



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL



Autumn Newsletter Issue 38 - 2017

From the Chair of Parish

I was elected to the post of Chair in May, with Cllr Nicholas Tyndale as Vice-Chair. I have lived in Bricket Wood for over 30 years and have been a Parish Councillor for six, three of them as Vice Chair.

I serve on various Parish Committees and Working Parties and will continue to do that. As a member of the Planning Committee, I have worked hard with fellow Councillors to protect Green Belt land in and around the Parish. We will continue to do all we can to safeguard its existence.

Your Parish Council, being the first tier of representative government, is focused on the local community, and to that end we not only manage many facilities on your behalf – including buildings, playgrounds, open spaces and sports pitches – but also organise a range of local events. Crafts in the Park, Parish in Bloom, Armed Forces Day and our upcoming Remembrance Service and Carol Concert seem to get bigger every year. Next year there will be the biannual Parish Fête. We organise these events for you, the residents, and would welcome your thoughts as to how you believe they can be enhanced. We are always looking for volunteers, too, so if you'd like to become involved please contact me via the Parish Office. My thanks to all those residents who have helped with events in the past.

I was pleased that my first official duty was to attend the 40th anniversary dinner of the Bricket Wood Society. Congratulations to the Society on reaching such a landmark and for collating such a fascinating library, which now boasts over 7,000 images. Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the previous Chair, Cllr Mick Freeman, for his hard work whilst in office.

Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Chair of Council



If you went down to the woods that day

Your Parish Council hosted a Visitor Day at St Julians Wood & Meadows, Greenwood Park, in July. Residents and visitors, dropping by this semi-ancient woodland and the adjacent wildflower meadows, were treated to demonstrations of traditional crafts. These included wood-turning with a pole lathe, besom broom-making and a demonstration of hay-cutting with a scythe. Also on offer were guided walks around the wood and a ramble through the adjacent meadows, full of wildflowers and butterflies. You can find St Julians Wood & Meadows at the top of Greenwood Park, beyond the football pitches.



See 'Facilities': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Don't miss out

The Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service will be held at the Parish War Memorial, Park Street, on 12 November.

The Annual Community Carol Concert will be held at Greenwood Park Community Centre, Chiswell Green, on 3 December.

See page 4.



CAROL CONCERT

WITH WATFORD BRASS BAND

2018 FÊTE

Your Fête is in our hands

Following a hugely successful 2016 Festival organised by your Parish Council, plans are underway for two follow-up events. First, the next Fête will be held at the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood, on 20 May 2018. The next Arts Festival will be held at Greenwood Park over the weekend of 18 and 19 May 2019. Those dates may seem a long way away, but please start considering whether you might like to have a stall at the Fête or might like to exhibit or perform at the Arts Festival. It falls to your Parish Council staff and Councillors to organise these events; if you feel able to help, please contact Gill-Marie at the Parish Office (gill@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01923 681338).



Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is well underway. In response to a recent call for sites (a required part of the Neighbourhood Planning process) 22 parcels of land, considered by their owners as suitable for development, were submitted for consideration. These parcels of land are not owned by the Parish Council but by individuals or organisations. The majority of them are within the Green Belt and must therefore meet rigorous criteria before they are considered for development; any release from the Green Belt is in the hands of the District Council.

Site selection is one of the most contentious aspects of Neighbourhood Planning, raising strong feelings among local people, landowners, builders and businesses. The process of selection must therefore be transparent, fair, robust and defensible, and the same criteria must be applied to each site. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has thus developed a set of criteria which these sites and any others must meet before further consideration is made. Site information has been sent to a professional organisation, which will carry out a 'site assessment'. This assessment will tell us whether or not the sites meet our criteria, how suitable they are for development and whether they comply with Local Planning criteria and the National Planning Policy Framework. We are awaiting the return of these assessments.

See 'Neighbourhood Plan': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Parish in Bloom winners

The Parish in Bloom awards were presented in September, when more gardeners than ever before were recognised for their floral displays throughout the Parish. Members of the Pearson family gave a very interesting and informative talk on the history of Burston Nurseries & Garden Centre.

