating that there are views amongst residents for and against the Local Plan proposals, it is my view that the proposed release of Green Belt for Development has to be agreed only where a need is proved. Such a decision cannot be reversed once building has commenced. Many decisions an authority makes can be reversed but not this, once the green fields are gone they are gone!

Twelve months ago the community was waiting for CW&C to publish the proposals from Spatial Planning. In our Newsletter, June 2013, I reported that publication and the subsequent planned consultation period was delayed because new statistics had been released by Communities & Local Government updating those used by CW&C to justify their proposals. Using the new data it was anticipated that there would be a reduction in the number of properties required. The Plan was subsequently published ignoring the new data and continuing with their original proposals. It is my opinion that given these circumstances the current proposals are aspirational. We are, no doubt, all agreed that

nationally there is a need for additional houses, but I read that at a meeting held at Chester University it was stated by Nick Boles MP that proposals should be designed to meet provable local need and not aspirational. The persons presenting the case with particular reference to development adjacent to Westminster Park will also raise issues relating to drainage, sewerage and traffic congestion, etc.

In the last Newsletter I queried the existence and whereabouts of Great Crested Newts in our neighbourhood. The response surprised me. Residents in Sherbourne, Five Ashes, Rowcliffe and Merton Drive telephoned and either left a message or spoke to me personally. Photos of these can be seen on the WPRRA website at <http://www.wp-ra.org.uk/?p=1384> Thank you to all.

The March Newsletter carried an invitation for senior citizens to join a helpline. Subsequently a resident who suffers with a painful spinal condition has contacted me. She is interested in meeting up with any of our residents (any age) in our locality, who similarly suffer with a long-term health issue that prevents them from living life to the full. She suggests, "Perhaps they may be interested in meeting up for a supportive chat now and again." Perhaps I should add that she does have support from her Mum and friends, so you can be assured that she is not looking for a shopper, cleaner, etc. Any interested persons please contact me in the first instance. (Tel 680880).

*David Pilling, Chairman WPRRA*

### **Subscriptions**

We would like all households to consider membership to the WPRRA; the subscription is only £2 per household.

Cash or cheques (made payable to Westminster Park Residents Association) can be handed to any Committee Member, Al Dente or to the Treasurer, Nick Ryan, at 17 Vincent Drive.

### **Westminster Park Community Association**

Are you looking to make new friends or just wish for some pleasant company? If so then the Community Association has a range of activities to help you  
**'Drop-In':** This is held at the Community Centre on the first Thursday of every month at 2-3.30 pm. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits, free of charge, and just relax with friends.

**Bingo:** This is usually held at the Centre on the third Friday of every month at 9 pm. There are cash prizes and a raffle.

**Quiz:** This is normally held on the fourth Saturday of the month at 9 pm, again with cash prizes, a raffle and an 'open the box' competition.

Join the Community Centre Club for only £10 per year membership.

*Colin Dollimore*

### **Annual Front Garden Competition**

If you have a front garden you are in it! Judging takes place during the summer months. Results in September forum

WPRRA

*Music and Readings to mark the Centenary of World War 1*

**Performed by members of Chester Operatic Society**

**Saturday, 27 September at 8 pm**

**Community Centre, Five Ashes Road**

**Tickets £10 including a Buffet Supper**

### **Dates for your diary**

19 June, Evergreen, 2 pm Community Centre

12 July, Summer Fayre, Community Centre

13 July, Gardening Club Summer Outing

17 July, Evergreen, 2 pm Community Centre

27 Sept, Music and Readings from WW1, 8 pm Community Centre

## **New Rotary Club For Handbridge, Curzon Park and Westminster Park areas**

A new style Rotary Club meets at the Handbridge Inn every Wednesday at 6 for 6.30 pm finishing around 7.30 pm. Are you looking for something new to do and want to become involved in your community and want to enjoy an informal atmosphere? If so, then call in and see for yourself, or for further details please contact Dee on 300100.

## **Westminster Park Community Centre Summer Fayre**

This year this popular event will be on Saturday, 12 July, from 1.30 – 5 pm. This year there will be a WW1 theme with prizes for the best fancy dress costume by children and stallholders.

There will be a craft area in the hall, stalls outside, with plenty of food and drink available. You will be entertained by the Chester Brass Band and local sports /fitness clubs promoting their activities. There will also be children's races and entertainment.

Come along as entrance is free and if you want to raise money for charity some stalls may still be available. Further details from Colin Dollimore, 629167.

## **Karate Club**

The Karate Club has had another great year. Our last grading was the best yet with 32 all getting new belts - you may have seen the pictures in the local papers and the Overleigh Roundabout.

Karate is a great all round discipline for all ages. We are always looking for new beginners, but also those of you who may have done karate before - it's never too late to come back. I myself came back after a 30 year break!

