

WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER 2015/16

# NEWSLETTER

No. 3

FRIENDS OF  
BARNWELL  
COUNTRY PARK



## 'FREE PARKING FOR A YEAR' PRIZE DRAW

Those of you who have been to the Park lately will know that a new Prize Draw has been launched. The purpose of this Draw is to accumulate a growing number of Friends. As we have said on many occasions, the greater the number of Friends, the more seriously we are taken as an organisation. We ask for a voluntary donation of £1. Your name and contact details are key. We commit to keep your contact details exclusive and secure. We hope to add a further 30 to 50 Friends by the time of the Draw in May. This will leave us with fewer than 30 additional names to sign up before September to reach our target of 250 for this year. If you know of anyone who uses the Park and is not a Friend, please encourage them to sign up:

[www.barnwellcountryparkfriends.org.uk/join/](http://www.barnwellcountryparkfriends.org.uk/join/)

## Committee Members

Mary James – Chair  
Mark Felton – Secretary  
Edward James – Treasurer  
Philippa Crook – Fundraising Officer  
Becca Lowndes – Design Officer  
Nick Bould – Barnwell Parish Council Rep  
Colin Cartwright & Tim Hunt – Committee Members

## WHAT'S UP AT BCP?

### "IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL"

The process of working through the funding of the North Lake Path project has made us think about how this particular project fits into the context of the Park and our commitment to Barnwell Country Park's continuing improvement.

No doubt you are aware that, aside from the walk around Mill Lake, there is one section of the Park's path network that is still unmanageable for those of us with limited mobility or parents with push chairs and small children during the wet months. There are 500m of North Lake Path to be hard surfaced in order to offer all year round access for everyone.

Improving Access for All has been established as the campaign for 2016. Naturally, the North Lake Path fits admirably into this campaign but there is much more which can be achieved under this umbrella title. We hope that this will be embraced by the Friends and users of our Park.

Wildlife and Nature Notes: With one of the mildest, what should it be called? surely not winters?, the Wildlife and Nature news for autumn-winter-spring (take your pick) is back. The daffodils and aconites are flowering in our gardens. The Editor's rhubarb is disturbingly out and flourishing. We're through the shortest day.

The Land Acquisition Project "The Island" continues to develop as our long-term goal.

We have had an Open Committee meeting. We felt it was important to air our projects.

We shall be looking forward to Music in the Park 2016. It will be a larger event.

With continuing membership drive, we have the New Prize Draw event.



**COMINGS AND GOINGS:** fortunately there are no Goings this time and we welcome Matt Harrell who has been kind enough to be interviewed for this issue.

Waitrose Community Matters green token is about to get underway as this publication flies to your in-boxes. Separate e-mails have been sent alerting you to this. The proceeds will go towards our Improving Access for All campaign and almost certainly towards North Lake Path hard surfacing.

A new Website is finished and again, you should have noticed our e-mails on this subject! We'd very much like to know what you think of it and, as always, how can we improve it?

Park Heroes board is still to be designed so we're a little behind on this initiative. However, the organisations who have come together to support us are listed on the Home page of our website.

"Friends Corner" is definitely going to happen but again we're still in design mode.

Volunteer Wednesday Morning is well underway and growing in popularity. It is a great way to meet people who are interested in outdoor work and exercise as well as helping towards the maintenance of the Park.

New Ideas and Thoughts will follow - this month in the form of an Editorial.

## From the Chair

Welcome to Issue No. 3.

More particularly, welcome to 2016!

We think that this is going to be an exciting and challenging year for the Friends.

In keeping with the manner in which we began the last issue, it is pleasing to report that we now have 173 Friends and we have only just started our Prize Draw for this year. For all of you, as Friends, you're automatically included in the latest Prize Draw which we started at the Christmas Fair. We are well on our way to meeting our target of 250 Friends by the next AGM.

