Welcome from Green Park’s Asset Manager, Rory Carson

Welcome to our summer update. As you’ll see, it’s been a busy summer so far! We’re delighted to see so many of you coming together at our community events and enjoying Green Park’s lovely environment in the summer sunshine, whether for a lunchtime stroll, a row on the lake, a game of table tennis or at one of our organised activities such as our photography club and our guided nature walks. I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome to the Green Park team David Miller, as Client Services Director, and Maddison White, as the Green Park Conference Centre Manager – please give them a wave when you see them around!

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The sun is still shining here at Green Park, the cygnets have hatched and it’s the perfect time for a lunchtime walk – or game of ping pong.

From food festivals to biodiversity weeks, we’ve been making the most of the weather and ensuring our residents have plenty of fun things to do.

There have also been exciting developments on Green Park, with many new neighbours joining us and the new train station on its way. It’s now due to open in the summer of 2019, and will improve transport links to the park and provide another environmentally-friendly way of getting to work.

Don’t forget to connect with us on our social channels – and post your Green Park pictures with the hashtag #GreenParklife to be in with a chance of a reposting from us, and even a potential free coffee. Read on for more...

@greenparkreading
@GreenParkUK
@greenparkuk

We’re also in the process of revamping www.greenpark.co.uk – stay tuned @greenparkuk for a new-look site.

Visits from key figures

The unveiling of Thales’ new UK headquarters in Green Park, Reading, attracted a visit from two special guests earlier this year – Prime Minister Theresa May and local MP Alok Sharma. During their visit, Theresa May and Alok Sharma were taken on a tour of both the research and technology centre.

The Prime Minister was shown a number of key projects for Thales in the UK, including the European Aviation Network, which will provide 4G connectivity on flights across Europe, and some of the lifesaving capabilities developed for armed forces.

Prime Minister Theresa May returned to Green Park in June, along with Prince Andrew (Duke of York), for a tour of Bayer – a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and agriculture. Its products and services are designed to benefit people and improve their quality of life.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling also paid a visit to Green Park to discuss the progression of plans for our new train station – more exciting news on that is coming up!

Recent events

As ever, the last few months have offered plenty of unique and interesting events for Green Park’s residents to enjoy.

On 21 June, beautiful sunshine and a huge gathering – over 1,500 people – turned up for our annual Summer Fete! Held on the lawn of 100 Brook Drive, the fete took on a Hawaiian theme, with exciting entertainers, Hawaiian Punch, flower leis and some brightly coloured shirts.

The Green Park choir put their singing rehearsals into practice, regaling the crowds with ‘California Dreamin’, ‘Uptown Girl’ and other classic songs as they enjoyed all the activities available, including hook-a-duck, coconut shy, Segway driving and mini golf.

To fuel everyone’s fun, there was plenty of food on hand – from paella and burritos to sweet treats of candy floss and ice cream, along with vibrant rum punch.

On 20 May, we were proud to host and sponsor the Royal Berkshire 10k. Before the main 10K event, there was also a ‘mini-mile’ and a ‘mini-marathon’, which allowed for parents to run with their children prior to the Royal Berkshire race.

The conditions for this year’s edition were perfect, with over 1500 completing the 10km race on a beautiful Sunday morning. The race attracted runners of all levels, from fun runners to elite athletes – all participating for different causes and charities. The winner was Rob Corney, who completed it in a time of 00:31:30.

On 19 June, the Mayor of Reading Councillor Debs Edward, X-Factor’s Danyl Johnson and Green Park’s Rory Carson handed out awards to all the young mini-mile and mini-marathon runners in the Green Park Conference Centre.

To coincide with the increasingly summery weather, we’ve been gathering some of our favourite food stalls in Lime Square to make lunchtimes more interesting.

The most recent event offered everything from halloumi wraps to Ethiopian food and everything in-between.

The dates for the upcoming Food Festivals are: 16 August and 20 September. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Though this year’s Green Park Challenge met hurdles itself, being originally postponed due to heavy snow, it finally went ahead on 3 June – on a beautiful sunny day. Over 1,100 people tackled the 3K run in categories spanning a variety of ages, from under nine to over 50. After running the course, held within Green Park, each green-clad participant took home a medal.

RECENT EVENTS // CONTINUED

Get your lenses ready and learn how to take the perfect photograph in the beautiful Green Park surroundings. Every month, you’ll join Green Park photographer Stewart Turkington as he advises you on how to compose the perfect photograph. Each member will have one of their shots displayed at an exhibition in November.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

At Green Park, from September, you can learn Spanish, French, German, Italian or Mandarin in your lunch break.

PROJECT MANAGERS FORUM

Held monthly, and hosted by Stephen Cable, Project Manager Professional (PMP) at Pepsico, the Project Managers Forum gathers professionals from Green Park businesses to share learnings, discuss best practices and expand networks.

GREEN PARK CHALLENGE

At Green Park, we celebrated Biodiversity Week 21–24 May in style, with a series of fantastic events. With a whole host of fascinating wildlife on-site, there is no better place to channel your inner David Attenborough. From our ‘bat walk’ to an insight into beekeeping, there were plenty of activities for Green Park’s animal lovers to sample. Our bat walk in particular has proved hugely popular over the years, giving nature lovers the chance to see Green Park’s bats in their natural habitat, learn more about these misunderstood creatures and even tuck into some pizza while doing it! On our most recent walk, six different species of bat were identified, whereas previously we had only discovered four – showing just how successful our initiatives to create the right habitats to encourage biodiversity have proved to be.

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Regular events

In addition to our annual and one-off events, we also hold regular activities to keep your diaries fun and full – and to give you the chance to mingle with other residents on the park. They also give you the opportunity to explore a wide variety of hobbies – and develop lots of new talents. Check out my.greenpark.co.uk for more information.

ROCK CHOIR

Join the Green Park Rock Choir to sing contemporary scores that will leave you upbeat for the rest of the week. No experience is necessary, but the willingness to having fun is essential.

BOOK CLUB

Are you a bookworm? Join the quarterly Green Park Book Club and meet with like-minded individuals to talk all things literature.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Get your lenses ready and learn how to take the perfect photograph in the beautiful Green Park surroundings. Every month, you’ll join Green Park photographer Stewart Turkington as he advises you on how to compose the perfect photograph. Each member will have one of their shots displayed at an exhibition in November.
Green Park Train Station

The wheels are in motion for Green Park Train Station! With Balfour Beatty appointed to undertake the work, the station will add a fantastic facility for our business community on Green Park, as well as residents of Green Park Village and supporters of Reading Football Club.

The new station is predicted to create up to 7,500 new jobs and 1,500 new homes by improving access to Green Park in addition to the Greenwave buses already running. The main purpose of the train station is to improve transport links for commuters. Once built, the station will become a new top on the existing Reading to Basingstoke line, with two trains per hour. Travellers will be able to reach Reading in six minutes, Basingstoke in 20, Paddington in 40 (via Reading), Canary Wharf in 60 (once the Crossrail is in place), and Southampton in 60 (via Basingstoke).

This will improve the accessibility of the area and serve all local commuters, business and residents’ needs from Summer 2019.

Lime Square update

Green Park Day Nursery

Want your children to immerse themselves into a new and exciting environment? Then the Green Park Day Nursery is the place for you. The nursery provides day care for up to 120 children, across six playrooms with each containing designated sleeping areas and cosy facilities. The nursery welcomes all age groups, each with their own secure recreational area and dedicated playground facilities, such as a sandpit and a willow arch. Green Park Day Nursery gives children the chance to socialise and meet one another, in a playful and controlled environment.

To find out more, visit www.childbasepartnership.com

Deal announcements

Meet your new neighbours! The technology industry in Thames Valley has boomed over the last 20 years, with the South East of England evolving into a globally recognised region of dynamic business activity and adding to the growing prosperity of the area. Since the beginning of 2017, Green Park has welcomed the following companies:

- Berkeley Communications
- Cloud Distribution
- Cherwell Software
- Unit4 Business Software
- Zensar

In addition, both Extreme Networks and Proofpoint have both expanded significantly on Green Park - and we’re delighted to have been able to help their businesses flourish!

Wildlife

Join Brian Clews, a renowned expert on birds, who will be giving a talk on the wildlife that can be found on Green Park. Each talk will include a walking tour of the Park – where 74 species of bird have been twitched. Brian is a published author of many books about birds and wildlife found in and around Berkshire. Attendees may benefit from bringing along a set of binoculars with them 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, attendees are not expected to stay for the full two hours.

We will be hosting our next Nature Walk on 4 October 2018 between 12-2pm.
CYGNETS HATCHED

We’ve been keeping an eye on their nest for a while, but we were delighted to see a lovely group of cygnets hatch in May. You might have seen them swimming around Longwater with their parents during your lunch break – tag us in your photos on Instagram using #GreenParklife.

WORMERY

While exploring Green Park, you might have encountered our wormery, containing 22,000 Dendrobaena Veneta worms. Occupiers and the Green Park management team, based at 100 Longwater Avenue, are recycling their food waste by feeding their leftovers to Green Park’s worm population. The worms enjoy a varied diet of tea bags and coffee granules, fruit peel and leftover pizza to name just a few delights; they then turn these leftovers into a nutrient-rich compost that the landscaping team uses throughout the estate to grow both plants and vegetables in the veggie patch. Feel free to take a look – the wormery has a viewing window on the side, so that you can see them hard at work.

OPEN WATER SWIM

Beginners and experienced swimmers are all welcome for our annual Open Water Swim from 5.45pm on 22 August. Dip your toes into Longwater Lake under the supervision of Dom Dos Remedios, our local triathlon trainer. This year we will be hosting two swims on the same evening: one for beginners and a second for experienced open water swimmers. All swimmers are also welcome to stay for a social BBQ:

- Beginners in Open Water Swimming
  
  Three lengths are available: 250m, 500m or 1km.
  
  Experienced in Open Water Swimming: Length: 1km.

To register your place, just email claire.watson@greenpark.co.uk

BLOOD DONATION SESSION

Following the success of the blood donation session that took place on 18 June, NHS Blood and Transplant will be returning to the Green Park Conference Centre on 11 December 2018.

With thousands of patients receiving blood transfusions every year, NHS Blood and Transplant is challenging the people of Green Park to make a date to sign up and donate to save lives. Donated blood is vital for a wide variety of life-saving procedures in local hospitals.

Patients undergoing major surgery and emergency treatment often require blood transfusions, but perhaps less well-known is the fact that blood is essential to the treatment for many different types of cancer and blood disorders.

You can make an appointment by calling 0300 123 23 23, visiting www.blood.co.uk, or go through the NHSGiveBlood app.

Who can give blood?

As long as you are fit and healthy, weigh over 7 stone. 12 pounds (50kg) and are aged between 17 and 66 (up to 70 if you have given blood before) you should be able to give blood. If you are over 70, you need to have given blood in the last two years to continue donating.

Snap to win

We’re offering one lucky Green Park customer the chance to win a free beverage from Byte Café at 100 Longwater Avenue every month. All you need to do is to share your Green Park pictures with the hashtag #GreenParklife and tag @GreenParkUK – whether on Twitter or Instagram. Not only are we sharing the best pictures we get on a regular basis on our social channels, but every month the photographer of the best shot will win a free tea or coffee. What have you got to lose?
As a result of the new GDPR regulations which came into force at the end of May, we asked you to re-subscribe to confirm you are agreeable to receiving our weekly news email. This contains everything you need to know about what is happening at Green Park; from news about the station, events of all shapes and sizes, classes and importantly what is being served on site for breakfast and lunch. We only ever send one email each week. If our GDPR email got caught up with the many others and you regret not re-subscribing – we would be thrilled to have you back!

Go to https://my.greenpark.co.uk to sign up.

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