



December 2013

# Quarterly Newsletter

WWW.MIRRLEESFIELDS.ORG.UK

## Motions, Matters arising & Moving forward - our 2013 AGM

As I am sure you are aware we held our AGM in November. A big thank you to the 40+ members who attended the meeting, which took place at Great Moor Junior School.

Anyone can access a full copy of the Chairs Report from the AGM via our website ([www.mirrleesfields.org.uk](http://www.mirrleesfields.org.uk)) We would encourage all of our members to take a moment to read this report; it is only a few pages and provides a brief but very informative update of all the work which has been ongoing in 2013, as well as a look towards aims for 2014.

During the AGM those present were asked to vote on two motions which were put forward by the committee:

### Change of name

#### Change of status to 'Group with a Charitable Propose'

The committee is very pleased to confirm that those present voted overwhelmingly in favour of both motions. Here is a bit more background as to why these two votes are so important to our group/cause:

Change of name - effectively only a one word change, but what an important word it is! **Mirrlees Fields Friends Group (MFFG)** is our new title, although our logo has received

the bare minimum of change, and our objectives remain the same—so we will not be too upset if some people don't even notice this change! Being recognized as a 'friends' group will allow us to access and contribute to a number of 'greenspace' groups and give us a much stronger position when applying for funding/grants to help improve the fields.

It is very important to us that all of our members are aware that this name change in no way affects or alters our existing constitution and objectives.

However this new name does afford us a much more co-operative representation, which we feel more accurately describes our relationship with key stakeholders, as well as encouraging new members who wish to be 'friends of the fields' as well.

The second motion was to approve the request for MFFG to register with HMRC and the Small Charities Commission so that we are able to apply for benefits such as 'gift aid' on donations. Registering as a 'small charity' will place an upper limit on the amount of money we can raise in any one year; however should we exceed this level in 2014 it will be a very nice problem which we will need to resolve!

*"This year has seen the relationship with MAN Diesel and Turbo UK develop beyond anything we could*

*have hoped for at the start of the year. My Report and the AGM as a whole reflected this positivity. It's great to see so many people excited about working with MFFG to help create a sustainable future for the Fields."* **David Kemp, Chair MFFG**

### Our new logo

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful team at TR SHONE print and design for their very generous work on our new logo; you can see more of their great work at [www.trshone.com](http://www.trshone.com)

### Committee Members

Geoff Taylor, Carol Condiff, Gail Escott and Phil Butcher stood down from the Committee in 2013 and the current committee would like to thank them for all of their efforts and inputs over the years.

We would also like to recognise Gordon Hutchinson and the **Friends of Great Moor Park** for the use of the Pavilion in the park for our Committee meetings for the last few years.

Committee stands at 12 members, and we are not actively looking for any additional members at this time.

## FLY TIPPING - Help us protect the fields

Over the past few months there has been an increase in the number of fly tipping reports on the fields.

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste.

As well as being illegal and unsightly, this behavior can also pose a real threat to wildlife and danger to those who are walking on the fields.

We would like to ask all of our members to help us by being extra vigilant and reporting

any suspicious behavior you see on the fields (including the registrations of vehicles), and by notifying us of any fly tipping waste which you spot whilst on the fields.

You can email or post photos and updates to MFFG directly, and we will work with the landowners and the local police to report these in a coordinated way.

Whilst fly tipping is a national problem which affects numerous sites, we are concerned at the increase of fly tipping activity over

the last few months on Mirrlees.

This has also included the discovery of numerous lengths of cabling, which has been stripped and dumped on the fields.

We are hopeful that by working together in the local community, and with the landowners and local police that we can catch whoever is responsible for this behavior.

# An exciting new partnership!

We are very pleased to be able to report that MAN have agreed 'in principle' to become a corporate member of Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT), with the specific aim of CWT assisting with the future management, sustainability and enhancement of the fields.

This partnership represents a substantial investment from the landowner and we hope that you will agree with us that this is a very positive step forward with regards to the future of Mirrlees Fields as a strategic open space for the whole community to enjoy.