The New Year has brought with it new thinking. We have established a new caption for fund raising purposes: "Improving Access for All".

We'd like to highlight on this Welcome page a few of the pieces of news, events and debates that you'll be able to read about in this Newsletter.

- We have an interview with our new Senior Ranger, Matt Harrell.
- We have a report on our visit to what will probably be a new "Friends of" regional, and quite possibly, national group.
- A competition hosted by the Friends – poetry centred around the Park.

In keeping with our previous issues, we will finish this section by repeating a most important part of your role as a Friend:

Please Tell Us What You'd Like to See Happen with the Park.

The FoBCP Committee is made up of those of us who are dedicated to ensuring BCP's long-term future as well as increasing the opportunities it offers. We come up with lots of ideas many of which will be shared with you in these Newsletters. However, no matter how committed we are, we cannot think of everything. There will be lots of ideas out there. Please let us know what you think.

Again, please talk to your friends. Chat to those who share the Park with you. By working together, we will make this Park a beacon for others to follow. Pride in our Park will lead to our aims succeeding!

## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST QUARTER

In terms of actual projects concluded this quarter, it has been appropriately wintery - a quiet one. However, despite a brief hibernation, a great deal of thought has been applied.

We recognised that the North Lake Path fund raising project was better placed into a wider context. Nearly everything we work towards in the Park is concerned with one form of accessibility or another. In working with NCC and the Rangers, the greater the access we manage to facilitate through our work, the more activities available for all of us.

### NEW WEBSITE AND LOGO

By now, we hope you have had a chance to look at our new website! We are quite delighted with what QiMarketing has done for us. We wish to thank Justin Jeffrey for his direct involvement in this 'make over'. He has demonstrated a degree of patience when dealing with us usually reserved for those eligible for sainthood.

We are also beginning to see the massive benefits of a skilled artist and designer (and Committee Member) Becca Lowndes. She is transforming our public image. Our ambition is to be a beacon for public parks. With the skilled, expertise and generosity of both Becca and Justin, how can we fail?

### HUMAN COMINGS & GOINGS - at BCP

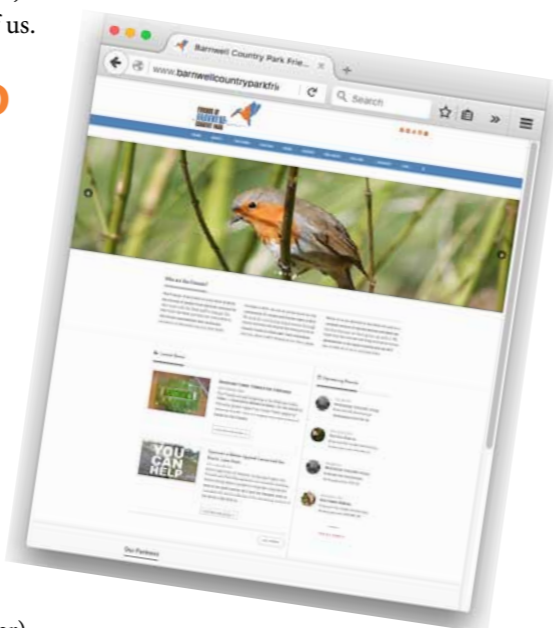
It is with considerable relief that this is a very short section!

There is only one coming to report and no goings. Thank goodness. In point of fact,

### THE USUAL GENTLE REMINDER

Dog Owners: please can you to keep your dogs under control during nesting season. We're not asking you to put them on the lead, but just to make sure they're not disturbing nesting birds or chasing ducklings across the pond!

So, we decided to encompass our fund raising work within a single campaign slogan for the year and possibly beyond called Improving Access for All. Regardless whether it is the North Lake Path project or a soft play area or additional land, ultimately either all of us or a particular important special group of users will benefit. We feel it is a slogan that everyone can get behind and support.



perhaps the "Comings" part of this should reflect the fact that, so far this year, we have increased our Friends membership by a further 30 bringing us up to 173 friends.

