

## New Faces

Welcome to the FoSJP newsletter for October 2012!

This is an exciting letter to write as it is the first one I have written as the Chair of the Friends of St James' Park. Those of you who attended the FoSJP AGM in May will know that we have bid a sad farewell to a number of FoSJP committee members in the last few months. We say a huge thank you to each of them for their contribution and commitment to FoSJP over the years and we know that they all remain committed to the Park and will still be around to support and participate in our future activities.

Among those stepping down from the committee is **Nicky Caveney** who has been Chair of FoSJP since the group was established and steered it through the immense journey the group and the Park has undertaken. Nicky will be hugely missed and leaves shoes that can never be filled.

## ParkLife Café

The café has also undergone some changes over the last few months, from a lick of paint and the moving of the lovely painting of the Park into the Community Room, to some staff changes. FoSJP would like to thank all the café staff for their dedication and hard work and wish those who have moved on to pastures new every success in the future.



**ParkLife** is pleased to announce that it has recently appointed a new manager for the Café and the building. This person will introduce a new menu and build upon the success of the café to date, working hard with the ParkLife Board and FoSJP to ensure that the building,

Café, and Community Room are at the centre of the Park and continue to play a key role in the future of the Park as a whole.

## Sports Equipment

The young people from Upper Shirley High will continue to lend out the FoSJP sports equipment from the Botanical Walk on Mondays and Wednesdays after school (3.00pm - 4.30pm) in term time—weather permitting!

This is a great opportunity to get young people actively involved in the Park and to provide equipment for children to make the most of the facilities in the Park, including the tennis courts and basketball hoop.



My name is **Tania Emery** and I am very excited to be undertaking the role of Chair. I have been a member of FoSJP for a number of years and on the committee for the last 3 years. I regularly use the Park with my family and am really excited to be a part of the continuation of the project as we move from the euphoria of the completion of the renovation of the Park to the challenge of creating sustainable projects for the future.

Following the AGM, vacancies remain on the FoSJP committee for people interested in helping to run events in the Park and to oversee and develop the care of the natural environment, plants, and animals in the Park. If you're interested in these areas and would like to talk to someone, please contact me on [chair@fosjp.org.uk](mailto:chair@fosjp.org.uk) or on 07766 052752.

## Green Flag Award

An award-winning Park!

We were very excited to hear in July that St James' Park had won a coveted Green Flag award.

The Green Flag is awarded to "well managed parks and open spaces" and is judged following a visit to the Park where the natural environment is assessed along with the Park's accessibility, usability, sustainability, and the level of community involvement, among other criteria.



We are very pleased to have received this award and will be flying it in the Park very soon. Visit [greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org](http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org) for more details of the award and the criteria that have to be met to receive it.

# The BIG Event

Saturday 7th July 2012

On Saturday 7th July, we held the Big Event in the Park to celebrate a year since the Park re-opened.

The Event was a wonderful celebration of the community that supports the Park, with wonderful performances on the stage erected for the occasion by children and young people from local schools and music groups as well as choirs from the local area. Southampton business and organisations provided activity and food stalls, and the **ParkLife Café** ran a BBQ in addition to their usual menu.

The day was a real celebration and the spirit of World War II that has so inspired and influenced the whole Park project was invoked as despite the weather we all managed to “Keep Calm and Carry On”. The heavy rain throughout the day caused a great deal of mud and some practical difficulties for performers and stall holders, but this event was the only one of many planned for Southampton on that date to carry on and the weather certainly made the FoSJP tea and cake tent a popular, warm, and dry place to be!

We’d like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported the event: volunteers, cake makers, business, schools, charitable organisations, and everyone who came to the park to make the BIG Event a BIG Success!



*the very popular FoSJP tea tent*



*eagerly awaiting the next performance...*

# FoSJP Gardening Team

We reported in the last newsletter that the Gardening Club has been a real success in bringing people together in a very practical way to work in the Park.



The club has changed its name to the Gardening Team and the fruits of its labours have been very evident over the summer with the beautiful wildflower planting on the Winchester Road bank and the addition of some beautiful sunflowers planted all around the Park.

The Gardening Team meets 1-3pm every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, and is always looking to welcome new people along whether on a one-off basis or more regularly. Meet by the decking of the **ParkLife Café**; for more information email us at:

[gardeningteam@fosjp.org.uk](mailto:gardeningteam@fosjp.org.uk)



*wildflower bank*



*sunflowers in heritage frieze bed*

# Tennis Courts

The tennis courts continue to be well used throughout the day, seven days a week.



We’ve been working closely with the **Lawn Tennis Association** and **Bassett Lawn Tennis Club** to provide opportunities for coaching and exercise on the courts.

This has seen a number of one-off tennis coaching sessions and a programme of weekly **Cardio Tennis** sessions held on the courts.

We’ll be meeting with these organisations soon to discuss future opportunities for tennis in the park—keep an eye on the FoSJP website and park noticeboards for details.

### *Please note...*

*The tennis courts are open at all times, free to use and without a booking system.*

*We’d like to remind users that if other people are waiting to play, please limit your time on court to **30 minutes**, so that everyone who wishes to play has an opportunity to do so.*

*Thank you.*

*You can see more photos of the Gardening Team’s achievements on our website:*

[www.fosjp.org.uk/gardeningteam](http://www.fosjp.org.uk/gardeningteam)