



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO: 40

JUNE 2013

CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

Here comes Summer.....but at this rate it will not be for a very long one. Spring didn't really "spring" but was more of a short soggy step.

However the Fields are once again in full leaf and what a difference that makes to its aspect. Green is too often an all encompassing word; for the range and variety of shades of green on display seem infinite, even in dull light.

Have you noticed that the Fields appear to have less litter? At the May litter pick we collected far less than usual, even allowing for the fact that the Fields have not had a great deal of us (or mis-use). New contractors have been employed by WDC and a change in the contract terms now ensures that the Fields are given a daily clear-up. To my mind this will not only reduce the visual impact of litter blowing around, but the lack of it may well encourage visitors, not to drop rubbish and to use the bins. We shall see but a good start has been made.



The new play area has also suffered from the weather and is only just about to be opened for use. The comments that I have received have been very positive and the anticipation on children's faces, makes it plain that the area will be a great success.

It is far from finished however and over the coming months, more plantings will take place together with softer landscaping. The Friends have been asked to help plant up the "Rain" garden, which will be a feature of the play area and during the later part of the Summer, more planting will be carried out in the area behind the tennis courts. This we hope to carry out with the involvement of local schools. Should we have some good spells of hot weather, the new play area will really show its worth. We shall be very much in evidence, once again, at the Lions Show on 8th June; with the 'Human One Arm Bandit' stand. Also this year, we will have our new gazebo, plus one or two other items to make you smile and help to relieve you of your £1 coins. If you can help out on the stand during the day we would be most grateful... let me know please.

The Annual General Meeting will see me stand down as Chairman, to make way for new ideas from a fresh face. The last few years has been an exciting period of time for me, with our membership (not through my efforts), increasing from a few dozen to over 180. The Friends are now recognised within the community for the work that we do...not merely picking up litter. We now have a "face" in Kenilworth and, if anything, it is the way that we have become a community based society that has pleased me most. The hard work, together with more than a few laughs, has been provided by our super Committee, to whom I owe my thanks for their support and friendship.

I shall continue to help out by putting bulbs in upside down and litter picking in the stream in the hope that Jon H. doesn't see me.

Chairman

WELCOME

We are delighted that Sam Sexton has accepted an invitation to join the Committee. He is well known in wildlife and allotment circles and will bring practical experience which will be much appreciated. Sam attended our recent Committee meeting and quickly joined in our usual mayhem, on which basis he will be a great asset.

DONATIONS

We are very grateful to members and supporters, who have generously donated money to the Friends. These include three separate donations of £50.00 and one of £200.00 in memorium. All of the money will be used as requested, to buy bulbs or plants and the donors will be invited to join us, when planting takes place.

Many thanks from us all.

GET SNAPPY!!

This is your final opportunity to submit any photographs of Abbey Fields for inclusion in the 2014 edition of the Friends of Abbey Fields Calendar. Selection will take place shortly and the final 13 (work that out!!) will be passed across to our friends at Emmersons Printers Ltd for production, ready for distribution and sale in September.

Remember we will only have on sale a limited edition of 500 copies. Some members were disappointed in 2012 as they did not order in good time. An order form will be sent out to all members for whom we have an email address. Orders can also be placed by telephone with any of the committee, by those who are not on email. Payment on delivery.

To help you a pro forma order is set out below. Currently we are unable to provide a price for the Calendar but it is anticipated that it will not exceed £6.00... hopefully less. The final price will be conveyed to you in the next Newsletter.

Please complete and return to *Mrs Linda Pettifor, 25 Malthouse Lane, Kenilworth, CV8 1AD*. Please **DO NOT** include any payment.

Your advance order will ensure that you get your copy/copies of the Calendar and they will be delivered to you in good time.

Friends of Abbey Fields Calendar 2014 Pro Forma Order

I wish to place an advance order for copy/copies of the 2014 Calendar.

