



# Park Life

Summer 2017 Edition

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## Welcome to Bayer

In February, Bayer completed its move to 400 South Oak Way, relocating its UK and Ireland region headquarters and over 400 staff from Newbury after 30 years. This will serve as home to its Pharmaceuticals, Consumer Health and Animal Health divisions, as well as the business and administrative service function.

Ms Ute Bockstegers, Bayer UK and Ireland Chief Financial Officer and Head of Operations comments: "This was a once in a generation opportunity for us to create a space that was designed specifically for Bayer. It was an opportunity to re-evaluate how we work, communicate and connect with each other."

Rory Carson, at Mapletree comments: "We are delighted to welcome Bayer to Green Park. The team are already getting actively involved and

participating with the many events available for occupiers, including the summer fete, rock choir and beekeeping course. Bayer also hosted their own series of events to mark their arrival, which were well attended by people from across Green Park."

Science For A Better Life



## Baylab at Green Park

Bayer has opened its first Baylab in the UK here at Green Park. It is a free laboratory for schools, offering state of the art equipment, intriguing experiments, and the chance to use innovative ideas to solve tasks and develop solutions. Covering key stages 1–5, it complements what the students learn at school and enables them to make their own unique discoveries.

Baylab experiments have been developed to support teachers with delivering the national curriculum and fill the 'hands-on' science gap that many teachers experience due to time and cost constraints. Baylab's professional scientists guide young minds through state-of-the-art experiments which will see them get hands-on to extract their own DNA for a truly one-of-a-kind piece of jewellery, characterise the proteins of an enzyme and even try their hand as a formulation scientist. There are also plans to help teachers with their continuing professional development through workshops and resources.

Schools across the country can apply to take part in workshops: <https://www.bayer.co.uk/en/baylab/about-baylab/>



For the latest photos, competitions and information on events at Green Park you can:

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 Join us on LinkedIn  
(Search Green Park Reading)

 See us on Instagram  
[instagram.com/greenparkuk](https://www.instagram.com/greenparkuk)



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## St Edward launches first lake view apartments at Green Park Village