If you want to know more, please give me a call or check out the website [www.hskc.org.uk](http://www.hskc.org.uk) <<http://www.hskc.org.uk>>.  
**Dave Craggs 07711 009041**

## **“Thank you, David”**

Anyone who has recently walked along the footpath, which runs between the rear of Vincent Drive and Wrexham Road, will have been pleasantly surprised to see that the bushes and trees

have been cut back and cleared away.

This is the result of the hard work of one of our residents, David Leedham, who has voluntarily carried out this work in his own time. This was a mammoth task carried out for the benefit of the community. Amazingly David also managed to persuade the Council to clear away all the waste branches and trimmings, turning what was a hazardous area into a very pleasant and safe place to walk.

On behalf of the Westminster Park Residents Association (WPRA) I would like to say a very big thank you to David for carrying out this work. Many thanks, David, from all of us for improving our local environment.

*Olwen Bellis  
WPRA Committee*

## **Friends of Westminster Park – A Tale of Two Parks**

There are two Westminster Parks. There is the Westminster Park residential area and the Westminster Park recreational park. Both are fortunate in having active community interest groups but this does give rise to some confusion between the two organisations. The Westminster Park Residents Association represents people living in the Westminster Park residential area and the Friends of Westminster Park represents users of the recreational park. Both organisations fund their activities through a very modest subscription of £2 per household. To minimise duplication and to ensure maximum coverage, the Friends of Westminster Park are very grateful to the Westminster Park Residents Association for collecting the subscriptions simultaneously and for offering space for news on the recreational park in the **forum** newsletter. By subscribing to both organisations members are supporting the full range of activities and interests of both Westminster Parks.

Since the last newsletter, I am pleased to report that the public toilets and the tennis courts in Westminster Park have been refurbished and we are grateful to our local councillors, Neil Sullivan and Razia Daniels, for supporting this work through their local community budgets.

However, financial constraints across all Council activities mean that many aspects of routine maintenance,

including daily opening and cleaning of the public toilets, repairs to damaged hedging, fences, signs and the leaking roof in the café, and upkeep of the tees on the nine-hole golf course are sadly lagging behind the standards we would all like to see. All these aspects continue to be the subject of recurrent dialogue with Council staff.

On a more positive note, the park has been enjoying an excellent spring. The wide variety of colours of the emerging foliage and blossom on the many trees in the park has been a delight. The spring flowerbeds have been looking very colourful. The bowls and croquet lawns are in excellent condition. The hedges, sports fields, exercise and play areas are all looking tidy and well kept. And a walk through the park at any time of the day, especially in fine weather and at weekends and public holidays, shows how widely the facilities are being used and appreciated.

With a café serving an attractive range of food and beverages and an enterprising community golf club to complement the other successful sports clubs in the park, we would enjoy a recreational park second to none. Filling these gaps is urgently needed to achieve the full potential of the park and to avoid the risk of further deterioration in these core facilities. If you have any ideas or proposals, we would be delighted to hear from you.

*David Guyton*

## **Gardening Club Summer outing**

Our summer outing on Sunday, 13 July, is to Bluebell Cottage and Mount Pleasant Gardens. We leave from the shops at 9.30 am. The cost is £11.50 for entry to both gardens (includes light refreshments at both venues). The coach fare is extra and is determined by how many support this outing.

Please buy your tickets from Mary Pole, [marypole@zcl-uk.net](mailto:marypole@zcl-uk.net) or phone 674439.

The Forum Newsletter is published by the Westminster Park Residents' Association (WPRA) with the understanding that from the information presented therein, there can be no responsibility as to the accuracy or legality of the content on the part of the WPRA. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or Committee of the WPRA.

## The information section Westminster Park RA Committee

**Chairman:** David Pilling  
Tel: 680880

**Vice Chairman:** Brian Westcott  
Tel: 675431

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Tel: 677936

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**Website Co-ordinator:** Dave Craggs

Email: webmaster@wp-ra.org.uk Tel: 682407

### **Committee members**

Olwen Bellis	678719
Pauline Brown	679823
Sue Eva	676697
Sandra Magilton	677373
Richard Short	678559
Penny White	677879

## Clubs & organisations based in Westminster Park

*Please let the Editor know if any of the details are incorrect or if you have a club or organisation that you would like listed.*

