

Wootton Park Report 2016

This year has proved to be an interesting year for the Wootton Park Association, with a few changes in the dynamics of the committee. Unfortunately Mike Narborough, decided that he had done enough good work on the park and so handed in his resignation at the end of the 2015. I would like to publicly thank him for his commitment to the WPA and the effort he put into running it while at the helm. As you are aware I have only taken over as chairman from January 2016. There is now a more balanced feel on the committee with both South & North Wootton Parishes being equally well represented. We are still looking for the last member of the team of trustees, but we are hopeful that this is going to come from a representative of the football club in the near future.

There have only been a few projects that have been carried out in the last year, and these have been carried out successfully and without incident. The last of these was the clearing of the dyke at the North Wootton end of the park, this was completed in Jan 2016 and since then we have seen a vast improvement in the flow of water coming from Ling Common. There is more work to be done on this as it has moved the problem around to the Pavilion area.

Last year's Picnic in the Park was another success and everyone enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank the subcommittee for organising this and all their hard work that goes into pulling off an event like this. The money that has been raised from this event has been earmarked for a defibrillator for the pavilion.

The Football Club goes from strength to strength and I have been told that it now has over 200 members. Last year saw the purchase of another set of rolling goals, this was a combined effort of a grant and contributions from both Parish Councils. The Football Club have also come up with some improvement ideas for the pavilion. This is to move the kitchen to the front and have a serving hatch type of arrangement. So that it becomes more of an asset on big match days. This is going to be funded by calling on all the skills of the parents from the football club.

Looking at the finances of the Park we are in a better position than at the beginning of the year, we started the year with £2446.96 and have ended the year with £2906.97, this is an increase of £460.01. This has been helped by the fact that we have received back the 75% of the utility usage for the pavilion from the Football Club. We have also received another £30.00 from the Ashley Fountain Soccer School, who have used our park on a couple of occasions to run a training school for toddlers.

So as the new chairman I am now looking forward to the next year with the challenges that will be presented to me. My priorities are going to be to try and raise awareness of this beautiful asset that the villages have and to encourage more parishioner to have an input into its upkeep. To raise much needed funds so that the WPA will be able to fund its own projects, and rely less on the generosity of the two Parish Councils. However there is much work to do initially with some general clearing of growth that has taken hold in the last few years, and some tiding of the trees to bring it back to a managed park. So I would say that initially we will still be coming to the parish councils with a proposal of work & costings to be considered, these are out to quote as I speak, but I will hope that these calls for funding will become less as the year goes on.

If all goes to plan I will hope to come back in a year's time to report on a healthier, wealthier and more vibrant Wootton Park Association.

Will Border
Chairman
Wootton Park Association
15th March 2016

