



elseapark
Community Trust

S U M M E R 2 0 2 0

newsletter





Fellow Residents,

In the few months since I last wrote to you the world has become a very different place. I hope that you, your family, friends, colleagues and loved ones have all remained safe and healthy during the lockdown.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank The Trust team for their efforts in ensuring we continued to deliver our service to you. We are a team and working remotely always makes things more difficult as I'm sure many of you will have experienced. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes; however, I recognised that our most obvious work is that which focuses on maintaining our public open space to such high standards.

We had to postpone some work until the season is right, but we have kept most of the grounds maintenance to levels that you would normally expect. With parks, beaches and travel largely restricted, I think we found ourselves in a fortunate position to have this open space right on our doorstep to enjoy.

I would also like to express my profound gratitude to the volunteers who came forward at the start of lockdown who have been assisting with the delivery of prescriptions and other essentials. Together, we've delivered to dozens of residents that have been shielding or self-isolating and this has been a real lifeline for so many. It is also a service we continue to offer despite many of the volunteers returning to work. A reflection of great community spirit and I applaud all of you.

This prodigious community spirit has also been reflected through the endeavours of Ryan Murrant doing the doorstep photos and the wonderful displays of your decorated homes over the VE Day weekend. The Trust had some special plans to commemorate the event and it was a real shame that this, along with other events within Bourne, could not go ahead as intended. I think we made a cracking effort and that's clearly thanks to all of you that got involved.

The unprecedented times saw The Trust taking unprecedented actions. The 'COVID-19 Relief' that the Trust introduced took a considerable amount of effort to enact in such a short space of time and I hope this came as a welcome benefit to you and your family at a time of uncertainty.

After years of planning and negotiating, we finally broke ground on the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) project; a significant moment in meeting the obligations of the Section 106. Like any large-scale building project, we have run in to a few issues, but we've been able to work with the contractors to resolve these in a timely manner. McArdle Sport Tec are leading with the pitch, The Qube are supplying the pavilion and JJ Mac are

constructing the car park and paths. Together, they are delivering an outstanding facility that will be of great benefit to Elsea Park and the wider community. The formal opening will be a momentous day and I can't wait to see training sessions and matches being played.

This Newsletter is the first to feature the newly introduced 'Residents Corner'. As the Newsletter reaches every home on Elsea Park we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for residents to be able to communicate on such a wide scale. This could be something as simple as introducing yourself, promoting a service you can offer, highlighting local events or perhaps one of your children would like to write about a school or college project. Please get in touch if you'd like to have your say. Ryan has kindly kicked off this new feature with an article on the doorstep photos.

The date for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) has now been set. It will be held on 25th November 2020 at 1800hrs (6pm) in the Community Centre. This is an important date in our calendar and we want to ensure we reach as many residents as possible.

After last year's AGM we decided that we needed to change our approach slightly and host the meeting virtually, as well as physically. Needless to say, the requirement to maintain social distancing is likely to be a factor for some time, which further reinforces this, therefore, this year's meeting will also be hosted on Zoom. You'll need to register prior to the AGM so a secure link can be emailed to you, but more details will be provided closer to the time.

As always, information on the latest developments and important notices are on the Trust's website (www.elseapark.co.uk) and please follow us on the official Facebook page (@elseaparkcommunitytrust).

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Jono Brough
Chairman



RYAN MURRANT

I'd like to thank everyone who got involved in the project, the local press and The Trust. To raise the best part of £2,000 is incredible and something we should all be very proud of, especially in these uncertain times.

At first I was really quite worried that we'd maybe only raise a small amount and I'd be asked to present an oversized cheque for around £37.62 or something! How wrong was I?

Away from the charity side, it was such an interesting project to lead on. I've met so many lovely people through it and heard so many tales of how everyone is coping with lockdown. The fact people were celebrating just getting dressed was funny, as was me initially thinking I could walk the whole project. I couldn't, and VE Day showed me that for sure.

