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Renew your Garden Waste service before 31 March and save £10

Preston Safer Neighbourhood Team updates

We received information from our local SNT which tells us that due to the Mayor of London's public access policy, many front counters are closing. In response to this, the Preston Safer Neighbourhood Team are holding Contact Sessions at the Preston Community Library.

Unfortunately the sessions will have taken place by the time you receive this newsletter, but we will be attending them and report back to you.

The SNT is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving our community. The team is made up of officers based in our area, supported by additional officers from the wider area. They work closely with local authorities, community leaders and residents to decide policing priorities for the area. This helps them to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining a wider focus on reducing crime.

Walking for St Luke's Hospice

This May, I will be taking part in another charity walk (following my London to Brighton walk last year), but this time along 80 miles of the South Downs Way in aid of St Luke's Hospice. I will be walking with the St Luke's Walking Club who arrange a charity walk every year and raise vital funds for a great cause.

St Luke's Hospice (www.stlukes-hospice.org) helps people in Brent and Harrow living with illnesses which can no longer be cured and also supports families and carers. They provide all their services completely free of charge and rely on the generosity of the local community for over 70% of their funding (over £3.5 million each year).

Please help me to raise funds for St Luke's. I have a JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/jeff-toogood. It is very easy to donate and, if you are a UK taxpayer, you can use the Gift Aid option to increase the money that goes to the hospice. Thank you.

Jeff Toogood

PS: If you prefer to donate money to Jeff directly, his contact details are on the Committee list on page 14. Trixi

Scary...

About a week ago I had a message on my answerphone telling me that the call is from HMRC (Revenue and Customs) and that there is a lawsuit against me for not paying my taxes. As I do my own Self Assessment I thought I had made a mistake and got quite worried. I contacted HMRC who told me that everything is ok and that it probably was a phishing call and advised me to contact Action Fraud (0300 123 2040), www.actionfraud.police.uk. Action Fraud advised me to register for the service to stop cold callers, 0345 0700 707. Your service provider, be it British Telecom or some other company, will also offer this service.

Trixi

Watching the birdies...

By the time you read this the annual **Big Garden Bird Watch** weekend will have taken place. It is an annual event sponsored by the rspb. It is great fun although I find it quite difficult to count them as the birds do not sit still waiting to be counted! The other problem is to identify the birds; some are easy like black birds, starlings and the robin. When it comes to a large flock of sparrows, dunnocks, etc I am quite bewildered. The good news is that goldfinches seem to have taken to my niger seed feeder and they are easy to identify. All great fun.

Trixi

Supporting the local Residents Association

I was looking through the SKPPRA archives for inspiration for this newsletter and guess what I found in the Newsletter Summer 1985 - an advertisement for D & H Hantman in Preston Road!

David Hantman has been supporting SKPPRA, our Residents Association and the Newsletter for many years and deserves a very special Thank You for his continuing support.

In 1985 the newsletter was called THE RESIDENT. One of the articles dealt with the proposed Swaminarayan Hindu Temple. Have you been there? It is well worth visiting the temple, as it is very beautiful. Trixi

What does SKPPRA do?

At the recent committee meeting we thought that it might be good idea to tell you about all our activities on behalf of you, the residents.

- ▶ Provide support with neighbourhood issues and concerns
- ▶ Distribute advice/information to residents via our efficient Road Steward system
- ▶ We have direct contact with the Local Authorities
- ▶ Publish a quarterly newsletter with local information and advice
- ▶ We work closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Local Police to keep our area safe
- ▶ We have been actively involved in sensible speed humps, onstreet parking bays, repair of potholes, repaving footpaths
- ▶ Act on illegal flytipping
- ▶ Support Preston Road Library and Community Hub
- ▶ Ensure planning projects enhance the Community
- ▶ Collect and donate to local charities

The current membership fee is £3.00 per year. Along with the benefits of the items above we also hold an Annual Summer Party for all the residents.

