

Late Autumn 2021

Friends of Cuerden Valley Park Newsletter



Issue 8

Introduction from the editor

In our last edition we showed how we had started to break up the ground in preparation for some autumn seed sowing for our Wildflower Planting project. In between the spells of heavy rain we managed to get some seed sown at the Wigan Road end of the Park. There are some photos on page 2 of the volunteers who came along to hand sow. We are still raising money as this is a three year project and have raised £2000 which is two thirds of our target.

The Friends were pleased to be able to donate to the Park a fully automatic defibrillator, at our monthly Food & Craft Market in September. The defibrillator is located in a secure cabinet on the outside of the Visitor Centre and is accessible to Park users and the local community 24/7 as it is fully registered with the emergency services. It was purchased using funds raised at the Food & Craft markets from donations at the gate. Photos and links to further information is on page 2.

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Thoughts from the Chair of the Friends: Jack Spickett

When I walk around the Park I take every opportunity to encourage those that I meet to become a Friend of the Park. Often I'm asked 'what's in it for me' my usual response is 'not a lot'. So, why do we become Friends of Cuerden Valley Park?

I honestly feel that it is a special place, somewhere unique in our locality that always allows nature to be given priority wherever possible. For example, that is why we have taken great care to ensure that only indigenous wildflowers will be seeded throughout our Wildflower beds and not the 'municipal' types of flowerbeds seen in other parks in the area. But, we are a charity, and the Trustees and Staff are under constant financial pressures to be able to manage and maintain the Park to the standards required for a public place.

We, The Friends, are an altruistic bunch who don't always ask 'what do we get out of it' but who love the Park and try to support the Park in any way we can. Not only with our annual subscriptions but by volunteering and arranging events. We have raised money that over the years, your committee has voted, to provide funding for anything from bridges to vehicles and recently for a defibrillator. Friends also provide their expertise and experience. We recently installed a Barn Owl nesting box that would have cost over a £100 to purchase that was made and provided free of charge by a Friend of the Park.

I thank all of you for becoming a Friend of Cuerden Valley Park and hope that you will continue to support the Park in any way that you can.

Wildflower Planting Project Update



Keep an eye on our fundraising boards — one in the office window and one on the boarding under the café balcony — to see how far we have got towards our target. You can still help by buying a virtual bag of seed for £3 either by scanning this QR code or in the café at the till. The photos below were



A big thank you to all who have supported this project by purchasing our virtual bags of seeds!



taken by one of our members show the group who came together to sow the first seeds. We had a mix of Trustees, Staff, Friends and other



volunteers to represent all those who have either donated or worked to support this project.

The Friends purchased a fully automated defibrillator for the Park using money raised from donations made by visitors to the monthly Food and Craft Market. The defibrillator is located on the outside of the Visitor Centre and is accessible to Park users and the local community 24/7. It was installed free of charge by local electricians Elektec Ltd. We sincerely hope that it will never be needed, but it is reassuring to know that the Park now has one available with the potential to save lives. We were delighted to welcome local hero, Jonny



Mitchell, who represented Team UK in the 2018 Invictus Games in Sydney. Jonny, made the formal presentation of the defibrillator on behalf of the Friends to Conrad Hayton, Chairman of Cuerden Valley Park Trust. The Friends were especially grateful that representatives from Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (Leyland), Lancashire Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Team and two Community First Aid Responders gave up their valuable time on that day

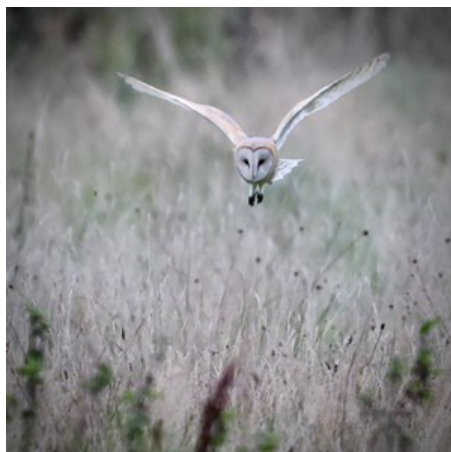
to come and support the occasion. They were a huge hit with the crowds, especially with the children, who had lots of fun playing with the fire engine and the Police cars. We really appreciate all the amazing work our emergency services undertake each and every day, to keep us safe, and would like to thank them for everything they do.



