



Park Street News

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143rd Edition

Including Park Street Neighbourhood Watch



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Dates for your diary

PSRA Meeting dates

PSRA Committee meeting dates are 3rd Monday, in every month (except August and December) at 7.30 at Greenwood Park.

These meetings are open to any residents of Park Street and you're warmly welcome to attend.

Please call any Committee member listed (pg46) if you would like to join us for a meeting.

Monthly YOUNG AT HEART at the Village Hall - 4th Tuesday of every month

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Sunday 16th September - See page 7 for details

Wellbeing Day

Sunday 16th October - See page 7 for details

Halloween Party

Sunday 30th October - See page 7 for details

Anything Goes in Park Street

Saturday 12th November - See Page 13

FINAL DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
July 31st 2022 to:
chairman@psra.org.uk

We need help to distribute the newsletter.



PSRA social media
Heidi Patterson-Howson
website@psra.org.uk
Our advertisers also get featured on our website
www.psra.org.uk

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Welcome from the Chair - Joy Mendelsohn



PSRA held a most successful Jubilee Gala on Park Street Recreation Ground in June as seen in our cover photos. Thank you to the local businesses who supported our event- Bok'n'Rose, Gracey's Pizza, Lily Alley, Moonlight, Park Street Barbers, Park Street Guns, Park Street Sports and social Club, SunSet, The Gate, The Overdraught and Twinsco and to St. Stephen's Parish Council and CDA Herts for their contributions, and to Phil Sherman for leading the crown parade and entertaining the children. My sincere thanks of course go to our hard-working committee members who give their time so generously. Of course, your subscriptions enable us to hold village events and maintain our Young at Heart group, so please continue to subscribe.

We are now busy planning our annual MacMillan coffee afternoon, Well-Being Day, Halloween party and "Anything Goes in Park Street!" -a showcase of local talent. The Christmas Lights ceremony at How Wood shops will be on 1st. December at 5pm.

We have finally had the go-ahead for a small library/book swap to be built for the community from recycled wood. It will be placed by the War Memorial in Park Street. Thanks to financial support from Councillor Stella Nash, a defibrillator will be installed outside the chemist at How Wood shops, PSRA felt that putting the defib here would be of benefit to the community.

Developments on the old airfield site are of concern and we are monitoring preparatory work carefully.

Due to the dry summer, we have decided to cancel this year's Best Kept Front Garden competition, but we will be running our best decorated Christmas front garden competition again.

We welcome Napsbury residents into our midst and hope they will soon feel part of our community. I do hope you enjoy reading this edition and finding out about people and events in our villages.

Park Street News is delivered by PSRA road agents and Park Street Neighbourhood Watch, working together. Please send donations of £3.50 or more (including £1.00 to PSNW).

PLEASE PAY: Barclays Bank Account No. 40688762 Sort code 207409
You can pay us via PayPal using the email address membership@psra.org.uk,
or via our website, with PayPal or by credit card at <https://psra.org.uk/join-psra/>

Please join PSRA for only £3.50 (including £1 to PSNW)

Drop off cash or cheque to 90 Maplefield Drive. Please include your address. Email membership@psra.org.uk with questions

Park Street Sign



Have you wondered where our sign has disappeared to? Good news! It is being restored and a new plinth made. The sign should be re-erected in late September.



Large & small

References available

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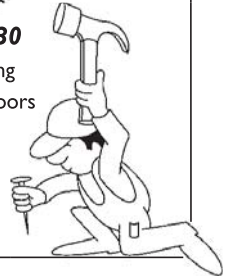
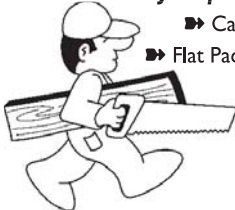
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Forthcoming Events



Park Street Residents Association Afternoon Tea/Coffee and Cake. Take Away Cake available

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Place: PARK STREET RECREATION GROUND,
PARK STREET LANE ,PARK STREET
Date: SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
Time: 2PM -4PM
Contact:secretary@psra.org.uk

To donate, volunteer, raise money or campaign with us, call 0300 1000 200 or visit macmillan.org.uk

In aid of

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Organised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

PSRA'S ANNUAL

WELL-BEING DAY

Tropic skincare, reflexology, candles, handbags, jewellery, shawls, mini manicures, express facials, Tarot reading, clothing, gifts, refreshments, etc



Photo by Edy Newman on Unsplash



Photo by Sanna Hämäläinen on Unsplash

SUNDAY 16 OCT. 11AM-3.30PM | GREENWOOD PARK
[PSRA.ORG.UK/WELLBEING](https://psra.org.uk/wellbeing)



SPOOK-TACULAR EVENT

PSRA'S 1ST HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday, 30 October 4.00 'til 7.00pm

Arrive at 4, stay until the end!

Entertainment, snacks, games, crafts,

and more for people of all ages

Tickets go on sale 1 September



Park Street Village Hall

Park Street St Albans AL2 2PX or AL2 2PY on your SatNav
psra.org.uk/halloween2022 or email halloween@psra.org.uk

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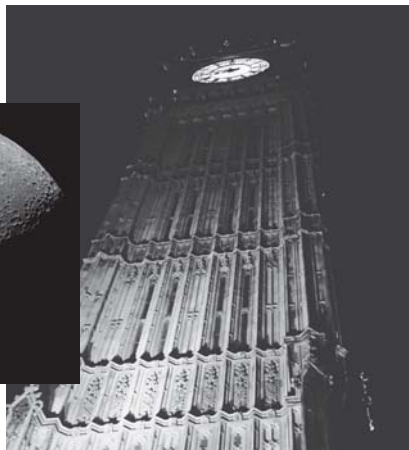
- for friendly, expert advice contact Steve Innes

Mobile: 07774 234294 Office: 01923 261361 Email: shotsx@yahoo.co.uk



Focus on Simon Deacon

Local man Simon Deacon is passionate about wildlife and keeping our countryside intact. A former pupil of Park Street and Townsend Schools, Simon's interest in photography was sparked by a camera for Christmas when he was a teenager. Photography stayed a hobby until Covid when Simon had more time to devote to taking pictures locally and he invested in better lenses and created a social media platform - Simon D Photography on Instagram and Simond_photos44 on Facebook. He has sold canvasses of his work and made photobooks for clients. He has won competitions in "Digital Camera World" enabling him to upgrade his equipment.

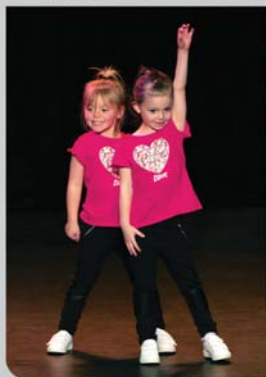


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Young At Heart updates



Hilary Beattie from Kraft

Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month at Park Street Village Hall from 2-4pm, the group has enjoyed a variety of talks and demonstrations from card making by Hilary from Kraft Stationers; U3A; Marquetry; A history of coffee with tastings; St Alban's Historical Society and Gardening from SSGC. Future talks include The Talking Newspaper, Able2enable, Bee Keeping and CPR.

A cup of tea and delicious cakes are available free of charge.

If you would like a lift, please call Pam on 872020.

