

## St. James' Park Re-opens!

*A new park for a new century*

By now, we hope all members of the Friends of St. James' Park have had an opportunity to try out for themselves the fantastic new facilities found in our park.

St. James' Park reopened on Wednesday 6th July, and although this date was not advertised, within a few hours the park was filled with hundreds of excited children and adults trying out all the new equipment!

On the afternoon of Saturday 16th July, the park was officially re-opened by the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Terry Matthews, at a public celebration entitled "Play in the Park".



*The park is officially re-opened!*

### How to best enjoy the park

A code of usage for the park has been drawn up in consultation with Southampton City Council (see right). Please encourage others to abide by this so that everyone can enjoy the park's facilities.

Through extensive consultations, FoSJP has worked hard with Southampton City Council to ensure there is something in the park to suit everyone, be they dog walkers, toddlers, teenagers, family groups, or the elderly. Based on the vast majority of feedback that we've received, we seem to have been successful: the park has certainly been very well used over the last 3 months!

After more consultation and visitor feedback, it was agreed that there wasn't quite enough for very young children and toddlers, so the high swing and mounds in the Young Play Area have been removed and replaced with a small trampoline, a roundabout, and a play house.

Unfortunately we ran out of funds to install two all-weather table tennis tables in the Games Area by the basketball hoop, but if money can be raised, we plan to add these in the future.

We'd very much like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund and Southampton City Council for their support in this project, both financial and practical: we definitely couldn't have done it without them. And thank you too to all our FoSJP members for your valuable support!

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### Behavioural Issues

There have been a number of issues with youths congregating in the park in the evenings, particularly during the summer holidays and at weekends. FoSJP, ParkLife, local residents, and Southampton City Council have been working closely with the local police to discuss ways of overcoming this. The police have been particularly keen to engage with young people in the park, whilst having zero tolerance towards all offenders.

As a result, we're very happy to report that there's been a marked reduction in anti-social behaviour, and the working group will continue to work hard to keep disruption to a minimum.

If you wish to report a crime or any anti-social behaviour, please call **101** to let the police know about it, or **999** if you believe harm may come to either people or equipment.

### St. James' Park Code of Usage

- ❖ Bikes should not be ridden in the playground or on the Tennis Courts.
- ❖ There is a 30-minute limit on the Tennis Courts when people are waiting to play.
- ❖ Dogs must be kept on a lead on the Café Plaza, by the Café Steps, and on the Botanical Walk.
- ❖ Plants and flowers should not be picked in the park.
- ❖ Dogs are not allowed in the playground.





## ParkLife Café & Community Room

Founded by FoSJP for the Community



The last newsletter explained in full how ParkLife (which runs the café and community room) operates, but here is a brief summary for new members.

ParkLife is a Community Interest Company (CIC), a new type of company introduced in 2005, designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good. CICs have some special features to ensure they are working for the benefit of the community.

ParkLife's surplus profits will be given to FoSJP who will use the money to further its mission:

*"To celebrate and enhance the life of our park and its community through social, environmental, and economic development."*

The ParkLife Café opened for business on Friday 15th July. It's run by Café Manager Lee, who is supported by a number of part-time staff. In the near future we hope to provide opportunities for volunteers to work alongside paid staff, to gain work experience and to help provide a wonderful café experience for park users.

The menu includes delicious breakfasts, and a variety of hot and cold snacks, drinks, and meals, served throughout the day. The café will be open from 9am-5pm every day throughout the winter months, so why not pop along soon?

Behind the café is the ParkLife Community Room, which is available to hire for meetings, birthday parties, lectures, and classes such as "Make Do and Mend". A ceiling mounted projector with a 1.5m screen is available, as is a catering service from the ParkLife Café.

For more information call ParkLife on 023.8077.9763, visit [www.park-life.org.uk](http://www.park-life.org.uk), or pop in to the café for a chat and a tour!

## Autumn Family Fun

Welcoming in the Autumn

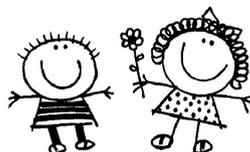
The sun was out in force for FoSJP's Autumn Family Fun event in the park on Saturday 1st October. Visitors were entertained by music and songs played by Ukofonics, whilst families took part in a variety of free craft activities and trails around the park. Homemade cakes and cups of tea were enjoyed whilst listening to Fi, our local children's librarian reading stories.

 Visit [www.fosjp.org.uk](http://www.fosjp.org.uk) to see a full report and photos.

## Jamie's Babies

A weekly baby group at the park?

Sure Start is hoping to bring back the FoSJP initiative "Jamie's Babies" on a regular basis.



This would be a weekly baby group in the ParkLife Community Room, suitable for all parents/carers with babies up to walking age.

Before the group is confirmed, Sure Start wants to hear from local residents that there is a demand for such a group.

If you believe that our community's parents would benefit from a regular meeting place for babies to play and parents to share experiences, then please let us know by emailing us at [jamiesplaytime@fosjp.org.uk](mailto:jamiesplaytime@fosjp.org.uk) or by calling Rebecca Kinge on 023.8052.8123. Thank you.

## Make Do & Mend

Craft and Sewing classes for all abilities

Mondays 1pm- 3pm in the ParkLife Community Room:

- ❖ Autumn - Making Jewellery
- ❖ Spring - Mending and Darning Clothes
- ❖ Summer - Sewing Machine Skills

£6 per session (£5 concessions & FoSJP members), paid for in 6-week blocks. Autumn: 31st October to 12th December (not 28th November).

Two free places available to those with World War II "Make Do & Mend" experiences to share.

For more information and to register for a place, please contact course tutor Hilary Moore via [hilary@moore-inspiration.co.uk](mailto:hilary@moore-inspiration.co.uk) or 023.8070.4441.

Go through your wardrobe



## Diary Dates

Monday 31st October, 1pm-3pm  
"Make Do & Mend" - first session  
ParkLife Community Room

Sunday 6th November, 3pm-5pm  
Public History Talk #2  
"Andrew Barlow,  
Brewer & Benefactor"  
Shirley Parish Hall

Sunday 4th December, 3pm-5pm  
Public History Talk #3  
"Always a Tram in Sight" (part 2)  
Shirley Parish Hall

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

