

REF 8.4 – DAVE ROBERTS REPORT JULY 2017

As the Friends of the Park Committee has been in existence for nearly a year now I thought I'd put a few words together that reflected the past year.

Towards the back end of 2016, I was approach to be chairman of this group and with the help of Jean Ewins formed a committee

Chairperson	David Roberts
Vice Chairperson	Simon Pryce
Treasurer	Nikki Clark
Secretary	Kate Fairhurst
Member	Jean Ewins
Member	Jen Sutherland
Member	Carl Sutherland.

And in the middle of 2017 Jan West joint us as co-opted member to be ratified full member at the next AGM.

We formalised everything by having a written constitution (which I think the parish Council have a copy)

Our first organised event was the official opening of the Park.

Richard was master of ceremonies the Sun Shone and the Brass Band played

According to the comments that we received from people in and outside the village the event was a great success.

Importantly the event helped to win over the hearts and minds of the people who had misgivings about the existence of the Park.

The beginning of 2017 we the Friends of the Park got involved with the campaign

Let's Eradicate Polio From The World

And to mark this event we planted 20,000 crocus bulbs on the park.

These bulbs were generously donated by the Rotary Club of Chester.

The next day after the planting there was a lot of aching backs!!!!!!

Winter came and went and in early 2017 at a meeting of the friends Jen Sutherland and Carl Sutherland suggested we organise an Easter egg hunt in the Park.

Not just let's find an Easter egg!!!

But we will have the children perform little activities to gain the points to win an Easter egg.

So the event was held on Easter Sunday and Jen and Carl organised it.

The Parish Council generously funding the event.

The weather forecast for the day was not just that it was going to rain but it went on to say how heavy the rain would be.

But miraculously the rain didn't materialise and we even had some sun.

The event was well attended and to our relief the amount of children that won the Easter eggs matched the amount we had bought.

My overall impression of the event was how many smiley faces we had not just on the faces children **but also on the adults.**

Jean Ewins suggested let's have a simple village picnic in the Park!!!!

But like Topsy "in a good way" it grew and grew.

So on Sunday 25th June we ended up having a Brass Band /Donkey rides/ Refreshment marquee/ Gazebos/Children's games in the Park

The weather on the day wasn't particularly kind to us, so we didn't get the amount of people we were hoping for.

Despite this everybody that was there I think had a lot of fun.

This is obviously an ongoing project and I know the committee have propose some imaginative events and projects for the Park in the future.

It a lot of hard work but it's still a lot of fun.

As a footnote may I comment that what we have done as committee would not have been possible except for all the proprietary work performed "and is still being performed" by Jean Ewins.

Sorry I can't be at Council meeting David Roberts