

Hertsmere's & Parks Community News

Countryside
Management
Service



Issue 31 - Autumn/Winter 2013



Residents gather
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parks@hertsmere.gov.uk

Parks News



Green Flag Award celebration

Hertsmere parks are among the best in the UK – and that's official!

We've held on to all six of our Green Flag Awards this year meaning Hertsmere has the highest number of Green Flag Awards in the county.

A Green Flag award, a national standard that highlights quality green spaces, is a sign to visitors that a park or green space has the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

King George Recreation Ground in Bushey received a special award for holding the prestigious accolade for an impressive 15 years. Other sites to receive a Green Flag award include Oakmere Park and Parkfield in Potters Bar and Aberford Park in Borehamwood.

Fishers Field Nature Reserve in Bushey retained its special Green Flag Community Award and Bushey Rose Garden received Green Heritage Site accreditation because of its historic features and standard of conservation.

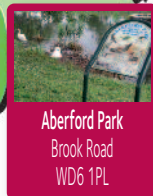
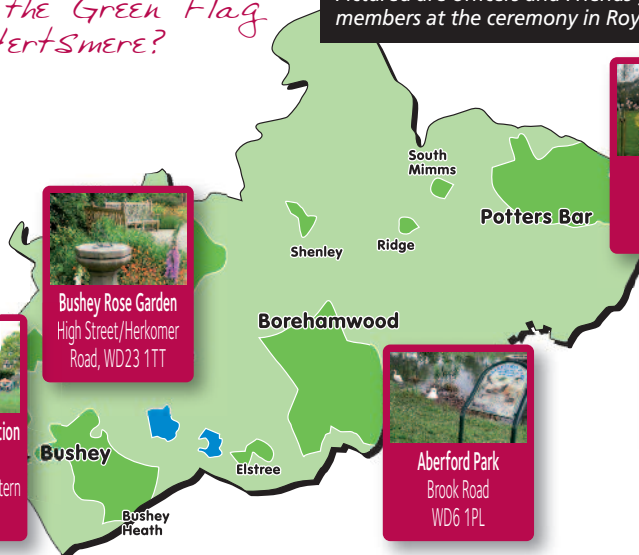
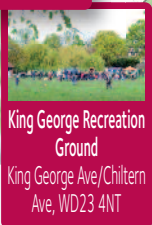
This year's celebration event was held at Royston Town Hall in August.

For more information visit www.greenflag.org.uk



Pictured are officers and Friends group members at the ceremony in Royston

Where are the Green Flag parks in HertsMere?





King George Recreation Ground entrance improvements

A welcoming new sculpture marks the entrance to King George Recreation Ground.

The roundabout at King George Avenue has received the facelift thanks to funding from Hertsmere Borough Council. Local wood carver, Will Lee, was commissioned to create a prominent feature to make drivers more aware of the roundabout. Will took inspiration from the park's oak trees and the Bushey crest on the entrance gates to create a large acorn sculpture carved from English Oak, surrounded by oak leaves and a plaque welcoming visitors to the park. Colourful plants will be introduced soon to surround the sculpture.

Enjoy the beautiful game at Ripon Park

It's no longer jumpers for goalposts for local children in Borehamwood.

Football goals have been installed on the main field at Ripon Park to provide much needed facilities, following requests from local residents and the police.

The goals have been funded by a local development and are part of an improvement programme for the park.



Fishers Field picnic



The annual family picnic at Fishers Field Nature Reserve in Bushey welcomed over 150 people in September.

The event, which aimed to promote local wildlife, saw three generations of families enjoy a free picnic provided by the Friends group.

Wildlife volunteer, Kevin, from Animal Rescue, brought along a hand-reared squirrel, which had been rescued as a baby, along with Frankie, the hedgehog, who is unable to live in the wild since losing his toes.

Ciaran Mullan, from the Countryside Management Service, led guided walks around the reserve with Hazel Schenk, the resident beekeeper.

Visitors were able to make bird boxes with the RSPB; speak to the council's recycling officer; make recycled paper plant pots; design badges with Maple Lodge and see an exhibition by a local artist.



Betty McBean from the Friends of Fishers Field, said: "The community picnic was a huge success. I cannot think of a better way to spend a gorgeous sunny day."

