

Friends' efforts pay off

GARDENERS' green-fingered efforts have been rewarded with no fewer than six Green Flag awards for Trafford's parks and green spaces.

All places entered into the scheme have been successful - including Walkden Gardens, Worthington Park, Trafford Ecology Park, Hullard Park, Victoria Park and Denzell House Gardens.

The award is given to Britain's best parks and beauty spots.

Entrants are judged against stringent criteria - and must be welcoming and well maintained. They should also involve the community in their upkeep.

Walkden Gardens' special features include a Japanese garden, a dovecote and a new dry stone wall seating sculpture by professional dry stone waller Andy London. Garth Jones, chair of the Friends of Walkden Gardens,

by Katherine Vine

said: "We are delighted to be able to fly the Green Flag again for Walkden. It's fantastic for all the hard work of the group to be recognised by this special award."

The Friends of Worthington Park recently commissioned chainsaw sculpture for Tim Burgess for their latest addition to the park - a giant sculpture of a wizard carved out of the stump of a tree.

They have been developing their busy events programme with a series of car boot sales and fun days organised over the summer months, and are also developing a school education pack to draw attention to all the different trees in the park.

Friends' group member Ruth Fletcher said: "We're delighted to get the Green Flag again. It's fantastic to see the park improving year on year,



A SCULPTURE (above) carved out of the stump of a tree is a popular new feature of Worthington Park while dry stone waller Andy London recently worked in Walkden Gardens (above right)



and really gives us the drive to keep up the hard work on all our projects."

Victoria Park has won a Green Flag for the fifth year. Shelly Quinton-Hulme said the group had had a busy year, holding an Easter egg hunt and commissioning several wood carvings from Tim Burgess.

They also secured £12,000 of Lottery funding to build a garden of tranquility, which is nearly finished. The park benefits from environmentally conscious practices such as composting,

minimising pesticides and avoiding the use of horticultural peat.

The gardens at Denzell House were built to embellish the grand, Grade-II listed house.

The Friends of Denzell recently led a £10,000 restoration project which included stone work and planting in the Victorian Garden.

Improvements to Hullard Park this year include the addition of a wildlife conservation pond and renovated children's play area, and Trafford Ecology Park contains a mixture of key wildlife

habitats, woodlands and meadows.

Councillor Jonathan Coupe, executive member for the environment at Trafford Council, said: "This is excellent news, and the culmination of much hard work from the council, partners, friends' groups and other volunteers to maintain and improve our green spaces to they can continue to be enjoyed by local people and visitors to Trafford."

"This once again highlights our continued commitment to making Trafford a cleaner, greener borough to live, learn, work and relax in."

Kids' centres hold fun days

PLENTY of fun is in store for youngsters with the launch of two children's centres. The new units in Broadheath and Davyhulme will officially open later this month - and to mark the occasion family open days will be held.

There'll be plenty of entertainment for little ones at both events, while their parents and guardians can find out more about the services provided by the centres which will be run by council health and social care experts.

The first fun day will be held at the Broadheath and Dunham Children's centre, based at Broadheath Primary School, Sinderland Road, on Saturday, July 26, from 11am.

The fun moves to the Davyhulme and Urnston children's centre at Davyhulme Library, Hayeswater Road, Urnston, the following Wednesday, July 30 starting at 10am.

Councillor John Holden, who will be cutting the ribbon at both venues, described these new centres as a "significant" step in the development of children and young people's service.

By 2010, Trafford will have 16 of these centres. "With the opening of each local children's centre, we are creating improved, localised services for families with young children," he said. To find out more about these events ring 0161 912 5821.