Useful Information For Pensioners

Age UK Hertfordshire is launching a new handyperson and gardening service in Hertfordshire, available to all older people living in Herts. All handypersons and gardeners have had a DBS check, are fully insured, and will arrive with the equipment needed to complete the job safely and to a high standard. This service costs £25 per hour, with a minimum of 1 hour per visit. More information about gardener service <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire/our-services/gardener/> The handyperson service <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/hertfordshire/our-services/handyperson/> Call Carla to book this service or for more information-07951 105370

Not everyone is online, if you have older family and friends who you think could benefit from some advice and support around paying the bills right now, please talk to them or encourage them to contact Herts Help on 0300 123 4044. For more info, visit: hertfordshire.gov.uk/costofliving

Melanie Taylor
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Sew Keen!

Connecting Threads are a friendly group of about forty people who have been together for over twenty years, meeting monthly on the second Wednesday of the month in the evening and Saturdays to promote interest in all needlework and textile crafts, especially patchwork and quilting. Meetings are held in the Refectory at Haberdasher Aske School for Boys, Butterfly Lane, Elstree where there are sufficient sockets for all the sewing machines!

The club is affiliated to the Quilters Guild, Region 7. Membership is £25 per year.



The committee of eight run the club and events and organise outside speakers and social evenings and outings, including a coach trip to the Festival of Quilts at the NEC.



Pat & Anne holding a quilt made from Anne's husband's shirts

Saturday meetings may involve professional tutors or charity projects for their nominated cause. Keech Hospice benefitted from Moses basket quilts, larger quilts, bright cushions for teenagers' bedrooms and lap quilts for wheelchair users.

If you would like to come along to a session, please give Pat a call on 01727 568057.

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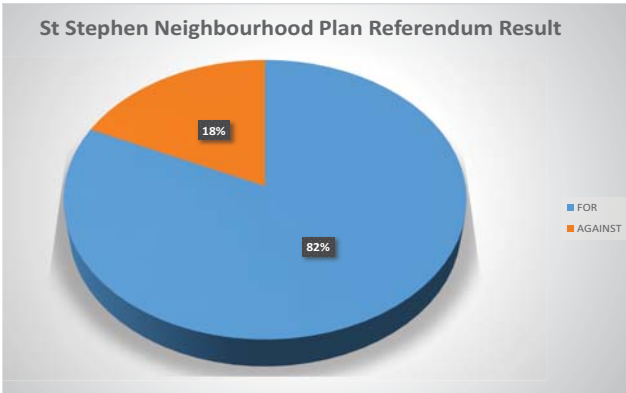
St Stephen Neighbourhood Plan wins approval of voters

By Rod Harman

Local residents have given their overwhelming support for the St Stephen Parish Neighbourhood Plan in what our Red-Top tabloids would most certainly describe as a landslide victory. The vote - or to be more specific, Referendum, was held concurrent with May's District Council elections.

Of those voting, a resounding 82% gave their support to the Plan, with just 18% dissenting. The result meant that the Plan was finally rubberstamped and became legislated by St Albans City and District Council's 'Full Council' in July.

From that point, St Albans (SADC) will 'own the Plan' and all future planning applications in Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street will be measured against must comply with its embedded policies.



The Plan's adoption also means that input from St Stephen Parish Council on planning applications will carry more weight than was previously the case.

St Stephen Parish Councillor Bill Pryce, who heads up the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, commented: "It's pleasing that the hard work put in by those local residents who have been beavering away compiling the Plan over the last seven years has now been rewarded.

It's also validation of residents' belief that the Plan will be of long-term benefit to the community, not only in terms of development but also about all the other aspects of the Plan which will impact upon our lives.

The only regret is that the proposed site allocations, included in the early drafts of the Plan, could not be included in the final version due to the delay of the emerging St Albans Local Plan.

Nevertheless, the Plan remains a powerful weapon in ensuring that the Parish puts the concerns and the needs of its residents to the fore".

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Readers of The Watford Observer nominated Burston Garden Centre as their "Love Local Retailer".

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Fly Tipping

by Joanna McManus



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Park Street Neighbourhood Watch



Join us at our Annual General Meeting followed by cheese and wine on the 26th October at 7:00pm at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Frogmore.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE PROVIDED BY YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM. WE ARE AN ACTIVE GROUP WITHIN THE AREA AND WOULD WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS TO JOIN US.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE GO TO

WWW.OWL.CO.UK

OR EMAIL

PSNHW@YAHOO.CO.UK

WHEN WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CHAT



Park Street Jubilee Fete

On a gloriously sunny day, manned by four of our committee, we set up our PSNW stall with stickers, key rings, wristbands, purse safety bells, pens and loads of freebies for both adults and children, together with information leaflets and welcome packs, kindly provided by Herts. Police.



The event was very well attended with many people coming from well outside the area and we enjoyed chatting with them and encouraging them to join Neighbourhood Watches by holding a free raffle with a prize of £50, open to all comers and obtaining their details. From this we managed to recruit 35 new members out of the 144 people who entered the free draw which was won by a lady who was the sister of a Park Street resident.

It was a pleasure to take part in this exceptional historical event and seeing everyone enjoying picnics and visiting all the various stalls.



In May and June, we had many complaints of very noisy motorcycle rides along the A405 between Park Street and The Noke roundabouts, usually between 11pm and midnight. These were passed to our police colleagues at a priority-setting meeting and it has been agreed that this will be a priority in the next quarter alongside warning riders of e-scooters of the dangers attached to this illegal activity. In 2020 to 2021, casualties increased by 181% and deaths by 800%.

PSNHW Public Meeting

The first meeting since the Covid pandemic began took place on 10th May 2022. Chairman Dennis Cowen welcomed the attendees present and outlined the agenda for the evening.

PCSO Daniel Huntley from Herts. Police shared three focus aims for policing in the area.

- 1 To reduce ASB motorbikes and cars**
- 2 Reduce speeding motorists and deal with e-scooters**
- 3 ASB and drug taking in targeted areas.**



He gave an update on local crime and answered several questions from the audience.



Our guest speaker for the evening was Philippa Radford-Hancock from the British Red Cross. She gave a fascinating and informative talk on the work of the Red Cross and its many facets of humanitarian support and service around the globe.



Neighbourhood Watch....

It is by far the biggest humanitarian organisation worldwide and is now established in 192 countries with over 14 million volunteers.

It was founded to protect human life and health, ensure respect for all human beings and to prevent and alleviate human suffering. As a non-religious and non-political organisation its neutrality ensures it is accepted as non-partisan in difficult areas of conflict. It never operates through government agencies but deals directly to protect all civilians in peril.

In the final part of the meeting Dennis outlined the local history of Park Street NHW since it was founded over 40 years ago. From a faltering start it now covers all the Park Street area. He introduced the new PSNW handy to keep leaflet which has been distributed to every Park Street household.



Join us for FREE at www.OWL.co.uk

Village Events



A selection of photos from our Annual Easter Treasure Trail where over 70 children followed clues leading to their prize!



