



## Chairman's Report 2015

Carols in the park had to be brought inside because of the weather last year. Tim Barker hosted the event and it was a great evening with Carlisle Musical Society, St Stephens Silver Band and the children from Yewdale School - a great evening was had by all.



Then the ever popular Parkrun had a special Christmas day event and it was great to see the whole community wanting to be involved in Christmas spirit.

The only blip in the year was when the park gates were closed, but I'm glad to report that since the gates have gone back to being open, unsocial behaviour has dropped.

All of the weekly events started by Lottery funding are still continuing 6 years down the line - Tai Chi, Parkrun and Healthy Living Walks.

Then once again we were awarded the Green Flag - the only park in Carlisle this year - with increased votes, I believe due to volunteer support.



Love Parks week started with the Fairy Day, something we are trying to keep on with as it is very popular. This year we made it a ticket event & wondered if we would get as many Fairies, all activities were free and the Friends helped support the event. We needn't have worried as we had approx. 300 Fairies on the day along with appearances from Spiderman, Mrs McPhee and Miss Piggy to name but a few. They all enjoyed face painting, story time, making their own wands & fairy doors and playing in the drumming event. Definitely another magical day for our fifth year,

so it is now a regular on our calendar of events. Next year's event is already in the diary - 22<sup>nd</sup> July.



Three Summer Splash dates were planned for Chances Park. Two out of three went ahead and one was cancelled due to weather, but on the two dates there were 150 registered but more probably turn up on the evenings.

Newlathes School were eager to help with the sowing of wild flower seeds, James from Greenspace team organised harrowing of the ground to open up the earth, and instead of just scattering seeds on whole selected area, to make it more interesting to the children we lined them up in a big X, so hopefully next year you will all know where X is! Obviously these seeds will spread year on year. The children also learned the importance of hay meadows and what they attract - bees and butterflies, such as meadow brown, common blue and the rare marsh fritillary, are among the hundreds of insects which probe the grassland flowers for nectar. In turn, these attract more small mammals and birds whose numbers are in decline.



Seeds that you can expect to see next year are Black/Common Knapweed, Yarrow, Field Scabious, Oxeye Daisy, Red Clover, Rough Hawkbit, Common Cats Ear, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Ribwort Plantain, Selfheal, Meadow Buttercup and Yellow Rattle!

A grant was received from the County Council for Data Loggers which are an important factor to show how many people use our Park. They also granted us money towards a sign we have been trying to get for the Centre of park mainly to point the way to the Manor Café but also point out the direction of other places of interest that may not be immediately evident. This helped us in getting the extra £2,000 from Hadfield Trust. Thank you.

We also have been lucky enough to get a grant of £5,000 from the Big lottery for our Trails and Tails Project, which we are in the process of bringing together, this should be up and running in spring.

Of course all these projects are made possible working with the greenspace team, who support both the Friends and the Manor by keeping the grounds & park in perfect order I personally would like to thank Jeannie, James and Luke for their help and special thanks to Richard Reynolds our resident gardener of whom I am always hearing good reports from park users. Loving the poppies & cosmos & Georgian Garden Park



Lastly I would like to than all our volunteers who give time whether it be in the delivery of minutes, selling raffle tickets, litter picking or reporting lights out - all important tasks. I can't mention you all individually but feel I should mention the volunteers who have helped with our events and particularly Maggie who keeps me right! The most important thing anyone can give is their time, thank you.

I hope everyone will support our second Body Mind and Spirit Day next Saturday. We have some great exhibitors and amazing workshops all for the price of the ticket. Information on the Friends of Chances Park website and Friends Facebook page.