



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL



Winter Newsletter Issue 39 - 2017

Remember Remembrance Day?

Why not view the gallery of photographs from this event on our website or look out for our special feature article in the Spring newsletter.



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

St Stephen Neighbourhood Plan – outcomes of the 'call for sites'

When we last wrote about the Neighbourhood Plan we were at that stage where the sites from the 'call for sites' exercise had been sent off to a professional organisation for assessment. The Steering Group had some queries over the result and it was sent back for reassessment. We have now had their report back covering all the questions we asked.

As a result the Steering Group met on 2 November and drew up a list of possible sites for development. The developers will be invited to add to any information already submitted by way of a presentation to the Steering Group. We have to say that these sites must conform to a strict set of criteria. Also, most (if not all) sites are within the Green Belt and therefore the prospective developers must show 'special reasons' before they can be taken out of the Green Belt – that is in the hands of the District Council. We are also in the process of revisiting all the evidence in preparation for writing up the draft plan, ready for examination. It is important to say that any development that takes place will have had to meet very stringent measures before it is even considered – this is not an exercise in filling any open space with housing. The members of the Steering Group are all residents of the Parish and therefore have the best interest of the Parish at heart. They would prefer to see development that the residents want and need rather than development being imposed upon us by others.

All residents will have the opportunity to have their say when the Plan is sent out at the referendum stage, but we would hope that it is such that you share our views.

Cllr Bill Pryce



Connect with us by Twitter

Your Parish Council's 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

Greenwood Park is "an ideal venue" and the Parish Centre is "amazing"

The Hertfordshire Branch of the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity held its fundraising Dogs in the Park event at your Parish Council's Greenwood Park in September. Its Honorary Secretary, Liz Arendt, writes: "Greenwood Park was an ideal venue for the event and Gill Rix [Centres Manager] and Gary Field [Head Groundsman] could not have been more helpful in ensuring that everything ran smoothly both outdoors and in the leisure centre building. Please do convey our thanks to them and to the members of the Parish Council for, once again, allowing us to use the Parish facilities without charge."

A parishioner who hired the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood, for a party writes: "A note to say we had a wonderful time and the venue was admired by many parents from the other side of town that had not been there before – so hopefully you'll get lots of bookings as they thought the space was amazing!"

If you would like to hire a Parish facility, please contact the Centres Manager, Gill Rix:
(bookings@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01727 874867).

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

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

Abbey Line round-up

Through its membership of the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership (CRP), your Parish Council will monitor the performance and plans of the incoming franchise holder, West Midlands Trains Ltd, who will operate the trains from 11 December. Three of the line's seven stops – Park Street, How Wood and Bricket Wood – serve Parish residents and businesses. The new franchise holder is understood to have plans to improve the Abbey Line service over time, including improved rolling stock, better information screens at stations and onboard, and an economic development unit to bring in external funds for enhancement projects.

The CRP's initiative with Oaklands College recently won second prize in the category 'Involving Children and Young People' at the National Community Rail Awards (pictured). The project was designed to get young people involved with the local community as well as local railway heritage. Students created plans to rejuvenate passenger growth on the line, which were presented to the current franchisee. Edna Woname, Abbey Line CRP Officer, said, "I am particularly glad that our work as a Partnership has been recognised once again and grateful for the continued support of our passengers, volunteers, Rail Users' Group and members of the Abbey Line CRP"

Abfly, the Abbey Flyer Users' Group, is seeking funding to conduct a passing loop feasibility study. A passing loop would enable multiple trains to run on the line, thus increasing the frequency of departures. Contact Abfly (www.abfly.org.uk) if you wish to contribute. Abfly organised a successful campaign against plans to replace the line with 'bus rapid transit'.

Representatives from your Parish Council, Abfly, the Bricket Wood Residents' Association and the Bricket Wood Society have formed the Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust, in order to re-open and restore the station building as a heritage centre and tea room.



Trevor Mason (2nd left) and Val Male (4th left), Hertfordshire County Council; Edna Woname (3rd left), CRP Officer; Huma Yousaf (5th left), Oaklands College; and Steve Helfet (6th left), London Midland



Fitness, health and wellbeing opportunities at the Parish facilities

A range of fitness, health and wellbeing activities are held at your Parish facilities. Greenwood Park in Chiswell Green hosts yoga, line dancing and Pilates classes, as well as 'Fellas Fitness' for the over 50s and 'Fitstep Fitness'. The Parish Centre in Bricket Wood is home to yoga and Qi Gong classes, as well as 'Fit for Life' and 'Vitality Exercise'.

Do give them a try if you need to raise your fitness level or increase your wellbeing.

If you would like to hire a Parish facility to hold your own classes, clubs or events, please contact the Centres Manager, Gill Rix (bookings@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01727 874867).

