



Annual report November 2013 to November 2014

This report briefly summarises the work and activities of the Friends of Preston Park for the last 12 months and sets out the committee's aspirations for the year ahead.

Events

- A successful Christmas wreath-making event was held in December 2013. This was very well attended, with City Parks providing the 'green' materials and the committee providing the refreshments and encouragement.
- On Easter Sunday, our ever popular Easter Egg hunt and quiz was held. There was a good turnout of intrepid children and their parents, even though the weather did its best to dampen spirits.
- In June we provided our support to a Bioblitz event, attended by over 300 children and young people. This event was in conjunction with City parks and the Sussex Wildlife Trust.
- In October, we helped facilitate a bulb-planting event in the Rock Garden, when approximately 50,000 spring bulbs were planted by volunteers.
- In November, we held a hugely popular Halloween event, enjoyed by over 200 children and their families.

Communications

- We have produced four newsletters that keep 'Friends' up to date with news and views around the park.
- A number of email updates have also been circulated, particularly when there is a 'hot' issue or news announcement to be made speedily.
- We communicate frequently and sometimes intensively with the council over issues of concern – for example traveller encampments, the need for urgent repairs or

maintenance within the park, and to influence the annual management plan for the park.

- For the first time ever, meaningful liaison has taken place with the organisers of Pride, and we have played an important role in monitoring the new arrangements and keeping park users informed. We have also played a major role in representing the views of park users in relation to Pride related issues.
- We have helped City Parks to seek the views of park users over a diverse range of issues including the future use of the redundant bowling green, mulching of elm trees, locking the walled garden gate and much more.

Campaigns

- We robustly and successfully opposed a proposal to hold a huge pop concert in the park.
- We are continuing to press the council to resolve the ongoing parking abuses in the park.

Aspirations for the coming year

- Refurbishment of the men's bowls pavilion – subject to sponsorship being available.
- Easter and Halloween events for children, coupled with a range of nature-focused events such as Bat, Bird and Tree walks.

Thanks are due to my hard working committee, City Parks staff, local councillors, and the numerous volunteers and sponsors who help out in so many important ways. Thanks to all of you, the park is still a place to be enjoyed and treasured.

Tony Benton – Chair – 8 November 2014

Thanks to our sponsors in 2014:

