

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Autumn Newsletter Issue 34 - 2016

"Your chance to have your say on the future"

"This issue of your Parish newsletter is mostly about the Neighbourhood Plan. That's because it is the single most important opportunity for you to influence the future of our three villages. Find out more on page 2 and have your say in the survey starting on page 3. Please ensure that we receive your comments by Friday 30 September."

Cllr Mick Freeman, Parish Council Chairman

Another Green Flag Award for Greenwood Park

Greenwood Park has once again lived up to its name with your Parish Council being awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for the fourth time, recognising it as being amongst the best parks in the country.

The Green Flag Inspectors described Greenwood Park as "a robust and well laid out park which is meeting its customer's needs well," with "high standards of cleanliness and waste management". They noted: "The site has plenty of opportunities to promote health, exercise and informal recreation, as well as two play areas. The tennis courts, and cricket/football pitches are well maintained" and the "site is being very well used by the community for a range of productive and appropriate activities, such as sports (tennis, football and cricket), play and recreation (including cycling and dog walking). The community centre and pavilion are clearly important assets and well used." They commented: "The maintenance and grounds staff deserve praise for the work they are doing and their flexibility, responding to challenges and opportunities as they arise."



Bluebell Walk

The annual Parish Bluebell Walk saw more than 40 residents enjoy a leisurely stroll through Jack Williams Wood and Bricket Wood Common, with the woods full of these delightful flowers. Get your free copy of *Three Circular Walks* in the Parish from the Parish Office and Greenwood Park Community Centre or download the maps from your Parish website.



Don't miss this year's Remembrance Service and Carol Concert – see the back page.



Books for Schools

Children and staff representing your Parish's four primary schools once again attended the Annual Parish Meeting to receive a selection of books from your Parish Council. For the last six years the Books for Schools Initiative has helped schools to supplement their libraries.

'Super'tember

New play equipment will be installed at Greenwood Park during September, including a large 'super' net structure with a sandpit base, turning bars, a triple rope trail and, following your requests, a zip-wire. These improvements will provide safe and challenging play for more children across a broad age range. The play area is expected to re-open for new adventures and fun in mid-October.



Our rolling improvement programme for your Parish's other play areas is steadily progressing. By the end of September, new play equipment will have been installed at Woodbury Field, Cherry Hill, Mayflower Road and Park Street Recreation Ground. Improvement works in North Close, which involve the replacement of safety surfacing, will commence in October and are expected to take almost three months to complete.

For the locations of your local play areas see
'Facilities': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



ST STEPHEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your Village | Your Future | Your Say
Your Neighbourhood Plan

“Your chance to have your say on the future”

Last year we announced and began to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. An important step in this process is the Community Survey, which enables residents to comment upon issues fundamental to the Plan.

The Survey begins on the facing page. It provides the opportunity for you to ‘have your say’ on issues that will help determine how our Parish will develop over the coming decades. It’s hoped that every household in the Parish will complete and return the Survey – don’t say you weren’t asked!

Q What’s a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Once it’s completed the Neighbourhood Plan will be incorporated into the St Albans City and District Council Local Plan, meaning that the Parish will have a greater say in how the local area is developed in the future.

Q Why’s it so important?

A Because it will affect the shape of our villages – Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street – in the years to come.

Q Is it just about housing development?

A It’s not just about housing. A Neighbourhood Plan also encompasses developing community facilities, protecting green spaces, addressing transport and traffic issues and looking at the needs of local businesses.



Q What’s happened so far?

A A number of meetings have already been held, giving local residents the opportunity to raise issues they feel to be important. Subsequent to these meetings working parties have analysed these comments in detail and incorporated them into the Community Survey.

Q Why’s it so important we complete the Survey?

A The Survey gives residents the opportunity to feed in their views and help confirm that the issues being addressed are in line with their views and, additionally, consolidate everyone’s opinions.

Q Can the younger generation have their say?

A Certainly. In addition, there’s also a separate ‘Youth Survey’ which can be found at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6J2V5F2.

Q There’s more than one person in our household who would like to complete the Survey. How can we do this?

A There are three options:

1. Download a Survey questionnaire from www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/
2. Complete the Survey online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StStephenNP
3. Collect a copy of the Survey (during opening hours) from either the Manager’s Office at Greenwood Park Community Centre, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, or the Parish Office, St Stephen Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood.

Q Where do I send my completed Survey(s)?

A You can drop these off at any of the designated collection points (see list below) or post your completed Survey to St Stephen Parish Council, The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, AL2 3PJ.

Q The Survey’s mostly about ticking boxes. Can I make any additional comments?

A Additional comments are most welcome. Just attach them to the completed Survey – and don’t forget to include your name and contact details.

Q What’s the deadline for returning the Survey?

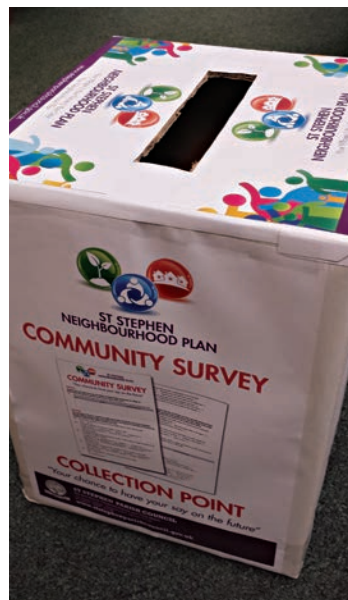
A Friday 30th September.

Q What happens once all of the Surveys have been received?

A The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the various working parties will review the results of the Survey and incorporate findings into the outline Plan.

Q What happens after that?

