

# FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2014

## Chairman's Message

It's been a busy summer in the Carrs. For the Friends, we have had the usual ongoing tasks : river bank erosion continues to be a problem and we have various projects lined up to tackle this, including strengthening the banks and channelling the flow of water, whilst the willow saplings we planted to reinforce the river bank have taken so well that they have themselves now started to need attention : our battles continue with the invasive species, in particular the Himalayan balsam which has flourished in the mild weather and they have included several Balsam Bash days, and we have brought in professionals to deal with the as yet limited appearance of Japanese knotweed. It's not all bad news though, as the good summer weather did also produce masses of wonderful wild flowers in our wetland areas.

There has been follow-up work on the new multi-user path, with re-seeding and tackling drainage problems. An experimental wildflower patch which was sown this spring produced a glorious display, particularly of golden corn daisies, and we plan to extend the wild flower planting next year. Our mini-orchard has had mixed fortunes : we lost two trees to strimmer damage, but the rest produced plenty of blossom and some fruit.

It has been good to see how our new multi-user path has helped the Carrs, which is one of Wilmslow's most attractive assets, to make an increased contribution to community life. The number of small bikes and pushchairs has grown enormously, and families of all ages have been able to stroll along the path in even the wettest of weather.

In keeping with our aim to enhance the Carrs as a community asset we have seen an increasing number of events and organised activities, from the large scale, such as the now well-established annual Party in the Park, this year bigger than ever and blessed with brilliant sunshine, and Canine Capers, the fun dog show which we brought forward to the spring, to the small, such as children's birthday picnics and duck races, and to the professional, with tennis coaching and fitness classes, with more activities in the pipeline. The Carrs continues to be a popular location for filming, the latest occasion being a recording for CBBC.

We are always keen to involve more volunteers, and there's always plenty of work to do, so if you would like to be involved, please get in touch. Details are given at the end of this newsletter

Ian Baillie, Chairman

## Dates for your diary 2015

The final event of 2014 was the AGM. This was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in the Parish Hall preceded by a Litter Pick .

Dates for events in 2015 have not yet been selected. Please watch the web-site [www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk) or the notice boards on The Carrs for details. The list will also be in the Spring newsletter.

We do hope you will come and join us.

## Multi-User Path



**Graham Beech, David Topping and Emma Houghton in the Opening Ceremony**

After many years of work particularly by Graham Beech and Emma Houghton the Multi-user path was completed. A small ceremony to celebrate the success was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> when David Topping, Cheshire East's Cabinet Member for the Environment cut a ribbon to formally declare the path open. The main path runs alongside the River Bollin from the bridge near the Parish Hall to Twinnies car park, where it meets the recently upgraded Kings Road to Lacey Green link. Additional resurfacing and widening work has been completed by Cheshire East Council on the sections of path that link to Hawthorn Lane and to Cliff Road, providing flexible access to and from the town centre. The sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, hopes to designate the upgraded paths as part of the National Cycle Network, linking to the nearby Airport Orbital Cycleway.

## 2014 Events

### Litter Pick, Balsam Bashes, Bat Walk, Canine Capers, Party in the Park



#### Party in the Park

Wilmslow's annual Party in the Park, organised by Cheshire East council took place on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in The Carrs. The weather was perfect and many hundreds of Wilmslow people came to enjoy the sunshine, picnic on the grass and enjoy the music. The Friends of The Carrs were also there manning a stall to publicise our activities and recruit new members.



#### Friends of The Carrs Stall

At the same time we held our first Balsam Bash of the year. This gave us an opportunity to explain our aim to clear The Carrs of this invasive weed to the many visitors. We are gradually, year by year working our way down the river towards Twinnies Bridge. The area between St Bartholomew's and the first bridge is now almost clear of the weed so our efforts are being rewarded. However there is still more work to do and Balsam Bashes are likely to be needed for several more years to come.

The very popular dog show took place again this year on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Dog users are major users of The Carrs and around 60 of them joined in a fun day organised jointly by The Friends and the National Trust. There were various classes including, Best Trick, Waggiest Tail and Best Rescue Dog. Refreshments including some superb home made cakes were available – lemon drizzle proving extremely popular!



#### Starry, winner of Best Rescue Dog and owner Josie Chappell

Our thanks to all supporting organisations including The National Trust, Beacon, The Vet's Place, Barkers dog supplies, The Ladies of Styal Methodist Church, Wilmslow Animal Sanctuary, 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](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk).

## New Playground



#### Entrance to the refurbished playground

We had a pleasant surprise when Cheshire East found some money to refurbish the children's playground just in time for the school holidays. The work was completed ahead of schedule and the new facility re-opened on July 23<sup>rd</sup> just in time for the main school holidays. The new equipment and picnic facilities have been extremely popular, and the planters donated by Primrose Cottage Nurseries and Incredible Edible have made a very attractive entrance to the area.

## E-mail Addresses

This newsletter can be supplied by e-mail. Please let us know your e-mail address by contacting [ian.baillie@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](mailto:ian.baillie@friendsofthecarrs.org.uk).

## Contact Names

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