Francesca Fitch, Area Parks Officer, said: "Everyone had a fantastic day. The turnout was the best we've seen since the annual picnic first started. For some people it was their first visit to the reserve, but I doubt it will be their last."

Residents gather for lakeside tribute

A lakeside walk has been dedicated to a much-loved Bushey resident.

Family members, friends and councillors came together at Mary Forsdyke Gardens and Warren Lake in Bushey Heath in July to honour former Hertsmere Borough Councillor, Michael O'Brien.

Around 50 children also took part in a treasure hunt and children's picnic, organised by Hertsmere Leisure.

Cllr O'Brien, who represented Bushey Heath ward from 1999 until 2007, lived near the lake and championed improvements to the site such as new railings, benches and planting. He died in 2011.

His daughter Sarah described the walk as a wonderful tribute to her father. "My father did a lot for the residents of the Warren Estate and was like a father figure to the community. He was passionate about helping people, liked volunteering his time and was a great organiser. He had a clear vision about things and could always step back from the situation. He was a gentleman and a man of honour, and always kept his word. If you asked him to do

something, he would always do it."

The circular walk takes in the sights and sounds of Warren Lake with two interpretation panels, which give information on the lake's key features, its history and its flora and fauna. There are also small plaques set in the path indicating different types of trees and a wooden sculpture depicting a heron and terrapins located on the island in the lake.

Councillors Paul Morris and Seamus Quilty, both ward councillors for Bushey Heath, contributed £1,000 each from their Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (WIIS) funding towards the improvements.

Organiser of the event, Dr Raymond Coffey, chairman of Warren Lake Residents Association, said: "The opening of the lakeside walk was a communal occasion, which everyone enjoyed enormously. It showed off the lake and the gardens to their very best.



Plaques around the lake highlight trees of interest





Dr Raymond Coffer, Sarah O'Brien and Hertsmere Mayor Cllr Paul Morris at the opening of the Michael O'Brien Lakeside Walk

"Hertsmere Borough Council's parks team and Hertsmere Leisure deserve considerable credit for executing my vision and ideas so beautifully. Michael would have been delighted."

Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council, Cllr Morris Bright and MP for Hertsmere James Clappison, also attended the event.

Pictured on front cover: From left to right, Cllr Seamus Quilty, Hertsmere MP James Clappison, Sarah O'Brien, Dr Raymond Coffer, Cllr Brenda Batten, Mayor Cllr Paul Morris, Cllr Carey Keates and Cllr Morris Bright at the opening of the Michael O'Brien Lakeside Walk



Where is Warren Lake?

Mary Forsdyke Gardens and Warren Lake are located off Warren Road in Bushey Heath. There is a pay and display car park in the High Road, WD23 1EA, opposite St Peter's Church.

Aberford Park sensory maze

Children in Borehamwood can discover a new activity at their local park, since the introduction of a new sculpted wooden maze at Aberford Park.

The maze, with peep holes and carved with wildlife found in the park – including a young fox, wren, owl and squirrel – has been created by local woodcarver, Will Lee.

The borders around the maze have been sown with an annual wildflower mix of poppy, love-in-a-mist, candy tuft and flax, which brings colour throughout the summer.

The maze was funded by a local development.



Maxwell Hillside Park improvements

The park is receiving a facelift thanks to a team of volunteers and an action plan, drawn up by Hertsmere Borough Council and the Countryside Management Service.

A team of volunteers carried out vegetation reduction work and native hedge planting last winter. The top field, which can be very wet underfoot due to local springs, has been improved with a culvert and drainage.



Volunteers planting hedging last winter and the top field at Maxwell Hillside Park

Future work includes a new footpath connecting visitors from Hillside Avenue to the existing footpath from Maxwell Road, new benches, signage, tree planting and increasing areas of meadow grass. The improvements are being funded by a local development.

The park, situated next to Elstree Film Studios and Maxwell Community Centre, was purchased from the British and Dominions Film Corporations by the council in 1958. The park is a County Wildlife Site as it features important habitat with mature oak trees and neutral and acidic grassland. The meadow supports a good diversity of plants including common bent grass, sweet vernal grass, field wood-rush, oval sedge, sneezewort, cuckoo flower, black knapweed, birds foot trefoil, meadow buttercup and common sorrel.

