

# Beacon Street Area Residents' Association NEWS



Spring 2012

Email: [bsara.committee@beaconstreetara.org](mailto:bsara.committee@beaconstreetara.org) Web: [www.beaconstreetara.org](http://www.beaconstreetara.org)

## Beacon Park is back to its former Glory



have new changing rooms and the bowls clubs share the hub as well as having a new green. The park has earned a coveted [Green Flag Award](#) which is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom. People from all around the area can now visit and enjoy the re-vamped Park.

What could be better than spending a sunny, warm spring afternoon walking around our historic park? The upgrading is almost complete and we now have a lovely combination of woodland walk, formal gardens, a children's adventurous play area and a vibrant activities programme, using the education hub, organised by very enthusiastic rangers.



Interactive information boards have been installed, helping visitors to understand the planting and wildlife in the park and the new catering facilities, run by the Chandlers group, are starting to take shape. The sports people

The Remembrance Garden is now a pleasant, tranquil space to sit and reflect whilst looking over the Minster pool and across to the new walkway into the city. BSARA has taken an active role, along with the Civic Society, the Friends Group, Lichfield Councils and others in the planning of the park and will be present at the Lessons Learnt inquiry. BSARA members attend Friends of the Park committee meetings. If you have any ideas of further improving the park please contact us and we will endeavour to put your points forward.

We have had a long and at times frustrating wait but we now have a park to enjoy all through the year.

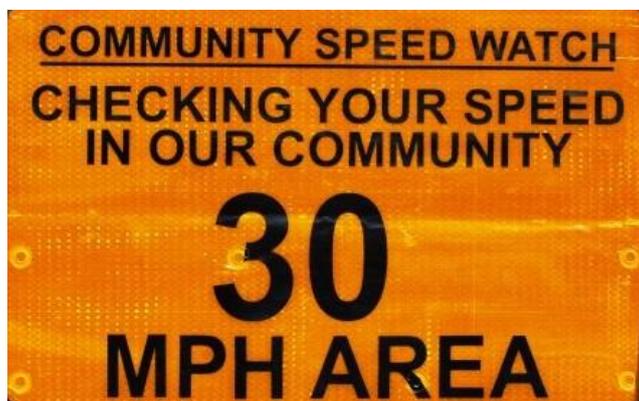
## **Making Beacon Street a safer place.**

### **Speedwatch is returning.**

After requests from our residents about speeding traffic on Beacon Street; it was decided at the last committee meeting that action had to be taken. Apparently a permanent solution will not be forthcoming from Staffordshire CC who have no plans for major highway changes on Beacon Street.

The police have now trained four BSARA committee members enabling them to go out with the radar speed gun, to check speeds and report anyone exceeding the legal speed limit of 30m.p.h.

These measures managed and controlled by the [Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership](#) are aimed at improving road safety and reducing the amount of accidents on our street.



BSARA will also report to the police any cars where the drivers are seen using mobile phones as this is also a growing threat to road safety.

To ensure that Speedwatch continues with its work in controlling speeds, anyone wishing to help by joining the team should contact a BSARA officer.

### **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.**

BSARA would like to thank Lichfield Police for their excellent responses to recent issues in the area, in particular to problems which were reported around the Brook Close garages. The Police have apprehended and dealt with the person responsible.

BSARA also asked the Police to keep a watch on Beacon Park over the Easter holiday period. Their vigilance resulted in alcoholic drink being confiscated from underage drinkers and the parents of the offenders being spoken to.

Neighbourhood Watch has reported that “distraction theft” has occurred recently on a supermarket car park in Lichfield. There have been numerous such thefts. The thefts seem to follow this pattern: - “Lady puts shopping and handbag in boot, returns trolley and comes back to car, unlocks it and is then approached by a female asking for directions. While giving these, a second offender opens the boot, removes credit cards from purse/handbag. Victim does not realise theft until later. CCTV shows second offender (possible female) opening boot and third offender (male) keeping lookout”

The cards were used a short time later in Lichfield, suggesting the pin may have been observed at the checkout. Please take care!



Drivers, please make sure that you are complying with the law. Clamping is being used on cars with no insurance or tax in the area.

*Please report any Crime or Anti-social behaviour incident to the police by telephoning 101.*

To keep up to date with local police news read their neighbourhood [newsletter](#) on the internet.

## BSARA Communicating Electronically

In January the [BSARA website](#) was launched. Our members, local residents, the Police and local government can find out about our association and the issues we campaign on.

