



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN 2019 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 44



Obituary for Juliet Pienaar

St Stephen Parish Council are deeply saddened to announce the death of their former Clerk Juliet Pienaar.

Highly committed, Juliet worked enthusiastically and energetically, serving the Council with distinction for many years. As a Parish we were extremely fortunate to have, for so long, someone with so much knowledge. She undertook her duties with loyalty and

wholeheartedness. Possessing common sense, humour and kindness, Juliet inspired admiration, respect and affection in those who had the opportunity to work with her.

Juliet became unwell in the summer of 2017. She fought her illness with remarkable courage and fortitude, being much frustrated by the ill health which prevented her from continuing in the job she loved. Sadly, it became necessary to retire from the Council on health grounds in 2018.

With thanks for the personal sacrifices Juliet made in working as she did, our condolences go to Gavin, their sons Troye and Daniel, her parents and wider family. Our thoughts are with them all at such a very sad time.

Cllr Dorothy Kerry

DON'T MISS...



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE,
10 November

COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT,
1 December

See more detail in
'Dates for your diary', page 4

New Councillors

Cllr David Yates was elected to your Parish Council in May 2019, representing Bricket Wood East Ward, while Cllr Becky Spriggs has been co-opted, following an open call for expressions of interest, to represent Park Street Ward. The rest of your current Councillors were elected unopposed.



Arts Festival and Fete Success

Thousands of people took part in your Parish Council's 2019 Arts Festival & Fête, held in June at Greenwood Park. Visitors on Saturday enjoyed paintings, drawings, craftwork, upholstery, modelling, children's art, music and dance. Sunday featured the Fête with stalls, arena activities, food court and real ale. Many thanks to those who volunteered to support such a successful event.

Next year we will combine the Fête with Armed Forces Day on 28 June 2020 at the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood.



In Brief...



Tree Safety Works

The Parish Council has a duty to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that people are not exposed to risk. For this reason, we undertake a tree survey of our green spaces, every three years. The most recent survey has identified quite a few trees that require dead wood to be removed from the crown and some that, unfortunately, need to be felled. The work has been taking place this autumn and we'll leave dead wood in woodland for wildlife where possible.



Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting in May provided a chance for residents to hear updates from Parish Council committee chairs, as well as the annual gift of books to local schools. Pictured: Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Parish Council Chair presenting Mount Pleasant School with a parcel of books for the school library.

CCTV

Four multidirectional security cameras have been reinstated in front of the Greenwood Park Community Centre by the St Albans City & District Council, to enhance security and the safety of users.

Local contributions recognised

Your Parish Council presented seven Community Awards this year at the Parish Awards Evening in September. Guest Speaker Malcolm Hull from Butterfly Conservation gave a talk on the 'Butterflies of St Stephen Parish'.

Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Parish Council Chair, said: "I am delighted that we received so many strong nominations for this special form of recognition, and that the activities recognised are so varied. It shows just how much people can achieve by stepping up to engage in their community."



The following awards were made:

- Megan Adams and Edie Austwick (Youth Category), who raised money for charity through the MacMillan Girl Guiding Smartie Challenge
- Tom Giles (Youth Category), for work with the 1st Bricket Wood Scout Group
- Barbara Funnell (Community Category), for her volunteer work at How Wood School, with the Police, local hospital and at St Luke's Church
- Jenny Wilson (Community Category), who is Brown Owl to a Brownie pack and cooks for St Luke's Lunch Club



- Hanstead Wood Volunteers (Group Category), for securing continued public access to the woodland
- Burston Nurseries & Garden Centre (Business Category), for supporting community events such as the Community Carol Concert, Parish in Bloom and the Bricket Wood Art Club's annual show
- Bricket Wood Pharmacy (Business Category), for outstanding personal service of high quality

Following judging over the summer the 2019 Parish in Bloom Awards were also presented at the Awards Evening.

Residents Associations presented their Best Kept Front Garden Awards and Graham Wilson from St Stephens Gardening Club presented Park Street School with the Inter-Schools Competition trophy. Winners of the overall Parish Best Kept Front garden were Alan and Susan Fenton of Stanley Avenue. The Best Kept Allotment went to Robert Tofts for his allotment at Park Street Lane and the Best Kept Allotment Newcomer was Jonathan McGetterick at Tippendell Lane. Best Floral Business Display was presently jointly to the Black Boy Public House in Bricket Wood and Traffic Self Drive in Park Street.



Projects in the Parish

With the building of additional housing in the area, your Parish Council can access Section 106 funding through the District Council. This funding is a contribution from developers toward the costs of providing community and social infrastructure. We have identified a need for improvements to the Woodbury Field play and sports area, Bricket Wood. In addition to this, we are keen to hear your views about what you feel is needed in your Parish. There are certain criteria to the funding, for more information visit the www.stalbans.gov.uk and search Section 106. To pass on your ideas contact your local councillor or Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk (isabel@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



Greenwood Café

New this summer is a kiosk located outside the Greenwood Park Community Centre, making the park even more inviting. Greenwood Café is open on weekends, serving hot and cold drinks, breakfasts, lunches and light snacks.

This is a trial run, and we would like to hear what you want from a café. Why not get down there to try it out next weekend and give us your feedback? Do you like the café at its current location? What opening times would you prefer? Is the range of food and drink what you want?

Following this trial the Parish Council will advertise for tenders to run a café for a two-year period from April 2020. If you are interested in tendering then we would like to hear from you.

Please contact Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk (isabel@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk) with your feedback and any expressions of interest in running a café.



