



# Walker Park Newsletter



## November and December 2016 - Edition 9

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Walker Park Newsletter - a great way to keep up to date with what is happening in Walker Park!

Walker Park has undergone some exciting changes over the past year thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and investment from Newcastle City Council.

### What is happening in the park? Main Redevelopment Update

The main redevelopment works started in Walker Park during late September 2015 and majority were completed by August 2016. Over September and October 2016, extra yew trees have been planted, bulbs have been planted and the wildflower turf has been laid.



New Bridge and wildflower area in the lake



Replica Robert Burns Statue and new planting



New path and wildflower turf

There are of course lots more community projects that will be delivered over the next few years, including the community sculpture project, tree planting, bulb planting, edible hedges, plus much more.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the work that has taken place in Walker Park please do not hesitate to contact me.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

Thanks to an increased police presence in the park, the anti-social behaviour has decreased and police have warned those involved. However we are asking all park users to be aware and if you see any anti-social behaviour/vandalism please report the matter to 101. Do not let a small minority ruin the park.

## Bats in Walker Park



In late September there was a bat walk in the park, when we heard some Common Pipistrelle bats feeding amongst the trees.

You may have also noticed a number of bat boxes around the park.

I am planning more bat walks in the park next year, so look out for more details in the new year.

## Friends of Walker Park

Walker Park is on the hunt for local people who are interested in becoming a friend of the park. The group holds informal meeting most months, which are an excellent opportunity to meet with parks staff for an update on what is happening in Walker Park and projects going on. It is also a great opportunity to share ideas and thoughts you may have. The next meeting is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 10.30am in the Park Lodge (located on the Airey Terrace entrance). Everyone is welcome and tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.



The group also have a page on facebook (Friends of Walker Park) and a twitter account (Walker Park Friends @friends\_walker), follow them for the latest information about the group and dates of future meetings.

## Bird Boxes and Bird Feeders

Thanks to all those who came and helped make bird boxes and bird feeders for the park during October half term. They will be being put up around the park shortly.



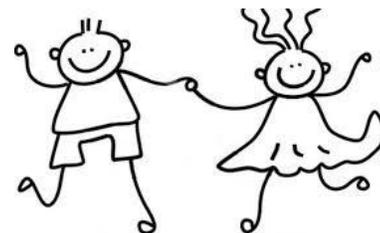
## Autumn Art

Over the October half term holidays, a number of people attended an Autumn Art activity, which involved making Autumn inspired crafts from materials found in the park. Thank you to everyone who came, there was some very artistic pieces!



## Park Tots

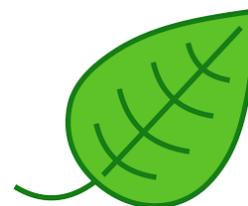
Park Tots is a group for under 5's, with monthly activities in and around the park. The group will allow those under 5 (and their adults) to explore the park, explore nature and occasionally get a little muddy.



Sessions are on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016 between 10.30am and 11.30am, starting at the Park Centre building. The sessions are free, simply turn up on the day. Tots must be accompanied by an adult.

## Junior Ranger

Junior Rangers is another new group, with monthly activities for those between 5 and 11 years old. Sessions will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2016, between 10.30am and 12noon, starting at the Park Centre building.



The sessions are free, simply turn up on the day, children taking part will need to be accompanied by an adult.

## Volunteers Needed!



Volunteers have continued to be busy with various tasks around the park. Thanks to all those who have helped out!

Tasks planned for November and December include coppicing and strimming the wildflower areas.

The group usually meet on a Wednesday, and occasionally other times. Volunteering in the park is a great way to meet new people, gain new skills and develop your existing skills (great for any CV!) and is a great ways to have fun. There are many different ways to get involved, so why not get in touch to find out more?

## Community Sculpture Project

Initial work is beginning on the community sculpture for the park. I have ask community groups to come together to put ideas forward for the project and to help develop a brief. If you would like to get involved please get in touch.

## Heritage Art Project

Thanks to funding from Positive People Positive Places, during November and December I will be working with groups to make pieces of art and information sheets celebrating the heritage of Walker Park. Look out for them in the park soon!

## Orchard

As part of the main redevelopment of the park, two small orchard areas were planted, containing both apple and pear trees. During the autumn, fruits can be harvested from the trees, so hopefully as the trees mature they will be laden with fruit. Over the winter, the volunteers will be helping to prune the trees, to keep them in good shape – allowing sun and fresh air to reach the fruit, preventing diseases, branches breaking off and maintaining productivity. If you or a group you are part of, would like to be involved please let me know.



## Access

Walker Park is located between Scrogg Road and Wharrier Street. Parking is available on the surrounding streets.

Buses 15/15a from Newgate Street stop adjacent to the park along Scrogg Road and Wharrier Street. Buses 12, 39 and 40 from Newcastle Monument stop at Walker Bus Terminal a few minutes walk from the park.

## Further Details

If you would like any further information about Walker Park please contact the park ranger (e-mail: [katherine.knox@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.knox@newcastle.gov.uk) or telephone 0191 2812082). Alternatively get in touch with the Parks and Countryside Team ([parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:parks&countryside@newcastle.gov.uk) or 0191 278 7878).