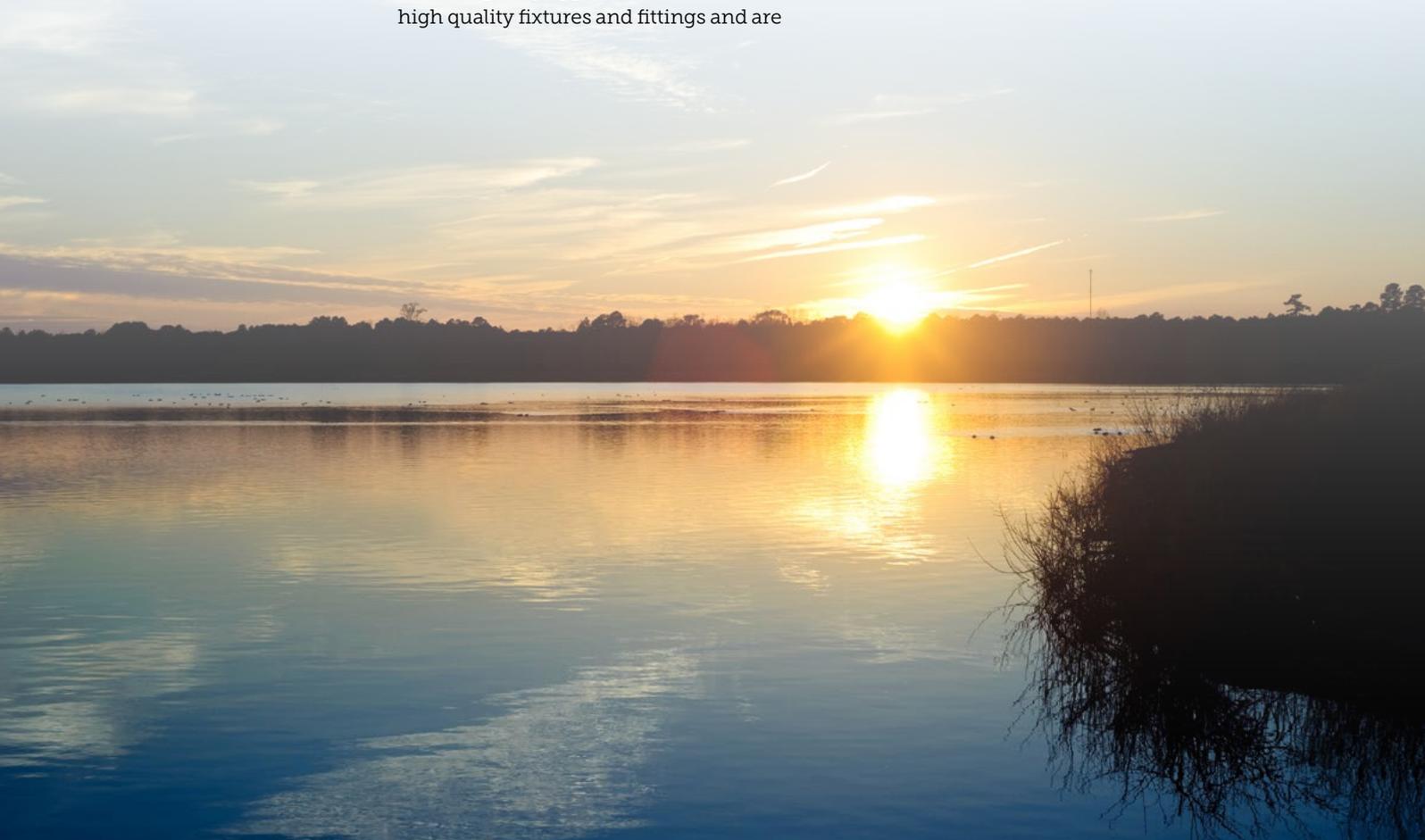
St Edward is delighted to launch an exclusive new collection of apartments at its highly sought after lakeside development in Reading, Green Park Village.

South Lake Apartments consists of just eight spacious two bedroom properties situated in a picturesque location, close to the water's edge, with aquatic planting, curved boardwalks and viewing platforms on the doorstep. They are also within easy walking distance of the market square and the new proposed train station which will link to Reading and the Crossrail line, due to open in 2019. This will provide direct access into London Paddington in just 29 minutes.

Every apartment has its own private balcony or terrace plus the added bonus of a communal landscaped roof garden, from which to enjoy the stunning lakeside views.

These superbly appointed new homes feature high quality fixtures and fittings and are

designed with flexible open plan layouts. Spacious living rooms blend seamlessly into individually designed kitchens, which are fitted to a high specification, offering stylish contemporary cabinets, stone worktops and integrated Bosch appliances. The hotel-style bathrooms are fitted with Villeroy and Boch fixtures, with all the properties featuring an en suite to the master bedroom plus an additional bathroom. Flooring is included throughout, with carpet to the hallway and bedrooms and wood veneered flooring in the kitchen/living room. Further details can be found at [www.greenparkvillage.co.uk](http://www.greenparkvillage.co.uk) or call 0118 402 3533. The marketing suite and show homes are open daily.





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## Guide dogs visit Green Park

Seven trainee Guide Dogs for the Blind, one retired and a working Guide Dog visited Green Park on Friday 10 March to make new friends and to help them get used to being around new groups of people.

Occupiers were given the chance to meet Bobby, Drew, Henry, Paterson, Honey, Wynnie, Charlie, Grace plus their dedicated walkers. Occupiers were also blindfolded and given the chance to experience being guided by a dog, to help understand better the trust built between the handler and their dog.

The visit also helped raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind and their excellent work in Berkshire.

Clive Wood Community Engagement Officer for Guide Dogs Reading Mobility Team commented: *"Volunteers, staff and one of our Guide Dog Owners were delighted to come along to Green Park with some of our dogs. We are always pleased to have the opportunity to raise awareness about sight loss and the services Guide Dogs provide to blind and partially sighted people. Can I also say a big thank you to Green Park occupiers for helping us to raise funds".*

## On your marks, get set...

The Green Park annual Summer Sports event for occupiers will take place on Thursday 27 July between 12 and 2pm at 100 Longwater Avenue. There will be a range of fun activities for teams and individuals to take part in, including croquet and a Segway course to test your skills.