The SKPPRA committee meets once a month, on a Monday or Tuesday evening to discuss matters and plan events. If you have any queries please contact your Road Steward who can pass on the message to one of the committee members listed on page 13.

What's on at the Church of the Annunciation

New Year's greetings to all our neighbours from your church at the end of Windermere Ave. It was lovely to welcome so many of you to the different activities and celebrations we had going on at The Annunciation and to see the community coming together to enjoy each other's company, celebrate the season and give over a bit of time to exercising our spiritual muscles. Even dipping our toes in a little will, I hope, have warmed our hearts and minds as we step out into 2018.

So what's in store for the year ahead? At the Annunciation we can assure you of our usual open doors and warm welcome. Our monthly coffee morning got off to a good start in January, providing the usual homemade goodies, a hot cuppa and a good catch up after the festivities of December. You can see what's planned for the Spring and Summer season below. It really is an opportunity to make friends and enjoy a range of optional activities each month. We're looking forward to welcoming you throughout the year. Through the good and the bad of 2018 may we all know God's love and care in ways we could never have imagined. Trevor
(Rev. Trevor Goddard)

Coffee Morning Plus calendar

- 10th February 2018 - Favourite games
- 10th March 2018 - Gardener's Question Time
- 14th April 2018 - Knitting Novices & Knitting Know how
- 12th May 2018 - Plants Stall
- 9th June 2018 - Family Summer Fair Cafe
- 14th July 2018 - A trip down memory lane

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St Luke's Hospice - Santa Dash

Cast your mind back to Sunday, 10th December 2017 when heavy snowfall transformed our local area into a Winter Wonderland. Unfortunately, it also meant that St Luke's needed to cancel the popular Santa Dash which was scheduled to take place in the morning from Nower Hill High School in Pinner. Conditions were treacherous on the route, risking the safety of the 'honourable' participants. Santas arriving early at the location dashed elsewhere. Trixi, my son Liam and I sought refuge in the coffee place at Tesco's in Harrow. We treated ourselves to delicious hot chocolate and cookies.

Fabulously dressed up as we were, we attracted a lot of attention and put a smile on shoppers faces. Good deed done as well as sponsorship contributions for St Luke's!

Iris

Iris did not tell you that she offered to drive. The conditions made driving very tricky. We decided not to give up and finally - and on time - arrived at the School. We found the gates to the school closed and were told that the event had been cancelled. In hindsight the reason was very obvious, because the snow created the same problem for the St Luke's helpers battling to get to the venue as we had experienced. With the safety of all participants in mind the event was cancelled. Shame, but roll on next year...

Trixi

Let us, then, be up and doing, with a heart for any fate, still achieving, still persuing, learn to labour and to wait. Longfellow

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Babes of Albion

Where's Blake when you need him?

The acceptable face of the English patriot

Building visions of Jerusalem, not fleeing like some scoundrel to a last resort

I'm searching in the faces of my disparate neighbours;

Mothers, fathers, husbands, wives all vying for them and theirs

And yes, we're all individuals, I'll settle for the country that gives me that

Heaven above with whichever God you choose or not

Shops with whichever food your mother made you

Our Father of many faces in heaven above.

Our Mother to teach us tongues of many lands

Let's call us all Blake's babes of Albion

Like Holy Thursday, kids still go without

While each Black Friday the mobs with clenched fists grasp for more

And each day this little island floats on tides, towards Jerusalem or further away

So, Babes of Albion, steer this good ship wisely

Your mental fight for sails, your swords of truth for oars,

Until we reach that green and pleasant land.

Clare

***Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future,
concentrate the mind on the present moment.***

Buddha

Up North

For some years I had been hoping to hear a concert at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Built between 1993 and 1996, it was reported to have very good acoustic qualities. My chance came last October, when I spent three nights in 'the world's first great industrial city'.

It always rains in Manchester, and so it did on my first afternoon, partly spent looking for the best way to reach the hall from Exchange Quay, Salford, where I was staying.