Matt Harrell, our new Senior Ranger, replaced Philippa earlier this year. He has very kindly agreed to give us an interview. We felt that perhaps the best and most entertaining way to go about this would be to take a walk with Matt so we can also get a feel for how he sees our Park.

### FIREWOOD

We have Firewood for sale, cut in to lengths around 2ft long, and a mixture of hard and soft wood.

Please call the Ranger office (01832) 373435 or email Barnwell@northamptonshire.gov.uk for further information.

## "THE ISLAND" LAND ACQUISITION

None of us should be under any illusion. This is a massive task. But it is achievable.

To start, some bad news, which is actually good news: the acreage available from the Gloucester Estates is only 40 acres and not the 52 acres previously mentioned. Given that, in all likelihood, we shall be negotiating full agricultural prices, we could be much better off without that 12 acres.

It must be understood that we are still very much in the formative stages of this project. We have received a sympathetic and generous letter from the Duke of Gloucester's Private Secretary who says that the Duke and the Trustees of Gloucester Estates are prepared to entertain a proposal from the Friends for them to consider. This is the start of a long campaign.

We will prepare this proposal with care. We shall ask for letters of support from key representatives and organisations in our community. We already know that most are enthusiastic to see this initiative work. If the proposal we finally send to the Duke of Gloucester, together with letters of support, is accepted in principle, the next step will be to raise funds for a professional feasibility study. This is a small sum compared to the eventual project cost but will be the key document to be used to support funding applications to bodies capable of funding the acquisition. We shall investigate methods by which we can make this project as inclusive as possible – at all stages of its progress. It may be that we will explore Group Funding methods.

We shall debate issues as to whether it is to our advantage to become a registered as a charity. There are many arguments against such a decision for an organisation like ours.

We welcome all the skills and talent that are made up amongst the Friends. Your views, your support, your enthusiasm will see us achieve this worthwhile enterprise.



## UPDATE ON NORTH LAKE PARK

By the time you read this, you will have received our e-mails concerning "Sponsor A Metre". This is the final stage in completing the Path's funding. We are dependent upon the Big Lottery agreeing to match fund what we raise, but we feel that we have put forward a really strong case. Basically, we are asking for people to sponsor £5 per metre or multiples thereof or businesses to sponsor £50 per 10 metres or multiples thereof. We have already had some very generous contributions.

Most of you will be aware that we started this campaign by a Signature Support Appeal. Many of you showed your support by signing up to this initiative: the hard surfacing of the final 500m of the Path. In our website we cover how this can be further supported by you. There are also posters at the Park. Your participation was part of our application to the Big Lottery.

However, we have also had tangible help from corporate organisations. Please take a moment to read on our website the backgrounds to two of these: Bruce Wake Trust and St Francis Group. A third, the Oundle Carnival Committee, which is sadly winding up, has also donated. Northamptonshire County Council's Parks Department are have generously committed to make a donation towards this project.

All three of these have their own reasons for committing to assist our campaign.

Bruce Wake Trust is a charitable foundation committed to supporting projects which help disabled and disadvantaged people to a better inclusive life within our society. St Francis Group is a successful company which manages and supports veterinary practices. Given our dogs' interest in the Park this is a natural for the St Francis Group. Oundle Carnival was an institution for years in Oundle. After many years, they have decided to end this annual event and, with proceeds remaining from the organisation's funds, they are generously allocating a portion of their funds to our project.

Northamptonshire County Council's Park Department has also been very generous in making a donation towards ensuring that this project of ours succeeds. It cannot be stressed enough how very cash strapped our Council's Departments are.

We must not forget our friends at Waitrose Oundle Community Affairs. Another Community Affairs green token appeal is running at Waitrose Oundle in aid of the Park during February. We cannot thank Waitrose Oundle enough for their support. Please do participate!