The Borehamwood Four Parks Friends Association often lead guided walks around this and other parks in the area. For further details please call us on 0800 731 8100.

Bushey Rose Garden Centenary Garden Party

This year the Bushey Rose Garden celebrated a very special birthday – 100 years. The council, Friends of the Rose Garden and Hertsmere Leisure organised events to mark the parks centenary.

In June over 800 people attended a vintage fair. There was music from the Watford Brass Band, John Amer's vintage fairground, traditional games and an Edwardian tearoom run by The Friends.

Visitors were also able to find out more about Bushey Museum, Bushey Festival, Shaw Trust, Herts Inclusive Theatre, Bushey and District Footpaths Association and local artists at stalls held at the garden.

Other events this year included the tea and tour (part of Bushey Festival), laughter therapy, yoga, story telling, a display of old photographs

showing the garden through the years, and an art competition with Bushey schools, which will be exhibited in the garden this winter. To wrap up a golden year, a Christmas event will take place on Sunday 15 December.

The Peace Palace in The Hague is also celebrating its centenary and donated daffodils to the garden to commemorate the landscape designer Thomas Mawson who designed both the Peace Palace gardens and Bushey Rose Garden. We look forward to seeing the daffodils in bloom next spring.



Pictured are Watford Brass Band performing at the Garden Party and gardeners from the Peace Palace with officers and garden historians



Community News



A creative journey into the world of street dance and fashion helping you to bring out your individuality and personal style!

Join us every week for "Us Girls" to gain some amazing creative skills as we introduce you to the world of street dance and fashion. You will have the option to be part of a professional photo shoot and a live performance at the end of the project.

The project incorporates dance and fashion (styling, customisation, hair and make-up). Project leaders, Corina and Dee Dee work with the group of girls to develop their own personal style and expression, creativity, free-thinking and self-confidence.

Bushey - Every Thursday • Borehamwood - Every Friday

This project is free of charge and a female-only project. For further information or to book your place (places are limited, booking is advised) contact Corina Best on 07832 205787 or email to info@heartlesscreatives.com or tweet @HeartlessCreate.



Tennis news

Young tennis players can join in the fun at Meadow Park in Borehamwood every Saturday.

Independent Tennis is welcoming children aged between four and 10, with bags of enthusiasm (and you don't need the kit!). All you need to do is come to the tennis courts located off Brook Road at 12.30pm to join in and play. Rackets and equipment are provided.

Special thanks to everyone who came to our Wimbledon Party! The good weather meant there were lots of great games.

And we cannot forget our keen players from St Teresa's School who have qualified for the Schools Finals of Year 3.

Please contact Rafa or Monica at tenezus@gmail.com on 07762 786820 or follow us in twitter @Indepentennis



Limitless Youth Festival

Over 400 residents took advantage of a free fun family event at Phillimore Recreation Ground, in Radlett, during August.

Activities on the day included laser quasar, climbing walls, gladiator jousting, surf simulators, face painting, Zumba session, open mike, Peppa Pig, Fireman Sam and bouncy castles.

Child UK organised community games, Sure Start Children's Centre had plenty of games for the under-eights, Youth Connexions offered advice to young people and Hertsmere Borough Council ran taster sessions of their 'Us Girls Campaign'. Watford FC held mini training sessions and tennis coach, Guy Thomas, ran fun coaching sessions for all.

The main stars of the day were the incredible IMD Legion. All aged between eight and 17, they put on three shows and wowed the audiences with their unbelievable backflips and

outstanding dance routines.

The event was part of the Aldenham Parish Council's Community Engagement Strategy to:

- Find out what young people think of the area.
- Get ideas from young people on how to make the area a nicer place for them to live.



- Get ideas for developing a youth room in the current pavilion.

Aldenham Parish Council and Affinity Sutton had questionnaires to get local views on the area and everyone who completed the survey was automatically entered into a prize draw to win many exciting prizes including a 7-inch tablet.

Thank you to everyone who attended, local companies and our sponsors, including partners Radlett Festival, Affinity Sutton and Hertsmere Borough Council.

For further details about youth activities in Radlett please contact Lucy Jackman, Aldenham Parish Council, Tel 01923 856433.



