

PRIORY PARK NEWS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017 ISSUE 4

Thanks

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Award

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Suggestions for
spending funds

AGM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Further wood
chipping of the
woodland paths

Putting up
new/replacing
existing bird boxes

Autumn litter pick

DATES TO BE
CONFIRMED

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

This is what we got the Green Flag for (see page 2) ...Priory Park at its best, although this photo was taken in between the rather frequent rain showers over the last few weeks, and it wasn't easy.



By the way, there's been several sightings of the Muntjac deer recently, so keep a look out and don't leave your sandwiches unattended... And if you manage to get a photo of one, we'd love to see it.

Thank you, Ian

Ian Jackson has grown several horse chestnut trees from conkers collected from the park and he has very kindly donated them to be planted in the park. HDC has confirmed that they will plant them in the autumn as part of their conservation programme.

Wood-chipping the Woodland Path

We would like to thank those members and our new recruit Hew who turned up to help spread the wood chip. We have now managed to cover the path all the way to the Forest School site.

With more support, we could cover a much wider area so if you can spare a few hours next time we have a delivery, please come and help.

Green Flag Award

We are thrilled to announce that Priory Park has won a Green Flag Award which is a real coup for the park as Grafham Water is the only other facility in Huntingdonshire with this status.

The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.



Research shows that many people are increasingly relying on their local park as a place to exercise, relax and have fun, quality green space has never been more important. People will only visit a park if they perceive it to be clean and safe and the Green Flag Award is an easy way for the public to see at a glance that their park meets the highest standards.

Gaining Green Flag status involves a site visit by a judging panel and is marked against 8 key criteria so it is by no means automatic, and we have worked closely with HDC over the last 10 months so we are delighted to have achieved this.

With further funding, we hope to make further improvements.

Congratulations to all those involved in preparing the bid and carrying out the work!



Fungus

Well, we needed more rain, and now we've got it, and one result is the welcome appearance of many different fungi in the wooded areas. They may have gone by the time you read this, but if you do find them, please don't try and eat them.



What should we spend the funding on?

We are pleased to announce that St Neots Town Council have kindly made a donation to the Friends of Priory Park Group

Thanks to generous donations we now have £3507.20 in the account which we would like to spend it on something which would make a real difference to the park.

Suggestions put forward so far are: -

- More picnic tables and benches
- Additional notice boards to be sited at the Rowley Road gate and the mid-section path entrance near the homes on Longsands.
- A number trail around the park similar to the Heron/Meadow trails at Paxton Pits which the whole family can follow.

As it is a significant amount of money we would like to get the members views on what we should spend it.

Please can you forward any suggestions to secretary@ppfg.uk by **3rd September 2017**.



AGM

Many thanks to all those who braved the rain and attended the AGM back in May, we'll choose better weather next time, or perhaps we could hold it in Spain?

We're especially thankful to Matt Chudley from HDC who managed to get through quite a few tough questions about the park and especially 'our' trees. We'll have to get him back next year, if he'll come...

And, of course, we all enjoyed the talk by Liz Davies, Curator of the St Neots Museum, on the long History of St Neots, from woolly mammoths to 'today'. She even brought along a surprisingly heavy mammoth tooth for us to handle.



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/>