



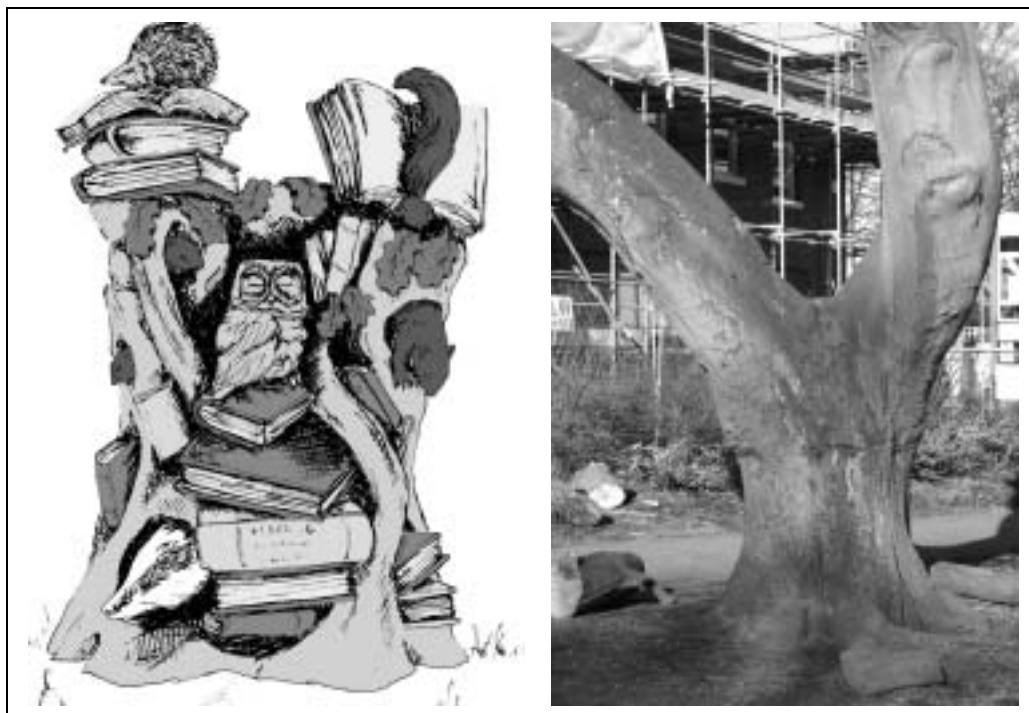
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Task Days in the Park.</i>	2
<i>Marple Wine Club helps the Friends.</i>	2
<i>Tree Sculpture Consultation</i>	3
<i>Marple Centre Regeneration Partnership</i>	4
<i>Events in the Park</i>	4
<i>A Breathing Place for Memorial Park</i>	5
<i>Park Bench Successes Stories.</i>	5
<i>"Lock 17" Marple's New Lock Project.</i>	6
<i>Walk for Health</i>	6

Useful Park Contacts:

- **Friends of Marple Memorial Park :**
0161 427 4955
- **Marple Bowling Club :**
0161 429 0121
- **Marple Library :**
0845 644 4307
- **Marple Clinic :**
0161 427 1806
- **Marple Scouts :**
0161 427 2598
- **Senior Citizen's Hall:**
0161 427 3632
- **RSPB High Peak Group:**
0161 427 5325
- **Police:**
Emergency : 999
Non Emergency :
0161 872 5050
- **SMBC :** 0161 474 4415
- **The Marple Website:**
www.marple-uk.com

CONSULTATION ON DESIGN FOR TREE SCUPLTURE UNDERWAY.



The provisional design by Andrew Frost and the remains of the Copper Beech Tree

In December 2006 there were strong protests as work began to fell the large Copper Beech tree in the park between the Bowling Green and the Council's offices.

Due to poor communication protesters believed that the tree was being felled simply to allow scaffolding to be erected for repairs to the offices. Unbeknown to them a survey of the tree earlier in the year (following a request for it to be trimmed back for the scaffold) had revealed it to be in a dangerous condition.

The Friends of the Park were disappointed not to learn about the plans to fell the tree before the work was started but after being briefed about its condition

by council representatives it was agreed to support the decision to remove it on safety grounds.

As a result of the protests work was stopped until the situation could be reviewed by Marple's Area Committee, who, after being briefed at their meeting in January 2007, reluctantly gave approval for the felling of the tree to be completed.

