

## Victoria Park Review 2015-2016

2015 has been another good year for Victoria Park with the following highlights:

A packed calendar of events [calendars attached], some of our bigger events such as Halloween, picnic in the park, xmas and Easter were attended by hundreds of people, whereas smaller events such as cream teas with the Brass band had less attendees but were nevertheless lovely community events.

We have formed a weekly 'gardening for health' group of volunteers who have taken on gardening projects such as the wildlife garden and garden of tranquillity refurbishment. They have also commenced a programme of bench painting around the park.

We have built a new bird table in our bird feeding area that is higher up to prevent dogs jumping on the table top.

We have replaced the panel in the mural for the FOVPS group with a beautiful mosaic panel that was designed and created by our Monday night art club. The Monday night art club has flourished into its second year and continues to be a popular group.

We have gained funding of over £11k for our programme of events for the year ahead [Jan-Dec 2016] as can be seen from our even more packed calendar attached.

Our tearoom that is open from 10am until 4pm each Saturday and Sunday run by volunteers and on a donations basis has continued and is our main public face of the group

Our wildlife garden has had lots of work done to it this year by our gardening for health group – they gained funding to replace one of our wooden benches and install a little table next to it. The bench has a frog on it and it looks amazing. They have installed a new bog garden and begun a survey of the plants in the area. The Monday night Craft club completed new mosaic signs for the bog garden and wildlife garden sign which the gardening group installed.

The bug mansion has had a revamp this year during one of the children's wildlife events and looks amazing. This resource is in the under 5's play area and is well loved by the children.

Herb garden signs that describe the herbs planted in the garden of tranquillity have been completed and installed and look fabulous as well as being incredibly informative.

We have had visits from schools to the park and also the local 3<sup>rd</sup> Agers who come to see the resources we have. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Agers came to the wildlife garden to look at moths and the schools came to learn about social responsibility and volunteering.

The Community Building has been well used this year as in previous years for lots of community groups and by the Friends group for our events. Part of the floor has been replaced this year as it was rotting. Unfortunately the floor is still rotting in places and the future of the building is in question. The Friends group are still pursuing a lease to land in the park so that we could build a new building for the group / community.

We are working with PCSOs and other community groups such as Our Kids to deliver events and allow community events within the park. Our Kids delivers a free holiday breakfast club open to all.

The Monday night craft club has gone from strength to strength and the group are so happy they even had their own xmas meal this year. They will be continuing for at least another year and many of the crafters volunteer within the park at times.

Our website and social media presence has increased this year and we are working to develop this further.

Our committee has reached 20 volunteers this year [our maximum] and this extra help means we can achieve even more in the future.

We are definitely becoming a Destination Park - we can tell this from our event registers as people come from all over the borough, Manchester and Stockport. They like the fact that we have open toilets, a café and good facilities so they can stay all day.

We completed a winter walk around the park with Amey to look at outstanding works and we hope that this work will be completed soon.