Update from our Wildlife Officer, David Beattie

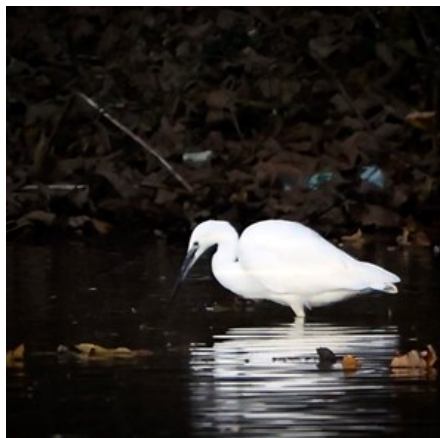
It has been a very mild autumn, at least until the last week in November. Lots of flowers were still in bloom including White Dead Nettle, Herb Robert, Gallant Soldier, Red Campion and Evening Primrose. Berries in the northern areas near the M6 motorway were in profusion with Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Rose Hips and Rowan. I live in hope that the latter will tempt Waxwings to visit. Did you know that "Cuerden" means "dweller by the Rowan tree"? It has been exciting to see some birds by the lake that we don't usually see. Goosanders have increased over the last five years from about 2 or 3 per day to 15 to 18 each day. The little egret and a tufted duck have also generated lots of interest.

The highlights for some have been the barn owl that stayed over a fortnight and a tawny owl caught on our trail camera that was being pestered by bats. The best explanation I have for this is that the bats were responding to another bat the owl had caught and was shouting distress calls.



Barn Owl

We have also installed a Barn Owl box near the visitor centre and a Tawny Owl box in one of the woodlands. We have an extra Winter Bird Walk on 12 December —see adjacent panel — I am planning our usual Winter Bird Walk in mid-January, so keep watching the Facebook page for information. Thank you Alan Graves for the wonderful photos of the Egret and Owl.



Little Egret

Winter Bird Walk

12 December 2021

Starts at 1pm from

Kem Mill Car Park



You can buy tickets at

buytickets.at/cuerdenvalley

How Much is it?

Adults: £5

Friends of Cuerden Valley

Park Trust: £4

Accompanied children: £3

Do we have to pay to Park if we arrive by car?

Yes - please pay for 2 hours - £1.10. All carpark fees help us to look after the Park.

Sorry. Dogs may not come along on this walk (except Guide Dogs)

Next Food and Craft Market

19 December 2021

10am to 2pm

Look out for our stall!



Food & Craft Markets

Thank you to all who braved the weather and attended our Food & Craft Market on Sunday 28 November. A wonderful day was had by all and the snow gave it that magical feel!

Staffing changes at Cuerden

After 5 years as General Manager at the Park - leading the CVPT through the development of the Visitor Centre and navigating the restrictions and impact of the pandemic on the business, Simon Thorpe has left his post to concentrate on his family.

Friends, staff and volunteers gathered at the end of October to bid him farewell and to thank him for all he has contributed to the Park.

We have welcomed Carol Chidley and Clare Lewis as job share Office Managers who are working well together and for the Park in the complex and busy back office environment.

Jan Clarke has been associated with the Park as a Consultant since 2017 when she assisted with the design and business planning elements of the new Visitor Centre and Café, and she had been supporting Simon with project management and recruitment throughout what has been a difficult time for him personally.



Tell us what you think?

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the newsletter, fundraising events or volunteering please email newsletter@cuerdenvalleypark.org

She took on the role of CEO of Cuerden Valley Park at the beginning of November, hoping to consolidate her work in this post but she will be leaving to return home at the end of the year.

We will be recruiting a new CEO in the New Year. It has been a year of many changes and challenges but the support for the sustainable future of the Trust remains at the heart of all who work and volunteer for this important charity.

It is the 12th year running that Cuerden Valley Park has achieved the Green Flag Award.

Commenting on the news that Cuerden Valley Park has achieved the Green Flag Award standard, Green Flag Award Scheme Manager Paul Todd said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making Cuerden Valley Park worthy of a Green Flag Award."

"To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who do so much to ensure that Cuerden Valley Park has high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management and is a place that supports people to live healthy lives."

**The Park is owned and managed by Cuerden Valley Park Trust
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Friends ONLINE DOG SHOW 1—31 December 2021

We ran an Online Dog Show last year which proved very popular. We are running it again this year and it opened on 1 December 2021. The QR code on the poster takes you straight to the Facebook page where you can enter your photos. Do please enter and tell any of your local friends and family who are dog owners. We are raising funds to be shared towards a new supervised pond dipping platform in the Park for local children and a chipper attachment for the ride-on tractor mower we funded last year.



Friends of Cuerden Valley Park ONLINE DOG SHOW 1st-31st Dec 2021

10 categories

Prettiest Girl | Most Handsome Boy | Best Friends | Senior (Age 7 & over)
| Cutest Puppy | Best Action Shot /Clip | Holiday Dogs |
Rainbow Bridge Dogs | Cheekiest | The Dog With the Most Appealing Eyes



Find us on
Facebook

either using the QR
code or at Friends
of Cuerden Valley
Park Online Dog
Show and ask to
join our group.

Entry from just £1



Proceeds to be shared between a new supervised pond dipping platform in the Park for local children and a chipper attachment for the ride-on tractor mower funded through last year's Dog Show





FABULOUS PRIZES

SPONSORED BY
Pinewood Vets
Chorley, Leyland & Coppull.



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