



Parklands People – Spring 2012

Parklands Residents' Association Newsletter

PRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 24th March 2012
@ 3pm at St Wilfrid's Church Hall



"It's Your Neighbourhood"

Find out more about the Chichester in Bloom 2012 Competition

Come and get some inspiration for your garden/window box

Seed Swap – bring any unwanted seeds (part open packs are fine and swap them

Chichester in Bloom – 2012

Parklands is now entered in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" category of the South East in Bloom competition. The judges will be touring the area in the summer. Where should we take them? Do you have a wonderful display in your front garden? Or could you grow some plants in a window box or tub for the first time? Whatever your level of skill or experience – Parklands needs **YOU** to get involved!

Railway Crossing at Fishbourne Road East

For over 11 years there have been concerns raised about the safety of this crossing following 3 fatalities. It is the busiest level crossing in the whole of West Sussex, on average about 1600 pedestrians and cyclists use the crossing daily, these include residents from Fishbourne, Parklands and students at Bishop Luffa and Chichester College. Mobility scooter users find the crossing difficult to negotiate on their own and often have to wait for someone to help them with the gates. It is operated by lights and Network Rail have been looking at alternatives as their preference is to phase out such crossings. Residents may recall that 3 years ago Network Rail consulted on the Crossing Site which included either a tunnel or footbridge. The footbridge was the preferred option for the majority of people consulted. Network Rail have prepared plans for a footbridge crossing which were discussed at a meeting in January this year where City District and County Councillors were present. Network Rail also plans to hold an exhibition of their plans at a date to be arranged.

Digital switchover in West Sussex - beware of bogus callers - The Digital Switchover starts in West Sussex on 29 February with more installers working in the area. There have been reports elsewhere that opportunists have used the switchover as an excuse to commit distraction burglaries. Neighbourhood policing Superintendent Dave Miller said: "It is predominantly the elderly and the vulnerable who may find the switchover difficult, we want to make sure our residents only let legitimate installers into their homes." Please be aware - The Switchover Team will NEVER cold call. An appointment would have been made weeks in advance to attend and do the work. The installer, who could be a man or a woman, will wear a reflective yellow tabard and have an ID card with a photograph. The Help Scheme can arrange for a password in advance.

Thanks again to the generosity of Henry Adams (printing), Chichester City Council (grant funding), the efforts of the PRA Committee (all volunteers) and the legwork of more volunteers delivering to the whole estate.

HENRY ADAMS

Do you struggle to read our usual typeface? If so, please let us know and we will arrange for you to receive a copy in larger type.

Put a Spring in your Step!

Spring is traditionally the time of year for tackling those chores that we've been putting off. So why not have a clear out and help a local charity or community group? Here are some ideas to inspire you!

Declutter - Several of us active in PRA first met through the local "freecycle" scheme, where people can offer unwanted items to others for free, choosing who they give items to based on the replies received. This is purely internet based: <http://groups.freecycle.org/chichesterfreecycle/description>. If you like the idea but don't have access to a computer, please get in touch with Joan to see if we can help. There are quite a lot of "freecyclers" locally and items regularly come up in the Parklands area, including toys and children's things, surplus plants, bicycles, electronic gadgets and appliances and furniture – as well as disposing of useful things that you no longer need, you may just find that someone is willing to give you something that you do.

Charity donations – St Wilfrid's Hospice has three furniture shops, selling good quality pre-owned furniture and home furnishings. You can drop donations off at their shops or contact your local Furniture Shop to arrange collection of large items on 01243 776712. Used clothing can be put in the Clothing Bank opposite the Ridgeway shops (near the football pavilion) or donated to local charity shops.

Did you know our local Scouts use the proceeds from the two **jumble sales** they hold each year for the upkeep of their Scout HQ in Sherborne Road? The next is on **Saturday 17th March at 2p.m.** Donations can be taken to the Scout Hut on the morning of the sale. Or donate good quality toys, books, unwanted gifts or plants to the school or church for their fund-raising events. Or, if you want to raise money from your items:

- small electrical appliances (e.g. TVs, microwaves, etc) can now be recycled through Tesco in exchange for Clubcard points (which vary according to the item's condition);
- our local Post Office makes it easy to send off parcels if you're using ebay
<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/selling-on-ebay>

Get Outdoors

- **Chichester in Bloom** – we'll be running a **seed/plant swap** at the AGM again to get you started. Keen but no garden? Try **Garden Share** organised by Transition Chichester – it's free.
- Newsletter delivering (!) – volunteer to help deliver our newsletter in your road 3-4 times a year
- Cycling – there are regular family cycle rides organised locally. Phone 01243 790077 for more details. They also organise "In Town Without Your Car" day – the next one is on **22nd March**.

