

The WEST PARK CHRONICLE

The Community Newspaper for West Park

Spring 2012

www.westparkresidents.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

Rehearsal Room, West Park Centre, 25th April 2012, 7:30 pm

Please accept this invitation to come and meet other local residents to consider issues that affect the community.

We look forward to seeing you there.

If you can't attend but would like to make a comment please contact Doug Kemp by phone (0113 2758808) or email (westpark.residents@ntlworld.com).

West Park Centre is on Spen Lane opposite Butcher Hill and has lots of car parking.



News from Lawnswood School

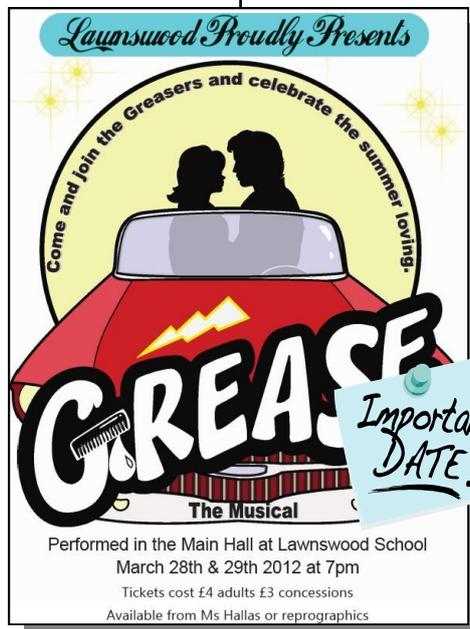
The new Head Teacher, Simon White, will be attending the AGM to tell us about changes that are taking place since he took over at Lawnswood school last September.

Simon has been a regular guest at WPRRA committee meetings and he seems determined to make a real difference at the school. WPRRA is pleased to support and assist in any way it can.

Look forward to a refreshingly honest and forthright talk from Simon, but in the meantime here is some recent news from the school :

- The school is producing the musical Grease on 28/29 March (see poster).
- There are now two school & community notice boards at the school entrances, to inform us about school events.
- The Science department is working with Leeds Metropolitan University on some Ecological and Environmental projects.
- Year 8 raised over £800 for British Heart Foundation during their skip-a-thon.

- Year 10/11 beauty therapists arranged coffee mornings in support of the Leeds Children's Hospital Appeal
- Year 8 pupils hosted a Christmas dinner for a local older persons group.



- Two pupils spent a day training with the Senior England Rugby Union Squad.
- Year 10 pupils are competing in the national *Business in the Community* programme in partnership with TD Direct and Yorkshire Bank.
- Year 7/8 pupils are competing in the national *Science & Engineering* competition.
- A selection of pupils is competing in the *Leeds 17 Young Chef Challenge*.

- Year 10 Textiles group has been asked to be part of the Lotherton Hall Revival Project.
- A Year 9 student will be competing in the Regional Gymnastic NDP Competitions in March.
- The Year 11 Rugby team will be competing in the Leeds & Hunslet Cup next month.

Far Headingley, Weetwood, and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement (NDS)

A review of the existing NDS is taking place and the public exhibition of the Consultation Draft of the 'second edition' will be held on Tuesday April 24th from 4.00-8.00pm at the St.Chad's Parish Centre.



As part of the review, it was agreed to extend the boundary of the West Park character area across Spen Lane to include Moor Grange Drive and View, the Butcher Hill shops and the houses on Spen Lane which face the fields (down to Spen Croft). In addition a new character area will include the West Park Fields, Beckett's Park and the Leeds Met Campus.

The completed document will become a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and as such will be used to guide the determination of planning applications.

Parking

Overspill parking associated with Leeds Metropolitan University has improved only slightly. Ancaster Road is full most days and parking encroaches on the top end of Kepstorn Road.

Recently the University has applied for planning permission to increase the number of visitor car parking spaces on the campus, which may reduce the extent of on-street parking slightly.



Burglary Risks with Older Euro Cylinder Door Locks

As we pointed out last year at this time many older Euro Cylinder locks fitted to replacement doors and windows, especially PVC ones, are vulnerable to methods of attack such as bumping, twisting, or snapping.



The burglar can use a simple tool to smash or snap the lock as in the illustration above, or he/she can use a special dummy key like the one in the picture to 'bump' the lock. In that case, because bumping leaves the lock intact, you may even have difficulty proving to the insurance company that anyone broke in.



Luckily Euro Cylinder locks are easy to replace and newer locks are available, such

as the ones in the lower picture, that are designed to resist these forms of attack.

When ordering your anti-snap and anti-bump lock just make sure that you specify correctly the two important length dimensions, which are, the distance between the inner face and the screw-hole, and between the screw-hole and the outer face.

Then with the door open you remove the single fixing screw, use the key to put the tongue of the lock in-line with the slot, and the lock should then slide out, perhaps with a bit of jiggling. The new lock can then be fitted instead of the old one. There are plenty of videos on YouTube that show exactly how to do it.

For advice on locks and security in general you can ring the Police non-emergency number 101 and ask to speak to the Crime Reduction Officer. Or you can contact the non-profit organisation Community Action and Support Against Crime (CASAC) on 0845 519 2122 and ask them to do a free home security assessment.

West Park Centre

In April 2011, WPRA led a deputation to the Council asking for "a sensible, realistic appraisal of the future of the West Park Centre".

This triggered an appraisal process to examine options for the future of the WPC, a process that was supposed to begin back in 2009.

The appraisal is still going on, and the Centre has accepted some new rentals, such as The Talking Newspaper, but the position from Autumn onwards remains unclear.

The local councillors for Kirkstall and Weetwood support the work of the Centre, and various proposals have been suggested for its future use.

Meanwhile the Centre remains a busy and active resource supporting a tremendous range of activities, especially musical ones.

To summarise: the only certain thing about the Centre is that nothing is certain...



Our 'Distinctive and Attractive' Grass Verges

The *West Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan* notes that 'Grass verges are a distinctive and attractive feature of the streets within the West Park Conservation Area. They add colour and soften the hard landscape.

Unfortunately, nice as they are, they get seriously chewed up when someone parks a car or other vehicle on them, especially in wet weather.

We who live here really appreciate our verges. So to help new residents and visitors realise this, we've made the leaflet shown here.

The idea is that if you see a car parked on the verge you pop it under a wiper blade. Then, with luck, they may see our point of view and not do it again.

You can download a pdf with four of these on a single A4 sheet from the WPRA website. Look for 'Verges Leaflet.pdf' under Home / The Association / Handouts.

PLEASE SAVE OUR VERGES



Dear Visitor to West Park,
Our grass verges are suffering quite badly.

If you park on them they get horribly churned up, so do please try not to do it again.

Best wishes and thanks for helping...

West Park Residents Association
www.westparkresidents.org.uk

West Park Fields – village green proposal

The application to give the West Park Fields village green status, together with applications for Butcher Hill fields and the green area adjacent to Old farm Close, is

now to be the subject of an enquiry managed by Plans Panel West.

It is not yet clear what will be the format for this enquiry, or when the enquiry is likely to take place. WPRA is very appreciative of the work done by Kirkstall councillor Bernard Atha on this proposal.

Good Neighbours

It can be all too easy for older residents to become isolated or lonely. However this need not happen. In West Park we have STEP, which is a registered charity providing support for residents who are over 60.

STEP is part of the Leeds Neighbourhood Network and offers a range of social events and luncheons, together with advice or assistance with the many problems of life or officialdom.

STEP also offers opportunities to become a volunteer helping others. If you think one of your neighbours could benefit from STEP please give Wendy Moore a call on 2757988, or email her at wendy@stepleeds.org.uk. All referrals are treated in total confidence.

The May Elections

WPRA is a non-political organisation working for the benefit of the West Park community.

We are happy to work with elected local members of parliament and councillors, of whatever party, in support of the community, but we *do not endorse any party or candidate*.

If candidates refer to WPRA in their pamphlets then they have done so without WPRA's permission.

West Park Fields

The **Annual Litter Pick** is being organised by the West Park Fields Group to take place on Saturday 31st March at 10:30 am. All volunteers will be very welcome and are asked to meet in the front car park at the West Park Centre.



Thanks Everyone

WPRA thanks the local councillors of all parties, and the local community police for their service to residents.



Also a big thank you to local residents, for your continuing support of the Association.

You are the eyes and ears alerting the Association, and hence the local community, to any matters which might affect the West Park area.

Annual General Meeting West Park Centre

25th April, 7:30 pm

Subscriptions are now due for 2012, and a subscription form is enclosed with this Newsletter. The subscription remains at £3 per household.



How to Join or Renew WPRA For 2012

You can either pay at the AGM on 25th April 2012, or send this form or equivalent with your £3 subscription, to: WPRA, 26 Ring Road, West Park, Leeds, LS16 6EJ.

The yearly subscription is 'per household' and runs from one AGM to the next (April to April).

Please make cheques payable to: Spen Lane and West Park Residents Association. If you need a receipt, please enclose SAE.



I / We enclose £3, as my / our subscription to WPRA for the year 2012.

NAME:

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...please make sure we have your up-to-date email address