Name :

Address :

Post Code :

Telephone no. :

Email :

Return to: Mrs Linda Pettifor, 25 Malthouse Lane, Kenilworth CV8 1AD

OUR MAN AT WDC

The recent few months have been very busy. We at Warwick District Council, have recently re-tendered the grounds maintenance contract, along with street cleansing and refuse/recycling and have said goodbye to Glendale after 15 years. The landscape group having tendered successfully were awarded the grounds maintenance contract and started working for the district in April, along with Veolia, who won the street cleaning, which includes the parks and open spaces. A new system of working has been introduced; it is early days but initial signs are good. The Fields have a lot more cover in the way of litter removal and general maintenance within the Fields will improve.

After some horrendous wet weather, there has been water oozing out of the ground in lots of places, which has caused some disruption and concern; although famous last words, the problems seem to be resolving themselves as the ground dries out.

The new play area has been the focus for some weeks within the Fields, and is well under way. Lots of positive comments have already been made and there is a general air of excitement for when it will be ready to use. Play Dale, the company who won the tender, have been working hard to complete and all looks good for completion in May. It does not stop there though as additional ground works, such as landscaping and planting, will be completed in the Autumn with community involvement, many thanks to the working group including the Friends for all their help on the project.

The snakes heads fritillaries have flowered and look really good in the meadow at the end of the lake. The meadow in the Fields, sown in 2011, will be allowed to grow away this year, keep an eye out for the developing flora and fauna.

We have also been carrying out some tree safety works throughout the winter, which has entailed work on dead trees. You will have noticed piles of stacked timber left under certain trees; as well as leaving the standing dead tree safe, these piles - and the trees themselves - have been left to provide continuing biodiversity.

On a recent visit to the Fields, I had an interesting chat with a local, who was merrily removing one of the said piles of timber!! Once I had established with him that this wasn't allowed anywhere in the Fields and the reasons why they had been left as piles by the trees for biodiversity and not just dumped or forgotten, the person concerned fully understood and thought it would be good to make everyone else aware.

Removing timber, cut or otherwise is not allowed, we as the District have professional arboriculturelists to manage our trees. Any cut timber that is left, is for a good reason and must not be removed.

Jon

FUTURE BACKACHE'S

At the last committee meeting we discussed with Jon Holmes (our man at WDC), what we should consider as projects during the coming months. As you will be aware, we have on-going work with our 'wild flower meadow', which will take another two years to mature. This year, more plug plants will be purchased by us, for the Autumn planting, together with some seedlings. The crocus beds on Abbey Hill, will be extended in mid-November further towards the war memorial and bluebell bulbs planted around some of the trees in the same locality. At the new play area, we have agreed to assist during September in boggy planting in the 'rain' garden and tidy up the mature 'butterfly' border. So another busy Autumn for us all. The work is not arduous or difficult and we would appreciate more willing hands for an hour or so on a Saturday morning. It is greatly satisfying to see your handiwork come up and flower next year.

All the dates will be included in future newsletters.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Litter Picking:

2013 Litter Picking Saturday sessions. It has been requested, that we continue the litter picking into November this year. So if you are able to join us, it would be much appreciated:

1st June
13th July
3rd August
7th September
5th October
2nd November

Please meet at the Swimming Baths by the Café at 9.30 a.m as usual

EVENTS FOR 2013

Lions Show

Saturday 8th June
in Abbey Fields

Friends of Abbey Fields '*Human One Armed Bandit Machine*' shouldn't be missed!!

Bat Walk

with Dr Jon Russ, Ecologist
on Wednesday 26th June at 8.00 p.m
meet at St Nicholas car park, Abbey Fields
(Jon will be bringing his rescue bats along)

Moth Evening

with David Brown, County Moth Recorder
on Friday 9th August at 9.00 p.m
meet at St Nicholas car park, Abbey Fields
"Wrap up against the cold!"

Plus coming up later in the year:
Fedge planting in the new Play Area
Wild Flower Meadow planting
More Crocus bulb planting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 24th July

at Jubilee House, Kenilworth

We are delighted that Angela Newey will be our guest speaker at the AGM, in July.

Angela will be joined by one or two of her friends who make up "Blackthorn Blossoms". The ladies will reminisce on both Kenilworth personalities and events around Abbey Fields. Please make a note in your diary for what will be a trip down memory lane for some and 'I didn't know that' for the rest.

F.O.A.F Committee

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Vice-Chairman:

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