



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Spring Newsletter Issue 32 - 2016

Beacon tribute to the Queen

Join us at Greenwood Park in the early evening of 21 April when the beacon will be lit to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Further details will be announced.

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

When every second counts

The two new Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) will be installed at the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood, and Park Street Recreation Ground. Your Parish Council was awarded the equipment, along with DefibSafe cabinets and a CPR Training Kit, by the British Heart Foundation.

The kit includes enough equipment to train ten people at a time, and in the first instance will be offered to groups using the Council's halls and sports facilities. However, the new AEDs, as well as the existing AED at Greenwood Park, can be used by anyone, irrespective of training, as the machine will talk the user through the whole procedure.

CLLr Mick Freeman, Parish Council Chairman, commented: "The speed at which aid can be given to someone who has had a cardiac arrest is such an important factor in their survival. Wherever you are in the Parish, a public access AED is freely available to use in an emergency."



An ace service for tennis booking

Greenwood Park Tennis Club has introduced an online booking system (www.greenwoodtennis.com) for both members and non-members, making it easier to check court availability and book. The public court can be booked for £5/hour, online or with the ClubSpark Booker smartphone app. Cash bookings can still be made at the Day 1 Newsagent on the corner of Tippendell Lane and Watford Road. The Kidszone mini-court, specifically designed for children aged 3-9 years, can be booked for £2/hour at the newsagent; annual Kidszone membership is only £12, and allows the court to be booked online for free.



Play areas to be upgraded

Your Parish Council is responsible for play areas at Greenwood Park, Park Street Recreation Ground, Mayflower Road, North Close, Cherry Hill and Woodbury Field, all of which are well used. A number of new items have been purchased, at a substantial discount, to replace or augment the existing equipment.

The new equipment will be installed in the above play areas (with the exception of Greenwood Park) by the summer holidays. The first play area to benefit will be Woodbury Field, where a new slide will be installed, together with a 'snooker wall' (pictured).

At Greenwood Park we have plans for a 'Super Net', a large piece of equipment that will replace the present 'witches hat' climbing net and provide years of enjoyment for local children. Greenwood Park's popularity grows year on year. It has gained the Green Flag Award for the last three years and been praised in the District Council's Green Spaces report. Your Council is seeking authority from the District Council to use Section 106 money – received from developers when they build, and held by the District Council for leisure use within the Parish – to pay for the 'Super Net' and other improvements to the Park.

See 'Children's Play Areas': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Extending the Greenwood Park Pavilion

Following the granting of planning permission, your Parish Council – working closely with Greenwood Park Tennis Club – has secured a £75K 'Inspired Facilities' grant from Sport England towards the extension of and improvements to Greenwood Park Sports Pavilion. The remainder will be co-funded by the Council and the club. David Thompson, Vice-Chairman of the GPLTC, commented: "We are delighted with the success of our bid to gain this necessary funding. We will now be able to proceed with the much needed improvements to the Pavilion facilities."

2015 Remembrance Day

A parade of standards along Park Street by more than 120 young people began the annual Remembrance Day Service at St Stephen Parish War Memorial in November.

More than 600 people gathered to pay tribute to the fallen of both World Wars and more recent conflicts. Wreaths were laid by Cllr Salih Gaygusuz, Mayor of St Albans City & District, local Councillors, representatives from local groups, organisations and churches, serving and veteran armed forces personnel, and families of local servicemen lost in recent conflicts. A record 18 of the local Guiding and Scouting units paraded their colours. The service was conducted by Chris Short, Pastor of Park Street Baptist Church. Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Parish Vice-Chairman, read the tribute, with Cllr Mick Freeman, Chairman, laying the wreath on behalf of your Parish Council. Cllr Freeman thanked all participants, including the local police team who not only attended the service but also manned the road closure, providing a safe route for the parade and enough room for all attendees.



Gathering winter fu-u-el

Tree felling operations have recently been carried out in St Julians and Blackgreen woods, both of which are managed by your Parish Council. Although the work may sometimes appear rather drastic, it is essential to rejuvenate the woodlands. The felled wood has many uses: some is taken by our contractor in lieu of payment, some is used by your Council on local projects and some forms log piles which will act as habitats for wildlife. Generally no wood must be removed by residents without the Council's express permission. However, from time to time surplus timber will be left in piles near the gates to the wood with a sign indicating that residents are welcome to take some of the wood for their own personal use. Please take from the piles sensibly, but leave some for others.



