

Friends of Princes Park annual report 2016-7

The park continues to look beautiful and tranquil, in the despite financial constraints. Glendale, helped by some dedicated FOPP members, have kept litter to a low level, despite increased use of the park which is fantastic.

The trees we planted in December 2013 and dedicated to Nelson Mandela are now really settled and bringing hints of glory to come. The cherry walk is awash with blossom in spring and rose hips of various colours light up the autumn along with other berries in our native plantations. FOPP volunteers thinned out our first plantation in January and by July it was looking as thick and as vibrant as ever! Care of trees (replacing and removing cages and weeding,) has also been a FOPP priority this year. More will be done this winter (see website). Sadly, we lost a couple of big trees in storm Doris, and some small willows were felled by fishermen. We hope this won't recur.

Wildlife is flourishing and this summer saw return of the swans. 2 of their 5 cygnets have survived. Although we lost 3 to entanglement in fishing lines and attacks the remaining cygnets look very robust. We continue to liaise with local fishermen and the Council about these.

Mandela8 have commissioned artists (Wayward) to take forward ideas for the memorial, look at initial possible designs and consult locally. FOPP website will be updated with developments. Despite severe financial constraints the Council found funding to investigate, maintain and improve the lake. Work is starting to explore options shortly. We look forward to working with the Council in imaginative ways to make our park even more wonderful over the next few years.

Other events in the park have included the great Get Together in celebration of the life and values of Jo Cox (a great day- weather, people, and food) and Midsummer Solstice celebrations organised by Squash Nutrition from dawn (yoga and healthy breakfast) till dusk (Iftar with dates, food, and fairy lights). More recently local youth services organised a very successful play day in the park and RSPB had an information day on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Parkrun has continued with 250-300 runners every Saturday, with some runners volunteering with FOPP over the year, and the Henge continues to look good and be well used.

We would like to thank all FOPP members who have volunteered with us this year on tree planting, coppicing, litter picking and leading walks. Thanks to our very active Tree group

for their enthusiasm and hard work. Thanks also to the Exec committee for their work for FOPP. Finally, Thanks to everyone in FOPP and all the people who have supported and helped and worked with us over the last 12 months including Glendales, Council officers and local Councillors. We are attending the Liverpool Parks Friends Forum regularly to keep up to date on future of parks.

Happily our finances are in relatively good shape and we continue to apply for grants for our work in the park and to fundraise. Thanks very much to those involved.

Our AGM is on Sat Oct 14th following a tree walk. See website for details. And we will be planting more trees and thinning existing plantations over weekends in December and January and hope to do some planting with a local primary school. In particular we will be planting round the tennis courts to improve the view form the playground and provide habitat for wildlife. We are looking, as always, for people to get involved, whatever your skills we can use them: visit our website for more information.

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September 2017

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