

PRIORY PARK NEWS

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017 ISSUE 5

**Autumn 2017
Litter Pick**

Wildlife in the Park

Forest School Success

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring Litter Picking
(Date to be
confirmed)**

**Wood-chipping the
woodland path
(Dependant on HDC)
(Date to be
confirmed)**

NOTE FOR DIARY:

AGM

Wednesday

16th May 2018

Speaker: Sue Jarrett

**Topic: Changing
St Neots**

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

Soon it will be Spring the parkland is looking prepared, the wooded areas are re-greening back to their natural, wild, state and despite Brexit uncertainty, nature is carrying on regardless, which must be telling us something important..... but what? Old maps show that the woods and parklands have been here for several hundreds of years and whilst there's no immediate threat, other than so called progress, let's hope they'll still be here for many years to come.

We were lucky enough to have a flurry of snow on Boxing Day and it was wonderful to see so many people and dogs in the park enjoying this rare treat and to see the abundance of snowmen created.



Litter Pick – Autumn 2017

Those who take part in the 'pick' always find it a rather satisfying experience, even if we would rather it wasn't necessary. Armed with gloves, bag and picker-upper we wander around, seeking out the discarded wrappers, cans, bottles and the occasional surprise item, while thinking personal thoughts about those who discarded the stuff in the first place.



In 2017 we were joined by the local scout troop and didn't they do well? So much so that they are eagerly looking forward to the next one! And when you look at how much is collected each time, just think what the park would look like if we didn't....

Our next 'litter pick' is due soon, so look out for details.

Wildlife in the Park

There are still regular sightings of the Muntjacs, but we've no real idea of just how many there as they are always alone.

Squirrels seem to be out in full force busy foraging for nuts, whether it be their own or stealing others!

Foxes are occasionally seen lurking around in the woods and in the surrounding streets, no doubt looking for a take-away, and recently a stoat was reported.

There was a lot of fungi all over the place last year and apparently it's a sign of a healthy environment, which is good to know.

If you've seen anything new or unusual, or have photographs, please get in touch (see last page for details).



Congratulations to the Forest School and Committee Members Linda and Trisha

Any publicity for the park is welcome, but we were especially thrilled to hear that Committee members Linda and Trisha had finally received recognition for providing such a wonderful opportunity for the children.

Congratulations to you both!

(Below - Extract from Hunts Post article)

Staff and pupils at Priory Park Infants School are celebrating after learning the school has been recognised for its efforts to encourage children outside the classroom.

The school is only the fourth in the country to be named as a forest school provider after three years of hard work.

Forest School enhances a child's holistic wellbeing and gives children an amazing opportunity to be outside, direct their own learning, boost confidence and self-esteem, and develop independence whilst connecting with the natural environment.



“We are thrilled to have our commitment to Forest School acknowledged and be recognised for the first-class quality provision we offer to all children in our school,” says Linda Rowley, Forest School Leader.

It's such a privilege to see another side to the children. Some children who may not shine in the constraints of a classroom, come into their own in the forest. Their creativity, imagination and problem solving often blows us away. Its heart-warming to see them develop and grow”

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/>