Climate emergency: local action

Your Parish Council recognises its role in addressing the climate emergency. We have formed a working party which will address the actions we can take directly by diminishing the environmental impact of our facilities and activities. The working party will also seek to work with local groups and organisations, including our three villages' residents associations, to examine what we can do collectively as a community.

If you would like to be involved, or have suggestions about this work, please contact Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk (isabel@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



New toddlers' play equipment for award-winning park

The new toddlers' play equipment installed on a sand base in the play area at Greenwood Park is proving irresistible to younger children. You may have spotted that a fort has appeared at the top of the hill, perfect for encouraging imaginative play. Nestled in the new sandpit is a wide slide and interactive climbing frames, with a large variety of play activities including fun ways of moving the sand around.

We also received the news that Greenwood Park has again been successful in securing a Green Flag Award, proof that all the hard work put in by your Parish grounds team, office staff, councillors and volunteers has paid off, and that the park is well-kept and highly valued by the local community.



New Clerk

Sue Hake is the new Clerk of your Parish Council, having joined us in April from Castle Cary Town Council in Somerset. As Clerk, Sue is responsible for our staff, finances, planning and regulatory compliance, working closely with our elected Chair, Cllr Dorothy Kerry, and Vice-Chair, Cllr David Parry.

Sue has succeeded Juliet Pienaar, who retired in 2018 after over 18 years of service. We regret to announce that Juliet passed away in September – please see page 1.



St Stephen Neighbourhood Plan update

A Neighbourhood Plan for St Stephen Parish will bring greater local control over development in the Parish. The steering group are making good progress, having secured funding and technical support to undertake an environmental assessment. A draft plan will be out for consultation in the near future. Please keep an eye on the website for updates: www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan

Be our eyes and ears

Your Parish Council manages a wide range of spaces and facilities for your benefit. Our staff cannot be everywhere at once, so please be our eyes and ears: if you spot a problem – such as faults in play equipment or evidence of vandalism – please contact your Parish Office (01923 681443). If there is an emergency, of course, dial 999.



Parish Floral Displays

The Parish Council would like to extend our thanks to Burston Nurseries who again created the beautiful arrangements and gifted the plants to the Parish this summer for the railing planters at Park Street Recreation Ground and hanging baskets at the Parish Centre and Greenwood Park Community Centre.

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: **Centres Manager, 01727 874867**

Dates for your diary

Full Parish Council Meetings

21 November, 16 January (budget only),
23 January, 20 February, 19 March, 7.30pm

Parish Council events

Remembrance Day Parade and Service:

10 Nov, The Parish War Memorial, Park Street,
2:45pm, 01923 681443

Carol Concert: 1 Dec, Greenwood Park Community Centre, 3:30 – 5:30pm

St Julian's Wood Volunteer Mornings:

23 Nov, 10am – 1pm, 25 Jan, 22 Feb, 22 Mar, meet at Greenwood Park Top Car Park 01727 831280

Other local events

Community Litter Picks run by Park Street Pickers:

16 Nov, 18 Jan and 21 Mar - How Wood shops 10am, and 17 Nov, 19 Jan and 22 Mar - Park Street Recreation Ground 10am. 01727 873365

Hanstead Wood Volunteer Mornings:

9 Nov, 7 Dec, 11 Jan, 8 Feb, 8 Mar, access via Smug Oak Lane Entrance, Hanstead Park, Bricket Wood, 01923 672254

Abbey Line Spooktacular: 31 Oct - leaves Watford Junction at 10am or St Albans Abbey Station at 10.20, www.abbeyline.org.uk/news

'A Time to Remember': remembrance & thanks for those we have loved who have died. 2 Nov - St Stephen's Church, 10:30am; 3 Nov - St Luke's Church, 3.00 pm, office@st-lukes.org.uk

Park Street & Frogmore Society, 'Revisiting the Iron Age' by Kris Lockyear: 19 Nov - Park Street Village Hall, 8.15pm, £2, 07792588892

Bricket Wood Society 'De Havilland Aircraft and Salisbury Hall' by Alistair Hodgson:

26 Nov - St Lukes Church Hall, Bricket Wood, 8pm, £2, 01923 279870

PSRA Christmas Lights Switch On Event:

5 Dec - How Wood Parade Shops from 5.30pm, mince pies, carols and music, 07956 852212

Christmas Tree Festival: 6 – 9 Dec St Stephen's Church, Watling Street, All Day, refreshments, stalls

Christmas Santa Special Event: 7 Dec - St Stephen Parish Centre info@abbeyline.org.uk

Carols & Candlelight: 15 Dec: 4pm

Holy Trinity Frogmore; 6.30 pm St Luke's Church; 7pm Park Street Baptist Church. 22 Dec 6:30pm St Stephen's Church

Messy Christmas Activity Afternoon:

22 Dec - St Luke's Church office@st-lukes.org.uk

Charity Jumble Sale: 18 Jan, St Barts Church, Vesta Ave/Watling St, 10am 50p, 01727 873672

Auction of Promises in aid of the 'Let there be Lights' campaign:

1 Feb - St Stephen's Church, 7.00 pm

Park Street Players produce Hobsons Choice:

27 – 29 Feb – Park Street Village Hall

St Stephens Gardening Club Sales Hut reopens on 8 Feb 2pm-4pm Drop Lane

St Stephen Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Residents are welcome to attend Full Council and Committee meetings (except the Human Resources Committee).

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the St Stephen Parish Centre in Station Road, Bricket Wood, unless advertised otherwise. Times and dates are displayed on your Parish Noticeboards and website.

The Parish Office

First floor, St Stephen Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, St Albans, AL2 3PJ
Tel: **01923 681443**

Email: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to noon, or by prior appointment.