Harperbury Hospital housing development

Your Parish Council considers the proposed development at the former Harperbury Hospital would provide a good mix of properties and a sufficient supply of affordable homes. However, we have indicated that the safety of Harper Lane Bridge remains a concern and it is disappointing that the scheme will not generate any Community Infrastructure Levy funding to improve sporting facilities within the Parish since the Park Street Recreation Ground is not close enough to the development.

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

Councillor vacancy for Bricket Wood East

At the time of writing this vacancy remained unfilled. However, your Council continues to work hard to identify an appropriate candidate to co-opt, and to this effect another round of interviews was scheduled in February.

Rail Freight Terminal update

We welcomed the decision taken by the County Council to reiterate its opposition to the proposed development of the Strategic Rail Freight Terminal at the former Radlett Aerodrome site. At the time of writing, no approach to purchase the land has been made by the developer HelioSlough, but should an offer be made we hope the County Council will consider alternatives that will better serve the local community.

Abbey Flyer improvements

We are pleased that Network Rail and the County Council have agreed to develop options for a 30-minute frequency for the St Albans to Watford Abbey Line, and that, as part of the extension of London Midland's current contract, a later-running service will be introduced.

Hit the Highways!

Please use the Highway Fault Reporting page on County Council's website (www.hertsdirect.org) to report issues on local roads, such as potholes, streetlights not working, pavement problems or faulty traffic signals, or call 0300 123 4047. Planned roadworks and diversions are also online (www.hertfordshire.roadworks.org), and you can follow @Herts_Highways on Twitter for updates on incidents affecting local roads and the salting programme.

See 'Council Services': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

The future of Bricket Wood Station

An informal group – including representatives of Abfly (the Abbey Line Users Group), the Bricket Wood Residents Association, your Parish Council, London Midland and the Department for Transport – has been considering how Bricket Wood Station could be brought back into use for local benefit. If you'd like to know more or get involved, please contact us (clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



Supporting the local community

At its November meeting your Parish Council once again approved a range of discounts and grants to support local community organisations and organisers of charity fundraising events. Local Residents' Associations, Park Street Neighbourhood Watch, Community Rail Partnership, Abfly (the Abbey Flyer Users' Group) and the St Stephens Gardening Club were granted discounts for committee meetings and one special event per year, such as the Park Street Residents Association Craft Fair (on 5 June). Additionally, your Council approved applications from the organisers of fundraising events for the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, Macmillan Cancer Support and Waverley Driving for the Disabled, as well as grants to support the senior citizens clubs, with St Luke's Lunch Club receiving £400 and Holy Trinity's 'In Touch' Club receiving £600.

Grant funding for Neighbourhood Plan

Your Parish Council has obtained a further grant from the Community Rights Programme (CRP) to help with development of the Neighbourhood Plan, which, once adopted, will influence the future of Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street.

Cllr Bill Pryce, who is leading the Neighbourhood Plan initiative, said:

"While much of the work formulating the plan is being undertaken by local residents on a voluntary basis, this grant will enable your Council to fund essential external support. Although there is a depth of talent and expertise within the volunteer force, there will be areas where we need the assistance of specialists to ensure that the Plan is sufficiently robust and effective." He also reiterated the need for local residents to have their say in the development of the Plan (neighbourhoodplan@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).



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

Parish facilities' hirer profile

The preschool room at Tots Day Nursery was recently transformed into the International Space Station, with the children learning interesting facts about planets and the solar system, and singing songs about their space flight. The rocket that launched them into space was made by the children, who dressed up as astronauts and contacted NASA by phone and email. Using their writing and construction skills, they recorded all the planets' names and created 3D planets out of papier mâché. If you would like your child to join us at Tots Day Nursery please call 01923 279999. Of the facilities at the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood, Tots says: "It's great having access to a large hall when we need extra space for activities. Parents tell us that they find the location, adjacent to open countryside, very attractive."



See 'Venue Hire': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



2015 Carol Concert

The 16th Annual Community Carol Concert at Greenwood Park in December once again saw children from all the Parish's junior schools giving outstanding performances to a full house of friends, families, local residents and invited guests, including St Albans City & District Mayor, Cllr Salih Gaygusuz, accompanied by the Mayoress, Anne Main MP and local Councillors. The Christmas message and prayer was delivered by Revd Dr Nick Weir, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Frogmore.

The free event was supported by volunteers, including the 220 St Albans Squadron Air Training Corps, Salsa Mish, choirmaster Ian La Riviere, sound engineer Simon Whittle and Penny Farmer, Shaun the Sheep's owner, with Sainsbury's at London Colney donating all the refreshments. A bucket collection raised £464 for this year's nominated charity, the Stroke Association.