In the short term this partnership is likely to represent tasks such as tree maintenance and general upkeep, with CWT also using their many years of expert knowledge in helping to develop the long term green space potential of

the fields.

CWT's work will only be physically possible with the support of local residents via MFFG. As a local community group we will be able to provide valuable insight and information on the fields, as well as volunteers for when there is some hands-on work to be done!

There has already been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes, not least all of the consultation work which our members will be well aware of!

Richard Gardner, Landscape Manager from CWT has already made numerous trips to the fields, and attendee MFFG committee meetings, he said "We are extremely excited by our new partnership with MAN Diesel & Turbo UK Ltd and we look forward to working with

both the company and the friends group to develop an already valuable green space into a sustainable place for people and wildlife."

Louise Durose, General Counsel for MAN added "In addition to Cheshire Wildlife Trust's guidance on how best to manage and improve the green space for the future, our partnership will also enhance our existing support for local causes, particularly \*Heaton School and Walthew House."

\*Heaton School is a special school for pupils aged 11–19 years who have severe or profound learning disabilities and Walthew House is an independent local charity supporting people in Stockport who are blind, visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing or who have dual sensory loss.

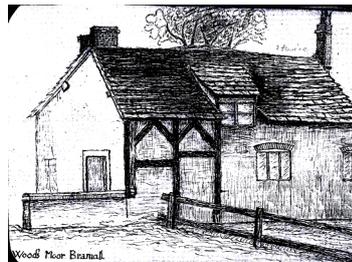
## Woodsmoor History Project Slide Show

Sue Bailey and Roger Sim will be showing images of old Woodsmoor and telling a few of the stories that will go into the Woodsmoor History booklet they're hoping to publish this summer.

They have a wealth of information from their researches into old archives and from peoples' memories, photographs and drawings which have been collated over the past couple of years.

Did you know that the first buildings in Woodsmoor were timber-framed cottages and

farmhouses? The only one to survive is on Flowery Field and there is an interesting account of its occupants in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.....



Many other local 'events' have also come to life, including the replacement of the old level crossing by the 'monster bridge'. It is a story not everyone may know of, nor how local residents campaigned to have it removed!

If you're interested in learning more about the history of Woodsmoor or have memories to share, please come along and join Sue & Roger on **Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>** at **Davenport Tennis Club Pavilion**, Flowery Field.

Admission will be £1 on the door, show starts at **2.00pm** and is then repeated at **7.30pm** and there will be tea & biscuits afterwards.

## Any ideas?

We are actively looking for ideas from our local community which we can put forward for potential events in 2014 on the fields. Last summer we hosted 3 events, which were a great success—and as such we are keen to do more this year! It was great to see so many people enjoying the fields on

our Bat and Nature Walks - these events also gave us a great opportunity to raise much needed funds for our group. Do you have any ideas of the types of events you would like to see on the fields this year? We are not making any promises, but we would love to hear your ideas. We

have requests in for more Bat walks, and how about a nature trail or Bird walk? Don't forget we need to carefully consider any impact on the fields of any future events, and how in keeping they are with our objectives as a friends group.

[Email us with your suggestions!](#)

## In other news

**Dog Fouling on the Fields and Public Footpaths** — I don't think we are allowed to issue a newsletter without referring to our favorite topic! The good news is that following some activity by a few eagle eyed committee members the issue of dog mess appears to be improving.

You may have noticed piles of dog mess covered in a bright orange spray over the past few months, it would appear that by highlighting the problem (quite literally) it is

helping to remind people to do the right thing! Special thanks to Bill and Sandra Crofts for taking on this mucky subject, and also for providing a few more positive 'thank you' signs in the areas which have shown improvement.

**Boundary Fence Planning Application** - 18 months on and still no word from the council - we will keep you informed when a decision is made.

**Let us know your views!**

**We are always keen to hear from you! Any news, views or ideas for the fields - find us on Facebook or email [info@mirrleesfields.org.uk](mailto:info@mirrleesfields.org.uk)**