



# Friends of St. George's Park

December 2010 Newsletter

## Notice board for the park

We are pleased to announce that the Fairways Tenants Consultative Committee has donated £1000 to the group. This money will be used to purchase and fit a metal lockable notice board in the park. This will be a great addition to the park and it will be run as a 'community' notice board with local organisations and groups being able to display posters etc.

The notice board will be situated just inside the Radford Avenue entrance on the right and will display information on what is available in the park, what projects the group are currently working on and any events coming up. We hope to have it in place early 2011.



Spike, Chair of the group accepts the donation from George Green from the Fairways TCC

## Website Launched

September 2010 saw the launch of our website. It is hoped that it will become a vibrant & active community resource that will not only include information about the park but will hopefully expand to include information on the local neighbourhood. The website will be used to keep people up to date on the latest news from the group, current projects and will provide a forum for people to raise ideas, suggestions and issues.

If you have ever wondered what we talk about at the meetings you will be able download our notes. There is a gallery section showing all our latest pictures and you can comment on the park in 'Spikes Blog'.

Unless we can find additional funding the last of our colour newsletters will be distributed in April 2011 therefore the website will be an ongoing way that you can stay informed on what we are up to.

Please take a look at the site (address below) and let us know what you think. All suggestions will be welcome!

**[www.stgeorgespark.weebly.com](http://www.stgeorgespark.weebly.com)**

## Thoughts from the Chair

Welcome to our 3rd of 4 newsletters funded by the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership. We are pleased to report that a replica plaque has now been fitted to the old drinking fountain, as covered in our last newsletter. The original will be displayed locally in a more secure location. Fairways Tenant Consultative Committee have given us funding for new notice boards. These should be ordered soon and will certainly make a difference when displaying information about forthcoming events etc. We would like to thank them for their continuing support.

'A host, of golden daffodils' to please Wordsworth should be coming up in the park next spring. At the end of November 6000 Daffodil bulbs were planted in the park.

Thanks to everyone that got involved - we will put the 'bulb map' up in the park when they start to come up so you can see how your 'plot' is doing.

After the damage in the summer which resulted in 9 trees being removed it is nice to report that replacements will be planted this autumn. 5 native trees will be planted along the wall towards Coventry Street. They will form a basis for a native hedge and wild flower meadow planned for this area. You may have noticed that the lights have not been working on the football pitch for a couple of months. Unfortunately due to one thoughtless act young people have not been able to use the football pitch during the dark evenings.

Thank you to those who came to The Big Lunch in July. It was a dry but overcast day but it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of those also making use of the paddling pool. Hopefully we can repeat this event next year. Our next large event will take place in the park on Saturday 23rd April see the website for more details. Hope to see you there!



Chairman Spike

## Birdlife in the Park

Autumn has given the park a splash of colour and looks stunning in the afternoon sun. The bats have now gone to their winter

roosts, last being seen in late September. The hedgehog was also seen in the park around the same time looking for a warm safe place to hibernate. Frogs and newts have left garden pools to also find a place to spend winter.



The last couple of winters have been severe and has had a devastating effect on small bird numbers, prolonged freezing conditions can be fatal for them, so we need to make sure they stand a good chance of survival by putting out food over the winter months in our gardens. If you don't already do so, here are a few bird feeding tips:

Hang feeders out of reach of cats and predators, the same goes for where you position bird tables, try to keep them next to hedges or other cover.

Sunflower seeds, hearts and millet are good for species such as Finch, Sparrows and Tit family while fat containers and fat balls are used by Starlings, Great Spotted Wood Peckers, Robins, Dunnocks and Wrens.

Remember that if you do start to feed birds you must keep this up throughout the winter at least as some birds fly as far as 5 miles to get to a known food source and if they regularly arrive to find nothing then they have wasted valuable energy, which can affect their survival chances.



Why not make a list of what birds come into your garden? We would be interested to hear what you get, and it would help us to get an idea of what sort of birds are wintering in the park and surrounding gardens. If you decide to keep a list please send your results to us via the website or by email to - [krukow1951@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:krukow1951@hotmail.co.uk) We will collate the results, put them on the website and publish them in the spring newsletter.

G. Kruckow - FoSG Wildlife Officer

## Compact Awards

On Tuesday 2nd November the first Worcestershire Compact Awards were held at County Hall in Worcester. The Award celebrates voluntary projects that work in

partnership to achieve better outcomes for the community. It is the first year the awards have been held and Friends of St. George's Park were one of 38 diverse projects that were nominated.

The groups nomination showed how the unique 3 way partnership made up of the group, Wyre Forest District Council and Vestia Community Trust has made a difference to the park.

