

Christmas Tree Festival

The Friends are taking part again this year in the Millhouses Methodist Church Christmas Tree Festival which takes place from Sunday 2 December to 2 January, and is a wonderful community festival with many Millhouses businesses and community groups taking part. This year's theme is "Memories of 2012" so there are lots of opportunities for imaginative decorations.

Christmas Wassailing

Following on from the fashion show success we will be running a wassailing evening at the Waggon & Horses from 7.30 pm on Saturday 5th January 2013. There will be a specially written pub quiz and an auction with some super items, many donated by local businesses. A local group, The Gamebirds, will lead the "Sheffield Carol" style entertainment throughout the evening. Excellent hot food will be served and included with the ticket price of £5. Jane Bradley, of Perfectly Dressed, Millhouses, will again be leading the evening. 120 tickets will be available for seating throughout the pub; a family ticket at £15 will also be available. Come along, support the Community Mill Building and have a good sing and darn good evening before returning to work again. Watch out for ticket sales shortly.

Heart Health Walk

A circular Health Walk, starting at the Café, round the park marked by posts every 100 metres to help all back to health after Heart Surgery is proposed

Website

Our website has been very successful with around 6,500 visits a month, over 3,000 visits to Facebook and 4,500 check ins for Smartphones We are the 15th Trip Advisor site in city and the peak months in 2012 and 2011 coincided with Millyjam).There have been 35,000 hits since started last year.

Webmaster
www.friendsofmillhousespark.org

Membership Application

Name/s

Address

Post Code.....

Telephone Number

e-mail address

Particular Interest

.....

Membership is free and without obligation

Orienteering Course

Three orienteering courses are being prepared by for us by South Yorkshire Orienteers which will be marked by posts throughout the park. The maps/courses will be downloadable from our website



FoMP Group Objectives

- To provide facilities in Millhouses Park in the interests of social welfare, recreation and leisure time for the community of Millhouses and for the citizens of Sheffield and to improve the conditions and quality of life of those people who use the park, without discrimination or exclusion by sex, race, ability or age;
- To increase the enjoyment, relaxation and health of all those who use the facilities and to encourage greater use of the park as a public amenity;
- To stimulate the educational, physical, creative, imaginative, social and cognitive development of children and young people across a range of ages and abilities;
- To minimise the risk of accident, hazard or infection to users of the park.

Friends of Millhouses Park
A Better Park for Everyone

Newsletter
Autumn 2012



It's been a busy year for FOMP despite the weather, with the main success being the playground regeneration. Currently we are working hard to raise money and develop plans in conjunction with Sheffield City Council to bring the mill buildings back into sustainable use.

Mill Buildings



Monday 26th November saw the start of work on the small mill building after a 4 year battle to save it from destruction. The first phase of basic structural work should be finished by March 2013. We have been working in partnership with Sheffield City Council and funding has been provided from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Local funders include Sheffield Town Trust, Charles Hayward Foundations, Sheffield City Council, the S.W. Community Assembly & Big Lottery CSEP Fund.

There has been a mill on the site for about 1000 years with the current building probably on a similar footprint to Sir John Bright's total restoration of the mill in 1679 for the grand cost of £170! The mill has been the story of how Sheffield fed itself, first with water power taken from the River Sheaf by the Skate Park and later by steam, closing in 1939. Between 1939 and now the buildings have been used as a park maintenance depot, joiners shop and storage by Sheffield City Council and for the last 6 years have lain mostly abandoned to the elements and decay. There was a danger that the buildings would be sold or would fall down so we took up the challenge to save the small mill building, then the whole site by bringing it into productive use. Currently we are £9.2k short of what we need to finish this phase and have a building where we can attract a commercial user and gain community use. Period doors, windows, stairs, under-floor heating, and fitting out remain to be done and we are working with the community to achieve these goals. Additionally we need to clear the space round the building to achieve a small, but protected, entrance and courtyard.

