



Friends of Marple Memorial Park

www.marplememorialpark.org.uk



Newsletter No. 1

Who Are We?

'Friends of Marple Memorial Park' was formed in December 2003 as a result of the interest shown following a consultation with the local community.

At a meeting on 19th January 2004 a formal constitution was accepted and an action plan decided upon.

The basic aims of the group are to work together with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, to improve and help look after the park for the benefit of all users.

Committee:

Chairman – Peter Clarke
Treasurer - Jay Havoleana
Secretary – Chris Huxley

Members:

Bill Ardern
Chris Armitt
Peter Bardsley
Marika Darragh
Janet Milligan
Marguerita Pitcher
Mark Whittaker
Ken Wilson
Michaela Wood

S.M.B.C. Representatives:

Dave Burrows
Sally Curley
Adrian Ellis



Youth Worker Andrea Nylands & hard working friends set about the brambles whilst Peter Bardsley tackles the weeds on the Great Wall of Marple.



In the short time that we have been formed we have not been hanging around.

So far we have:

- # Set up our own web site with an on-line survey & questionnaire.
- # Applied to a government award scheme for match funding towards money identified by Stockport Council to improve the Junior Play Area
- # Successfully applied to Marple Area Committee for £400 to help towards the setting up costs of Friends of Marple Memorial Park
- # Created a wildflower area of the park.
- # Re-furbished the stocks.
- # Initiated a plan to place interpretation boards explaining the parks origins.
- # Held a successful 'Task Day' clearing brambles, planting bulbs and placing safety fencing by the canal sluice at the bottom of the park.

CONTACT US

If you feel that you would like to become involved with the Friends Group, have an idea of how to improve the parks facilities or have any other questions then contact either:

Sally Curley, Community Officer Parks and Recreation Service 0161 474 4418

Or

Peter Clarke, Chairman, Friends of Marple Memorial Park, 0161 427 1861



Marple Park Bowling Club



Welcomes anyone who is thinking of taking up bowling.

Interested parties should contact:

Ken Wood, Secretary – 0161 429 0121 between 5.00p.m. & 6.00p.m.

Stockport Parks are running a bowling course for people of all ages, who have not played before. In August a 10 day 'FESTIVAL OF CROWN GREEN BOWLING' will be held with the aim of bringing the pleasure and skills of the game to as many people as possible, and especially the youngsters, teenagers and upwards.

Please ring Pat Bailey, S.M.B.C. on 0161 474 4439 for more information.

Carnival In The Park

Marple Carnival will be held on Saturday 19th June, the main event being set up in the beautiful surroundings of Marple Memorial Park.

During the day there will be the carnival car boot sale, (early start) a fun fair, a selection of refreshments and stalls plus entertainments.

Carnival Queen "Stephanie" will be crowned at 4pm following the procession around Marple which begins at 2pm.

This year's theme for the parade is "Caribbean", leaving scope for the people of Marple to excel themselves with music, movement and colour.

The "Billereets" will be appearing again giving another opportunity to see their sublime antics both in the parade and in the park.

The "Samba Blocks Caribbean Band", the "Cavanda Samba Band", "Stromboli"- the fire-eating sword swallower-, the "Flying Ferrets Show", Clowns and local Brass Bands will all be present.

The Greater Manchester Fire Service Pipe Band will also be appearing, joined this year in the parade by the Broomall Fire Company of Marple, Pennsylvania, USA. A group of fire-fighters from their company will be attending the Carnival as part of their visit to Marple.

The Marple Carnival Committee welcomes the community of Marple to another fine day of fun and frivolity at the Carnival in the park. All you have to do **IS BE THERE!**

For further details contact 0161 427 5635



Useful Park Contacts

Friends of Marple Memorial Park: 0161 427 1861

Marple Park Bowling Club: 0161 429 0121

Marple Library: 0161 427 3236

Marple Clinic: 0161 427 1806

Marple Scouts: 0161 427 2598

Senior Citizens Hall: 0161 427 3632

Police:

Emergency: 999

Non Emergency: 0161 872 5050

S.M.B.C.: 0161 474 4415

The Marple Website: www.marple-uk.com



GREEN FLAG AWARDS

The process of judging the park for a Green Flag Award is upon us once again. Last year we narrowly missed out on this accolade by the smallest of margins, (not helped by the judges visiting during the chaos created by the work on the park entrance).

