

the park

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www.sepra.org.uk

The official Newsletter of the St Edward's Park Residents Association



Welcome to 'the park'

The feedback from the launch of 'the park' for the June newsletter has been positive. It is hoped to continue printing in colour. Our newsletter needs to be self-financing so it needs a steady income from advertisers and sponsorship for colour printing to be a viable option. If any residents are willing to join the editorial team, and could help develop relationships with advertisers please contact: chairman@sepra.org.uk

A Message from the Chairman

Redrow Your Resident Association Committee continues to discuss outstanding problems with Redrow Homes prior to handover of St Edward's Park management company to Resident Directors. When we receive confirmation from Redrow of a date for the management handover of the site, we shall arrange a meeting for residents to provide you all with an update on the outcome of our negotiations with Redrow. Redrow have at last replaced around 30 paving slabs which were damaged to the rear of St Edward's Hall when a sewer pipe was repaired last January.

Social Group I would like to thank those original members of the Social Group, several of whom resigned recently, for their collective efforts in organising many social functions. These events have fostered new friendships across SEP and raised funds on behalf of both residents and local/national charities. The new social group, under the leadership of Jill Scott, has made a confident and successful start with the Water Tower and Spider Hunt events. We look forward to an exciting 2012 programme.

Christmas The festive season is almost here again. A Christmas Tree has been ordered for early December and it will soon be time to check out all the tree lights! *Any donations are welcome to Janet @ 8 Chestnut Walk in an envelope please with your name and address.* This year we hope to welcome a choir from St Edward's Church, Cheddleton, to lead us in our traditional carol singing around the tree.

May I wish all residents a happy and enjoyable Christmas with family and friends.

Appeal: Stolen Chimenea: Someone walked off with a Chimenea during the Spider Hunt. Michelle would love to have it back. Please mail her @ mattandshell@live.co.uk

Social Events Update

Water Tower Success The recent 2 Day water tower open day was an outstanding success. We raised £420 for Birmingham Children's hospital and £345 for St. Edwards Park after costs making a total of £840! Some great photo opportunities, but if you didn't get the chance to go – don't worry, we are considering repeating the event next summer. 337 visitors attended over the two Saturdays. Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a success, the Social Group and those folks who donated cakes. Special thanks to Rob Williams for kindly opening up his family home.



Spooktacular Spider Hunt This year for the first time ever, the social group organised a Spider Hunt for the residents of St Edward's Park. It was a roaring success with over 90 children taking part on Sunday 30th October. Eight areas across the park were transformed for the event with ghosts and skeletons galore. The church was opened for those of you who dared to enter and even a wicked witch made an appearance for the evening! Thanks to all those volunteers who helped. A big thank you to the Rugby Club for the use of their facilities and to Rob Williams who allowed us entry to the old church.

The social group needs volunteers and new members to make events possible. Please contact them via St Edward's Park website and get involved in their exciting programme.

Potential Future Events

- Carols around the Tree
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Olympics
- Diamond Jubilee Celebration
- Promise Auction

A Walk in the Park Part II

Those of you who read Part 1 will now hopefully be aware of some of our hidden paths and treasures within the East Drive woodland.

This new adventure partly involves an old path cleared by residents with kind permission of Moorland and City Railways. To find it, head past the rugby club towards the far end of east drive. Immediately after the gate onto the cycle track to Villa Road, a leafy path slopes off to the left hand side. Once again you are in tranquil woodland setting surrounded by a mix of shrubbery and a wide variety of tree species. This area of the park was once part of extensive gardens maintained by the hospital, its staff and patients. Remains of stone bed boundaries can still be seen and the plants that were once kept in trim are now covering more than their fair share of the forest floor.

Continue down the path heading towards the railway line. At the bottom, before the boundary fence, you will notice a newly cleared section curving to the left, leading to the newly cleared path. At the north-western corner you cross a metal footbridge over the river Churnet.

You are now on the old footpath. After about 200m you will be at Endon Brook bridge, this is currently in disrepair. We are in discussions to reinstate the bridge and fence off the footpath. You can continue on the path onto the Cauldon Canal. Once on the canal, Cheddleton and the Churnet valley are to the left and a right turn takes you towards Deep Hayes country park, the Hollybush at Denford and onwards to Endon.

Keith Hambleton led the path clearance work supported by many others who generously donated so much time and equipment to clear the path and woodland. Thanks to MCR, Keith Hambleton and everyone who helped over three weekends in September and October, a terrific result.



Jeremy, Karen and Phil would like to thank all of our customers at St Edward's Park for their business over the last year.

Any new enquiries, please call us on 07516 092347

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Footpaths around the Park

Many of you know Moorland and City Railways (MCR) intend to re-open the mineral railway line between Stoke on Trent, to Leekbrook, Leek and Cauldon Lowe via Endon. Eventually running a heritage service to Alton Towers, Leek and the Churnet Valley. All the time your committee has been working to maintain pedestrian access from the Park to the Canal and Leekbrook via the Woodlands. We met with Peter Green (representing the Churnet Valley Railway (CVR), Moorland and City Railway (MCR) and Cheddleton Parish Council Footpaths Committee) on 19 October. A number of different paths were discussed.

The path running west alongside the railway between the estate and the canal at Wall Grange will be designated by MCR as a permissive path (open for 364 days a year). MCR will erect fencing and also share in the repair of the footbridge. Mr Green also stated that MCR had no objection to other paths that crossed the railway, for example the footpath leading from Villa Road to the Leek tunnel. MCR will repair gates and erect signs.

As many of you know the path from Villa Road down the old tramway and across the CVR level crossing to the main road remains a problem. CVR having been "advised by the Railway Inspectorate" to erect the fence that currently blocks it. We have contacted the Inspectorate to verify any such order. In the meantime we have sent a Section 53 Modification Order application to Staffs County Council that aims to have this path classed as a public bridleway. If successful, this will give pedestrians and pedal cyclists the legal right to use the path in its entirety without any hindrance. Alan Jones would like to thank local residents (well over 20) who took the trouble to complete evidence of use forms for him. These demonstrate use of the path for many decades by hospital workers, residents and others, who have used it safely and with respect for the properties whose land it crosses. These applications can take a long time to be considered; we will keep you informed of any developments.



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