



A snowy St. James' Park, 2nd December 2010
(photo by Dev Banerjee)

Volunteers

"every little helps..."

The kiosk finally closed for business in September 2010, after being open for four years. We'd like to thank all those volunteers who have worked in it over this time, providing a much appreciated service to our local community.



We're always happy to welcome new volunteers, and hope that by opening the café next summer, many more opportunities will arise where people can get involved.

Meanwhile, if there is anybody who'd be happy to take minutes at committee meetings (which take place one evening every six weeks or so), then please contact Nicky Caveney on 023.8077.6761. Thank you!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The FoSJP committee would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2011. This will be the year that we see St. James' Park transformed; this time next year the café will be enticing us in with mince pies and steaming mugs of hot chocolate!

Park Development

What's happening in the Park?

All members should be receiving monthly newsletters from our contractors, Graham Moyle (if not, please let us know), keeping you up-to-date with developments in the Park.

Although it may seem that the Park is one giant building site, much of the groundwork has been put in place, and the building is being prepared for its new role as a café and community room.

Please try to see beyond the mud and disruption and look forward to a new park that we can all be proud of!



Parklife!

A new beginning...

Some time ago, we invited FoSJP members to come up with a name for the new café. Thank you for all the wonderful suggestions. After much thought, we've chosen "Parklife", as we feel this encapsulates our aim of the café being the centre of life in the Park.



After much consultation, the committee has also decided that running the café as a business is not appropriate for FoSJP to do as a voluntary community group. We've decided to set up a new Community Interest Company (CIC) called "Parklife". This will be run by a board of unpaid directors who have strong links with FoSJP and all its aims. They'll be responsible for employed staff and volunteers and for ensuring that the café succeeds as a sustainable business.

One role that we urgently need to fill is an unpaid director with specific accountancy and/or tax skills. If you'd like more information about what this would entail, please contact Mike Smith on 07768.348145.

We'll send more information about Parklife in the New Year.

History

Public History Talks - Autumn 2010

Following popular demand, another series of public talks was organised this autumn by Shirley Heritage Project Coordinator Michaela Lawler-Levene.



The topics of the first two talks were "Always a Tram in Sight", the history of trams in Shirley and Southampton presented by Jeffery Pain; and "Tips on Researching the History of Your House", presented by Michaela Lawler-Levene & Madge Heath.

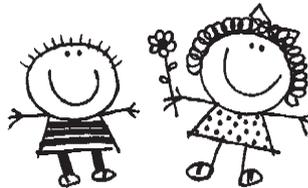
The third and final talk had to be postponed because of the snowy weather in early December, and has been rescheduled to **Sunday 6th March**, in Shirley Parish Hall as usual. The topic and speakers have yet to be finalised: keep an eye on the website for more information when it's available.

Jamie's Playtime

Summer 2010 Season

As in previous years, Jamie's Playtime took place in the Park for 6 weeks this summer.

The sessions, run by Sure Start with help from FoSJP and other local support organisations, were once again very successful, attracting between **60** and **90** families every week. Children enjoyed a range of play activities organised by local arts and play providers.



These events are a great opportunity to meet with other families and enjoy messy play and fun outdoors in St. James' Park. We hope to organise another programme of events for Summer 2011.

Awards

FoSJP wins two awards!

We're proud to announce that we've recently won two awards!

One was an award presented at a "Green Spaces" event organised by Southampton City Council. FoSJP was voted into second place (winning £300) in a peer group poll of organisations across the city that have done, are doing, or will do the most to support their local community.

FoSJP also won £700 for coming first in our region for the South East Community Empowerment Awards. The judges found our project "interesting and inspiring" and we've now been entered into the regional competition with a chance of winning £5,000!

All the money that we've won will be put towards the new community café that will be open next year.



Membership Matters

Keeping in touch

Where possible, we'd like to send future newsletters to members by email, in order to save time, money, and paper.

If we have your email address, it's shown on the sticker below. If this is wrong, or if you'd prefer to continue receiving newsletters by post, then please contact us (details below). Otherwise we'll send future newsletters to you by email.



We don't have your email address.

If you'd be happy to receive newsletters by email, please email us at membership@fosjp.org.uk.

Otherwise we're happy to continue posting your newsletters.

Contact details for FoSJP membership:

phone: **023.8077.9862**

email: **membership@fosjp.org.uk**

post: **FoSJP, c/o 133 Church St, SOUTHAMPTON SO15 5LW**

FoSJP on Facebook

www.facebook.com/fosjp

We now have our own Facebook Page where we can all post up-to-date notices and comments about what's happening in the Park.



At the time of writing, we have just over 60 "friends"; if you'd like to take a look, check out www.facebook.com/fosjp or follow the link from the home page on our website www.fosjp.org.uk.

Diary Dates

Sunday 6th March 2011
Public History Talk #3
*** topic to be confirmed ***
Shirley Parish Hall, 3pm - 5pm

See website for up-to-date information.

