

## Parklife

### *A new start in St. James' Park*

Spring has arrived, and with it an exciting time for St. James' Park. One of the many things to look forward to will be the new café; as promised in our previous newsletter, this issue is primarily given to explaining how the café and community building will be run by Parklife. Below, Mike Smith explains why Parklife was formed, how it will be run, and its current and future activities.



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Visit [www.park-life.org.uk](http://www.park-life.org.uk) for the latest information.

### *What is Parklife?*

Parklife is a community interest company founded by FoSJP, through whom the trading activities of FoSJP will be conducted. These include the running of the café and community room as a social enterprise and the employment of staff.

### *Why do we need Parklife?*

It is important in any company to limit personal liabilities and to meet legal obligations such as submitting annual reports to companies house, registering for corporation tax, adhering to employment law and submitting audited accounts. This is beyond the remit of a friends group and so it was necessary to set up a limited company to deal with these issues

### *Who runs Parklife?*

Parklife is run by a board of directors who work under the instructions of FoSJP. In order to ensure continuity with the vision of FoSJP, the board is made up of two members of the FoSJP committee and two others both of whom are life members of the friends group. Mike Smith, vice chair of FoSJP, is managing director; Barrie Worth, also a FoSJP committee member, brings HR expertise. The other two directors are Darren Crispin, business banking manager, who has taken the role of company secretary, and James Batchelor who brings a wealth of legal and contractual experience.

### *What has Parklife done so far?*

The first thing Parklife did was to form the company as a community interest company (CIC) in accordance with the aims and objectives of a community interest company and to satisfy the regulator.

The CIC model seemed the logical way forward as this operates for the benefit of the defined community, all profits being reinvested into the company and so no share holder dividends to pay. The directors work voluntarily, as do the committee of FoSJP. Directors with specific skills were recruited and the board presently meet fortnightly to work on a business plan and financial projection for the company. A bank account has been opened with the co-operative bank. Recent meetings are centred around ensuring the building is ready to open this summer including finalising the lease, recruiting staff and equipping the kitchen and community room. We have written a job description for the role of cafe manager which we feel is a pivotal position for Parklife and FoSJP and we will be appointing during May: for details please refer to [www.park-life.org.uk](http://www.park-life.org.uk).

### *What is the future for Parklife?*

The immediate objective is to make sure the cafe and community room is ready to open upon completion of the building works; by recruiting staff to work with the board of directors and other volunteers we will ensure this happens. It is important to create sustainability for the company so that it will be able to function long after the funding has run out so we will be carefully monitoring income and developing the business accordingly. We are really excited about the prospect of opening a fabulous new community cafe for the park users and creating a wonderful venue where we can meet, eat; drink, think; learn and earn, and enjoy for many years to come.

by Mike Smith  
(FoSJP Vice Chair & Managing Director of Parklife)

## AGM

Thursday 5th May, 7.30pm

The fifth Annual General Meeting of FoSJP will be held at Bellemoor Business Centre, Upper Shirley High School, on Thursday 5th May: 7:30pm for a 7.45pm start.

Open to all FoSJP members, this should be an interesting and informative evening, with two short presentations: one on Parklife, and another on the Art for the Park project. Cheese and wine will be served and there will be an exhibition of some of the artwork created by our projects.



## Park Development

*The countdown has started!*

We hope you're all as excited as we are about how the new park is looking. It's due to open mid-June with a lot of the finishing touches being added in the last few weeks of work. It will have been a long 12 months for everybody, but we're almost in sight of the finishing line now: there'll be a rush to be the first in the queue for the zipwire and a cup of coffee!



**Advance Notice:** Unfortunately the sloped entrance off Church Street will need to be closed for a week or so some time in May, in order for it to be re-graded and re-surfaced. We'll try to give as much notice as we can, nearer the time.

## Art for the Park

*Artworks for St. James' Park*

Sarah Silverstein from Solent University is working with FoSJP on designs for the large windows in the new Parklife Café.

These will be an interpretation of the WW-II Southampton skyline, reflecting the Park's contribution to the war effort.

FoSJP has commissioned the Media Workshop to work with 8 students from Upper Shirley High School and Ken Conway (88) and Arthur House (91, above). Using local and oral history, artwork will be designed for the new zipwire wall. This inter-generational work has been an overwhelming success, with one 11-year-old student stating:

*"It all kind of turned the way I felt about elderly people around and it all went very well. I am glad I got chosen to help and I think the new St. James' Park is going to be a really nice place."*

There will be an exhibition of this artwork at the FoSJP AGM.



## Visit to St. Mark's School

*Educational Links*

On Thursday 10th March, Tania Emery from FoSJP visited St. Mark's Primary School to talk to Year 6 pupils about the history of the park and the work that FoSJP is doing to improve it. The pupils were very enthusiastic, and will be writing an article about the park for their community newspaper to be published in May and distributed to households near the school.



## Membership Matters

*Keeping in touch*

In the last newsletter, we outlined our plans to start sending newsletters via email where possible. You should have received this newsletter by post or email depending on the preference you selected. If we haven't got it right yet, please let us know.



*History Newsletter*

There are so many exciting developments with the Shirley Heritage Project, that it has its own burgeoning newsletter, with issue 3 due out in April. If you haven't received your copy, please let us know.

Contact details for FoSJP membership:

email: [membership@fosjp.org.uk](mailto:membership@fosjp.org.uk)

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

## Bench Sponsorship

*Remembering a loved one*

A number of local residents have asked us if there is a scheme in the park for "sponsoring" a bench in memory of a loved one. We're pleased to announce that Southampton City Council (SCC) has finalised its new bench scheme which covers all parks in the city.



If you wish to know more, please contact SCC Neighbourhood Services on 023.8083.2713 or pick up a form from Shirley Parish Office (133 Church St) opposite the park: weekdays (except Tuesdays) 10.00am - 12.30pm.

## Diary Dates

Thursday 5th May, 7.30pm  
FoSJP AGM  
Bellemoor Business Centre  
(at Upper Shirley High School)

Sunday 22nd May, 11am - 3pm  
Foyes Corner Festival  
Field behind St. Mark's School  
FoSJP will be running History and Refreshments Stalls at this year's festival: come and see us there!

Visit [www.fosjp.org.uk](http://www.fosjp.org.uk) for the latest information.

