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Annunciation
thanksgiving
service on
15th October

Fabulous Summer Party Fun!

It was great to see so many people from the local community enjoying the fabulous weather and live entertainment at the SKPPRA Summer Party on 9th July.

Much loved hits from the 80s & 90s sang by Dillan live in the guest garden and local musician Joey belting out Ed Sheeran hits inside the Windermere Pub made it a really chilled out Sunday afternoon in the sun with friends and family. The outdoor soft play area for small children, bouncy castle and face painting stall proved a big hit with the children. Lots of them also eagerly scrambled together coins to try out and win the coconuts on the coconut shy. The summer party has established itself as a popular event in the South Kenton social calendar and of course there will be another one next year to look forward to!

Iris

www.skppra.co.uk



Our Summer Party was a great success!

Noel would like to thank everybody for their help at the party saying that, without doubt, it was a great success and the busiest year so far, this being its sixth year.

And our thanks go to Noel for organising all the events, the music, the bouncy castle (which looked enormous) and letting us “play” in his big garden!

The raffle raised £637, Anne’s Tombola £70, the Coconut Shy £86, and the Face Painting £80, making it a total of £873.

After the prize money and cost of printing the raffle tickets, the raffle raised a net profit of £651. A splendid amount to be donated to St. Luke’s Hospice. Roll on next year!

Trixi

Summer Party Raffle Winners

And the lucky winners are:

1st Prize: £100 - No. 02493 Hest, Woodford Place

2nd Prize: £60 - No. 01089 Mihai, Windermere Avenue

3rd Prize: £50 - No. 00009 Hirani, Logan Road

4th Prize: Scissors Voucher, No. 00248 Gray, Rudolph Gdns

5th Prize: Bottle of Smirnoff Vodka, Ward, Montpelier Rise

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Flying over the Thames

England's first urban cable car operates under the misleading name of Emirates Airline. There are two ways to get there. The simplest is via North Greenwich on the Jubilee Line, the station for the O2 Arena. I have been that way, but on the last occasion, in company with a friend from Africa, I chose Royal Victoria station on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR).

A four minute walk takes us past The Crystal. This sombre, angular building houses a large exhibition about sustainable cities of the future and is a venture of Siemens. The building also contains a café, so modestly indicated as to be almost invisible, but a welcome haven.

While enjoying a coffee or light meal one can watch the cable cars gliding by and work up enthusiasm for the flight.

There is step-free access to the cable cars. For Freedom Pass and Oyster card holders the one-way fare is £3.50. In summer it is open until 9pm. Unlike in the large cabins of the London Eye, riding in the ten-seater capsules approaches the excitement of a light aircraft or a balloon. We soar upwards from the Royal Victoria Dock. On the right one looks down on the O2.

Further away is Canary Wharf and in the distance the towers of the City of London. In the other direction the curvature of the Thames gives a new perspective to this famous river. The cableway rises to nearly 90 metres and then descends steeply to Emirates Greenwich Peninsular. Here, a cunning lack of signs is meant to lure the visitor to the attractions around the Arena. But we asked the way and found ourselves at North Greenwich station. *cont.on page 14*

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British 10k done in 55:14

I ran the British 10k to raise money for Different Strokes, a charity for younger stroke survivors. A quarter of strokes affect people of working age, so please help me and Different Strokes by making a donation. <https://www.justgiving.com/david-merrigan3>. *David*

If you would like to find out more about the charity, go to their website www.differentstrokes.co.uk

Event Day Parking

Although we all have our Wembley Parking badge and one for a visitor, it is useful to know about upcoming events in case spectators to the stadium ignore the no parking signs in our area. Below forthcoming events taking place in the stadium: 6th August, 26th August, 4th September, 24th September, 1st October, 5th October. I have only listed the sporting events at the stadium, but there are, of course, also concerts to be aware of. To search for details go to www.wembleystadium.com. *Trixi*

Save energy

A few days ago I had my smart meters for gas and electricity installed. I have been chasing these meters for quite some time and now I am a happy bunny! I like it when I can see the savings by switching off the computer rather leaving it on standby. I am sure I will find many more savings as I am learning! *Trixi*

Trees and Woods ad

Preston Community Library - busier than ever

It's now just over a year since we re-opened Preston Community Library, and I'm delighted to say that the library is busier than ever. We're still open every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for people to study, to borrow books, to read newspapers, to use our computers or to join one of our growing number of classes and other activities - the latest of which is our new Monday morning session for under fives, led by Julie, our new part-time librarian. And of course there's our very popular cinema every Saturday night. Please pop in to the library and collect a cinema programme and our latest newsletter, which has full details of our opening hours, and of all our classes and activities.

