



Summer Newsletter

2014



Dear Friends

Welcome to the latest edition of our Friends of Parc Cefn Onn newsletter. The group have been very busy since our last newsletter so we are afraid we have gone beyond our usual two pages! Regular news items are also posted on the website.

Awards: We would like to congratulate our Secretary, Sue Williams, for being awarded runner up in Cardiff Council's volunteer of the year for 2013 at the City Hall ceremony! Sue



has been a key player throughout the initial years of the group and has put a considerable amount of hard work into her roles both as secretary and membership secretary. She has also been involved in the many hands on

projects within the park, and pulling things together with her infectious enthusiasm. Well done Sue!

Entrance project completion

The entrance project that we have been working on for the last two years is now complete. If you recall, we received a substantial grant from the government's landfill tax scheme and, because of the plant disease within the park, focussed on upgrading the entrance area to be more in-keeping with that of a National Park. You will probably have forgotten already how dire it was only two years ago! Drawing up the specifications, obtaining approvals, getting quotes, and managing contractors for each item below has been very time consuming. Thanks to all the contractors involved (list on park notice board) and the Council Parks Department for their efforts. Our achievement included:

- New welcome arch over entrance
- Refurbish of the front gates
- Replace decayed front gate posts
- Plant wildflower meadow in field



- Remove temporary fencing along field boundary
- Bury overhead electrical cables under the car park
- Install a new bike park area
- New bench to commemorate Green Flag Award 2013
- New flagpole for Green Flag Award 2013
- Reposition park notice board
- Canopy over Friend's office window



- Replacement of office door and windows
- Replace ladies and gents toilet doors
- Refurbishment of office and toilet interiors
- Refurbish building facias and guttering
- Community history mural on underpass wall
- Install energy efficient lighting in underpass



- Replace old and damaged fencing in underpass
- Remove light blocking foliage on railway embankment
- Replace pathside handrail beyond underpass

Phytophthora update

Parks Department teams continue to remove shrubs infected with Phytophthora disease (photo) and also cut away low hanging branches to try and reduce the chances of disease spread. On the plus side, the added light to the woodland floor as created a variety of ground fauna not seen in the park for a few decades.



Green flag award 2014

Akin to Blue Flag beaches, Cefn Onn has the Green Flag Award and judging for 2014 has just taken place. We will let you know the results on the website as soon as we have them.



Beds for bats: Thanks to grant funding and support from Environment Wales we've been able to purchase boxes for our resident bats. On Sunday 16th March, with our ranger Alec, we installed 20 bat boxes around the park – these are visible from the main path. There was a lot of interest from those enjoying the park on the day. Later this year we are planning a bat walk – for more information see other events below.



Planning has begun on our next project. The lower pond regularly suffers from silting up of the water courses which feed into the pond and the pond itself is currently silted up. We would like to turn the lower pond area into an inviting area of ecological and educational interest to visitors with, potentially, a viewing platform/dipping pond and educational

information panels on habitats and planting within the lower pond area. If you have any thoughts on this project that you would like to share or would like to know more, contact us at friendsofcefnonn@talktalk.net or leave us a message on the website.

Cefn Onn heavily silted lower pond:



Want to get involved in 2014?

We are keen to attract more volunteers for our workdays. Here are the dates for the remainder of this year. We meet in the car park at Parc Cefn Onn at 13:50 and finish at 16:00. Activities are varied for all abilities and ages. So far this year we've opened new paths, positioned bat boxes, cleared overgrown areas, and coppiced the trees. We're making a real difference to the Park so please come along and join in.



WORKDAYS

Sunday 29 June Sunday 20 July
Sunday 24 August Sunday 21 September
Sunday 12 October Sunday 16 November

Further Workday details at
www.friendsofcefnonn.org.uk

Membership

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership or made a donation to the Friends of Parc Cefn Onn. Our strength is in our numbers so please invite those who you think may be interested

to join. Membership fees help provide important funds to support our events and make improvements to the park. We've recently made it possible for people to subscribe online to the Friends of Cefn Onn or to make a donation. It still costs only £5 per household to become a member for a year. It is also possible to subscribe via standing order or cheque for



those who would prefer to do so. For all membership methods see our website for full details. Photo: Cakes and park visitors at our

recent recruitment day in the park!

Photography competition 2013



We were really pleased with the number, and particularly the standard, of entries in our 2013 competition. Results are on the back page of this newsletter. The Winter entry was also chose for the front of Cardiff Council's 2014 Outdoor Cardiff leaflet.

Look out for this year's competition later in the year.

Website news

Please see our website for park Information, past newsletters, and regular news updates. Our kind webmaster, Peter, regularly adds our updates, and, together with his wife, ensures we have a mirror image website in Welsh.



Children's brass rubbing posts

Kids, remember a piece of paper and crayon when you



next visit the park to have a go at the brass rubbing plaques. We can't put them all on our website but we would be pleased to see them if you email them to us.

Other Events

In addition to the workdays there are other events lined up this year:

- You'll have read about our bat boxes above, join our local rangers on 30th August at 20:00 to discover more about the bats living in the park.
- Reserve a place to hone your photography skills at a Photography for Adults workshop on 4th October (10:00am).
- Later in October there is a walk along the Ridgeway, starting at the park (11th October, 10:00).
- For more about these, and other park events and walks in Cardiff, see www.outdoorcardiff.com



.. two new committee members
If you could spare us a little time, please let us know.

Committee: After four years on the Committee, and receiving awards (page 1), founding member, Sue Williams, has decided to leave the Committee. On behalf of all members we would like to thank Sue for her fantastic contribution. We would certainly not have achieved everything we have so far without her. Thanks Sue !

Thankyou to:

Cardiff Council Parks Department and Park Rangers Alec and Raj who regularly support our work.
Lisvane Community Association and Lisvane Community Council who kindly sponsor our existence and have been a great source of support.

Annual general meeting (AGM) 2014

This year our AGM will be held on Wednesday 25 June at the Old School, Lisvane, 6:45 (for 7) -8pm. Please come along to hear more about the work of the Friends.

email: friendsofcefnonn@talktalk.net

FRIENDS OF CEFN ONN PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS 2013

The theme of last years' photo competition was 'Four Seasons in Parc Cefn Onn'
These are winners, by category, announced in March. Thanks to everyone who entered. The winter winner was also chosen by Cardiff Council as the front page of their Parks Events leaflet for 2014!

Summer (Under 16): Euan Bonni



Winter (Under 16): Euan Bonni



Spring: Ceri Reed



Winter: Vic Chambers



Summer: Peter Kent



Autumn: Vic Chambers