Up to now BSARA has relied on a twice yearly newsletter which was dropped through local letterboxes and emailed to local councillors, the City, District and County Council and local businesses. BSARA now feels that sometimes we need to speak out immediately rather than wait for the next newsletter.

For instance, potholes and damaged pavements are issues that need urgent attention.



The growth in smart phones and the growing popularity of social media, such as Twitter, make it possible to share information instantly. Lichfield Police use Twitter to keep the community informed – an electronic Bobby on the beat. We certainly know what they are up to!

BSARA generally only comments on issues which affect our "patch", namely parts of Stowe, Chadsmead & Leomansley wards. Issues such as traffic congestion or public transport are best dealt with at County or Regional level. By using the internet BSARA is able to work with other community groups and share information and expertise. The National Trust, the CPRE and others have helped us a great deal. We hope this knowledge will enable us to take an active role in the future development of our District.

Why not look at our website's [local news](#) page. and send us your comments [via Twitter](#) –

## Managing the fabric of our Streets.

Reporting Highway faults using the County Council's 'CLARENCE' has proved a challenge at times. We now have [FixMyStreet](#) a website which says it "aims to help people become more powerful in the civic parts of their lives". Ordinary people can identify local highway faults and follow what Staffs Highways are attempting to do to correct the problem. This site can also be used to report other issues for e.g. fly tipping or advertising banners. BSARA has reported five road faults so far and within a week all but one of the sites had white survey marks sprayed on the tarmac. Some have been fixed; Staffs Highways have repaired potholes at the junction of Beacon St. and Anson Avenue and Beaconfields.



BSARA hopes more will be spent on the local roads and pavements especially as English Councils were allocated £200M specifically to repair potholes.

In January, Staffs Highways addressed the City Forum about their "integrated transport policy" for Lichfield. Attendees were very disappointed because the speakers had little to say apart from the County Council didn't have any money or any additional funds for roads and other infrastructure had to come from developers. Local authorities are now under a "duty to cooperate" when drawing up transport plans or tackling other issues which cross district boundaries. Let's hope there is more evidence of working together when Lichfield's local plan is put before a public enquiry. The "duty to cooperate" will be the first legal test that the planning inspector examines and our local plan will be dismissed if it fails this test!

## **The New Lichfield, excavation has started on the construction of Outer Friary.**

The work has now commenced on the construction of the [Outer Friary](#) development. BSARA will be monitoring any impact on traffic flows within Beacon Street.

The development consists of 54 supported living apartments for older people, and six affordable homes available as shared ownership; a 65 bedroom hotel, parking spaces for 400 plus cars and a toilet block.

### **Archaeological dig on Outer Friary site**



## **'Lichfield Local Plan' about to emerge**

During the next few months we shall be asking for your views on the Local Plan for Lichfield District previously referred to as the LDF. BSARA intend to call a public meeting enabling residents to express their views on the plans to develop Lichfield over the next fifteen years. Any changes to Lichfield will affect the local roads infrastructure and because Beacon Street is a major arterial road and tourist area, it can expect significant increases in traffic volumes.



## **Use of signs and banners for advertising.**

Beacon Street is in a conservation area. It is an old, established thoroughfare leading into our historic city. As such there are regulations as to what can or cannot be done to the outside of properties in the street. We all want to see the street thrive and would encourage new business ventures. However, banners to advertise businesses or promotions must have [planning permission](#). This is why occasionally large banners or advertisements have had to be removed.

## **Morrison's Stores licensing application.**

An application to increase the licensing hours to 06:00 – 24:00 every day of the week has been submitted by Morrison's Stores.

BSARA is concerned about this because the hours are outside of the stores current trading hours and also exceed the restricted Sunday trading hours.

With the close proximity to the park real concerns have been expressed about the potential source of cheap alcohol.

It is accepted that Morrison's act responsibly regarding the selling of alcohol but BSARA will seek to maintain the current licensing hours except for special occasions like the Olympics.

## **Looking forward to the Summer ahead.**

We hope the Bower Festival and Jubilee celebrations all go well. Let's hope the weather co-operates.

The Olympic torch arrives early in the morning of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Check out the local press for details.

## **Contact Us**

We are interested in your views about the area and how we all can strive to improve it. Why not join the committee and let your voice be heard?

[E Mail](#) or write to: -

The Chairman  
Beacon Street Area Residents' Association  
50 Beacon Street  
LICHFIELD  
WS13 7AJ

# Beacon Park Events

## June - July 2012

### Moth Recording Morning

Thursday 7 June. From 8.30am. Join us first thing to try and ID moths caught in the trap from the night before. Presence of moths cannot be guaranteed. Ring 07931 891 086 from 8:00am to confirm. FREE. Discovery Hub, behind the bowling greens.



