

# 2009 Achievements

## 'A review by the Friends of Victoria Park, Stretford'

2009 calendar year has been an amazing year for the Friends of Victoria Park and Victoria Park. A large amount of administration work was undertaken, there was a focus on grant bidding and an increase in the number of community events delivered.

We have also increased the community's involvement with the park using a number of methods:

- Asking them to take a supporting role at our events
- Engaging them in our mosaic making and events
- Doing our first major consultation questionnaire and encouraging Greenstat forms to be filled out
- Lining up some of the community to take over the running and delivery of our rounders sessions for 2010, and serving at our tea-room, due to open Jan 2010.
- We have continued to liaise and include the four local primary schools in many of events and activities throughout the year, including sending our mosaic artist into 3 of them to work with classes for a day at each school.
- Our 'Young Friends' group has become more focussed on what they would like and we are working with them and the 'street-based' youth team from Trafford Council to ensure their needs are met.

This year we have completed our first Volunteer Handbook which details all our policies and procedures. This document is composed of many policies which are a requirement for most grant suppliers when bidding for their money. This document will be updated annually to capture changes and amendments as required.

We have also compiled a bid summary document which shows all the grants that we have applied for since the group's inception and our success rates.

The other really useful document that has been compiled this year is one that details our event numbers. This details approx attendees, spend, takings and profits of all our events, and allows us to accurately assess each event and ensure our events are not only worthwhile and relevant to the community as a whole but are also worthwhile to the group.



In 2009 we held 24 events and we have 35 planned for 2010. Our events have always been popular with the community, but our last two, Halloween and Christmas were each attended by over 500 people and were exceptionally well received by the attendees. We expect our events to be as popular next year due to the advance preparation we have undertaken this year.



One of our biggest achievements this year has been the compilation and distribution of our event calendar for 2010. This is the culmination of months of planning to ensure that events are deliverable and financially resourced. Being able to give out this calendar at our Xmas event and get it published on suitable websites and in the press, shows our commitment to the park and to the community and ensures a wide advertisement coverage for some of our less well known about events. As the events are fixed for the year it allows us as a group the time to plan these events effectively without the added time constraint pressures, which should lead to bigger & better events.

Our Five Year Action Plan [2008-2012] has been updated to make it more user friendly and reflect our successes of this year, and accurately reflect our aims for the coming year.

The group has submitted 24 funding bid applications during 2009 – with 10 of them being successful, and generating £24, 078.07 of funds for park projects / events. There are 6 bids that we are still awaiting decisions about from the funding body. Our Successful grants have enabled the following:

- ✓ Welcoming Wall Mosaic
- ✓ Outdoor classroom
- ✓ Owl, duck, train, boat, and fort sculptures
- ✓ Litter Pickers
- ✓ Picnic Food
- ✓ Crown Green Bowls
- ✓ Refreshments for litter picking event
- ✓ 3 large wooden picnic benches
- ✓ 3 new bins
- ✓ 3 more entrance notice boards
- ✓ Funding for Halloween 2009, Xmas 2009, Easter 2010, Bulb Planting 2010, Clean up Day 2010 events
- ✓ Tree Interpretation notice board
- ✓ 100 tree ID plaques
- ✓ Tree themed event for local primary school 2009
- ✓ Mini Beast interpretation notice board
- ✓ Mini beast hunt event – 2010



We are currently in the process of re-building our website to make it current and ensure it serves our needs.

The public consultation that was undertaken this year was done to build upon the information gleaned from listening to the park users and greenstat reports. We wanted to make the questions more relevant to Victoria Park to ensure we were heading in the right direction with our five year plan, and would be able to use the results as a source for funding bids. Thankfully, the results confirmed our beliefs and plans.



Many of the 'Friends' plans are dependant upon the use of the Community Building within the park, which we fought so hard to get for many years. Trafford Council have now replaced the roof and this is a major achievement in itself. We are still in consultation with regards to getting a lease for the building so that major funding for refurbishment and long term stability can be gained – but we do have an agreement in principle from the Parks Department. We can now progress some of the plans that were dependant upon this building now that the building is not leaking.

Our group is going from strength to strength as we get more organised, better equipped to run our events, and access funding, and engage with the local community. As we get better, so do the facilities within the park and the feelings of local pride and community.

I am proud to be the Chairperson of this wonderful team.

Shelly Quinton-Hulme  
09/12/09