

Park Life

Winter 2016/2017

The newsletter about Conservation Groups and Friends Groups in the district of Mansfield

Wolves return to Mansfield Woodhouse

ON the High Street in Mansfield Woodhouse is a cottage called Wolf Hunt House and it is reputed that long ago the man who lived there had the job of keeping the area free from wolves.

The wolves are back in Mansfield Woodhouse again. This time though they are part of a new community artwork on the Millennium Green. Created by Nottingham based carver Mark Manders, the sculpture was carved out of an old ash tree that was felled in 2014.

Carving

Children from the Bramble and Manor Academies attended a workshop where they heard about the natural history of the Green. After this session the children submitted suggestions for the design of the carving and Mark interpreted these to produce the finished work.

The carving was commissioned by the Mansfield Woodhouse Millennium Green Trust and funded by a grant from the SUEZ Communities Trust; an ethical



funding organisation dedicated to making lasting improvements to the natural environment and community life.

It's a big year for volunteers

2016 has been a busy time for Friends Groups across the district.

Thanks to the support of Friends Groups a large number of conservation projects have been completed in Mansfield's open spaces and nature reserves.

The year saw a wide range of activities from litter picks, bulb planting, the creation of orchards and wildflower meadows and development of wildlife habitats.

Volunteers donated thousands of hours of their time to help out and together they've made a huge difference.



• The opening of the picnic site at Quarry Lane Nature Reserve was just one of the many successful projects in 2016.

For further details about how to get involved in future projects, please email Mansfield District Council's parks team at parksandopenspaces@mansfield.gov.uk.



Mansfield
District Council

Fisher Lane Park project blossoms

EARLIER in the year the wildflower meadow on the Fisher Lane Park was extended and has flowered profusely.

The park's trees, funded by Greenwood and Mansfield District Council, have flourished. Apart from the American sweet-gum tree, which has not survived, the oaks, beeches, a swamp cypress, a walnut tree, a ginkgo biloba and a tulip tree are all looking healthy. They have been providing an autumnal display of vibrant colours over the last few weeks. It is hoped to plant a rowan in the near future to replace the sweet-gum tree.

Friends Award

The Friends of Fisher Lane Park were very pleased to receive the Friends Award at the recent Mansfield District Council ceremony that recognised the work carried out at their litter pick on the Timberland Trail and the park during a very wet Clean up Mansfield Day.

Meanwhile, the Rock House project continues to move forward. An update will be included in the next issue of Park Life.

• **The wildflower meadow is pictured above in all its glory during the summer. Pictured to the right are members of the group receiving an award on behalf of the group.**



Busy season for Forest Road Friends

THE wildflower meadow at Forest Road Park, funded by Veolia and supported by Mansfield District Council and King Edwards School, bloomed for the first time this year.

The park's Friends Group bought mulch mats for the 160 tree fruit Community Orchard and additional mowing by Mansfield District Council enhanced the orchard which is now in its third year.

Cricket ground

Meanwhile, 75 broad leaf trees, sponsored by OVO were planted on the park by the Friends Group and new bins and benches have been placed on the Cricket Ground to improve it for park users.

The park has seen the addition of new round goal posts, provided by Mansfield District Council, and the pitches are to be replaced.

There will also be repairs in the original goal-mouths to spruce up the area.

In the meantime, a large area of brambles has been felled in the park to provide additional amenity space.

Fields

An application has been made for Fields in Trust status and The Friends Group has responded to relevant sections of Mansfield District Council Local Plan Consultation.

Recently the Greenwood Trust carried out a survey of the park and an application has been made for two or three additional native broad leaf trees.

The Friends Group continue to be busy and over the coming months the group's volunteers will carry on supporting the park through regular litter picking activities and will continue to replenish the bird feeders.



Pupils from Sutton Road Primary School and members of the Maun Conservation Group celebrate the launch of the picnic site at Mansfield's Quarry Lane Local Nature Reserve.

Life's a picnic at Quarry Lane Reserve

MEMBERS of the Maun Conservation Group were pleased to be awarded Green Flag status for the Quarry Lane Local Nature Reserve.

It followed much work and improvements to the site, including the creation of a picnic area which is now accessible to the whole community thanks to the recent construction of a path and steps leading down to the green space alongside the River Maun near the Field Mill Pond.

The new picnic site was funded by the Veolia Environmental Trust and was officially opened in September by the Mayor of Mansfield, Kate Allsop.



Children from Sutton Road Primary School joined the Conservation Group, Cllr Kevin Brown, Environment Agency and Keep Britain Tidy representatives, Notts County Council Greenwood Team and volunteers at the launch.



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Hat trick for Mansfield

Mansfield topped the best city category for the third time in the East Midlands in Bloom awards.

The district also received a high scoring silver gilt medal and a special Judges' Award for improvements made to the River Maun conservation area and the environmental education and involvement of children.

Judges

The judges said they were impressed with the tour of the district which demonstrated the landscape and character of Mansfield with its many open spaces, allotments, schools and town centre. The teamwork between community groups, schools and the council played a part in its success.

Yeoman Hill group have pride in park

THE last few months have been a busy time for the Friends of Yeoman Hill Park, who were pleased to receive the 'Love Where You Live' award at the Chad Pride celebrations.

The group also took part in the 'Whistle for the Somme' commemoration and joined the seven local schools that marked the centenary of the battle with a ceremony by the park's poppy bed.

Over the summer, the Friends assisted with two Xplorer sessions and also introduced working parties after their monthly meetings. They are getting set to run a fundraising stall at the Christmas Event and look forward to another good year ahead.

Now that Mansfield District Council has drawn up plans for a replacement pavilion in the park, the group is seeking a grant to cover the cost of a new facility which will be used by all parts of the community. It's hoped that 2017 will be another good year for the park and the Friends.



The poppy bed in Yeoman Hill Park.

Call for new members!



THERE are many Friends Groups across the district, who are made up of volunteers who work with Mansfield District Council's parks team to improve and maintain their local green spaces.

Volunteers are involved in a range of activities from litter picking, bulb and tree planting to fundraising, organising fun days and events.

Outdoors

Most of the groups work closely with schools and play an important part in encouraging children and young people to take an active interest in horticulture and conservation.

If you are interested in becoming a member of a Friends Group, please get in touch with our parks team by calling 01623 463463. It's a great way to make new friends, support your local community and enjoy the great outdoors.

For more details please check out the council website on www.mansfield.gov.uk/parks.

For more information about Mansfield's parks and open spaces contact:
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