**Belgrave Badminton Club:** Keith, 671077

**Belgrave Pre-School:** Carol Welch, 671243

**Bowls:** Martin Amesbury, 679271

**Bridge Club:** Nick Ryan, 675923

**Cricket:** Craig Edwards, 07765 475095

**Croquet:** John Dawson, 675929

**Friends of Westminster Park:** David Guyton,  
675978

**Evergreen (Over 60's Club):** Sandra  
Magilton, 677373

**Gardening Club:** Mary Pole, 674439

**Healthy Walking Group:** Mike Lloyd, 680328

**Junior Football:** Tracy Sheedy, 680544

**Lache and Westminster Local History**

**Group:** Linda Shuttleworth, 679791

**Mini Soccer (5-10 years):** Tracy Sheedy,  
680544

**Model Railway Club, Chester:**  
Colin Dollimore 629167

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

**Rotary Club Handbridge**  
Doreen Marchant-Stubbs, 300100

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

**St Mary's Church Parish Office** 671202  
**Revd Paul Dawson** 675199

**Tennis-Glan Aber Tennis Club:**  
Sue Britton, 677936

**Westminster Park Community Assoc:**  
671243

**WI, Handbridge;** Secretary Veronica Bull  
676865

### SCOUTING:

**Group Scout Leader:** Sue Jones, 675538

**Beavers (Wednesday):** Jane Shorthall, 682136

**Cubs (Monday):** Michael Glass,

**Cubs (Thursday):** Christine Owens, 676691

**Scouts (Friday):** Terry Coe, 676734

**Explorer Scouts (Tuesday):** Sharon Johnson,

### GUIDING:

**Rainbows (Monday):** Pat McGettigan, 677134

**Brownies (Tuesday):** Jan Hooper, 674701

**Guides:** Contact the District Commissioner:  
Sue Fryer, 679945

## EVERGREEN – Our Over 60s Club

There was a very good turn out for our AGM in February, and in March Alan and Isobel Smith organised a fun and interesting picture quiz, which had everyone intrigued, identifying little known parts of Chester, the outlying area and the world. Nick Fry, from Chester Cathedral, kept us entertained with his view of the lighter side of receiving visitors to our Cathedral, and in June we have an interesting and entertaining talk from June Corner on the history of underwear from 1840 to the present day.

Members have enjoyed outings to the Town Hall to see the Regalia and meet our Lord Mayor and two sessions attending the Magistrates Court have been arranged. Late in June we have an all day trip to Saltaire booked.

We are now in our third year and memberships are being taken out or renewed. Forms for taking out or renewing membership will be available at meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of each month between 2-3.30pm at the Community Centre. Please note that members must be paid up members of the Westminster Park Residents' Association.

We put posters advising of our meetings in the Community Notice Boards and on the WPRRA website.

Later in the year our local butcher Stuart Bebbington will talk to us, we hear of nine lads who went to war a century ago, also Chester's ghosts and a talk about Guide Dogs for the Blind. There are also social events and outings, and always at our meetings complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## Centenary of World War 1 Saturday, 27 September at 8 pm Community Centre

On Saturday, 27 September, members of the Chester Operatic Society will be performing music and readings to mark the centenary of the First World War. Tickets are available from committee members and cost £10 – this will include an excellent buffet supper. Please put this date in your diary and buy your tickets now.

## Chester Croquet Club

After a successful year last year, when the club came first in the North West advanced croquet and golf croquet leagues and two of its members came first and second in the northern area semi-finals followed by second and third in the national finals of the All England handicap competition, the Club has got off to a strong start in the new season. It has entered six North West leagues for advanced, weekend and

mid-week full lawn handicap, short lawn handicap, and golf and level-play golf croquet and has won its first four matches.

New members are always welcome and should contact the club secretary, John Dawson, on 675929 for further information.

## Update from PCSO Fox

Recently there has been a slight increase in a number of theft related offences in the Overleigh area. The majority of offences have been thefts from motor vehicles and thefts of plant pots. Please take these security measures:

- 1) Lock vehicles at all times and do not leave open and unattended.
- 2) Do not leave anything of value unattended in the vehicle.
- 3) Lock all external house doors even when you are in the house.
- 4) Secure plant pots / garden ornaments as best you can.

If you see anything suspicious please call 101 (the Police None Emergency number) and report it to us so we can send a patrol out to check on what you have seen.

Please note that bike tagging will be available at the Westminster Park Fayre on 12 July between 1.30-3.30 pm.

*Chris Fox*

## Glan Aber Tennis Club

The highlight of our Open Day in April was the wheelchair tennis demonstration by Jamie Burdekin, the Paralympic Bronze Medallist in Beijing.

As part of our tennis in the community initiative, the local mental health charity Chapter are coming to the Club for coaching sessions on a weekly basis. This has been sponsored by one of our members through her business, Swettenham Chemists. Additionally, we have provided free coaching sessions in several local schools and Dee Banks Special School. These have been very well received and we continue to fundraise so that we can offer more sessions.

For coaching information, contact Head Coach Jo Trataris on 07875 108690.

Visit our website at [www.glanaber.com](http://www.glanaber.com) for information on all club activities.

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