

# FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2015

## Chairman's Message

A quite erratic pattern of weather over the winter has presented us with an ever-changing set of challenges to keep the Carrs at its best. The multi-use path celebrates its first birthday at the end of February and has already proved its worth through the wet weather, enabling walkers, cyclists, pram pushers and even horse riders to travel the length of the park with ease. Water has built up at various points, possibly due to the changes in drainage caused by the construction of the path, and slight flooding became a major problem for a short time when the water froze. We are in contact with the contractors and hope to resolve the problem soon.



The frozen path

On a festive note, the Carrs was the scene of a pre-Christmas "Santa Dash" which everyone enjoyed, although some of the younger onlookers were left a little confused by the large number of Santas of all ages and sizes racing up and down, and we were pleased to participate in St Bartholomew's Christmas Tree festival with our own tree decorated appropriately with birds, fishes and dogs, and plenty of greenery.

We have had two disappointing occurrences recently: a large amount of graffiti on the bridge and the old toilet block at Twinnies Bridge, and vandalism which destroyed all but five of our young fruit trees in our mini-orchard. Happily, Cheshire East Council sent in a specialist who removed the graffiti quickly and extremely effectively, and we are immensely grateful to Transition Wilmslow's Food Group for their wonderfully swift response in sourcing, funding and, with the help of Incredible Edible, planting replacement fruit trees.

The Carrs has attracted educational activities on a variety of occasions in the past, and we are delighted to welcome a group of final year students

from Manchester University who will be working on the preparation of a management plan for the Carrs through the early spring. They will formally present the plan at the end of April, and we look forward to picking up some good ideas on how we can manage the park more effectively and enhance and increase the wonderful qualities of the area.

We do not receive any regular income and we are always on the look-out for sources of funding for our activities, so our thanks go to Mr Phil Gaskell and to the William Dean Trust for their generous donations which have enabled us to make further inroads into the invasive Himalayan balsam and Japanese Knotweed and to continue our repairs to the erosion of the river banks. Our thanks also to the Woodland Trust for their award of a tree pack which will help us with our programme of tree planting in areas which need screening and which will create wild-life corridors in the park. In February we were delighted to have been selected as one of Waitrose Wilmslow's charitable causes. Thank you to all our readers who picked up the tokens and popped them into our box!

Ian Baillie, Chairman

## The Santa Dash



Christmas came early to The Carrs with a Santa Dash on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Santas of all shapes and sizes including at least one four legged Santa ran, walked or jogged a 3.5Km course around The Carrs. 120 people completed the course and all were provided with Santa suits for the occasion. Speeds varied, but all were equally enthusiastic and a great time was had by all. The event was organized by Wilmslow Business Group and marshalled very

effectively by Wilmslow Running Group. Finally a weary, but happy throng of competitors headed off to Bank Square to welcome the real Santa and his reindeer to Wilmslow and to see the switch on of the Christmas lights.



**3 Santas ready for action**

## Dates for your Diary 2015

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	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 2pm
Canine Capers on The Carrs	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2015 12pm
Balsam Bash 1	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2015 2pm
Balsam Bash 2	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2015 2pm
Bat Walk	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2015 9pm
AGM	18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2015 3pm

## Other Events

A group of students from Manchester University have been working on a Management Plan for The Carrs with Cheshire East Council. There will be a public presentation of this work at 10am on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at the United Reform Church Halls in Chapel Lane. A working party for members only is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> March at 10am on The Carrs. This is to do essential maintenance tasks such as willow pruning, fence moving and sapling thinning.

## Web-site

Our web-site ([www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk)) has news of all the latest happenings on The Carrs with lots of photos of events and information on how you can join in. 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.

## Canine Capers on The Carrs

"Canine Capers" is now a regular feature in our calendar. It attracts many dog owners and their dogs to The Carrs to join in the fun. It will again be in May this year and as in previous years there will be plenty of stalls promoting items of interest to dog

owners. The various competitions which have been a highlight of previous shows, 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.

## Christmas Tree Festival

The Friends of The Carrs was among the organisations who decorated a Tree for St Bartholomew's Church Christmas Tree Festival. The church looked stunning filled with trees decorated to represent the interests of the various organisations. 800 people visited the church over the 3 day festival to see the trees and for 3 concerts culminating in a standing room only carol concert.



**The Christmas Tree Festival**

## 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 pleased that Simon Hiley, Lead Ranger for the National Trust at Styal, who has attended Committee meetings as an observer for some time, is now a full member. We are also pleased to welcome Christopher Dodson as representative of Wilmslow Town Council.

The Committee now consists of:

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

## Contact Names

Chairman: Ian Baillie 01625 528272  
([ian.baillie@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](mailto:ian.baillie@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk))  
Secretary: Ann Brown 01625 529192

Website: [www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk)