Parish news

Shenley Community Activity Group (SCAG)

If you are a senior citizen living in Shenley, you can join others on trips throughout the year, including a cultural outing in the spring, a summer trip to the coast, and a Christmas visit to a London show.

The excursions are organised by the Shenley Community Activity Group (SCAG), benefitting from group discounts and, booking in advance, means the best seats available.

Costs are kept as low as possible to ensure anybody wishing to come along is not excluded due to pricing.

Shenley Parish Council subsidise the outings from the parish precept and there is additional help for anybody who may require it.

Any senior citizen resident in Shenley parish is eligible to attend, but spaces are sometimes limited and are allocated on a first-comes first-served basis. If there are spaces we are happy to offer these to non-residents at cost price.

You can find out about trips on council noticeboards and letters are also sent to parishioners on our mailing list.

Outings are always great fun for everybody and one of the highlights of the Shenley Parish Council's year.

SCAG is a subcommittee of the Shenley Parish Council.

For further details please contact Shenley Parish Council, The Hub, London Road, Shenley, WD7 9BS
Tel: 01923 855 865



Hertsmere Leisure, a charitable trust, has been looking after the council's leisure centres for more than 10 years. Facilities include The Venue and Hertswood Centre in Borehamwood, Bushey Grove Leisure Centre in Bushey and Furze Field Centre and Wyllyotts Theatre in Potters Bar. Hertsmere Leisure has taken over the management of Three Ways Community Centre in Borehamwood and Bushey Country Club and Community Centre as well as the delivery of Fifty Plus, play and park events programmes.

Play

We also offer a variety of play opportunities for children up to 14 years including: crèche services, run-a-round sessions, Fizzifun, swimming lessons, gymnastics courses, holiday playschemes and more.

Events in the parks

Look out for one of our events in a park near you! Bring your family and enjoy all the fun of play days, music events and festivals, Easter egg hunts, dog shows and more.



Our new Motivate4 Memberships help you to be more active. Every time you take part in an activity we reward you with points for you to save up and cash in to pay for an activity.

FREE to residents of Hertsmere, as well as rewarding you with points, our Bronze Motivate4 Memberships allow you to book activities in advance, gain free spectator entry, and obtain discount at Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar.

To find out more about what Hertsmere Leisure has to offer you, visit www.hertsmerereisure.co.uk, email web.comments@hertsmerereisure.co.uk, or phone 020 8236 3100.



fifty⁵⁰plus

The Fifty Plus programme provides recreational opportunities targeted (but not exclusively) to the 50 plus age group with weekly activities, day trips, short breaks, courses and special events.

Coach trips

Price includes cost of coach travel, entrance and guides where applicable.

BBC Broadcasting House Tour

Thursday 7 November 2013

Cost: £24.50 (currently operating a waiting list)



Photo Deskatana

Winchester Christmas Market

Thursday 28 November 2013

Cost: £16.75 (currently operating a waiting list)

The Mary Rose Museum and Harbour Tour

Thursday 27 March 2014

Cost: £31.00



Photo David Stanley

Eton College Guided Tour and free time in Windsor

Friday 25 April 2014

Cost: £23.50

The Lee Valley Canal Boat Ride – with refreshments

Thursday 15 May 2014

Cost: £31.00



Photo Stephen Dawson

Weekly activities

Art, badminton, ballroom and Latin dancing, bowls, bridge, chair-based exercise classes, fall prevention classes, keep fit, line dancing, musical keyboard, Pilates, scrabble, sing for your life, table tennis, tap dancing, Yoga and Zumba.

Courses

Tai Chi, Pilates, Yoga and, currently, a beginners bridge waiting list.

Quiz nights – Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar

Friday 6 December 2013 and Thursday 6 March 2014.

Tables of six required. Fish and chip or chicken and chip supper. If you are short on numbers, please speak to us.

If you require further information or the current brochure, please contact the Fifty Plus team at the Wyllyotts Theatre on 01707 645005.

Events News

2013 saw one of the hottest summers Britain has had to offer in an extremely long time; however the official start to the events season was more suited to Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer than the Easter Bunny.

