

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Winter Newsletter Issue 35 - 2016

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The people have spoken!

A big 'Thank You' to all those residents who took the time and trouble to fill in and return the Community Survey that accompanied the last Parish Newsletter. An essential part of your Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan development programme, more than 500 completed surveys were received. These are now being analysed by the Plan's Steering Group and Working Parties. The next stage in the process will be drafting the outline Plan.



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

Look forward to spring

As the nights draw in, it can be comforting to think ahead to spring. One of the things your Parish Council does to keep our villages bright is to provide spring bulbs in the autumn. The three local Residents' Associations very kindly plant these on our behalf. So next time you see a roadside daffodil stretching towards the spring sun, have a think about all that our local volunteers do for our villages.



Park Street Pickers: 'Great and Green'

'Don't Be a Tosser' is the official strapline of the Park Street Pickers, who recently won the Herts Advertiser Community Award, 'Great and Green' section.

On the third Sunday morning of every other month, the Pickers assemble at Park Street Recreation Ground armed with bags and litter-picking sticks, then depart their several ways to collect the litter that has been deposited by careless and/or thoughtless people. While most of their work is within Park Street, they have been further afield into Bricket Wood and Chiswell Green. Their concern is to keep the area clean, tidy and free from the detritus that makes our village look unkempt and messy. The bags of litter are stored and collected, usually the following day, by the District Council.



CAROL CONCERT WITH WATFORD BRASS BAND

Greenwood Park Community Centre
Sunday 4 December 2016, 4pm
followed by light refreshments

'Tis the season ...

Your Parish Council's annual Community Carol Concert will be held on 4 December, 4–6pm, with music from the Watford Band, the nativity, performances from local schools and a combined churches choir. Light refreshments will be served after the concert, with a charity bucket collection in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Admission is free.

We can always use the support of volunteers at events like this. See 'Lend us a hand?', page 4.

Since their formation in 2008, the Pickers have collected almost 1,400 bags of rubbish – containing everything from drink cartons (often identifiable by the supplier's logo), newspapers, empty cans, items of clothing, car hub caps and much more. The Pickers would rather not have to do it, so please 'Don't Be a Tosser': take your litter home with you.

If you would like to help, please contact the organisers on (01727) 873365, 751319 or 873181.

New advertising opportunity for local businesses

Local businesses are invited to sponsor your Parish Council's new recycling bins by advertising on them. Six new bins, each of which has two advertising panels, have been placed within the new Greenwood Park Play Area and at the entrance to the park, where they will attract much attention. Advertising on the bins costs £200 per panel for a two-year period, and can be updated every six months.

To find out more email gill@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk.



Profile: Frogmore Cricket Club

Frogmore Cricket Club (pictured in the rain) has just completed another very successful season at your Parish Council's Park Street Recreation Ground, with the Saturday 1st XI winning promotion in the Herts Saracens League for the third year in succession and the 2nd XI finishing high in their division.

The club also plays Sunday friendly fixtures and this season have featured two ladies in the team on a regular basis. They are keen to establish a Ladies Section in the club next season, so if you have played before or would like to try your hand at the game you would be welcome.

Contact Andy Fraser, Club Secretary, on 07765 243662.



Crafts in the Park

Your Parish Council's free 'Crafts in the Park' proved to be a great hit with everyone for the third year running. The activities took place during the first three days of the school summer holidays as part of the national Love Parks Week initiative.

The sessions – run by Cllrs Wendy Berriman, John Bell, Eileen Whittaker and Dorothy Kerry – gave children of all ages the opportunity to try out lots of different crafts, with the materials provided by your Parish Council.

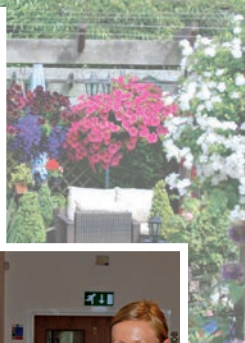
Cllr Berriman commented: "We had all ages coming along to take part – they were able to try out all sorts of crafts that they might not have done before, make lots of mess, have something to take away with them and explore our award-winning Greenwood Park and Community Centre."

Categories revised for Parish in Bloom 2017

Competition categories for Parish in Bloom, which is run to encourage everyone to take pride in your Parish by improving the area with floral displays, have been revised for 2017.

Eight Best Kept Front Gardens in each ward will be selected by Parish Councillors, from which the overall Parish winner and runners-up will be selected. A new Best Hanging Basket or Container category will allow residents without gardens to be recognised. Allotment, Business and Schools categories remain unchanged, but there will be no Best Kept Back Garden category. The three Residents' Associations will continue with their own competitions and present their awards at the Parish in Bloom Awards evening. At this year's event (pictured), in September, the efforts of gardeners from all around your Parish were recognised. Winners included How Wood School (Inter Schools Garden Competition, run by the St Stephen Gardening Club, in association with your Parish Council), Mr and Mrs Crook of Chiswell Green (Best Kept Front Garden), Mr and Mrs Gledhill of Chiswell Green (Best Kept Back Garden), Mrs Janet Gardiner (Best Kept Allotment), Mrs Agnieszka Nemcek (Best Allotment Newcomer) and the Black Boy Public House (Best Business Floral Display).