For more details, please go to our website and click on the Projects section. That will give you full details of both our Improving Access for All and North Lake Path Project. You can also ask the Rangers if you're not an internetter!

## WILDLIFE & NATURE NEWS - prepared by our Rangers

### BIRDS

There have been a few recent sightings of kingfishers at Kingfisher hide, along The Backwater and at Little Lake behind the Kingfisher Cafe.

We have also seen some Tree Creepers, Nuthatches, Bullfinches, Siskins, Long Tailed Tits, Little Egrets and, after not being seen for a while, the Mandarin Ducks have been spotted on Little Lake.

### PLANTS

With help from Oundle School Community Action, DoFE and the Wednesday Volunteer Group, we have been cutting down the Dogwood at West Meadow: this was cut as part of our coppice rotation, and it was bundled up so the Friends could sell it for us at Oundle's Christmas Fair to bring a bit of the Park into your home at Christmas.

We have also been cutting the scrub back on the Picnic Meadow behind the Play Area. This is to create a Hay Meadow for

the Education Rangers to sweep net in the Spring / Summer with school groups. Already, by allowing more light to the ground, snowdrops have started to come up.

We have also been cutting the Elder and Bramble along the overflow parking meadow to open up the view of the Refuge, and we have carried this on up into the Millennium Spinney to help the trees grow.

Over the coming weeks we will be felling some of the larger trees as part of our tree safety programme with help from the park's Woodland Team. This is to create a varied tree structure, as at the moment, we have a lot of large trees and not much small or middle structure. We will be starting with the Willows around the Kingfisher hide.

The felled Willows will re-grow and we can then manage them as Willow coppice.

### FISH

In November, we had around 2000 fish from the Environment Agency: 1000 Crucian Carp added to Mill Lake and 1000 Roach added to North Lake.

[Note from ed. - this may seem like a lot of fish. So, we asked Miles Davies to comment on the stocking:

Stocking and re-stocking of a fishery is very important. Not only does it secure sport for anglers, but it also helps to balance and support the delicate ecosystems of lakes and rivers. This new stocking, and in particular the roach, will help to encourage younger anglers to the

sport, by ensuring them a catch, as many parents, including me, will have started their fishing lives catching the very same small fish at the Park and other similar waters.

### FUNGI

There are not a lot of Fungi at the moment with all this damp weather we have been having recently, but if there is a warm snap we might see some more about. I've seen some candle snuff on a few rotting stumps, Jelly ear on some Elders and Artist's Fungus on standing dead wood.

[Note from ed. – indeed, yet another one: so the question is, how many of us know our fungi and what's more have a clue as to how beautiful this sophisticated group of organisms really are, hovering as they do somewhere between the plant and animal? We asked Matt to illustrate this section and here are some of the results]

For more information on these fascinating inhabitants of our Park:

General: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fungus>

Birch Polypore: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piptoporus\\_betulinus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piptoporus_betulinus)

Candle Snuff: <http://www.first-nature.com/fungi/xylaria-hypoxylon.php>

Jelly Ear: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auricularia\\_auricula-judae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auricularia_auricula-judae)

Feeling hungry for some Jelly Ear Ragout?: <http://www.wildmushroomsonline.co.uk/Identifying-Edible-Mushrooms-The-Jews-Ear/1.php>

## OPEN COMMITTEE

Historically, Committee meetings have been the preserve of the Committee only. So, we were breaking new ground in going for an open meeting. We need to do more of this ground-breaking because this was the best attended meeting we have had since our formation!

We covered the North Lake Path project and were able to report that donations were already coming in. News of the Big

Lottery is imminent but probably will not be published until early February. Given the flying start we have had with donations, we should be comfortably able to report to Friends success by the end of February.

We shall be sending a proposal to HRH Duke of Gloucester's office in the next few weeks and this will determine whether the Trustees of the Gloucester Estates are prepared to sell the land to us.

