

Lea Park



Residents' Association

NEWS LETTER

WINTER 2024

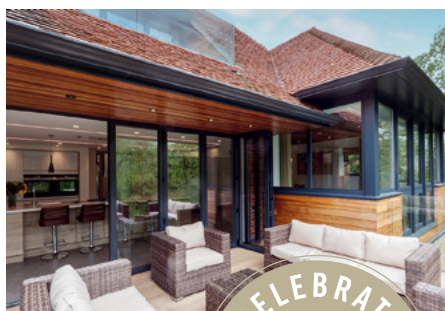
In this issue

- Hanging Basket Competition Winners
- Helping our Hedgehogs
- Public Art Trails
- New bus for Thame

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WINTER 2023

Aims of the LPRA

- Ensure that Lea Park remains a safe and pleasant place to live.
- Identify problems which affect residents' quality of life.
- Find solutions to problems that arise.
- Represent residents' concerns to agencies that have authority over Lea Park.
- Help residents get in touch with various public organisations which may assist in maintaining and repairing the shared areas of Lea Park.
- Actively campaign for changes and improvements.
- Enable residents to help and support one another in delivering a better environment.

Committee

Chair: Mark Goodall

Vice Chair: Judith Edwards

Secretary: Simon Heap

Treasurer: David Currie

Membership Secretary: Vacant Post

Residents' representative: Samantha Bellia,
Joe Chapman

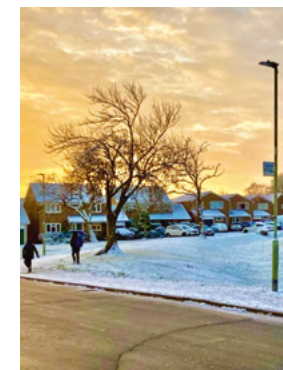
Media Secretary: Karl Braisher

Email: contact@leapark.org

Web: www.leapark.org

Newsletter Editor: Judith Edwards

Artwork and design: Alan Kidd



Cover Picture By
Katherine Edwards

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LPRA c/o The Town Hall, Thame OX9 3DP • T: 07505 246179

NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Residents

Welcome to the latest edition of the Lea Park Newsletter and the first to be produced by the new LPRA committee, albeit with a lot of help from several of those who recently stood down.

The committee has gone through some major changes in personnel, in part due to a regulation in the constitution which states that committee members are only allowed to serve for a maximum of 4 years. As a result, many of the stalwarts of the association, such as, Elaine Kidd, Ken Lewis and Chris Horton left the committee. However, the new committee members are extremely grateful for their continued support and guidance, as we learn the ropes. Indeed, Elaine has done a sterling job in keeping us up to date on many of the goings on in Lea Park and Thame in general. A special thanks has also to go to Alan Kidd who has kindly used his excellent design skills, once again, to digitally typeset and prepare the magazine for the printers.

The LPRA endeavours to provide the residents of Lea Park with a voice on important issues such as planning and encourages community involvement across a multitude of topics that affect the town in which we live. Through our Facebook page, LoveLeaPark community events can be promoted, local issues raised and discussed. I believe we are very fortunate to live such a beautiful historic market town, which has a great sense of community and is a safe and friendly place.

As with any voluntary body, we are always looking anyone willing to give a few hours of their time. Whether it's delivering the newsletter on their street, providing some IT experience or perhaps a student looking to develop their journalistic or editorial skills and is prepared to assist in producing our occasional newsletters. We warmly welcome any volunteers.

Wishing you a happy and successful 2024.

Mark Goodall
Chairman

Hanging Basket Competition Winners Summer 2023



1st Prize: 13 Henrietta Road



2nd Prize: 4 Chalgrove Road



3rd Prize: 7 Cromwell Avenue

The competition was announced in the Spring edition of the Newsletter.

There were 14 nominations. The criteria for the judges were based on displays which were visually pleasing with a WOW factor. A good mix of upright and trailing plants in the hanging baskets. Good sighting of baskets or pots.

The judges had an interesting time viewing the nominated front gardens for this competition with difficult choices to be made.

