

# FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2012

## Chairman's Message

This past winter has been unusually mild; it has also been very wet which inevitably means the water level in the River Bollin has been up and down like a yo-yo. I am pleased to say however that the river bank renovation work undertaken by the Environment Agency almost a year ago has stood up to the onslaught very well with only a small amount of damage. It is hoped we can repair this damage later in the spring. This year we are going to experiment with turning one of our committee meetings into a members working party. That will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April when the estate manager at the National Trust owned Quarry Bank Mill has offered to help us by making some of his team available. Details have still to be resolved but it looks likely that we will start sometime during the afternoon and work on into the evening until it gets too dark for us to see what we are doing! At the moment the intention is to carry out some work on the river banks by way of willow planting and weaving and also to make an early start on removing the Himalayan Balsam. I know a daytime start mid-week will not suit some of you but there is still the evening. If you can join us on 25<sup>th</sup> April you will be very welcome and we shall be pleased to see you. The more that attend the more we can achieve. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

You will also notice from the details elsewhere in this newsletter that we will again be having two Balsam Bash days this year with the first on 20<sup>th</sup> May - meet in the parish hall car park at 2pm. Experience has taught us that the earlier we can tackle the Balsam each year the better we can control the weed and bring it under control. After a very successful Balsam Bashing time this last summer when we progressed into areas of The Carrs not touched before we are hoping we can do the same again this year. At the moment we are looking at working in the Twinnies Bridge area (which will help the National Trust control the Balsam on their land in Styal Woods) for our second date with Twinnies Bridge car park as the meeting point for the 24<sup>th</sup> June again at 2pm. I hope we will see you at one or other of the sessions, or better still at both!

Colin Shepherd, Chairman

## Events 2011

To celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> show the Alderley Edge and Wilmslow Horticultural Society teamed up with the local rangers and Friends of The Carrs to plant a copper beech tree in The Carrs on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## Wild Flowers

The Committee plan to plant more wild flowers this year to add to the variety of flora on The Carrs. We had mixed success with the selection planted last autumn. The primroses and cowslips succeeded very well and will be added to this year as well as a selection of marsh-loving plants such as marsh marigold, water avens and devils bit scabious.

Purple Loosestrife also succeeded well. This is a tall, handsome plant which produced vivid purple splashes across The Carrs and attracted bees like a magnet.

However the ox-eye daisies and the wood anemones appear to have vanished without trace.



Purple Loosestrife in full bloom on The Carrs

## Dates for your Diary 2012

As in previous years there will be another Clean-up Day to spruce The Carrs up ready for summer and again two Balsam Bashes to consolidate our efforts in previous years. We couldn't miss out the hugely popular Bat Walk. Keep your fingers crossed for a dry, warm evening to encourage the bats to venture forth! The year's events finish with the AGM and a nature walk led by one of Cheshire East's rangers.

River Clean up and litter pick	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2012
Balsam Bash 1	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
Balsam Bash 2	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
Bat Walk	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
AGM and Nature Walk	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2012

Watch the web-site ([www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://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.

## Benches



Two new benches have been provided for The Carrs following fund raising by the Wilmslow Ladies Circle. The seats were accepted by Colin Shepherd and Ann Brown. Our grateful thanks to The Ladies Circle.

## What a difference a year makes!



1 Boxing Day 2010



2 Boxing Day 2011



Thanks to Ian Baillie for capturing these views of The Carrs exactly one year apart. See our web-site for larger images.

## Riverbank Erosion

Work on the prevention of further erosion of the river banks continues. The work on the area near the new bridge seems to have improved the flow of the river under the bridge and will hopefully prevent damage to the bridge supports. The balsam which was attempting to infiltrate the boulders has been removed. The river bank reinforcement project started early last year has been the subject of numerous articles in the press, some illustrated with photos of The Carrs. The Christmas trees, laid along the river banks are a vital part of the project. These have now weathered nicely and vegetation has grown up around them. They have also accumulated plenty of flotsam as planned to build up the banks.



May 2011



January 2012

We are hoping to build on the success of the operation by contacting local suppliers of Christmas trees to help them dispose of unsold stock to add to the river bank protection.

Do watch the web-site [www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk) for details of the working party day on the 25<sup>th</sup> April. The details of this are still in the planning stage, but will be announced on the web-site.

## Annual General Meeting

At the AGM of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Ruth Lees 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  
Barbara Cook (Publicity Officer)  
Alison Gallan  
Emma Houghton  
Paul Jabore  
Ruth Lees  
Chris Tonge

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