We discussed the Soft Play Area project

## EDITORIAL - Corporate Social Responsibility

It seems an idea to discuss in a little greater detail what Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is and what impact it has on the voluntary sector (like the Friends) as well as communities as a whole.

CSR has been around for a long time and was only given the label CSR in the last fifteen to twenty years or so. At one extreme, it might be argued that Ye Olde Historic Monarchs Limited as well as the Friendly Brotherhoods of Monks Limited were busy meeting out CSR in the form of bridges (such as South Road Bridge, Alms Houses and so forth, in distant mediaeval times. More recently, groups of like-minded artisans guilded themselves and built schools and facilities for the needy. Rich and powerful businessmen got in on the act building libraries, hospitals, etc.

Perhaps as a result of the Thatcher years, when a greater level of wealth was transferred from the public sector to the private sector there was a growing sense of obligation on the part of business to "give something back". There is little distinction between charitable giving by private entities and CSR. What CSR has done is to identify and focus the process of giving to communities.

The origin, and much of the impetus, behind this enhanced sense of responsibility is, in the editor's view, a result of the work done by the Brundtland Commission. This remarkable Norwegian politician, Gro Harlem Brundtland, relied on her Nordic social/cultural background, to promote a greater sense of responsibility within our world community. She was a powerful and charismatic advocate for taking a new look at the way in which we live.

There is no doubt that there is now an imperative that a responsible business is seen to have an active CSR policy. So much so, in fact, that some larger companies will now only consider bids from their supply chain partners if they can prove both good environmental credentials and an active policy of CSR. This is good news for voluntary organisations such as the Friends.

Many businesses will focus their CSR policies broadly on areas which are related to their own businesses. When we consider who we should approach to help, for example, with the funding of the Land Acquisition, we will work out what type of business we should approach. In our case, we will aim to talk to housebuilders, aggregates businesses, those in related areas such as the building industry, and those involved with activities related to leisure and recreation. And so the list expands. Those who give to us are given a good story to prove to their customers that they have a social conscience and commitment to society.

There many ways in which CSR can be expressed. Often, the simplest way in which a business will participate is by giving cash. This provides a proof of participation in society and takes little additional effort. However, there is a growing realisation, particularly with larger businesses, that there is a direct benefit to be gained from CSR. A good example, in our case, is EE. EE funded the purchase of plants and provided a team of volunteer employees to come and do a day's work at the Park. Similarly, Waitrose, who sponsored our 2015 Music in the Park, sent representatives down

to help us on the day, not only selling strawberries, but also lending a hand when things got hectic on the barbecue. This transforms the process of giving and emphasises at all levels of the business the concept of Social Responsibility. It helps to provide a context for employees. The sense of achievement after helping to transform a park at the end of a session is entirely fulfilling.

In the experience of the editor, there was much cynicism associated with this concept of giving during its formative period. Now, there would seem to be a growing realisation that there are both social and economic benefits associated with a commitment to our community and also to the world in which we live.

And so, Community Social Responsibility

No editorial in this Newsletter will ever shy away controversy.

Surely, the next step on this path is that individual members of our communities take a more active part in their community. The obvious answer to the editor is that we are already doing this. This editor isn't paid for writing this or contributing to the Friends. However, what tends to happen today in our communities is that a very limited "few" do a great deal of work for the benefit of the whole.

Is there an argument to be put forward that the process of Social Responsibility should be more direct?

If you have a view that you would like to share with the editor or indeed with the Friends, please write to:

secretary@barnwellcountryparkfriends.org.uk

Newsletter, Spring/Summer, will include a bit of history on the Park and a project called £10 For A Tree which we think may now be all of 20 years ago.

We discussed the idea of moving Matt's book sale into a stall during the Music in the Park event.