It's been a tough time for everyone and that's what led me to taking the idea to our streets. I trained to be a photographer a few years ago, worked it alongside my full time job (Marketing for Brentford Football Club) and then in January I decided to leave professional football and marketing (after 8 years) to chase my dream. A few weeks later, my pipeline of work had dried up and it was hello to Covid-19! Not ideal. After a few weeks of twiddling my thumbs and wondering what to do, that's when I decided to try and bring some smiles to the streets.

It really kept me occupied and helped keep me focused mentally. It's always a bit taboo to talk about "that" side of our health but for me, it really, really helped so again thanks to you all.

I was probably out around 1-2 hours a day doing the

photographs and what will surprise people is the amount of work a photographer has the other side of the "shoot". Admin time, making sure everyone gets their pictures, planning the next day and the editing of the photos. It really adds up and at times I was doing a full day's work. I think there is a misconception that it's a quick job because we all have a camera in our pockets these days!

Don't get me wrong, it can be quick, but you never want a bad photo going out with your name on it so I'm hoping everyone is pleased with their pictures. Thanks to those that have ordered copies. You can find more of my work at www.rm.photos

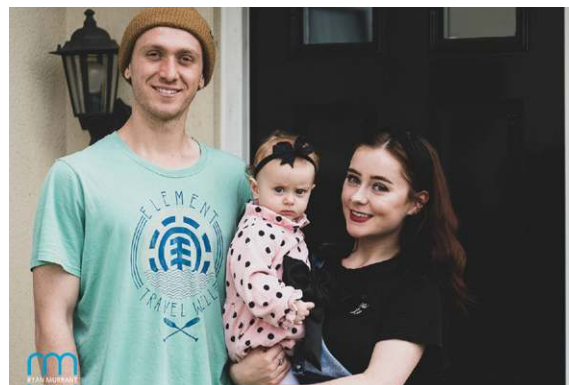
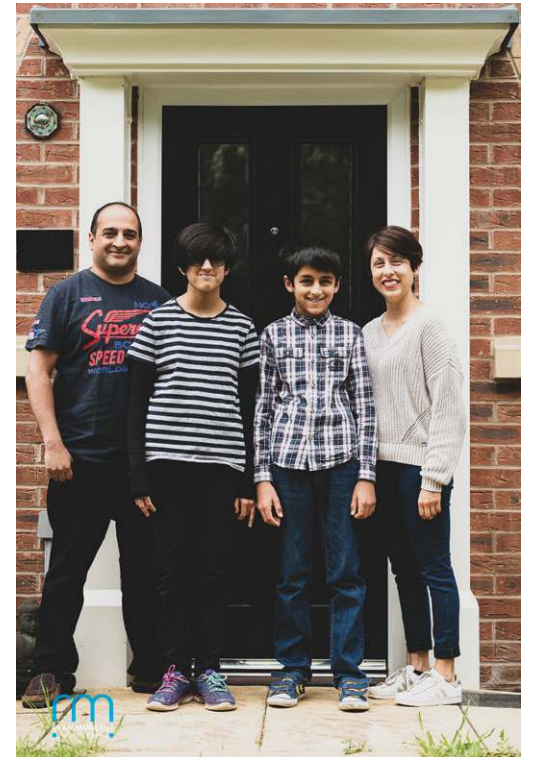
I would like to thank all at the Elsea Park Community Trust for their massive donation of £750. To be asked to take pictures of EP that day was an honour and a day I'll never forget.

The Pandemic has brought with it so much tragedy, negativity and loss and we can't ever forget that. I'd like to hope that through this project we have helped make each other's lives a little easier, even if just for a few minutes.

Thanks again for your generosity at this tough time. Elsea Park is a massive development with a heart twice the size.

Ryan

RYAN MURRANT
■ PHOTOGRAPHY ■





The Coronavirus pandemic has been a gift for fraudsters preying on older people who possibly haven't had any contact with anyone else in weeks, so hearing a friendly voice on the other end of the phone when it rings is enough for that person to engage and be manipulated by the unknown person at the other end of the call and, by the time the conversation has finished, valuable information has been phished or a fraud (theft) committed.

