



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 43



New play and sports areas for you

With the building of additional housing in Bricket Wood at Hanstead Park and the Buildings Research Establishment, 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 (pictured).

We are considering improvements to other play areas and facilities; if you would like to find out more about these projects, get involved or simply offer support and ideas, please contact Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk ([01923 681443](tel:01923 681443); isabel@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



**DON'T
MISS...**



PARISH BLUEBELL WALK, 28 April

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 16 May

2019 ARTS FESTIVAL & FÊTE,
1–2 June – see this page

ARMED FORCES DAY, 30 June –
See more detail in
'Dates for your diary', page 4

River Ver under threat?

Affinity Water recently startled residents whose homes back on to the River Ver, Park Street, by announcing a 'restoration' project that would divert the river upstream of Park Street Mill. A representative of your Parish Council attended the scheduled open meeting, and will work to protect residents' interests in the face of proposed changes.

2019 Arts Festival & Fête

Your 2019 Arts Festival & Fête will be held at Greenwood Park on the weekend of 1–2 June, with the theme of 'Myths and Legends'. From noon on Saturday enjoy paintings, drawings, craftwork, upholstery, cake-making, modelling, children's art, music and dance.

Sunday will open with a church service, followed by the fête. A bar will be open on both days. Programmes will be on sale for £2, including the opportunity to win a lucky number draw.

If you have an artistic bent – painting, drawing, sculpture, drama, poetry, dance, whether expert or just a dabbler – or wish to book a stall, please contact your Parish Office (fete@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk; [01923 681443](tel:01923 681443)).



In Brief...

A revised version of your **Neighbourhood Plan** will shortly be sent back to the District Council; if approved, the plan will be submitted to a planning inspector.



Coppicing of the edge of the woodland copse around the upper car park at Greenwood Park was conducted to prevent the trees overhanging cars, as well as allowing them to sprout with vigour this spring and summer. In the long term they will provide a thick hedge which will better support wildlife.

All St Stephen Parish Councillor seats will be up for election on 2 May 2019. Please vote! If you are unsure whether you are registered to vote, or want to find out about standing for election, please contact the St Albans District Council (**01727 819294**).

The Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust will host St Albans MP Anne Main on a visit to discuss the proposed restoration. See the website (**bricketwoodstationtrust.org.uk**) for much more information about the project and the station's past and future.



The Air Raid Precaution Railway Control Centre in Bricket Wood; courtesy St Albans District Council

The Cold War Railway Control Centre, next to Bricket Wood Station, has been given Grade II listed building status by Historic England. The facility was constructed in 1954 and would have been used to keep the trains running in the event of a nuclear attack. Your Parish Council supported a local resident's request for the listing.

A CCTV system has been installed at Greenwood Park Community Centre to improve security. The system is operated in line with the Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice and Data Protection Act 1998. We plan to install a similar system at the Parish Centre.

Farewell to long-serving colleagues

At the end of 2018 your Parish Council said farewell to two long-serving individuals.

The Clerk of the Council, Juliet Pienaar, retired after 18 years of service. Everyone who had the opportunity to work with Juliet was struck by her dedication and commitment. We were extremely fortunate to have had, for so long, someone with so much knowledge, who undertook her duties with such loyalty and wholeheartedness. Juliet executed her role with common sense, humour and kindness and she will be much missed. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks for her years of service to the Council and the community as a whole, plus our very best wishes for the future.

In December Cllr Ian Getley stood down after 22 years of service on the Parish Council. Amongst many other achievements Ian was responsible for setting up the annual St Stephens Remembrance Service. Former Cllr Ian Getley writes: "The Remembrance Service this year was my last as lead councillor, and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to everyone who has taken part and worked with me since I started it in 2000 with Ian LaRiviere and Dave Morris, then pastor of the Baptist Church. A grand total of 12 people attended then, compared to more than 1,200 last year. A very big thank you to everyone who played a part and made it a success. It is something I will never forget. Thanks, too, for your support while I have been a Parish Councillor."