Watch this space!



Children's Cycle Track, Outdoor Gym and Avenue of Oaks

As a result of a massive £50,000 grant from Community Spaces we have installed an Outdoor Gym, a Children's Cycle Track, felled the life expired row of poplar trees and planted a beautiful avenue of oaks. This playground regeneration transforms what was a sad and neglected area of the park. The official opening last December with Guest of Honour Sid Sloane from CBeebies was a huge success and the new facilities have been extremely well used.



Splash Waterplay

The Splash Water Play area continues to be a huge success with hundreds of children enjoying the facility throughout the summer. This year the rain tree has been repaired and new surfacing and draining installed which has meant the whole area is much cleaner and more user- friendly.

Millyjam

Hundreds of youngsters enjoyed another successful Millyjam event this year. The addition of the children's cycle track meant that there was even more scope for stunning cycle tricks and scooter manoeuvres. Next year's Millyjam promises to be even bigger and better.



Gardening

During the course of the year volunteers have worked on tidying up Beauchief Gardens with the Rangers, planting and maintaining the Sensory Garden, weeding the rockery near the Skate Park and clearing Himalayan Balsam and litter from the river banks. The park staff have done a magnificent job throughout the year creating beautiful gardens and keeping our park in condition.

Zip Wire

The zipwire installed last November has been very popular and has proved a healthy and exciting activity for children of all ages. Thanks to Viridor and the S.W Community Assembly for the funding for this amenity.

Woodland Fayre

On a lovely Saturday in September park- goers had the opportunity to participate in a variety of woodland crafts and adventures organised by Park Rangers and the Friends of Millhouses Park. Dens were constructed, fires were made, charcoal was produced and delicious marshmallows and dough were cooked over the flames. Artistic talents were displayed in willow stars, elder jewellery and a variety of leaf prints and designs using natural materials.

Willow Den

The Willow Den continues to be an attractive play area for younger children. It has been replanted and upgraded with the help of the Community Foresters and is now well established. Further maintenance work will take place in February.



Safeguarding Training

As part of the Sustainability Grant we were able to hold a safeguarding training evening. This was run by Project Buzz in association with Voluntary Action Sheffield and enabled us to develop a broader and more comprehensive understanding of safeguarding and how it impacts on our many activities in the park.

Fashion Show

An enormously successful fashion show was held at the beginning of November to raise money for the Mill Buildings project. Jane Bradley of 'Perfectly Dressed' compered and provided the clothes for the show which was attended by over a hundred people at the Waggon and Horses public house. A delicious supper was provided by staff there and over £800 was raised. Many thanks to Jane and her volunteer models and especial thanks to staff at the Waggon and Horses for all their help and support.

Bees

One of our members has proposed putting beehives in the park. She has undergone training and met with beekeepers who recommend 10ft. high fencing for safety. A permanent bee hive area is to be built, initially three hives, and will be managed by The Friends working in conjunction with Millhouses Bowling Club. The project also includes an upgrade of the toilet block by the Bowling Club to provide better toilets, a store room and changing room. This will be an educational project which could produce honey and other bee products, could involve local groups and will definitely raise the park's profile. A bid will be made next year.(Incidentally, every park in London has bee hives).

Climbing Frame

This large & popular piece of equipment for younger children in the playground is looking tired and many parts are in need of replacement. We have been faced with the realisation that major work is needed. Over the last year options have been investigated with one possibility being to have the original suppliers taking everything back to their factory and giving it a mid life refresh. This should extend its life by up to 10 years. The price tag is £5,000 which we are working to raise.



Sustainability Grant

In addition to the main grant obtained for the children's cycle track and outdoor gym, Community Spaces also awarded us a Sustainability Grant. Some of this money has gone towards equipment for Millyjam like a generator, we have purchased two gazebos for use at park events, two pull up information signs have been made and are already in use, some money has gone towards training and the rest will pay for this newsletter.

