

NEW FERRY RAG

The Newsletter for your Community

Issue 44: September 2019

See our website

www.newferryonline.org.uk

and find us on Facebook "NewFerryOnline"

This newsletter is **IMPORTANT**. Please do not bin it without reading its contents and learning about some of the things that are happening in **YOUR** community and which will **AFFECT YOU**.



EXCITING TIMES AHEAD FOR NEW FERRY!!!!

The long awaited £400,000 environmental improvements on New Chester Road are finally underway and New Ferry has got through to the final round in the bidding for between £5 and £25 million of government funding from the Future Highways Fund which - if we get it - will be used to re-landscape the precinct to make it a more attractive and business-friendly environment.

Whilst the Council presses forward with using its £1.3 million acquisitions strategy to buy the various plots and buildings needed for the New Ferry Development Proposals, and engages with potential developers who will build the replacement and new homes and shops, the New Ferry Community Land Trust has made a start on its own improvement programme in the precinct and has plans to do a whole lot more over the coming two years. And in recent months we have seen an Art School and more new shops open here already!!!

In a move we very much welcome, the Council has admitted that it should have helped victims of the explosion more than it did, and is partly making amends by paying out £200,000 from a hardship fund.

BUT there is so much more to be done - and lots that is happening behind the scenes. In this newsletter, we reveal some of what is going on!

A colorful poster for the New Ferry Festival in the Park. The top section features a blue sky with many colorful balloons and the text 'Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September 2019' and '10am till 4.30pm each day'. Below this is a photo of a busy festival scene with people, a dog show, and a vintage bus. The main title 'NEW FERRY FESTIVAL in the PARK' is in large, stylized letters. A list of activities includes: Funfair, Vintage Buses, Dog Show, Go Karts, Complete Works Dancers, Stalls, Facepainting, Wirral Sign Choir, Donkey Rides, WW2 Displays, Entertainment, and '+ lots more!'. A small box says 'Includes guided bus tours of Port Sunlight Village'. At the bottom, it says 'New Ferry Park, Longfellow Drive, New Ferry, Wirral CH62 5AZ Organised by New Ferry Residents Association More details at www.newferryonline.org.uk with funding support by ASDA'.

IMPORTANT MEETING NEW FERRY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PUBLIC MEETING & AGM

You are invited to a public meeting at 7pm on **Monday 23rd September 2019** at Windsor Close Community Centre. Topics that will be debated are:

- Latest update on the Council's regeneration plans
- Latest news on New Ferry Community Land Trust
- "Ask the Councillors"
- "Ask the Police"
- Election of officers to the Residents Association

A festive poster for the New Ferry Christmas Market. It features a large image of Santa Claus in a red suit with a white beard, holding a butterfly. The background is dark with colorful Christmas trees and snowflakes. Text includes 'Santa's Grotto' and 'Free Parking' in circular icons. The main title 'New Ferry CHRISTMAS MARKET' is in large, bold letters, with 'Saturday 23rd November 2019' below it.



After years of waiting for the Council to do something, local community volunteers have stepped in to do something positive about the District Centre.

Find out here what they doing.

METRO MAYOR STEVE ROTHERHAM GIVING £500,000 TO NEW FERRY

You may have heard that Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham is giving away funding through what is called the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority which he is the head of. New Ferry is being awarded £500,000 from its £6 million Town Centre Fund.

We are delighted to report that the money is to be used to support the work of the New Ferry Community Land Trust. With it, we will be able to buy some of the empty buildings in the District Centre that are not part of the Council's regeneration scheme, and which we will be able to refurbish and bring back into use as shops/leisure units and flats. We are also hoping to use some of the money to make further environmental improvements that will make the precinct and New Chester Road look more attractive.

The detail of how we will be spending the money is still being agreed. However, as we move forward, we need YOU, the community, to get involved with developing our plans and ideas. The CLT works closely with the Residents Association and Traders Association as a team to bring about positive change for New Ferry. We all work together, supporting each other. Some of you have already joined us as members, and everyone in the community who has not already done so is invited to join us on our exciting new journey that we hope will - at last - make a meaningful difference.

