



CHEERS TO SUCCESS... Shelley Quinton-Hulme with other members of the Friends of Victoria Park

Willing hands are a big help with park life

VOLUNTEERS are celebrating after six of the borough's parks received prestigious Green Flag Awards.

The national scheme sees the accolade awarded to parks and public gardens that are 'well maintained and well managed, with excellent facilities'.

Victoria Park, Hullard Park, Flixton Park, Denzell Gardens and the Devisdale as well as Worthington Park and Walkden Gardens have all received the award this year.

Councillor Alan Mitchell said: "This is marvellous news and testament to all the hard work that the council, friends groups and other volunteers put into keeping these parks up to an impressive standard."

Shelley Quinton-Hulme, from the Friends of Victoria Park in Stretford, says the group works hard to make sure the park is well cared for and welcoming, with a real community spirit.



EASTER BONNETS... One of the many events held in Victoria Park throughout the year

"I think this is the eighth or ninth year in a row we have received the Green Flag," she said.

"We were very pleased when we found out we'd been successful again, but I'd have expected nothing less."

The friends group, which has a committee of 13 as well as an army of around 70 willing volunteers, carries out a wide range of work in the park.



HISTORIC... Dignitaries at the restored bandstand

They run a tea room, provide free sports activities - such as bowls and rounders for adults and children - look after the toilets and run a playgroup.

For more details visit trafford.gov.uk/parks.

■ A **HISTORIC** bandstand that once took pride of place in Longford Park has been restored to mark its centenary.

The bandstand was relocated to Crich Tramway Village in Matlock, Derbyshire, in 1974.

Mayor of Trafford Council Patricia Young helped to reopen it.

She said: "I was absolutely delighted to take part in this celebration."

"The bandstand is steeped in history and it was marvellous to see it so beautifully restored."