



It's Your Park!

Newsletter of The Friends of Devonport Park

Lottery Success On 15th October we learned that all the hard work over the past three years had paid off & The Heritage Lottery Fund officially confirmed that the bid for restoration funding for Devonport Park had been successful. Plymouth City Council will now receive around £3.294 million and work can now begin in earnest. The "friends" have worked very closely, in partnership with PCC, Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership and many other interested parties to help secure these funds.

We can be justly proud of the fact that the popularity of our community events was a key factor in helping to persuade the lottery assessors of the importance of the park, not just from an historical perspective but, as a major community asset, valued and used by our local communities as well as people from all across the city. Frank Wilson, Chair of the "Friends", had this to say,



"Well here we are at last able to look at the reality of our Park being re-invigorated. The HLF award confirmation coupled with the commitment of PCC and DRCP means that the programme of works through to the award of Green Flag status in 2011 can be developed with confidence. Achieving Green Flag status will confirm that the objective to re-instate The People's Park has been met and will be maintained. The first steps on the Lower Lodge upgrade have been taken and completion will allow us to get a Park Warden or Senior Gardener established in the Park. It is anticipated that significant progress on the Play Area, if not completion, will be achieved by the end of March 2009. Both of these elements are going ahead with funding supplied by DRCP. With respect to the wider restoration works the pavilion, lighting and tree works will be the first elements going ahead in the spring of 2009.

Restoration of the heritage features of the park railings, fountains and memorial works are expected to start around the middle of 2009. The park landscaping contract is anticipated to start in the middle of 2009 and will take some 18 months to complete. This work will include the Rose Garden, Memorial Garden and Sicilian Gardens as well as the existing shrub beds which will be extensively pruned, reshaped, reduced in height or replanted. While general preparation works are going ahead people will be hoping to see visible signs of the park improving and that we hope will be achieved by the continuing work of the Volunteer Gardening Team.

This is just very brief summary of what is to be included in the restoration and if you wish to be involved first hand in the improvements and get a better insight then an excellent route is to join the Volunteer Gardeners. If you are unable to do that then just contact any of the people detailed on our website and they will do their best to inform you or direct you to somebody who can help you".

The Friends of Devonport Park greatly value the help and support we receive from:-



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The National Lottery
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Music in The Park On Sunday 28th September, we held our latest event in Devonport Park. Purely music & refreshments, this was intended as a relaxing entertainment for all ages, without the pressure of stalls, rides etc. Once again, the weather was more than kind to us and yet again we had a very well attended event. The popular Chris Pitt performed his very good Neil Diamond tribute for the first hour after which, Cllr Vivien Pengelly presented certificates to the Voluntary Community Gardening Team. The "Friends" Committee then presented to Gillian Chinner, who, in her role as "Community, Education, Activities & Events Officer" with Plymouth City Council, first set up the gardening team, one of the limited edition prints from an original painting by artist Sue Wills that they had commissioned. Acts from Plymouth Music Zone then took to the stage. Josie Newton & Elize Kellman wowed the audience with some superb entertainment before Chris returned for the finale. Throughout the afternoon there was a steady stream of customers for the wide range of refreshments being served from the pavillion. Cakes, sausage rolls & pasties as well as sandwiches and assorted biscuits all sold very well, washed down by hot or cold drinks. There was a mobile bar, run by Vince from the Revenue pub which was also well supported.

Christmas Sing-Along. On 10th December we held our annual Christmas event in the Park. It was a bitterly cold evening, but those hardy souls that did turn up had a very enjoyable time. We had the trees outside the bowling pavilion decked out in lights and lanterns and even the inside of the pavilion was decorated. Plenty of hot food & drink was available. The entertainment was provided by Lee Brimble on keyboard, accompanied by Mel Gallagher on clarinet. It was so cold that Mel had to keep warming up her clarinet in the pasty oven – because the reed kept freezing! Many thanks to all those who joined us in singing a variety of popular songs & carols



Items of Interest We would like to start including a readers' page in the newsletter so that you can write in to ask questions of the Committee, send in articles for publication etc. We would be especially interested to hear from anyone who has particular memories or stories about the park over the years. Old photographs would be particularly interesting. Just contact us at "FDP Newsletter" c/o 82 Granby St, Devonport, PL1 4BN. Items of interest can also be included on our new "**Your Voice**" page on our website www.friendsofdevonportpark.co.uk