Brent plans to re-develop the library site - including a brand new library - next year, but in the meantime we expect to be running the current library until at least next Easter. Although we now have a librarian, most of the work of keeping the library open is still done by volunteers - if you can help please come and see us.

The fact that we still have a public library in Carlton Avenue East is a huge testament to six years' campaigning and very hard work by our community. Many thanks - we look forward to seeing lots of you in the library in the coming months.

Philip, Chair, PCL

Call me old fashioned...

These days there are lots of ways to access books electronically, but for me, the joy of holding a book, touching it and turning the pages is special. I remember a Christmas when all I received were books. I was in seventh heaven! Even today I have my own library - three walls of shelves filled with books. However, you can never have enough books. Did you know that apart from borrowing books from the Preston Community Library, they also sell books which they no longer need? I was delighted the other day to find one with nature pictures, water, birds - and yes, it may feature in the next watercolour class. I also bought one about Rudolf Nureyev, my favourite dancer. You may know that in the 60's he and Margot Fonteyn formed the perfect partnership, the greatest dance partners of the history of ballet. Next time have a look, because you, too, may find that special treasure. *Trixi*

Library Opening Hours

**Mondays 1pm - 7pm; Wednesdays 3pm - 7pm; Fridays 1 - 7pm;
Saturdays 11 am - 5pm prestoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com**

Short Books

For the slow reader, such as I am, short books are a blessing. My favourite novels tend to fall into this category.

At 184 pages, *Hotel du Lac*, by Anita Brookner, is not particularly short. It won the Booker McConnell Prize in 1984, thus showing that good books do not have to be blockbusters. I bought my copy on the strength of the first evocative paragraphs describing the lakeside setting of the hotel, itself already becoming a relic of the past. The story, about a late flowering of love, is quietly memorable.

My second recommendation, by the popular writer Alan Bennett, is *The Uncommon Reader*. This 121 page fantasy imagines the Queen developing a passion for reading which has unexpected consequences. To remind myself of its content I have been re-reading this story that makes gentle fun of life in the Royal Household. It was published in 2007. One does not have to be a royalist to enjoy the humour in this little book.

Lastly we have a story about a rough sleeper in Paris in the 1930s; *The Legend of the Holy Drinker*, by Joseph Roth. Written in German, it has been beautifully translated by Michael Hofmann. It describes the brief re-kindling of a life, following a Christian act of generosity. The novella was made into a film and it was this that led me to search out the book. Joseph Roth is not an author to be found on the shelves of the average bookshop so, to inspect this book before purchase it may be necessary to visit a retailer such as London Review Bookshop on Bury Place, opposite the British Museum. And who can guess what other literary treasures may be found there?
DMP 21.5.17

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London to Brighton

The weekend of June 24th/25th I took part in the London to Brighton day/night trek in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Starting at Kempton Park Racecourse early on Saturday morning, the 63.7 mile route would take us along the River Thames and the Wey Navigation to Guildford and then follow the Downs Link, formerly a railway line, to Cranleigh and then Henfield. On reaching Steyning, the path would head over the South Downs and down into Brighton, finishing at the racecourse. That was the plan but there was no guarantee of making it to the end. This was over twice as far as I'd ever walked in one go before and it meant walking through the night, another new experience. Add to that having to carry a heavy rucksack and the result was that I set out feeling a bit nervous!

However, the nerves soon dissipated as I realised that everyone was in the same boat and it was really the taking part that was important and doing the best you could in aid of a very good cause. The weather was kind to us. We were all grateful for the cooler, cloudy conditions. Hours and miles went by and before I knew it I'd arrived at the halfway checkpoint in the village of Cranleigh. I have to admit that fatigue had started to set in but a wonderful massage and a hot meal breathed new life into me and I set off on the night part of the walk with renewed vigour. I switched my head torch on around 10pm and the world changed. All I could see was the area that my light illuminated in front of me and the lights of other walkers. Sometimes I was completely on my own with darkness all around! The miles continued to clock up and just before 4am I noticed that the sky was starting to get lighter and at 5.30am I was privileged to witness a spectacular sunrise within sight of the South Downs.

The next big hurdle was the South Downs itself and then the descent to the sea front at Hove. The end was in sight but there were still a few miles to go and by this time I was feeling very, very tired. I made it to Brighton Pier and then the sting in the tail, the climb up to the Racecourse. This was the steepest hill of the lot but, once at the top, there was the finish line and my family to greet me. I'd made it in 29 hours and 37 seconds. 150th out of 166 finishers. It was an incredible experience. I met lots of lovely people en route, everyone encouraging each other to go as far as they could.

