

FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2013

Chairman's Message

Well, it has certainly been a wet winter! Just how wet is very evident when you visit The Carrs with the puddles and mud worse than I can ever remember. The constant rain has also meant the river has been running harder and higher than usual with the water breaking over the banks on more than one occasion. Winter has not all been bad news, however, with progress being made on a number of issues of keen interest to this group. Most noticeably, the new tennis courts have been installed and the area covered by the old courts is slowly returning to grass. The work on the new courts attracted a lot of attention from visitors and has provoked many a positive comment. Hopefully, it will not be many more weeks before the courts can be put to their intended use.

In the middle of November, we made the first plantings of the new Jubilee Wood in the area previously occupied by the bowling green and (very) hard tennis court. We were joined by friends from Transition Wilmslow and Incredible Edible and so the new wood contains a number of fruit trees as well as the more traditional woodland variety. At the same occasion, the Town Council planted a memorial Jubilee Oak with Cllr. J Crockatt doing the honours. A further planting of trees in the new wood will take place in March and in due course will creep out onto the area previously occupied by the old tennis courts so as to break up the straight lines of the hedges.

I would also like to be able to report progress on the proposed Multiuse Path and it is true discussions are progressing and a possible source of funding has been identified. In truth, though, we are only inching forward and it could well be some considerable time yet before we see real progress.

Finally, I am delighted to report that shortly after our autumn newsletter was issued we received confirmation from the Town Council that it was prepared to underwrite expenditure of up to £12,500 on further work to the river banks (see overleaf). We are very grateful to the Town Council for this support and vote of confidence and look forward to the work being completed by the end of the summer.

Colin Shepherd, Chairman

New Tennis Courts

The old tennis courts have been a concern for several years and recently had deteriorated to a point where they were seriously dilapidated and in great need of renovation. Their secluded position also made them subject to vandalism. Following lengthy discussions between Cheshire East Council

and the Friends of The Carrs and a survey of public opinion it was decided that rather than renovate them it would be better to re-locate the facility to near the children's play area.

Once the decision had been made, the work was carried out remarkably quickly by Cheshire East Council with the old tennis courts dug up, grassed over and left to return to nature (see article overleaf). These were still very popular despite their condition so we are sure this new facility will be very well used come summer.



View across the new tennis courts

Dates for your Diary 2013

As in previous years there will be another Clean-up Day to spruce up The Carrs ready for summer and, also, two Balsam Bashes to consolidate our efforts of previous years. We couldn't miss out the popular Bat Walk and there is a new event this year for the many dog walkers that use The Carrs (See overleaf). The year's events finish with the AGM.

River Clean up and litter pick	21 st April 2013
Balsam Bash 1	23 rd June 2013
Balsam Bash 2	21 st July 2013
Bat Walk	16 th August 2013
Canine Capers on The Carrs	14 th September 2013
AGM	13 th October 2013

Watch the web-site (www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk) or the notice boards on The Carrs for further news of these events. We do hope you will come and join us.

Other Events on The Carrs

Wilmslow Town Council is planning a celebration day on The Carrs on June 16th to commemorate the Queen's coronation.

Jubilee Wood



On the 14th November 2012 a start was made by a group of volunteers on planting a wood on the site of the old tennis courts to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. The wood was created through the efforts of Wilmslow Town Council, Friends of The Carrs, Incredible Edible and Transition Wilmslow. Oak, beech, crab apple, hazel and various fruit trees were planted and more will follow. The Chairman of Wilmslow Town Council, Councillor J Crockatt planted a Jubilee oak. The wood will provide food and nesting sites for birds and add to the variety of habitats for wildlife on The Carrs as well as improving the landscape.

Canine Capers on The Carrs

"Canine Capers" will be of interest to the many dog owners who use The Carrs to exercise their pets. This is a new fun event planned for the 14th September for dogs, their owners and their friends to be held on the site of the old putting green. Plans are still evolving at the moment, but there will be plenty of stalls promoting items of interest to dog owners and it is also likely to include a fun dog show with many categories and an agility course. Owners will be able to enter their dogs on the day, Wilmslow Animal Sanctuary are joining us to showcase their work. Come and meet their donkey Teabag. Please watch the web-site and the notice boards for details of how to enter your dog and for further information.

Riverbank Restoration

Ever since the Environment Agency (EA) completed the restoration of two sections of the river banks in March 2011 we have been trying to find ways to carry out further remedial action, a process hampered by neither the EA nor Cheshire East

Council (CEC) having any funds available. In the summer of 2012 an approach was made to Wilmslow Town Council for a grant of up to £12,500 and to our delight they have agreed to underwrite this sum so that more work can be undertaken. News of the support from the Town Council came just after the issue of our last newsletter.

Since receiving that good news a number of meetings have taken place on site with, variously, the EA, CEC and potential contractors for the work. Very recently Willowbank Services have been appointed as contractors for the work. We have identified two areas where we believe work would be beneficial – repairs to some of the work undertaken in 2011 (unfortunately) and also a short distance upstream from the second bridge where the bank has become badly scoured and is eating into the path. Quotations for the work are currently being received and hopefully a contractor will be appointed soon with the work to be undertaken as soon as weather and ground conditions permit.

Whilst the contractors are on site we hope to have a working party of volunteers undertaking repair work that is more within our range – and there is plenty to do. This has been welcomed by the EA and CEC, with the latter now looking to see if they can help supplement our manpower. This would be good. Once we know when the contractors will be working, members will be advised of the arrangements for a working party and we hope as many of you as possible will come along. This could be your opportunity to mess about in the river all day!

Do watch the web-site www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk for details of the working party day.

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM of 16th October 2012 John Booth was elected as a new member of the Committee. The Committee now consists of:

Colin Shepherd (Chairman)
Ann Brown (Secretary)
Ian Baillie (Treasurer)
Graham Beech
John Booth
Barbara Cook (Publicity Officer)
Alison Gallan
Emma Houghton
Paul Jabore
Ruth Lees
Chris Tonge

Contact Names

Chairman: Colin Shepherd 01625 520109
(colinshepherd@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk)
Secretary: Ann Brown 01625 529192

Website: www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk