

FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2012

Chairman's Message

We may not have enjoyed very good weather this summer but for The Carrs it has been a good few months.

Early in the summer two seats were installed on The Carrs thanks to a generous donation from Wilmslow Ladies Circle, to whom we are most grateful. One of the seats has been located at the rear of the picnic area and is proving to be very popular as it is in something of a sun trap and the other seat is located in a more central position between the two footbridges. In addition a memorial bench has been installed near the picnic area and a second seat is expected very soon for installation near the second footbridge.

The wet weather did not make the litter pick day any easier or the Balsam bashing events. With both the high level of water in the river meant we were unable to clear as much litter from the river as we would normally or remove as much Balsam from along the river banks. Quite simply the water was too deep and fast flowing for it to be safe to go in. Nevertheless visitors to The Carrs for the Queen's Jubilee party, many of them coming for the first time, were very complimentary about the condition of the park land and I have received a number of positive comments from residents and visitors alike in the weeks since

More controversially August saw the introduction of dog control orders on The Carrs after many years of debate and a month long public consultation. Inevitably the new controls are not to everybody's liking but all those in the negotiations felt they were a reasonable approach to an undoubted problem. Hopefully the right balance has been struck that will enable all the different users of The Carrs to do so without discord. As I write this the controls have only been in force for a few days so it is too early for any judgement on the effectiveness of the new regulations to be made.

Finally I would like to thank the grounds maintenance staff from East Cheshire Council who do so much to help keep the Carrs in good order, Thanks Guys! Also I would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement and I hope I will get to meet some of you at our AGM on Sunday 14th October.

Colin Shepherd, Chairman

E-mail Addresses

This newsletter can be supplied by e-mail. Please let us know your e-mail address by contacting colin.shepherd@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk. You will then receive the newsletter regularly together with reminders of the latest events.

Dates for your diary 2013

The final event of 2012 will be the AGM. This will be in the Church Hall starting at 3pm.

AGM 14th October 2012

Dates for events in 2013 have not yet been selected. Please watch the web-site www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk or the notice boards on The Carrs for details. The list will also be in the Spring newsletter.

We do hope you will come and join us.

Jubilee



The Diamond Jubilee year was marked on The Carrs with a day co-ordinated and funded by Wilmslow Town Council on 4th June. The day started with grey clouds and rain, but these cleared just in time for thousands of people to bring picnics down to the Park and enjoy the event. A bouncy castle and a duck race down the Bollin entertained the children and the adults enjoyed the music. Children from local schools provided the splendid designs for the bunting which were also used later as decorations on the gate erected on The Carrs as a permanent reminder of the year. The Friends of the Carrs benefited from donations of £250 by Glam Mams from their proceeds of the day and also £200 from the proceeds from the duck race.

2012 Events

Litter Pick 21st April 2012

Many thanks to all the volunteers who joined us on the Litter Pick Day to help spruce up The Carrs ready for the summer.

Work Day 1st April 2012



↑ Euan from Bollin Valley Partnership helps out

This was extremely wet and windy! Despite this more work was done along the banks of the River Bollin to prevent erosion by planting and weaving willow and pruning willow planted in the previous year.

Balsam Bashes May/June 2012

The fight against Himalayan balsam continued this year and we have begun to see some good results. The wet and cool weather seemed to have discouraged growth and with the exception of a few small areas we do seem to have cleared this invasive weed from a part of The Carrs from the parish hall car park to below the second bridge. Indeed in some areas previously heavily infested the problem was finding any balsam to bash! It was also very encouraging to see wild flowers returning to the areas that had been cleared. As a result we were able to tackle areas around Twinnies Bridge car park this year and although it is not very obvious at the moment we shall hopefully achieve the same success in this area over the next few years as we have achieved at the opposite end of the park.

Batty about Bats 4th August 2012

This event again proved the most popular event of the calendar with over 50 people meeting Ranger Martin James at dusk on The Carrs despite competition from television coverage of a very exciting night at the Olympics. Starting the event at 9pm ensured large numbers of bats were around and with the aid of bat detectors and the strong torches brought by many of the group everyone was able to get good views from the First Bridge of the bats swooping low over the water to catch insects. A great success all round. For further information about all these events and more pictures please see our web-site www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk.

Dog Control Orders

On August 20th 2012 dog control orders came into force on The Carrs. These prohibit any one person taking more than four dogs onto the Carrs, and

also make it an offence to have a dog off lead in the area from Chancel Lane to the River Bollin. Dogs are still allowed to run free in the area beyond the First Bridge. Dog control officers will be patrolling The Carrs and will enforce these new orders as well as issuing fines for dog-walkers who do not pick up after their dog.

An immersion course in Geography!

In June a group of students from Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, Runcorn, studying GCSE Geography came to undertake some fieldwork in the Carrs. Led by the academy's Head of Social Science Andrew Watkins, they were investigating how the River Bollin changes in shape along its course, starting up in Macclesfield Forest and working their way down to the Carrs. They measured the river's depth, width and speed along with angularity of rocks and the gradients of the area. Ultimately they see how changes in these categories take place and start to explain reasons the reasons why, such as processes of erosion on river bends. They saw some dramatic evidence of erosion and changes of depth and speed, and were interested to see the work we had done on the river banks. As the picture shows, the students were not afraid to get wet!



North West in Bloom

On July 11th a team of judges from the RHS visited the Carrs as part of Wilmslow's entry in the North West In Bloom competition. They were shown the wild flower areas, the river bank works and saw how the Carrs maintains a balance between public recreational activities and a natural environment. Judges Bill Blackledge and John Billbrough cast an appreciative eye over the Carrs and we were delighted to hear that Wilmslow's entry under the title of "Edible Wilmslow in Bloom" has been nominated for an award. Details will be announced at a presentation ceremony in Southport in October.

Contact Names

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