Since learning about the tree's unfortunate demise the Friends of the Park have been eager to develop a positive outcome and through the Parks and Recreation Team it was arranged to leave the main trunk in place so that its suitability for a

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you to



the McInnes Partnership
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

117 Stockport Road, Marple, SK6 6AG Phone: 0161 449 7414

For helping the Friends with their accounts for the last 3 years!

TASK DAYS

COME & GET
YOUR HANDS
DIRTY!



Since October 2006 the Friends of the Park have been holding a regular monthly Task Day, where local people can get involved in helping to maintain and improve their local park.

The calendar for future Task Days has now been fixed and they will take place on the last Saturday of each month, between 10 am and 2 pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along for however long they can on the Task Days to help with planting, pruning, weeding and generally improving your park.

Stout footwear and suitable clothing should be worn and all tools will be provided.

See what the Friends got up to during previous Task Days on their web site or join them for the rest of this year on Saturdays:

28th April 2007

26th May 2007

30th June 2007

28th July 2007

25th August 2007

29th September 2007

27th October 2007

24th November 2007

CONSULTATION ON TREE SCULPTURE DESIGN UNDERWAY.....CONTINUED

sculpture similar to the Etherow Owl at Compstall could be assessed.

In February the remains of the tree were examined by Andrew Frost, sculptor of the Etherow Owl, and he confirmed that it would be possible to do this. Andrew provided the Friends with a sketch of a preliminary design using a nature and knowledge theme that features animals and books. To see further examples of Andrew's work visit www.treeart.co.uk.

The cost will be £3,000 to carve the main trunk and to create a minimum of six ground sculptures using the boughs of the tree. There will also be additional costs for preservative materials and for fixing the ground sculptures. The Friends also propose to include a plaque explaining how the sculpture was created and funded, which will add a little to the total cost.

FUNDING SECURED

On 7th March the Friends presented the design to Marple Area Committee and applied for a Kick-Start Grant to help pay for the work. The Committee were very positive about the idea to use the remains of the tree in this way and generously agreed to contribute £1,000 toward the costs.

The Friends have secured a further £1,000 by applying for a Stockport Council Voluntary Arts Grant, which was awarded in April. Also in April, the Marple District Centre Regeneration Partnership came to the Friends aid by contributing the final £1,000 needed to fund the project and ensure that it could go ahead.

Brian Nash, District & Local Centres Manager said:

"The Partnership is pleased to support the activities of the Friends of Memorial Park as we recognise the important contribution the Park makes to making Marple an attractive place to shop, work, live and visit."

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Before work on the sculpture itself starts the next stage is to consult with local children on their favourite animals and other nature topics that they would like to see featured in the final design. This will include the main "Nature and Knowledge" sculpture to be created from the trunk and also the smaller ground sculptures to be made from the boughs.

If your children would like to take part in this consultation process and influence the final design, please help them complete the consultation sheet included with this newsletter and return it to us.

The consultation process will also be carried out through local primary schools, in Marple Library and on-line via the Marple Website at www.marple-uk.com.

COME ALONG AND WATCH

The sculpting work is expected to take between 5 and 7 days to complete and it will be possible to come along and watch Andrew Frost working on location in the park when it is underway. Look out for notices in the park telling you when this will take place, hopefully this summer.



MARPLE WINE CLUB DONATES COMMISSION TO THE FRIENDS



Marple Wine Club was established in 1987 in the days when the Co-op's wine range was little more than Concord and Liebfraumilch, and the star of the off-licences was Lutomer Riesling. We set out to provide the more discerning wine drinkers of Marple with an opportunity to purchase a wide range of fairly priced, better quality wines from around the world.....

Our aim was, and still is, to search out family run establishments whose pride in their product is paramount. We also aim to seek the unusual and sometimes the bizarre. Following the break up of the old Soviet Republic we managed to get hold of a few cases of top quality Russian wine which were found cellared in the headquarters of the KGB in Moldova.....honest!!

Whilst we cannot promise to repeat such a coup, we will try.

Visit www.marple-uk.com/wineclub for the latest Wine List and Special Offers.
The Friends of Marple Memorial Park will receive a commission on all orders placed via the Marple Website or by quoting this newsletter.

**MARPLE WINE CLUB, 75 Cross Lane, Marple SK6 7PZ
0161 427 7883**

FRIENDS OF MEMORIAL PARK

TREE SCULPTURE

CONSULTATION



The Friends of Marple Memorial Park have raised the money to create a "Nature & Knowledge" Tree Sculpture from the remains of the old Copper Beech Tree in the park between the Bowling Green and the Council's offices.

The Friends would like local children to help us create the most popular sculpture possible by naming the wise owl, the central character in the design, and by voting for your other favourite creatures to include in the main trunk sculpture.