Park Avenue Crossing. No doubt you will have read in the press about the decision by Plymouth City Council, not to proceed with the planned pedestrian crossing on Park Avenue. This is particularly concerning as this crossing was intended to be an integral part of the restoration & development of Devonport Park. The whole point was that it would be a tangible, visible link between the two sections of the park which has been divided for so long. The reason given – effectively that it would cause unacceptable delays to buses – simply is not acceptable. There are much busier bus routes in Plymouth where the council have been more than happy to put in crossings, Royal Parade is a prime example! Your views would be welcome. Please, either write to us, or, better still to, Chris Sane. Asst Dir. Development (Transport & Highways) PCC. Civic Centre, Armada Way. PL1 2AA or to your local councillor.

Our A.G.M., held at Granby Island Community Centre on 26 November was well supported. We would like to welcome to the Committee, our two newly elected members, Kate Parker and Lawrie Quayle who are both very committed to the aims of the group. A full copy of the chairmans report to the AGM can be obtained from the Secretary or from the website.

2008. Last year was a very successful year for the “Friends”. Once again, the events that we put on in the park, the “150th anniversary” celebration in June, the “*Music in The Park*” in September and the “*Xmas Sing-along*” were all very well attended. We were particularly pleased with the numbers that attended the *Remembrance Day Service* on the 9 November. This shows, undoubtedly, that there is a real need for community events to continue to be held in Devonport Park, and The Friends of Devonport Park will continue to try and meet that demand. Of course, the highlight of the year was the announcement that the Heritage Lottery Fund bid had been successful and we can already see that work is underway. The Lodge will be completed at the end of March and the ground works for the new play area is starting (see below). Another very pleasing aspect for us, from 2008, was that our membership increased substantially but we always welcome new ones. If you would like to join us, just complete the form at the bottom of this page. Alternatively, you can email your contact details to any of the contacts on the back of this newsletter.

The new Play Park. Jointly funded by HLF, DRCP & Plymouth City Council work at last began on the new children’s playground on 6 January. Below left is an artists’ impression of what the new play park will look like when completed. On the right is a photo of the site prior to work commencing. As with the work on the Lodge, we are going to keep a photographic record of the progress, and, publish it on the website.



I would like to become a member of The Friends of Devonport Park. (please use BLOCK Capitals)

Full Name

Address

..... Tel:

Email Signature

Please return to: The Secretary, FDP, 82 Granby St, Devonport, Plymouth, PL1 4BN

Devonport Park Lodge

Work on the £200K+ restoration & refurbishment of the lodge, at last got under way on Monday 27 th October when contractors ROK moved onto the site. The project, funded by DRCP, is due to be completed in March 2009. The lodge, a grade II listed building is owned by the Devonport Community Leisure Trust, DCLL, but will be leased back to the City Council, initially for a 25 year period and will then become home to Devonport Park's dedicated keeper.

A photographic record of the progress of the work is being kept and will be available to view



Work currently under way on the lodge



Devonport Park Lodge, prior to work starting.

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Remembrance Day Service held at the War Memorial in the park on Sunday 9 Novemeber and conducted by Rev. Tim Buckley was extremely well attended by both young and old alike. The "Friends" were joined by members of the congregation of St Michaels church, representatives of the police, the Royal Navy, the 11th Keyham Scouts, Sea Cadets, the Salvation Army, board members from DRCP, our local councillors and a great many others to proudly honour and remember those who have sacrificed so much. After the service refreshments were provided in the bowls pavillion.

on the website. www.friendsofdevonportpark.co.uk

Volunteer Gardeners Thanks to a £600 grant from DRCP, we have been able to purchase a substantial supply of tools for the volunteers to use. The Parks department of Plymouth City Council have been very helpful in allowing us to use some of their office space in the Park training centre complexe (formally, PLUS). This will secure the future of the gardening club, even after the current round of funding comes to an end. The dates for the next arranged sessions are on Saturday 14 February, Tuesday 24 February, Tuesday 3 March, Monday 9 March, Tuesday 17 March and Saturday 28 March. Sessions are from 11 am until 3 pm except on Saturdays when we start at 10 am and finish at 2 pm. We generally meet near the pavillion Further dates will be posted on the website as and when they are finalised.

