



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 41



Chair of Council's Annual Report 2018

It is more than a year since I was elected to the post of the Chair of St Stephen Parish Council, and your Council has as ever been extremely active in that time.

As the first tier of representative government, your Council is focused on you – the residents and the local community. On your behalf our work addresses three main areas: planning; management of community facilities; and events organisation. All activity is organised either through main committees or working parties whose function is to investigate specific issues and report to Council with findings and recommendations. Some of the work undertaken this year by the main committees is highlighted on Page 2.

Our Parish events are aimed at fostering our sense of community, while maintaining our traditions and heritage. Crafts in the Park, Parish in Bloom, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day and Carol Concert were all successfully held last year and will be held again in the coming year.

All of our events seem to get larger and larger each year, engaging more and more members of the community,

which is gratifying to see. It is particularly true of our 2017 Remembrance Day Service, which was our biggest yet. Led by Harpenden Pipe Band there was a parade of standards and more than 300 young people involved. I'm especially grateful to regional Warrant Officer Simon Getley, whose experience and input was invaluable in helping to



organise the event, and to Rev'd Kylie Hodgins of St Luke's Church, who led the service to pay tribute to the fallen.

This year is, of course, a very special year, when we will be commemorating the centenary of the signing of the Armistice. There will be the usual Remembrance Day Parade

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New space for hire

Improvements to the Greenwood Park Pavilion has resulted in a new space for meetings, small parties and so on. The refurbished Cricket Room's bifold doors present a view of our beautiful sports field, and there will soon be a paved patio connected to the raised balcony overlooking the tennis courts.

The space is available for hire in the day time. A variety of rooms and facilities are available for hire in the day and evening at Greenwood Park and the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood.

Contact Dani Medlin, Centres Manager (**01727 874867**; bookings@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Councillor coopted for Park Street

The vacancy on your Parish Council for Park Street Ward has been filled. Three nominations were considered, and David Parry, pictured, was coopted (appointed). He can be contacted on **07973 461139** or dave@parry103.co.uk.

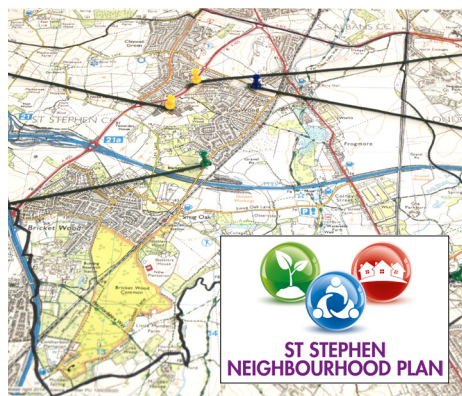


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& Service at the Parish War Memorial on Sunday 11 November, but this will be followed by a lighting of the beacon at Greenwood Park in the evening. We will be part of a national event, which will see 1,000 beacons of light lit throughout the UK at 7pm. Our aim is to make this a memorable event, fitting of the occasion and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend (see Page 4).

In conclusion, can I say that none of our activities would be possible without the efforts of the Councillors and the staff, and I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone. Firstly, to my fellow Councillors for their help and support during the year and importantly to the staff for their hard work.

– Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Chair of Council



Your Neighbourhood Plan emerges through consultation

Your Neighbourhood Plan is going well, but there is still a lot of work to do. We are at a stage now where the embryo of the draft plan is being laid down. This will go through a stringent examination process by the Steering Group before it is presented for consultation.

In June we held a drop-in session at Greenwood Park, designed to give residents a chance to see how far we have progressed. More than 60 people attended and the feedback from those attendees was generally positive. There were a small number who did not agree with what we were suggesting, but nothing, at the moment, is set in stone. Before any sites for proposed development are set down they have to meet a very strict criteria.



Your Parish Council Committee highlights

Trees & Woodlands Committee

Your Parish Council owns or leases a number of parcels of land which are mainly our parks and recreation grounds. We also have woodlands, which are managed by our grounds team and by volunteers. Although the staff take care of the larger projects, the volunteers carry out a variety of tasks such as holly clearance (a particular problem in Blackgreen Wood), tree thinning, replacing cleared areas with saplings, footpath maintenance and placing brash to protect the bluebells.

We are particularly blessed in our parish with a good population of bluebells and with this in mind we organise an annual parish walk for residents. This year 35 residents and their friends took in this feast of blue.

– Cllr John Bell, Chair

Buildings Committee

Repairs have been completed to the Orton Hall floor at Greenwood Park Community Centre, under the supervision of a structural engineer, to resolve a longstanding issue with the floor slab. The floor covering has also been replaced upon the completion of these works.

Our Maintenance Man, Jasim Uddin, continues to do a great job on a rolling programme of decoration, repair and maintenance of your Parish Council buildings.

– Cllr Martin Doyle, Chair

Leisure Committee

Following the installation of the 'Supa-Net' and three other pieces of equipment at the Greenwood Park children's play area last year, we are looking at further improvements to that area plus adding more effective equipment to our other play areas, such as Woodbury Field and Park Street Recreation Ground.

One of the problems we face is the surroundings to the equipment, which varies from place to place, but is generally 'wet pour' or 'grass mat'. This material gets quite a pounding from the users and is in need of replacement throughout all the play areas, for safety reasons, so that will be our next project.

We will continue to ensure that there is adequate equipment and that it is safe.

– Cllr Bill Pryce, Chair

Planning Committee

We deal with about 30 planning applications per month. These consist mainly of extensions to existing homes and small-scale developments which have been proposed on smaller parcels of land within your Parish.