The standard of front gardens was very high this year and judging was very close, but in the end Michael & Teresa Haggett took first place with their garden in The Uplands. Anthony & Mary McCarthy of How Wood took second place, with Clive & Gillian Sparshott of Manor Drive third. A further eight gardens were awarded Highly Commended or Commended certificates.

The new Residential Hanging Basket/Planter category was won by Mrs & Mrs Bradwell of Rosewood Court, with Anthony & Linda Weyman of North Riding second and Mr & Mrs Thompson, also of Rosewood Court, third.

The Inter-Schools competition, run in association with St Stephen's Gardening Club, was won by Park Street School and the Three Hammers took the Best Floral Business Display. Robert Tofts took the Best Kept Allotment award, with Tony Jones taking Best Allotment Newcomer.

Hanging baskets and railing planters were purchased this year under the Parish in Bloom initiative and these have given wonderful displays throughout the Parish. Thanks for the support of Burston Nurseries, who provided all the plants, planted them up and cared for them until they could be installed at the various sites.

Pictures from the top:

Best Kept Front Garden, Michael & Teresa Haggett
Inter-school competition winners, Park Street School
Best Floral Business Display, The Three Hammers
Best Kept Allotment, Robert Tofts

Books for schools

Your Parish Council has once again donated a selection of books to children and staff from four local primary schools. In the past a suitable event has been used for the theme, but this year the schools themselves chose an interesting and wide variety of books.



Watch out for 20th anniversary celebrations

Park Street Neighbourhood Watch is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special open meeting at 7.30pm on 24 October at Park Street Village Hall, beginning with the AGM and concluding with a wine and cheese party. The evening is open to all members of the Watch, but all Park Street residents are eligible for free membership, and it will be possible to join at the door.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of awards for the 'Photographing Park Street' competition, which set out to find the best picture of the village as a beautiful, peaceful and safe place to live. Local estate agents JW&Co Langleys donated £150 in prizes for the winners, while the Park Street Camera Club have chipped in an extra £25 for the best picture by an entrant under the age of 16.



Connect with us by Twitter

Your Parish Council's new Twitter account is helping to keep residents, businesses and visitors up to date on what's happening locally. It's simple for you to stay informed.

'Follow' us now: twitter.com/ststephenpc

Green Flag Award for Greenwood Park

Greenwood Park's excellent facilities and management have once again been recognised by a Green Flag Award, the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the UK.

The application for 2017/18 award was made in January and, as we had a full assessment last year, this year's assessment was made by the 'Mystery Shopping' method. The assessors, having been given the Management Plan, visited the park unannounced and carried out the same stringent checks as usual.

It would not have escaped the notice of the assessors that new equipment had been installed in the children's play area and that an extension – albeit not finished – had been added to the Pavilion, demonstrating that your Parish Council is determined to continue to improve the park and its facilities.

This award is the result of a lot of hard work by staff and Councillors, in particular by our fine Grounds Team and our excellent Centres Manager. It is thanks to them that we see the Green Flag flying proudly at the park entrance.

See 'Facilities': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Armed Forces Day parade and celebration

Your Parish Council held a parade and celebration in June as part of the national Armed Forces Day. Representatives from the local Cadet Forces and youth organisations were joined by Councillors, veterans and members of the public as the parade of standards moved from Bricket Wood to the Parish Centre. Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Parish Council Chair, and Stephen Woollard, a former member of the Royal Anglian Regiment, raised the Armed Forces Day Flag.

The event has been growing year on year and this year saw representatives from 220 St Albans Squadron Air Training Corps, Beds & Herts Army Cadets, St Columba's Combined Cadet Force, and local Guiding and Scouting units taking part. There was music from Watford Brass Band, and tea and cake provided by the Brownies.

Many local residents contributed to the large memorabilia display in Tennyson Hall, including a collection of bugles from local resident Harry Harrison, aged 85, formerly of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment, who was on hand to talk to visitors about his time in the army and the book he wrote about his experiences.

Cllr Kerry commented: "This event gives us all the opportunity to think about the work of the armed forces throughout the world, both now and in the past. A charity collection raised over £150 in aid of BLESMA (The Limbless Veterans), which has been providing support to our injured service personnel since the 1930s. During that time they have helped 62,000 serving and ex-service men and women who have lost limbs, or lost the use of limbs or eyes, to rebuild their lives by providing rehabilitation activities and welfare support. They work tirelessly to guarantee that our limbless veterans are not failed, forgotten or left to fend for themselves."



