



Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

2022 – Autumn Edition

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visit our Facebook Page @ValleyParkPC

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 1926 to 8 September 2022

"I, along with my parish councillors, are deeply saddened of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, following 70 years of loyal, dedicated and unwavering commitment to her country. The Queen had deep links to Test Valley, spending her honeymoon at Broadlands Estate in Romsey. Residents in our parish will have a sense of personal loss at her Majesty passing."

Cllr Alan Dowden, Chairman of the Parish Council



Community Orchards in Valley Park

Following a successful bid to update our current community orchards and create new ones, Valley Park has started working with Test Valley Borough Council to implement the project. The bid was for £30,000 with the parish council contributing a further £5,000, which will pay for the historic fruit trees across Valley Park with a signposted nature trail to provide a walking route linking the orchards.

Cllr Alan Dowden, chairman of the parish council said: "We are always looking for ways to enhance our area, and to encourage the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors, through outdoor walking for exercise. This project, at a local level will support the climate crisis, through trees capturing carbon emissions. A community thrives when its residents get involved. The Knightwood and St Francis Schools will be adopting an orchard closest to their school, with the children helping to plan, plant, nurture and harvest. The children will also help to design the nature trail signs and will also have the opportunity to plant wild flowers by seeds spreading and children will have the pleasure of treading in the seeds".

Cllr Chris Thom added, "I am pleased that the bid has included aspects of education, from knowing where our food comes from, and using local historic fruit varieties."

Volunteers and school children will support the planting while 'Friends of the Park' will help with long-term maintenance.

Locations of the orchards, which most of them will be doubled in size:

Sandringham Close, Hornbeam Road, Fairbairn Walk, Wood End Way, Wicklow Drive, Salcombe Close.

We are hoping to include some ground fruit plantation with the new type of varieties of fruit trees. A series of mature trees will be planted later in the winter at the rear of Burnham Beeches to assist in screening the industrial



New Commemorative Benches in Valley Park

Valley Park Parish Council has purchased three new bench seats to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee Year. They have been placed in three locations in Valley Park, which were suggested by Valley Park residents: on the green space in Blenheim Close (next to one of the orchards), on the footpath towards the station off Shannon Way and on the footpath from Katrine Crescent towards Flexford Road.



Printed and published by Cristina Mitchell – Clerk to the Parish Council

Green Flag awarded to Valley Park Woodlands



Valley Park Parish Council is proud to announce yet another year of Green Flag award for Valley Park Woodlands.

Valley Park Woodlands local nature reserve has once again been awarded the coveted Green flag award for 2022/23.

This award has now been presented to this site for over a decade, recognising the quality and value that this green space brings to the community.

Valley Park consists of five separate ancient semi natural woodlands, which hold local and national importance. They all contain valuable resources of flora and fauna as well as features such as open glades, woodland rides and ponds, which all provide a healthy ecosystem as well as a popular place for the public to visit.

These sites are actively managed by Test Valley Borough Council with the help of the volunteer group Friends of The Parks who work to conserve and enhance the woodlands for conservation and recreational value.

Family Day – Friends of PICU

Cllr Dowden attended the official opening of the Family Fun Day in August. On behalf of Friends of PICU and the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at University Hospital Southampton, Cllr Dowden received a thank you letter for coming along, meeting and talking with volunteers and supporters.



The Operations Manager of Friends of PICU, Kerry Houghton, stated in her letter:

“With this fundraising, we will continue to assist the PICU and the NHS in providing the best of care for critically ill children, their parents and families, who will require the specialist services of the PICU. Friends of PICU are very proud to have funded the expansion of PICU to 16 beds, from the previous 14, 4 dedicated PICU ambulances, and various items of specialist medical equipment, staff training, and craft materials to desensitise the medical environment, over the past 15 years. We are currently fundraising for a new staff post within PICU which is a Family Liaison and Bereavement Lead, which the charity has committed to funding for an initial 3-year period.”

Hanging Baskets Summer 2022