A wonderful firework display and lighting of the beacon at the end of St Stephen's Jubilee celebrations at Greenwood Park



Armed Forces Day returned to St Stephen's in July



Phil Escritt from The Ramblers Association addresses the P.S.R.A. AGM in April



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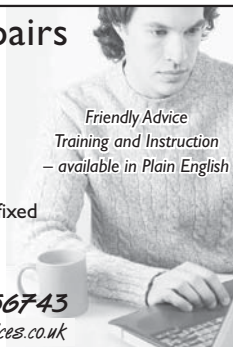
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News from How Wood School



The academic year 2021 to 2022 has seen a period of adjustment as the children returned to a more normal school life following the COVID pandemic. Needless to say,



the How Wood School community has seized every chance to learn, grow and enjoy all that post COVID life has to offer.

As an integral part of the Park Street community, we have welcomed opportunities to support local events: Rueben and Sophie, Year 6 pupils, represented How Wood School at the Park Street Remembrance Service, laying a wreath and reciting a poem; our choir sang beautifully at the PSRA How Wood Shops Christmas Lights event in December; we opened our doors as a polling station for the first time this year; local residents attended our summer fair and enjoyed the fun-filled afternoon which was lovely to see.

The children have enjoyed extended learning and enrichment opportunities including wonderful performances from the Electric Umbrella Orchestra and visits to Windsor Castle, Cadbury World and the British Museum. Our children also experienced residential trips to Hudnall Park (Year 4), PGL (Year 5), the Isle of Wight (Year 6) and new for 2022, a Year 3 one-night sleepover in school!

Most recently we had the pleasure of welcoming Daniel Fogg the swimmer who represented England in the 2012 Olympics, and Louise Fiddes, the British Paralympic swimmer who is representing England in the Commonwealth Games.

It is a privilege to be part of such a wonderful community and the children, parents, staff and governors of How Wood School will continue to develop and nurture our strong community links into the future.



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Let's Celebrate Park Street Rec! *by Andy Cairns*



The huge numbers enjoying the Queen's Platinum Jubilee picnic in the park showed how great an asset the recreation ground is to Park Street. Being at the heart of a village event, it had the feel of a village green.

In fact, the sports ground has long been the centre of village celebrations. According to Cyril Martin's Park Street history books, Queen Victoria's golden jubilee was celebrated in the old sports ground near the watercress beds in Burydell Lane. These celebrations included a brass band from Pinner, a tea tent with free drink and food and a series of sports events including a tug of war between marrieds and singles, races over different distances from 100 yards to a mile, including one specifically for over 50s, and a three-legged race.

But Burydell can be wet and boggy, and the playing fields have been on the current site in Park Street Lane since 1929 after two sisters, Mary and Kate Oliver, donated the parcel of land that had once been part of Frogmore Farm. They gave the land to the village in perpetuity subject to a covenant that it be developed for a playing field and recreation ground. As well as providing pitches for football and cricket it's also a social space for runners and dog walkers as well as being a space for people to just take a break.

For many years the area was managed by St Albans District Council. In 2008, St Stephen Parish Council were handed a 50 -year lease and since then there have been significant enhancements with raised flower beds, a row of trees planted inside the railings on Park Street

Lane, hanging baskets on the railings, outdoor exercise equipment, new paving by the pavilion and huge efforts to improve the cricket and football pitches. The cricket pitch, formerly one of the worst in the area, has since received a special award from Hertfordshire Cricket Association as recognition of the high standard of the wicket. And the council grounds team do a great job keeping the park clean and tidying up litter.

There's now a chance to build on these improvements with the announcement that the district council is transferring ownership of the Recreation Ground to the Parish Council. "It's a great opportunity for us," said St Stephen Parish Council chairman Bill Pryce. "We have plans for further improvements to the grounds, pavilion and particularly to the children's play area." Cllr Pryce insists the recent changes to the playground were just a start and admits: "There's still much to do." A recent survey for the National Parks Foundation found that 90% of families with children under 5 used their local park at least once a month, so the play area would seem to be a priority.

The change in ownership also offers an opportunity for those who use the recreation ground to have greater involvement in how it's run and how it's used. There's been a big growth across the country in Friends of Parks associations where local residents work with and lobby authorities to carry out improvements. Park Foundations, originally started in the USA, are growing across the UK offering additional support to local councils beyond regular maintenance. There's already some unofficial local involvement with guerrilla gardening groups but a Friends of Park Street Rec group might include parents who lobby for better playground equipment and raise money for a picnic bench in the play area.

With the Recreation Ground's centenary just seven years away and the Parish Council welcoming more local involvement, it seems the perfect time to set up such a group and ensure the park remains an asset for future generations. Who knows, they might even organise an event to match Victoria's Golden Jubilee with live bands, tug of wars and three-legged races.

Guerrilla Gardening Anyone? Your Flowerbed Needs You! *By Nuala Webb*

Have you noticed the flowerbed in Park Street Rec – near the railway bridge, framed by old railway sleepers? It has been there a long time, and the roses and shrubs are real survivors and are beautiful– but more recently they have suffered from neglect, apart from what looked like savaging by a hedge-trimmer! This does nothing to stop the nettles, grasses and other weeds from choking the borders. Tricia has been guerrilla gardening on the bridge plot, and we wondered if there were any other intrepid and budding guerrilla gardeners out there who could weed and occasionally prune the bed a couple of times a year?

Can we put new beds in to replace those removed near the car park as new bollards have been installed?

Anyone interested please contact Tricia on 07816 873010

Burston's Gardening Tips

by Joanna McManus

September

As we leave the warmer months behind, hoping for an Indian summer this is a great time to add some late season colour with Anemone, Dahlia, ornamental grasses and Nerines. Perhaps, if you have not already done so, plant a tree for the jubilee. There are lots of trees suitable for all gardens, even if it's just a little grafted one, or a little conifer in a pot. It's a great thing to do and a perfect year too!

Don't be afraid to buy plants that are not in flower either, getting them in to the ground now will give them a great opportunity to start putting down roots before the



cold sets in and as soon as it is warm enough, carry on growing into fabulous specimens. Clematis would be a great example of this. Just remember to cut them to a few inches in the spring not the autumn, as the cold can set in on them.

The late flowering Hydrangea Paniculata is looking fabulous at this time of year too. They have conical flowers usually in a creamy colour and many turn to be a pink shade as the temperature drops.

October

Gloves and scarves are coming out of the cupboard and with the rainy days, you may think that the plants don't need watering. This time of the year is one of the worst for plants to suffer from drought.

Evergreen plants such as Camellia and Rhododendrons are usually getting their buds prepared so they need water to help with this. Always water at the base of the plant.



There should be a good supply of Pansy and Viola at the garden centres now, which will really lift your planters and baskets as the summer bedding fades away with the cooler weather.

Cyclamen are always a favourite, although they will only last until the temperature drops to 1 or 2 degrees, so for that reason they are better in a sheltered spot.

While all this is happening in the garden, don't forget to leave places for the wildlife to overwinter. Resist the temptation to be too tidy, as they are very adaptable at turning untidy corners in to their home for the winter. They will benefit your garden in the long run by keeping the aphid population under control in the spring and summer.



Some species are suffering. Hedgehogs are finding it hard to go from garden to garden with all the fences that are being put up. If it's possible, leave some gaps at the base of your fence and they will be able to move freely.

If you are feeding the birds, then remember to clean out the bird feeders to get them ready for the busy winter season ahead. Food with a high fat content is ideal and if they have added mealworms, they will be all the happier!

