

# FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Spring 2018

## Chairman's Message

Like everywhere else in the area, The Carrs has had a hard winter - it's been long, it's been wet and it's been cold. So it is a relief to notice that the first signs of Spring are finally appearing in the park. We have had a great display of snowdrops which we hope to build on by digging up, splitting and replanting clumps around the park. The daffodils are reaching their best, and for those with sharp eyes primroses, fritillarias and wood anemones are appearing.



## Snowdrops on The Carrs

As is often the case in The Carrs, we have had challenges with an excess of water brought on by the heavy rain. We had to rescue the picnic area by Twinnies Bridge by clearing a blocked drain and we have tackled with some success the swamp that had formed at the back of the picnic area by the first bridge, making all the picnic benches useable again and making the litter bin accessible.

Our splendid trees, most of which were planted by Henry Boddington's landscape gardeners, are all beginning to show their age and a number fell or were blown down this winter. One huge beech came crashing down dramatically close to the Parish Hall, but the council were quick to clear up and members of the public were happy to relieve them of the burden of disposing of logs and chippings. Another great beech at Twinnies Bridge was felled as apparently its roots were diseased. Elsewhere, trees have been left where they fell to provide shelter and food for wildlife.

A highlight of the new year was the completion of the Tesco funded picnic and education site at Twinnies Bridge car park with new lines painted, disabled spaces marked out and level access to the benches. We hope many visitors will make use of this new facility.

Business at the kiosk in the Parish Hall car park which opened last Autumn has kept up surprisingly well through the Winter and, with its chairs and tables, benches and a new Wilmslow Town Council notice board, the kiosk is becoming a focal point in the park.

I would like to express here our sincere thanks to Emma Houghton, Bollin Valley Partnership Officer, and Sal Potts, BEACON Project officer, for their advice, help, expertise and fund-raising skills and for giving up so much of their time to help us make so much of what we do possible.

And of course our thanks to volunteers who turn out for our events, the next of which will be our working party on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there.

Ian Baillie, Chairman

## Dates for your Diary 2018

There are the usual attacks on balsam and working parties to spruce up The Carrs and keep it looking tidy. The Working Parties tackle tasks like removing litter, cutting back the willow along the river banks, keeping the river clear of debris and planting saplings and wild flowers. Extra hands are always needed so why not consider joining us and help look after your park?

Working Party	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 10.30am
Canine Capers	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2018 12pm
Cinema in the Park	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
Balsam Bash 1	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 2pm
Balsam Bash 2	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2018 2pm
Working Party	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018 10.30am
Bat Walk	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2018 9pm
AGM	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018 2pm

## Events 2018

Preparations are already well underway for Canine Capers at the end of May. This is always a very popular event and is a great way for everyone who walks their dog on The Carrs to get together. Dog owners can enter their dogs in fun categories like Waggiest Tail and Golden Oldie or Prettiest Bitch. Or test your dog's agility in the agility ring. There will be cakes and possibly hot sausage rolls!

Despite very poor weather forcing a change in the date of last year's event, Wilmslow Town Council have bowed to keen demand for continuation of

Cinema in The Park. It has now been announced that Cinema on the Carrs will take place on Saturday 9 June 2018 and plans include a matinee film for families and children, afternoon entertainment for children, an afternoon duck race on the Bollin and then the main feature film in the evening.

The result of the internet ballot to select the films is not yet known. Why not come down and enjoy a day on The Carrs with a picnic and great entertainment? Keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

We couldn't miss out the popular Bat Walk. This takes place at dusk in mid-summer and we hope for a warm, dry evening to encourage the bats to emerge. The year's events finish with the AGM.

## Christmas Tree Festival

The Friends of The Carrs took part again in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Bartholomew's Church from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. There were around 65 beautifully decorated trees on display and musical entertainment in the evening on Friday and Saturday and of course a carol service on the Sunday. Our tree aimed to symbolize The Carrs with bird and butterfly decorations and blue tinsel representing the River Bollin.



**Our tree decorations**

## New Picnic Area

The Committee of Friends of The Carrs are very pleased to see the plan for a new picnic area at Twinnies Bridge come to fruition. This was funded by the Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme. The scheme included disabled access to the new picnic benches from the car park and general tidying up, planting and landscaping of the area together with new information boards. The final result is a great addition to the facilities of the park.

Our thanks go to Emma Houghton, John Booth and Ian Baillie for all their work in putting together such a good bid for the grant and for supervising the work.

Thanks also of course to Tesco for the grant and to all the shoppers who supported our bid.



**The new picnic area seen from the car park. Note the newly painted lines!**

## Nature Notes

The trees are just coming into leaf, the chiffchaffs have arrived from their long migration and their song is ringing round The Carrs. With Spring (finally) in the air, we are planning to introduce more wild flowers in the park. We selected suitable sites last Autumn and started preparations by strimming the area and removing the cut grass. This reduces the strength of the grass making it more receptive to the growth of wild flowers. We have sourced seeds, plug plants and wildflower turf and we will soon be ready to go.

The river is healthy with a good stock of fish and supports good bird life. The young heron raised here on the Bollin two years ago seems to enjoy being the centre of attention and must feature as the focal point of many photos of The Carrs.

Two kingfishers have been spotted recently so we have hopes of a nest. Dippers have regularly been seen fishing in the river and the group of six goosanders seem to be permanent residents.

Currently in April several pairs of mallards also seem to be looking for suitable nesting sites on the riverbank so we may see ducklings this year. If you spot something of interest just log it on the FOTC website.

## Website

Our website ([www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk)) gives news of all the latest happenings on The Carrs and information on how you can join in. For the technophobic watch the notice boards on The Carrs. We do hope you will come and join us.

## Contact Names

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