

Winter
2016

PERRY COMMON MATTERS

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £50 SEE INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS



Message from Santa

Ho-Ho-Ho - hello to everyone.

Ho, Ho, Ho. I'm pleased to say that you have all welcomed me again to Perry Common, for your wonderful Christmas On The Ring celebration.

It's been lovely to meet you all. I had a wonderful time and I will put an extra present in your stockings this year.

Now, in this festive edition of Perry Common Matters: well I'm really spoilt for choice. You've all been so busy doing great work!

I've seen the new Witton Lodge Community Association website - that's how I found out about your Christmas event you know! And the £50 you can win too - that will buy lots of goodies.

Your new Orchard Tearoom looks lovely - I just hope you save me a mince pie, and a carrot for the reindeers for when I come to visit.

And then, there's all those lovely events. Teddy Bears Picnics, Fun Days and Keep The Beat Going sound absolutely wonderful. And what's all this I hear about your excellent Jobs & Skills work - and getting people fit and healthy. I know where to come to help me with my New Year Resolutions!

Keep up the good work in 2017 and have a very Merry Christmas: ho, ho, ho!

from Santa.



A festive start to the season

Christmas On The Ring heralded a festive start to the season here in Perry Common. The Ring was a busy place on Friday 25th November, with crowds enjoying a feast of live music performances from local artists and groups - including the Story Wood School Choir, Ring Of Sound and the Wan Sheung Chinese Dancers.

With hot food to warm everyone up, a marquee full of festive stalls, children's rides, games and a very busy Santa in his Grotto, there really was something to get everyone into the Christmas Spirit.



In This Issue



New Homes
On The Way
Page 3



Grand Opening
Of The Orchard
Tearoom
Page 4-5



Whats On In
The New Year
Page 8

Dade Homer, age 7, from Wilson Stuart School.
Congratulations Dade for your Mistletoes design.

THE WINNER OF THIS Year's CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION IS



Abandoned Albert Finds A Loving New Home



CALL OUT FOR Community Watch

The festive season is here and Perry Common Community Watch is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help keep Perry Common a safe and pleasant place to live.

The friendly and passionate group meet regularly for estate walkabouts and speak to local people about any issues affecting Perry Common. They really are making a difference to this area, but need your help.

To find out more call Linda on **07960 386252** or email Linda.Hines@wittonlodge.org.uk.



Now here's a story with a happy ending! Back in October, Albert, a beautiful cross-breed dog, was found at Witton Lakes, abandoned and in a terrible condition. He was severely underweight, had long uncut nails and urine stains on his tail and feet.

He was rescued by Birmingham's wonderful Dog Wardens and then taken to a foster home. We are delighted to report that Albert has now found a happy new home, just in time for Christmas!



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT OUR NEW WEBSITE, NEWSLETTERS AND POSTERS

www.wittonlodge.org.uk

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

&
WIN
POUNDS **50**

To enter into our prize draw Please provide your details

NAME:

Address:

Post code:

Email:

Phone:

Your thoughts:

Please return to Perry Common Community Hall, 87 Witton Lodge Rd, B23 5JD, by Friday 27th January

HELP AND SUPPORT



Help With Housing: FREE Housing Advice and Support Sessions

Are you looking to rent a home? Need advice and support about the Bidding Process? Need help filling out Housing Application Forms, or anything else to do with the housing process? Alisha, our Homes and Properties Officer, will be running FREE sessions for everything you need to know.

The sessions take place from **1-2:30pm**, at our office in Perry Common Community Hall, 87 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5JD on the following dates:

- ✓ Friday 16th December, 2016
- ✓ Wednesday 21st December, 2016
- ✓ Friday 6th January, 2017

For more information call *Alisha* or email Alisha.Vale@wittonlodge.org.uk or come into our office at Perry Common Community Hall. TEL: 0121 382 1930

New Homes On The Way

The final phase of development in Perry Common is now underway. 146 new homes will be built over the next 2 years on land alongside Dovedale Road, by housebuilders Lovell. You may have already seen the security fencing. The first homes for sale are

due to be available in June 2017. A new planning application has also been submitted for building 20 new homes for sale on the former 'balcony' site, adjacent to the top of Enderby Park. The plans also seek to formally close the road link between Jonquil Close and Witton Lodge Road.

