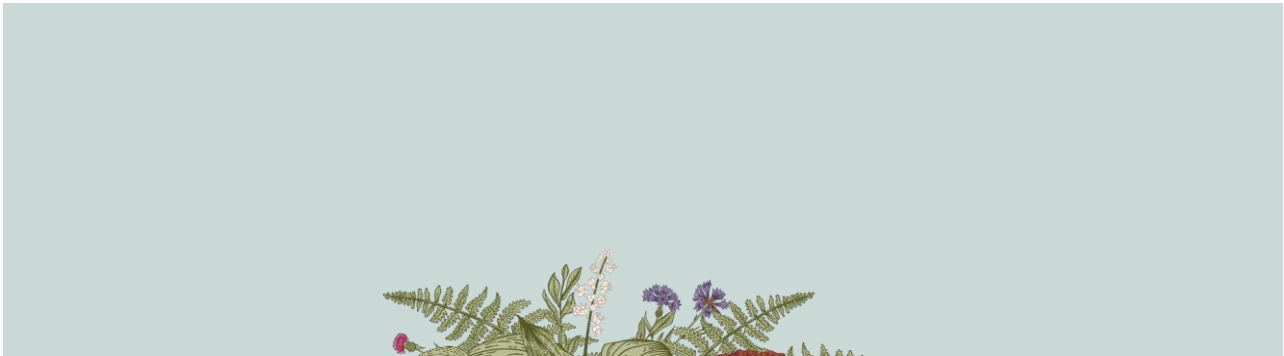




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Friends of St. James' Park
Mission statement: to celebrate and enhance the life of the park and its community through social, environmental, and economic development.



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Welcome

Meet the Team & Committee

Info about year gone by;

- Gardening
- Community Club
- Events

Plans for next year



FoSJP

Friends of St. James' Park is a thriving Charity.

Over the last year we have continued our work with the Community, hired more staff, seen our Events start to grow again and building relationships with similar groups in Southampton.

This presentation will take you through our highlights and we hope you will enjoy it and get excited for the year to come.



Meet our team



Frances Churchward
Chair of FoSJP



Hilde Gronsberg
Community Volunteer
Coordinator



Sue Kinch
Events and Social
Media Coordinator



Mandy Hollis
Community
Coordinator



Lizzie Jones
Gardening
Coordinator



Meet our Committee & Treasurer



Mike Page
Trustee



Stan Brooke
Trustee



Stuart Jones
Treasurer



Oct 2022-Sept 2023; a year summarised



Groups	Social Media	Events	Working with the community	Forward planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Club - Serendipity - History Group (Separate Report) - Gardening Group (Separate Report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook Instagram Twitter Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas wreath making session - Great British Spring clean - May Day Event - Summer Festival - Shirley Village Show 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southampton City Council - Southampton National Park City Project/ Green City network - Utilita - So:Linked /SVS - Southampton Solent Rotary - So:Co - Communicare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People project • Grant search • Event developing • Continue our great community outreach • Staff and Volunteer Development

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A massive thank you to our Photographer Bruce Lerner, who have taken most of the photos in this presentation.



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Green Flag award

We were delighted to announce that for the 12th year in a row our wonderful Park had been awarded a Green Flag



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Gardening Sessions

Every Wednesdays 1-3pm



Gardening



- 17 active volunteers registered, and 33 people receiving the weekly reports.
- We won the Personal Health Group Grant, £300, this was put towards new litterpick equipment, gloves and boxes to keep the items in
- Thanks to Bruce for consistent support taking photos of the group every week

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Volunteer week
appreciation
video for our
gardeners



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Some photos from gardening this year



The Council cutting down the dead tree by the container



Massive clear out and tidy of the container



Sorting out the mulch



Victor putting out buckets to make recycling easier at our events



Thank you to the fantastic Gardening Team!!!!



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Community Club

Every Monday and Wednesdays 11-4pm

A lovely social club for over18's.