We also want you to send us your own drawings and design ideas for the six smaller ground sculptures that will be made from the large boughs of the tree and will be about the right size for young children to sit on. These can be anything suitable based on the "Nature & Knowledge" theme, like animals, seeds, fruit, plants or books. Just use your imagination!

So, there are three different ways that you can help the Friends of the Park with this project:

1 TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD NAME THE WISE OWL:

.....

2 VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE CREATURES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MAIN TRUNK DESIGN:

Tick your 3 favourite creatures to be included in the design. If your favourites are not listed, just add them next to the spare boxes:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgehog | <input type="checkbox"/> Bat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Squirrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Mole | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Badger | <input type="checkbox"/> Bat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds (type: _____) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 SEND US YOUR DESIGNS AND IDEAS FOR THE SIX GROUND SCULPTURES TO BE MADE FROM THE BOUGHS OF THE TREE.

Drawings or paintings can be A4 or A3 size in black & white or colour. Send to the address on the left, drop off at the library or submit on-line. You need to include a S.A.E. if you wish your designs to be returned to you.

Use this box for any other comments you have on this project:

NAME: **AGE:** You do not have to provide this information if you don't want to.

COME AND WATCH!

The sculpting work is expected to take place over a period of 5 to 7 days this summer and it will be possible to come and watch chainsaw artist Andrew Frost working on location in the park.

Look out for notices in the park telling you when this will take place.

For some great examples of Andrew's work visit www.treeart.co.uk

**RETURN BEFORE
END of MAY**

By post to:

Friends of Memorial Park,
72 Woodville Drive,
Marple, SK6 7QX

In the 'Drop in' Box at:
Marple Library

Or complete an electronic version of this form on the Marple Website at:

www.marple-uk.com

DISTRICT CENTRE REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

Marple Regeneration Partnership was established by Stockport Council in 2002 as part of the Strategy for the District Centres. One of the key achievements of the Strategy has been its approach to the development and encouragement of increased 'ownership' of issues by local stakeholders including businesses, residents and local interest groups. This has led in to a significant increase in local private sector involvement, engagement and participation in District Centre activities with the key aim to ensure that Marple retains a viable and vital role within the economic, social and environmental fabric of the Borough. Successful projects include the Refurbishment of Market Street/Derby Way, environmental improvements at The Hollins, dramatic festive decorations and events, promotional banners and Derby Street Car Park refurbishment.

The Partnership is pleased to support the activities of the Friends of Memorial Park as we recognise the important contribution the Park makes to making Marple an attractive place to shop, work, live and visit.

This importance was reinforced with the allocation of major resources to create a much improved entrance from Stockport Road. The project provided high quality materials including paving and street lighting to that gave the Park an entrance worthy of the status within Marple.

The Partnership participates and supports a number of local initiatives that all involve the use and development of the Park, ranging from Task Days to the hugely successful Marple Carnival and Marple Locks Festival. The Park is undoubtedly a central focus of Marple life and the local businesses in the shopping centre can all benefit from this valuable asset.



Brian Nash, District & Local Centres Regeneration Manager joins the Friends on a Task Day.

MARPLE LOCKS FESTIVAL 1ST JULY 2007

MARPLE CANAL



10am - 4pm

SCIENCE FICTION!

June the sixteenth is a day to pencil in on your calendar this year as Marple Carnival will be held yet again within the beautiful setting of Marple

In Memorial Park and up and down the Locks

This year's Locks Festival will be held on Sunday 1st July from 10am – 4 pm, with over 40 organisations already represented. This year the theme is traditional crafts, pastimes and entertainments. As at previous festivals there will be guided walks, art events, musical and dancing displays, refreshments, boat trips, canoeing and of course boats using the locks.

The Society's 'Task Days' have been very successful, most of the locks have had a 'vegetation tidy-up', benches re-varnished and several lubrication sessions. A major scheme of refurbishment is currently underway on the gar-

den area between the Memorial Park and the pound between locks 12 and 13. This is a joint venture between SMBC, Marple and Cheadle Sixth Form College and the Society; replanting will take place over the next few weeks.

Another joint venture is 'Lock 17'; Friends of the Memorial park and the Society are working together to secure funding to enable the Tatton Gold Medal Lock Garden to be permanently displayed in the area adjacent to Lock 13 which will provide a significant feature at one of Marple's gateways. Once in place this

feature will be dedicated to the late Gordon Mills, a great supporter of the canals in Marple.