TO JOIN THE NEW FERRY CLT AS A MEMBER COSTS JUST £1. POP INTO MONEY MATTERS AT 1 BEBINGTON ROAD OR THE CLEVELAND ARMS PUB AND ASK FOR A MEMBERSHIP FORM; OR FIND "NEW FERRY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST" ON FACEBOOK OR AT WWW.NEFERRYONLINE.ORG.UK.

EMAIL: newferryclt@gmail.com



SUPPORT THE CLT

You can also support the CLT by buying one of our mugs or badges. Both available at the Cleveland Arms Pub or Money Matters.

DO YOU WANT TO OPEN A SHOP IN NEW FERRY?

Do you have ambitions to open a shop in New Ferry? If you do, WE want to hear from you. The CLT will be working with Wirral Borough Council and the future developers coming here to redevelop the explosion sites and the Woodhead Street development zone to maximise the amount of retail/leisure and community use space in the new buildings.

We need to know what kind/size of space is needed; what you think will be an affordable rent for you - and (as you may or may not know) - most of New Ferry's businesses are currently exempt from paying business rates.....surely a major incentive to locate to a centre that is set to see over £5 million of public and private sector investment in the coming years.

PLEASE VISIT MONEY MATTERS AT 1 BEBINGTON ROAD AND ASK FOR A "BUSINESS SPACE SURVEY FORM" OR DOWNLOAD ONE FROM WWW.NEFERRYONLINE.ORG.UK



BRIGHTENING UP THE PRECINCT & BUILDING A COMMUNITY GARDEN



We were getting fed up of how depressing the precinct was looking, so since Spring of this year we have been making our own planters to fill with plants and flowers. You will now be familiar with the timber boxes and benches that we have already placed in the precinct, filled with soil and flowers which we have bought with a £300 grant we were awarded from the Council's "Wirral in Bloom" fund.

We have plans for more, and to eventually expand the scheme of planters into New Chester Road.

In the meantime, the volunteers within the CLT will be creating a temporary **Community Garden** on the demolition site where Lan's House stood. By the time you get this newsletter, you may already be seeing the results of our actions.

For the above and so many other things going on behind the scenes, we owe a great thanks to several people including:-

- **Karl Sindall** from Personify for printing the CLT newsletter and donating the Pop-Up Market banners;
- **Bob Baxter** for building the planting boxes and painting the benches in the precinct;
- **Chris Reynolds** for donating the pallets from which the planters and benches have been made;
- **Andy Wilkinson** at Port Sunlight Garden Centre for his donation towards the community garden;
- **Scott Norgate** who has done some of the gardening at Underley Terrace;
- **Pauline Power** and all the lovely volunteers who come to do the litter picks in the District Centre on the last Sunday of every month.



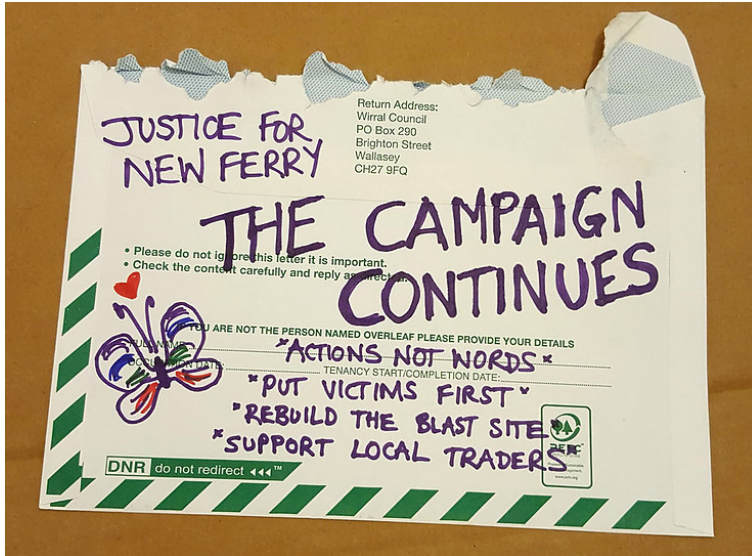
WARNING ABOUT CONTEMPT OF COURT

With the court case restarting on 23rd September, can we please remind everybody that it is against the law to write about the case or the defendants in public. This particularly includes social media and all its platforms including Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, etc.