Community Club Statistics

- Since January 2023 up to 24 July 2023 we have run 53 sessions and had 476 visitors. This is an average attendance of 9 guests per session, with the max visits being 19 visitors during a session (Staff not counted).
- We have had 476 visits from 69 unique visitors.
- Main reason for visit: Chat, art, board games and IT support
- We also signpost and support mental health
- Working closely with the So:Co Music Charity- They are currently running a 11-week course within the Community Club where we sing, play music and discuss music as well as make our own lyrics. This has had a huge impact on the people taking part, as people often use memories as lyrics thus it becomes like therapy. We have tissues ready for anyone who needs it.



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Gonk making session 2022



- The finished Gonks
- We can't wait to have some Christmas sessions in 2023 too!

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Community Club Christmas Party

Quiz time! (with Hilde's daughters as assistants)



Janine was very happy with her present!



Presents for everybody!



Martha, our crochet expert



Over the last 4 months, our Community Club regular Martha, 92, have been crocheting flowers with donated wool from the public. Our other regular Janet, with the team, have managed to sew the flowers together and made a beautiful blanket out of it.

Have a look in the photo how happy this has made Martha!

So:Co Music project

- Jim returned for the second year in a row, and the attendance built gradually over the weeks he was there.
- The composed their own songs and the result were very moving and impressive. Jim, the group leader, gave the group advice and guidance, playing his guitar supporting their songs. Some members brought their own instruments and performed to big applause.
- We, [Friends of St. James' Park](#), are so proud to be part of the [SoCo MusicProject](#) and grateful for all the hard work they are doing! Thank you x



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Events

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List of past Events (2022/23)

- 09/11/2022 Mandala Rock Painting
- 23/11/2022 Christmas card making
- 26/11/2022 Halloween Fun day
- 06/12/2022 Christmas Wreath Making Workshop
- 07/12/2022 Christmas Gonk Making session
- 09/02/2023 Litter pick with Kiwi Education team
- 01/05/2023 May Day in the Park (Easter event)
- 08/05/2023 Spring Clean in the Park with Asda
- 24/06/2023 Summer Festival
- 18/09/2023 Village Show



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Halloween Fun Day - 26 October 2022

Well attended event, despite bad weather.

We held a FoSJP Pumpkin Carving Competition - this was super cute with a steady flow of entries through the day.

Tables set up from midday when weather improved were our new Lollipop game, lucky dip & Face painting.

We had a Halloween craft activity set up in the community room



The Rotary Club kindly donated 1000 crocus plants - 94 people signed up for helping to plant these on the day, this included the St James Pre-school children

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6 December 2022; Christmas wreath making

We hired Shirley Parish Hall for the second year in a row and Nikki from [GoodWreaths](#), guided a large group in a step-by-step process to make beautiful Christmas wreaths.

We also offered refreshments and a raffle on the side.



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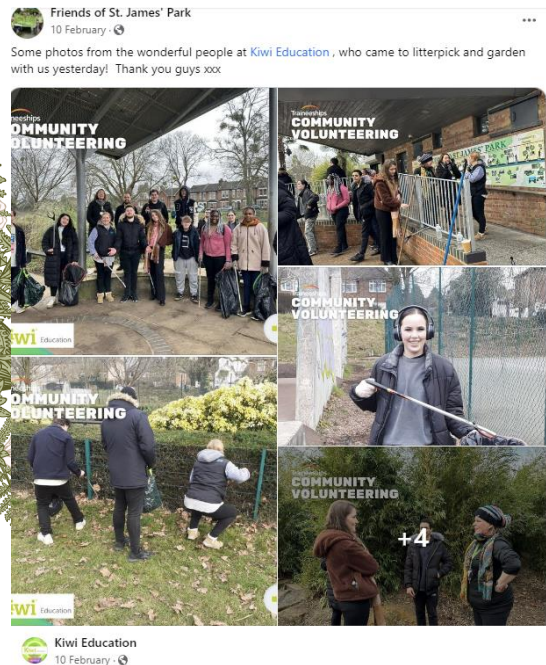
9 February 2023

18 staff and students from Kiwi Education visited and did litter picking as part of their community outreach.

From this group we got work placement student, 16 years of age. He worked with us at Community Club, gardening and supporting us on Events.

