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Useful Park Contacts:

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- € **Marple Bowling Club :**  
0161 429 0121
- € **Marple Library :**  
0845 644 4307
- € **Marple Clinic :**  
0161 427 1806
- € **Marple Scouts :**  
0161 427 2598
- € **Senior Citizen's Hall:**  
0161 427 3632
- € **RSPB High Peak Group:**  
0161 427 5325
- € **Police:**  
**Emergency :** 999  
**Non Emergency :**  
0161 872 5050
- € **SMBC :** 0161 474 4415
- € **The Marple Website:**  
www.marple-uk.com

## YEW TREE PLANTED IN PARK FOR NATIONAL COMMEMORATION DAY



**Dave Myers (right) with the Mayor of Stockport, Mayor's consort & Andrew Stunnell MP**

On Sunday 10th July 2005 Marple Memorial Park played host to the second Marple Locks Festival.

Although it wasn't realised when the date was set, the event coincided with National Commemoration Day – the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary since the end of World War Two.

The organisers were delighted to learn this and it was decided to include it as a theme for the day and incorporate Marple's own local acknowledgement of this important anniversary.

This was achieved by the ceremonial planting of a ten year old Yew Tree in the park near the Bowling Green. The tree was planted by the Mayor of Stockport, Councillor Shan Alexander, and the ceremony was attended by local dignitaries including Andrew Stunnell MP.

The Yew was provided free of charge by Dave Myers, of Myers Tree Care Ltd. Dave carried out all the preparatory work for the tree planting himself to ensure that it

was well cared for and was heavily involved in the whole day's celebrations, also climbing to dizzy heights in a public demonstration of his skills as a tree surgeon.

In addition to his involvement on this particular day, Dave has regularly shown his support for local causes by providing his labour and resources free of charge, or making generous cash donations to local causes. Dave's efforts on behalf of the local community are not always as well recognised as they should be and The Friends of Marple Memorial Park, along with the organisers of the Marple Locks Festival and the Iron Bridge Restoration Project, would like to publicly acknowledge his huge support.

The second of Marple's Locks Festivals was blessed with superb weather and a fantastic turnout. Memorial Park was the central focus for the day but there were also activities up and down the full flight

*(Continued on page 2)*

## RSPB HIGH PEAK LOCAL GROUP



Notwithstanding its name, the RSPB High Peak Local Group is based in Marple, right here in the Memorial Park. Whether you are a keen bird watcher or only a beginner, or indeed just have a general interest in wildlife, we would be very pleased to see you at any of our meetings or outings. We use the Senior Citizens Hall for film and slide shows, normally on the third Monday of the month, starting at 7.30 pm. We also run a programme of Sunday outings to bird reserves and other good wildlife sites, and we carry out local conservation work in Etherow Country Park and elsewhere.

You do not have to be a member of the RSPB to join in our activities and we are pleased to welcome young and old alike. Our events are always advertised in advance at the Library but if you would like to find out more, just telephone our Group Leader Peter Griffiths on 0161 427 5325 or Treasurer Lynda Allsobrook on 0161 612 1302.

The Friends of Marple Memorial Park were delighted to make a contribution of £50 towards a wireless microphone for the RSPB High Peak Group's presentations in the Senior Citizens Hall.

## YEW TREE PLANTED ON NATIONAL COMMEMORATION DAY.....CONTINUED

of locks, including a performance on a canal boat by the 'Ged Hone Jazz Band' that was followed by a huge crowd. There were also guided walks explaining the history of the locks and aqueduct, canoeing at Top Lock, and a Pro-LoCo art event with artists painting at various locations along the canal. The stalls and displays in Memorial Park featured groups like Marple Naturalists, Otterspool Animal Sanctuary and Mellor Archaeological Trust to name just a few. One of the highlights of the day was the performance by seven piece covers band Monkey Harris in the park and refreshments were provided at the Lockkeeper's cottage on Station Road and from New Horizons at their berth on Marple Wharf.