The three winners selected are: -

First prize of £10 goes to Mr and Mrs Barratt, 13 Henrietta Road
Second prize of £5 goes to Mrs Legall, 4 Chalgrove Road
Third prize of £3 goes to Mr and Mrs Wilford, 7 Cromwell Ave

The LPRA is very grateful to Acorn Nurseries for kindly providing the prizes. You can find their wonderful home-grown plants at the Thame Market on Tuesdays.

Helping our Hedgehogs

Did you know that hedgehogs have been in serious decline – there are now less than one million, compared to estimates in the 1950s of in excess of 30 million in the 1950s? Lea Park has the potential to be an oasis of safety for our prickly friends, but we need to know how to help:

- **Linking gardens.** Hedgehogs roam up to 2 miles each night so making a 13 x 13 cm gap in the fence or wall between gardens allows them to travel and forage for food and meet mates. If you need help to make a gap in your garden wall or fence, get in touch with Thame Hedgehog Champions via trees@21stcenturythame.co.uk
- **Make ponds and drains safe.** Hedgehogs are great swimmers and climbers but they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds or deep holes. Make piles of stones or a piece of wood wrapped in chicken wire to make ramps, and cover drains and holes to stop hedgehogs getting trapped.



- **Create a wild corner of your garden,** letting wild flowers grow to encourage bugs and insects. Log piles, a bug hotel and a compost heap will all provide sources of food and places to hide for hedgehogs.
- **A source of water in dry weather is** really helpful. There's no need to feed hedgehogs in ordinary conditions since they prefer insects and bugs, but some wet or dry pet food can be a boost if you think they are struggling to find food especially as autumn draws in.
- **A hedgehog house** in a secluded part of the garden can be a great way to provide a safe place for hedgehogs to sleep, care for their young or hibernate through the winter.
- **Feed only if needed.** At this time of year, hedgehogs should be hibernating so if you see one out and about it's probably in trouble. Give it some cat or dog food and some water and gently pick them up with a towel and take it to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital in Haddenham. They will look after the hedgehog until it's strong enough to be released back into the wild.



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Have Your Say

LPRA are keen to hear about any genuine concerns that Lea Park residents may have, so we can try to find a solution.

Please e-mail to contact@leapark.org or write to the Editor at:
LPRA c/o The Town Hall, Thame OX9 3DP

Public Art Trails - an update

By Becky Reid – Thame Town Council

Thame Town Council has now finished the installation of the Public Art Walking trail from Thame Meadows (opposite Lord Williams's Upper School to the town centre). Installation of the second trail has also begun - 'The Cavalier and Roundhead Route'. This trail will span Lea Park, and will bring to life details about both the significance of The Moat as well as details about the estate's road names.

Lea Park Road names are all connected to the Civil War. If you haven't already, we would really encourage you to walk into the town centre, via the pathway that runs alongside Barley Hill School into the Cattle Market Car Park. Along the railings you will see some fun artwork, created by students attending Barley Hill School, that bring your street name to life - find out about the Roundhead, Cavalier or Battle that your road is named after. There is one panel (significant to Thame) that is not a street name in Lea Park though - can you find it?

On North Street you will also be able to find a new bench that has fish designs on it. This



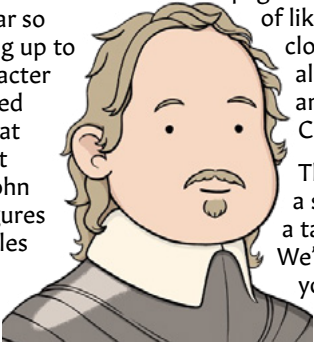
bench is connected to the way marker art that will eventually be placed on The Moat.

To find out more about Public Art in Thame visit: <https://www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk/visit-thame/town-trails/public-art-leading-wayfinding/>

Lea Park Civil War Scarecrow Competition!

Let's celebrate our Civil War heritage on Lea Park with a Scarecrow Competition.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved – kids, families, crafters, history enthusiasts! The theme will be the Civil War so make your scarecrow (anything up to life sized) representing a character from the Civil War – be inspired by the art trail on the railings at Barley Hill School. Think about the local characters such as John Hampden and the national figures such as Oliver Cromwell, Charles the First (with or without his head!), Charles the Second and many more.