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Easter Egstravnza at St. James' Park

Easter event cancelled

- After lots of preparation and planning had gone into our wonderful Easter event, the weather was just not in our side, sadly we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the overall event.
- Grounds were soggy and winds were strong
- However a scaled back event was run, up in the community room with Easter Craft, Origami training and some games. We ran a trail and when the sun did come out (between the hailstones!) we also ran a few outdoor games



1 May 2023 - May Day at St. James' Park

With the cancelled Easter Event, we offered to move the bookings to the May Day Event.

- 17 stalls attend on the day. With 5 no shows. 80% of stall were business with 20% charity.
- FoSJP ran a tea and Cake tent, Kids play Zone, Trail, Face Paint, Tombola, Lucky dips & brikabrack sale and a small raffle.
- The event was really well attended – we even had a fair bit of rain but not enough to clear the park on the day as people found shelter and waited for the brief showers to pass.



8 May 2023 – Spring Clean with Asda

- The Spring Clean was a lovely event where we partnered with 'Asda to bring the community together with a litter pick in the park.
- BBC South and the Daily Echo attended the event, and we got some great publicity mentions.



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Our Park loves a good litter pick



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We made it to the Newspapers!



24 June 2023- Summer Festival



- Our biggest event of the year opened with the wonderful Shirley Kidz Choir!
- The weather was hot but that did not stop a record attendance
- We were supported by the Council (awarded a Festival Grant) and had sponsorship to help pay for the stage/sound and engineer on the day



Summer Festival continued..

Arial view



We made the newspaper again



Stats

- 49 Stalls
- Stage with music and dancing all day
- 2 bouncy castles and huge inflatable slide (Run by FoSJP)
- Falconry high display team
- Food stalls
- Facepainters
- Sports and workshops
- FoSJP stalls incl. cake stalls and general fundraising
- 36 Volunteers
- Deputy Mayor Sheriff Cllr Dave Shields opened the Festival

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18 Sept 2022 - Shirley Village Show



- For the second year in a row, Julie Catling and the events team organized the Village Show
- We had 60 entries, and a record number of children taking part
- We think the rain and thunder stopped a lot of the public attending
- The judges did a great job:
 - Lizzie Jones – Vegetables and Flowers
 - Paula Shapland – Art
 - Rowena Matthews – Home bakes
- Date has been set for next year: 22 September 2024

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Some of the Village Show entries

Some stunning flower entries



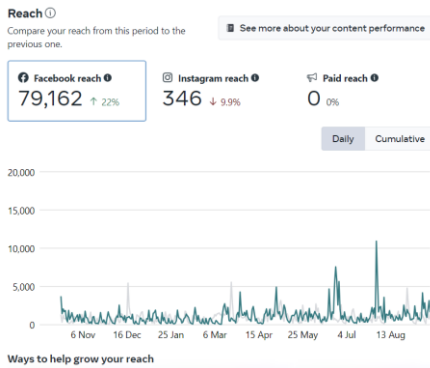
Best in Show 1 - Painting by Susan Lock



Best in Show 2 : Basket of vegetables



Facebook statistics – how many we have reached in a year!





Some event feedback:



When asked if they enjoyed the Summer Festival, one visitor said:

“2 of my 3 children have Autism, I found plenty of opportunities at the event for them to enjoy, with options for activities to help them self regulate. Which made the day enjoyable for everyone. Very inclusive.”





Summer Festival Feedback

“ Yes, I enjoyed the Festival very much! It was a well-planned event with lots of information given up front so on the day ran smoothly for us. FoSJP people were very friendly and happy to help. Also noticed someone collecting litter throughout the day which I think is a nice touch to keep the park clean. ”



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Penciled Timeline for upcoming events

- Dog Show, Saturday 7 October 2023
- Halloween Event – October 2023
- Christmas trail - December 2023
- Easter Event- April 2024
- Summer Festival – June 2024
- Village Show – 22 September 2024



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Any Questions



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Thank you



Hilde Gronsberg
events@fosjp.org.uk
www.fosjp.org.uk