The Locks Festival takes an enormous amount of organising and the Locks Society have decided to switch to a bi-annual event in order that they can focus on other priorities, such as maintenance and improvements of the locks and education in local schools. So the next event will be held on Sunday 1st July 2007. Put it in your diary to be sure you're not on holiday!

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## GREEN FLAG AWARDED AGAIN



On 10th September 2005 members of the Friends of Marple Memorial Park got together with the Mayor of Stockport, Shan Alexander, Executive Councillor for Leisure, Pam King, Councillor Andrew Bispham and Parks and Recreation Staff for a joint celebration.

The group, most of whom are shown in the photograph above, convened to commemorate the park's second Green Flag Award, for 2005/6, and also to formally open the new Junior Play Area.

In the photo on the right, the Mayor, Councillor Pam King and Friends' Chairman Peter Clarke try out some of the new equipment in the Play Area, which was paid for with grants from



Stockport Council and 'Living Spaces'.

*To learn more about the Green Flag Award*

*Scheme visit:*

[www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk)



## INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT NAVY DAY

The Friends of Marple Memorial Park were delighted to get involved in the campaign to recognise International Merchant Navy Day after local man Ron Singleton posted a message in the Marple Website forum about his efforts to organise the flying of the Red Ensign flag at the Town Hall on this special day.

In the year 2000, HM the Queen declared that September the 3rd would be recognised annually as INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT NAVY DAY, and that the MN flag, the Red Duster, should be flown from all public buildings. The declaration was made in order to acknowledge the huge sacrifices made by the Merchant Navy—sometimes known as the Forgotten Fourth Service—during the Second World War. Their losses numbered more than 30,000 Seamen, which included Ron's brother, Gordon John Singleton, a 17 year old cabin boy on the SS "Marcella". The ship was torpedoed by a German U-Boat in March 1943 and there were no survivors from a crew of 45.

After several years of campaigning Ron had been successful in persuad-

ing the Council to allow the flag to be flown at the Town Hall on 3rd September but he was going to have to pay for the flag himself! The Marple Website made a £30 donation towards this, which set the ball rolling and the cost of the flag was covered without Ron having to dip into his own pocket. In addition, the Friends of the Park approached Marple Area Committee about flying a flag in Memorial Park too. Their appeal was also successful and they came away with a grant of £50 to pay for the Friends' own Red Ensign.

It had been intended to hold a flag raising ceremony at the Town Hall on IMND but this proved impractical and the ceremony was moved to Memorial Park. It was attended by the Mayor of Stockport and local MP Andrew Stunnell and was a fitting acknowledgement of the Merchant Navy's huge contribution during the Second World War. The Friends have since had a new flag pole erected to make raising of the flag on IMND and Remembrance Days much easier in the future and are very proud of their involvement in this.



**The Red Duster is raised by Captain Ken Owen F.R.I.N//M.N.I.**

## CORONATION TREE CONSULTATION BRINGS GRANT SUCCESS

The idea for a Coronation Tree Circular Bench developed after it came to the attention of the Friends that the large oak tree near the Bowling Green was planted as part of the Queen's Coronation celebrations in 1953.

A commemorative plaque was erected but at some point during the intervening years this had been lost.

At first the Friends proposed to just replace the missing plaque. However, they realised that the tree is an ideal site for a circular tree bench. It is at the heart of the park and the views in every direction are superb. From a seat around the tree it will be possible to take in the tranquillity of a game of bowls, the bustle and activity of the skate park, the beauty of the ornamental trees and flowerbeds, the War Memorial and, on a clear day, the magnificent views of the distant hills.

The idea almost died a death when it was discovered that a bespoke made wooden bench would cost several thousand pounds. However, in a mo-



ment of inspiration, the Friends approached Wayne Chaisty of local business "Ironwood", on Stockport Road, who agreed to create a special one-off designed circular bench in metal for only £500.

The Friends hoped to apply for a Green Space Development Grant from Stockport Council to pay for the bench. One of the key requisites for receiving a grant is to have undertaken consultation within the local community, so in August 2005 an on-

line consultation was set up to establish the level of support for the plans.

We are pleased to advise that the results were overwhelmingly supportive and helped the Friends make a successful application to the Council, with a grant of £500 being awarded in October 2005.

Wayne Chaisty has started work and the Friends look forward to the bench being installed later this year.

### JIM HEALD BENCH

The Memorial Bench for Jim Heald was ordered last summer and arrived just before Christmas. A location has been agreed and it is expected to be installed in the near future.

The bench has been paid for by donations collected through the Marple Website from local organisations, local people and Jim's family and former colleagues.

A full report of the installation and unveiling ceremony will be included in the next Friends' newsletter.

# THE CHARLES INGHAM BAND ROOM

Walking through Memorial Park since January this year you may have noticed that a building behind the cinema has been demolished and fencing erected around the plot. Curious? Well, that particular piece of land belongs to the 'Charles Ingham Building Fund'. Who, you may ask, is, or was, Charles Ingham?

Charles, or Charlie as he preferred to be known, was a native of Marple. A local builder, and well known in the Marple area, he was responsible for reforming The Marple Prize Band in 1963, after it became defunct in 1958. Originally formed in 1900 by local businessmen as a brass and reed band The Marple Band, as it has since become known, has had a chequered career.

Charlie became interested in brass bands after his service in the forces during the Second World War. He taught himself to play the trombone and played with the band just before it disbanded in 1958, when all the instruments they had at that time were handed over to the Willows School. Some of the children who learnt to play in the School band nearly forty-five years ago still play with the Hawk Green Band today.

Charlie wrote a book on the history of Marple Band that he entitled "Gone Banding". Only 1000 copies were printed and these have since circulated all over the world. If anyone wishes to read Charlie's book, a copy is available in the reference section of Marple Library. One of the main themes of the book is that the band has never had a permanent home and it was one of Charlie's greatest wishes to see the

band in a building that they could call their own.

"Gone Banding" was launched in January 1985 at a reception in the band room, which at that time was in the Navigation Hotel. Unfortunately Charlie was too ill to attend and sadly he died in March that year, never to see his band room built.

After Charlie's death a few people formed a building fund with the aim of raising money to build the 'Charles Ingham Band Room' in his memory. The land at the rear of the cinema was purchased in 1986 and a small number of people have been struggling ever since to raise enough money to put a building on the plot. Of course it is now expected to cost three times the amount of money that would have been needed in 1986.

The main purpose of the building will be to house the two local brass bands, of Hawk Green and of Marple. Since these bands left the Navigation no facilities have been avail-

able to teach young players and one of the main aims will be to get a learner class going again and also a junior band. Without young blood, brass bands as we know them will eventually cease to exist. All the players in top bands like Fairies and Black Dyke started off in learner classes, and junior bands like we once had in Marple and will have again if the project is successful. The building that has been demolished was unsightly, dangerous and open to vandalism. The proposed new building will be single-storey and will enhance the view from our award winning Marple Memorial Park. As well as becoming the permanent home for Marple's bands that Charlie wished for, it will also be able to function as a new community building during the daytime. Amongst the many possibilities are the hosting of children's playgroups, coffee mornings, jumble sales, whist drives and maybe even afternoon tea dances.

In the past a couple of people have endeavoured to put a package together for a lottery grant application, but nothing has yet come of this. However, if there is anyone out there with the necessary skills to help the group find funding for this project, which will benefit the whole of Marple due to

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Friends of Marple  
Memorial Park

*"The land for Marple's War Memorial Park was given by the Carver and Barlow Families of this Parish in Memory of the men of Marple who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918 and the laying-out was done by Public Subscription."*

**Dedication of  
War Memorial Park  
22nd July 1922**



Hawk Green Band in Memorial Park

able to teach young players and one of the main aims will be to get a learner class going again and also a junior band. Without young blood, brass bands as we know them will eventually cease to exist. All the players in top bands like Fairies and Black Dyke started off in learner classes, and junior

secondary use by the community, then please get in touch.

The Friends of Marple Memorial Park wholeheartedly support this project and look forward to seeing the plans come to fruition. If you can help please contact the group on 0161 427 7020 or 427 1023.

**MARPLE  
CARNIVAL**  
*is on*  
**Saturday**  
**17th June!**