



Spring Newsletter

May 2013



Dear Friends

Welcome to our latest Newsletter, which continues to be a 'thank you' for all the support the Committee has received from members this year in its endeavours to restore your park.

Since the last Newsletter (Winter 2012), we have seen considerable further clearance of fallen trees etc following the winter storms/snowfalls. Some were concerned that there may be little left but thankfully spring has proven this is not the case. Various Parks Department teams worked diligently to clear dangerous trees and branches throughout the park, combined with the final year of the 5 Year Plan to remove shrubs infected with the Phytophthora plant disease. The added light to the woodland floor created by the disease control work has paid dividends - wildflowers have flourished and the remaining rhododendrons and camellia have blossomed - defying the winter weather.

Entrance project

You may recall than in 2012 the Friends won a substantial grant for improving parts of the entrance area during 2013. (This followed various public surveys that identified the entrance area as the

priority for improvement. Additionally, the Phytophthora severely restricts other Park improvement work.) The Committee has



been pleased to receive the various approvals for a new gateway arch, some underpass lighting and a wall mural. However we are still in negotiation with

Network Rail about replacement of the unsightly fencing in the underpass. We have completed: Installation of the office canopy (LDL Engineering Ltd), entrance bench (base and surround courtesy of the Cardiff Parks Department) and restoration of the park gates (LDL Engineering Ltd). Some maintenance of the office building and a lower profile vehicle barrier into the underpass are also planned.



The wildflower plugs for the greens arrived late owing to the snow – a huge thank you to Paul (J), Peter, Jo, Ian, Bill and Pam for coming to my rescue on the 2nd May and joining me to plant approximately 700 plugs, consisting of hedge woundwort, meadow cranesbill, monkshood, ox-eye daisy, primrose, cowslip, red campion, foxglove, large birdfoot trefoil, betony and ragged robin. Thanks also to Rich and Raj (Park Rangers) for altering their schedules to assist us.

Underpass wall mural

The contracted artist and our Educational Co-ordinator visited the park with local junior school pupils to tell them about the history of the park and translate this information into their ideas for the mural. He also talked to countless visitors and volunteers on our March Workday and the Workday/Open Day on the 7th April. We received lots of positive feedback and some great current and historical ideas for the mural. Indeed the highlighting of our activities contributed to a further 20 households signing up on the Open Day to become members. The artist has also spent 2 days with Yr11 pupils at Llanishen High School teaching techniques and collating more ideas.



He will soon be producing an outline sketch of the intended mural and this will be available to see on our website www.friendsofcefnonn.org.uk for a short period. We welcome any feedback you may have. We hope the mural will be painted by the end of June and significantly brighten up the dreary underpass whilst at the same time providing visitors with interesting information about the Park and its history.

AGM 2013

This year's AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 19th June at the Old School Hall, Lisvane commencing at 7.00pm and attached is the Agenda. Our special feature for the evening will be a presentation by our ranger, Alec. As a keen photographer (alecstewart@weebly.com), he will reveal some **Techniques and Tips on Wildlife Photography**. This is a very timely presentation as we have just launched our first.....

Photography competition



Your photos should be entitled either winter, spring or summer and must be submitted no later than 30th November 2013. Details of the prizes and competition rules can be found on our website www.friendsofcefnonn.org.uk So get clicking!

Waymarked routes

You will have noticed **posts** have recently been placed throughout the park, the coloured bands indicating varying walks. A map explaining the routes will shortly be displayed in the entrance area. Along with the entrance project, these marked routes were another item on the 'wish list' of local residents at the 2009/10 Public Meetings held by the Cardiff Parks Department.



Workday volunteering

Monthly Sunday **Workdays** over the last few months have concentrated on repairing and surfacing the woodland paths, planting bulbs on the far bank of the fish pond and clearing two silt traps/pond in the upper park. We bought in assistance from Cardiff Conservation Volunteers to help us with this somewhat messy and back breaking task. Grateful thanks to all the volunteers who took part. In fact, we could do with a few more volunteers for these Workdays. Anyone interested?

Find us on Facebook.



Future Workdays (2-4pm)

Sundays 16th June, 21st July, 11th Aug, 22nd Sept

Meet in the car park just before 2pm.

[Further details on the website.](#)

The first **Weekday Workday** was spent preparing the rockery for planting but unfortunately there were not enough 'gardening volunteers'. As Mr Rob Jones



(Team Leader responsible for the park) was keen to plant this area, he arranged for Rangers to continue this work. A huge thank you to Rich, Sally, Paula, Harry and Magdelena (Park Rangers) – hopefully we will soon see this area transformed. Due to the low turn-out of volunteers, **Mid-week Workdays are suspended**.

Website News

Please see our website for 'Park Information', past Newsletters, and regular News updates.

Children's brass rubbing posts

We felt it was time we gave some added interest for the younger walkers (although older ones can have a go if they wish!) and **Brass rubbing posts** have been provided and



installed in the lower park by the Cardiff Parks Dept. Apologies if your walks go at a snail pace while they place a piece of paper over the brass plaque and use a pencil or crayon to rub over the engraving. Hopefully it will give hours of fun – perhaps using the engraving to create a picture when they get home, allowing you a little peace to enjoy a cup of tea!

Additional grant funding

The Group have obtained a £300 grant for additional tools from **Keep Wales Tidy**. We have also applied to Environmental Wales for £1,000 funding for bat boxes and detectors. (See our website/ park notice board for results of our 2012 bat survey.) £750 has been awarded in principle provided we can match fund £250 – we are currently working on this requirement.

We hope you are pleased with the progress being made in your park. Please do not hesitate to contact the Group with your ideas or comments. Whilst the Committee is fully committed with the current entrance project workload, it will be considering further projects later in the year. We look forward to seeing you at the **AGM on 19th June** if you can make it.

Sue Williams (Hon. Secretary)

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