This building work is due to begin in February 2017



The Recreation Ground Gets Re-Created

As you may have seen, security fencing has been installed and work has now started on the extensive re-landscaping of the Perry Common Recreation Ground. As part of this work; new pathways will be laid, improving access from Dovedale Road; seating installed, new trees planted and improved drainage.

This will transform this green space into a new park for everyone to enjoy.



Our Outstanding Citizen Mary



This inspirational lady was featured on the front page of the last edition of Perry Common Matters, having just won a Long Term Volunteer Award from Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council (BVSC). Well, since then, Mary has been awarded 'Outstanding Citizen Of The Year' by West Midlands Police; Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jameson

The award is a recognition of Mary's continuing work for our local community. Mary is involved in everything from Community Watch, being a member of Friends Of Witton Lakes, Duckling Watch (keeping a check on the wildlife at Witton Lakes), litter picks and not forgetting her work for WLCA.

There really is no stopping this 95 year old!
Congratulations Mary.

The Future Of Perry Common Library:

Have Your Say

Perry Common Library is a beautiful building and a great asset to all of us here in Perry Common and surrounding areas.

The library has 26,000 books, plus talking books, covering a wide range of information and fiction of all genres. They also have 21 computers for both adults and children. All these services are FREE for everyone to use. All you need is a Birmingham Library card.

But, as with all libraries across the city and throughout the country; its future is being discussed.

Please use this fantastic local resource or we will lose it. You can also have your say about its future by visiting

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/place/community-libraries>



AN AUTUMN OF ACTIVITY

And a busy 2017 AHEAD

WYRLEY FESTIVAL OF FUN

Over 500 people braved the wet weather to visit the Wyrley Festival Of Fun at Witton Lakes, in the first weekend of September.

Everyone had a great time enjoying a host of activities, music and food, in the park and at the Lakeside Children's Centre.

With Kayaking on the lakes, Bouncy Castle and Mega-Slide, fun games, sizzling BBQ, Smoothie Bike and lots more – there was something for everyone.

The donkeys were really popular – with Andy, Dennis, Geronimo and Kye (who used to be called Psycho because he kept misbehaving), all on their best behaviour.

If donkeys were not enough, The Owl Man, was hugely popular. He

brought with him a family of 10 beautiful birds. It was a great chance to get up close to the birds, learn about them and appreciate their beauty.

The festival, now in its second year, was organised by a partnership of local organisations; Elim Life Church, Friends of Witton Lakes, Lakeside Children's Centre, Perry Common Community Watch, Urban Devotion Birmingham, and Witton Lodge Community Association – and was funded by Heart Of England Community Foundation and Perry Common Community Watch.



WE HAVE MORE EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2017



GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW Orchard TEA ROOM

If you're thirsty and fancy a slice of cake, there's a new place to go. The new Orchard Tearoom in Witton Lakes, has seen the conversion of a disused portable cabin into a much needed community space. It is a stylish place to sit, eat and relax. There's even a new natural play area for the children to enjoy, while you sit back and relax!

This 'tasteful' project has been made possible with £10,000 funding from Tesco's Bags Of Help and Groundwork West Midlands, not to mention the limitless help of local groups and organisations.

Sabrina Jaques, Environmental Initiatives Officer at WLCA says: "I would like to say a big, big thank you to everyone who has made the Orchard Tearoom and natural play area a reality. We have had so much support for this project. The Kingstanding Neighbourhood Police Team helped strip the cabin, removing the windows and doing the really dirty work. The team from Santander in Erdington came, jet-washed and painted the cabin. We had support throughout the project from the Fifty Shades of Green Gardening Group, the Friends Of Witton Lakes, friends and family.

And last but certainly not least, Thank You to the local community who came along and offered their support."



OPENING TIMES FOR THE NEW YEAR TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON. KEEP CHECKING OUR NOTICE BOARDS AND WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.



OVER £200 RAISED AT KEEP THE BEAT GOING



To brighten up a dark November day, Perry Common Community Hall was decorated and filled with guests ready to make this an afternoon to remember – whilst at the same time, raising money for the British Heart Foundation

The theme for the event was 'naughty' and 'nice', with lots of naughty tea and cakes and a fantastic Bake-Off to tempt everyone in. And then there were 'nice' healthy options that are good for the heart – with a beautiful selection of fruits from around the world and a raffle, with 11 very happy people, walking away with prizes.

