



Around Warwick Park

Issue 1 – April/May 2026

Welcome to **Around Warwick Park**, the Warwick Park Residents Association's (WPARA) new digital residents' newsletter, with the bold aim of providing a regular round-up of matters of interest on our doorstep. You are receiving this because you are or have been a member of WPARA.

The editorial team will do its best to find newsworthy information of interest to a wide cross-section of its readers, but we would appreciate your input, particularly on local neighbourhood news we may not be aware of.

Membership – with thanks to all the residents who already contribute

WPARA annual membership runs from 1 January and costs a very modest £20 per household. If it has slipped your mind to renew for 2026, or if you would like to become a new and very welcome joiner, please make a payment to Barclays Bank, Account Name: WPARA, Sort Code: 20-88-13, Account Number: 50790753, and add your SURNAME_POSTCODE as the payment reference.

Or contact your Area Representative, who you will find at <https://wpara.co.uk/your-team/> for further details of ways to pay.

AGM - Monday 18 May, 7.30pm, Nevill Cricket Ground Pavilion

All residents are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting, which is an opportunity to hear about important updates in our area and to have your say on issues that matter to you and your neighbourhood. It is also a relaxed and convivial atmosphere in which to meet your neighbours over a glass of wine/soft drink.

This year's AGM offers an opportunity for you to get more involved, with a **call for committee volunteers**:

- New Chair to replace our very active current incumbent of six years, Neil Williams.
- New Secretary to replace Mel Richards after an amazing 30 years in this role. Now that Caroline Hutt has taken on part of Mel's role as Social Secretary, the Secretary's work principally involves taking minutes at the AGM and two committee meetings.
- Further details of what the roles involve can be obtained from neil@nvwsolutions.co.uk

WPARA Open House Gardens

Provisionally planned for the afternoon of **Sunday 7 June**, the WPARA Committee is proposing an Open Gardens afternoon for the WPARA area. If you are interested in opening your garden - be it large, small, immaculate, vegetable-focused or wildlife-friendly - then please email Malcolm Dove - dovemalcolm@hotmail.com

There will be a small payment to view all the gardens, with the promise of tea and homemade cakes at one of the venues, and possibly a raffle.

It's a good way to meet your neighbours and legitimately pinch some ideas for your own Eden!

WHAT'S ON - HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some highlights of local happenings of general interest:

Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival 1-10 May

The Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival is back for another year with a host of literary stars at venues throughout Tunbridge Wells, including Trinity Theatre, the Assembly Hall, The Forum, The Pump Room and Calverley Grounds.

For full details and ticket availability: <https://www.twlf.co.uk/>

Weald of Kent Country Craft & Food Show, Penshurst Place 2-4 May

Open daily from 2-4 May, this local show combines artisan shopping with good food, live entertainment, craft demonstrations, music and children's rides.

For further information: <https://www.thecraftshows.co.uk/weald-of-kent-country-craft-food-show/>

King Charles the Martyr Spring Fair, Church Hall Monday 4 May, 11.00am to 3.00pm

With free entry and a warm welcome for all, this promises to be a lovely spring community event. There will be a range of stalls featuring plants, local crafts, homemade preserves, cakes, decorative items and refreshments.

Life through a Royal Lens, The Amelia Scott Until 7 June

This free-to-visit exhibition explores one of the most photographed families in the world: the British Royal Family.

Created by Historic Royal Palaces, the exhibition spans from the reign of Queen Victoria to the present day. The collection includes iconic photographs alongside behind-the-scenes moments, offering a glimpse of the Royal Family off duty.

For details of opening times: <https://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on/life-through-a-royal-lens.html>

The Pantiles markets 9-10 May and 13-14 June

Taking place the second weekend of each month (typically 10.00am to 4.00pm) the Pantiles open-air artisan markets provide a leisurely weekend option for local food and produce, vintage items, handmade crafts and gifts.

For further details and future dates: <https://pantilesevents.com/>

Jazz on the Pantiles From Thursday 28 May

A highlight for many in the WPARA catchment area is the annual Jazz on the Pantiles. A premier summer music series featuring live jazz, swing and blues, the 2026 season starts on Thursday 28 May, usually 7.00pm to 10.00pm.

Follow on <https://pantilesevents.com/> for the upcoming schedule.

PLANNING AND COUNCIL NEWS

Royal Victoria Place redevelopment

The updated designs for Royal Victoria Place were presented as part of a public engagement running from 12-23 March. The plans include a boutique cinema and new leisure spaces at Ely Court and a revitalised Palm Court featuring improved retail, food and beverage outlets, and a welcoming community leisure space.

The designs have now been submitted for planning approval.

For further information: <https://rvpfuture.com/>

Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons

Following the announcement back in September 2025 that the current owners of the 256 acres of protected woodland and heathland intended to sell, Friends of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons submitted a community bid before the 26 March deadline, with over 3,000 pledges of support.

It is still possible to register a financial pledge (no payment now) by visiting <https://friendsofthecommons.uk/>

USEFUL LINKS

- WPARA: <https://wpara.co.uk/>
- Roadworks map: <https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/parking/roadworks>
- Assembly Hall Theatre: <https://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk/whats-on/>
- The Amelia Scott: <https://theamelia.co.uk/>
- Trinity Theatre: <https://trinitytheatre.net/whats-on/>
- The Forum: <https://www.twforum.co.uk/listings>
- Pantiles events: <https://pantilesevents.com/>
- All events in Tunbridge Wells: <https://www.tunbridgewellsevents.co.uk/allevents>

CLOSING NOTES

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. Please note that future issues are unlikely to be as long, but we felt it was important to set the scene for the first one and also provide some background to WPARA.

Creating this inaugural issue has been a journey into uncharted waters, but hopefully we have produced something of interest to many of you. We would value your feedback on our first attempt! Please email us (see below) to let us know what you think and if you have time to get involved in creating the newsletter, we would love to hear from you!

The newsletter format and regularity are flexible and depend on local news at the time, but in future editions we would like to include some community news. If you have something you would like to share that is not too time-critical, please make contact with one of the editorial team:

Sally Tibbs (editor) – sally@jta.sport

Andy Evans (coordinator) – ajcevans@gmail.com

Malcolm Dove (distribution) – dovemalcolm@hotmail.com

As you can see, the team is currently a bit lean on the editorial side and some not very onerous backup would be appreciated. Please contact Sally if you have the nose for a local story and can help with some research and writing. Thank you!

SOME WPARA BACKGROUND

WPARA

WPARA, which covers Warwick Park, Blatchington Road, Rodmell Road, Oak Tree Close, Roedean Road, Nevill Gate, Upper Cumberland Walk and Richmond Place provides a collective voice for our area in the absence of a Parish Council. It is run by volunteers and is self-funded through subscriptions, which support local initiatives and communications like this newsletter.

Our website

WPARA has an extensive website at <https://wpara.co.uk/> that outlines the Association's principal activities, provides detailed information about Council Services and local amenities, and includes useful links to public services and local apps.

Neighbourhood Watch

WPARA has had an active Neighbourhood Watch for more than 15 years which, with the support of our Police Community Support Officers and the local police crime prevention team, has kept crime in our area at low levels. Our policing area is Pantiles and St Marks.

Malcolm Dove dovemalcolm@hotmail.com is our Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of WPARA or its committee. Information is believed to be accurate at the time of publication, but event details, dates and third-party content are subject to change. Please check with the organisers before attending. External links are provided for convenience only; WPARA accepts no responsibility for the content of third-party websites.

Around Warwick Park is produced by volunteers for WPARA members and residents within the WPARA area.

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