

## Meet the WRA Committee



### Russell Collins, Chairman

A Milton Keynes resident for over 20 years, I run my own consultancy business from home.



### Henrik Lindberg, Vice Chair

I moved to the UK 5 years ago from Denmark, working with SKF as UK Sales Director. Married with one child.



### Darren Arul, Treasurer

A thirtysomething Westcroft resident, married with two young children. I've lived in Milton Keynes since I was 5, so know quite a bit about the local area. I work for Abbey in MK and hopefully have the right skills and knowledge to successfully fulfill the treasurer duties!

### VACANCY, Secretary

Your photo could be here! We have a vacancy for the position of Secretary on the Committee of Westcroft Residents' Association. If you are interested, contact Russell Collins either by email to [Russellc@teamtalk.co.uk](mailto:Russellc@teamtalk.co.uk), or by calling 01908 521901.

## Advertise Here

You can advertise your local business here in exchange for a donation to the Residents Association

[westcroftresident@btinternet.com](mailto:westcroftresident@btinternet.com)

# Join Us!

Westcroft Residents' Association Meetings will be held on the following Wednesdays.

24<sup>th</sup> January

21<sup>st</sup> February

21<sup>st</sup> March

18<sup>th</sup> April

16<sup>th</sup> May

20<sup>th</sup> June

Meetings will be held at the Westcroft Meeting Place which is behind the Estate Agent O'Riordan Bond in the alley way between O'Riordan Bond and Boots. The Meeting Place will be open from **7:00 pm** for informal discussions and refreshments will be available. The official meeting will start at **7:30 pm**.

## Last Meeting...

The last meeting was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. As the second official meeting of the Residents Association much of the business was formal, to make sure we get off on the right foot, and a constitution was agreed.

Some special guests were welcomed, including Rosemary Drewett and Stuart Burke, local Liberal Democrat councillors for Milton Keynes, who came to lend support and answer any questions that were forthcoming. A lively but friendly debate took place, covering many issues particularly including concerns about the state of roads and pavements in Westcroft, and the lack of action in dealing with the problem. Other topics covered included facilities for local children, allotments, and funding for projects.

Another special guest was Claire Baker, Volunteer Co-ordinator for Thames Valley Police. Westcroft has its own operational police station in the District Centre, but a shortage of funding means that it is normally closed to the public. The Police are looking for volunteers to help staff the public counter at certain times, or to help them in other ways. Claire Baker explained how local people can get involved. If you would like more information, call Claire on 01908 686209.

Support....

## Westcroft Library

Your local library run by MK Council offers standard adult and children's lending books and audio-visual stock and IT facilities. Located in the District Centre.

### Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	13.00-17.00
Wednesday	10.00-13.00
Thursday	13.00-18.00
Friday	13.00-19.00
Saturday	09.00-17.00
Sunday	13.00-16.00

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## Contact Us.....

Your contributions to the Westcroft Resident Newsletter are urgently wanted.... Stories, news, views, gossip. If you are a local business you can advertise for a small donation.

Get in touch via email to

[westcroftresident@btinternet.com](mailto:westcroftresident@btinternet.com)

Newsletter Editor: Dave Shelley

If you are interested in the Westcroft Residents' Association but cannot attend the next meeting then please fill out and tear off the strip below and post it through the door of

**28 Hidcote Drive**, or email us at

[Russellc@teamtalk.co.uk](mailto:Russellc@teamtalk.co.uk)

Name:

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Address:

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Tel:

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Email:

# Resident

## Welcome to Westcroft

by Russell Collins

When I first moved to Westcroft in May 2005 I could look out of my windows and see a building site consisting of half built houses, unmade up grass areas and uncompleted roads. Now I look out of my windows and see built and occupied houses, many grassed areas that appear to be more weed and brown than grass, "grassed" areas with large holes in them and roads that are still uncompleted despite the last piece of builder's equipment having moved off many months previously.

When I first moved to Milton Keynes 24 years ago I moved into a brand new house and having come from the construction industry was impressed with the efficiency that the builder of the time dealt with the snagging list and the 6 month check. Now, 18 months later, I wonder why I am still waiting for some of my 28 day snagging issues to be resolved and I appear to have got off lightly as I hear horror stories of kitchens having to be completely remade as a result of manufacturing faults, central heating that appears to be sporadic in operation, and I see the weekly new tradition of "take out the old windows and put in the new ones" in houses across the road from me. I also see the "amusing" practice of The Fire Brigade trying to play the game of "Get to the Emergency Without Bashing the Cars".

The Westcroft Residents' Association was formed in late August last year with the aim of working for the benefit of the residents of Westcroft. We have set up a number of sub committees to help do this and those sub committees will deal with areas such as liaison with outside organisations such as English Partnership, the Council and other bodies that have an effect on our lives and homes. Other committees will cover youth issues, developer/builder issues, social events and community development.

There will be a regular monthly meeting for the first part of 2007. Come along to one of the meetings and take an active part in making Westcroft a great and pleasant place to live.

## Legal Graffiti?

Rumours of a skateboard park and a graffiti wall being built on open land adjacent to Killerton Close are causing concern for local residents.



The facts are not widely known and city councillors have been unable to confirm or deny the report for the land which is categorised for sport or leisure use. Young people in the area are crying out for better facilities, but many residents are concerned about noise, lighting and a lack of consultation.

Plans provided by English Partnerships show the site as a recreational area, including a fully equipped play area for children, a landscaped park, and a "kickabout area". A graffiti board is indeed shown on the plan.

One local resident in Killerton Close we spoke to supported the overall scheme as it did appear to offer some activities for local children but with careful landscaping. However, they were concerned about how the site would be lit, and whether it might attract the wrong kind of use later in the evening.

Work on the site commenced just before Christmas. If you have a view contact WRA, or your local councillor. Further information always welcomed for publication.

## From Lapland to Westcroft

Father Christmas popped in to visit Westcroft on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, between 6pm and 7.30pm. He traveled around on his sleigh to wish local families a lovely Christmas.

Santa was persuaded to visit us at such a busy time of year by Mandy in Levens Hall Drive, so a big thank you to her, and to her elfin helpers.

Best news of all was that the event, in partnership with the Round Table, raised nearly £250 for charity.

### NEXT MEETING

24<sup>th</sup> January

7.30pm

Westcroft Meeting Place

## New Bus Service



Private bus company Grant Palmer has started a bus service between Westcroft and the City Centre, with the help of Milton Keynes Council.

Service 21 leaves the District Centre at 9:28am, 10:28am, 11:28am, 12:28pm, 1:28pm and 2:28pm, Monday to Saturday. Buses serve and also return from the Point and Rail Station.

Grant Palmer also runs service 10 from the City Centre to Kingston, and is looking to expand with more services locally. For more information call 01582 600844.