Go on – get involved!

Want to give something back to your local community but haven't got the time to make a regular commitment? Why not get involved in one of your Parish's events? No special skills are required and extra hands are always welcome. A volunteer at our Carol Concert said, "It was a pleasure and I really enjoyed the Carol Concert. ... I am feeling quite festive!" To find out more please contact us (clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).

New Frogmore Lakes footpath

The path that follows the edge of the River Ver and around the fishing lake to Hyde Lane has had a chequered history due to flooding and access issues. This may be about to change as Tarmac, owner of the gravel pits and lakes, recently agreed to allow this route to be a Designated Right of Way with the County Council. The path should be officially opened very soon.

2016/17 Precept set

Your Parish Councillors recently faced the unenviable task of setting the Precept for 2016/17. This is never an easy matter, because we wish to maintain the current facilities and events enjoyed by many, but also to make further improvements. At the same time, we must keep the Precept at a level that will not be hard to swallow for Parish residents. After much debate and discussion the Precept has been increased by 2.9%, which for a band 'D' house is an increase of £1.84 per year.

See 'Your Council': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Armed Forces Day, Saturday 25 June

Please come along as we mark the service of men and women in the Armed Forces. Join the Parade of Standards, which will leave Black Boy Wood shops at 3.30pm and march to the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood. Here the flag will be raised at 4 pm, followed by light refreshments, music by the Watford Brass Band and a display of memorabilia.

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

Crafts in the Park 2016, 25–27 July

This popular free event will be held once again at Greenwood Park at the beginning of the summer holidays, on the mornings of 25–27 July 2016. Children of all ages will have the opportunity to try their hands at range of different crafts, including collage, painting, clay modelling and much more, with this year's theme being the Queen's 90th birthday.

Dates for your diary

19 Apr, 8pm: Cybercrime & Fraud, Park Street Neighbourhood Watch Public Meeting, PS Baptist Church Hall, 01727 873365

22 Apr, 7:30pm: River Restoration on the Ver, Ver Valley Society, Parish Centre, 01582 793144

24 Apr, 10.30am: Bluebell Walk, meet at Parish Centre

26 Apr, 7pm: Celebrating 50 years in Park Street, Park Street Residents Association AGM, PS Village Hall, 01727 768127

5 May: District Council Elections

10 May, 8pm: Hertfordshire Hearing Dogs for Deaf People AGM, Parish Centre, 01923 671869

15 May, 10am: Park Street Pickers Community Litter Pick, meet at PS Recreation Ground car park, 01727 873365

5 June, 10am–2pm: Summer Craft Fair & Boot Sale, Park Street Residents Association, PS Recreation Ground, 01727 768127

Main Council Meetings:

17 Mar, 28 Apr, 19 May, 16 Jun, St Stephen Parish Centre, 7.30pm

Parish Council events

21 April: Beacon tribute, Greenwood Park (see page 1)

12 May: Annual Parish Meeting, Holy Trinity Church, Park Street

13–15 May: Funfair, Greenwood Park

11–12 June: 2016 Festival, Parish Centre

24 June: Parish in Bloom 2016 entries due

26 June: Armed Forces Day, Parish Centre

25–27 July: Crafts in the Park, Greenwood Park

12–14 Aug: Funfair, Greenwood Park

22 Sep: Parish in Bloom Awards Evening, Greenwood Park



Saturday & Sunday 11 - 12 June 2016

The Parish Centre, Station Road,
Bricket Wood, St Albans, AL2 3PJ

- Arts and Crafts Fair with displays and performances
- Music and Dance Arena Performances
- Children's Funfair

Sunday

Fete, Food Arena and Real Ale, Falconry Display,
Terrier Racing and Dog Show

Performances by

Elvis Shmelvis, Groove Daddy & The Jumping Fleas

Celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

We couldn't fit it all on the poster: there'll also be real ale and cider (in association with CAMRA); a BBQ; children's arts, crafts, activities and a funfair; local performers; microlights; the 'Great British Cake-Off' (competition to bake a birthday cake for the Queen); and much more! Bookings for stalls at the Fête on Sunday are now being accepted – please see the website or contact the Parish Council Office.

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

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

Open Daily from 9.00am to 5.00pm or by prior appointment.

23 Dec–4 Jan: Parish Office closed

Contact either: Juliet Pienaar, Clerk, or Carol Hardy, Deputy Clerk

Tel: 01923 681443 Fax: 01923 681338

Email: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