The Society continues to increase its membership and holds very well attended open meetings every quarter and one of the members has produced a very professional Education Pack for use by the local schools. Funding was secured to enable a reprint of the very popular Locks Trail Guide.

New members are very welcome, please contact Bob Woodgate, Membership secretary on 0161 427 0803.

Memorial Park. Amongst many attractions there will be Morley's Fun Fair, the PDSA Fun Dog Show, the Giant Carnival Boot Sale and the arena will be busy with entertainments throughout the day. Don't miss the crowning of Marple Carnival Queen 2007 and her retinue at 4pm. The theme this year is Science Fiction, so look out for

aliens, robots and weird beasts in the parade at 2pm. There will also be street entertainment and local businesses will be participating in the ever popular 'Best Dressed Window Competition. The Carnival Committee are certainly looking forward to this year's event and hope to see you all there on the day.

MARPLE CARNIVAL
is on
Saturday
16th June!

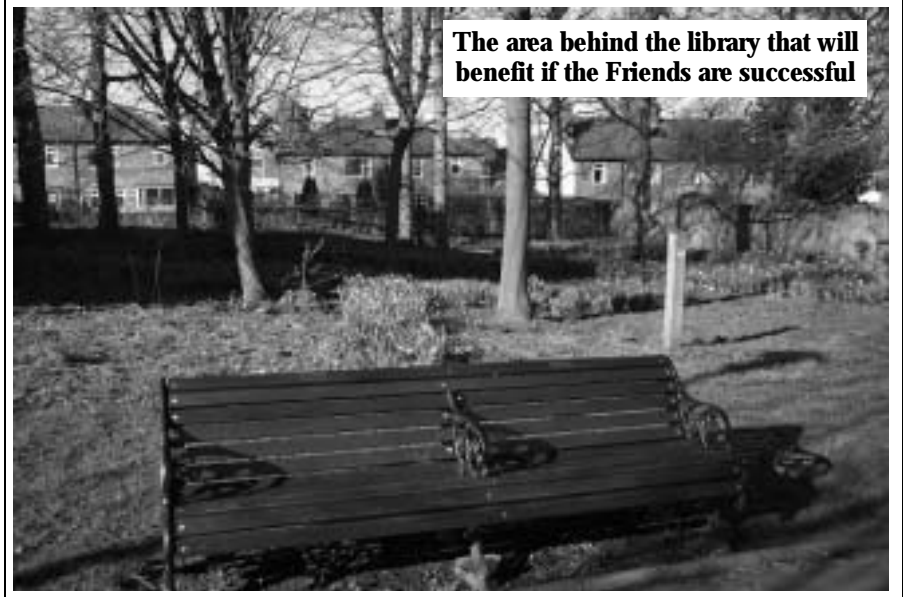
A BREATHING PLACE

In December 2006 the Friends of Marple Memorial Park submitted an application to the BBC Breathing Places Big Lottery Fund Grant Scheme.

You might have seen Bill Oddie, Kate Humble or Simon King presenting the Breathing Places Campaign on television last summer. The scheme aims to transform thousands of unused sites across the UK, improving habitats for wildlife and involving local communities in nature projects.

The Big Lottery Fund offers Breathing Place grants of between £300 and £10,000 and altogether a fund of £4 Million is set aside to help create and maintain woodland and wildlife havens across the country.

Working with Stockport Council and Stockport Library Services the Friends have submitted a plan to improve the rarely used wooded area behind Marple Library. If the application is successful this area will be enhanced by the installation of a reading circle where the library will encourage local



groups and schools to read outdoors amongst the wild flowers and trees, enjoying nature in the fresh air.

An unusual sculpture doubling as a bird feeder is planned, as well as extensive planting of wild flowers, bulbs, shrubs and fruiting trees and with the encouragement of natural habitats we hope to instigate a healthier biodiversity on the site for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

The Friends should learn if their appli-

cation is successful at the end of May 2007. However, regardless of the outcome, Memorial Park is now a registered Breathing Place and is featured on the BBC web site, where there is information about the Friends, the park and the events taking place within it.

For more information visit www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/getinvolved/ and click on Greater Manchester or Cheshire.



CORONATION BENCH

The Friends decided to take action when told that the large Oak Tree near the Bowling Green in Memorial Park was planted in 1953 to celebrate the Queen's Coronation but because the plaque had gone missing some years ago this fact was in danger of being forgotten.

At first it was just planned to fit a new plaque but the idea eventually developed into a much more exciting project—a circular "Coronation Bench" that would surround the tree and allow users to enjoy the views in every direction around the park.