With the unlikely heavy snow in April our events team were forced to cancel two Easter egg hunts. When the sun finally decided to show its face for two days, Aberford Park in Borehamwood and King George Recreation Ground in Bushey were transformed into bubbling hubs of Easter fun. Local residents braved the cold to enjoy magicians, fun fair, egg hunts, face painting, arts & crafts and visits from Fuzzy the Bear, Fireman Sam and Peppa Pig.



The summer events schedule was bursting at the seams with brand new events and some old favourites. Highlights included the **Rose Garden Centenary** event on 30 June. The Edwardian-themed event kicked off Bushey festival in style with activities including a traditional carousel, coconut shy, Punch and Judy and a very special performance from Watford's Brass Band. The annual **Dog Show** in King George



Recreation Ground continued to be one of the most popular events of the summer season, with 150 dogs and owners entering a variety of different classes on one of the hottest days summer had to throw at us. Borehamwood's Ripon Park played host to a brand new event, **Watford Football Club free coaching sessions**, which ran for eight weeks over the summer holiday period. Over forty children between the ages 8 - 19 took part each week and it has been so successful that it will continue throughout the winter months at the Hertswood Centre in Borehamwood on Wednesday nights 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Another new addition to the 2013 events calendar was **Yoga** in the Rose Garden, which ran every Monday afternoon for eight weeks during the summer months. By far the most successful and popular event this summer was the new addition of **Family Fun Day** in King George Recreation Ground. Hundreds of families





flocked to the park on another glorious day to enjoy dodgems, live music, Jujitsu displays, fun fair rides, face painting and arts & crafts. At the heart of the event were traditional races including egg & spoon, space hoppers, sack races, mums & dads' races and a giant tug of war. Each child that participated was given a medal. A trophy was won by the residents of Bushey who competed against the event staff in the tug of war (who were slightly outnumbered). This event was funded by Councillor Linda Silver through the Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (WIIS). She hopes next year will be even bigger and better.



To round up the summer season of events was another first for 2013 - **Unsigned and Unplugged** in the Rose Garden saw some of the best local musicians perform to an audience of over 150 people, another event that we want to see again in 2014. This year was a great year of events in Hertsmere and we were extremely lucky to have such great weather, hopefully we have the same sunshine in 2014.



The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council and other local authorities across Hertfordshire helping communities to care for and enjoy the environment. For more information, see their website at www.hertslink.org/cms

Scaling new heights at Composers Park

Challenging new play equipment has been installed at Composers Park in Elstree, as part of a project to improve the outdoor space for people and wildlife.

In July the new equipment was officially opened by Councillors Morris Bright and Jean Heywood, just in time for the summer holidays.

The play equipment gives older children an opportunity to play, climb and experience height in a safe environment, with a soft landing provided by a surface of shredded recycled car tyres. Made from wood and rope, the equipment blends in to the backdrop of the tree line and acts as a springboard for exploration and play in the wider natural environment.

The project, part funded by Cllrs Morris Bright and Derrick Gunasekera through the Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme, has also enabled an artist to be commissioned to create an attractive entrance feature for the park and new interpretive materials are currently being designed.

The meadows at Composers Park over the spring and summer were a colourful palette of wildflowers, from the yellow of buttercup in the spring to the purple crescendo of selfheal, black knapweed and tufted vetch in the summer. The flowers attracted a great many insects such as common blue damselfly, and butterflies such as meadow brown, marbled white and large skipper.



The project will progress over the winter with wildlife habitat works including the restoration of old hedgerows, scrub control, and the construction of a new pond for amphibians such as smooth newts. Areas of mature scrub and young woodland will be thinned and scrub layered to provide nesting and feeding habitat for birds, and shelter for small mammals.

The Heritage Lottery funded (HLF) improvement project is a joint project between CMS and Hertsmere Borough Council.

Visit the CMS website at <http://ow.ly/p2VhF> to find out more about the project.

Walks and More

Interested in guided walks and countryside activities? See the Walks and More website at <http://ow.ly/p2VGD> for details of events in your local area and further afield!



New plan for Studio Way Woodland Trail

Borehamwood residents will soon have an opportunity to find out about the future management of Studio Way Woodland Trail.

The new plan includes the management and removal of mature poplar trees and maintenance of existing and recently planted woodland. There will also be improvements to ensure visitor access and experience is of a high standard.

