



SHIRLEY HERITAGE PROJECT

NEWSLETTER



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ISSUE 4

Art Installations in the Park

This past year the Shirley Heritage Project has been focusing on sharing the history of the park in creative ways. Several projects have resulted in exciting art installations in the park.

Art in the Park

This metal artwork, situated on the zipwire wall parallel to Wordsworth Road, is the result of an intergenerational art project organised by the Friends of St James' Park, in partnership with the Media Workshop, Upper Shirley High School (USH), and park users.



FoSJP members, including Ken Conway and Arthur House, visited USH and shared memories of the park in the 1930s and 1940s with students. Anna Vickers, the project's artist, has interwoven into the design elements of local flora and fauna, the park's history and silhouettes that reflect stories told by local residents, about how the park has been used over time.



Inspired by Arthur's story, the amazing USH children, on their own initiative, went on to raise **over £500** towards a memorial bench in the park.

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Cafe Windows

The designs below form part of a larger art work on the café windows in St James' Park. They were drawn by Solent University student Sarah Silverstein, who worked closely with the FoSJP History Research group, as she undertook research into the history of the park, Shirley, and Southampton.



Sarah incorporated the park building's World War Two origins into the final artwork and featured Southampton's local links to both aviation and maritime history.

Do come and visit the café to see if you recognise the buildings. Also, see if you can find the dates of building origins hidden in the drawings.

Memories of St. James' Park from the 1930s...

...captured on canvas

This fabulous and unique oil painting of the then Shirley Recreation Ground in 1934 is on public display in the Parklife Café at St. James' Park. On Wednesday 29th February, Don's painting was featured by Keith Hamilton in the Daily Echo, in their "Your Hampshire Heritage" pages.

(Please note that the painting is due to be shortly moved to the Park Building's Community Room.)



Artist, Don Smith, with the FoSJP Chair, Nichola Caveney.
Photographed with his painting November 2011.

Shirley Infant and Junior School Centenary Celebrations

The History Research Group have gone back to School!

The Shirley Infant and Junior Schools will be jointly celebrating the centenary of the current building with a week of celebrations commencing on Monday 11th June and ending with the school Summer Fair on Saturday 16th June.

The History Research Group is helping research the school archives for a Centenary Celebration Evening Presentation for past students, on Wednesday 13th June, which will include tours of the building for school alumni. There will also be performances by current children and a display of photos and school memorabilia from past schooldays. Places will be limited, so please contact the school offices for further information.

You can email contact the schools by email on centenary@shirley-jun.southampton.sch.uk for further information and to share your own memories or photos related to attending the schools.

Further tours and entry to the exhibition will be possible at the Summer Fair on Saturday 16th June, 11.00am-1.30pm, which is open to past pupils and the local community.

The schools are also organising additional events for past staff and special fun events for the current schoolchildren: sounds like a great week ahead!



History & Raffle at The Big Event, Saturday 7th July

The History Team will be providing an exhibition at the big summer event in the park, but we have also volunteered to run the FoSJP raffle!

There are some great prizes in store, including an Apple iPad and a £100 voucher for Shirley High Street-based Hammonds the Jewellers (who celebrated their own centenary this year).

If you can help sell a few books of raffle tickets, they'll be available to collect at the FoSJP AGM on Wednesday 30th May, or can be collected at the Parklife Café or Shirley Parish Office during June.



Make Do and Mend

Intergenerational Sewing Class

The Make Do and Mend Class is an intergenerational sewing class which takes place in the Parklife Community Room on Mondays, 1.00-3.00pm during school term times.



Of course it's more than just a sewing class: it's a sociable group and a chance to get help with sewing tasks which might not otherwise be tackled. The tutor Hilary Moore is there to help, as are some more experienced helpers (currently ladies) from our local community, who are sharing their sewing expertise with those of us less practised.

The class aims to share skills between different generations and to mend and recycle items rather than throw them away. In the long run the hope is to save money. By not throwing out the items there is of course a benefit to the environment, in that the items don't end up in a land-fill.