November

If your lawn is looking a bit mossy, it could be worth aerating it for the last time before the winter. This is a good workout on a sunny autumn day! If you can, apply a lawn autumnal dressing which will assist the lawn until the spring.

Another job for this month would be a little house keeping in the shed. Have a look at your tools and give them a clean with some water and an appropriate cleaner such as Jeyes fluid. Dry them well and they will be ready to use in the spring.

If you have a greenhouse, this is also a good time to clear it out to make room for anything that needs overwintering. It will also benefit from a deep clean. Jeyes fluid is good for this too, remember to read the dilution rates for the job you are tackling. If you don't have a greenhouse, then you could move pots nearer to the house wall as this will offer some protection from the elements and gain a little warmth from the house. Alternatively, you can wrap the pot in bubble wrap to keep those roots toasty for the

winter (don't cover the plant though as it will sweat and dry out)

December

For a low maintenance garden, having a few evergreen plants will ensure that you have something good to look at during the winter months. An evergreen Jasmine, such as *Trachelospermum Jasminoides*, is a great choice. It will provide fragrant flowers in the summer and during the winter it is equally as beautiful, as the green leaves will turn a beautiful red as the cold hits them.

Another unusual evergreen is *Nandina Domestica*. This has the delicate look of tiered branches. The small white flowers in the summer turn into little orange berries in the autumn which are then followed by the green leaves turning a subtle shade of red in the winter

Perhaps get into the spirit of the season by potting- up a rooted Christmas tree into a decorative pot and place near to the front door. Pop some battery lights on and this will really brighten up the garden on a dark wintery night.

January

With the festivities over this can seem a quiet month. However, with the New Year comes hope for the year ahead and making plans for the warmer weather... time to be looking at what seeds you may wish to sow for edible or ornamental plants.



If you missed out on buying the dry bulbs in the autumn, then garden centres will be getting stock of growing spring bulbs this month. They are great for pots and borders!

Summer flowering dry bulbs should also be available to buy now such as Lilies, *Gladiolus*, *Nerine*. Also, *Dahlia* and *Begonia Corms*. They can't be planted outside just yet but the planting schedules are on the packet.

'Grow your own' was a big hit over the lockdown months and it is likely to be the same this season. Seed potatoes will also be in store now. Put them into a supportive box such as an old egg box, this will allow the eyes, which produce the shoots, to get maximum light and grow nice and strong. This process is called chitting. Don't plant out until the risk of frost has gone – usually mid -May.

It would also be a good time to gather your seed trays and propagation equipment together and make sure it is all clean and in good condition, ready for when you make you get sowing!

If you have apple and pear trees in the garden, this is the perfect month for pruning them as these trees are dormant. Make sure to check for any damaged branches or if any are crossing each other; some may need to be pruned out, as this will open the crown of the tree and let maximum air flow and light in to discourage pests and diseases.

February

Vegetable seed growing should be underway by now, especially if you have a greenhouse. Beans, lettuce and peas can all be sown now to be ready for the season ahead. If you fancy growing your own annual plants, then many can be sown now including sweet peas. If you have not



thought about feeding your plants during the growing season before, this is the time to see what nutrients best suit your plants. If in doubt, always ask an expert.

Seaweed is an excellent plant stimulant, seaweed and sequestered iron is amazing for all the acidic loving plants such as *Azaleas*, *Rhododendrons*, *Camellia*, *Magnolias* etc. Tomato fertiliser is a high potash-based food, ideal for all fruiting and flowering plants once they have the first flowers set. It is important to get the right compost for your plant. Always ask someone with good plant knowledge if you are unsure, as the wrong compost could do damage to your plants in the long run. 2023 will see an increase in the range of peat-free composts available, which can only benefit the environment.

More than anything, enjoy your garden! It's an extension of your house and brings many benefits to daily life - for example, space for children to learn, explore and have fun; plus physical and mental wellbeing for the whole family.



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Christy Mitchell moved to Chiswell Green from central St. Albans when she was expecting her daughter Lilah who is now 11 months old. Pushing Lilah round Greenwood Park every day gave Christy the idea of creating a Communal Garden. She asked SSPC if it was a viable idea, and the seed grew from there!

There are four members of the steering group but local residents who are interested in green spaces, gardening and wildlife are encouraged to join.

There is an agreement in principle for such a community garden in Greenwood Park subject to community approval. The proposed plot is 40m by 40m.

Your help is needed to design the garden perhaps as a haven for wildlife, vegetable growing or a peaceful oasis-download the contest pack at www.growchiswellgreen.org Closing date is Sept 30th.and follow the group on Instagram and Facebook @GrowChiswellGreen.

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KEEP CHISWELL GREEN

Since April we have delivered nearly 2,500 leaflets to all the properties in Chiswell Green and beyond, informing residents of the threats to the Green Belt in Chiswell Green and the impact these would have on the existing village and further. Our banners and posters have been evident along the Watford Road and at the entrance to Greenwood Park. We now have our own website, Facebook page and Instagram account. We have had articles written about us in the Herts Advertiser and by the CPRE (Campaign for Rural England), and we have formed links with other residents' associations and greenbelt groups, some of whom are fighting Cala Homes in other parts of the country. Most importantly, we have met many of you at the excellent Jubilee celebration event at Greenwood Park or while canvassing door-to-door as we have called to nearly 1,000 homes in Chiswell Green to ask for support in objecting to the current inappropriate applications to build on our Green Belt. We have been enormously encouraged by the generosity of your donations (now about £7,500) and the warm and grateful responses which we have received. Our canvassing tells us that about 98% of the residents in Chiswell Green oppose these developments.

Who is "Keep Chiswell Green" and what have we been doing? Well, we are a very small number of residents who have formed a committee to plan and co-ordinate a response on behalf of the local community to the planning applications to build on our Green Belt. We are totally non-political – protecting our Green Belt is not a political issue, or rather it is a common issue across all political ideologies. We have each lived in Chiswell Green (and one in Park Street) for more than ten years, some of us were born and have lived here all our lives. Most of our children have gone to school locally. Between us, we have experience in logistics, advertising, engineering, cookery, IT, property management, and accountancy. We meet weekly or fortnightly, depending on need and availability, to discuss what is happening and what our next steps should be. We are all volunteers who are giving up the little free time we have for this cause. The one element that defines us all is the belief that by being pro-active, we can change what happens – we can stop the damage that would be done to our village and to our quality of life if these



proposed developments were to go ahead.

