

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lottery Win  
The Kiosk  
FoSJP Annual General Meeting  
Park Development  
Event Reports  
Easter SpEGGtacular!  
Membership  
Don't Panic!  
Diary Dates

## The Kiosk

*Open for business again!*

When we closed the Kiosk in the autumn, we hadn't expected to re-open until we had a café set up in the new building. However, owing to the unforeseen delays, we've decided to re-open again during the Easter holidays and for as long as we can after that - until building work begins in the Park!



All this is dependent on our wonderful team of volunteers: **thank you all!**

Please look on the website and on notice boards for opening dates and times.

## Park Development

After months of negotiations within Southampton City Council, an agreed list of contractors was invited to bid for the work in the Park. Their bids will be received at the end of March and a contract will then be awarded to the successful candidate.

We're expecting (hoping) that work will start in June; however, as this is a major project and there has already been several revised start dates, we wouldn't be surprised if there are more delays, but in the knowledge that it WILL be worth the wait!

With the major improvements due in the Park, the FoSJP committee has been looking at what arrangements would best suit our aims in the future; these have included the possible formation of a company with charitable status.

## LOTTERY WIN!

*£1.5 million for the Park!*

Most of you will have already seen the press reports (newspaper, radio, and TV!) or the banners and posters in the Park, but in case you haven't, we're very proud to announce that on 15th October 2009, our second stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful in releasing a total of **£1.5 million** to make significant improvements to the Park and its facilities.

This money will be used to create an amazing new playground, a café and community room, new tennis courts, a more youth-orientated leisure area, a botanical walkway, and several new entrances into the Park. It's also funding the FoSJP-led Shirley Heritage Project, more details of which are included in its own dedicated newsletter.



## FoSJP AGM

Thursday 6th May, 7.30pm for 7.45pm  
Bellemoor Business Centre (within Upper Shirley High)

The fourth Annual General Meeting of FoSJP will be held at Bellemoor Business Centre. This should be an interesting and informative evening complete with an audiovisual presentation. Please come along and see the latest plans for the Park, meet the committee, and have your say!

We've agreed upon a mission statement which we believe encompasses all that we're trying to achieve:

*The aim of FoSJP is to celebrate and enhance the life of our park and its community through social, environmental, and economic development.*

We're still committed to recruiting volunteers for various roles within the organisation and are particularly seeking people who share our vision and who can offer skills: especially in accountancy, marketing, HR, and law. Can you help?!

If so, or for more information, please e-mail us or call us on **023.8077.6761**. Thank you!



## Event Reports

### Green Nose Day - Saturday 17th October

Over 200 visitors took part in an afternoon of environmentally-themed activities in the Park, conceived, organised, and managed by a group of local 11 year olds supported by FoSJP.



Activities included a Scrap Art challenge, various environmental activities, face painting, orienteering, and story telling.



Gingerbread Men with green noses were available to buy or given away as prizes to all those who came to the Park with a green nose!

Visitors were encouraged to make a pledge to take at least one action to reduce their impact on the environment, and were invited to record their pledge in a short video clip which can be seen on the FoSJP website.

### The Big Lunch - Sunday 19th July

Almost 200 people flocked to the Park to join their neighbours to share food, drink, and fun, as part of FoSJP's participation in this nationwide event.



Everyone brought along a plate or two of food to share, and there was plenty to go around. Lunchers were entertained by a professional duo, courtesy of FoSJP, playing songs both old and new in a jazz style, and the younger Lunchers made their own entertainment with games and musical instruments.

## Easter SpEGGtacular!

*Our next event - fun for all the family!*

**Monday 5th April (Easter Monday), 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Come along to the Park on Easter Monday morning to join in the Easter fun!

- ✓ 3 separate Easter Egg trails within the Park for different age groups
- ✓ Arts & Crafts activities (small charge to cover costs)
- ✓ Coffee and cake stall
- ✓ Easter Bonnet parade at 12.00 noon



*Look out for a surprise appearance by the Easter Bunny!*

## Membership

You should find a membership form included with this newsletter - yes, it's that time of year again! We'd really appreciate your renewed membership - it's your way of showing support for this community project, and our way of showing different organisations how many people care about their local park.

If you can afford it, please consider becoming a life member for £20 (per family) as this saves you the hassle of renewing each year, and Trudie (our Membership Secretary) having to chase up annual memberships. Annual membership still costs just £2 per year; the same price as 2006 as we don't want to exclude anybody from joining.

## Don't Panic!

In the coming weeks, you may see notices in the Daily Echo or on posts around the Park about the "Intended disposal of Open Space Land at St. James' Park, Shirley".



This is not a plot by Southampton City Council to build upon the land, but is a process we have instigated called "asset transfer" which is a necessary part of the plans that FoSJP has for the new café. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact us by e-mail or phone, or talk to a committee member at either the Easter Event or the AGM.

**Note:** Contrary to the implication in a recent flier produced for Alan Whitehead MP, he was not involved in our successful lottery win. The "Playbuilder" money that he secured for Southampton, accounts for just under £50,000 of the match-funding provided by Southampton City Council for the Park.

## Diary Dates

Monday 5th April  
**Easter SpEGGtacular!**  
10.30am - 12.30pm

Thursday 6th May  
**FoSJP AGM**  
Bellemoor Business Centre  
7.30pm for 7.45pm

*Please see our History Newsletter for information on History events, and keep an eye on the website for up-to-date information.*