So far the classes on offer have been **Making Jewellery** (from recycled paper) and **Mending and Darning Clothes**. The current class is focusing on **Using Sewing Machines**. If you have a sewing machine at home, which has sat doing nothing for a long time, bring it along to find out how to use it. People bring their own projects along or can make something new with guidance from the tutor. Sewing projects currently being undertaken include "altering clothes" to make them actually fit, "making a pet blanket" and "bunting making" in preparation for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

The classes are £6 for two hours, or £5 for FoSJP members and concessions. The classes are usually booked in blocks of 5-6 weeks.



There are currently spaces available. For more information contact Hilary Moore via hilary@moore-inspiration.co.uk or on 023 8070 4441.

This course is part-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Sock Stories

The Rescue of Tony's special school football team socks with patches specially knitted by Jean Webb of the St.James (Southampton) WI.



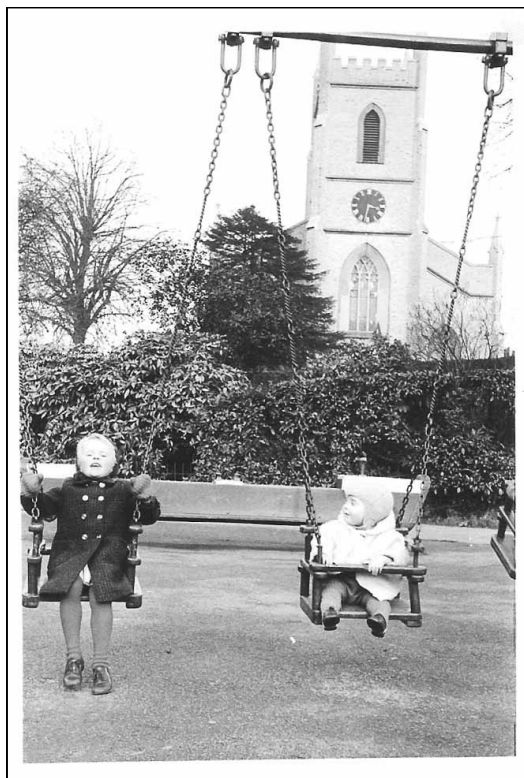
Letters to the Editor

Thank you to all who have contacted FoSJP History: we so enjoy your letters and emails and do our best to publish them on the FoSJP website, www.fosjp.org.uk, in the "Your Stories" section of the History pages

Those of you who used to play in the park as a child in the 1960s or 1970s might appreciate these photographs sent in by Joan Cook, now living in the Midlands.

"I think you'll be excited about these pictures that my Dad has fished out, taken by my Mum, we think probably in 1964."

"I wasn't very clear about the see-saw, and this sort of explains why. It's a wooden boat type of thing, with the middle portion that could be sat inside, a raised seat at each end, running boards all along each side, and a wooden cross board with studs on in the middle. You can see quite a bit of detail on one photo, and see the see-saw in the background between the swings and the church on the other photo. I don't remember seeing a similar see-saw anywhere else."



"The see-saw photo also shows details of the sliding covers on the brick hut windows, and a wooden hut at or on the north side of the brick building. Dad thinks the wooden hut was where you paid for tennis court hire."

"The photos are of my brother and I."

"All the best, Joan Cook"

Communication by email Aug 28th 2011

Photos in St.James' Park playground, c.1964

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 12th May	2.30-4.30pm	FoSJP History Research Group	ParkLife Community Room
Thursday 30th May	7.45pm start	FoSJP Annual General Meeting	Shirley Parish Hall
Wednesday 13th June	7.00pm start	Shirley Schools Centenary 2012	Shirley Junior School
Saturday 16th June	11.00am-1.30pm	Exhibition at SchoolFair	Shirley Junior School
Saturday 7th July	12.00-5.00pm	The Big Event	St.James' Park
Sunday 7th October Sunday 4th November Sunday 2nd December	3.00-5.00pm	FoSJP Autumn Public History Talks	Shirley Parish Hall

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