With this mindset, we encouraged local residents to object to the Cala Homes development which resulted in approximately 1,500 objections being received by the planning department. We submitted a lengthy, formal response to the planning application which combined the advice of our planning consultant and the many valid points raised. In so doing, we earned the right for local residents to have extra representation at the planning decision meeting in addition to our local councillor. Please do look at our full response, available on the Council's planning portal under 27th June - Keep Chiswell Green and on our website at www.KeepChiswellGreen.org

The temporarily dormant application by Steve Collins for the land to the north of Chiswell Green Lane (opposite the Rose Gardens) is known locally as the Polo Fields (after the Polo Club that operated there occasionally). When Keep Chiswell Green came into being, this application was active and action by residents in Cherry Hill had already resulted in a large number of objections. The case planning officer recommended that the application be refused so the applicant withdrew the application in order to supplement their application with further information. This application has now re-opened, with a further formal consultation period finishing on 5th August. While there were a very good number of objections to the application in its first formal consultation period, it is critical that the residents of Chiswell Green mount another solid objection to this application too. Many of the issues are the same as for Cala Homes – it's an application to build on a Green Belt site which has not been identified by the Council for development. If you have already objected in the first consultation, you do not need to object again unless you would like to say something different. Keep Chiswell Green is in the process of formulating a formal response to this application which will be available to view via the Council's planning portal and again on our website after the

closing date for comments. However, individual objections are very important. If you would like to object to this application personally, information on how to object can be found on our website at www.KeepChiswellGreen.org or you can object directly on the planning portal under application number 5/2021/3194.

In the meantime, we have also opened a petition with the Petition Parliament website, asking the Government to suspend all planning decisions nationally regarding major developments on Green Belt land. Across the country, there are many communities in the same position; in areas where there is no up-to-date Local Plan to control how many and what sort of houses should be built and where, developers are applying to build large developments on Green Belt land, knowing that many Local Councils have not met their Government-imposed housing targets and that the Planning Inspectorate may permit them to build. However, there is growing public and political opinion that the Government's housing targets are out-of-date and should be reduced in many areas. It may be, therefore, that these developments are unnecessary, but once the Green Belt is built on, it's gone forever. Our petition asks the Government to pause decisions on these major planning applications so that housing targets can be updated and incorporated into Local Plans. Planning applications for major developments can then be assessed by local planning authorities against up-to-date information about housing needs. We are asking all local residents to sign this petition which can be viewed and signed at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/616891>

Butterfly World closed in 2015 but that there are many businesses now operating from this site in contravention of the original planning conditions of the Butterfly World - that the site should be returned to Green Belt should Butterfly World ever cease to trade. Clearly, this has not happened. Over many years, residents have only received evasive responses from the Local Council about what action is being taken, if any, to enforce these original planning conditions and to stop the illegal operation of businesses on this site. Keep Chiswell Green is undertaking to persistently pursue the Local Council until we have discovered exactly what is being done to return this site to Green Belt.

So far, we have spent money on advertising (leaflets, banners) and on the services of a very well respected planning consultant, Jed Griffiths, who is helping us with the formal responses to the two applications on Chiswell Green Lane. We had initially thought we would need to pay for surveys to be carried out, but the advice we have so far obtained from ecologists and other experts has been given free of charge.

For updates on what is happening on these campaigns, as well as relevant news and articles, please go to www.keepchiswellgreen.org where you can also join our WhatsApp group.

If you are interested in helping stop the inappropriate and opportunistic development of the Green Belt in Chiswell Green, please do contact us. Whether you can offer us half an hour or more, distributing leaflets, analysing documents or encouraging people to sign our petition, there is plenty to do and we would love to hear from you via the "contact" page on our website www.KeepChiswellGreen.org

Together, we can Keep Chiswell Green !

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Club News



(Formerly St. Stephens Horticultural Society)

www.ststephensgardeningclub.co.uk

The Club has been busy over the Spring and Summer with events enjoyed by Chiswell Green, Park Street and Bricket Wood gardeners. Our Annual Show at Greenwood Park took place in August, an opportunity to show off veg, fruit, flowers, home produce, handicrafts, and photographs. Competitive yes, but also a time to have tea and cake and just enjoy a relaxing afternoon.

The Trading Hut in Drop Lane, Bricket Wood, selling garden supplies and bird food will be open on Saturdays, 2pm to 4pm until October, reopening in February. Whether you have an allotment or enjoy gardening at home we welcome new members and are always on the hunt for volunteers to help at our events, as well as Committee Members to help foster new ideas. The demand on any volunteer is not onerous, just an hour or two every so often, at your convenience. To enquire contact Graham Wilson on 01727 872718



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St Albans Marquetry Group *by Mike Hale Publicity Officer*

Here we are well into 2022, but let's be honest none of us would have dared write a script like it. We would have been very content just to put 2021 behind us and begin to start to "live a little", but no, that would be too simple. On the plus side of course, we have had Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an extra Bank holiday, and for those of us lucky enough, as well as brave enough, there is the excitement of holidays to look forward to.

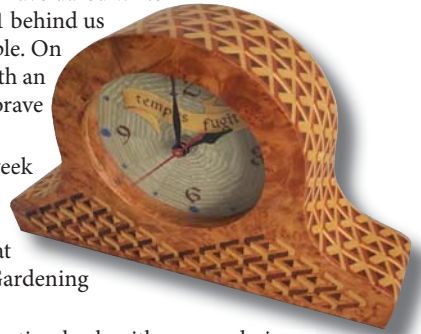
We had a busy start to the year with an extremely successful week at Hatfield House Living Crafts Show, as well as participating in PSRA's Platinum Jubilee and Vintage Gala which was great fun. I also gave a short presentation and talk to the PSRA "Young at Heart" group in June. We also took part in the St Stephens' Gardening Club Annual Show at Greenwood Park in August.

The club has a short summer recess during July and August starting back with renewed vigour in early September, although a lot of members do continue to work at home in their spare time over the summer (at least I hope they do as we have an inter club competition in early October!).

I thought you might like this clock picture from Ivor Bagley, one of our more experienced members. The choice of veneer as well as the intricate and accurate cutting needed to achieve such a detail pattern on both the clock face and the case are quite simply exquisite. The work involved in the lettering is on yet another skill level.

As we approach autumn, maybe some of you are looking for a hobby to while away those winter evenings rather than being glued to that big square box in the corner of the lounge. Why not give marquetry a try? We offer a very warm welcome at our club meetings and Ivor is our principal teacher so you would be learning from one of the best. New members are the life blood of a small club like ours. Don't be put off by lack of experience, we provide the training required along with the basic equipment to get started. It really is an inexpensive hobby.

We meet every Wednesday evening between 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm at Greenwood Park Community Centre. If you think you would like to give it a try, please call Corrine Barnaby on 07561 111278.



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Chiswell Green U3A main meetings, are held once a month in Greenwood Park Community Centre. Most of our members come from Chiswell Green, Park Street and Bricket Wood, but we also have members from further afield. We invite a speaker on all sorts of interesting subjects, provide refreshments, hold a raffle and generally have a couple of sociable hours together. We also meet in smaller, 'interest groups' in halls, homes and outdoors for members to enjoy pastimes and interests they have in common. These groups allow us to share knowledge, skills, and experience, or just have fun. We currently have some 50 interest groups, so you can usually find what you are looking for, including arts, dance, yoga, foreign languages, London and local walks, sailing, trips, and visits. If you find there isn't a group that you would like to join, you can easily start a new one – all that is needed is enthusiasm and willingness to be involved – and we shall support you.

Look us up on the Chiswell Green u3a website and if you are interested, but not sure about joining, come along to one of our main meetings on the first Thursday of the month, 10.00 to 12.00, to see what we're about before you decide. We'd love to see you!