The event was organised by WLCA volunteer Margaret Mulhall, who had worked non-stop for weeks, getting the support of local supermarkets, promoting the event and making sure that everyone had a great time on the day.



A Bountiful Harvest Festival For Sycamore Court

Residents of our Sycamore Court 'Extra Care Scheme' were delighted with a very generous donation of food by students at Wilson Stuart School, as part of their Harvest Festival celebration. With everything from tinned

vegetables and soup to biscuits and cakes – the residents really did have a full banquet! A big Thank You from all the residents at Sycamore Court to everyone who donated.



Margaret says: "A big Thank You to Tesco New Oscott who donated £40 of cakes, raffle prizes, chocolates and wine; Aldi College Road, who donated £30 worth of cakes and fruit and Farmfoods Kingstanding Circle for their kind donation of £10 worth of cakes.

And Thank You to everyone who supported, came along on the day and donated. We're just thinking about what to do next!"



A Happier & Healthier 2017 with Our new Living Well Hub

We are delighted to introduce the Witton Lodge Community Association, Living Well Hub. This provides a wide range of services to help improve health and lifestyles with everything from one-to-one support, family support and even benefits advice.

In this edition of Perry Common Matters we will be focusing on helping older people.

Are you aged 50 or over? Do you sometimes feel lonely or isolated? Would you like some additional support getting out and about? Would like to meet new people and participate in new activities? If yes, then our Living Well Hub can help!

We pride ourselves on offering a personalised service that is tailored according to your needs with:

- ✔ Meeting new people
- ✔ Help getting out and about
- ✔ Confidence building
- ✔ Information, advice and access to local services
- ✔ Sign posting you to other relevant services in your local area and across the city
- ✔ Helping you access local social groups and activities

If you would like more information or want to improve your health and change your lifestyle, ask you GP to refer you, or contact us.



Contact The Living Well Team

For more information about any of these services, please contact the Living Well Team on – **0121 386 4724** between **9am-5pm, Monday to Friday**, or email Sarah.Blackstock@wittonlodge.org.uk or Saschan.Fearon-Josephs@wittonlodge.org.uk.

Jobs & Skills for 2017

If you're 18 or over, not currently in training, education or employment, WLCA can help you

- ✔ Find A Job
- ✔ Improve Your Skills
- ✔ Set Up Your Own Business

Contact us on **0121 382 1930** for more information and make 2017 a year to kick-start your career.



Getting Young People On The Right Track Into Employment

At the beginning of September, over 50 young people came to Perry Common Community Hall for an employment event with a big difference.

'Track Friday' was organised by young people for young people, led by WLCA's Youth Employment Worker, Dellano Lewis.

This was an ideal opportunity to discuss jobs and skills, with young people giving fantastic live music performances, enjoying some good food and having a great time.

There were a wide range of excellent acts, many by young people themselves, who volunteered their free

time to help – including: Sophia Lee, BdotU, Vital, Systematic, reggae artist Juggernaut, Lotto Boyzz and many more – all presented beautifully by Kaycee Light.

This really was a full night of entertainment that saw many young people, aged between 16 and 29 (not currently in education, employment or training) sign-up for help and advice, to support them into the jobs market. But this was something completely different to the usual type of events!

See our YouTube page for a video of this great music.

Job Club

Our Job Club takes place every Tuesday 10am-1pm and Thursday 1-4pm at Perry Common Community Hall. These FREE sessions are an ideal opportunity to discuss anything employment related.

Our Employment Workshops

Do you want to learn some really useful skills, in a friendly environment? We deliver a wide variety of FREE employment workshops; with sessions including: interview skills, CV creation, job search techniques, money management, team working and communication.

Enterprise Support Sessions

In addition to our Job Club, we also offer FREE specialist one-to-one Enterprise Support Sessions. These are an ideal opportunity to meet with an advisor and discuss anything business start-up related, in a relaxed, friendly and confidential environment.

To find out more call our Jobs & Skills Team on **0121 382 1930**, email Paul.Tse@wittonlodge.org.uk

or come into our office at **Perry Common Community Hall** between **9am-5pm, Monday to Friday**.

"Erdington Works" Business Breakfast And Jobs Fair: A Roaring Success



Over 1000 jobseekers and 60 local employers and partners came through the doors at Jaguar LandRover's Experience Centre in Castle Bromwich for the "Erdington Works" Business Breakfast and Jobs Fair.

attracted over 1000 people of all ages, looking for jobs and training opportunities.

