

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017



Syria and Iraq Appeal

In September The Church in Westbury Park will be collecting warm clothes for refugees in Syria and Iraq. Please do keep the appeal in mind as you sort through your own family's clothes for the coming autumn. New knitted items are also welcome (*see website below*).

You may also like to think about making up a Care pack, Dignity bag (for women and girls) or Children's bag: but please see the website for the all-important instructions to make sure items go safely through Customs. <http://www.samarasaidappeal>

A message from the Church asks: Please start sorting out your clothes now. We will take clothing, bag, packs and knitted items from Monday 4th September until Friday 29th September.

Westbury Park Festival

Many thanks to everyone who organised and supported the 2017 Festival which ran over two weeks in late June and early July. The Art Fair and Open Gardens attracted impressive numbers while the Antiques evening, the Tree Walk and Westbury Park Maps evening were also very much enjoyed by attendees.

The Festival raised a total of over £1,500 for charity with £615 donated to The Bridge Foundation, £400 to Cancer Research UK, £270 to Teenage Cancer Trust, £120 to Musicians without Borders and £140 to Avon Riding Centre. Money was also raised for the Church in Westbury Park including money towards the cost of refurbishing the Methodist Church kitchen.

The Festival Group (a sub group of the Community Association) met on 12th July to review the Festival, noting which events were successful and not so successful. Suggestions were made as to how the Festival might be improved next year and better promoted (eg using social media). There was also discussion about achieving the right balance between running events for the community and raising money for charity.

A Festival Group meeting will be held in November to plan the 2018 Festival with hopefully new members who can bring fresh ideas and energy.

If you would you like to help with next year's festival – or to suggest new events for the Festival to think about - please email Kevin Chidgey at kchidgey@blueyonder.co.uk or Janet Brewer at janetbrewercbc@yahoo.co.uk

Bristol Libraries Consultation

As explained in an email sent to members in early July the Council propose to reduce the number of branch libraries from 26 to nine, spread geographically around the city. The Central Library would remain and there would be two types of branch libraries: Area libraries and Local libraries.

Under the proposals the city is divided into three geographical areas: North West, East and South. The Council present three options, two of which (options 1 and 3) are identical for North West Bristol. Both options 1 and 3 select Henleaze Library as the Area library for North West Bristol: under option 2 there would be no more Council funding for Henleaze Library.

Henleaze Library is by far the most used branch library in Bristol recording 111,647 visits in the nine month period July 2016 – March 2017. Henleaze Library also has by far the most active members (6,577).

Under all three options there would be no more Council funding for Redland Library or Westbury Library even though these libraries are also among the most popular in the city

The Council is conducting an on line survey on its proposals (www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries-archives/future-of-bristols-libraries-consultation). The survey closes on Tuesday, 5th September.

Notes on the On Line Survey

Click on “Take Part in the Survey”, move down to the “Give Us Your Views” box and click on “Online Survey”. The main page has a “Finish” button to submit your completed response. Before you can submit your response you must, as a minimum, give your postcode in the “About You” section and answer question 3 about volunteering in the “Next Steps” section.

Section 1 of the consultation asks which of the options you prefer. Section 2 (the text box) gives you the opportunity to make other comments (you could, for example, reject all three options offered by the Council).

The Community Association comments are likely to be critical of:-

- The flawed nature of the consultation with the Council already deciding to cut the number of branch libraries from 26 to 9 prior to the consultation. This is a key decision which should have been subject to consultation.
- The very limited choice represented by the three options.
- The failure to consider the role of libraries in meeting wider community needs (pre school clubs, meeting venues, job search support).
- The timing of the consultation during the Summer which effectively excludes schools and university and college students.

The Community Association is also likely to advocate the case for community run libraries and Extended Access as an alternative to closure.

Nursing Home Development, Belvedere Road

Belvedere Road has been closed for over eighteen months as a result of construction works at 8 and 9 Belvedere Road. The works have involved the extension of a nursing home which was granted planning permission in 2008. The development is taking a long time due largely to the digging out of basement areas where hard rock was unexpectedly encountered. Local residents have been badly affected by the road closure and by the noise created by heavy rock removing

equipment. There have also been regular occurrences of construction and delivery vehicles blocking drives, much to the frustration and annoyance of local residents.

Just as it seemed that the end was in sight residents have been advised that the nursery home owner has now bought number 7 Belvedere Road and has announced plans to extend the care home to provide a further 17 bed spaces. Residents made their feelings about this proposal known at a meeting held on 25th July called by the architect for the proposed extension. Views were expressed on the over-concentration of care homes in Belvedere Road which was changing the character of the road, the impacts on parking and traffic movements, and the prospect of further disruption to people's lives.

The pending planning application for the conversion of number 7 Belvedere Road, also involving basement works, is likely to be strongly contested by local residents.

The Community Association's Planning and Design Group will advise local residents on planning issues relating to the proposal and make representations when the planning application is lodged.

Poaching for Eels

Local singer and songwriter Guy Hawthorn is raising money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society by selling his new CD "Poaching for Eels". It contains nine songs all written by Guy.

The CD costs just £6.00 including postage. Locals can collect in person and save the postage.

Just contact Guy on 07890 328308 or 0117 924 6372 or guyhawthorn@live.com

The History of Westbury Park revisited

Just a quick reminder that Jeff Bishop's booklet 'VILLAS, COTTAGES AND HOUSES' has just been reprinted, now updated with new information, lots more plans and photos ... and a few corrections!

The price is a mere £5 with proceeds going to the Community Association.

The booklet is available from Jeff at 65, St. Albans Road (arrive when you like or give a call in advance to check someone is in: 0794 1063 138).