

PRIORY PARK NEWS

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018 ISSUE 6

**New Notice Board
at Rowley Road
Entrance**

Spring Litter Pick

Black Squirrel

Pictorial Meadow

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday
16th May 2018**

At: 7.30pm

**Loves Farm
Football Club**

**Speaker: Sue
Jarrett**

Talk on:

***The Lost Priory
of St Neots***

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Priory Park Friends Group Newsletter.

We have had rather erratic weather conditions recently, as you may have noticed. Only a few days ago it seems, walkers were wearing thick jackets, scarves and boots, and now there are shorts, sandals, sun-hats and whiffs of sunscreen. Must be very confusing for the birds watching us.

Also, only a few weeks ago the high water-table meant that walking on the grass was a very squashy business, with large puddles in many places.

There must have been some very dirty dogs after their walks. The now-you-see-it, now-you-don't pond in the middle of the park was almost a lake as a result, we've never seen it so deep, with much frog spawn and loads of water insects evident. If you do

take a look, be careful, as it's very muddy and slippery in places. Mind you, the way the weather's going, it might have gone already.

Having won the Green Flag status last year, the park has been well maintained by the Council. The grass is kept short, little improvements are made here and there and it's looking good. More and more people are using the park and yet it still has that relaxing, quiet atmosphere that makes it so attractive. And long may it continue!



New Notice Board in the Park

You may have 'noticed' the long awaited new notice board at the Rowley Road entrance to the park.

As with all the other boards, we intend to use the board to keep all visitors to the park up to date on all events and information about the park.

As you read this, our committee, or some of it, is working towards a possible Nature Trail, which would not only be educational but provide visitors with an activity which all members of the family could enjoy.



Details will be placed on all notice boards in due course.

Spring Litter Pick

On Saturday afternoon a few weeks ago we had our Spring litter pick. Thanks to the local scouts and cubs, under their controller, Dave, we had a great turn-out. However, we've learnt that there are now several members of the outside world that pick up litter in the park whenever they see it, and thus we didn't collect as much as usual. This is fantastic news! It won't stop us having the 'pick as there's always something to find, but it makes the park look so much better in-between.

The "Find of the Day" was a locked petty cash box, sadly, there was nothing in it.

The day was also the first outing for the Committee's bright yellow Hi-Viz vests, which made us feel really important and easily found in the woodlands. So much for blending in and having a rest.



Black Squirrel



There have been at least two certified sightings of a Black Squirrel on the eastern side of the park near to the gate in Priory Hill.

Apparently they started off near Letchworth after escaping from a menagerie about 100 years ago and have been working (?) their way up here. If you wish to learn more about them, then Google will assist.

A local tree surgeon tells me he has seen a few now, but they are still pretty few and far between. I have to admit they haven't the charm of the old Red squirrel, or even the lesser charm of the Grey. In fact, some say that they don't look nice at all, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder, especially if you're another Black Squirrel. If you've seen one, please either post to our Facebook page or email using our contact details below.

Pictorial Meadows

Most of you wondered about the yellowish tracks that the council made around the trees on the east side of the park. Well, it turns out that that was a prelude to sowing swathes of wild flower seeds entitled 'Pictorial Meadows'. These areas have been prepared and sowed to create a wonderful floral display from June to October.

The flowers will not only look great but will attract bees, butterflies and other important insects to Priory Park improving its Biodiversity.

The mature Oak trees will also benefit from the buffer zone around them which will help minimise the compaction around the roots of these valuable trees



Contacting Us

We would love to hear from you with suggestions on how we can improve the park facilities for all to enjoy and we are always looking for new photographs to post on our website or Facebook page.

Email - secretary@ppfg.uk

Website - <http://www.ppfgstneots.org>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ppfgstneots/>