## A tasty break for lunch

Our popular monthly food festivals continue this summer in Lime Square between 12 and 2pm, offering occupiers the chance to get away from their desk, meet up with friends and try something new and delicious for lunch.

Food festivals have been arranged for 17 August and 21 September.

There will be a range of producers each month including:

- **Chillidog:** Using Dan's own recipe, he and Steph will serve up their famous handmade hotdogs and chilli.
- **StreEATfood Spain:** Duncan and Karen will return with their ever-popular paella dishes of chicken, seafood or mixed.
- **Tutu's Ethiopian Table:** Straight from her fantastic restaurant in Reading town centre, Tutu brings her flavoursome curry dishes from her homeland of Ethiopia.
- **The Souvlaki Brothers:** Taking inspiration from their background, Panny and Yanny will be serving authentic Greek Souvlaki.

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## Make a splash with the open water swim

Take a dip in Longwater Lake under the watchful eye of Dom Dos Remedios, our local triathlon trainer. This year, we will be hosting two swims on the same evening, 16 August from 5.45pm to 9pm. One for beginners and a second for those who are more experienced in the sport.

And for those brave enough to take part, why not stay a little longer to warm-up with a BBQ on the shores of the lake.

Beginners to open water swimming can swim either 250m, 500m or 1km, and for those with a little more experience, distances start at 1km.

Registration is from 17:45pm at 100 Longwater Avenue and wetsuits are required.

To register your place email Claire Watson [claire.watson@greenpark.co.uk](mailto:claire.watson@greenpark.co.uk)



## Green Park Rocks

Calling all wannabe rock stars. Why not swap your desk for the microphone on a Tuesday lunchtime and join the Green Park rock choir?

Every Tuesday lunchtime a regular group of Green Park occupiers have been singing along to rock classics led by the talented and wonderful singing coach Sam.

Eagle-eyed occupiers may have spotted the choir giving early performances at the Summer Fete with further performances planned throughout the year.

If you would like to join in, pop along to one of their rehearsals at 250 Longwater Avenue every Tuesday. No singing experience is necessary and it is free for occupiers.

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## Running Green Park...

Every year, Green Park attracts thousands of athletes for the Reading Half Marathon and the Berkshire 10k.

### Reading Half Marathon

Sunday 18 March saw 16,000 runners and 1,500 children descend on Green Park in Reading's toughest road race.

Ahead of this year's starting gun, mums and dads and 1,500 younger runners competed in the Green Park Challenge – a gruelling three-kilometre race starting at Longwater Avenue and finishing at the Madejski Stadium. At the same time, children battled it out in the Green Park Schools Challenge within the race, with prizes for the first three teams in the age categories U7, U9, U11, U15 and U17.

The Reading Half Marathon with its 16,000 professional and enthusiastic amateurs followed.

Nicole Coulson, Lifestyle Manager at Green Park commented: *"It was fantastic to see so many runners take part in the Green Park Challenge and congratulations to the winners and everyone who took part. Special thanks to the Green Park teams made up of site occupiers and staff who took part in both this run and The Reading Half Marathon. All competitors in the Green Park Challenge have helped to raise thousands of pounds for charities."*

*"It was great to see so many people in Green Park supporting the runners and waving them off from the start of this race and The Reading Half Marathon, with an estimated 16,000 people taking part. Green Park is perfect for this type of event and plays host to regular runs and triathlons."*





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## Green Park Royal Berkshire 10K

And on Sunday 21 May, several thousand runners of all ages took part in the Green Park Royal Berkshire 10k, 5k and Green Park mini mile for children aged up to nine years. Friends and families joined in the fun, and there was a fantastic atmosphere.

The 10k race was won by Jonathan Homans in a time of 0:32:28 narrowly beating Rob Corney also with a time of 0:32:28. The 5K race was won by Matthew Raynor in a time of 0:09:12. Congratulations to everyone who took part.





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## All the fun at the Green Park summer fete

Occupiers at Green Park, Reading were treated to a lunchtime summer fete on Thursday 15 June 2017. This year's fete had a colourful Hawaiian theme and along with delicious food and drink there was plenty of entertainment and games to encourage people away from their desks.

Stilt-walkers, fire jugglers and hula-hoopers joined The Green Park Rock Choir to provide live entertainment and there were a number of sporting challenges and games to test skill and ability, from surfing to mini golf. All of this was washed down with delicious Hawaiian fruit punch, candy floss and plenty of ice cream.

Nicole Coulson, Lifestyle Manager at Green Park commented: "We had a fantastic turnout at this year's summer fete, hundreds of occupiers took a well-deserved break from their desks

to come along and enjoy the fun. The sun was shining and there was a really happy and relaxed atmosphere. We host a regular programme of events for occupiers throughout the year to participate in, which is all part of making sure the working environment here at Green Park is unique."

Go to [my.greenpark.co.uk](http://my.greenpark.co.uk) for all future events.





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## Nature walks around Green Park

**Brian Clews, a renowned expert on birds, will be giving an evening and lunchtime walking talk on the wildlife which can be found on Green Park.**

Brian is a published author of many books about birds and wildlife that can be found in and around Berkshire, and his walks are a fascinating way to help you learn how to spot and identify the obvious and the hidden wildlife that makes its home at Green Park.

Those attending the walk may wish to bring along a set of binoculars, as the tour will include looking at slightly more distant waterfowl/egrets

or any birds flying over, not to mention the smaller animals such as dragonflies by the lake.

Although this event will be taking place over two hours, wildlife watchers can join and leave the walk at any point.

The next nature walk will take place on:

3 October, 12:00 – 14:00

To book a free place email

[claire.watson@greenpark.co.uk](mailto:claire.watson@greenpark.co.uk)



## Newts occupiers at Green Park

**Green Park is delighted to welcome its latest occupiers - the smooth or common newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*).**

This is a fresh water amphibian and has been found along Longwater Avenue, and shows evidence of breeding.

Derek Rossenrode, Property Services Director at Green Park, said: *"This is very exciting news and reflects on the hard work put in by the landscaping team to help increase biodiversity."*

The common newt lives in lowland damp meadows, field edges, gardens and eats insects. If you spot any, please do not touch them but please do feel free to photograph them and let us know so we can keep track of them. Send your pictures to

[faye.kelland@greenpark.co.uk](mailto:faye.kelland@greenpark.co.uk)

## Nesting Birds

Over 50 different bird species can be seen at Green Park, with some of them choosing to make the park their home. At this time of year, they are busy nesting and raising their young. They are, quite understandable, protective of their young and aggressive towards people, so please don't approach them and enjoy looking at them from a distance.





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## Green Park Triathlon

The Red Nose Day Green Park Triathlon took place to raise funds for Comic Relief on Thursday 9 March. There were two races, the Super Sprint which consisted of a 200m swim, 10k cycle followed by a 2.5km run or the Sprint, which is double the distances of the Super Sprint. Congratulations to all those who took part raising money for a very deserving cause.



## Green Park Conference Centre

The Green Park Conference Centre is situated on the ground floor of 100 Longwater Avenue. The Conference Centre offers excellent facilities with as well as stunning views over the surrounding landscaped scenery and Longwater Lake.

The in-house catering team provides an outstanding hospitality service with the flexibility to serve anything from breakfast, a simple working buffet lunch to outside BBQs on the decking, or delicious canapés, making it the ideal venue for networking or more formal events.

Meeting rooms can be booked by a room hire rate or day delegate packages. The centre can cater for all AV and equipment requirements, with built in projectors and screens, telephone and video conference facilities, PA system with microphones, lecterns, portable plasma HD TV screens, staging, flipcharts and a centrally controlled system to manage lighting, blinds and sound volume.