As a Neighbourhood Policing Team, we are beginning to see the true extent of these frauds with information arriving daily from Action Fraud.

One particular area for concern is Police Impersonation Fraud and as I write this article another person in the Stamford area is calling to report being a victim of this scam. That's now 7 victims in just one week!

Spot the signs:

- Someone claiming to be from your bank or local police force calls you to tell you about fraudulent activity but is asking you for personal information or even your PIN to verify who you are.
- They suggest you call them back so you can be sure they're genuine, but when you try to return the call, there's no dial tone.
- They try to offer you peace of mind by having somebody pick up the card from you to save you the trouble of having to go to your bank or local police station.

In some cases, the fraudster gets the victim to attend their own bank and withdraw a significant sum of money claiming the money is forged and by supplying the police with a withdrawal from the bank they can examine it.

Sometimes, the fraudster will even go so far as to tell the victim what to say to the bank staff by implying the bank is in on the scam. The money is then collected by a courier later in the day (this is Courier Fraud).

Most of these scams start with a phone call and no matter what age you are, you're never too young to get your calls screened.



TalkTalk Customers can activate TalkTalk Call safe (a free service).

Sky Customers can activate Sky Talk Shield (a free service).

BT customers should, as a minimum, have BT call protect active on their phone. Whilst this is not a call screening service, it is free of charge. BT charge £5.50 a month for Call Guardian (their call screening service).

Plusnet customers can get Call Protect free of charge; once again this isn't as good as a call screening service, but it's far better than nothing.

You should also remember that if you're not ex-directory, your details (such as your name, full address, and telephone number) are all visible to everyone in the world.

For further information on scams, Action Fraud's website is a great place to get the up-to-date information on what's occurring and is also the place to report all fraud and scams. You'll find it at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

PCSO Graeme Parrott

Most of these scams start with a phone call and no matter what age you are, you're never too young to get your calls screened.



Elsa Park Meadows; how lucky we are to have this hotspot of wildlife and tranquillity on our own doorstep. I can see that the paths that we cut have been very well trodden in this uncertain time caused by Covid-19.

Wildlife meadows are crucial habitats for a variety of flora and fauna and are fast disappearing across our landscapes. Did you know that a healthy meadow can support hundreds of wildflowers and grasses and an array of wildlife that live and feed from it?

For everything from insects to small mammals, the flowers and grasses provide nectar and pollen and encourage more insects, which creates much needed food for birds and bats, and so the cycle of life and the food chain continues.

Summer is the peak time for the wildlife meadow; colour, and the buzz of insects, the silent flutter of butterflies and day flying moths, the near silent rustle of field voles, shrews and mice scampering in the thick matted undergrowth looking for fallen seeds, keeping an ever watchful look out and hiding from birds of prey.

Towards the end of July, a bittersweet process must take place, for it is crucial for the meadow to be mown and the hay taken away. If not, the soil becomes more fertile and this would encourage the grasses and weeds (Dock Thistle) to become more dominant and the flowers would slowly disappear.

The cattle are then introduced to graze until the end of October to create a short thick sward. By keeping to this regime that we have followed since the



meadows were first laid out and transferred to The Trust once building began on Elsa Park, we will have a wildflower meadow to enjoy for decades to come.

Next time you walk over to the meadows stand still for a while; listen, look, and smell, (ignore the smell from McDonald's), and you might be pleasantly surprised. Enjoy your walking, be safe and take care.

Peter Ellis





On the 11th May, following numerous delays due to drainage design, winter storms, standing water, and Covid-19, work commenced in earnest on the long-awaited Artificial Grass Football Pitch.

The 3rd Generation pitch, pavilion and extensive car park is now scheduled for completion towards the middle of September and we're looking forward to hosting an opening ceremony at what is shaping up to be a wonderful facility.

A considerable amount of effort has been expended over the last four years, and at last we've witnessed a dramatic change at the site in a very short space of time. We can't wait for recreational football, training sessions, and matches to kick off, and you never know, Elsea Park could create the next Harry Kane!