

PRIORY PARK NEWS

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016/17 ISSUE 2

Waitrose Green
Token Scheme

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Award

UPCOMING EVENTS

Litter Picking
Saturday
18th March 2017

Note for diary:
AGM
Wednesday
17th May 2017
Speaker: Liz Davies
St Neots Museum

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

Yet again a new season is upon us and in the park, last year's fallen leaves are dispersing, new buds and tree shoots are appearing and the undergrowth is starting to go berserk in the wooded areas. Snowdrops and daffodils will soon add their colours to the borders and the verdant grass is looking very green.



Waitrose Green Token Scheme

We have been lucky enough this February to be one of the three charities chosen by St Neots Waitrose for a 'Community Matters' Box.

At the end of your shop, you'll receive a green token to place in a box of the cause you'd most like to support. The more tokens a cause gets, the bigger the donation they receive. Each month Waitrose donates £1000 between the three boxes and the money is shared accordingly to the number of votes.

It is our intention to use any funds we receive to expand our bird box project to the woodland area adjacent to Huntingdon Road.

So.... should you happen to be shopping in Waitrose this month, please support our worthy cause.

Trim Track

We are happy to report that the newly renovated Trim Track is proving very popular. For those that don't know, it's on the Huntingdon Road side of the park and comprises eight 'stations', including a log-wall climber, stride jumps, parallel bars, push-up beams and others. Brilliant. If in doubt as to what to do, there is helpfully a picture nearby of a matchstick-man (or is it a woman?) demonstrating each exercise in a very confident way.



For those of you who still wish to lose a bit of weight after the Christmas holidays it might be worth walking from the car park to take a look. And if you are serious, to even have a go on them before trotting around the park a few times.

The ambulance station is only just down the road, so don't worry!

Litter Picking Event – Saturday 18th March

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the litter-picking event we had scheduled for last November due to the late leaf fall which covered the ground, making it impossible to see the litter.

The event has now been rescheduled for mid-March and we are hoping that the weather will be kind to us.

A local scouts group have already offered to help us on the day, which is brilliant, but as we have 80 acres of park/woodland area to cover in 2 hours we would love to get as many helpers as we can. All equipment needed will be provided on the day.

So, if you fancy mastering the art of using a litter picker and can spare a few hours on a Saturday morning to support a worthy cause we would appreciate your help.

Meeting point – The park gate in Rowley Road at 10.00am.

We hope you can join us on the day!



GREAT NEWS FOR THE PARK IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL!

Huntingdonshire District Council have applied for the Green Flag Award for Priory Park which is a benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK.

This will be a real coup for the park as Grafham Water is the only other facility in the area with this status.

We have been working closely with HDC over the last 6 months to look at the ways in which we can improve the park facilities with the funds available.

Some of the planned works includes:

- Improvements to the main entrance of the park to include new signs on the main road and seasonal planting
- Reconfiguring the parking bays to suit access for all by adding an extra drop kerb for mobility scooter and wheelchair users
- Relocating notice boards to more suitable locations
- Standardising litterbins
- Crown lifting some of the trees and introduce a three-year tree management plan



Bad News – Unfortunately, despite numerous requests to the Council, the provision of the much-needed toilet facilities is not an essential criterion for the award and will not be reinstated.

We will keep you posted of any developments

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.

Please send any photographs to webmanager@ppfg.uk and suggestions on how we can improve the facilities to secretary@ppfg.uk or post them on our newly launched Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ppfgstneots/>