

PRIORY PARK NEWS

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

ISSUE 3

AGM

Litter Pick Event

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Waitrose Green
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Update

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
Wednesday
17th May 2017

at: 7.30pm

Loves Farm Football
Club

Speaker: Liz Davies
St Neots Museum

Talk on:
*A short History of St
Neots and its
People*

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GREEN FLAG
AWARD JUDGING
Monday 5th June

Welcome to the third issue of the Priory Park Friends Group Newsletter.

Yet again a new season is upon us, and in the park last year's fallen leaves are dispersing, new buds and tree shoots are appearing and the undergrowth is starting to go berserk in the wooded areas. Snowdrops and daffodils have added their colours to the borders and the verdant grass is looking very green. There are also reports of Muntjac deer to be seen wandering about.



Annual General Meeting - followed by a talk on *'A short History of St Neots & its People'*

The 2017 Annual General Meeting, and then a talk by Liz Davies, Curator of the St Neots Museum.

Join us on Wednesday 17th May at 7.30pm for the AGM, when you can hear what we've been up to over the past year and what we're planning for Priory Park in the future. And as if that wasn't enough, the meeting will be followed by Liz Davies, who will give her fascinating talk, *'A short History of St Neots and its People'* along with plenty of slides of our town that you won't have seen before.

No charge, free parking, everyone welcome, especially you.

And there's a bar...

Litter Picking Event

The long-awaited morning of the litter pick finally arrived. The council had delivered the picky-uppy things, the gloves and plenty of bags and once kitted out we set off in various directions as directed by our co-ordinators for the day. For those who wanted, there were even some bright bright yellow tabards to put on to give an extra air of importance and authority.



It was a wonderful response, around 25 volunteers, including quite a few young people, turned up, plus 15 from the local scout troop, which may be a record attendance. As expected, the park had been well prepared beforehand with suitable litter and rubbish, and there was certainly no shortage of things to pick up.

Whilst no official research was undertaken, once again the main items seemed to be food packaging of one form or another, including a varied selection of plastic drink containers. Little carrier bags of dog poo were quite 'popular', but glass alcoholic beverage bottles were thought to be down this year.



At the end, we'd collected over 30 bags for the council to collect. Fantastic, and a higher number than usual, but remember we hadn't done a 'pick' for some time. The scouts were highly enthusiastic and were greatly appreciated, so thanks go to their leader, David, for allowing them to 'volunteer'.

As usual, it is a shame that it must be done at all, but if we didn't do this then it would just mount up, not good for the woodland, us, the park visitors or for the animal, bird and insect life. Again, the worst area was by the pathway alongside Longsands school, but perhaps that was due to the prevailing wind blowing the litter all the way from the car park...or some other reason...who can say.

But I think all those who attended can now pat themselves on the back, if they can reach, and feel a well-deserved smugness. And we even gained a few new members on the day. A result!



Update

We are pleased to announce that Huntingdonshire District Council have submitted their Portfolio for the Green Flag Award status for Priory Park and we have been informed that the judging will take place on Monday 5th June.

You will notice as you walk around the park that HDC are hard at work completing the identified improvements and we must say that works undertaken so far look great!

Works to the main entrance are well underway with the reconfiguration of the parking bays and relocation of the notice board to a more suitable location. The construction of planters and better signage at this location is a vast improvement to the entrance.



A considerable amount of tree work has also been carried out over the last few months and we were pleased to see that some of the woodchip generated was recycled and spread on the woodland path.

Waitrose Green Token Scheme Update

Following our successful application in being chosen as one of the three charities for February's 'Community Matters' Box. We are pleased to announce that we received a donation of £410 which we will be using for our Autumn bird box expansion project.

A big thank you to everyone who placed their green tokens in our box and a special thank you to Waitrose for selecting us.

Contacting Us

We would love to hear from you with suggestions on how we can improve the park facilities for all to enjoy and we are always looking for new photographs to post on our website.

Please send any photographs to webmanager@ppfg.uk and suggestions on how we can improve the facilities to secretary@ppfg.uk or post them on our newly launched Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ppfgstneots/>