

# FoSJP Newsletter

## Friends of St James' Park

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Issue 3

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## New Look

Welcome to our third newsletter and a Happy New Year to you all from the committee.

As you may have noticed, we now have a logo to give the Friends more of an identity. We received several designs, which we wanted to help promote our group with publications, letters, advertising events, and to just look good! Thank you to all those who submitted entries, however, congratulations and thanks go to Martin Gardner whose simple but effective text and leaf design won the committee's vote. But, not content with designing our logo, Martin has gone on to design (completely from scratch) our very own website which now features our aims, past events, a little history and contact details amongst many other useful and colourful items. Please, do look at the website at [www.fosjp.org.uk](http://www.fosjp.org.uk), save it in your favourites and visit regularly to catch up with any news of the park as it happens.

## Spring Bulbs and Raking Leaves

Saturday 28th October saw FoSJP join trowels with Adrian Crook of Southampton City Council in a 'Spring Bulb Planting' event. A sunny Saturday morning attracted family members, complete with trowels and gardening gloves who eagerly dug holes to plant over 1000 daffodil, tulip, crocus and snowdrop bulbs in the parks borders around the play area and main entrance. Look out for a 'blooming' park in the coming weeks.

The 18<sup>th</sup> November, was another sunny Saturday morning and forty members and passers-by used rakes to clear the autumn fall of leaves, forks to dig and weed the beds. Roger from the council helped us load it all onto his truck to be composted to help grow next years plants. The kiosk was open, serving the usual delights along with some delicious home made soup and bread, (thank you Sophie), and the good weather gave us a chance to try out the newly purchased café furniture that we were able to buy thanks to a grant from Southampton West Neighbourhood Partnership.

## Kiosk to Re-Open Soon

The park kiosk has been closed since late November, and during the dark winter months, maintenance and planning for the New Year has been taking place. We hope to open the kiosk on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February**, possibly for longer hours from the morning to the afternoon serving delicious hot homemade soup. Our aim is to open as often as possible, but it all depends on help from volunteers. Volunteers last year found the experience beneficial and fun in many different ways; making new friends, chatting to people, and just helping the community. One volunteer even landed a paid job from her experience! Will you volunteer? It may only need a commitment of a couple of hours every fortnight or so, every little bit helps, and we know the park users appreciate the service we offer.

**Please call Theresa Bowen on 8073 6947 if you would like to volunteer help for the kiosk.**

*'It feels hard to make a difference to the public environment, and this feels like an opportunity to be involved in improving the environment for everyone,' said one parent at the bulb planting.*



## Celebration Time – 100 Years Old!

News just in, we have been successful in an application for a grant to help with putting on an event in the summer to celebrate the centenary of the St. James' Park. *Park it!* have awarded us £5000 and all their expertise to put on a celebratory event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

*Park It!* is a series of events taking place regionally in parks throughout the UK, and St. James Park has won the award for the South East of England region. The *Park it!* project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and organised by Green Space (take a look at [www.green-space.org.uk/parkit](http://www.green-space.org.uk/parkit)). This summer's event will aim to inspire the community to discover the history of the park and celebrate its significance to the people that use it.

We already have many ideas to help us celebrate this event, but any suggestions are welcome, or perhaps you can help us in putting on a fantastic day of fun events and entertainment for the people of Shirley to remember for years to come.

**Please call Nichola Caveney on 80 776761 if you would like to help in putting on *the park* event of 2007 for Southampton.**



## More Money?

We have also been busy applying for other grants; there is a whole load of 'cash' out there waiting to be awarded to the right cause. Just before Christmas, we applied for a *Breathing Spaces* grant from the Big Lottery Fund. You may have heard about this particular scheme whilst watching *Autumn Watch* on the BBC. Bill Oddie and the team have been promoting places for wildlife, or the setting up of them, all over the country, large and small, urban and rural. We thought some of the spaces in St. James' park could be set aside for plants that are more native to Hampshire, and hopefully encourage more wildlife to the area. We should hear if we are successful by May.

*Parks for people* is another Lottery funded award specifically aimed at improving parks, and we have been supporting the council in a bid to secure large sums of money to embark on major investment in your park. This project is likely to take several years but initial feedback from the Heritage Lottery Fund is very encouraging.

**If you would like to know more about any of the above grants, please call Martin Caveney on 80 776761 or e-mail [FriendsSJP@aol.com](mailto:FriendsSJP@aol.com)**



## Looking Forward to Spring – Dates for Your Diary

First up, *Art in the Park*; **Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Come and enjoy the spring bulbs planted in the autumn and let them inspire you all; children and grown ups, to be creative with lots of supervised art activities.

Then we will be celebrating with our *First Birthday Party* on **Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>**. We plan to have lots of fun and games, and of course, special party refreshments available from the kiosk. Look out for more news about these and other events; book them in your diary now.

The first *Annual General Meeting* of FoSJP will be held at the Bellemoor School Business Centre, 7:30 pm, **Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>**. We hope to make this an interesting and informative evening complete with an audiovisual presentation. Come along and find out more about our achievements so far, plans for the future of your park, meet the committee, have your say, and make that vote!

**And finally;**

*Do you have e-mail? Would you like to receive news of our events by e-mail? Then please send an e-mail with the subject text "**Please add me to your list**" to [FriendsSJP@aol.com](mailto:FriendsSJP@aol.com), and we will ensure that you are the first to hear of any news that we may have for the Park.*

