

FRIENDS OF PRESTON PARK

Contact us:

CHAIR & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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Could You Find One New Member?

We hope that the Friends will be able to help with future improvements in the park, but to succeed we will need to raise funds, mainly by applying for grants. The more members we have, the more successful we're likely to be. Membership gives a chance to be part of the consultation and at times part of the decision making.

If everyone recruited one more member we'd have twice as loud a voice!

Do you or someone you know find it hard to get round the museum or the park sometimes?

Would you find one of these helpful? The Friends of Preston Park have bought a wheelchair and a rollator for the benefit of visitors. Just ask at the reception desk to borrow them.



We could do this thanks to the funds raised at the Spring Ball last year. If you've got more ideas to make it easier to enjoy the museum and park let us know.



Newsletter

March 2014



Welcome to Preston Park

In February Stockton Council announced the appointment of Margie Stewart-Piercy as Museum Development manager. Margie has wide experience of museums and the wider arts world. She has already met with the committee of Friends of Preston Park and we look forward to working closely with her on developments in the future.



Skate Park Update

Work will start on the site on March 10th, weather permitting, with the erection of a temporary fence and tree management work. The tree works will take around a fortnight and then works on the skate park itself will start.



Following completion of the construction the surrounding ground will need time to settle and for the landscape planting to become established. It is hoped that the skate park will be open for use in the school summer holidays, but of course it will depend on the weather.

Orienteering

Why Not Come and Try It?

Some members might remember the permanent orienteering markers around the Park, which had fallen into disrepair and disuse. One of our members has painstakingly restored them, and the committee has worked with Cleveland Orienteering Klub (CLOK) to produce new maps.



To launch the new course CLOK is organising an event with the Friends for anyone from beginners to experienced orienteers.

If the idea of seeing the park from different angles, following a trail between markers, and trying your hand at reading a map appeals then

orienteering might be the sport for you.

On **Saturday April 5th** there will be two courses:

A simple one for people to try the sport, free of charge. It'll be suitable for families as well as individuals and all you need is suitable shoes for walking round the park, and the right clothes for the weather.

A more technical one for people with more experience of map reading, for which there'll be a charge of £1.

Just turn up between 11 and 1, go to the CLOK tent on the front field and join in the fun.

If any members would like to help with the event, volunteers would be welcome. We hope this event will attract both new visitors and people who already know and love our park. The maps are on sale now in the Museum for those who want to "go it alone".

Plans for the Future

There have been several suggestions for future activities and developments. Let us know what you think (contact details on back page):

- Park Runs
- Running Track
- Beehives
- Nature walks
- Railway heritage walks
- Amateur Photography competition and/or exhibition
- Looking after the flower beds which Stockton Council will no longer plant and weed
- Removing the pebbles in front of Butterfly world and replacing them with something less susceptible to misuse.
- Better notice boards and signs around the park
- Working with the park management to improve the car parking and flow of traffic while keeping pedestrians safe
- Keeping Quarry Wood Nature Reserve safe from damage by careless visitors



If you could help with any of these, or if you've got other ideas do get in touch. There'll be plenty of opportunities to be involved.