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



Children got crafty

Crafts in the Park proved to be very popular again this year: around 80 children and adults joined us. As always your Parish Council provided completely free arts and crafts activities for children of all ages outside Greenwood Park Community Centre for three mornings at the beginning of school summer holidays – unfortunately, because of the rain, we had to retreat inside, but this worked just as well!

This year's theme was based around the seaside, with clay modelling led again by Cllr John Bell and his helper Ian La Rivière who, between them, encouraged the eager (and some less eager) children to create a variety of creatures, animals, pots and other wonderful creations! We had making, glueing, painting and decorating sea creatures and this year we introduced Hama Beads, which proved very popular.



Dates for your diary

Parish Council Events

19 Oct and 16 Nov, 7.30pm: **Main Council Meetings**, Parish Centre
28 Oct and 25 Nov, 10am–1pm: **St Julian's Wood Volunteer Working Morning** – meet at Greenwood Park top car park, 01923 831280

12 Nov, 2.45pm, **Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service**, Park Street, Parish War Memorial, Park Street, 01923 681443 – see opposite

3 Dec, 4pm, **Annual Community Carol Concert**, Greenwood Park Community Centre – see opposite

Other Local Events

Mondays (except Bank Holidays), 2–4pm, and Thursdays, 10am–noon: **Book Swap**, Bricket Wood URC Hall, free, 01923 673638

7 Oct, 9.30am: **Autumn Litterpick**, Bricket Wood Residents Association – meet at Oakwood Road shops, gloves etc provided
8 Oct, 10am–4pm: **Rennie Grove Hospice Craft Fair**, 1st St Albans Scouts – Wadley Scout Hut, Watford Road, £1

14 Oct and 11 Nov, 10am–noon: **Hanstead Wood Volunteer Morning** – meet at car park entrance, Hanstead Wood, Hanstead Park, Bricket Wood, 01923 673169

15 Oct, 10am–4pm, **Well-Being Day**, Park Street Residents Association Fund Raising Event – Park Street Village Hall, www.psra.org.uk, 01727 530082

24 Oct, 7.30pm: **AGM & 20th Anniversary Celebrations**, Park Street Neighbourhood Watch – Park Street Village Hall, 01727 874293 – see page 2

19 Nov, 10am–noon: **Community Litter Clean-Up**, Park Street Pickers – meet at Park Street Recreation Ground, free, 01727 873365

21 Nov, 8.15pm: **Open Meeting & Nostalgia Evening**, Park Street & Frogmore Society – Park Street Village Hall, £2, 07792 588892

28 Nov, 8pm: **'Tudor St Albans'**, Bricket Wood Society Talk – Bricket Wood URC Hall, £2, 01923 279870

30 Nov, from 5pm: **Christmas Lights Festival**, Park Street Residents Association – How Wood Parade Shops, Park Street, 07973 262876

See 'Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Improving how we mark Remembrance Sunday

A number of improvements are being made this year to how we mark Remembrance Sunday, on 12 November from 2.45pm. The service has grown substantially in recent years and we will be using the whole of the road and footpaths to ensure that large numbers of people can safely see the parade and service. The Harpenden Pipes & Drums Band will open the event by leading a parade from the railway bridge to the Parish War Memorial, Park Street. We will also have a Poppy Day collection at the start and finish of the service. I hope you enjoy the changes and would appreciate your comments afterwards. If you would like to lay a wreath please contact me or the Parish Office. Please note that car parking in the vicinity is limited and there will be a road closure in place between Hawfield Gardens and Park Street Lane from 2.15–4pm.

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on the day.
Cllr Ian Getley, 01727 872507



See 'Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

It's beginning to sound a lot like Christmas

The ever-popular Annual Community Carol Concert will be held on 3 December, 4–6pm, at Greenwood Park Community Centre. Music and performances will be by the Watford Brass Band, local schools (including the nativity) and a combined churches choir. Light refreshments will be served, with a charity bucket collection in aid of Blesma (The Limbless Veterans). Admission is free, with doors opening at 3.30pm.

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

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