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Tanskeys are pleased to support the Friends of Coronation Gardens

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## Diary Of Events

**Mon 12-Fri 23 Oct West Kirby Flooding information** (see inside for full details)

**Sat 24 Oct**  
• **West Kirby Farmers' Market** St Andrew's West Kirby 9-1

**Wed 11 Nov** • **Travelling Light Lantern Procession**  
Meet In the Gardens 5.30

**Sat 28 Nov**  
• **West Kirby Farmers' Market** St Andrew's West Kirby 9-1  
• **Coronation Gardens Christmas Craft Fair**  
Westbourne Hall 11-4

**Sat 12 Dec** • **Ashton Park Fair** Westbourne Hall 10.30-2.30

**Fri 26 Feb** • **Macmillan Mammoth Quiz** - see FCG noticeboard or phone 625 5158 nearer the date.

## Friends of Coronation Gardens Autumn 2015

www.coronationgardens.co.uk



## Art in the Park

The 2015 season of Art in the Park has suffered from a mixed bag of weather. Nevertheless, the event has seen an increase in the number of artists turning up on a casual basis for the £10 fee to sell their artwork. In spite of my efforts to hold an early May art fair to coincide with the Wilson Trophy, the weather was poor for the second year running and the sailing event didn't bring any extra visitors to the gardens so early May will be dropped from the 2016 program.

I've been unable to find a successor willing to take over the running of Art in the Park so I'll

be continuing as the organiser of the 2016 fairs but as a consequence the format will change slightly to allow me the freedom to pursue my photography. There will be more detail on that during the Winter months.

Regardless of how the event is organised, Art in the Park will continue to provide artists with an affordable venue to showcase and sell their artwork, provide visitors to the gardens with top quality art to purchase and produce much needed revenue to the Friends of Coronation Gardens.

All Art in the Park requires is your support and the increased numbers of artists using the event this year despite the poor weather is very encouraging for 2016. George Evans

## Christmas Craft Fair



Our next big event will be our Seventh Annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 28 November. This event started after the closure of the annual Craft Fair held in the Concourse. Although we have less space at Westbourne Hall, we still manage

to fit in 28 stalls, and we offer very reasonably-priced refreshments. A cup of tea or coffee is included in the entrance fee of just £1.

We will need quite a lot of help to run the fair, especially as we are planning to run it rather longer this year, from 11 am to 4 pm.

As always, donations of raffle and tombola prizes will be very welcome, as will offers of help on the day. We would like items for our Christmas hamper (raffle prize)

For any artist or crafts enthusiast who would like to take part in this event, we ask for a very competitive £20 per table (£35 for a double). Please get in touch via our website www.coronationgardens.co.uk or ring 625 5158.

We expect the usual variety of Christmas goods and goodies to be on offer along with a few new and different stalls and our usual hamper raffle and tombola.

We still have a few of our "Muriel mugs" left for sale. They were created by Barbara Singleton and depict the mural which you can see in the passageway on to the prom. They have proved to be very popular at just £5 each and are available at Tanskey's and Hinton's the butchers.

## Gardening

We have been awarded the Green Flag for the eighth year in succession. I say "we" because it is largely an award gained by the work of the Friends group. It's always a pleasure to see people weeding or picking up litter in our little patch of land, and quite frequently at times other than our first Saturday monthly clear-up. A word of caution, however... if you are not a member of the Friends group then you have no insurance. As membership is only £3 (£5 couples) a year, it is wise to join, using the form which appears in this newsletter and take or send it in.

The Parks and Gardens Department has had another re-shuffle, with Dave Grealis retiring from the Arrowe Park base. Dave was always optimistic and tried to help the smaller parks and gardens. We recognise the constraints under which he and his team worked and are grateful to Dave for efforts on our behalf. His place has been taken by Christine Smyth as local Team Leader under West Area Manager Anthony Bestwick. We had the pleasure of meeting Christine on the occasion of our Green Flag inspection and were very impressed with her willingness to listen to a rather long list of improvements that we feel are needed in the Gardens.