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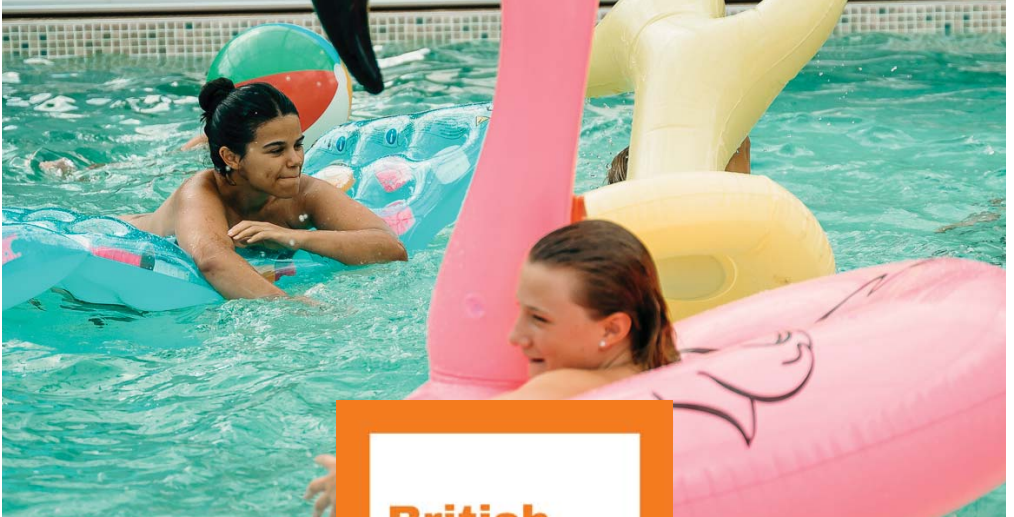
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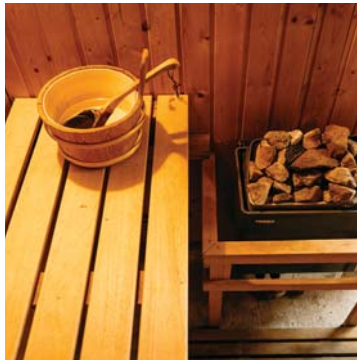
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FOR MORE INFO: BOUNCEFITBODY.COM/CHISWELLGREEN



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Smart Doorbells



At the murder trial of Collin Reeves in June he was recorded scaling a fence and jumping into the back garden belonging to Stephen and Jennifer Chapple before entering the house and murdering them both. He was also recorded on the doorbell footage, shown to the jury, arguing with the Chapples about parking problems on their estate, which sparked the animosity.

The conviction of PC Wayne Couzens for the murder of Sarah Everard in 2021 was helped by doorbell footage and bus dashcam recordings which traced her last movements.

The Police have introduced a digital intelligence training module, Operation Modify, to teach officers how to use footage to enable convictions.

Over the past three years police have failed to solve a single burglary in almost half of Britain's neighbourhoods. As one in five people own the smart device, could those figures improve?

Ring, the market leader, was sold to Amazon in 2018. Its doorbells cost from £89.99 compared to £129.99 for a Google Nest. Subscription plans cost from £2.50 or £8 a month.

Both types save video data for thirty days and can be shared on a smartphone app.

There are some concerns. A doctor in Oxford sued her next-door neighbour, whose devices were trained on her home, as he "unjustifiably invaded" her privacy. He was fined £100,000 for breaking data laws and harassment.

Smart doorbells can be wired to a power source, whilst others have a rechargeable battery. All have two-way talk facility and record movements using infrared at night. Alerts are triggered when the camera detects movement, and these images are recorded for a monthly fee. There is a free app where you can view a video stream of the person at your door.

Of the many different models, the majority have 160 degrees horizontal and 90 degrees vertical images.

Google Nest have two options, battery powered or wired, whereas Amazon's Ring have a greater variety of models.

Google stores three hours footage free, otherwise there is a charge.

Both can be paired with Alexa or Google Assistant.

If you have secured your doorbell with security screws and it is stolen it will be replaced free of charge.

A lot of people feel more secure knowing that they have these devices but if you see PSRA members delivering your magazine, please don't ignore us when we collect your subs!!!!

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TALKING NEWSPAPER

Your local Talking Newspaper ('SADTN') helps to keep visually impaired residents in touch with what is happening in St Albans, Harpenden, Park Street, and the surrounding communities. Do you know of anyone who would benefit from this scheme? We send our weekly audio programme to more than ninety local listeners, who have come to us through recommendations from current listeners, by word-of-mouth or reference by care homes, GP practices, opticians, clinics, seniors' clubs etc. Our programmes include news, stories and letters from the Herts Advertiser, St Albans & Harpenden Review and local newsletters, articles from Hertfordshire Life Magazine, interviews with local 'celebrities', previews of local events, audiobook discussions and exercise sessions devised for seniors. The "newspaper" is delivered and returned free to listeners by Royal Mail- 'Articles for the Blind' on a memory stick which they listen to through an easy-to-use player (provided by SADTN on free loan) or their own computer/tablet. Volunteers record the news programmes and articles whilst others handle the production, copying and distribution. Our programmes can also be enjoyed on the 'Listen Online' page on our website and on the free app "Talking Newspaper" in the East of England section. As a registered charity, active since 1974, and run entirely by volunteers, SADTN is funded through gifts, donations, street collections and bequests. Our website explains how new listeners can join and how new volunteers can offer to help. In 2019, SADTN was honoured to be presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service by The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. (The QAVS is the MBE equivalent for a voluntary group.) In the same year, we received the Mayor of St Albans and District's Special Recognition Award for "outstanding organisations that make a positive contribution to the local community" and, in 2021, the Lord Lieutenant's 'Heroes of Hertfordshire Award' for having continued our weekly service without a break throughout the pandemic.

Contact: info@sadtn.org.uk Website: www.sadtn.org.uk

Correspondence from 141st edition

Jon Stock from Dell Rise contacted me regarding an interview with Gary Field which mentioned Greenwood Park. Jon was Chair of the Parish council when the land was purchased in the 1970's.

The local area had been scoured for a suitable place for recreational activities and funds raised through an unpopular rise in the rates with three pence in the pound earmarked for the project. This land was of poor quality for farming, but in receipt of subsidy from HCC. The council attempted to buy the land by compulsory purchase but were constantly rebuffed by the District Council who ignored repeated requests from the Parish and eventually the land was put up for auction. The Parish sent two councillors to bid a set amount for the land, but on arrival were questioned by three "bidders" who attempted to get the auction stopped but were advised it was a public auction.

It appears that the three bidders had divided the entire property into three sections but were outwitted by the local councillors.

The name of the park was a result of a competition. It incorporates a part of each of the wards-Chiswell GREEN, How WOOD and PARK Street. Jon believes that it is the only Parish Council to undertake such a venture.



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All Change On The Abbey Line

by Sandy Walkington, Chair Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership



It's time to take a second look at The Abbey Flyer!

We have seen the potential impact of climate change with this summer's heat wave and warnings from experts that things will get worse. 'Active travel' – walking, cycling or a combination of those with carbon-free public transport is going to be more and more important. Railways will play a key role, and we have our very own electrified railway on our doorstep serving our local communities.

There are beautiful new Class 350 trains, which whisk you in silent comfort to and from Watford and St Albans and in much greater luxury than nearby Thameslink. Stations have been enhanced with new waiting facilities. Volunteers – not least the Park Street Residents' Association – make sure there are flowers and the stations look trim.

