

FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006



Welcome to the first edition of the Friends of Catton Park newsletter in 2006!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We will hold our AGM on **Thursday 2nd March at 7.30 p.m.** in the Old Catton Village Hall, Church Street. Please join us – we look for a good attendance on these occasions. For members this is your formal invitation.

Dr Tom Williamson of UEA will be our guest speaker after the short business part of the meeting. He is an expert on Humphrey Repton, the designer of Catton Park. Dr Williamson will speak on the history of the park, Repton, and his contribution to landscape design.

Since our inaugural meeting in February 2005, we have attracted 90 members – but we need more! Please think whether you can help by talking to a friend or neighbour who uses, values or supports the opening up of Catton Park for the Public.

Should you wish to contact us, the officers are:

Chairman – Stephen Osborn, 44 Oak Lane, Old Catton, tel 426189

Secretary – Gill Renouf, 81 Spixworth Road, Old Catton, tel 484073

Treasurer – David Taylor, 72 Church Street, Old Catton, tel 400686

More details can be found on the website www.cattonpark.co.uk



FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK WEBSITE



Have you taken a look at our website yet? You can find it at www.cattonpark.co.uk You'll be able to find out more information about the Friends and our activities and see some wonderful photographs of the Park. Also during 2006 there will be a diary, along with photographs, showing how the park evolves during the year.



FUTURE EVENTS



Look out for the Spring Litter Pick in mid March 2006, an activity which is much appreciated by users of the Park. Following the success of last year's Tree and Bird Walk, we are arranging a similar event for April 2006. More information about these will be available at the AGM.

We are working on the programme of events for the rest of 2006, and have made some plans. However, any suggestions you may have for future events for the Friends would be most welcome.

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CATTON PARK - FUNDING CONFIRMED

In case you missed the press coverage, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded Catton Park Trust a grant, subject to contract, of up to £652,000 towards the cost of restoring and enhancing Catton Park. The Trust also has a Countryside Stewardship Scheme grant towards the maintenance costs over ten years. The aim of the project is to open the Park for public quiet enjoyment and recreation for all ages.

As soon as permission to start work is given, the Trust will invite tenders for the contract work to be carried out during the next 18 months. This will include woodland management, fencing and gates, main track and paths, and conversion of the farmland to a park. The management of the western woodland (adjacent to St Faiths Road) is expected to commence in February/March 2006. For safety reasons small areas of the woods will be 'taped off' as the work progresses. Visitors to the Park will be asked to co-operate with the contractors and avoid disturbing their work and to observe signs and notices which will be displayed in the Park. We will keep you advised as and when other contract work is scheduled. The Trust will be advertising for a Park Warden in the near future.

We hope that the Park will be formally opened in mid-2007. Meanwhile some events in restricted areas may be organised.

The Trust is very grateful for the practical help and support received and offered by individuals, local groups and firms including Oak Grove Chapel, Cat'n'Fiddle Community Centre, Old Catton Society and the Friends of Catton Park as well as the local authorities – Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and Old Catton Parish Council.

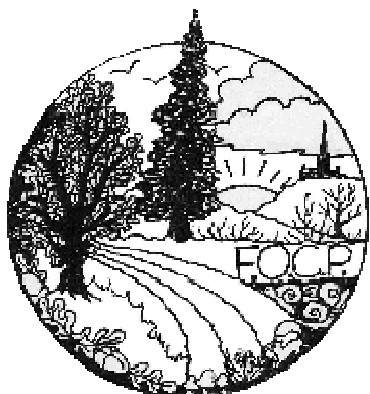
If you have any questions or find problems or anyone interfering with the contractors equipment etc., please contact the Catton Park Trust Secretary, Ken Leggett (01603 408823)

Ken Leggett

TRUST CONGRATULATED

We (Friends of Catton Park) congratulate the Trust on the success of the bid. It is a tremendous achievement by Ken and the Trust. A lot of hard work has gone into this project so far, but we acknowledge that the real work starts here. The results will soon be noticeable in the park as work gets under way. We anticipate that Friends of Catton Park will have a role to play, including volunteer activities in support of the Trust, once the public use of the park increases.

If you have any suggestions about future use of the park, consistent with the Trust's objectives of quiet enjoyment and recreation for all, please contact Friends of Catton Park.



When you've finished reading this edition of the newsletter why not pass it on to a friend or neighbour to let them know what's happening with Catton Park?