

Stafford Orchard Refurbishment - Latest Update – March 2011

Official Park Opening

The refurbished Stafford Orchard will be officially opened at the Quorn May Day event on Sunday 1st May 2011. Everyone seems to be thoroughly enjoying the new features on the park. The play equipment is especially popular. The team is particularly keen to see the display that the thousands of new bulbs produce, and to follow the development of the sensory garden designed by Jane Hollingworth and planted by Jane and other volunteers - although the newly planted bulbs, shrubs and trees will of course need a few years to mature.

Work Outstanding

Apart from a few loose ends most of the work in the park itself is finished, although the levelled and re-seeded grassed will not be re-opened until the Spring. The area has been fenced off to allow the grass to toughen up and get established. The fences will be down by May Day, but the grass will still need to be looked after carefully for a year or so.

The delay in re-opening the public toilets has been due to structural problems with the new Park Services Building and the quality of the work done on the building by sub-contractors, but these will be resolved shortly.

There has also been a difficulty casting the bronze 'Handstand' sculpture commissioned for the park, but the sculptor assures us that this should be complete and installed before May Day.

The project team have been frustrated by these delays and realise the inconvenience (or no-convenience) that the lack of toilets in particular has caused.

Users of the park will also have noticed that the heritage/information boards are empty at the moment – these should also be complete by the time the park officially opens.

What Next?

The new Parish Council groundsman, Danny Stevens has been in post now since October. He has been very busy, not only maintaining the park, but also building on the project work and carrying out improvements that were not part of the project. You will perhaps have already seen the willow tunnel and there will be much more, including clearing Buddon Brook and developing the brook-side environment– for which volunteers will be needed. Could you help?! If so please contact Christina, the parish clerk on 01509 414491.