

Friends of Stanney Fields Park *Neston*



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Friends of Stanney Fields Park have once again actively supported their local park and provided a fun-packed year of successful events for the community. The Friends continue to offer all the events and activities free of charge, thanks to funding from Cheshire West and Chester Council, ward member's budgets, individual donors and fundraising at events.

For the seventh year running, the park was awarded the Green Flag, thanks to the hard work of the Friends Committee, the support of Mary Lavery, Parks and Green Spaces, and the attentive tending of the park by Peter and other maintenance staff of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

In January, Ruth Hall and a group of young people gave a presentation to the Friends Committee on improving the skate park, and the next step was a public consultation held in July by the Green Spaces Team to gather residents' views on what improvements they would like to see to the wheels park facility, as well as the Dell area of the park. As a result, the Green Spaces team are now investigating funding for improvements.

In March, Friends celebrated the 90th birthday of founder member, John Davies. The day was marked by a visit from David Bromwell, the Parks Development Officer when the Committee first formed in 1999. Without David and John, there would have been no Friends of Stanney Fields Park and David described how neglected the park had been back then. He declared that thanks to the Friends Committee, Stanney Fields Park is now a real asset to the community.



The first big event of the year organised by the Friends was the Silver Band Concert, held on Saturday 16th July, on a sunny if chilly, evening.

Around 150 people, young and old, brought their picnics to enjoy the traditional sound of the Ellesmere Port Silver Band in the pleasant surroundings of the park.

The annual Family Fun Day was held on Saturday 13th August, with over 250 people enjoying the now traditional mix of climbing wall, steam engine, coconut shy, facepainting and circus skills. This year also saw a Viking re-enactment, Neston Nomads and the Snug play kit from CAN group which was a huge hit with children.

The final event of the year was the Fun Dog Show, held on Saturday 29th September. Again sponsored by Neston Pet Supplies and Bargain Booze, around 200 people attended with over 100 dogs entered into categories such as Best Junior Handler and Cutest Dog. Pets as Therapy came along once again to raise awareness of their charity, with an agility display from the Sutton Weaver Agility Club.



Best in Show winner, Spencer, with owner Gill Morisson and Friends' Judge Yvonne Robinson.
Photo courtesy of AboutmyArea/CH64

Owing to the hard work of Committee Members and in particular Elizabeth Rees, Membership Secretary, membership of the Friends of Stanney Fields is at 89, with a mixture of individual, family and lifelong members.

Thanks must go to all our supporters and donors. Special mention must go to Sue Jones of Neston Pet Supplies and Paul Davies of BargainBooze for their donations towards the Fun Dog Show in September. Thanks also to the staff of Neston civic hall for their help with holding committee meetings, and to all the volunteers on the Friends' Committee who volunteer their time to attend meetings and co-ordinate events. The hard work of the Friends and other volunteers helps to ensure Stanney Fields Park is enjoyed by increasing numbers of residents and visitors year on year.