It was suggested that we should consider publishing a series of 'Walks around Oundle' which incorporate the Park which seems an excellent idea. This led

to an equally important discussion about continuing improvements on pathways leading up to the Park both from Barnwell and Oundle.

The meeting was more animated than usual because there were more people there and therefore more ideas were thrown around. Mary's reputation for keeping within an hour was blown, but for some very good and constructive reasons – new ideas and initiatives.



Birch Polypore. Photographs with grateful thanks to Matt Harrel (looks to us as if he should be taking up photography as a profession as well)

## AROUND THE PARK WITH MATT HARREL

It was a great pleasure to meet up with our new Senior Ranger, Matt Harrel, on a relatively cold Wednesday morning – above freezing but within the context of this winter, it was cold (traces of ice on the lakes). What's more, it was a good excuse to see what the Wednesday Volunteer Group were doing. The answer: under the able leadership of our Ranger, Nicola, they were busy keeping warm. Evidence below.

Matt has been with us now for three months. He's gradually establishing himself and getting used to us all and the Park. Matt has been applying considerable thought to the future of the Park. He was kind enough to share some of his thoughts during our meeting.

We made our way over to meet up with the Wednesday Volunteer Group who were busy pushing back and clearing an area in the Lowlands Refuge. Aside from opening up this area for improved visibility, Matt plans to introduce a seating area overlooking it. The additional space created will also help with overspill of cars on busy summer days.



Matt with Wednesday Volunteer Group

Turning our attention from the Lowlands Refuge towards the Picnic Hay Meadow, beyond the Play Area, Matt said that he wanted to clear out the willow stands to let in more light. When this job is done, it will be possible to see what wild flowers appear. So, the job is to encourage wild flower growth as well as open the view up so that the willows don't seem like a



Matt's morning job: welcoming you at the Entrance.....

wall of greenery in the summer months - should be a huge improvement.

Whilst on clearing, he wants to get cracking on clearing the Millennium Spinney - near the fishing stand for disabled anglers.

Between the Picnic Meadow and the Lowlands Refuge, Matt showed how the Frog Life team had dammed off a small section of the pond between Middle Lake and Lowlands Refuge to create a protected habitat for Amphibia. He pointed out a group of dead alders which he hopes can be partly cut down to a level which reduces risk to walkers but also encourages woodpeckers. One of Matt's innovations is the introduction of information sheets. For example, the area between the Hay Meadow and the bridge (towards the Kingfisher Lodge Hide), Matt has prepared a temporary Information Sheet on the reasons and expected results of the clearance work in this area. In this case, clearance looks as though it will enable a mass of snowdrops to bloom in February.

We walked over the bridge to the Kingfisher Lodge Hide. Again, he pointed out an important

Information Sheet tied to the bridge concerning feeding the ducks and swans. Unfortunately, it seems that feeding the birds our scrap bread is not a good idea.

Excessive feeding of our bread leftovers, leads to what is called "Angel Wing" [for those interested, ref.: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel\\_wing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_wing)] - what we humans can do in our attempts at kindness. Matt said that the right thing to do is to bring vegetable scraps rather than bread.

Matt is hoping to introduce more corporate days like that undertaken by EE. He is just applying to a large bank, who like EE, will provide funding for the day as well as muscle power. As we passed the Kingfisher Hide, he said he plans for them to repair and replace the screens.

We moved round from the bridge to the southern end of the North Lake



Frog Life: a bank has been constructed to block off main pond thereby creating a refuge for Amphibia seen in the foreground

Path project which is the subject of our "Sponsor a Metre" appeal. Looking southwards towards West Meadow, Matt illustrated how the paths are becoming encroached upon by grass overgrowing the verges. If left a few more years, they may become as unmanageable during the winter months as the North Lake Path. He described how a digger could be used to strip back verges in very little time. The paths would soon be clear of mud and restored for many more years use. The same can be seen outside the Play Area where it appears the pathway is sinking below the grass verge. [Small advance notice, this may be the subject of a new campaign under the banner of



Matt getting bogged down. Example of degenerating pathways due to encroachment of grass verge - looking towards West Meadow with River Nene to right.