There was a really positive atmosphere at the event with a number of people successfully securing interviews and work.

The event brought together businesses, funders and jobseekers. Businesses learnt about funds available to help them grow, create jobs and find out how to access local jobseekers to fill their vacancies.

The hugely successful day started with a Business Breakfast, chaired by Jack Dromey, MP for Erdington, and included a host of guest speakers from local businesses and organisations.

Three inspirational speeches were given by WLCA Youth Employment Ambassadors; Jessica, Haleema and Dellano.

This was then followed in the afternoon by a packed Jobs Fair, attended by over 40 local businesses and

George Davis, age 18, "I have really enjoyed the jobs fair. There are people from all different job sectors. It has given me more of an idea of what I want to do. Everyone is really helpful and I am finding work that suits my skills and qualities."



“

Cameron Rhule CJ, Age 16

"The event was a great way to get young people interested in finding work."

Track Friday was something different – a great change from other events and a really helpful way to find out information. Everyone had a great time. I really enjoyed the whole experience and can't wait for the next event."

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WLCA Wins Excellence In Youth Involvement Award

We are delighted to have won the 'Excellence In Youth Involvement Award' from the Chartered Institute Of Housing. This award is for our jobs and skills work with young people here in Perry Common and the surrounding area. This was presented at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry in November.

Congratulations to the Jobs and Skills Team at WLCA and a big Thank You to everyone who has supported the team with their work.



Interesting Findings From The Community Researchers

As part of our Living Well Hub, we are looking to find out more about our local area, so we can help even more people – by providing better services, really focusing on what local people want!

To do this, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund; our Living Well Team and an enthusiastic team of local volunteers, have been working with the University Of Birmingham, Centre For The Third Sector.

The volunteers have been trying to speak to as many local people as possible, asking

for their thoughts at local supermarkets, shopping centres, by knocking hundreds of doors and at the many community events that have taken place over the summer and autumn.

In total, 251 people have been asked their thoughts in Kingstanding, Perry Common and Wyrley Birch. We will now be going through all this information and keep you updated on what we've found, and the plans ahead – in the Spring Edition of Perry Common Matters.

"I loved doing this Community Research as I love talking to people and listening to their views. I'm interested in how people feel and in their wellbeing. A good community spirit is good for everyone!"

Jenni Njoku
Community Researcher.



A Warm-Hearted Christmas Gift For Those In Need

With weather reports of a cold winter ahead, here's welcome news about a great group of people who enjoy helping out our neighbours.

At the St Martin's Church Centre, we offer local people aged 55+ a range of opportunities to stay connected and active. There are our regular Tea Dances, Film Afternoons, Lunch Club, Tuesday Coffee Morning, EXTEND Exercise, Craft Group, Men's Group and regular trips out.

This Christmas, with a grant from the 'Spirit of Kingstanding', we are purchasing items to make up 'Winter Warmer' packs to give out to those who need them the most. We have also received donations of goods from local people, like Val, seen here sporting fluffy socks, gloves and scarves, which she has generously donated.

Our regular craft ladies 'Creative Moments' have made re-usable cloth shopping bags to give to everyone who needs one, which will be full of goodies to help them out as the weather turns colder. The ladies are currently busy knitting hot water bottle covers to go into the packs too!



To find out more about any of our activities, please see our knitted noticeboard outside St Martin's Church Hall, 140 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5AP, call Phillipa on 07455 900 769.

by the St Martin's Social Care Project.



Perry Common Community Hall

87 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5JD
Tel: 0121 382 1930
www.wittonlodge.org.uk



Monday

Red Hot Chilli Steppers
Walking Group
11:00am

Personal Safety Training
12:00 - 1:00pm
(Starting Monday 16th January 2017)

Tuesday

Job Club (by appointment only)
10:00am - 1:00pm

Slimming World
7:00 pm

Wednesday

Aikido
7:30 - 9:30pm

Thursday

Pain Clinic (by appointment only)
9:30 - 1:00pm

Job Club (no appointment needed)
1:00 - 4:00pm

Slimming World
5:00pm (1st Session)
7:00pm (2nd Session)