### Bat Walk and Moth Night

Friday 8 June  
8.30pm - 10.30pm  
Join the Countryside and Parks teams for a fascinating evening discovering the secrets of night-time wildlife in Beacon Park. All children must be accompanied. Torch recommended.  
£2.50 per adult, £1 per child.  
Please book: 01543 308869.  
In The Discovery Hub, behind the bowling greens.

### Celebrating the Torch

Saturday 30 June. 9am - late  
A number of exciting cultural and sporting events are being held across the district to celebrate the Olympic torch visit.  
For full programme of events visit:  
<http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/olympictorch>



### Flower Glade creation

Wednesday 4 July  
10.30am - 3pm  
Join the Countryside & Parks Conservation Group (CPCG) to help create flower glades in the woodland. Head for the pavilion in the middle of the park. To book your FREE space on this event, please call Denice on 01543 308183. Adults only.

### Moth Recording Morning

Thursday 5 July. From 8.30am. Join us first thing to try and ID moths caught in the trap from the night before. Presence of moths cannot be guaranteed. Ring 07931 891 086 from 8:00am to confirm. FREE. Discovery Hub, behind the bowling greens.



### Mini-monsters Bug Hunt and Pond Dipping

Saturday 21 July, Sunday 22 July and Monday 23 July  
10-12pm or 1-3pm  
Family pond dipping and bug hunting as part of Love Parks Week. £1 per child. All children must be accompanied. Booking essential. 01543 308869.



### Paint a Bird Box

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July  
10am-3pm  
Join the rangers and paint your very own bird box (while stocks last). No need to book, just turn up. Head for the Discovery Hub behind the bowling greens. £3.50 per box.



## Large Events in Beacon Park

Lichfield Greenhill Bower

Monday 4 June

Cars in the Park

Sat 30 June - Sunday 1 July

FUSE Friday 6 - Sunday 8 July

Lichfield Festival Finale

Saturday 14 July

### Coming up in August...

- ★ Beacon Park Fun Day and Teddy Bear Games  
Thursday 9 August
- ★ Fairy Walks  
Sunday 19 August
- ★ Sandcastle Competition  
Monday 27 August



Coming up in September... Coming up in September... Coming up in September... Coming up in September...  
Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park... Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park... Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park... Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park...

# Volunteer Opportunities...



## Countryside and Parks Conservation Group (CPCG)

Learn invaluable and transferable conservation skills such as heath land management, habitat creation, footpaths and coppicing work.

The Countryside and Parks Conservation Group meet on the first Wednesday of each month (excluding January) and carry out varied conservation tasks across the district. Tasks carried out so far include hedge laying, weed whacking, bird box building, building a bug hotel, digging a wildlife pond and creating an outdoor classroom. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Denise on 01543 308183 or email [parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk)

## Friends of Lichfield Heritage Parks

The Friends Group was set up as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund project. The aims of the group are:

- To be the main forum for consultation between Lichfield District Council and users, volunteers, friends and local residents through which all of these can be involved in decisions made about the parks.
- To suggest, be aware of and support (or where necessary, oppose) ideas for the continued maintenance and future development of the parks in an environmentally friendly way, so as to protect, conserve and enhance the parks as places of recreation, freedom and enjoyment for the long term benefit of all sections of the community. As volunteers, to contribute ideas and assist with promoting the parks and running of events.

The group currently meets on the last Thursday of alternate months from 6.30-8.30pm. If you are interested in attending a meeting, call Ruth on 01543 308869 or email [parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk)

## Other Volunteer Opportunities

### Education/ Visitor Experience Volunteer

Enhance our visitors' experiences by sharing knowledge of our parks' fascinating pasts, activity-filled present and exciting future.



### Event Volunteer

Become a valuable part of our packed events calendar, either assisting the planners pre-event or hands-on help at the events.

### Wildlife Volunteer

Regular surveys are useful for tracking changes in wildlife populations. We welcome volunteers to survey any plant or animal group of interest to themselves.



### Schools Education Volunteer

Marvel at the wonder of children's minds and assist school groups undertaking a wide variety of activities from pond dipping to problem solving.

### Life-long Learning Volunteer

Inspire other volunteers and visitors by delivering talks or events in your area(s) of interest or expertise e.g. horticulture, wildlife, astronomy, art.

### Health and wellbeing Volunteer

Encourage visitors to enjoy the parks and get fitter, healthier and happier at the same time.



For more information call the  
Historic Parks Team on  
01543 308869

For further details, or to register your interest,  
please email [parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk)