

FRIENDS OF THE CARRS

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2017

Chairman's Message

We ended 2016 on something of a high. Following the RHS North West In Bloom judges' visit to Wilmslow in July (Wilmslow won a gold award!) we were honoured to receive the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood top award for the cleanliness, appearance and resources of the park. We then had our proposal for the development of a picnic area at the Twinnies Bridge end of the park chosen for funding by Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, which led in February to us winning £8000 in the voting round which we will spend on clearing the area, improving access and the purchase of benches and tables. Work on the site will begin in the spring.

The relatively mild weather has encouraged more people than ever to enjoy a winter visit to The Carrs, and we hope that the appearance of plenty of spring flowers will inspire visitors to walk along by the river and up through the bluebell woods. Of course, this means a bit more "wear and tear" in the park, so we are planning plenty of litter picks, balsam bashes and working parties to keep The Carrs looking good. Full details are on our notice boards in the park, so if you fancy a little bit of light exercise in the fresh air and friendly company, have a look there or on our website and come and join us. We provide all necessary equipment and you'll get to wear the high-vis jacket and eat the ice cream!

A recurrent problem ever since the Friends were founded thirteen years ago has been day-long parking in the Parish Hall car park, which prevents visitors from coming to use the park and the children's playground. After repeated requests Parking Wardens now include the car park on their rounds and we have been delighted to see how many more spaces have become available.

And there are more good things to come this spring! Work on the toilet block and the installation of the outdoor Rotagym near the tennis courts has begun. The tennis court nets will be ready for the school holidays, and looking further ahead we are planning our annual Dog Show, whilst the hugely popular Cinema in the Park will be taking place in an extended format in June. Our plans for improvements also include additions to the natural beauty of the park, planting more trees and wild flowers, replacing old benches and trimming back the willows planted to reinforce the river banks. And The Carrs is for everyone, so we welcome any comments and suggestions for further improvements from its users. Contact details are given below.

Thank you to all those who help to keep The Carrs such a beautiful place, especially those local heroes the Wilmslow Clean Team who do such sterling - and often unpleasant - work. Anyone who has seen their full bags awaiting collection in the car park will

realise how much harder our job would be without them.

To finish, another request. We are compiling a history of the Carrs for our website and we would love to receive any memories or copies of photographs and other material which could be of interest. Please contact us at info@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk

Ian Baillie, Chairman

It's all go for Toilets at The Carrs

By the time you read this newsletter work on the new toilets at The Carrs should be well underway if not finished. The building will be located in the corner of the car park, resulting in the removal of three car parking spaces. The Council will lease this part of the car park to Wilmslow Town Council for a term of 30 years in return for £1 and a peppercorn rent.

The facility, which will provide a unisex toilet and a disability equipped unisex toilet, has been manufactured off-site as you can see from the photograph below. The building is clad in brick and is equipped with cctv to all elevations, the toilets are semi-automatic.



This shows the entrances to the two toilet cubicles and the refreshment facility and will face Cliff Road

The refreshment kiosk which also forms part of the building will provide an additional facility for park users and the income generated to the Town Council will fund on-going cleaning and maintenance costs. The use of the toilets will incur a charge of 20 pence which will also be used towards future costs..

Dates for your Diary 2017

This year you'll notice the Balsam Bashes are proliferating faster than the balsam – no fewer than three in an attempt to finally control this noxious weed. We couldn't miss out the popular Bat Walk and there is another event this year for the many dog walkers that use The Carrs. The year's events finish with the AGM.

Working Party and Clean Up	30 th April 2017 10am
Canine Capers on The Carrs	14 th May 2017 12pm
Cinema in the Park	10 th June 2017
Balsam Bash 1	21 st May 2017 2pm
Balsam Bash 2	25 th June 2017 2pm
Balsam Bash 3	9 th July 2017 2pm
Working Party	13 th Aug 2017 10am
Bat Walk	12 th Aug 2017 9pm
AGM	15 th Oct 2017 2pm

Cinema in The Park

This year instead of Party in the Park Wilmslow Town Council have decided to extend the Cinema in the Park concept with two films - an afternoon matinee film aimed at the family audience followed by the main feature in the evening. There will also be a bouncy castle, a duck race and stalls to keep children entertained all afternoon. Wilmslow residents were given a choice of four films in each category and voted for Lion King as the matinee with Dirty Dancing being the overwhelming winner for the feature film. Why not come down and enjoy a day on The Carrs with a picnic and great entertainment.

New Picnic Area



There may be more daffodils on The Carrs next year. The Friends continue to aim to improve the diversity of planting on The Carrs and this will continue around the new picnic area at Twinnies

Bridge funded by Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme. The plans include disabled access to the new picnic benches from the car park and general tidying up, planting and landscaping of the area together with new information boards. It will be a welcome addition to the amenities on The Carrs.

Our thanks go to Emma Houghton and Ian Baillie for all their work in putting together such a good bid for the grant.

It's Your Neighbourhood Award

Last year the Friends of The Carrs were delighted to receive an "It's Your Neighbourhood" certificate as a "thriving" organisation from the Royal Horticultural Society. These awards are given to recognise organisations that bring members of the community together to make a positive impact on the place they live. This year we went one better and achieved recognition as an "outstanding" organisation, the highest category possible.

Nature Notes

The young heron, raised here on the Bollin two years ago, is proving to be quite an attraction successfully hunting for sizeable chub and trout.

It has been joined this year by a pair of goosanders seemingly alternating between the Mill pond and the Carrs depending on the river level.

And we all hope that the lone kingfisher finds a mate this year to repeat the breeding success of 2015

If you spot something of interest just log it on the FOTC website.

Website

Do have a look at our website (www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk). It has news of all the latest happenings on The Carrs with lots of photos of events and information on how you can join in. Paul Jabore has added lots of information on the history of The Carrs and the remains of St Olafs Chapel. For the techno-phobic watch the notice boards on The Carrs for further news of these events. We do hope you will come and join us.

Committee News

Ian Baillie continues his sterling work as Chairman with support from our Treasurer, John Booth, Secretary Ann Brown and past Chairman Colin Shepherd. We are also pleased to welcome Polly Keen as representative of the Users of The Carrs..

Contact Names

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