

# FRIENDS OF THE CARRS NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2009

## Chairman's Message

Because of holidays and other commitments I am writing this some time in advance of the newsletter being published and so I expect, and hope, that some of what I have to say will already be out of date by the time you come to read this.

Since the last newsletter it has been a mixture of good and bad in so far as The Carrs has been concerned. On the negative side we continue to suffer from irresponsible dog owners not clearing up after their pets and it therefore was good to see a group of dog walkers decide to take the initiative and try to do something about this problem. Sadly their efforts got off to a bit of a false start, but I am hopeful that the coming months will see more useful action. As a group The Friends will be working with them to address the problems caused by just a small number of the many dog owners that use The Carrs. At the same time anti social behaviour by youths has been prevalent climaxing with the burning out of the diggers being used by the contractors replacing the white metal bridge and, in a separate incident, the assault of a policeman. The police, through the Community Support Officers, have been regularly attending our committee meetings and we have a good relationship with them. We are pleased that following the recent incidents there will be a much higher police profile on The Carrs and a less tolerant attitude to bad behaviour.

On the positive side of the coin there is much to report and some of these items will be covered in greater detail elsewhere in this newsletter. The litter pick produced the smallest amount of litter that we can remember - are we winning? - and a mini litter pick in early May carried out by your committee members only produced a small amount. The work on the metal bridge has begun and hopefully will be completed by the time you read this and is a very visible sign of the improvements being made. With the bridge completed we expect the path from the Parish Hall to be made good and the litter and dog bins replaced. The new Picnic area by the bridge has been brought into use and has proved very popular. Other amenity improvements are also under consideration.

Finally a plug for our AGM. Please try to come as it is the only real chance the committee gets to meet members and to hear what members think about what we are doing and, more importantly, what we should be doing. I hope I shall see you there.

Colin Shepherd, Chairman

## Dates for your diary 2010

The final event of 2009 will be a Nature Walk led by one of the Rangers from East Cheshire Council followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Nature Walk and AGM 2pm 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009

2010 will be a special year as it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wilmslow Parish Council taking the responsibility for running The Carrs as a public park and an event will be held to celebrate this. The events planned for 2010 are:

Litter pick and "Fun Day"	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2010
Balsam Bash	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Celebration Day	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2010
AGM	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2010

We do hope you will come and join us.

## Spring on The Carrs



**Daffodils on The Carrs**

Spring on The Carrs was brightened this year by the blooming of the daffodil bulbs planted by the Committee and pupils of Gorsey Bank School in previous years. Thanks to all those who took part.

## Renewal of Bridges

The "White Bridge" nearest the Parish Hall has now been replaced and become "The Green Bridge". The work required the river crossing to be closed for several weeks during the early summer, but had become essential due to the erosion of the supports. Unfortunately vandalism by youths prolonged the work and considerable extra cost was incurred by the burning out of one of the diggers used by the contractors. We are very grateful to East Cheshire Council and the contractors for the completion of the work in a reasonable timescale despite these difficulties.

Planning for the replacement of the second bridge is already underway.

## 2009 Events

### Litter Pick 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Despite poor weather for our first event in March, a litter pick, there was a great turnout and The Carrs was cleared of litter in record time. 18 young members of the RSPB then planted willow twigs in an area of riverbank close to Twinnies Bridge. Willow trees can cope with the varying water levels experienced on river banks and their extensive root systems can be used to stabilize the banks and prevent erosion. Sadly results look disappointing at present with few of the willow twigs showing signs of growth. Final evaluation of the experiment will be next Spring and we will decide whether it is worth trying again in a different area.

### Balsam Bash 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009



**Lost in a forest of balsam! NB All of this patch was removed during the bash**

This was the scene that greeted people at the beginning of the Balsam Bash this year. Despite sterling efforts at previous events balsam is still present in great areas of The Carrs and the Committee notes with concern that there is considerable growth in areas adjoining The Carrs. However there are glimmers of hope. The infestation in areas that have been tackled in previous years has been reduced. A new strategy was tried this year with a large area on the North bank of the river being scythed rather than pulled out. We know that the best approach is to remove plants by the roots in order to prevent both seeding and regrowth and that if the plants are not cut low enough then both regrowth and seeding can occur. However it was thought worth trying this approach because of the scale of the problem on

The Carrs. The Committee will be evaluating the results of this approach with great interest.

## Picnic Tables

Four new picnic tables and benches have been provided in an area close to the river near the Chancel Road entrance and have already proved very popular. They are made of recycled tyres so are environmentally friendly. They were selected by the Committee after evaluation of similar tables at other locations showed that they retained their attractive appearance even after several years of use. In due course barbecue stands may also appear.

The Committee are also discussing with East Cheshire Council the possibility of installing a natural play area with features such as log walks adjacent to this picnic area.

## Calling all birdwatchers

One of the aims of the Committee is to make the area more attractive to birdlife.

The first step is to record the various species of birds seen on The Carrs. The Committee have recorded 36 different species so far, but there are probably several more. Watch the website ([www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthecarrs.org.uk)) for further details of this initiative and how to record any species you have seen on The Carrs.

## Bears Over The Bollin

Come and support the Wilmslow Council of Churches harvest event on 12<sup>th</sup> September between 2pm and 4pm. The churches are raising funds for a project in Nepal and on 12<sup>th</sup> September will be constructing a "bridge" to transport bears over the river on The Carrs. It should be interesting!

Please give them your support.

## Committee Members

Colin Shepherd (Chairman)  
Ann Brown (Secretary)  
Graham Beech (Treasurer)  
Julie Armstrong  
Tom Brown  
Richard Doran  
Alison Gallen  
Paul Jabore  
Oliver Romain  
Chris Tonge

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