

# Quiz Night

## Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> January 2009



2008 was another successful year for the Friends of Marple Memorial Park and the money raised at the last quiz before Christmas, and tonight, will help us to make even more improvements in the park. So thank you all for supporting us this evening and thank you to the Ring o' Bell for these great quiz nights every week that help so many local and organisations and charities.

### New Infants Play Area Equipment Installed

This was a community driven project begun in 2007, with local shops and businesses donating numerous tombola prizes to help us raise funds. Their generosity enabled us to raise a total of £1,620 at local events including Carnival Day, the Locks Festival, the Food Festival and the Christmas Cracker. In addition, thanks to a donation of £1,000 from the Marple Website and £743 from a sponsored "Bounce" by pupils of Brabyns Preparatory School, a grand total of £3,363 was achieved towards this cause. Coupled with a substantial contribution from Stockport Council it was possible to place an order for the new equipment at the end of 2007 and the work was completed in February 2008.



### Breathing Places Project Completed



In December 2008 we put the finishing touches to our BBC Breathing Places project with the installation of an interpretation board explaining what it was all about. The project, to create an outdoor reading circle in the existing woodland behind Marple Library, was begun in 2007 following the award of a grant from the Big Lottery Fund. It now features a circular reading area with disabled access penetrating into the woodland. Other additions include a wooden sculpture and insect, bird, bat and hedgehog boxes to improve the habitat for wildlife. The local Beaver Scouts were also involved in planting lots of native shrubs, hedgerows, wildflowers

and bulbs that should put on a great display in the spring and all through the summer too. The area was launched in September with a special event organised by Marple Library. After the youngsters attending had their faces painted storyteller Shonaleigh entranced young and old alike with her interactive tales. These began in the reading circle before departing on a quest to find silver leaves and solve riddles. The stories were brought to a conclusion in the sunshine in front of the watchful eyes of Midnight the Owl and seated on the logs and ground sculptures created in 2007 from the remains of the old Copper Beech near to the Bowling Green.

## French Boules Court

At the 2007 Food Festival the Friends of Marple Memorial Park were approached by a lady called Gladys Romm, who explained that her husband Leonard had wished for a French Boules Court in the park after enjoying playing on holiday in France. Sadly Leonard passed away before realising his ambition. Gladys was delighted when we responded enthusiastically to her suggestion and she managed to collect over 270 signatures on a petition to show that others supported the idea too. The Friend of the Park raised over half the money needed with a special showing of the Railway Children film at Marple's Regent Cinema, quiz nights at the Ring o' Bells and more tombolas supported by local shops and businesses. We expected to have to raise the rest of the money in a similar way too but thanks to the level of community support Gladys managed to show with her petition we realised that the project could be an ideal candidate for an O2 'It's Your Community' Award. Thankfully, 'It's Your Community' thought the whole thing was a great idea too and awarded us £1,000! By July 2008 construction of the court was well underway and it was completed in time to be launched with a well-attended tournament in August 2008.



The project is still not complete as it is planned to install some benches around the court so that players can enjoy their games of Pétanque even more, and spectators can watch in comfort. We would also like to install a board explaining the rules of the game and that free sets of Boules can be borrowed from the Community Officer in the park. Marple Civic Society have recently come to our aid and donated the money for a bench and, with the support of a private individual too, we will soon be placing an order for three commemorative benches to be placed alongside the court. That just leaves the board to find the money for and tonight's quiz will be the first step towards that.

## Basketball Court Fence

Another new project that should get underway early in 2009 is the construction of a fence along two sides of the basketball court. This was requested by users of the court and will improve its use by helping to prevent games being disrupted by regularly losing the ball down the hillside.

Planning permission was obtained last year and the work will be funded by a Marple Area Committee approved commuted sum, with a small shortfall being made up by the Friends of the Park. The Friends of the Park are interested in making more improvements to the teen area / skate park area and would like to discuss with users what improvements they would like to see and how they could help. If you have a family member who uses the area, please let them know.



## Task Days – Last Saturday each month

The Friends hold regular Task Days on the last Saturday of each month between 10am and 1pm and everyone is welcome to join in for as long as they wish during these times. The next one is on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January and we'd be delighted to meet you in the park.