



The Friends of Springfield Mill Park

Newsletter Seven - March 2008

We need your help



This is a supplementary edition of our newsletter. We would not normally have the resources to produce a newsletter so soon after the previous one but urgent information is contained on this page. One of the events publicised in the last issue was the tree planting day which took place on Sunday 24th February. This was a great success and almost 100 new trees were planted in all parts of the woodland area. Unfortunately, the purpose of this newsletter is to publicise a less attractive aspect to the work around the park and woodland.

On the evening of Tuesday 26 February 2008, sometime between 5:30 and 6:30pm, someone attempted to destroy virtually the whole of the work which had been undertaken by members of the community only two days before. The woodland, on that evening, can best be described as a scene of total devastation. The newly planted trees and supporting stakes were broken and up-rooted and stakes thrown all around the woodland. Although members of the friends group quickly worked to rectify most of the damage it is nevertheless a very demoralising incident. However, the Friends Group is determined that these potential setbacks will not deter the group from continuing to work towards enhancing the facilities within the park and woodland area.



Tree planted last year, snapped in two

£200 reward offered

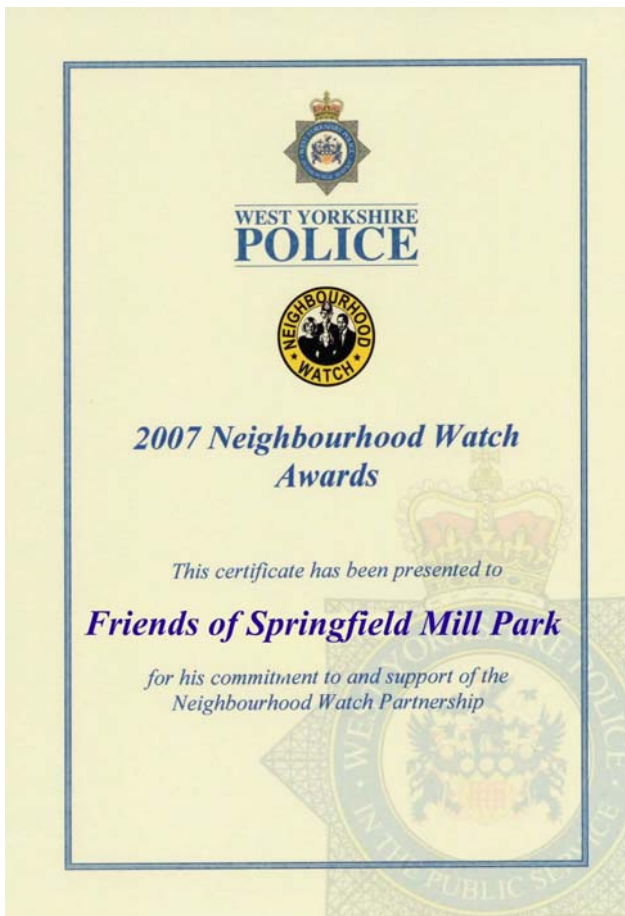
The Friends Group, in conjunction with the site's owners, the Greenbelt Group, is offering a £200 reward for any information provided which results in a conviction for these actions. Some reward for information which provides the identity of the culprit will also be available, even if a conviction is not secured. The Greenbelt Group have told us that they will forcefully press charges against anyone found to have caused damage to any of the property, including trees, within the park. Also, some damage was caused to trees which had been established within the park for over a year. These trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and damage to such trees can result in very heavy fines.

If anyone has any information about the culprits please let us know as soon as possible.

In a community such as ours and in the community around the local schools it is likely that someone will know the identity of the person or persons responsible. Any information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and anyone who wishes to remain anonymous can do so.

Please help us to provide improvements to our local facilities and stamp out the attempts by a small minority, to damage what has been achieved. This will not be tolerated.

Friends Group Collects Award



It was reported in our last newsletter that the Friends Group had been awarded a commendation by West Yorkshire police for the work of the park neighbourhood watch scheme. The award certificates were presented at an official ceremony held on Tuesday 26th February. This took place at the headquarters of Asda supermarket in Leeds and the presentation was made by the Chief Superintendent, Mark Milsom who is the Divisional Commander for the City and Holbeck Police Division, which includes Morley. The Friends Group neighbourhood watch coordinator and two colleagues attended and received the award. Comments were made during the evening about the important work that is being done by the group in working on community projects and liaising with the local neighbourhood policing team. Most of the awards on the night went to police personnel and the Friends of Springfield Mill Park was one of only three other community groups in the whole of the police division to receive such an award. The group is determined that the events reported on page 1 will not go unchallenged and efforts will be redoubled to ensure that the park continues to be a valuable resource for all the local community.

Please join us at our next meeting!!

**Tuesday 29th April
2008 at 8:00pm
Arkle pub, Springfield
Avenue**

∞

*Get involved, have your say,
join the committee or just come
along to listen.*

Everyone is welcome!

For more information either
telephone 2539007
or email
info@springfieldpark.org.uk

Dog care and action week

At the last Friends Group meeting it was agreed to work with other community groups around Morley on a dog action week. The friends group have asked Morley Town Council to assist in bringing together all local community groups across Morley to plan a coordinated campaign. The campaign will have two aspects. One is to work with the vast majority of dog owners who are responsible and try to address the significant problem of dog fouling around the parks and streets in Morley. The second aspect will be to look at facilities for dog owners such as the free dog chipping service which the group arranged during last summer. As part of the process the friends group intends to canvass opinion from responsible dog owners in the development of the campaign. Firstly, we will be meeting with the Town Council and other community groups to consider how to proceed with joint working.



“We will actively campaign for the promotion of and the positive engagement of, all residents living in the vicinity of Springfield Mill Park to facilitate the aesthetic development of the facilities of the park and thereby enhance the quality of life for the mutual long term benefit of the community.”