It doesn't need to be a specific individual and you can feel free to interpret the brief as creatively as you want!

Put your scarecrow outside your house in the first two weeks of June and upload a photo onto the Love Lea Park Facebook page. Judging will be via the number of likes that the pictures get by the closing date of 18 June – which also happens to be the anniversary of the Battle of Chalgrove.

The idea is to have a bit of fun as a street or family and generate a talking point around the estate. We're looking forward to seeing your creations this summer!

Lea Park's oldest resident dies at 101

Sqn Ldr Garry Garretts M.B.E. passed away peacefully on 30th December 2023 after a short illness.

He was a founder member of the Lea Park Resident's Association and kindly loaned £500, pending the promised grant of a similar amount from the Town Council. He continued to support the Association attending all the AGMs until last year.

He had a remarkable life including a distinguished service in the RAF. Garry got his wings in Canada, rising to the rank of Squadron Leader with around the world. He flew in the Berlin Airlift, which was one of the highlights of his RAF career and has been interviewed by the BBC, the Imperial War Museum and various newspapers, about the Berlin Airlift and if you Google him, you will find out more about Garry and the Berlin Airlift.



Garry gave talks about the operation to many organisations and raised over £7,000 for the Royal Air Force Association. (RAFA)

He participated in numerous Remembrance Sunday services laying wreaths for RAFA.

He was a member of Full Circle, a group of older people who had lunch and spent time chatting with groups of children at Barley Hill School. He supported the fete at the school.

He had 23 happy years living on Lea Park in Thame. Sadly, his

wife, Brenda known as Johnnie, passed away in 2018.

Latterly, he was often seen in Thame on his mobility scooter called 'Speedy'.

He leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Diana and Andy Hunt; a son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Jayne Garretts, two grandsons and three great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed as one of the legendary figures of Thame.

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New Community Bus for Thame!

Thame Town Council has funding to deliver a new Community Bus Service in Thame

There is an open meeting about this new bus service so that the council can make sure it meets community need, including the needs of residents of Lea Park Estate.

ON: Thursday 29th February 2024

At: Thame Town Hall

Time: 6pm - 8pm

We want to hear from anyone who is either interested in using a bus, or who might like to play a part in delivering the service. It is really important to hear from as much of the community as possible, so we can make this work.

There will be opportunities for both voluntary and paid work in this project.

At this meeting you will be able to find out more about the current bus services available; hear plans for new services; inform us where the gaps are; and tell us more about what sort of service would be most useful to you.

If you are interested in going, please contact the town council to let them know.

There's a sign up form on their website."



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Who's Who on Lea Park?

Alan Kidd, NDD

Alan studied Art at Walthamstow College of Art, in Essex from 1961-65, where he was fortunate to benefit from tutors like Peter Blake, Fred Cuming and Ken Howard, Anne House and Cedric Horner. His career was in illustration, advertising, and graphic design. Alan and his family have lived on Lea Park, Thame for the last 39 years. Since retiring as a freelance graphic designer, he is now active in the field of fine art.



Alan is best known for his landscape paintings inspired by the beautiful landscape around Thame. His work has been shown at various local exhibitions throughout Oxon and Bucks including exhibitions at The Obsidian Art Gallery near Stoke Mandeville and Fitch & Fellows in Thame. He has been experimenting creating mono woodblock prints using acrylic paint on various surfaces.

Alan has twice had self-portraits selected for the prestigious international Ruth Borchard Self Portrait Competition. As well as many private collections, his work also hangs in public collections at Aylesbury Vale District Council Offices, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and The House of Lords Art Collection. He is an active member of Bucks Art Society and Oxford Art Society.

More examples of his work can be viewed on-line at www.alankidd.com

If you are one of Lea Park's creative people and you would like to be featured in a future LPRA Newsletter, please email us at leapark@hotmail.co.uk



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Dates for Your Diary

Taste of Thame Food and Drink Event - Saturday 25th May, 10am – 4pm

Held at various venues in the town centre, this is a real celebration of the small food and drink producers and retailers in town. Look out for more information nearer the time.