The unique one-off bench was paid for by a £500 Green Space Development Grant and was designed and constructed for the Friends by Wayne Chaisty of "Ironwood" on Stockport Road. It was completed and installed in August 2006 and has become one of the Friends of Memorial Park's greatest successes to date.

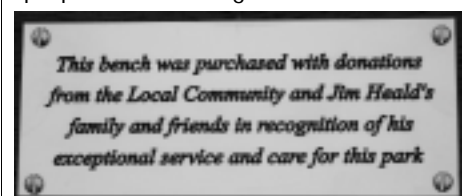
JIM HEALD BENCH



The installation of Jim Heald's memorial bench and fixing of the commemorative plaques was completed in April 2006.

The bench was paid for by donations collected through the Marple Website from local organisations, local people and Jim's family and former colleagues.

The two plaques are reproduced here and the bench itself can be seen in the photograph above, in front of the proposed Breathing Place area.



“LOCK 17” MARPLE’S FIRST NEW LOCK FOR 200 YEARS



The Friends of Marple Memorial Park are working in partnership with Marple Locks Heritage Society on a project to create “Lock 17”, a new permanent display that will promote a positive image of Marple and its locks. It will also demonstrate the teamwork possible between Stockport Council and local community groups, as well as creating an attractive display that people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy.

The project will turn Stockport Council’s Marple Locks Flower-

bed display, their Gold Award winning entry to the 2006 Tatton Show, into a permanent feature at Oldknow Gardens, the green space on the corner of Stockport Road and Strines Road at the south-eastern gateway to Marple and adjacent to Lock 13 on the Peak Forest Canal.

The main cost associated with the project will be the fabrication and installation of steel replica lock gates to replace those of softwood and mdf made for the Tatton Show, which were not suitable for long-term display, and were

also vandalised when the garden was erected in Memorial Park. The Friends and the Society are currently seeking funding to pay for the lock gates to be fabricated.

The display will be christened “Lock 17”. A plaque will be installed explaining its origins and dedicating it to the memory of the late Gordon Mills to commemorate his efforts on behalf of Marple, its locks and canals and its local history.

It is planned that the majority of the work to relocate the garden will be undertaken by

Friends of Marple Memorial Park
Contact details:

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(Treasurer)
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SK6 7QX
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e-mail: info@marplememorialpark.org.uk

Richard Booker
(Community Support Officer)
Tel: 0161 474 4829
e-mail: richard.booker@stockport.gov.uk

Dave Burrows
(Parks and Recreation Service)
Tel: 0161 456 2315
e-mail: david.burrows@stockport.gov.uk

Friends of Marple
Memorial Park

“The land for Marple’s War Memorial Park was given by the Carver and Barlow Families of this Parish in Memory of the men of Marple who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918 and the laying-out was done by Public Subscription.”

**Dedication of
War Memorial Park
22nd July 1922**

volunteers from the Friends of Memorial Park and the Marple Locks Heritage Society in conjunction with the Council’s Parks & Recreation Team. We look forward to being able to report more progress on this project in our next newsletter.

WALK FOR HEALTH

Walking the way to Health is a national programme that aims to encourage people to take up walking. It was started in 1995 by an Oxfordshire GP, Dr William Bird. Since then the increasingly popular and successful scheme has been adopted by the British Heart Foundation and Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency) with extra funding from the Big Lottery. There are over 350 Health walk Centres in England, run by local volunteers and enthusiasts. What is a Health Walk?

The short definition of a health walk is: **a purposeful, brisk walk undertaken on a regular basis** It can be any walk which is created to

improve people’s health. As far as heart health is concerned, the walk should be purposeful and ‘brisk’ - in other words more than just a stroll!. For best results the walk needs to be part of a an exercise programme.

Walking is a healthy activity because any energy expenditure has health benefits, regardless of intensity.

In addition to this, organised walks (brisk or not) can have a health impact because they provide an opportunity to socialise and a distraction from everyday stresses.

However, it is the relevant intensity, and the regularity of the walk that can really have an impact on heart health.

Getting Started: 5 Reasons to start walking

For Health – walking strengthens your heart, your bones and your muscles....and helps you to manage your weight!

For Wealth – walking is free and will enrich your life in many ways.

For Happiness – walking improves your mood and helps combat depression

For Comfort – go for a walk in your local park and find out how nature helps to reduce stress and calm your mind

For Joy – walk with friends and discover just how much fun walking can be.

WALK FOR HEALTH IN MEMORIAL PARK EVERY MONDAY AT 11AM. PHONE 426 5096 FOR MORE INFO.