Friday

Slimming World
10:00am

Quiz Night
Every Month 7:00pm

Quiz Nights in 2017
20th January
17th February
24th March
21st April

EXCLUSIVE OFFER for Perry Common Residents

15% OFF

your next Hall Booking

Present this voucher at
Perry Common Community Hall.
(When you make your booking)



Sycamore Court

46 Buxton Road, B23 5GA
Tel: 0121 386 4724
www.wittonlodge.org.uk



Tuesday

Ring Of Sound Choir
7:00 - 8:00pm
(Sessions start again on 10th Jan 2017)

Thursday

Extend Exercise Class
10:00 - 11:00am

Fifty Shades Of Green
Gardening Group
(Dates to be announced)
1:30 - 3:00pm

The Net

159 Witton Lodge Road, B23 5AR
Tel: 0121 373 7406
www.thenet-church.co.uk



Monday

The Net Chat Club (Just drop in)
12:00 - 2:00pm

Tuesday

The Net Lunch Club
12:00 - 2:00pm

Perry Tree Centre

College Road, B23 5BX
(at junction with Dovedale Road)
Tel: 0121 675 5571



Tuesday

EXTEND EXERCISE CLASS
10:00 - 11:00am (FREE)

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Take place each month at
Perry Common Community Hall.

- **Labour Councillor Des Hughes**
Every 2nd Wednesday of the month
7:00 - 8:00pm
- **Conservative Councillors Gary Sambrook and Ron Storer**
Every 2nd Friday of the month
6:30 - 7:30pm

FRIENDS OF PERRY COMMON

The group meet at 1pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the community room at St Martin's Church for coffee and chat, with ideas to continue to make Perry Common a fun and lively place to live. **Contact Teresa Compton on 07913 323 645.**

St Martin's Church Hall

140 Witton Lodge Road,
B23 5AP

Tel: 0121 382 7555
www.ctheking.co.uk



Monday

St Martin's Parent & Toddler Group
9:30 - 11:30am

Tuesday

Coffee, Games & Chat
10:00am - 12:00pm

St Martin's Lunch Club
11:30am - 2:30pm

Kick Boxing (Under Age 16)
6:00 - 7:00pm

Kick Boxing (age 16 And Over)
7:00 - 8:00pm

Boxercise
8:00 - 9:00pm

Wednesday

St Martin's Parent & Toddler Group
9:30 - 11:30am

Creative Moments Craft Group
12:00 - 2:00pm

Friday

Extend Exercise Class
11:00am - 12:00noon (FREE)

St Martin's Lunch Club
11:30am - 2:30pm

Saturday

Boxercise
8:45am - 9:45am

Little Stars Dance Studio
10:00am - 3:00pm

Perry Common Library

College Road (at The Crossways) B44 0HH
0121 464 0481
www.urbandevotion.org



Opening Times:

Mon: 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm
Thur: 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 6:00pm
Fri: 9:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm
Sat: 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00 - 5:00pm

Monday

KNITTER KNATTER
1:00 - 3:00pm

Thursday

ANCESTRY SESSION
(Trace Your Family History)
11:00am - 12:00noon

Saturday

YOUNG PEOPLE'S TUITION
(Up to GCSE level)
2:45 - 4:45pm

Urban Devotion

140 Witton Lodge Road,
B23 5AP (Next To St Martin's Church Hall)
www.urbandevotion.org



UDB Weekly Activities
All activities at The Underground, St
Martin's Church, (unless otherwise
stated)

Monday

The Underground (School Years 4-6)
3:30pm - 4:45pm

The Underground (School Years 7-11)
5:00pm - 6:15pm

UDB Cafe (Age 16-19)
6:30 - 7:30pm (at Hope House)

Wednesday

Junior Club (School Years 4-6)
4:00pm - 4:45pm (at Lakeside)

Senior Club (School Years 7-9)
5:00pm - 5:45pm (at Lakeside)

Friday

67 (Boys in School Years 6)
4:00 - 5:00pm

Football (School Years 7-11)
5:15 - 6:15pm

HIRE OUR VENUES

Whether you are looking to host a conference, children's birthday party, activity session or informal meeting; our Hall, Meeting Room, Interview Room or new Conservatory, could be your ideal venue.

To find out more and to book, call us on **0121 382 1930** or come into our office at **Perry Common Community Hall between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.**



Please contact the organisation hosting the event to confirm details.