If you would like to find out more about the project please contact Alex Laurie.

Allotments - Finch Lane and Windmill Lane

CMS have been successful in securing Watling Chase Community Forest funding for a second year. The funding, for two allotment sites in Bushey, will enable hazel to be planted for use as pea sticks, to increase diversity on the site for wildlife and to replant parts of the boundary hedge.

We have money for Windmill Lane allotments to create a new orchard on the main plot using Hertfordshire varieties of apple and plum. New entrance signs and allotment notice boards will be installed with CMS conservation volunteers.

Parkfield update

This winter at Parkfield in Elstree bushes will be cut back ready for work on the stream that runs through the site.



It will create a new, more natural channel to replace the existing concrete channel and should attract a range of new wildlife.

Watling Chase Community Forest (WCCF)

Many of these projects are being supported by the WCCF Small Projects Fund administered by CMS. The fund is a valuable means of stimulating small-scale community projects which improve the natural environment, or promote enjoyment in the WCCF area.

Projects need to be of public benefit, be appropriate to the ecology, landscape or archaeology of the area and can be up to 50% of the agreed costs, to a maximum of £2,000.

To apply for funding see the website.

Environmental volunteering in Hertsmere

CMS volunteers have been busy in Hertsmere this year. The team visited Thirskcliffe Nature Park in Borehamwood to control scrub around the meadows and reclaim wildflower grassland. More recently the group visited Composers Park in Elstree to help restore an area of meadow using wildflower seeds from recently cut hay.



CMS fence repair at Radlett

CMS volunteers do a great deal of work on the extensive Rights of Way (ROW) network. Projects include a ROW off Barnet Lane in Elstree to clear a path which was impassable to walkers and extensive repairs to a section of post and rail fencing alongside a bridleway in Radlett.

CMS volunteers work on green spaces across Hertfordshire carrying out a wide range of environmental projects. If you are interested in volunteering, visit our website at the following link to find out more: <http://ow.ly/p2VAO>

Contact details:



The Parks and Amenities team

We manage and maintain all council-owned parks in the borough with active involvement of the local community through Friends groups and planting days.

Freephone helpline
(office hours only): 0800 731 1810
Out of hours/24 hour
emergency 020 8207 2277/0845 300 0021

Steve Burton - Head of Street Scene **Ext: 5242**

David Smith - Parks and Amenities Manager.
Responsible for the coordination and senior management of all the maintenance work carried out within the borough. **Ext: 3880**

Jonathan Hawes - Cemetery & Technical Officer.
Responsible for the management and development of Allum Lane Cemetery and allotments. **Ext: 3950**

Francesca Turze - Area Parks Officer. Responsible for maintenance and development of Borehamwood, Bushey, Elstree and Shenley parks and open spaces. **Ext: 3920**

Aaron Niblett - Area Parks Officer. Responsible for maintenance and development of Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Ridge and South Mimms parks and open spaces. **Ext: 3820**

Fiona Leadley - Landscape Design Officer.
Responsible for the design and management of schemes within parks and open spaces. **Ext: 5680**

Gill Clare - Administration Assistant. Responsible for parks administration. **Ext: 5701**

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Featuring community safety, youth projects, sports, museums, grants and Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme. **020 8207 7801**

Hertsmere Leisure 
Leisure centres, events, play schemes and Fifty Plus: **020 8236 3100**
Visit: www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk

Useful numbers

Street Scene:
(refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing) **020 8207 7480**

Hertfordshire Highways:
(Hertfordshire Highways is responsible for maintaining all trees on the public highway verge) **0300 123 4047**

Hertfordshire Police:
Non-emergency: 101
Emergency 999

Affinity Sutton Homes: 020 8235 7000

Alldwyck Housing Association: 01582 869101

Motorcycle Hotline:
(to report nuisance motorcycles) CARM **020 8207 7553**

Countryside Management Service: 01992 588433

Aldenham Parish Council: 01923 856433

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council: 020 8207 1382

Shenley Parish Council: 01923 855865

South Mimms Parish Council: 020 8360 9223

Aldenham Country Park: 020 8953 9602


Shenley Park Trust: 01923 852629

This newsletter is published by Hertsmere Borough Council's Parks and Amenities team.

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www.hertsmere.gov.uk/parks

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