Lea Park Residents' Association AGM Wednesday 8th May, 7:30 pm at Barley Hill School

Thame Carnival - Saturday 15th June

Thame Carnival raises huge amounts of money for charities and organisations from Thame and the surrounding villages and is great fun for all the family.

Duck Race - Sunday 16th June

Captain Ducky and his pirate crew will take to the river Thame to accompany 2,000 ducks that are part of this annual extravaganza.

Lea Park Scarecrow Competition – first two weeks of June, Judging 18th June

Put out your scarecrow, themed around the English Civil War and upload a photo to Love Lea Park for judging.

Thame 10K Race - Sunday 30th June

CPM Thame 10k circular race navigates playing fields, Thame's historic town centre, Towersey and the traffic-free Phoenix trail.

Towersey Fringe - Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August

Comedy, fantastic bands and delicious food, bar plus a retail village.

Thame Fair – 19th – 21st September

Annual Spectacular Fun Fair
Lea Park Residents' Association Annual Quiz Night – 11th October 7:15 for 7:30, Thame Barns Centre – Bring along a team, ideally from your street but any group of friends would be great.

£3 for LPRA members, £5 for non-members

Thame Charter Fair – 11th-12th October

Smaller fair with rides and attractions suitable for our younger residents

Thame Art Crawl – 15th– 19th October

Update on Lea Park Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

May 2023 and Extraordinary General Meeting, July 2023

Lea Park Residents' Association held its Annual General Meeting on 25 May 2023 at Thame Town Hall. The outgoing Chair (Elaine Kidd) explained the key role of the Association in helping to forge a sense of community on the Lea Park estate, including campaigning for improvements to the estate where possible. Elaine stressed that if the Association was to continue and be successful in helping residents it was essential for volunteers to come forward and be involved in the work of the Association.

The main business of the evening was to elect the Association's Officers and its Committee which would run the Association during 2023/24. David Currie and Karl Braisher agreed to continue in the roles of Treasurer and Media Secretary respectively. Unfortunately, no further volunteers came forward for the officer roles, so with the threat of the Association having to be dissolved, Elaine Kidd (Chair), Joe Chapman (Vice-Chair), Ken Lewis (Membership Secretary) and Simon Heap (Secretary) agreed to continue in their roles for two months to allow time for further volunteers to come forward and an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held to either appoint to the vacant roles or the Association dissolved.

More volunteers needed!

Lea Park Residents Association desperately needs more people to get involved to help make our association viable. If you are interested in getting involved in the community and want to make things happen please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to help with editing the newsletter, helping us to maintain our membership lists, or generally bringing ideas and enthusiasm please do get in touch on contact@leapark.org.

Karl Braisher demonstrated the Association's redesigned website

The entertainment for the evening was a really interesting talk by Phillip Williams of the Thame Historical Society on Thame's association with the English Civil War and the derivation of the street names on Lea Park.

The Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 19 July 2023 at Barley Hill School with the intention of appointing to the remaining Officers roles.

A number of volunteers were forthcoming with Mark Goodall being elected Chair, Judith Edwards as Vice-Chair and Simon Heap as Secretary, with the post of Membership Secretary remaining vacant. Samantha Bellia, Joe Chapman, Graham Reed and Bridget Trueman were also elected to the Association's Committee as Resident Representatives. Elaine Kidd and Ken Lewis agreed to help the new Committee while it found its feet.

The meeting also considered a range of suggestions for projects the Association could be involved. Steve Paver agreed to act in a liaison role with 21st Century Thame over tree planting on the estate. The Committee was asked to consider taking the other projects forward if possible.

The Committee was also asked to consider including Wentworth Road and surrounding roads as part of the Association.

Calling Junior Journos!

Are you a junior aspiring writer or journalist that would love to see your own article in print? If you're 18 or under and would like to contribute an article to our next issue, then please send your artless to contact@leapark.org. Articles should be no longer than 350 words, can contain a photo or two if you like, and be on a topic of local interest to Lea Park Residents.

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