



The Friends of Springfield Mill Park Newsletter Eight - February 2009



Funding Success

Just over a year ago the friends group began an ambitious project to secure funding for major environmental improvements to the park. We set out to secure £50,000 for the programme of work. A year later we finally managed to put in place the last of the funding. Work has now commenced on some major improvements to the park and its environment. This includes:



The snow didn't stop the work – picnic table platforms

- Renewal of the woodland footpath
- creating a new footpath from the park into the woodland with integral shrub bed
- refurbishment of old hedgerow on Rooms Lane
- creation of new hedgerow around the woodland area
- providing new hard bases for the picnic benches
- creating a more adequate water source into the pond
- planting of wild flowers, bulbs and trees in the woodland and around the park
- erection of information boards and a main notice board for the park

One of the more major jobs is to try to ensure that the pond is improved and will become sustainable in the longer term. For many years there has been insufficient water entering the pond and we are in discussions with Yorkshire Water about a possible solution. The friends group have appointed Groundwork Trust, an environmental charity, to manage the project and funding has been secured from BBC Breathing Places (£10,000), Leeds City Council, South Leeds Area Committee (£5,000) and Green Leeds Ltd (£35,000).

Community Tree Planting

Part of the funding paid for new trees to plant in the woodland area. A community tree planting session will be held on:

**Saturday 28 February 2009
10:00am in the woodland on the park**

Please come and help us and bring your family and spades to enjoy this community event. If you don't fancy digging, bring a black bag and join us in a **tidy up**.



Traditional hedge laying to renew the old hedge

Light up the Park

Last year the Friends Group drew up a scheme for providing lighting on the footpaths across the park. The first hurdle to progress the proposal was to secure planning permission from Leeds City Council. This has now been achieved which sets us on the road towards our second hurdle – the small task of finding the £36,000 needed to install the lighting system! Never daunted, we will be seeking ways of finding the money so that the installation can be accomplished as soon as possible.

Fun Day in the Park

The friends group intends to organise a further Family Fun Day in the summer following the success of the events held in previous years. However, this year we're hoping for a mega-fun day. We are seeking funding from the BBC's Breathing Places scheme and if successful we will be able to host a major event in June or July. This will involve various educational activities for young people concentrating on the natural history of the area, plus lots of other activities including various inflatables, face painters, drum circle, pony rides, nature themed fancy dress, dog show and much, much more.

Schools Get Involved

The three local primary schools, Asquith, Churwell and Victoria are working with us on the design of the information boards mentioned on overleaf. The three boards will contain information about "Birds and Animals", "Life in the Pond" and "Trees, Insects and Wildflowers". Each school will have a team of pupils working on a theme for one of the boards and designing the layout.

Deputy Head at Morley Victoria, Julie Hardaker said, "We are always looking for ways in which the children can become involved in community projects. Working on the information boards will be great fun and the children will love it. It's also good to have pupils from the three schools working together on a joint project."



A winner at last year's Fun Day Dog Show

Please join us at our next meeting!!

**Wednesday 25th
February 2009
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

Future events

The following events are planned during the first half of 2009:

- Football tournament Saturday 9th May 2009 10:00am at the Park, registration details to follow. Keep your eyes out for the posters
- Family Fun Day either Saturday 6 June or Saturday 11 July (date to be confirmed)
- Rounders competition for all ages, details of registration and date to follow, keep a look out for the posters



"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."