Much to our surprise the group won the award! (Spike had to give a speech!!). Receiving this award celebrates the commitment and achievements of the whole group under the leadership of Spike and the continued support from everyone involved with the group.



Well done!



St George's Church Concert Committee  
Proudly presents a not to be missed

*Music, Song and Massed Handbell Ringing*

## Candlelit Concert

**West Midlands' Handbell Ringers  
& St George's Church Choir**

Sat 11th December 2010 at 7.30pm

St George's Church, Radford Avenue

Tickets available on the door or from:

Evan Foster, Jewellers, 1 Blackwell St  
John Beard, Ironmonger & Tools, 11 Bridge St

For further information please ring 01746 780788  
Tickets priced £8, £6 senior citizens,  
£3 children - under 16 to include

Interval refreshments of punch and mince pies

## Bulbs Planted

As part of our 'Daffodil Day' on Saturday 27th November volunteers helped us plant 6000 bulbs in the park.



Volunteers registered for a 'plot' and were then given the bulbs and equipment needed to plant it up. We are keeping a record of who planted what & where which will be displayed in the park during April 2011. When the Daffodils come up there will be prizes for the best looking plots!



Oh Yez! Oh Yez! Citizens of Kidderminster, West Mercia Constabulary wishes you a happy and crime free Christmas. Let it be known that our police have launched Operation Christmas Presence and will do everything in their power to ensure you enjoy your festive shopping is not spoiled by rogues and villains.

Hear ye the police's top tips for seasonal safety:

If you're out after dark leave some lights on at home to make it look occupied and keep windows and doors locked

Don't leave your presents and other valuables on display in your cars. Be warned that thieves may be watching if you take bags back to your vehicle and then carry on shopping

Never leave a handbag or purse unattended, even for a few seconds. If people bump into you or try to distract you with conversation be on your guard.

Keep your handbags firmly zipped shut or closed and on your person at all times. Bags left unattended on the back or trolleys or pushchairs can be a prime target for thieves.

Ladies wear shoulder bags with the opening against your body. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Keep your cash cards separate from your cheque book and PIN number.

Be especially careful with car keys, mobile phones and wallets when at pubs, clubs and Christmas parties. Don't leave them in pockets of unattended coats or on show in open handbags.

Make life difficult for thieves and help keep Kidderminster a safe place to live, work and visit. Merry Christmas everyone!

E-mail: [greenhill.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:greenhill.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)  
Phone: 0300 333 3000 or 01562 742032  
Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

In an emergency always phone 999



Wyre Forest Community

## Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

# Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

With Christmas just around the corner, it seems like an ideal opportunity for the Community Safety Partnership to pass on a few timely security reminders to local residents.

The Christmas holidays should be a happy time for all of us, but criminals view the holiday season differently. The festive season can provide thieves with an ideal opportunity to steal gifts of small electronics, computers, jewellery and easily sold valuables.

Remember when you go out not to leave the Christmas tree lights on with the curtains 'half drawn' and presents on display. It looks pretty, but it is a signal to a potential burglar that the house is unoccupied and worth breaking into!

Make sure that presents are kept out of sight - the loft is a good place, as it is unlikely that burglars (or excited children!) would be bothered to look up there. If you are away for the festive season, invest in switches to turn on lamps and radios to make it appear someone is at home.

When Christmas shopping, if you can avoid it, don't leave presents in your car while you continue shopping. If you have to, make sure they are out of sight and your vehicle is locked and alarmed.

When you defrost the car in the icy mornings, never leave your keys in the ignition and the car unattended, even for a short time.

After Christmas, don't put your empty present boxes out until your recycling collection day. The boxes and wrappings provide burglars with just the information they are looking for, to see what new gadgets and items await them inside.

**Wyre Forest is a low crime area and we hope these tips will help everyone have a wonderful and safe festive season**

For  
Your  
Diary



**23rd  
April  
2011**

**St. George's  
Diversity  
Fun Day**

**Food,  
Fun  
and  
Music**

**FREEZE OUT CRIME THIS CHRISTMAS**

**Wyre Forest: an even safer place to live, work, visit or do business in.**



## Free Insulation?

Did you know in a typical home, one third of the heat produced is lost through the roof, walls and windows. This means in a poorly insulated home £1 out of every £3 spent is wasted. Loft and cavity wall insulation could save you as much as £250 per year on your energy bills!

Wyre Forest District Council and energy experts 'Act on Energy' are now offering cut price or even free insulation for owner occupiers or private rented tenants in the Greenhill area.

**To find out more info contact: - Act on Energy 0800 988 2881**