For more information or to make a booking, please contact:

Amy Burbage – Green Park Conference Centre Manager

T: 0118 945 0122

E: amy.burbage@mapletree.com.sg

The Conference Centre plays host to regular networking events which are available to occupiers to join in – keep an eye on the What's On pages of my.greenpark.co.uk



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## Maximising the impact of the Apprenticeship Levy in Berkshire

New research undertaken by Thames Valley Berkshire LEP suggests that the introduction of the apprenticeship levy will lead to some large Berkshire employers increasing their investment in training and development, which should, in turn, improve productivity.

In 2015/16, around 5,400 apprenticeships were started by Berkshire residents, a seven percent drop from 2014/15. This was at odds with the national trend (a three percent increase).

The research suggests that most large companies will seek to increase the number of new apprentices they take on (albeit in relatively small numbers) and will use their levy to upskill their existing employees in areas such as management and leadership and IT. The research also found that a number of large employers are planning to offer degree apprenticeships, and believe that more needs to be done to promote apprenticeships as a valid alternative to the traditional university route.

It is currently unclear how smaller, non-levy paying employers will be affected by the introduction of the levy and wider apprenticeship reforms. Thames Valley

Berkshire LEP is monitoring recent funding developments and remains committed to supporting SMEs who wish to employ apprentices.

Peter Read, Chairman of Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, comments, *"We believe our report will be of great interest to both levy and non-levy paying employers in providing a clear understanding of how employers across Berkshire intend to use their levy and how it could add value to the local economy. The LEP will use the report to raise awareness, showcase good practice, and signpost employers to good quality advice."*

The Thames Valley Berkshire LEP is based at 100 Longwater and further information can be found at [www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyberkshire.co.uk)



## Volunteer for local schools

The Inspiring Governance service has been launched to help connect schools and colleges with skilled volunteers interested in serving as governors and trustees. The service also provides support, advice and guidance to ensure that volunteers who are newly appointed to boards are able to govern effectively.

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the UK and play a vital role in raising and maintaining educational standards. They set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the organisation; hold head teachers, executive leaders and senior management teams to account for educational performance; and make sure that finances are managed effectively. Good governance is a fundamental characteristic of a high-performing school. If you are interested in volunteering to help a local school anywhere in Berkshire go to [www.inspiringgovernance.org](http://www.inspiringgovernance.org)

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## Zest recipe – French Onion Soup

Serves 6

### Ingredients

4 tbs rapeseed oil  
2 oz unsalted butter  
6 large onions, peeled and finely sliced  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed  
sea salt  
0.3 cup sherry vinegar  
1 cup red wine  
3 lts good quality thick beef stock  
salt and pepper  
2 tbs tarragon, chopped  
1.5 cups Cheddar cheese, grated  
Sachet:  
2 bay leaves  
12 black peppercorns  
6 large sprigs thyme  
Half a baguette sliced into  
croutons 1/2 inch thick

### Method

1. Cook the onions with a large pinch of sea salt over a low heat in a thick based pan until dark brown and caramelised (about 3 hours) stirring every 15 minutes, add the garlic and cook for a further hour. It will reduce by about a third.
2. Add the sherry vinegar and red wine and reduce until syrupy, then add the stock and the herb sachet, bring to the boil and simmer for a one hour. Allow to stand until it starts to cool, remove the sachet, then serve or refrigerate.
3. For the croutons, brush with olive oil and a pinch of salt and toast under a grill until golden brown.
4. To serve, bring the soup to the boil, add the tarragon, fill a cast iron or oven proof soup dish about 1/2 inch from the top, add 2 toasted croutons on top, cover with the grated cheese and grill until the cheese melts and starts to bubble.

## Zest are taking bookings for Christmas 2017

Take a look at the festive menu on their website:  
[www.zestatimesquare.co.uk](http://www.zestatimesquare.co.uk)

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We are always happy to hear from our occupiers on what you'd like to have featured in the next newsletter. Please contact Nicole at [nicolelouise.coulson@mapletree.com.sg](mailto:nicolelouise.coulson@mapletree.com.sg) with your ideas and any stories you'd like to see included.