It is perfect now for a day out with the children or for going into Watford or St Albans without the worry of parking.

A new timetable is being introduced in December. While

maintaining the current morning and evening peak service, the off-peak service is being changed to a 'clock-face service'. This means that the trains will arrive at the stations along the line at the same time each hour, far easier for people to remember.

These new clock-face timings will also allow better connections at Watford Junction, not just south to London but also turning right to go north. As rail travel rebalances to be less focused on commuter travel and with a greater preponderance of leisure use, more and more people want to go to Milton Keynes, Birmingham and further north and this new timetable will mean less waiting around at Watford.

The biggest news is that there will be a new late-night service in both directions. The last train will leave Watford at 10.45 pm and then return from St Albans at 11.08 pm. With one bound, Park Street and Bricket Wood residents will be able to eat out or go to the theatre in Watford and St Albans and get there and back by train.

We hope to celebrate with a Father Christmas Special.

The other exciting news is what is happening at Bricket Wood Station. The Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust has raised the money to convert the station building into an 'Edwardian-feel' restaurant and café. Work is well underway, a grand opening is planned, the beautiful station building will become a destination in its own right as well as a lovely place to start and finish walks on Bricket Wood Common or cycle rides on the local lanes. And of course you can walk or cycle in one direction and come back by train.

The Abbey Line has had a few problematic years with the impacts of Covid and recent industrial action. This will pass and we hope to see users flock back to the service.

The Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership exists to promote usage of the line and the involvement of local groups and communities in their railway. Volunteers adopt the stations and work to enhance them. Please do visit our website to keep updated on news about the line. And get in touch if you would like to get involved

– www.abbeylinecommunityrail.org.uk It's one of Britain's great little railways and it is ours to cherish and support.



Are you aged 40 -74? Find out about a FREE NHS Health Check near you. Even though you might be feeling great, if you're over forty you may be at risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetes or dementia. A FREE NHS Health Check can help you reduce these risks and make sure that you stay healthy. To check if you're eligible and to book visit <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/HealthCheckRegistration/>

Details are correct, to the best of our knowledge, at press time. Please notify Joy at info@psra.org.uk of any changes or if any membership subscriptions, advanced booking or entrance fees apply. If you wish to attend an event, please check in advance with the organiser.

GROUPS & EVENTS

1ST PARK STREET SCOUT GROUP

Beavers: 6–8 years Thursdays and Fridays

Cubs: 8–10 years Mondays and Tuesdays

Scouts: 10–14 years Thursdays

www.parkstreetscouts.co.uk

ABBEY FLYER USERS' GROUP (ABFLY)

www.abfly.org.uk

ABBEY VIEW GOLF SOCIETY

Tues and Thurs mornings 8am-12 noon at 9-hole course near Westminster Lodge. All abilities.

Allan Green-abbeyviewgolf@gmail.com

ALBAN LACEMAKERS

Meets Fridays at Marshalwick Community Centre.

» Margaret Pankhurst 01582 832817

www.albanlacemakers.org.uk

BADMINTON CLUB

Meets 7.30-9.00pm Wednesdays, Greenwood Park Friendly Non-league Club, no beginners

» James: 852729

BRICKET WOOD ART CLUB

www.bricketwoodartclub.co.uk

BRICKET WOOD & DISTRICT JEWISH

SOCIAL CIRCLE.(WHICH COVERS PARK STREET)

Website: bwdjsc.org Chairman is Stuart Lewis

BURYDELL LANE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

» Pat Solomons: (01923) 671277;

jpatbricketwood@sky.com

CHAIR YOGA

Friday 11.15 -12.15 Park Street Village Hall

» Stacey Landau :07563 577666

CHISWELL GREEN UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A)

Meet 10am first Thursday of the month, Greenwood Park Community Centre.

» Martin Melzack: (812670);

<http://u3asites.org.uk/chiswell-green>

FELLAS FITNESS

Exercise group for men ages 50+ (£3.50),

8.30–9.30am, Tuesdays & Fridays

• Greenwood Park Community Centre

» Colin Upjohn: chupjohn@virginmedia.com

FROGMORE CRICKET CLUB

New members welcome -League men, adults, junior

boys and girls

» Jemile (07788 662882)

www.frogmore.play-cricket.com

GIRLGUIDING ST ALBANS SOUTH DISTRICT PARK STREET

Rainbows 5-7 years – Thursdays

Brownies 7–10 years – Thursdays

Guides 10–14 years – Tuesdays

The Senior Section 14–25 years – Tuesdays

District Commissioner

Roselle Ambrose 0774 2781699

GREENWOOD PARK

To book Greenwood Park or The Parish Centre

» 01923 681443 bookings@ststephen-pc.gov.uk

Ground bookings:

sportsadmin@ststephen-pc.org.uk

GREENWOOD PARK CRICKET CLUB

League cricket Saturdays, friendlies Sundays

» www.greenwoodpark.play-cricket.com

HANDLEY PAGE ASSOCIATION

» Chris Scivyer: (873491);

cscivyer@btinternet.com

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, FROGMORE

Welcome you to our Sunday services at 09.00 &

10.45. The service at 09.00 is more traditional

with no clubs for children. The service at 10.45 is

a lively service for all ages with children's groups

and a crèche area; it is also streamed online. Our

“In Touch” group for those who are 65+meet on

the second and fourth Thursday of every month

in our bright and well equipped parish centre for

food and friendship. Please visit our website at

www.hotfrog.info » 01727 873974/01727 807438

HOW WOOD PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

• Spooners Drive Tel: 768885;

admin@howwood.herts.sch.uk;

LINE DANCING (Mixed ability)

Meets Mondays 1.15pm-2.45pm (£5) Sports Hall,

Greenwood Park Community Centre, Tippendell

Lane. Book in advance.

» Contact 01707 274480 or

email.val.hamby@btoopenworld.com

LOCOMOTIVE CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

Meets 7.30pm 2nd Thursdays September - May

- United Reformed Church, Watford Road
- » Murray Eckett (01442 521540);
murray@mustang100.plus.com

MINDFUL YOGA

Tuesdays 1.30 Vesta Avenue, Weds 7.30 How Wood

- » chittym@aol.com

MOLES VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Meet Wednesdays 8-9pm, Greenwood Park
New Members welcome.

- » Contact Jonathan (07970 783171)
email: jonathan110@gmail.com

PARK STREET VILLAGE HALL – £8-15 p/h

Bookings: » 07500 933235 ;
psvhal22px@virginmedia.com

PARK STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

- Penn Road
- » Annie Hall 01923 404845 ;
psbchurchsecretary@gmail.com

PARK STREET CoFE PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

- Branch Road
- » (872158) ; admin@parkstreet.herts.sch.uk

PARK STREET CAMERA CLUB

- » Dave Hipperson
davehip@btinternet.com

PARK STREET & FROGMORE SOCIETY

- » Jacquie Banfield-Taylor (07792 588892)
psfsarchive@btinternet.com

PARK STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- » psnhw@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH PICKERS (Litter)

- Park Street Recreation Ground Car Park.
- » Dennis Cowan (873365);
park_street_pickers@yahoo.co.uk;

PARK STREET RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

– see page 46

PARK STREET VILLAGE YOUTH FC

- Various age groups (7v7, 9v9, 11v11 a-side
football in the West Herts Youth League.)
- » Nick Lincoln (07714 767064);
nicklincoln@virginmedia.com
www.parkstreetfc.uk

PARK STREET & ST STEPHENS CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Support and Activities for families with children
under 5.