"Improving Access for All" in our Park. We passed by the bank of the River Nene, opposite where the Wednesday Volunteer Group was busy, which is being eroded away in floods. This is one of the areas where spiling will be used in order to create a man-made natural barrier - see last Issue.

Matt says that he is keen to rationalise the parking on busy days at the Park. He recognises that there is work to be done and further thought to be applied to optimise parking areas. He is also keen to reappraise the existing "Wild Place" area used for educational activities and is considering the feasibility of moving this to a new better managed and fenced-off dog-free area beside Mill Lake. This sounds very sensible and will allow the current Wild Place area to be opened up -

possibly increasing parking areas for busy event days.

Matt brings with him a wealth of experience and training. He's local. (Poor Nicola who has to travel from Rugby!) Matt has lived in Rushden all most of his life - we know which band he'll be most attached to at Music in the Park 2016. We can't fault his choice.

Just before coming to our Park, he spent 18 months at Fermyn Woods so he is no stranger to our immediate area. Prior to this, he worked as a Ranger for 6 years at Brixworth. He says Brixworth is a different type of park when compared to ours but it is roughly the same size. Matt started off his career at one of the largest estates in the country - Althorpe Estates. The gear change from a huge concern to the intimate surroundings of country parks took some getting used to. But, Matt feels that his experience at a large estate has given him skills he would otherwise not have gained, and valued his time there.

Asked what makes him get out of bed in the morning, he said, "I enjoy the variety of work we do here ranging from the traditional skills like coppicing and hedge laying to the estate skills like fencing, benches and tree work to managing the balance of people on hot summer days and providing a great place for wildlife. It's more than a 9 to 5 job because the nature of the Park is such that it always demands more from me than I have hours in the day!"

Matt worked on the Althorpe Estate as an outplacement and work experience programme from Moulton College to help him qualify for a Diploma in Arboriculture. Prior to this, he studied Countryside Management at Moulton.

We asked him what influenced his decision to make a career in this area of work? To which he replied, "I have always enjoyed being outside as a kid going for walks and playing in parks. For my work experience, I volunteered at Irchester Country Park and thoroughly enjoyed my time there. I went back on volunteer days and summer holidays learnt new skills and equipment. It just seemed the

natural choice to me to go on then to Moulton Collage. You know the rest!"

We had made a full circle on our walk and were standing at the edge of the main car park looking up towards the Lowlands Refuge and the Play Area. If all goes well, Matt has some exciting plans for the area to the other side of the path from the Play Area (see picture). He would like to turn this area into an adventure play area with tunnels. This seems like an excellent "next step" development for older kids to continue to enjoy this part of the Park. In terms of activities for those of young mind, Matt hopes he can carve out an area of the Mill Meadow, by Mill Lake, for a further wild play area for den building and the like.

Picture with Lowland Refuge to left and play ground to right with proposed Adventure Play area in middle distance.

With Matt's plans gradually developing to fruition over the next three years or so, it is exciting to be able to look forward to the continuing development and improvement of our Park.

Matt also hopes to find the funding for an overdue facelift to the approach to the Park. Stand by. The result should attract further visitors to the Park which is what we need for its survival.

Before parting company, Matt was keen to stress that he is always keen to learn what we as users want from our Park. The more feedback he gets from us as Friends and the users as a whole, the more the Park can be tailored to appeal more broadly. He wished us all possible luck with our campaign to acquire the extra acreage from the Gloucester Estates.

Matt's morning job: welcoming you to at Entrance.....

Note:

Again, for those of you who work for large companies, please consider organising a day to help with the long-term maintenance of our Park.

# WHAT'S COMING UP? Future Events

## MUSIC IN THE PARK 2016

This is still a way off but Sunday July 17th is the next Music in the Park.