Save Energy

- **WWF Earth Hour** – at 8.30pm on **Saturday 31st March**, so why not turn off your lights for one hour and join others across the globe to highlight the need to tackle climate change?

Have Fun/learn something new

- Join or start a book club or even a dining club – we know of at least 3 in our area! And don't forget to tell us about your local club or community group if it's open to everyone.

Support your local Businesses

A quick search of 192.com throws up a host of local businesses (come on, you lot – where's your advertising?). We have book-keepers, practically all sorts of building professions and trades (e.g. architects, carpenters, electricians and plumbers), sports coaches, tutors, child-minders, virtual office assistants, designers, artists, photographers. To stay open the **Ridgeway shops** need your custom – it may be a cliché, but it really is "use them or lose them". For better or worse, depending on your point of view, the Co-Op is here to stay at what was the Inn on the Green, but our other retailers remain, including a butcher, hairdresser, chemist, newsagent and post office as well as a Chinese takeaway and bookmaker. If they're not offering what you need, let us know what you'd like to see and we'll pass on the message.

Application for a Pharmacy at Parklands Surgery - a non-story? Last month we were surprised to learn that a Pharmacy company had applied to West Sussex Primary Care Trust to operate a 100-hour per week pharmacy at Parklands Surgery. On speaking to the Surgery, we were reassured that this application appears to have been submitted speculatively, without formal discussions with the Surgery. It is not even clear how it could be accommodated on this site! Nor does it consider whether it is "necessary or desirable". Given the lack of detail and that the idea may come to nothing, we have simply asked Parklands Surgery to keep us informed. We are wary of the potential impacts on our estate - from noise and parking issues, to the effect on our existing local pharmacy, Stephens, and through it on the Ridgeway shops. We will let you know (through this newsletter, our noticeboard and/or email) if we hear more.

Keeping you in touch with your community

Important News for 'Carers'

As a carer, that is if you care for someone who is elderly, disabled or ill for more than 35 hours per week, you may be entitled to Carers' Allowance – currently £55.55 per week. There are conditions. For more information and to find if you are eligible you should contact either:

- Your local authority for a 'carers assessment' or
- Carers UK at: **Flat 1, Sirius House 113a Victoria Rd Southsea PO5 2BS Tel 02393 831229.**

If you have access to a computer Carers UK have a very good web site: <http://www.carersuk.org/> or phone 01243 537011 for information.

Are you a Hyde Martlet Tenant? Approximately 40% of homes in Parklands are owned by Hyde Martlet, a not-for-profit social housing landlord. Those of us who rent our homes from Hyde Martlet can tap into their support for financial matters (including money guidance, benefits and fuel advice, debt advice) and employment (including training, help with CVs, etc), as well as for housing issues, anti-social behaviour problems, local initiatives and community projects. Contact their Customer Services Centre, tel. 0800 085 4195 or visit their website at <http://www.hyde-housing.co.uk/local-areas/hydemartlet>.

Some of the local initiatives/community projects undertaken by Hyde Martlet include litter picking, knee rail fencing to protect grassed areas in Bishop Luffa Close and refurbishment of garage sites such as Hannah Square. It supports local fun events and sponsors free football training at Parklands Community Primary School (which, as with many Hyde Martlet projects, benefits the wider community: pupils don't have to live in Hyde Martlet homes to be able to join in). If you are a Hyde-Martlet tenant and want to get more involved, or have an idea that will make Parklands a better place to live and the enthusiasm to try to make it happen, please do give them (and us) a call.

Beatz Break Barriers - This innovative youth project was launched by University of Chichester students. Hyde Martlet generously gave some money to deliver street dance, drama and DJ workshops for young people living on Parklands estate. So far several successful workshops have been run. For more details, contact Casper Beade (d.beade@chi.ac.uk) or phone 01243 816339.

Durnford Close Allotments – As we go to press, legal agreements to transfer this land into the management of Chichester City Council appear on the verge of completion. Nine allotments are planned. Our City Councillors have confirmed that **first refusal will be given to people living in the Parklands area**. These plots may be oversubscribed, but if you wish to check the position, contact CCC's Property Manager, Guy Clifford on 01243 788502 or email g.clifford@chichestercity.gov.uk. The website is:

<http://www.chichestercity.gov.uk/Services%20Page.htm#Allotments>).

