



SOSCA NEWS



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Swinton Open Space Community Association Newsletter

SOSCA'S Fun Day 2006



Swinton Open Space Community Association held its third annual Fun Day in July 2006 and a good time was had by all. Even the weather was kind if not glorious. Thanks are due to the Swinton Community Committee who once again gave a £500 donation towards the day. The day itself was well organised and run by SOSCA's committee man, Gordon Purcell, who made sure everyone had a good time. There were many winners on the day including Lisa Keen who won the draw for Salford Fit City Membership. Local resident Lisa lives on Thorn Road. The prize was donated and thanks are due to Salford Community Leisure Ltd and Eccles Fit City Centre in particular. The prize was presented by SOSCA committee member Neil Chorley who organises the football competitions each year.

There were many stalls and events again this year to amuse or test your skill but the day was all about meeting the neighbours and having a good time. There were many photographs taken on the day but we can't of course publish all of them. If your youngster had their face painted or was part of a football team then contact SOSCA News. If we have a photograph we'll give you a copy. Thanks to anyone and everyone who helped in any way to make the day the success it was, including the police and fire service. Our own 'local bobby' P.C. Gary Campbell proved again how fit he keeps himself and how dedicated he is to our community. He enters the Fun Day football competition each year.

Risking lives!

It seems the silly season is here again with youngsters setting fire to the grass on the field. When fire brigade are called to put it out this may well mean they are in the wrong place if an emergency occurs or that they are exhausted when they get there. Putting grass fires out once they have caught hold is very tiring work. This in turn means lives may well be put at risk. If you know who is committing this totally mindless act please advise them that it is silly and dangerous and not in anyone's interest. SOSCA is trying to obtain grants to improve the area and would not want an inspector to come for a look round and see broad swathes of burnt grass. The question may well arise as to why they should give money to us to improve things when we apparently have no respect for what we have to start with.



Do these youngsters have no care for the wildlife on the land? If the fire were not put out quickly it would fly across the dry grassland killing many small mammals and their young. These are part of the food chain for larger creatures. The fire starters are also putting other youngster's lives at risk as well as residents homes. Starting fires is arson !! We all work far too hard to suffer this type of loss by mindless vandals. If you know who they are and don't want to approach them, report them to the police and let the police talk to them.

Working together

SOSCA has been working with our Neighbourhood Manager and the police to produce a leaflet on who to contact to report various types of crime. These will be delivered in the near future by the police who may wish to talk with you about crime in the neighbourhood. Please try to spare a few minutes to give your point of view.

As a child by Valerie Hodgkiss

I was brought up in this area and as a child would play in the fields exploring the pathways, jumping the brook, looking for sticklebacks and tadpoles, climbing up to the disused railway lines and I would use the fields as a traffic free route to school in Eccles. Since then over many years I have been on countless walks through the fields enjoying the wildlife and trees, picking blackberries (which Councillor Merry now tells us were grown on contaminated land!). A lot of people have enjoyed the fields in this way. Will future generations, in order to escape the ever-increasing polluting traffic, have to yet again get into their cars in order to find a bit of open space in which to unwind?

Editor's note – Valerie, who lived on Campbell Road, died suddenly a few months ago. She was a committee member of the Campbell and Gorse Road Residents Association who challenged and won the previous Public Inquiry to save the fields from development in the early 90's. She had been a strong and active supporter of SOSCA, campaigning with her husband, Barry Woodling, this time round. Her opinions and efforts were valued by all, she will be sadly missed.

Steering committee

The Neighbourhood Manager, Heidi Finlay, agreed at the Swinton Community Committee meeting in June 2006 to set up a steering committee that would help to realise SOSCA's vision of a country park. It is hoped that in the near future this committee would approach United Utilities and ask if they might like to share in our vision for this land. In the meantime there is no shortage of tasks to complete.

Expert eye



Newt expert Rick Parker gave the fields the once over, seeking newts in the lagoon areas. Great Crested newts are creatures that like to live alone. He told us that there were three main ways to monitor GCNs bottle trapping the newt itself, egg counting (GCNs lay their egg in a folded leaf) and a torch survey. Some surveys can only be done a certain times of the year. Rick promised to send us a report on his activities so we will update you in due course. For further information on Great Crested Newts see the English nature website :-

<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/GCN0801w.PDF>

BBC Film crews are back in the area again, this time they are filming 'Life on Mars'. For those people who are not yet fans, it is about a present day detective transported back to the 70's. It is uncertain if, after his car accident, he has gone back in time or is in a coma. If you are old enough to have grown up before political correctness you may have to smile. For more details of the programme see the following web site- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/drama/lifeonmars/about.shtml>

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