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## Introduction to LPRA Newsletter



Hello all - I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the LPRA newsletter and my first newsletter as acting Chair.

I'm looking forward to working alongside the rest of the LPRA committee and members over the coming months in making Lea Park a better place to live (and it's already pretty great!)

I'm sure you'd agree that one of the positives we can take away from the Coronavirus Pandemic, is the affirmation of how lucky we are to live in an area with such an amazing sense of community. Neighbours rallied around to get shopping, prescriptions and just made sure that those that needed it knew where to get support. The LPRA is an extension of that community spirit and by working together we can build on making Lea Park the best it can be.

What do you want to read about in the newsletter? Let us hear your views at [leapark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leapark@hotmail.co.uk).

In this issue we have:

- Winners of the NHS Rainbow Competition

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- Lea Park Rapid Reaction Task Force
- Save the Date! And Recruitment Drive
- Membership Update
- Proposed new 'Health Hub'
- Some news from the Old Tamensians
- Thame Runners club

Best wishes, Lisa Norgate-Barnes (Chair)

## Congratulations to the winners of our NHS Rainbow Competition!

- 1 Pelham Road
- 1 Hamilton Road
- 64 Roundhead Drive

Prizes were vouchers from The Book House.



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## Councillor's Corner

As I write this we are into another lockdown, although things within Thame are not so bad. Over the first lockdown and this one, we have continued to support local organisations who have been working with members of the public, such as delivering shopping or medicines. We have also kept in close communication with local businesses.

The Council has now started having all the committee meetings again, these are still happening through Zoom. If you wish to attend, please contact the office for the passcodes.

The Council is still challenging the developments in the Elms, DAF and Goodson

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I am sure you may have noticed that the site on Moorend Lane is being used again, this is still within the contract that is in place. There has been no further information from Oxford County Council (OCC) on the future of that site for recycling. I am requesting an update as there was a report due in September.

I hope you have taken some time to review the Green Living Plan. The Council will be working with the group to initiate some of the ideas they have proposed. You may also have seen some information on a programme called Solar Streets which refers to solar panel installations. During the first lockdown, the Council went after Government funding that had been awarded to OCC for reducing traffic and encouraging cycling and walking, especially in town centre settings. Unfortunately, OCC did not award any funding to TCC. I am sure that we will see more of these initiatives in the coming months.

The Thame Youth Project has spent the last few months consulting with the community, and in particular those that could be heavily impacted along Southern Road. The group is now setting up a working group with TCC to move the project forward.

I would like to wish you a great Christmas, however we celebrate this year, and I look forward to being in touch in 2021!



Stay safe – Paul Cowell

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## Moat Noticeboard Project

We started this project towards the end of 2018. Our aim was to put a Notice Board on the Moat so everyone could see all the names of the roads in Lea Park on a map of the estate.

Then curiosity led us to include a second Notice Board where we could include information about each road name, and a third Notice Board with the history of the 'Moat' on it, with the idea that we could then link all three together.

By the end of 2019 we had all the information, but we still had to get it printed on boards and framed. Then 'Coronavirus' slipped in and we had to put it on the shelf!



### Where are we now?

We are talking to experts who can help us move forward and link the three Notice Boards together. We know the final result cannot be placed on the Moat as it is a 'Heritage Site', but it can stand close to it on land that is not officially part of the Heritage Site.

We are now waiting to know the full cost so that we can move forward. We will keep you well informed.

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## Lea Park Rapid Reaction Taskforce

Are you passionate about keeping Lea Park tidy and looking at its best?

Do you want to make sure walkways are free of hazards and easy to navigate?

If your answer is yes, then we have the perfect opportunity for you... Earlier this year we asked for volunteers to join a Rapid Reaction team on the estate. The aim is to form a group ready to jump into action to tackle problem areas as and when needed:

- Clearing slippery leaves and snow to keep walkways safe
- Cleaning graffiti (when it falls outside of the Council's remit)
- Mobilizing for Thame Tidy days
- Clearing weeds from roadsides

We had a handful of people come forward, but we need to get more people involved if we are going to kick this initiative off and make it a success. If you are able to offer help on an ad-hoc basis we'd love to hear from you, either via our [Facebook page](#) or via email [leapark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leapark@hotmail.co.uk). All volunteers will be provided with Hi-Vis jackets, equipment (if you don't have what's needed for the task) and risk assessments will be carried out to ensure safety. We look forward to working together to make a positive difference to Lea Park.



We can provide professional, creative and fun tuition in a variety of instruments including: Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Singing, Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Recorder, Brass, Drums and more right in the centre of Thame!