This will be a larger affair than last year. We shall have four local brass bands performing: Rushden Town Band, Stamford Town Band, Thrapston Town Band and our regular and welcome Yarwell & Nassington Britannia Brass Band. Oundle's Rusty Players will round off what should be a superb day.

At this point, we have committed sponsorship from the greatest and fastest growing British musical instrument maker, Geneva Instruments.

However, we are also honoured to be able welcome as a sponsor for this year: the Roe Group. Roe Group is a national steel bar processor headquartered in Peterborough. If you go over a concrete bridge, pass by a residential or office block there's a reasonable chance that Roe Bros' bars are helping to keep the structure standing.

Indeed, not only are we benefiting from Waitrose Oundle's Community Affairs' green token scheme, but Waitrose have promised to come back and help us on the day as well. We will be applying for a Community Affairs grant from Waitrose

again this year but resources are stretched skin-tight than ever and we were lucky to have them support us last year - more news on this nearer the time.

Unfortunately, due to both the size of the event and again, a hard-pressed County Council budget, we will have to fund a very hefty insurance premium for the day.

In the next issue, we will go into greater detail concerning preparation of plans for this event

Follow link for full details: <http://my.sportrelief.com/search/event/result?id=4028&location=oundle>

Sport Relief is an initiative of Comic Relief, registered charity 326568 (England/Wales; SC039730 (Scotland)

### WAITROSE GREEN TOKEN – COMMUNITY MATTERS

For the month of February, please support our Green Token appeal at Waitrose Oundle. This is a hugely important source of funds for the Friends.

### EASTER EGG HUNT!

March 25th to 28th from 2-3pm each day. Plenty of eggs and a Golden Egg Prize each day – sponsored by the Friends.

### WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEER GROUP

Our fellow Committee Members, Tim and Colin, are seeing a gradual increase in the number of WVGs on Wednesday mornings. This is great news. This ties in well with our campaign theme of Improving Access for All this year. The hard work the WVGs do clears views and controls growth which, left undone, would ultimately impair our access to the whole Park.

The Volunteer Group meets Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Meet at the Visitor Centre.



### SPORT RELIEF 2016 Mar. 20th.

Gathering 10 a.m. with 11 a.m. Start.

Take part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile hosted by Barnwell Country Park and Aspirations Wellbeing. Walk, jog or run around the beautiful park. Book your space at The Barnwell Country Park and AWB Mile today!

There are three distances: 1, 3 and 6mile walk, jog or run

## A POETRY COMPETITION IN HONOUR OF IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL

We have decided to initiate what we hope will be an annual event of original creative writing very broadly inspired by the Park. We will start this year with Poetry. And, competitions mean prizes!

We would like to introduce three categories:

1. Junior poetry for Infant and Middle School
2. Intermediate poetry for Senior School contributions
3. Adult - Post school contributors

The winning contribution from each section will have their poem published in the Newsletter and on our website.

We will consider any poem which is to do with nature, the Park, recreation, walking, etc.

We will be asking a local notable literary individual to judge the submissions.

### PRIZES:

Junior: £10 book token to be spent at Oundle Bookshop

Intermediate: £20 book token to be spent at Oundle Bookshop

Adult: Bottle of champagne

### Frequency and Length of PoBCP Newsletters:

It is intended to have 4 main publications in line with the Park's seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. There will be no fixed length for each Newsletter.

We may occasionally issue Newsletter Bulletins if there is an important issue to cover. We do not have an article this quarter from an outside contributor but we are preparing for what should be some thought provoking articles in our upcoming issues.

### Contributions:

Will Always Be Welcome: If you feel like contributing to this Newsletter, please send a note to our Secretary via: [secretary@barnwellcountryparkfriends.org.uk](mailto:secretary@barnwellcountryparkfriends.org.uk) or talk to the Rangers. Tel.: 01832 273435