Diamond Jubilee Party – Tuesday 5th June - To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, PRA are joining forces with the NOISE social action project - organised by local churches - to host a Street Party on Sherborne Road recreation ground. How could you get involved? We've got lots of ideas so look out on our noticeboard for publicity nearer the time.

And another thing

- **Parking outside the Co-op** – this has been raised with local councillors who are monitoring this.
- **PCSO** – we've raised concerns about our local PCSO helping in the East Ward so he is less available in Parklands; there is now CCTV outside the Co-op to deal with any anti-social behaviour.
- **Friends of Henty Field** – it has been proposed that a new group would take on the management of the unfenced portion of the field next to Central School behind Orchard Street on a long lease at a peppercorn rent. PRA might join forces with Orchard Street Residents' Association to help manage the area but there would need to be volunteers to help carry out a range of tasks including hedge maintenance and mowing (at a charge to be agreed). Are you interested in helping? Let us know.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – there have been cases of rat poison affecting animals on the Centurion Way up near Lavant. If you find an animal – wild or domestic – that you suspect has been poisoned, or find evidence of pesticide abuse that threatens pets or wildlife, contact the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme - WIIS Hotline 0800 321600. Please remain vigilant, keep your pets on their leads and report anything suspicious to the Police on 101 and to WIIS on the number above.

Police - Non-Emergency contact number 101 – Emergency 999

Threat to Local Bus Services?

Just before Christmas we found out that Stagecoach buses 47 and 47a, which serve the Parklands area, were included in Phase 3 of county bus subsidy reductions. A survey closed on 17 January 2012 and responses are being evaluated. According to the website there will be further information available in Spring 2012. We have put forward our views as we know that the bus service is much valued locally.

buses@westsussex.gov.uk.

Dates for your Diary - Everyone welcome!

- **St Wilfrid's Spring Fair** – Saturday 10 March 2pm in the Church Hall.
- **Scouts Jumble Sale** – 17th March 2pm.
- **PRA AGM** – 24th March at 3pm (see page 1)
- **In Town Without My Car Day** – 22 March 2pm.
- **Parklands Primary School Summer Fair** – Saturday 26th May 1-4pm

New! Regular litter picking parties!

In a bid to clean up their area/Centurion Way, a group of residents from Bishop Luffa Close, PRA and the wider community organised a litter pick during half-term. Borrowed Litter Pickers and bag hoops, mild dry weather, heaps of enthusiasm from the children involved plus hot chocolate and cake to finish helped distract from the unpleasant reality of **18 bags of rubbish** collected in about an hour and a half from a relatively small area.

In fact we're determined to tackle more of Centurion Way and make litter picking parties a regular (and sociable event), so if you'd like to get involved, or would like help clearing up a litter hotspot near you, please do contact Dawn on 07779561069.



Clubs and Societies

The **Mitre Bingo club** now meets on Tuesdays at St Wilfrid's Church Hall from 1.30pm.

Games start at 2pm with refreshments at half time along with the occasional raffle. New members always welcome. For more information contact Diane on 07876330476.

Chichester Literary Society

Are you interested in words, books and poetry? There is a full range of activities including talks by authors, biographers, actors performing readings and histories of writers and poets, both classic and modern, plus literary walks, quizzes and social events. The group books many eminent speakers and its Patron is Simon Brett, the popular Sussex author and broadcaster.

This group meets on the first Friday of every month at St George's Church Hall, Cleveland Road, Chichester at 7pm for 7.30pm. Come as a visitor to see if it is right for you (£5 entrance).

www.chichesterliterarysociety.co.uk

Chichester City Townswomen's Guild

Meets Second Tuesday of each month
7.15pm to 9.30pm
Christ Church, Old Market Avenue
Chichester

Do you belong to a local club or group?

Let us know so we can include it in our next newsletter – it's free for charities and community interest notices! We can also put up publicity on our notice board outside the Post Office.

Why not ADVERTISE? Every issue of this Newsletter reaches 1500 homes in the Parklands area. Why not encourage your community to use your local business/service and help keep this Newsletter going? (Preference given to local advertisers) Please **contact:** paula@parklands-chichester.org



Join the PRA .. & the PRA ... Join the PRA ... Thank you

If you'd like to join us, please return this form with your subs for 2012 (£4 per household or £2 for single persons) to Joan Whibley, 26 Beech Ave, or pay at our AGM.

Please **enrol/renew** my/our membership:name/s)

Address:

Contact details (phone/email):