**For more information please contact**

**us via:**

**E-mail:**

[info@thamemusicacademy.com](mailto:info@thamemusicacademy.com)

**Webpage:** [www.thamemusicacademy.com](http://www.thamemusicacademy.com)

**Facebook:** Search 'Thame Music Academy'

**Tel:** 07743 032292

**Please Quote 'Lea Park Newsletter' when you get in touch**

## LPRA Membership Number Changes in 2020

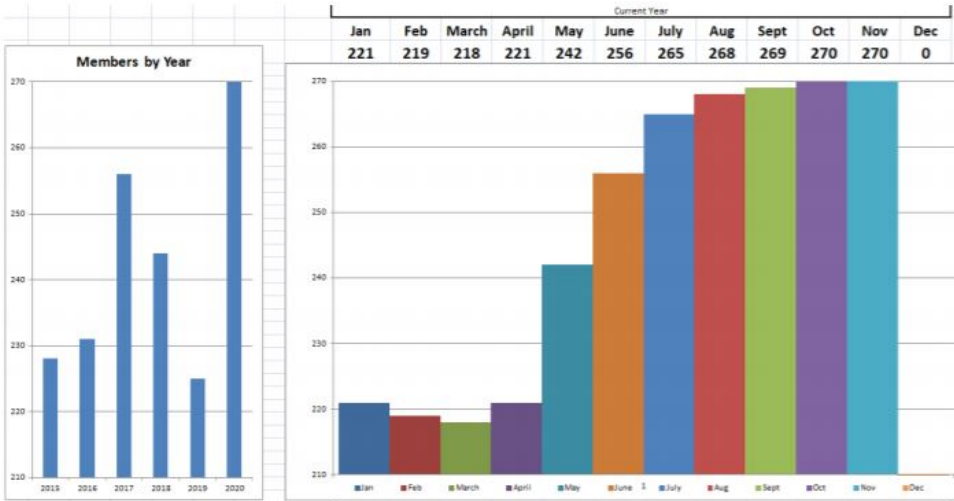
Covid 19 has meant that 2020 has been a difficult year for us all. For our association it has been a challenge. The committee has continued to function with regular meetings by video

A key thing we have changed is the way the total number of members is calculated. In April we changed the calculation so that we include members who had lapsed payment for 60 days. This has had the effect of smoothing out the changes, giving time for cash/ cheque payment members to pay and time for us to send reminders.

The membership at the beginning of the year stood at 221 and by March was down to 218. During the last 6 months we concentrated our efforts to increase the membership in three areas, leading to a current total of 270:

1. Communicating to new residents to Lea Park, via obtaining addresses from online estate agents. On average this is 40 new residents a year.
2. Contacting former members who have lapsed payments over the last 5 years, asking if it was an oversight (in many cases it was just that).
3. Changing the way we remind members whose payments have lapsed. We now initially send an email or letter in the first month, then a follow up reminder via letter in second month. In the third month we deliver a letter advising that they are no longer members.

Keeping our records up to date is a challenge. As we are using email more to communicate, accurate records are very important. So we know we have the correct one, please send us an email and include your membership details so we can check it against our records. If you do pay by cash or cheque, please also consider setting up a standing order with your bank instead.





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## Proposed Healthcare Centre, Care Home, Assisted Living Apartments and Children's Nursery



An outline planning application has been submitted for a new healthcare centre, a 75-bedroom care home, 51 assisted living apartments and a children's nursery located close to the Chinnor Rugby Club on the land to the east of Tythrop Way (B4012) and south of Kingsey Road (A4129).

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that the majority of those living in Thame would be able to walk to the healthcare centre within 25 minutes.

It is proposed that it will be the new home for The Rycote and Unity Health Practices, along with a dental surgery. A Pharmacy will also be incorporated. It is planned that the Care Home will have a café and bar area as a welcome feature to all residents. It is intended that this will be where most residents gravitate towards during the day. In better weather there will be an opportunity to enjoy the gardens.

51 Assisted Living Apartments would be provided as self-contained units over three storeys. The apartment building is accessed independently from the care home.

New vehicular access is proposed with 95 car parking spaces for the healthcare centre and up to 75 spaces for the care home, assisted living apartments and nursery.

A decision on the outline planning application was due to be provided by South Oxfordshire District Council by 16th October 2020.

The planning application can be viewed on the South Oxfordshire District Council website, using the application reference number P20/S2593/O.



Update: Thame Town Council has **objected** to the 'Health Hub' planning application: "Whilst the scheme presented some benefits and positives for the town, the town council voted unanimously to recommend objection to the application. The application is contrary to Core Strategy Policy CSTHA1 (in seeking to introduce housing other than in an area of housing allocation, infill or redevelopment) and Thame Neighbourhood Plan policies H8, H9, ESDQ16 and ESDQ22. It was also noted that there were unresolved issues relating to pedestrian access and parking, unacceptable loss of habitats and wildlife, and lack of thought into the environmental design of the buildings."

