



# Winter Newsletter

## December 2012



Dear Friends

**Welcome** to our latest Newsletter, which is principally a 'thank you' for all the support the Committee has received this year in its endeavours to restore your park.

### Entrance project funding

As a result of your membership, we secured £35K with our bid for funding to upgrade the entrance area of the Park and will be spending the money on various projects taking account of your views and wish-lists. This is a big project for our small Group to take on and obviously involves a lot of regular liaison with the Council and all the contractors involved. Although many of the quotations are in, we are still awaiting some approvals but you should be seeing improvements between now and the next eight months. So - thank you to all members.

### Management of the Parc

Mr Rob Jones, Team Leader on the Parks Department Management took over responsibility for Cefn Onn just over a year ago and what a difference he is making. Thank you Rob, gardeners and apprentices.



Work continues removing infected rhododendron but Rob has also been keen to open up the park allowing the eye to appreciate the varied shrub and tree species along with the views surrounding the park. Whilst regular

walkers were nervous nothing would be left, most are now full of praise and we are receiving regular appreciation on the ever improving state of the park.

### Calling all gardeners

Through the development of this close relationship, Rob has agreed to allow a monthly weekday workdays (possibly a few hours on a Wednesday) for members who have asked to be hands-on involved but owing to family commitments, cannot work Sundays. These Workdays will start in the new year. *To avoid sending a round-robin to all members with details, could you email me to express your interest.* Rob would like the Friends group to take ownership of the rockery opposite the entrance to the Summer House and the main pond and they will be clearing, replanting and maintaining this area.



### Workdays this autumn/ winter

Our volunteers have been tremendous. Owing to the exceptionally wet summer the woodland paths were suffering and the volunteers have worked very hard improving surfaces and whilst there is still a lot to do, we feel sure you appreciate the work already done. The Workdays are generally attended by quite small numbers (ranging from ages 8 – 80) and under the direction and expertise of our inspirational Ranger, Alec, they have spread 14 tonnes of stone over the last few months.



The volunteers had a break in December to concentrate on bulb planting and coppicing in the woodland. Our sincere thanks to Alec, the volunteers, and Sue for organising the regular refreshments. If anyone else would like to take

part in this activity then please come along and see what it is all about.

#### Future Workdays

20<sup>th</sup> January 24<sup>th</sup> February 17<sup>th</sup> March  
7<sup>th</sup> April 19<sup>th</sup> May 16<sup>th</sup> June 21<sup>st</sup> July  
11<sup>th</sup> August 22<sup>nd</sup> September 20<sup>th</sup> October  
24<sup>th</sup> November 1<sup>st</sup> December

#### Website News

Remember to visit our News section for monthly updates. We have also added a new section for 'Park Information' such as past membership Newsletters.

#### Park Ranger has an obvious talent!

On the subject of Alec – please do take a look at the News section of our website where you will find a link to his outstanding personal photographic gallery – you will not be disappointed.



Alec normally holds Workshops (one for children and another for adults) in Roath Park but in 2013 has chosen our park. I will send details once confirmed.

#### Parc history evening

Our AGM was well attended and the highlight of the evening was a Presentation by Rosie James of Cardiff Parks Department. Rosie has spent several years collating information on the history of the park built by Mr Ernest Prosser and his head gardener Mr Tom Jenkins. Rosie had exhausted her research when owing to the wonders of the worldwide web, Tom's grand-daughter, Julie (an Australian by birth) landed on our website. There has followed a fascinating exchange which has provided Rosie with detail and photographs filling the gaps on the history. We are very grateful to Rosie for her dedication to this labour of love and to Tom's family down-under. We know some of you were unable to attend the AGM and

disappointed to have missed this Presentation but we hope to persuade Rosie to 'do it again' in 2013.



#### Photography competition

Our Photography Competition is to be rolled out in January. Entry forms can be downloaded from our website where you will find all the rules etc. There will be 3 category themes of – winter, spring, summer - for two age groups, ie 15 and under/16 and over. Prize will be £20 shopping vouchers to the winner of each category. If any of our postal membership wish to participate, please write to me at 20 Bryn Glas, Thornhill, CF14 9AA and I will forward an entry form and details to you. We look forward to receiving your entries. Remember, Friends membership is for the whole household and so all of the family can enter. (If you have looked at the Park Rangers website, don't worry, we won't be letting him enter! – he will be organising the judging anyway.)



#### Facebook comes to Cefn Onn

Following many requests, we have now set up a Facebook page so you can link and share the word with your pals.

Alternatively copy and paste the link below in an e-mail to your own contacts -

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Parc-Cefn-Onn/166090710195416?fref=ts;>

#### We are getting there !

I will leave you with a little story – this week I met a gentleman in the park. His last visit was 15 years ago when he wheeled his now late wife in her chair up to the top pond. He remembered that it was a nightmare journey over a pot-holed path and the park was looking in a sorry state. Owing to sad memories, he only returned this week and was elated – not only with the main pathway, but to see that at last the park is again being cared for and was full of praise to the Friends, volunteers and Parks Department for the improvements made so far.

Thank you to all concerned. We look forward to continuing the good work in 2013 and send you our best wishes for the New Year.

Sue Williams and Gareth Thomas  
Hon. Secretary & Chairman  
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