Support for local good causes

Your Parish Council provides small grants and discounts for local good causes. This year we supported the Christmas meals at two senior citizens' lunch clubs, the In Touch Club at Holy Trinity, Frogmore, and St Luke's Lunch Club in Bricket Wood (pictured). The Lunch Clubs provide weekly hot meals, transport and the invaluable opportunity to socialise. If you are interested in volunteering at the clubs, please contact the relevant Church Office: Holy Trinity - parishadmin@hotfrog.info, 01727 873974; St Lukes - office@st-lukes.org.uk, 01923 676401. New diners are welcome, too, so spread the word.

Your Parish Council considers grant applications each autumn, so please do get in touch if you are interested in applying for a grant or a discount on the hire of your Parish facilities at Greenwood Park, the Parish Centre in Bricket Wood or Park Street Recreation Ground.



Hirer in the spotlight

Greenwood Park Short Mat Bowls Club was formed in 1972 when the Community Centre opened. We have recently obtained a grant from the Lottery Fund for the replacement of the mats and other equipment. We play Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Friday evenings. We are a friendly club with more than 50 members playing at all levels, and welcome beginners and experienced players. Contact Jill Quartermann (01727 872676).



Butterfly project takes wing

The Butterfly Conservation Society has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to enhance the butterfly population in Greenwood Park. The scheme will involve the construction of a chalk meadow near the Midway Surgery. While there may be some short-term disruption for visitors, the project should attract a lot more butterflies to the park, hopefully including Small Blue, Small Copper, Brown Argus and Common Blue species. A short presentation and tour of the site will be held on Sunday 26 May – see 'Dates for your diary', page 4.

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**



Inter-Schools Competition winners
Park Street C of E Primary School

Parish in Bloom winners

The following First Prizes were awarded at the 2018 Parish in Bloom awards evening:

- **Best-Kept Front Garden:**
Irene Wilson
- **Best Hanging Basket/Planter (Residential):**
Pippa & Sydney de Leon
- **Best Kept Allotment:**
David & Judith Rankine
- **Best Allotment Newcomer:**
Winston Bothwell
- **Best Floral Business Display:**
The Noke Hotel.

For a complete list of winners, please see Your Parish website (www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



Dog waste

Facts: there are 31 dog waste bins in your Parish; it costs £3,000 per year to dispose of the more than 25 tonnes of waste; and it takes your Parish Grounds Team three hours per week to empty the bins.

If you are a dog owner or dog walker using Greenwood Park, Mayflower Road Park, Park Street Recreation Ground, Woodbury Field, Cherry Hill or North Close Parks (which, of course, are all maintained using your Precept), and you cannot find one of these bins, please take the waste home and place in your non-recyclables bin. Please keep our parks safe and a pleasure to use.



Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Chair of Council,
with Mick and Julie Stevens

Special Remembrance Day events

An estimated 1,200 people gathered at the St Stephen Parish War Memorial, Park Street, to attend the Remembrance Day Parade & Service in November 2018.

Following the two-minute silence, more than 30 wreaths were laid and a cadet from the Beds & Herts Army cadets read the names of the fallen of the Parish. A special wreath commemorating the centenary of the end of World War 1 was laid by Cllr Ian Getley.

Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Parish Council Chair, commented: "This has been our largest Remembrance Service to date, with more wreaths being laid than ever before. It is wonderful to see the community come together to pay tribute to those who gave their lives not only in the two World Wars but in the more recent conflicts as well."

Later, a beacon was lit at Greenwood Park as part of the chain of more than 1,000 'Beacons of Light' symbolising the hopes for peace that emerged with the signing of the Armistice. The free community event, attended by around 1,000 people, reflected the celebrations that took place throughout the country 100 years ago and included a BBQ, bar, film show, large memorabilia display and fireworks.



A work by How Wood School pupils, inspired by the Armistice centenary

Gold Community Award presented at Carol Concert

Your Annual Carol Concert in December 2018 was attended by more than 400 people, with entertainment by local school children, a sheep, local churches and a brass band. A £400 collection was made for the Forces Children's Trust.

At the event, the Stevens Family received a Gold Community Award for exceptional contribution to the community of Park Street, recognising the great efforts and community spirit that went into Father Christmas appearing on the roof of a house in Park Street Lane on many past Christmas Eves.

