

Welcome to our Autumn 2016 Newsletter!

Welcome to an historic FoSJP Autumn 2016 Newsletter—not because as the Chair this is my first one, but because this year, the Friends of St.James' Park celebrate **10 years** of dedication into making the Park a great place to visit and such a fantastic asset for our community.

Two people who typify the spirit of FoSJP stepped down from the Committee this year—**Theresa Bowen** (involved from the very start) and **Tania Emery** (on the Committee since 2010, and my predecessor as Chair), we salute you! Goodness knows how many volunteer hours these two people have contributed to the Park, though I suspect Theresa has it recorded somewhere!

Green Flag Award

In close collaboration with **Southampton City Council**, we again achieved recognition of our efforts and St.James' Park is once again flying the prestigious "Green Flag Park" award for 2016/17.



We also have to say goodbye to another old friend—the **Heritage Lottery Fund** grant has finally all gone!

So now, folks, we are operating without the aid of a safety net—raising the cash to maintain the community focus of St.James' Park is down to you, me, and the fine people of Southampton!

This newsletter has news of past and forthcoming events at the Park, including recent news about the ParkLife Café, and ideas on how you can help us to keep it going.

*It's all happening down at the Park, and as always, on behalf of the FoSJP Committee, the biggest "Thank You" goes to **OUR VOLUNTEERS** who turn out and do a shift in helping to keep St.James' Park the thriving community hub that it is!*

Nigel Fayle, FoSJP Chair



FoSJP Committee

The main focus of the FoSJP Committee is to support **Marina Murphy** and her community work. We're pleased to announce that 3 new people have joined us as "co-opted" members—**Marty Climenhaga** as Secretary, **Hilde Gronsberg** is our Social Media champion, and **Mike Page** has brought his accountancy skills—to help us with this.

Together with all our other fantastic volunteers (both within and beyond the Committee), we're all working for "Team FoSJP". The Committee line-up is now:



The FoSJP Committee

Chair—Nigel Fayle

Vice Chair—Frances Churchward

Secretary—Marty Climenhaga

Treasurer—Joanne Clements

Membership—Julie Catling

Events—Cindy Phillips

Fundraising & Social Media—
Hilde Gronsberg

Gardening Team—
Mike Sanderman

History Coordinator—
Michaela Lawler-Levene

Maintenance Team—Mike Page

Another Busy Year...!

The FoSJP Committee continues to organise various events throughout the year, which we're hoping to make popular, regular occasions in the Park calendar. These events also provide us with a small income which we use to further enhance the Park and run other activities.

This and the next page list a selection of events that have taken place in St.James' Park during 2016.

Easter EGGStravORGANza—March

Our Easter event for the third year running was the 'EGGStravORGANza', with fairground organs and steam traction engine rides together with the Easter Egg trail. This year, attendance was down because of the poor March weather, but the show still went on...

At this point we'd like to mention the man who is the driving force behind this event—step forward

Dave Clothier of Shirley. Dave has persuaded his fellow members of the [Fair Organ Preservation Society](#) to lend their precious machines and time for free. He also knows an amazing number of people through his role as organiser of various Park Runs, especially the one on Southampton Common. A super fit man, he's

recently been cruelly laid low by a serious heart condition, and on behalf of FoSJP and all his friends in the Park, we wish him a successful fight back.



Dave Clothier at the helm

Charity Quiz Night—May

In May, a well-attended Charity Quiz Night raised over **£300** for FoSJP funds.

Art Show—August

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, 8 local artists held an Art Exhibition in the ParkLife Community Room.

The event was heralded a 'huge success' by visitors and artists alike.



Sue Locke at the Art Show

Look out for the next Art Exhibition in November!

Party Time—June

This was our big Summer event, organised to celebrate FoSJP's **10th anniversary** combined with the Queen's 90th birthday, with great support from [Churches Together in Shirley and District](#).



Nigel helps Theresa cut the FoSJP birthday cake

The event featured a fantastic celebratory display of 10 years of FoSJP activity in St.James' Park, produced by **Vicki Stacey** of the **Shirley Local History Research Group** (founded by the [FoSJP History Research Group](#)). The FoSJP History Team, captained by **Michaela Lawler-Levene**, brought along copies of their book "St.James' Park, From Rec to Renovation, 1907-2014"—visit our [website](#) to find out how to get hold of a copy. Even "the Queen" turned up for photos, thanks to local artist and Shirley resident **Sue Locke**.

It was truly a day to celebrate the way in which St.James' Park can bring together all the people of Shirley, with sunshine, ice creams, and laughter—simply a lovely day at the Park.

Autumn History Talks—October onwards

The first of this Autumn's Public History Talks took place on Sunday 2nd October—"thanks" to **Madge Heath** for sharing her research on the Barlow & Ellyett Homes situated on Church Street near St.James' Park, and "welcome" to the **14** new FoSJP members who joined at this talk.



All talks are FREE to attend and take place at Shirley Parish Hall at 3pm, with refreshments available for a small donation. The two remaining talks are:

◆ **Sunday 6th November**

"The Urban, the Rural and the In-Between: Southampton and its Region in the 15th Century"

Speaker: **Poppy Harris** ([University of Southampton](#))

◆ **Sunday 2nd December**

"Twenty Million Bricks: The History of Bursledon Brickworks"

Speaker: **Carolyne Haynes PhD** (Project Manager, [Bursledon Brickworks](#))

Other Events—throughout 2016

Alongside the larger events, there are regular small events that have a big impact for some people's lives across our community, such as:

- ◆ Monthly Free Legal Advice Clinics
- ◆ Twice-monthly Gardening Team sessions
- ◆ "Ditch the Stabilisers"—helping young children to learn how to cycle
- ◆ Parents' Emotional First Aid Course—practical help for parents
- ◆ Sessions for young people with Autism

There are also regular community group events which run in the ParkLife Community Room, such as Yoga and Spanish classes for young children—see our [website](#) for more information.

Community Volunteer Coordinator

Driving most of the events at St.James' Park is our Community Volunteer Coordinator **Marina Murphy**. Since the end of the Lankelly Chase grant that funded her part-time post, Marina has had to spend much of her valuable time searching out new 'pots' of grant money to enable her to continue in her role.



In addition, with her usual determination, she has also successfully realised a grant of **£9,900** from the "Celebrate England" Big Lottery Fund, to help fund a multicultural event in St.James' Park—look out for more information on this in 2017!

To see what Marina and her team of volunteers are currently working on, visit our [FoSJP Facebook](#) page and watch our video entry for the "Peoples Project 2016"—**please** give this project as much support as you can.

Forthcoming Events

All at St.James' Park unless otherwise stated

Sunday 16th October	11.00am—3.00pm	Dog Show & Family Fun Day <i>Fun for all the family and its dog!</i>
Wednesday 26th October	10.00am—11.30am	"Ditch the Stabilisers" <i>Cycling for young children</i>
Sunday 6th November	3.00pm—5.00pm	History Talk #2 <i>at Shirley Parish Hall</i>
Friday 18th November to Sunday 20th November	<i>to be confirmed</i>	Art Exhibition <i>Details to be announced</i>
Sunday 4th December	3.00pm—5.00pm	History Talk #3 <i>at Shirley Parish Hall</i>

Look on our [website](#) for more information on these and regular events