- » Jeanette White: (01923 673698); hertsmere-
children.co.uk/childrenscentres/parkstreet.php

PARKWOOD WOMEN'S CLUB

Meets 8pm Wednesdays.

- Rosewood Court, Grovelands
- » Pam Williams (873775)
stalbanspam@yahoo.co.uk

ST ALBANS & DISTRICT MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Meets 7.30-10pm Wednesdays at Christchurch
Centre, High Oaks Road, St Albans.

- » chairman@stalbansmes.com

ST ALBANS DISTRICT CENTRE FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

- » 852657; enquiries@cvsstalbans.org.uk;

ST ALBANS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

- Park Street & St Stephen's Children Centre,
Mount Pleasant Lane
- » 08444 111444

ST ALBANS & DISTRICT CATS PROTECTION

- » 0845 371 2064

ST ALBANS FARMERS MARKET

8am–2pm, second Sundays

- St Peters Street, St Albans
- » 98367819; markets@stalbans.gov.uk

ST ALBANS FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Meets monthly » stalbansfoe@hotmail.com

ST ALBANS GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

(830713); admin@sagns.org;

ST ALBANS MARQUETRY GROUP

- » Corinne Barnaby (07561 111278)
cojoba@ntlworld.com

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

7.30pm third Thursdays. Parish Office open

9am–5pm. » 01923 681443

Bookings - bookings@ststephen-pc.gov.uk

ST STEPHEN'S GARDENING CLUB– see page 32

VER VALLEY SOCIETY

» John Fisher (01582 792843); www.riverver.co.uk

WALKING NETBALL

At Westminster Lodge on Wednesdays 11am-12pm (term time), £5.00. You do not need to have played netball before as the sessions are about having fun whilst getting some low impact exercise.

I am a qualified netball coach and run the sessions on behalf of Everyone active-moirahutton@everyoneactive.com

WI – WOMENS INSTITUTE

Meet second Wednesdays
7.30-10pm, St Lukes, The Crescent, Bricket Wood
Suzanne Gilbert; bricketwoodwi@gmail.com

YOGA

Fridays 9:30-10:45 Park Street Village Hall
» Stacey Landau :07563 577666

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- Floodline: 0845 988 1188
- Pollution Hotline: 0800 807060

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• Emergency: 999 • Non-emergency: 101
PCSO 6336 Louise Traxon
(Louise.Traxon2@herts.pnn.police.uk)

RADIO VERULAM 92.6FM

- (839926) www.radioverulam.com

THREE VALLEYS WATER LEAKSPOTTERS

- 0800 376 5325

VER VALLEY SOCIETY

- Jane Gardiner, River Bailiffs Officer (866331)

GOVERNMENT

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

- Daisy Cooper daisy.cooper.mp@parliament.co.uk

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Inclusion in the Park Street Noticeboard is free of charge, and dependent upon timely, accurate copy and editorial space.

If you would like to submit a photo or an article, or you have an idea for the next issue of the Newsletter please call/write to/email the Editors.

The deadline for receipt of information is 1st March 2023. Submission does not guarantee inclusion.

The Newsletter is paid for by advertising and monies raised through fundraising activities including membership subs.

Donations always very welcome – please see details on page 5

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- 0300 123 4047; www.hertsdirect.org
- District Cllr Stella Nash, Conservative stella.nash@hertfordshire.gov.uk
- Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies: 0300 123 4049
- Hertfordshire Highways (faults): 0300 123 4047
- HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

ST ALBANS CITY & DISTRICT COUNCIL

- 866100; www.stalbans.gov.uk
- Animal nuisance (819371)
- Litter and street cleaning (809019)
- Noise nuisance (819406)
- Pest control (819406)
- Planning enquiries (819344)
- Vehicles (abandoned) (819391)

PARK STREET DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

- Cllr Syed Abidi, Liberal Democrat (07980 323673)
- John Parry, Liberal Democrat johnparry875885@gmail.com
- Nuala Webb, Liberal Democrat nuala.webb.stalbans@gmail.com
- Cllr Stella Nash, Conservative: (07989 553636)
- Cllr Richard Curthoys, Conservative: (07896 786485)

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

- The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood
- Greenwood Park Community Centre, Tippendell Lane
- Booking of both above: (874867) bookings@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Clerk to the Parish Council: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk 01923 681443 / ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Ground bookings for the football and cricket – grounds@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARK STREET PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr Bill Pryce, Chair (873181)
- Cllr James Fisher (07970 734916)
- Cllr David Parry (07973 461139)
- Cllr Dan Spelman (07940 062297)
- Cllr Nicholas Tyndale (872647)
- Cllr Eileen Whittaker (873710)

Council meetings third Thursday at 19.30 at St Stephen Parish Centre.

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Rail Freight

I recently received an e-mail from Daisy Cooper, our MP outlining her first meeting with Segro, the company behind the development. Daisy stated that she “challenged the government to reconsider their approval of the SFRI plan last year – but they said they couldn’t.”

I also recently wrote to National Highways and Hertfordshire County Council to ask them to look at whether the road improvements in the original plans, agreed eight years ago, are still fit for purpose.

HCC replied to say that a “recent sample of traffic volumes demonstrate that traffic levels have not changed a great deal in subsequent years. Therefore, even if there was an opportunity to challenge the original assessment it would be difficult. Naturally, there are opportunities to make minor alterations to the junctions. For example, National Highways are considering combining their own improvements to M25(J21A) with the developer’s scheme. HCC as local highway authority will be involved with similar discussions in relation to other junctions on the local road network.”

Different parts of the proposed site are owned by HCC, Gorbambury Estate and Tarmac respectively. Segro told me that they have made formal approaches to all three, and that they hoped to meet them all this month to progress the purchase of the land they need. They said they are aiming to complete the purchase of land by the end of this year, and that they would look to start “enabling works” on the site within the next 12 months.

I also made clear that they would need to prevent lorries from parking up in villages and the surrounding area, which would cause a real nuisance to village residents.

In the event they do manage to acquire the land, Segro has committed to establishing a local steering group with resident representatives. They also confirmed they have no plans to operate any “lorry to lorry” transfers on site, and they promised to take away my suggestion of including high quality HGV driver facilities, so lorries don’t use the neighbouring roads and communities for parking and rest stops.”

This site is 3.5million sqm of green belt land-the equivalent of 490 football pitches. It is home to endangered species including great crested newts, owls, kites, badgers, mature trees, butterflies, wildflowers- I could go on.

This area is our lung-a haven for naturalists-do we lie down and accept the destruction of yet another piece of precious green belt?





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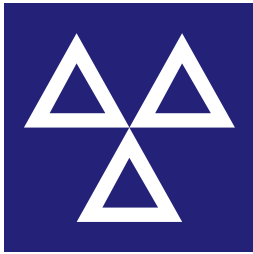
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