A In simple terms, once the Community Survey questionnaires have been received and analysed a draft version of the Plan will be submitted to St Albans City and District Council for comment. When this stage has been reached the Plan will then be subject to review by an external, independent examiner. The final stage in the process will be a Public Referendum – your opportunity to vote on the Plan’s acceptance and adoption into local planning legislation.



See ‘Parish Events’: www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Survey collection points

Bricket Wood:

- The Post Office, 107 Oakwood Road
- The Newsagents, 89 Old Watford Road
- The Store, 23 Black Boy Wood

Chiswell Green:

- Midway GP Surgery, 93 Watford Road
- A & Z Convenience Store, 301 Watford Road
- Foodfare Post Office & Convenience Store, 337 Watford Road

Park Street (including How Wood):

- Burston Garden Centre
- JW & Co Estate Agents, How Wood Shops
- Sandra Constable, 3 Birchwood Way
- Graham Smith, 35 Avian Way
- Jon Breen, 40 Park Street Lane
- Suzi Clark, 82 Park Street
- Michelle Hodson, 91 Mayflower Road

2016 Parish Festival

More than 1,500 people visited the 2016 Parish Festival, which was held at the Parish Centre for the first time on 11 and 12 June, to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Saturday saw the opening of the Arts Festival, which showcased local arts and crafts talent, with stage performances from local children and musicians.

Sunday saw the traditional fête, with hardy stallholders who set up in the rain in the morning being rewarded by a sunny and successful afternoon. Entertainment was provided throughout the day with performances from local talent, displays of falconry and terrier racing in the arena, and a fun dog show which raised money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. A selection of real ales and ciders was available from the 'Beer Barn' over the whole weekend, with representatives from the local Guiding units providing a barbeque.



Armed Forces Day

Undeterred by rain, veterans, members of the public and representatives from local youth groups formed a parade from Black Boy Wood to the Parish Centre to open Armed Forces Day on Saturday 25 June. The parade and raising of the Armed Forces Day Flag were followed by music from Watford Brass Band, cream tea and cake on the lawn, and a large memorabilia display in the Parish Centre with many articles loaned to the Council by local residents especially for the day.

A charity bucket collection raised £227.32 for the Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity.

PARTIES, MEETINGS, WEDDING RECEPTIONS...

Whatever you're planning,
our two spacious centres can
provide an ideal setting.

Spaces range from a sports hall that
can accommodate more than 300
people, to smaller halls and outdoor
sports and leisure facilities.



Greenwood Park, in Chiswell Green, and the Parish Centre, in Bricket
Wood, offer free car parking, wifi, tables and chairs, and a kitchen.

Enquiries/booking: Mrs Gill Rix, 01727 874867



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street
THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD
ST ALBANS HERTS AL2 3PJ

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Dates for your diary

Main Parish Council Meetings

15 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 7.30pm: Parish Centre

Parish Council Events

22 Sep, 7–9pm: **Parish in Bloom Awards Evening**,
Greenwood Park

6 Oct, 7.30pm: **Parish Facilities Hirers' Open Forum**,
Greenwood Park

13 Nov, 2.45pm: **Remembrance Day Service**,
War Memorial, Park Street – see above right

4 Dec, 4–6pm: **Annual Carol Concert**,
Greenwood Park – see above right

Other Local Events

Mondays, 2–4pm, Wednesdays, 10am–noon: **Book Swap**,
Bricket Wood URC, free, 01923 673638

17 Sept, 10am: **Charity Jumble Sale**, St Barts Church Hall,
50p, 01727 873672

24 Sep, 29 Oct, 26 Nov, 10am–1pm: **Woodland Volunteer
Days**, St Julians Wood, Greenwood Park, 01727 831280

27 Sep, 8pm: **'Beaumonts – A Place of Two Manors'**, Bricket
Wood Society, Bricket Wood URC Hall, £2, 01923 279870

11 Nov, 7.30pm: **AGM & 'Butterflies of France'**, St Stephen
Gardening Club, Parish Centre, 01727 872718

22 Nov, 8pm: **'Chou-Z-Suzy, The Flying Fortress that Crashed
at BRE'**, Bricket Wood Society, Bricket Wood URC Hall, £2,
01923 279870

1 Dec, 6pm: **Christmas Event**, Park Street Residents
Association, How Wood Shops, 07946 036601

For a full list of local activities see
'Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Remembrance Service, 13 November

The 2016 Remembrance Service at St Stephen Parish War
Memorial, Park Street, will be held on Sunday 13 November,
commencing at 2.45pm with a parade of standards by local
youth organisations. The service offers members of the local
community the opportunity to pay tribute to those who made
the ultimate sacrifice during both World Wars and more recent
conflicts.



Carol Concert, 4 December

The Annual Community Carol Concert will take place on Sunday 4
December, 4–6pm. Enjoy music and performances by the Watford
Band and local schools, including the nativity, and a combined
churches choir. Admission is free, with light refreshments served
after the concert, and a charity bucket collection in aid of the
Motor Neurone Disease Association.



St Stephen Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Main Council and Committee meetings are held in the Council
Chamber at the St Stephen Parish Centre in Station Road, Bricket
Wood. Times and dates are displayed on the Parish Noticeboards.
Residents are welcome to attend the meetings.

The Parish Office

First floor, St Stephen Parish Centre,
Station Road, Bricket Wood,
St Albans, AL2 3PJ

Tel: 01923 681443 Fax: 01923 681338

Email: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Open daily from 9.00am to 5.00pm or by
prior appointment. Contact either:
Juliet Pienaar, Clerk, or Carol Hardy, Deputy Clerk