Occasionally we have meetings with developers who are keen to put forward their ideas for larger schemes. We always give them a fair hearing but make it clear that until a firm plan has been submitted to us via the District Council no comment one way or the other can be made. A number of these developments are proposed within the Green Belt and we are keen to emphasise that protection of this valued asset is a high priority of your Council.

With all planning applications our main priority is to object to any proposals that appear detrimental to the quality of life of the community and its residents.

– Cllr John Bell, Chair



Mrs Annie Byrne
with Cllr Dorothy Kerry



Schoolchildren with their new books

Community Award and books for schools at Annual Parish Meeting

As has become tradition, your Parish Council awarded a collection of books to local schools at its Annual Parish Meeting in May.

The scheme is in its eighth year and is not just about supplementing libraries, but is also aimed at encouraging reading and love of books among children. Books presented this year to children and teachers from How Wood, Killigrew, Mount Pleasant and Park Street schools, had 'recycling and the environment' as their theme.

At the same event, Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Chair of Council, presented the Community Award to Mrs Annie Byrne. The award is made to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution that benefits the community. Cllr Kerry said: "Annie is well known in Park Street, having served the community for years. She was a children's crossing lady for many years and is still active providing services for both the young and elderly. Congratulations, Annie."



Carol Hardy and Gill Rix's retirement party

Staff changes at your Parish Council

Two of our long-serving members of staff retired in March this year. Between them, Gill Rix, Centres Manager, and Carol Hardy, Deputy Clerk, had 33 years of service.

Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Chair of Council, said, "I would formally like to thank Gill and Carol for what they have given the Parish, their service to Councillors present and past, and to local residents. We wish them both a long, happy and healthy retirement.

"May I also take the opportunity to welcome Dani Medlin, who joined in March as the new Centres Manager. We hope Dani's time with us will continue to be successful and happy."

A new Assistant Clerk joined the Parish during July.



Cricket scoreboard opened in tribute

In April the late Nick Medlin's family, and friends from Frogmore Cricket Club, unveiled a crowd-funded electronic cricket scoreboard at Park Street Recreation Ground in his memory.

Dani Medlin, who is now your Parish Council's Centres Manager (see above), said, "Widespread support for the scoreboard is a huge testament to the community's love for Nick and the respect in which he was held." The club played a Twenty20 game later in the season in honour of Nick, and it will become a regular fixture on its calendar.





Armistice centenary to be marked with special events

In commemoration and remembrance of the centenary of the end of the First World War, your Parish Council will take part in the Battle's Over national tribute, which will see 1,000 beacons lit across the UK on 11 November.

The event at Greenwood Park will commence at 5pm with music, a BBQ and bar, and will close after the lighting of the beacon at 7pm; the Remembrance Day Parade & Service at the Parish War Memorial will be held earlier in the day.

Your Parish Needs You! We are seeking someone who had a relative who saw action in the First World War to light the beacon. If you have a family member who served, we'd love to hear from you, learn their story and provide you with this unique opportunity to light our community tribute. The beacon is lit electronically, so if you have a child who would like to be involved that would be appropriate.

To register your interest please contact the Parish Office (**01923 681338**; gill@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



Tree-felling at Greenwood Park

Unfortunately, three of the trees at Greenwood Park's boundary with Tippendell Lane have been professionally assessed as posing a safety risk. The recommendation was to fell them and the work is expected to be completed over the summer.

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

20 Sep, 18 Oct, 15 Nov, 7.30pm:
Parish Centre, Bricket Wood

Parish Council events

Parish in Bloom Awards Evening: 27 Sep, 7pm, Greenwood Park Community Centre

St Julian's Wood Volunteer Working Morning: 29 Sep, 27 Oct and 24 Nov, 10am–1pm – meet at Greenwood Park top car park – 01727 831280

Remembrance Day Service: 11 Nov, 2:45pm, Parish War Memorial, Park Street
Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light: 11 Nov, 5–7pm; beacon lighting at Greenwood Park – see article, left
Community Carol Concert: 2 Dec, 4pm, Greenwood Park Community Centre

Other local events

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

Play in the Parks: Mondays until 27 Aug, 9:15–11:15am, Woodbury Field, Bricket Wood; and Fridays until 31 Aug, 9:15–11:15am, Greenwood Park, Chiswell Green

Hanstead Wood Volunteer Morning:

11 Aug, 8 Sep and 13 Oct – meet at car park entrance, Hanstead Park, Bricket Wood – 01923 672254

Open Evening, Bricket Wood Residents Association:

13 Sept, 7.45pm, St Luke's Church Hall, Bricket Wood – 01923 672254

Community Litter Pick, Park Street Pickers: 15 Sep, 10am, Park Street Recreation Ground; and 16 Sep, 10am, How Wood Shops – 01727 873365

Park Street & Frogmore Society talk:

A History of Allotments, 18 Sep, 8.15pm, Park Street Village Hall – £2 – 07792 588892

Charity Jumble Sale: 22 Sep, 10–11am, St Barts Church, Vesta Ave/Watling St – 50p – 01727 873672

Dog Show and Cream Tea, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People: 23 Sep, noon–4.30pm, Greenwood Park – tea tickets £3.25 in advance – 07747 117300

Bricket Wood Society talk: Hertfordshire Mills, 25 Sep, 8pm, Bricket Wood URC Hall – £2 – 01923 279870

Well-Being Day, Park Street Residents Association fundraising event:

14 Oct, 10am–4pm; Park Street Village Hall – 01727 530082

Parish in Bloom

Don't miss this year's Parish in Bloom Awards Evening, from 7pm on 27 September at Greenwood Park Community Centre. Join us to celebrate those people who brighten up our villages with floral displays, hanging baskets, beautiful front gardens and much more.



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. 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.