To find out more see 'Parish Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Exciting new play equipment at Greenwood Park

The new Greenwood Park Play Area was officially opened by your Parish Council on 1 November 2016, following the completion of the 'Supanet' project, the majority of which was funded by Section 106 money (from developments within the Parish). The old Witch's Hat climbing frame and two other pieces of equipment have been replaced by a large new Spacenet climbing frame, with a large play sand base and extensions, a triple rope trail for younger children, a set of turning bars suitable for all ages and a new improved zip line.

Guests from the District Council were invited, and children representing the local schools were among the first to use the equipment, which forms the largest part of the ambitious Parish Playgrounds Improvement Project addressing playgrounds throughout your Parish.

To find your Parish play areas see 'Facilities': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Bricket Wood Station Project

The only remaining station building on your Abbey Line railway should be returned to its former glory, and become a community asset for use by all, rather than remaining a bricked-up shell. That is the aim of the Station Project Group, which is supported by your Parish Council and the Bricket Wood Residents' Association (BWRA), and made up of individual residents with particular skills, with representatives of your Parish Council, the BWRA, the Abbey Flyer Users' Group and the Bricket Wood Society.

Phase 1 involves establishing an organisational and financial structure, discussions with Network Rail (the owner), a full survey of the building, market research and development of a business plan, as well as design development and options to include planning application and building regulations.

In this respect the train operator, London Midland, is most supportive and has pledged a generous donation. This, coupled with financial pledges from the organisations mentioned, along with those from Park Street Residents Association, Railfuture and a number of individuals – for which many thanks – has enabled extra funding to be granted by the Designated Community Rail Development Fund.

The 'Project' is therefore now in a position to fully prepare Phase 1, as a precursor to actually starting work on restoring the building, subject to Network Rail. We will, in due course, be looking for help and support from anyone who would like to be involved in this exciting community project.

Contact Laurie Hart: hartlj@supanet.com.



Abbey Line under threat – again

Residents are encouraged to respond to the County Council's Transport Vision 2050 consultation by 14 December.

This is an opportunity to add your voice to that of your Parish Council and the Abbey Flyer Users' Group (ABFLY) in support of preserving and improving the Abbey Line railway rather than replacing it with a concrete bus lane.

The 'Vision' is long-term (i.e. what the County needs by 2050) and mainly positive, but reintroduces the prospect of replacing the Abbey Line with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). This is similar to the scheme presented in the 2015 County Draft Rail Strategy, to which ABFLY rallied considerable opposition, and to which your Parish Council objected.

ABFLY commented: "Just over one year ago, in summer 2015, over 80% of respondents to another [County] consultation expressed their opposition to such a scheme, and their support for retaining and enhancing the Abbey Line as a rail service. It appears that these views have been roundly ignored in what ABFLY describe as an 'insult to the democratic process'. ABFLY's opposition to BRT revolves around five key concerns; environmental impact, passenger comfort and perception, loss of network benefits, reliability and cost."



To find out more and how to respond see www.abfly.org.uk/savetheabbeyline

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



ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street
THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD
ST ALBANS HERTS AL2 3PJ

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Dates for your diary

Main Parish Council Meetings

19 Jan, 2 Feb and 16 Mar, 7.30pm: Parish Centre

Parish Council Events

4 Dec, 4–6pm: **Annual Carol Concert**, Greenwood Park
Community Centre – see page 1

23 Dec to 4 Jan: **Parish Office closed**

28 Jan, 25 Feb, 25 Mar, 10am–noon: **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

1 Dec, 5.30pm: **Park Street Residents Association Community
Celebration**, How Wood Shops, (01727) 768127

10 Dec, 14 Jan, 11 Feb and 11 Mar, 10am: **Hanstead Wood
Volunteer Day** – meet at car park entrance, (01923) 673169

15 Dec, 8pm: **Bricket Wood Residents' Association Christmas
Social and Open Meeting**, St Luke's Church Hall

15 Jan and 19 Mar, 10am–noon: **Park Street Pickers Community
Litter Clean-Up** – meet at Park St Recreation Ground, free,
(01727) 873365 – see page 1

18 Jan, 15 Feb and 15 Mar, 8pm: **Park Street Residents
Association Committee Meetings**, Park Street Baptist Church
Small Hall, (01727) 768127

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

21 Mar, 8pm: **Bricket Wood Society AGM & Talk**, Bricket Wood
URC Hall, £2, (01923) 279870

For a full list of local activities see
'Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lend us a hand?

Your Parish Council hosts several recurring events, which include
the Remembrance Day Service, the Parish Festival, Crafts in the
Park, Parish in Bloom, the Annual Carol Concert and Armed Forces
Day, to name but a few. These events do not run themselves:
although in the main your Parish Councillors carry out the
organising, they urgently require help on the day of the event,
such as manning stalls, planting out plants and flower beds,
putting out tables and chairs, serving refreshments and clearing
away afterwards. Your participation would also be welcomed on
any of the working parties that plan these events.

If you feel that you are able to assist us in any way, however
small, please contact the Parish Office on (01923) 681443.

To find out what events are being held, see
'Parish Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

The deadline for entries is 5pm Thursday 9th March 2017

Entry forms can be downloaded from our website or
collected from the Parish office.



The awards will be presented this year at the
Annual Parish meeting on 11 May 2017



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Nominations open for Community Awards 2017

Your Parish Council values the outstanding performance
and dedication shown by people living and working in the
local community. Nominations are now open for the 2017
Community Awards in celebration of the work of people who
deserve particular thanks for their work in the community.
There are two categories – one for those over the age of 18 and
one for those under (the Youth Community Award).

To find out more and download nomination forms 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

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

