

Welcome to Spring!

Over the last few months, it has been lovely watching the Park settle into itself. The pink blossom on the avenue of trees along the botanical walkway looked glorious, and birds are busy settling into the nest boxes dotted around the Park.

FoSJP has set up a gardening club to help Southampton City Council to maintain and further develop the planting in the Park, in particular with a view to using interesting and colourful plants that will attract wildlife.

The club meets in the Park on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, with additional opportunities to be arranged as the need arises for people to get involved. You don't need to be a gardening expert to join in: just to be enthusiastic, keen to learn, and able to commit to a few hours in the Park every now and then.

The next meeting is Wednesday 9th May. Keep an eye out for the latest information on the FoSJP Facebook page and the noticeboards in the Park.



St. James' Park, April 2012
(Michaela Lawler-Levene)

For more information about the FoSJP Gardening Club, please contact **Tania Emery** on **07842 231318** or email us at **environment@fosjp.org.uk**.

FoSJP AGM

Wednesday 30th May, Shirley Parish Hall

Please see the important notices enclosed with this newsletter about our AGM. The FoSJP committee is proposing some amendments to our constitution which include changes to the voting procedures. Among other things, we're proposing that members now vote for each of the committee positions at AGMs.

Most members of the current committee are happy to stand for election; however, we're particularly looking for people to fill positions to coordinate Events, Sports, and Environment.

If you'd like to know more about any of these positions, please contact our current Chair, Nichola Caveney, on **023 8077 6761**.

Sports Equipment

We've been very fortunate to receive a grant from Sports Relief to buy a variety of sports equipment for people to borrow for use in the Park. A team of volunteers from **Upper Shirley High School** will soon be in the Park after school every Wednesday, lending out this equipment and helping younger members of our community to use it!



Park100, July 2007

The Big Event

Saturday 7th July, 12-5pm

Some of you may remember the amazing event FoSJP ran in 2007 called Park100. This was a real community occasion, and involved various acts performing on stage and stalls run by community groups.

We're fortunate to have received some funding from the HLF (Heritage Lottery) to put on another event this year, which we are calling **The Big Event**. It will follow a similar format as Park100, with a stage, refreshments, and community stalls.

A team of volunteers is already busy organising the different aspects of the event, but more help is always appreciated. We'll also need many, many volunteers to help on the day.

Please help us to make this a great day, and contact our Events Coordinator, Johnny Carrington, on **023 8051 0959** or via **events@fosjp.org.uk** to offer your time (even a couple of hours on the day would be SO appreciated).

Tennis

It's great to see so many people using our wonderful new tennis facilities. The Park is now a member of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) - we're hoping to gain "Beacon" status - and the LTA is helping us to develop some different tennis opportunities for everyone.



Cardio Tennis - Sunday 13th May, 9.00-10.00am

Cardio Tennis is a fun series of tennis-based drills and activities played to up-tempo music on a tennis court. All abilities are welcome to this taster session, at the special price of £1 per person (normally £4 per person).

We hope that as a result of this taster session, regular Cardio Tennis sessions will continue every Sunday morning (9-10am) and Tuesday mornings (9.30-10.30): keep an eye on our website and park noticeboards for more information.

Junior Tennis Tasters - Saturday 19th May

Free sessions for school age children:

2.00-3.00pm - Primary (YR - Y6)

Red, Orange, and Green Mini Tennis tasters

3.00-4.00pm - Secondary (Y7 - Y11)

Cardio Tennis, the LTA's heart-pumping fitness session delivered with music!

Please register your interest in any of these sessions with LTA-licensed coach Andy Brown via andy@ambtennis.com.

Allplay

Keep up-to-date with tennis events in the Park by registering with **allplay**, an LTA initiative to help local players arrange "play dates" with like-minded tennis enthusiasts. At the time of writing, the Park already has 34 players registered!



www.lta.org.uk/allplaytennis

Make Do & Mend

Sewing Machine Skills for all abilities

ParkLife Community Room,
Mondays 1.00-3.00pm

Go through
your wardrobe



£6 per session (£5 concessions and FoSJP members), paid for in 6-week blocks. 2 free places available to those with World War II "Make Do & Mend" experiences to share.

For more information or to register for a place on the course, please contact course tutor Hilary Moore on **023 8070 4441** or via hilary@moore-inspiration.co.uk.

Community Coordinator

As announced in early February, trust fund **Lankelly Chase** has agreed to fund a 3-year project to help local residents participate in a variety of activities in the Park. Part of the funding is for a part-time Community Coordinator whose role is to encourage people to get involved in volunteering and to set up training opportunities.

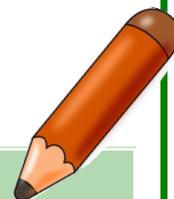


We've just appointed **Jan Carr** to this role and she begins work shortly: watch out for more information from her very soon!

ParkLife Community Room

Did you know that the ParkLife Community Room (20m²) in the building behind the ParkLife Café is available to hire for meetings, parties, and lectures?

If you'd like to ask about booking the Community Room, with or without catering services, please call ParkLife on **023 8077 9763** or pop into the café and speak to the staff.



Diary Dates

Saturday 12th May	2.30-4.30pm	FoSJP History Research Group	ParkLife Community Room
Sunday 13th May	9.00-10.00am	Cardio Tennis Taster	Tennis Courts
Saturday 19th May	2.00-4.00pm	Junior Tennis Taster sessions	Tennis Courts
Thursday 30th May	7.45pm start	FoSJP Annual General Meeting	Shirley Parish Hall
Wednesday 13th June	evening	Shirley Schools Centenary 2012	Shirley Junior School
Saturday 7th July	12.00-5.00pm	The Big Event	St.James' Park

Visit www.fosjp.org.uk for the latest information