

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY 2019**

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SOCIAL EVENING, THURSDAY, 31st JANUARY

Banish those January blues by joining us for drinks at The Cambridge Arms on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.00 pm - chat to neighbours and other Community Association members and find out about some of the activities planned for the year.



### WESTBURY PARK FESTIVAL

The Festival Group would like to start planning this year's Westbury Park Festival which is normally held in June. They will only be able to do this if a few more people are willing to help. The Festival Group are really keen to keep this popular community event going, to bring people in the area together. The time commitment is small.

If you would like to join the Festival Group, help to organise an event or find out more please email [kchidgey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kchidgey@blueyonder.co.uk)

### ST. ALBAN'S PROMISES AUCTION, SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH

St Alban's Church is to hold a Promises Auction in St. Alban's Church Hall, Bayswater Avenue at 7.00 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to raise funds for urgently needed improvements. The Church is looking for people to:

- Make up a table on the night, and bid for the items on auction
- Provide a 'promise' –such as a week free of rent in a holiday home; cooking a three course meal for four; a free haircut/massage/beauty treatment, or another item.

As with many other churches, the number of regular attendees has declined in recent decades and the church team is increasingly struggling to meet running costs and to keep the church open.

Vital capital projects are also constrained by a lack of funds. To continue to host concerts and large events, the church badly needs better loos, and a new kitchen area where drinks and food can be served after events. Proposed alterations would be sympathetic towards the original design of the building.

The Rev. Emma Langley said: "It's important to us that we are available for everyone. For over 100 years, St Alban's Church has stood proudly open to all at the junction of Bayswater Avenue and Coldharbour Road. If we want to see it standing in another 100 years, we urgently need to raise funds. The Promises Auction will be a wonderfully fun way to do this."

To get involved in the auction contact Abigail Shepherd [office@westburyparkchurch.org](mailto:office@westburyparkchurch.org) for further information or with offers of help.

## **AUTHOR, AUTHOR**

Our excellent new local bookshop, *Max Minerva's Marvellous Books*, has a terrific series of five author events in February and March. With a clear emphasis this time on historical subjects (*Blood and Sugar*, *Shadow King*) and with a dash of feminist thinking (*The Women who built Bristol*) the events should appeal to lots of us in Westbury Park. Tickets are from £2 to £5, and local venues include Henleaze Library and the bookshop itself.

You just need to have a look at the website for full details:

<https://maxminervas.co.uk/collections/events>

## **RESIDENT PARKING**

While the Community Association is aware that some parts of Westbury Park (eg. the Etloe Road / Queen Victoria Road Road area) are in favour of resident parking it is not clear whether this is the case in other parts of Westbury Park possibly less affected by commuter parking.

The City Council conducted a household postal survey on parking issues in Westbury Park in January 2015 and concluded from the responses (and lack of responses) that there was only sufficient support to progress with resident parking in the Durdham Park and Manor Park areas. Since then parking pressures have worsened in parts of Westbury Park following the introduction of resident parking in Redland and parking restrictions on The Downs. As a consequence areas in Westbury Park that might have been only marginally affected by commuter parking in 2015 are now more affected and may be possibly more receptive to resident parking.

A few words of caution are needed regarding new resident parking proposals – the Council's guidelines relating to new resident parking schemes published in November 2017 are less than positive in tone and challenging, both in terms of the complex process for securing a new scheme and in setting a high bar for new schemes (eg. new schemes have to cover areas of 1,000 – 4,000 households). The guidelines also seem to rule out the possibility of extensions to existing schemes – an option that might have been appropriate for parts of Westbury Park.

Henleaze and Westbury on Trym ward councillors are currently carrying out a survey to establish the degree of support for resident parking in that part of Westbury Park within their ward (broadly the area bounded by Colharbour Road, Bayswater Avenue, North View and Upper Cranbrook Road).

Residents in the Blenheim Road area are planning to set up a local group to press for resident parking while residents in the Cossins Road are also looking at possible options for addressing the parking problems in their area.

## **WOOD BURNING STOVES AND OPEN FIRES**

The recent Government announcement proposing new restrictions on wood burning stoves echoes a plea made a few months ago by a Community Association member :-

*"We love the warm glow of wood-burning stoves and open fires, but not the increasing levels of smoke in Westbury Park caused by people not following the rules for their use. This is a major source of air pollution, causing asthma, heart attacks and strokes.*

*Westbury Park is a Smoke Control Area which means:-*

- Open fires. You cannot burn wood but only smokeless fuels.*
- Wood-burning stoves. Your stove must be on the Defra list of approved appliances. You must use only dry wood or pellets. (You can buy these 'ready to burn' or keep wood you chop yourself for two years to dry). You must keep your chimneys and flues clean. As well as affecting everyone's health, breaches of the rules can lead to fines of up to £1,000".*

## **ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE**

Say *CHEESE*. It should make you smile, and it might save you money. That's *C.H.E.E.S.E.*, standing for Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts.

The *CHEESE* project was conceived and launched in Bristol: it's a non-profit community interest company that does heat surveys. You can read all you need to know about it on their web site: <https://cheeseproject.co.uk>.

Community Association members living in Russell Grove have described their experience with the heat survey :-

*"We had to start by being extravagant, running the heating full blast for a whole day: a 10° difference between inside and outside temperatures makes the pictures clear. Then the survey team installed a fan to lower the air pressure inside the house. Lowered pressure inside means incoming draughts are easier to identify.*

*We followed the team around our house as the thermal imaging camera showed the cold spots: around windows, through floors, missing insulation here, a gap under the skirting there. They gave us a running commentary on what we saw and what it meant, together with appropriate advice. It's all recorded, and we got a DVD of the survey to keep and refer back to.*

*Apart from the initial heating-up, the survey took no more than half a day, though we did spend some time beforehand looking up old bills to establish heating costs for the previous year".*

*CHEESE* are doing surveys till the end of March: After then the weather tends to be too warm to monitor heat loss. If you are on a low income, the survey might be free; otherwise, costs are around £100: less or more depending on the size of the house.