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

Parish facilities' hirer profile

Swallows Badminton Club is a small, sociable, mixed group that meets year-round on Tuesday evenings, 8–10pm, at Greenwood Park Community Centre. They have use of both badminton courts, toilets, changing rooms, hot showers and ample free car parking. The club is keen to attract new members of a reasonable standard. If this appeals, please contact Rene or David (07712 255304 or 01707 880083; dandrl@ntlworld.com).

The Community Centre offers numerous facilities, with the Sports Hall also accommodating netball, volleyball, football, basketball and indoor bowls. A meeting room, complete with bar, and a second hall are available for hire, while kitchen facilities allow for a variety of functions.

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



Parish in Bloom awards evening

Close to 100 people attended this year's Parish in Bloom awards evening, held for the first time in the Sports Hall of Greenwood Park Community Centre. Pictured winners are, clockwise from top left:

- Park Street School (Inter-Schools Competition, run in conjunction with St Stephen's Gardening Club), with the club's Graham Wilson
- Owen Murphy of Park Street Lane (Best-Kept Front Garden, Park Street), with Jon Breen of the Park Street Residents' Association
- Michael & Teresa Hagget of The Uplands (Best-Kept Front Garden First Prize), with Cllr Ian Getley and Cllr Dorothy Kerry, Chair of Council.

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



Can you dig it?

Your Parish Council has a number of vacant allotment plots just waiting for eager tenants to love them. Ranging from a small plot to a large plot, there is something for everyone. Water is available on all sites and annual costs range from £12.50-£20.50, plus a one-off admin fee. The cost will be higher if you live outside the Parish boundary. To find out more, please contact Carol Hardy (01923 681443 or carol@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk).

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



Dig for victory!

The St Stephen's Gardening Club was founded in the 1920s with the objective of promoting interest in all aspects of gardening. Open to gardeners of all abilities, we currently have about 250 members. Annual membership is £3.

Our Trading Hut (pictured) is in Drop Lane, Bricket Wood, and is open to members on every Saturday, 2–4pm, from early February to the end of October. We sell a range of goods, including fertilisers, compost, insecticides, weedkiller, organic products, bird feeds and seasonal products such as bulbs, seed potatoes, onion sets and bedding plants, as well as seeds to order.

We run at least three coach outings a year to visit gardens, historic houses and garden shows, plus we have a five-day holiday. There are Gardeners' Evenings with speakers and/or demonstrations, plant sales, open gardens etc. One of the highlights of the year is the Annual Show in September. For further details contact me.

Graham Wilson (01727 872718)



Take a break

Put your feet up and have a seat on the new bench that has been installed outside Greenwood Park Community Centre.

The bench was made in-house by our multi-skilled Grounds Team using locally sourced oak from Blackgreen Wood and donated to the Parish in memory of Don Crook, a well-known local man and past regular recipient of the Parish in Bloom Best Kept Front Garden Award.

Dates for your diary

Parish Council Events

9 Dec, 10am–noon: **Blackgreen Wood Volunteer Working Morning** – meet at the bridge in Park Street Lane; parking available at the Parish Centre

25 Jan, 1 Feb and 15 Mar, 7.30pm: **Main Council Meetings**, Parish Centre

27 Jan, 24 Feb and 31 Mar, 10am–1pm: **St Julian's Wood Volunteer Working Morning** – meet at Greenwood Park top car park; 01727 831280

Other Local Events

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

14 Dec, 8pm: **Bricket Wood Residents Association Open Meeting**, St Luke's Church Hall

13 Jan, 10 Feb and 10 Mar, 10am–noon: **Hanstead Wood Volunteer Morning** – meet at car park entrance, Hanstead Wood, Hanstead Park, Bricket Wood; 01923 672254

16 Jan, 8.15pm: **Park Street & Frogmore Society Open Meeting & Talk 'Jetstream'**, Park Street Village Hall – £2; 07792 588892

20 Jan, 10–11am: **Charity Jumble Sale**, St Bart's Church Hall – 50p; 01727 873572

20 Jan and 17 Mar, 10am–noon: **Park Street Pickers Community Litter Clean-Up** – meet at How Wood Shops – please check dates (01727 873365)

21 Jan and 18 Mar, 10am–noon: **Park Street Pickers Community Litter Clean-Up** – meet at Park Street Recreation Ground – please check dates (01727 873365)

20 Mar, 8pm: **Bricket Wood Society AGM & Talk, 'Abfly'**, Bricket Wood URC Hall – £2; 01923 279870

20 Mar, 8.15pm: **Park Street & Frogmore Society Talk, 'Farming in the First World War'**, Park Street Village Hall – £2; 07792 588892

See '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

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