Dates for your diary

Full Parish Council Meetings

7.30pm, 11 April, 16 May and 20 June

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Full Council

6.30, 16 May, Parish Centre – meet your newly elected Parish Councillors and enjoy light refreshments, while hearing about and commenting on recent achievements and future plans

Parish Council events

St Julian's Wood volunteer working morning:

10am–1pm, 27 April, and 8am–5pm, 29 June – meet at Greenwood Park top car park – Cllr John Bell, 01727 831280

Parish Bluebell Walk: 10.30am–1pm, 28 April – meet at Parish Centre car park, with sturdy shoes and warm clothing

2019 Arts Festival & Fête: 1–2 June, Greenwood Park – £2 programme – see page 1

Armed Forces Day: 30 June – beginning with Parade of Standards from Black Boy Wood Shops at 3.30pm, then raising of the Armed Forces Day Flag at 4pm, Parish Centre, with a large memorabilia display, music and refreshments – if you have any memorabilia to loan, please contact your Parish Office (01923 681443)

Other local events

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

Friends of Hanstead Wood volunteer morning: 10am–noon, second Saturday of the month – meet at car park entrance, Hanstead Park, Bricket Wood – 01923 672254

Local Police 'Beat Surgery': 6 April, 10–11am, Greenwood Park Community Centre – subject to operational demands

Hebron Concert: 6 April, 7.30–10.30 pm, Holy Trinity Frogmore – gospel music with a distinctly Jewish flavour – free

Park Street Pickers Clean for the Queen: 10am–noon, 14 April – meet at Park Street Recreation Ground car park – 01727 873365

Senior Citizens Easter Service and Tea: 2.30pm, 15 April, St Luke's, Bricket Wood

Park Street Neighbourhood Watch Public Meeting: 7.45–9.45pm, 16 April, Park Street Baptist Church Hall – with guest speaker

Bricket Wood churches joint Maundy Thursday

Service: 10.30–noon, 18 April, Bricket Wood URC
Maundy Thursday Service: 8–10pm, 18 April, Park Street Baptist Church

Good Friday Easter Prayers: 9.30–10.15am, 19 April, Park Street Baptist Church

Good Friday Open Air Service: 10.30–noon, 19 April, How Wood Shops

'At the Foot of the Cross' Service: 2–3pm, 19 April, Holy Trinity Frogmore

All Age Easter Communion Service: 10.30–noon, 21 April, Park Street Baptist Church

Easter Celebration: 10.30–noon, 21 April, Holy Trinity Frogmore

Charity Jumble Sale: 10am–noon, 11 May, St Bartholomew's Church Hall – 50p – 01727 873672

St Stephen's Gardening Club Outing: 14 May, Leonardslee Gardens – £28 non-members – Graham Wilson, 01727 872718

Sustainable St Albans Litter Pick: 10am–noon, 18 May, How Wood shops – 01727 873365

Sustainable St Albans Litter Pick: 10am–noon, 19 May, meet at Park Street Recreation Ground car park – 01727 873365

Park Street & Frogmore Society Talk & AGM: 'Sins, inns and sleaze: A history of St Albans to 1950' by Jon Mein, 8.15–10.15pm, 21 May, Park Street Village Hall – followed by AGM – £1 (£2 non-members)

Butterfly Walk and Talk: 10.30am–12.30pm, 26 May, Greenwood Park Community Centre – Malcolm Hull, 07768 154324 – see page 3

St Stephen's Gardening Club Talk: 'Naturally native – Plants native to UK suitable for garden use', 7.30pm, 11 June, Parish Centre – £3 incl refreshments

Bricket Wood Residents' Association Open Meeting: 7.45–9.30pm, 13 June, St Luke's

St Stephen's Gardening Club Outing: 25 June, Beth Chatto Gardens – £34 non-members – Graham Wilson, 01727 872718

Bricket Wood Society Talk: 'The new St Albans Museums' by Sarah Keeling, 8–10pm, 25 June, Bricket Wood URC Hall – £1

Parish locations

Greenwood Park: Chiswell Green AL2 3HW

Parish Centre: Bricket Wood AL2 3PJ

Park Street Recreation Ground: AL2 2NE

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.

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

