

# FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2014

## Chairman's Message

Last year's spring newsletter began "Well it has certainly been a wet winter..." We seem to have gone several steps higher on the wetness scale this year, but happily the very wet ground has proved its ability to drain and dry out remarkably quickly and the Carrs remained a popular place to walk all through the winter. The swollen river has caused some damage to the soft banks and this will need attention, but the work carried out by the contractors last summer has proved effective and the reinforced banks have been further strengthened by the silt and other materials which have collected along these stretches. We were fortunate in suffering little damage in the gales which wrought havoc in the region, with just a couple of trees blown down in places where they caused little harm. In keeping with our policy of making the Carrs as natural an area as possible, these trees will be left as they are.

The big event of the winter has of course been the construction of the multi-use path between the first and last bridges. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Emma Houghton of the Bollin Valley Partnership and Graham Beech, both on the FOTC Committee, we finally obtained a generous grant of £125,000 from Natural England through their Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme to provide access to nature for all. The informal riverside path had deteriorated badly, with some sections which were permanently waterlogged and others causing problems with tree roots and drainage channels. The path is now accessible to everyone - walkers, pram-pushers, wheelchair users and cyclists to name but a few. We hope that all users will show tolerance and consideration towards each other and make this a path worthy of the grant we received. To add to our delight as part of their local improvement plan Cheshire East Council has agreed to upgrade the rest of the path through the Carrs which was not covered by the grant and work will begin as soon as the main project is completed.

When all the work is done, Friends of the Carrs will be keen to add the finishing touches, with re-seeding, wild flower planting and the installation of some long-promised seating along the lime tree avenue. We have enjoyed seeing the first sign of spring with the snowdrops, and there are signs that we will have a bumper display of daffodils this year. Then it will be back to business as usual, with our balsam bashes, litter picks and work on the river banks. We hope as many people as possible will join us - it's hard work but it's rewarding and the company's great!

Ian Baillie, Chairman

## The Multi-Use Path



January 2014



February 2014



March 2014

Work on the multi-use path began promptly in mid-January and in spite of some atrocious weather at the start the contractors, Harry Fairclough Construction, kept well within schedule and at the time of writing the final stages in the application of the top surface and the tidying up of the site are in progress. We have been impressed by the contractors' enthusiasm, helpfulness and readiness to meet our requirements within a very tight budget. There are some great pictures on the web-site of the work in progress – do take a look at [www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk).

Even better news came recently: The tarmac path from the first bridge up to the basketball area is to be widened to the width of the new path, and the path from the Parish Hall to the first bridge is to be repaired with the same materials as those used originally.

This additional work has been arranged by Cheshire East Council funded by a Natural England grant through their Paths for Communities scheme.

Bikes, dogs and prams have already been spotted using the path so it truly meets the criteria for multi-use! So next winter we may all be able to walk the full length of The Carrs without resorting to wellingtons.

## Dates for your Diary 2014

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 another event this year for the many dog walkers that use The Carrs. The year's events finish with the AGM.

Working Party and litter pick	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2014
Canine Capers on The Carrs	18 <sup>th</sup> May 2014
Balsam Bash 1	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2014
Balsam Bash 2	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2014
Bat Walk	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2014
AGM	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2014

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.

## Canine Capers on The Carrs

The first "Canine Capers" held last year was a great success and attracted many dog owners and their dogs to The Carrs to join in the fun. This year the day has moved from September to May, but as last year there will be plenty of stalls promoting items of interest to dog owners. The various competitions which were a highlight of last year's show, attracting over 80 entries, will also feature and owners will be able to enter their dogs on the day. Please watch the web-site and the notice boards for details of how to enter your dog and for further information.

## Other Events on The Carrs

Wilmslow Town Council is planning another Party in the Park on The Carrs this year on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the same day as our Balsam Bash.



Daffodils planted by the Friends of the Carrs

## Committee News

We are sorry to say goodbye to two members of the committee who have resigned to devote their energies elsewhere: Graham Beech a founder member of the Friends, former Treasurer and hero of the multi-use path project; and Alison Gallan, who has put in sterling work over the years, taking a keen interest in the Friends' projects and concerns, and turning out in all weathers to lend a hand with litter picks, balsam bashing and tree planting. Colin Shepherd has now stepped down as Chairman, but thankfully continues to make his invaluable contribution as a committee member. He is succeeded by Ian Baillie, who in his turn passes on the job of Treasurer to John Booth. We are pleased to welcome onto the committee Emma Varga, a Carrs neighbour and a close follower of all that goes on there, good and bad.

The Committee now consists of:

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

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