You CANNOT mention the name of the accused and say ANYTHING about them in the run up to and during the trial in case any of the jury break the rules and Google to look for comments to sway their decision.

If you make such comments and they are found by the court, YOU will be arrested and taken to court yourself to face charges of "contempt of court". If found guilty YOU are the one who will end up in jail or being heavily fined whilst the defendant will have the charges against them dropped as a result of your deeds (however well intentioned they may have seemed).

PLEASE - FOR THE SAKE OF THE VICTIMS - DO NOT DO THIS AND RISK INTERRUPTING THE COURSE OF JUSTICE.



JUSTICE FOR NEW FERRY CAMPAIGN GROWS

Some 30 months after the explosion that rocked our community, it has become ever more painfully evident that New Ferry was let down by both the Council and particularly government. Our victims - who until recently had received little or no compensation - have had to witness the retailers of Salisbury who lost 2 weeks of trade handed £2 million in compensation payments, whilst more recently, the businesses and residents of Whaley Bridge have been offered up to £150,000 compensation each for "5 days of inconvenience".

OUR traders lost a minimum of 6 weeks of trade, and some lost their businesses altogether. RESIDENTS spent months - and in some cases - YEARS out of their homes, trying to recoup their losses from less-than-helpful insurers.

The truth about what happened on that night, and in the 30 months since, can now be read in detail on a new website www.newferryexplosion.com

On it, you can find out what happened to the victims and how they feel about the way the New Ferry Disaster was handled. You can also contribute your own thoughts.

The website will remain and be maintained as a legacy to the victims of the explosion, so that their story is never forgotten.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS CELEBRATES ITS FIRST YEAR



30th September 2019 will see the first anniversary of the start of the **Community Clean-Ups in the District Centre**. Congratulations to all the team of volunteers who do such a splendid job.

If you care about our community, please volunteer to help with our **Community Clean-Ups** organised by the **New Ferry Community Land Trust**. We meet on the last Sunday of every month, at 10am at the **Cleveland Arms Pub in Bebington Road**.

PORT SUNLIGHT RIVER PARK HERITAGE AND REGULAR EVENTS

The Buildings of Bromborough Pool Saturday 14th September. Timed tours starting at Giles Shirley Hall CH62 4TZ at 10am, 11am and 12noon will enable you to go inside Giles Shirley Hall, formerly the Village Hall; St Matthews Church and Bromborough Pool School. No booking required.

Bromborough Pool guided walk Saturday 14th September 2-4pm. From Prices Candle Works to the present day, the walk will look at the outside of the village buildings and highlight places of interest, including the Old Courthouse site where recent archaeology has made new discoveries. No booking required. Accessible route, except in the Courthouse which is unsuitable for wheelchairs. Meet at Bromborough Pool garden centre, CH62 4TT.

Past, Present and Future of Port Sunlight River Park Friday 20th September 10.30-12noon. The park was a former landfill and location of Bromborough Dock. Learn about the Heritage Lottery funded centre, staff and archaeological digs, linking this green space with its amazing views and Bromborough Pool village. The gentle walk will be led by Biffa and Autism Together staff. Booking not required. Disabled access. Refreshments available. Meet at Dock Road North car park, CH62 4TQ.

Friends of Port Sunlight River Park AGM Thursday 10th October 7.30pm at Windsor Close Community Centre. Come along and find out about past successes and future plans. All welcome.

Weekly Health walks on Tuesday at 10.30am, all year and Wednesday, until October at 5.30pm. All welcome for a free, short walk with good company. We meet for a drink afterwards for which there is a charge.

Mindfulness in Nature A new course starting on Tuesday 24th September 9.30-11.30 for 8 weeks. This is a free course and will benefit anyone who feels worried, anxious or isolated by learning to manage their feelings with the help of Bob, the tutor. Booking essential as places are limited.

For more information on the events, please contact the ranger on 07587550060 or email river.park@autismtogether.co.uk

River Park Heritage Centre is open for drinks and snacks Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm and some Saturdays 1-4pm. Please call Bromborough Pool Garden centre on 0151 643 1359 to check.

NEW FERRY BUTTERFLY PARK HERITAGE WALK

New Ferry Butterfly Park, an industrial legacy to bee and butterfly haven.

SUNDAY 8th & 15th SEPTEMBER 2019, 2pm

The 1½ hour long tour will explore the industrial history of this former railway goods yard (brick-making and railway operations), and how this has contributed to the wildlife diversity of the park. This site demonstrates the value of brownfield sites.

Meet at the Butterfly Park entrance at 2pm. Howell Road, New Ferry (approach road to Bebington Station Car Park). The Park is signed from Bebington Road, and the access is between Aldi (CH62 5BG) and the railway overbridge. Some parking on site.

Short walk of only about 600 metres.

Disability Access Status: Limited disabled access

Admission is free but donations are welcome. No booking necessary.

Pond-dipping and other children's activities will be available.

Complimentary tea and cake at the end of the tour

Contact: Paul Loughnane, Email: jpl@liv.ac.uk Tel: 0151 645 8937

www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk
www.wirralwildlife.org.uk



Local businesses encouraged to be included in the New Ferry Business Directory

You will all have seen the New Ferry Business Directory which the Town Team kindly paid for out of some of the donated monies; and we hope you find it useful. It was delivered to all households in New Ferry and Port Sunlight earlier last year.

We are aware that despite our best efforts, there are still some businesses based in New Ferry and Port Sunlight who have not stepped forward to be included.

Your listing in the directory is **FREE**. We are hoping to reprint the directory in the future, so you still have time to get yourself included in it and on the online version.

Please visit www.newferryonline.org.uk to see the most up-to-date version of the business listings and to apply to be included on it if you are based in New Ferry or Port Sunlight Village.

Alternatively, you can write to us at the address shown below.



USEFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES:

New Ferry Village Hall & Windsor Close Community Centre

New Ferry Village Hall has a wide variety of sporting activities taking place including table tennis, badminton, majorettes, football, roller derby, karate, walking football, walking netball, indoor bowls and fitness classes for the over 50's.

The Hall is also used for more sedate groups such as a craft group and an AA support group.

Windsor Close is "home" to several bingo groups, Hard of Hearing, Widows, a weekly luncheon club, a fitness class, and karate.

There is also a Baby stay and play session once a week.

Both venues are available to hire for one off events such as children's parties.

For more information on any of these activities please contact Margaret on **0151 643 1393**.

Wirral Farmers' Market

The next markets will be held on:

- **Saturday 14th September 2019**
- **Saturday 12th October 2019**
- **Saturday 9th November 2019**
- **Saturday 14th December 2019**

Find out more at www.wirralfarmersmarket.org.uk

Bebington Youth Club

Bebington Youth Club offers a great opportunity for young people to get together and have fun, in a warm and friendly atmosphere with fully qualified youth workers.

Please come along and see what is on offer and talk to the friendly staff. There are lots of activities such as Pool, Indoor Football, Table Tennis, Film nights, Music Room, Wii & X Box. Suggestions for any other activities are welcome.

Please feel free to visit the club. We are open Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 7-10pm. The age range is for young people who are in Secondary school.

New Ferry Heritage Walk

Mark Anthony Craig will be your guide on the New Ferry Heritage Walk on Friday 13th September 2019. Meet outside Bebington Station at 9am for a 3 hour walk looking at the fascinating history of New Ferry as a district centre serving a previously wealthier community, a centre for brick-making, ship dismantlingand the story of the devastating explosion in 2017. No booking required.

New Ferry Residents Association consists of local residents and business people. We work together with officers from Wirral Borough Council, local councillors and our Member of Parliament in order to improve New Ferry. We are a non-political organisation (although the government's current indifference to our community's plight is stretching our non-political stance to the absolute limit!)

If you have any community based problem which you think we can help you with, please contact us by writing to:
New Ferry Residents Association, c/o New Ferry Village Hall, Longfellow Drive, New Ferry, Wirral, Merseyside CH62 5AZ
Website: www.newferryonline.org.uk