



NEWS & Views

Haris Livas-Dawes

THE GREEN FAIR

(organised by Hull Friends of the Earth) held in mid-November at the Prospect Centre was a great success for us, as we earned money for our cause and acquired new members. I'd like to thank Louise, Susan and Mal who took care of our stand. On the same day I had to run a regional meeting at the History Centre for one of the national committees I sit on and didn't arrive at the Green Fair until late afternoon, so appreciated the good helpers.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

The same three, Louise, Susan and Mal were also stalwart helpers at our Annual Community Christmas Tree celebrations.



Stewart and Susan practise their duet

That we had the celebration at all was a small miracle. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll read how the Trust refused to let us have our tree as a part of their own celebration, and Pearson Park Hotel—our venue for our past Community Christmas trees—was closed. However, a week before our chosen date the hotel re-opened under

new management and James Calligan agreed to hold the celebration, helped by his father Stewart.

We had only a week to prepare and do all the publicity so we shouldn't have been too surprised at the low turnout. We did get some new members, though, and there was some robust carol singing after the refreshments led by Susan and Stewart, who gave us a duet of Good King Wenceslas. The room the hotel prepared for us looked very festive and we thank them for all the last-minute preparations.

GIFT FOR HRI CHILDREN'S WARD

As we have done since 2006, we collect the tree ornaments and give them to the children's ward at Hull Royal to use on their tree the following year and provide some joy for their young patients. The handing-over ceremony to ward nurses was also held at Pearson Park Hotel in front of the warming open fireplace.



Haris, with Lesley Stewart and Maggie Higson of the NHS. Lesley is a Teacher/Practitioner, and Maggie is a Play Specialist

PARTNERSHIP PROBLEMS

Our problems with the trustees came to a head in December when we were handed three "No's." "No" number one was: we couldn't put up a sign on the Adidas fence about our Health Trail, for which we had obtained NHS Funding and Bishop Burton partnership. The reason: the park deeds stipulate no permanent sports facilities in the park. How then did the trustees give their approval to the Adidas Zone, a commercial enterprise? We are not erecting a permanent structure, merely using the two linked central paths to tell users that if they completed the circuit x number of times they would have completed one mile.

"No" number two was: they had decided on their own community Christmas celebration and we could have our members and guests hang their ornaments on the huge conifer next to the conservatory. We said this was unsuitable but we could put a smaller tree by the café. We were refused this also. Thank heaven Pearson Park Hotel came back to life and so kindly offered us their hospitality. We were helped in buying the Christmas tree by Coletta & Tyson who gave us a nice discount.

"No" number three was in answer to our request to sit down with the trustees and discuss our priorities for the park (we published the list in our previous newsletter in October 2012) and we were told this was not "appropriate" since they had their own priorities. What can one say? For Partnerships to work people must sit together at the same table and discuss issues.

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The above led to my contacting the press. We work hard at trying to make the park a better place and we are thwarted at every turn by councillors elected to represent us. I think it is a scandal and I think the Trust is wrongly constituted being composed completely of politicians. I am familiar with trusts since I sit on two national ones. Trusts might have one or two politicians on board, but never a trust composed solely of politicians. The HDM ran a whole page story and an additional letter from me with some more points.

MEETING VENUE?

We were offered a new meeting place when the hotel closed: the St Vincent's Social Club on Queen's Road, abutting the park. We had our January meeting there and were pleased with the facilities and thank the Manager for his hospitality. The Pearson Park Hotel has also offered facilities as in the past. It will be up to the AGM to decide our meeting place.

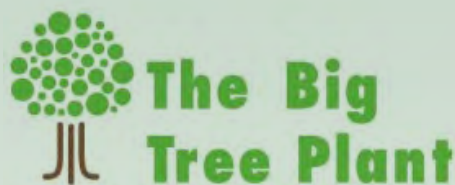
OUR AGM

The AGM will be our March meeting at the Pearson Park Hotel at 7pm on 4 March. We hope our members will all come to decide our future direction. As always we invite the Trustees to join us.

Elections will take place for the officers. If there are no further candidates for Chair, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Minutes Secretary, the current occupants will continue. We do need an Assistant Treasurer and an Events Secretary who will be able to attend meetings so please send me your name if you are interested.

FEEDING THE DUCKS

And finally—I am continuing to feed the ducks pre-dawn (to avoid the pigeons getting the food). We buy duck food at our own expense from Smiths Pet Supplies next to Castle Hill Hospital. The ducks eagerly await our early morning visits, but it is discouraging to see the amount of bread people have thrown in to the pond in spite of our sign. **Bread pollutes the water and is not nutritious for ducks.** *Haris*



Tuesday 27 November 2012

The Big Tree Plant (a national project run by Groundwork for DEFRA) took place in a Park saturated with the rain that had been falling for weeks.

OUR NEXT NIGHT WALK

will take place on **Wednesday, 1 May**

- 7.45 Meet at the Pearson Park Hotel for an informational display
- 8.45 Bat Walk, led by East Yorkshire Bat Group
- 9.45 Hull & ER Astronomical Society and Blackburn Leisure Astronomy will have their telescopes set up in the Park (See Saturn and Jupiter)



Renew your membership!

We enclose a renewal form for 2013 membership with this newsletter, and look forward to hearing from you. The cost is very small—£2 a year (but you are welcome to donate more), and we

spend the income from subscriptions on the production costs of our newsletter and other publicity materials, supplementing it with funding from other sources wherever possible.

MEETINGS & CONTACTS

MEETINGS ARE USUALLY HELD ON THE 1ST MONDAY EVERY TWO MONTHS
THE NEXT MEETING IS OUR AGM, AT **THE PEARSON PARK HOTEL**
ON **MONDAY 4 MARCH 2013**
MEETINGS START AT 7 PM AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Chair

Haris Livas-Dawes..... 491785

Treasurer

Malcolm Dawes..... 491785

Minutes Secretary

Sonja Christiansen445627/465369

Membership Secretary

Chrys Bavey.....471349