The organisation was superb with guys manning the start/finish and checkpoints, marshals on the course, first aiders and medics carrying out running repairs. Would I do it again? I don't think so but never say never! Thank you to those who have already sponsored me. Below the link if anyone else wishes to do so:
www.justgiving.com/jeff-toogood. All in aid of The British Heart Foundation. *Jeff*

SKPPRA AGM

Two months have flown by since our AGM on the 19th May. Whilst we had about 40 members attending, it was disappointing. Was it the fact that we had chosen a Friday rather than the usual Tuesday for our AGM? Please tell us if that was the reason why you could not attend.

Alex Duffy from St Luke's Hospice was one of our guests. She told us that St. Luke's Hospice are celebrating their 30th anniversary with a variety of events.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team and Police Constables for Preston Ward were at the meeting. They informed us that they were able to remove various criminals and offenders from our area. The general advice from the police is not to openly display any valuables in the car but if needed, to put them in the glove box compartment and keep them out of sight. Car keys should not be left by the front door inside the house as criminals may use long sticks and glue to extract them.

They also left a few goodies! Timers for lights going on and off, especially important when you are away as this can deter would be burglars. Protective sleeves for credit cards. Apparently credit cards can be scammed. Don't ask me for an explanation, but I am sure somebody can explain it to you. Various Council matters, such as potholes, fly-tipping and cars for sale were also mentioned.

We are planning to return to our usual Tuesday for next year's AGM. *Trixi*

Preston.snt@met.police.uk; Sgt Neil Mahaffey, PCSO George Popa,
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A hello from our little church with the funny name...

As I write I wonder how many people reading this page are aware of our little church community here in South Kenton - "The church on the corner (with the funny name!)." You might not even realise that The Annunciation is the only church in South Kenton. We are a small worshipping community who want to be giants in sharing God's love in practical ways with all of our neighbours.

We have a number of events going on throughout the year aimed at drawing the local community together for fun, to enable friendship to develop between neighbours and to foster a sense of belonging between us all.

Apart from the August break, we run a Coffee Morning Plus on the second Saturday of every month, from 10.00am - 12.00pm. Come and enjoy free beverages, cakes and a natter with your neighbours as well as an additional optional activity to add to the occasion - the next one being on Saturday 9th September.

Many people in this area have benefitted from the care of St Luke's Hospice which will be celebrating thirty years of amazing care in this area for people of all faiths and none. The Annunciation is hosting a service of thanksgiving on 15th October at 3.00pm, with refreshments afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special occasion.

Also, save the date for our Autumn Quiz Night 4th November. Look for details posted on the noticeboard in front of the church and on our website.

We want to be a place of welcome, refuge and a place where all the trampoline springs of faith don't all need to be in place in order to practice and explore your faith journey. We hope that, if you would like to belong to a church community but are not sure where to start, that you might consider your Church on the Corner.

Each Sunday we have a service from 10.00am - 11.00am, which includes a creche area for young children and a little Sunday School group we call Junior Church, with refreshments in the church hall afterwards. But if that sounds a bit daunting to start with, pop along to our coffee mornings on a second Saturday and find out more about us.

You can also look on our website to find out more about who we are and what we get up to at www.southkentonchurch.org.

We hope we will be welcoming in some of you soon.

Regards, Reverend Trevor Goddard.

Northwick Park

Early morning, mist is still rising
Like we're up in the clouds

Feeling sleepy feel like I'm floating
over to Proyers path

Some morning cleaners sat on the bench
smoke fags and chat away

There's a dog with a ball
He won't come when you call
And I wonder will it rain
I'm going to be late again

Hospital chimney belching black smoke
What are they burning now

Ministering Angels administer pills
To cure or to ease the pain

Mothers in labour. Others dying
Business as usual there

Still that dog with the ball
He won't come when you call
And where is that daft train
I'm going to be late again

Students of language, students of art
Students from everywhere

Laughing together all sat on the grass
Some day they'll be far away

Painting pictures. Telling tales. Recall,
Those days spent in the park

And that dog with the ball
Wouldn't come when you call
The sound of the West Coast train
And Northwick Park in the rain

Watch all the players out in the field
Weekend is here again

Winter it's football. Cricket in summer
Men for all seasons here

The ins and the outs. They shout and
they fight
Much more than just a game

Like that dog with the ball
That doesn't come when you call
And more engineering works
They cancelled the trains again

In the evening the park is in darkness
Not many venture out

Kids on the bench think I don't know they're
Smoking a sneaky spliff

Wembley's lit up. For some occasion
England at home again

There's the arch in the sky
Looking down like an eye
As we step down from the train
We are home late again

Clare Stringfellow