One improvement already in place is a handrail on the wall of the entrance ramp from Banks Road. This has been requested by a number of older folk and we are happy to supply this extra facility. We are grateful to Brian Shannon of H&C Fabrications for installing the rail. The entrance arch and the flying geese sculpture have been repainted too.

## Adopt a bench

We now have many more benches in place which are all available for "adoption". It is a very good way to remember a loved one, and... dare we say it? We ask a lot less than the Council ask for the benches on the prom.

For details, phone 625 5158 or get in touch via our website, [www.coronationgardens.co.uk](http://www.coronationgardens.co.uk)

## Festi-velo!



The Festi-velo took place on 4 July as part of the Festival of Firsts, and started from the Gardens.

## Travelling Light

On 11 November, once again the annual Lantern Peace Parade, organised by Transition Town West Kirby, will gather in the Gardens for a 5.30pm start, with choirs and musicians leading what is essentially a gathering of our local community. Travelling Light brings together Armistice Day and the German St. Martin's Day tradition of lanterns to celebrate sharing, peace and reconciliation.

There will be an opportunity to create a lantern for yourself at a series of workshops held locally in the weeks running up to the big day. Some dates are already decided – drop in at the United Reformed Church between 10.30 and 1.30 on Tuesdays from 20th October. There will be a further session at West Kirby Library on Wednesday 28th October. As the event has become more popular - over 350 people took part last year – we advise getting there early. We hope to have volunteers from Friends of Coronation Gardens to help the Parade run smoothly and safely.

Another joint project with TTWK was the creation of our mini-orchard and wild-flower meadow, and Craig and Rosemary Mackintosh continue to put in time and effort to ensure that fruit and flowers appear in abundance. Their lavender plants have done particularly well this year, as have Sheelagh Weir's tomatoes.

## Flood Defences

As we all know, all the tidal surge flooding in December 2013 mainly affected New Brighton. The local papers said so, so it must be true. The accompanying photograph would indicate otherwise. It was taken two days after the event and shows the Hilbre Court complex alongside the Gardens.



Our photos of the Gardens completely submerged and the story of the errant Volvo smashing our bullet-proof window are now the stuff of legend.

There are to be several drop-in sessions at which flooding, specifically in West Kirby, will be discussed. They are all from 5pm-8pm on Tues. 13 Oct at WK URC, Mon 19 Oct. and Thur 22 Oct at WK Library. There will also be Exhibitions 12-16 Oct at Morrison's and 19-23 Oct. at WK Library. For more information, see [www.wirral.gov.uk/wkloodplan](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/wkloodplan).

## Victoria Gardens

We very much admire the other local Gardens on the prom - Victoria Gardens. It's good to see that they too have been awarded the Green Flag again this year. Their Annual Picnic, held on Saturday 5 September was a great success, with over 100 people attending to enjoy family picnics, donkey rides, a raffle and a bouncy castle. There was also the opportunity to learn a little of the game of bowls with the resident Promenaders Bowls Club members.

## It's Easy To Help Us

### Become a Friend

Subscriptions are just £3 for an individual member and £5 for a couple or family. See the form below for details. Subscriptions are vital as they give us a basis of support and help fund this newsletter.

### Help Us in the Park

You don't have to have gardening skills! Simply become a member so you're covered by our insurance, then join us in the Gardens on the first Saturday of each month 10-12 noon.

### Support Us

You may just wish to give us moral support or help us with fundraising. Becoming a member is the first step.

[www.coronationgardens.co.uk](http://www.coronationgardens.co.uk)

- complete the form below
- phone 0151 625 1676

## Join • Donate • Get involved

Please complete and return to:  
**Helen Watson, 13 Mostyn Ave,  
West Kirby, WIRRAL CH48 3HN**

Name .....

Address .....

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Postcode ..... Tel. ....

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Amount Enclosed (incl. donation) £ .....

Cheques should be made payable to "FOCG".

Membership Type (*tick which applies*):

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