**What are YOUR thoughts? Let us know.**



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## Calling all Lord Williams's Former Students

We know that there are many former students of Lord Williams's School who live in Lea Park, so we thought we'd share some information from their alumni group.

Did you know that anyone who attended Lord Williams's School is an 'Old Tamensian' or OT? All past staff and students of LWS are OTs; the membership fee was dropped around 20 years ago.

There are 4 weeks of Saturday afternoon Zoom chats for OTs which started on November 7th. Attendees at the first one ranged from New Zealand to the USA. If you are interested in attending one of the upcoming ones, please e-mail [ota@waitrose.com](mailto:ota@waitrose.com) for a link. Supply your name and the years you attended LWS. You will then be sent Zoom details.

OT John Fieldsend, of the Kinder Transport scheme in World War II and recently awarded a British Empire Medal for his services to teaching in school about the Holocaust, will be speaking at one or two of the remaining chats to kick off the conversations.

In November, the Old Tamensians' Association held the 2020 Virtual Founder's Day Service, celebrating 460 years of Lord Williams's School. The event can be watched here:

<https://www.lordwilliams.oxon.sch.uk/founders-day2/592135.html>

The service programme can also be downloaded from the same link. The service began with welcomes from OTA President Bridget Trueman and Headmaster Jon Ryder, followed by a reading and address from Rev. Derek Witchell. There was then a showcase of artwork from LWS students. The Act of Commemoration by the President and Senior Students followed, with a presentation of the fallen OTs in both World Wars, followed by a laying of wreaths at Lord Williams's tomb. The event concluded with the school hymn, Carmen Scholar Thamensis, with the premiere of a new arrangement by Howard Goodall, and blessings by Rev. Witchell.

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## Getting Up to Speed with Thame Runners

Since the last lockdown, many people have been getting out a little more and looking to improve their fitness. Many people have been jogging or running and, for those who are looking to take their running to the next level, there is a running club right here in Thame. I chatted to a current member, and Lea Park resident, Morgan James, to learn more about Thame Runners.

Thame Runners has over 100 members, a roughly 50:50 split between men and women, and includes people between the ages of 20-something and 70-something. Many members live right here on Lea Park. They run in and around Thame and their aim is to keep fit and build a sense of camaraderie to help motivate and incentivise each other to keep going. This is especially important as the evenings start to lengthen and the temperature starts to drop!

The club schedule has had to be flexible to allow for coronavirus guidelines, and the latest lockdown means there will be no events now until December. Until recently, however, runs

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**Monday** – Easy Runs (slower paced and a great introductory run)

**Wednesday** – Club Runs (faster paced with varied routes, plus speedwork sessions)

**Sunday** – Long Run (an early morning 10-mile off-road run for building endurance)

The club also has an annual Club Championship which encourages members to participate in local on- and off-road races ranging from 5kms to a half-marathon distance. These cater for a wide range of running capabilities. Where possible the club also runs social events such as post-run pub meets and an annual dinner.

If you are interested in learning more about Thame Runners, visit their website: [www.thamerunners.club](http://www.thamerunners.club) or their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/thamerunners/](https://www.facebook.com/thamerunners/) or contact them directly here: [www.thamerunners.club/club-info/joincontact](http://www.thamerunners.club/club-info/joincontact).

You can be sure of a warm welcome and a swift reply!



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## Save the Date

Keep an eye out for the Thame Town Council's Advent Calendar of activities for the lead-up to Christmas.

Also will you be joining in with Doorstep Carols on Wednesday 16th December at 6pm?

For details [see here](#). 🎄🎶

## Calling Lea Park Residents

**Help us find new members. Who do you know who lives on Lea Park? Invite and help us sign-up 5 new members and win a prize!**

If you manage to recruit 5 new members, please send an email with a list of their names to [leapark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leapark@hotmail.co.uk) entitled "Recruitment Drive". We will then cross

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Closing date is April 30th 2021.

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## LPRA Committee Members

Acting Chair – Lisa Norgate-Barnes

Deputy Chair – Anne Walkinshaw

Secretary – Morgan James

Treasurer – Lesley Harker

Membership Secretary – Ken Lewis

Media Secretary – Helen Denny

Committee Members:

Bridget & Robert Trueman

Karen Parks

Adam Clark

**New committee members always welcome !**

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## Useful Contact and Information:

### LPRA

Lea Park Residents Association Website - [here](#)

Do you have an event you would like to advertise or need to contact us?

Email us at: [leapark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leapark@hotmail.co.uk)

We have an active Facebook page [here](#)

**Become a Member** - see link [here](#).

### Fix My Street

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### Thames Valley Police

Email: [ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ThameNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Twitter: [@tvpsouthandvale](#)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](https://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale)

Phone: 101

**Always phone 999 in an emergency.**

### Thame Town Council

Website: [www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk)

Phone: 01844 212 833

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