

FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2015

Chairman's Message

The stated aim of the Friends of The Carrs is "to make The Carrs a clean, safe, friendly place for recreation and pleasure for all age groups", and the summer is the time when all our efforts to achieve this are put to the test.

I am happy to report that this year The Carrs has been the scene of a huge amount of fun and activity. The big events are mentioned later in this newsletter, but there have also been a host of small events - a duck race arranged by a local primary school, a ladies' social group picnic, a birthday party, a bat walk on a perfect summer evening, and several fitness groups meet regularly to enjoy the pain and pleasure of exercise in lovely surroundings.

And The Carrs' reputation is spreading: we have been included in Cheshire East Council's new leaflet "More Walks in Cheshire East"; and The Carrs has been used three times in the last year for filming by television crews, with another filming session planned for October.

Behind the scenes the committee and their supporters have put in tremendous efforts to maintain and improve the environment and the facilities offered by the park, with litter picks, balsam bashes and general working parties providing plenty of exercise and fresh air. The river seems to have behaved itself a little better this summer ... or is it that our efforts at control and repair are paying off? The willow we planted last year to reinforce the river banks has flourished, so that we are now having to arrange to have it pruned so we can show off the river again. We have made inroads into the Himalayan balsam, but there are still areas of heavy infestation, particularly noticeable at this time of year. After the disappointment of the damage inflicted on our small orchard early in the year we were delighted to see the original and the new trees blossom and produce fruit. The area left when the old tennis court was moved to its present site is grassing up nicely, and the wet areas gave us a brilliant display of wild flowers and bulrushes.

We now have the finished, very professional version of The Carrs Management Plan prepared for us by students of Manchester University. Our winter "homework" will be to read the document carefully and plan what we are going to do next year. I hope we will be able to persuade more volunteers to join us for regular working parties. This year the numbers for our Balsam bashes were rather low and we need all the help we can get. After all, the more we put in, the more we get out of the park.

Ian Baillie, Chairman

Open Meeting – Come and Have your Say!

An Open Meeting is to be held at 3pm on 18th October 2015 in the Parish Hall. All are welcome and it's your chance to have your say on how you'd like The Carrs to develop. The 2015 AGM and refreshments will follow. We do hope you will come and join us.

Dates for your diary 2016

Dates for events in 2016 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.

Fitness for All



April saw the start of the weekly Park Run in The Carrs. Covering a distance of 5K, with every participant provided with a personal record of each run, the scenic route has attracted between 100 and 140 runners and joggers, locals and visitors, of all ages, every Saturday morning at 9.00 a.m. Similar Park Runs take place all over the country and abroad. We have had participants from Australia, South Africa and Spain. It has been such a success that a Junior Park Run has been introduced on Sunday mornings over a shorter distance. With other fitness classes taking place throughout the week and regular visits from walking groups, we like to think we're doing our bit to improve the nation's health and helping people to get into good habits and a healthy lifestyle.

2015 Events

Party in the Park, 20th – 21st June



Crowd for Mamma Mia

Wilmslow's fourth annual Party in the Park, organised by Wilmslow Town Council took place in June on The Carrs. Twenty years after the Rex cinema closed the big screen returned to Wilmslow with "Cinema in the Park" on the Friday evening with a showing of Mamma Mia. The day dawned cloudy and damp – not a good omen for the evening. However by the evening the weather had cleared and over a thousand people turned out to enjoy the show.

The following day brought more crowds to sample the food stalls and enjoy live music and performances throughout the day.

The Friends of The Carrs were also there manning a stall to publicise our activities and recruit new members.



The Adlington Morris Men perform

Other Events

Friends of The Carrs organised a Working Party in the Spring and two Balsam Bashes later in the year to keep The Carrs in top condition. There was tidying and litter picking to spruce up ready for the summer, more work on the river bank to prevent erosion, pruning and willow weaving and fallen trees to remove.

The dog show was back bigger and better than ever this year on 17th May. There were over 100 entries in the various classes. Dog owners are major users of The Carrs and no fewer than 100 of

them joined in a fun day organised jointly by John Booth from The Friends and Simon Hiley from the National Trust. There were various classes including, Best Trick, Waggiest Tail and Best Rescue Dog. The refreshment stall manned by The Friends proved extremely popular!



Luke, winner of Waggiest Tail category with proud owners Carolyn and Jack Bowler

Our thanks to The Vet's Place and Barkers who supplied the rosettes and goodie bags for the winners. and last but not least all volunteers and participants.

For further information about all these events and many more pictures please see our web-site www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk.

North West in Bloom Competition

The Carrs was visited by RHS judges for the North West in Bloom competition. We don't yet know the outcome, but we've just been told that they were so impressed with The Carrs that we're going to receive a separate award in their "It's Your Neighbourhood" scheme.

More than 1,600 groups throughout the UK participate in Britain in Bloom each year focusing on community action to transform spaces.

The It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) campaign specifically supports community groups like Friends of The Carrs in cleaning up and greening up their immediate local environment - whether that's the street they live in, or communal land like The Carrs.

E-mail Addresses

This newsletter can be supplied by e-mail. If you receive this newsletter by post, but have an e-mail address please let us know your e-mail address by contacting ian.baillie@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk.

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