The Metrolink tramway is the best way to travel across the city, but the hall is between two stops, the better one being St Peter's Square. My hotel was very comfortable, with friendly staff. The bedroom was unusually large, with room for a sofa. The bed was enormous, with six pillows! Were they expecting a threesome?

On the next morning, a Friday, I made my way to Piccadilly Gardens, an open space with a water feature, which is the inner city transport hub.

A bus took me from there to the Whitworth Art Gallery, passing along Oxford Road, through the university quarter to Whitworth Park which was still showing the dampness of the previous day's rain.

Built in 1908, the gallery became part of Manchester University in 1958. The exhibition spaces have been successively transformed, culminating in the most recent improvement in 2015 which has retained the best of the historic red-brick building, with generous circulation space, a view into the park and a companionable restaurant. I found myself at a refectory table engaged in conversation with a near-local couple from Stalybridge. When they had moved on, another lady joined in. Manchester is a friendly place.

In addition to the varied permanent collection, there was a retrospective display for Barbara Brown who for many years designed fabric for Heal's. The bold use of colour was very stimulating. This gallery is a 'must'.

The Bridgewater Hall will seat nearly 2400 people, yet feels compact, with three levels of seating. There is an impressive 12 metre high organ, built by the Danish family company, Marcussen & Son. It dominates the auditorium, unlike the organ of the Royal Festival Hall which is spread out as a backdrop to the platform.

The concert was by Chetham's Symphony Orchestra, under the School's director Stephen Threlfall, and included Tchaikowsky's Festival Overture. The conductor, no longer young, was leaping up and down at the end, but walked off the stage rather more slowly than he came on. For the audience it was a really stimulating evening.

cont. next page

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I spent Saturday morning in Manchester Art Gallery, near St Peter's Square and the impressive Gothic style Town Hall. There is a room devoted to Stretford-born L.S.Lowry and his teacher Adolfe Valette. Several of Vallette's paintings made at the turn of the century seem to celebrate the Manchester smog, echoing similar London paintings of that time by Monet.

Most cities (except London!) now have pedestrianised main shopping centres. Manchester has Market Street, the adjoining Arndale Centre and other major stores. By this time I had bought the excellent Manchester City Centre map. This map shows individual shops by name, even down to Nero Espresso bars; never get lost again!

Appropriately, on Sunday morning, I visited the Cathedral. Not grand, but a generous welcoming space that seems to suit Manchester. And after that, a plate of fish and chips and a beer in the old Waterloo Inn nourished me for the rail journey home. Would I visit Manchester again? Yes, definitely. DMP

Obituary Beryl Maizels

It is with sadness that we have to inform you that Beryl died peacefully in her sleep on 25th October of metastatic cancer. She was 84. Beryl's niece, Judith Maizels would be happy to share your memories of Beryl with her.
You may contact her on 01923 233351.

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Reduce, reuse, recycle

This advice has been around for a long time and it is still very relevant - saving the planet or your money. As we have our blue bins, recycling is now very easy. Some plastic wrappings have a recyclable symbol, but there are also those with no recycling symbol. I learnt that when you crunch them up and they stay crunched, they are recyclable; if they spring back, I am afraid they go in the rubbish bin.

I am very interested in the latest campaign where coffee places are encouraged to serve takeaway drinks in recyclable containers. I checked with a well-known local coffee place and showed them a reusable coffee beaker. They agreed that I could have my drink poured into it to take away. And here is my suggestion: St Luke's Hospice sell these mugs (400ml double walled travel mug); buying their mugs is also a great way of supporting them. For more information contact them at info@stlukes-hospice.org or www.stlukes-hospice.org.

What about reducing your water bill? Here are some easy tips:

- ✓ turn the tap off when brushing your teeth - save 6 litres a time
- ✓ take showers instead of baths - save 20-50 litres a time
- ✓ fit a water saving device in the cistern of your toilet - save 3 litres a flush
- ✓ clean vegetables using water in a bowl, rather than peeling under a running tap - save 10 litres a time
- ✓ only use the washing machine when it is full - save 65 litres compared to two half-loads using 130 litres
- ✓ only run the dishwasher when it is full - save 13 litres a time
- ✓ repair any dripping taps in the house - save 140 litres a week per house

No doubt you can think about more ideas - you could make it a family competition! Let me start you off: Want a cup of tea or two? Get used to filling the kettle with only the water you need. Any water left in the kettle? Use it to wash a cup or two. When cold, pour it into a watering can and use it to water you house plants or some pots in the garden; fill the birdbath. *Trixi*

.....
: **water, water everywhere... dull as ditchwater... in hot water... to pour oil on** :
: **troubled water... watershed... I've had enough, I'm treading water.....** :
.....

Wembley Event Days

You are no doubt aware that there are many more matches taking place at the Wembley Stadium. The construction of Tottenham's new stadium is fully taking shape ahead of its proposed opening at the beginning of next season in August.

In June there are six Ed Sheeran and 2 Taylor Swift concerts. For more information go to www.clubwembley.wembleystadium.com/EventsCalendar

Parking is ok for you if you have an event sticker. Should a "stranger" without the event permit block your space, telephone 020 8290 8300, option 5 to have the car removed. Trixi

SNT communications strategy

Stuart Colman sent an email saying "I am trying to create an SNT communications strategy, and to that end I would like to know:

- 1) How often would you like to be updated by your Safer Neighbourhood Team regarding local policing activity?
- 2) What medium would you like the SNT to use? Newsletter, email, Facebook, posters in public places, etc.
- 3) What would you like to be updated on? Policing activity, crime statistics, upcoming events, etc.

Thanks in advance, Stuart Colman

Brent special collection for bulky items

On their website Brent say: We have made changes to the way that our special collection service is provided. Our service is now chargeable, but we have made it easy for you to make bookings online and select your own collection day.

A charge of £35 applies for a collection of up to 5 items. You can book as many collections as you like in a year and we have increased the range of items that you can ask us to remove. We recommend that you read them before making your booking. Collections take place Monday to Friday. You can select your own collection day; up to 8 weeks in advance.

Full terms and conditions of Brent's new service are on their website.

www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/recycling-and-waste/types-of-collection/special-collection-service

Classified Advertisement service for SKPPRA residents

To place an order, email the editor@skppra.co.uk or telephone 020 8904 4795

South Kenton Station

We have been informed by Transport for London, Mark Wild, Managing Director, London Underground, that as part of their plans to modernise the underground they will be updating South Kenton Station and install new ticket machines.

Once the new machines are installed you will be able to use them to:

- **Get a new Oyster card**
- **Add a 7 day or monthly season ticket to your Oyster card**
- **See your journey history**
- **Buy or collect National Rail Tickets and Travelcards**
- **Add a discount to your Oyster card (with staff assistance)**

They also say:

Our staff can help you with the new machines. They can also assist with real-time service information, journey planning, ticket options and fares.

**To find out more and get confirmation about this upgrade
search [Bakerloo and District line ticketing](#)**

Preston Community Library Information

Future Mailings

Please note that we are planning to change the way we send you mailings in the future. We will be using a program called Mailchimp, which means that they will look a bit different. You will also have the option to subscribe to all our mailings, or to choose if you just want film ones, just news ones, just events ones or any combination you wish. If asked to indicate which you prefer it will be very important to reply, so that you still get the emails and information that you want.

New Treasurer

We are seeking a new treasurer for Preston Community Library; Mel, and more recently Mel and Linda, have been doing this job for several years, and would like to hand over to someone new. The post of treasurer is obviously vitally important for the library, which is why we are hoping to recruit someone from within our existing group of volunteers. Ideally our new treasurer will have some experience or knowledge of bookkeeping or accountancy. If you think you might be able to help, please give me a ring to have a chat about what's involved. Yours, Philip (mob 07906 446951)