Staff from the Parks & Recreation team have been tireless in their determination to rectify that result this time around and I am sure that their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Our efforts at raising funds to help improve the park are ongoing so if you have a good idea, wish to make a donation or are a local company who would like to sponsor us in some way, perhaps with an advert in future newsletters – **Get In Touch!!!!**

FRIENDS ON-LINE!

If you'd like to influence the activities of the Friends of Marple Memorial Park and tell them YOUR priorities for the park, or review the Group's minutes of meetings and action plans, you can now do so on-line!

The Marple Website Team has created a site of their own for the Friends that can be accessed from the home page at www.marple-uk.com or directly using www.marplememorialpark.org.uk. The website includes details of how the Group was formed, their constitution, minutes of meetings, action plans and latest news. The site also features a questionnaire and feedback form that allows Internet visitors to have their say on what they like and don't like about the park and to make their own suggestions for improvements.

Now that the Friend's activities have really taken off, there will also be pictures of real action such as the restoration of the stocks and the Friend's first task day. So, keep up to date with the Friends of Marple Memorial Park on the World Wide Web!

THE PARK AND MARPLE'S HERITAGE

The Stocks

Over the years Memorial Park has become a gathering place for items relating to Marple's Heritage.

It is one of the aims of the Friends group to bring these items back to the condition they once enjoyed and to look after them for future generations and the first to get the treatment was the Stocks.

Keen to assist in any way he can, local resident Tony Heginbotham (pictured below) rose to the task of recreating the wooden section that had long since vanished. Left with only the original hasps, and with no photographic evidence on which to base his design Tony had to create a convincing copy whilst devising an effective anti-vandal device to try and ensure its longevity.

We think he has done a fantastic job! Along with an interpretation board courtesy of the Marple Website the Marple Stocks are now an attraction for young and old, (what a pity we can't bring them back into their original use!!!).



Marple Hall Sundial

The next item we intend to look at is the magnificent 17th century sundial which was brought to the park in the 1950's following the demolition of Marple's premier property.

At the moment the stonework is out of line, probably due to subsidence, and our busy little vandals have broken off the vein. We hope to have it looking spic & span in the near future.

Of course for those Marple Hall connoisseurs, a set of the original window shutters are permanently on display in the library in the park.

LET'S NOT FORGET WHY THE PARK IS HERE! Between 1857 and 1921 the area now known as the Memorial Park was the private land of the Carver family, 'Hollins House', now the council offices, was one of their homes. Thomas and John Carver were partners in the Hollins Mill, like Oldknow before them they were to invest large parts of their fortune in the building of Marple's facilities and infrastructure.

Following the horrors of the Great War the people of Marple were discussing how to best remember the 141 men from the village who had made the ultimate sacrifice. Amongst the suggestions made were the founding of a cottage hospital or the granting of a scholarship in memory of the men. The Carvers had themselves lost four sons to the war and eventually a deal was struck whereby they would give a large part of their land and sell the rest at a penny an acre to enable a War Memorial Park to be created. The Memorial was eventually dedicated on 22nd July 1922 when 10,000 people attended, an astonishing amount considering that Marple's population at that time was only around 6,500. The memorial was extended after the Second World War when a further 50 names were added. It is still the focal point of the Remembrance Day services each year.



A young girl lays a wreath at the base of Marple War Memorial - 22nd July 1922

Marple Locks Bi-Centenary Celebrations 1804 – 2004

3rd July 2004 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.

In 1804 Samuel Oldknow boarded his boat 'Perseverance' and fittingly became the first man to navigate the newly built Marple flight of locks. Now, 200 years on, they are part of a thriving waterway that brings holidaymakers from all over the world to visit the area.

Much of the credit for this belongs to the supporters and campaigners who formed the Peak Forest Canal Society in 1964 and saved 'our locks' from destruction. The 30th anniversary of the re-opening occurred in April of this year.

On July 3rd there will be a day long celebration of the Bi-centenary of the original building of the locks along the length of the flight and in Marple Memorial Park.

Events will include~:

- # Guided Historical Tours
- # Exhibition at Marple Library
- # Gathering of Boats plus Boat Rides
- # Displays & Fun Events
- # Pro Loco Art
- # Exhibition of Local Art
- # Watch Samuel Oldknow re-enact his trip down the locks on a 19th C. Narrowboat
- # Funfair Rides
- # Try You Hand At Canoeing
- # Craft & Heritage Stalls
- # Award Winning Marple Band
- # Competitions
- # British Waterways 'Wild Over Waterways'
- # The Rubber Duck Theatre Company

And Much More.....

For further details contact Peter Clarke: 427 1861 or 07736724262

