Parks and Cemeteries Committee

The committee have had another busy year with many issues and lots of frustration caused by the dreadful weather.

We manage and maintain a number of green open spaces in the village including Perks Park, Duffield Close, the Memorial Garden, Queen Elizabeth II Garden, Centenary Garden, the Cemetery and we lease Johnson's Meadow on Hills Road. All of these sites are carefully maintained to keep them looking their best and make them safe for everyone to use.
During the winter we had issues with flooding and high winds on Perks Park, the Cemetery and Johnson's Meadow.

Perks Park Rejuvenation

The improvement work at Perks Park has been held up by the bad weather but we have been delighted with the completed path on the west side of the park which has been well used since the team managed to finish it before the worst of the weather started last autumn. On a recent site visit the contractors are hopeful that they will be able to return in June now that the ground has had a chance to dry up a little.

As soon as the path work is complete it is hoped that the contractors for the improved lighting will be able to get on site to start work, on the new lighting columns and bollards for the right of way through the park.

The football pitch was reduced in size with the agreement of the football clubs, and it is hoped that we can carry out aeration work in the summer to try and improve drainage on the pitch.

We also removed and trimmed back a lot of shrubs and undergrowth at the Longmoor Lane entrance driveway to improve the feeling of safety for anyone passing through the park or using the public conveniences. The aged floodlights on the Multi Use Games Area were replaced with new LED energy efficient units in July 23

Work is currently being undertaken to provide bases for a number of memorial benches (6) which have been proposed for the site and three families have already signed up to sponsor a bench. Contact the clerk if you are interested in finding out more.

Cemetery Chapel

Work has been continuing on site despite and because of the awful weather through the winter. Sadly the chapel has been flooded during every storm; Babet, Ciaran, & Henk. Work was completed to protective upstands for the air vents, repairs have been made to the drainage and the ditch has been cleared to allow drains to freely run into the water course. The chapel floor had to be removed as it was rotten throughout, central supporting walls which were under the floor have been replaced with new honeycombed brickwork to improve the air flow. Sadly the weather was so wet we were unable to commence the replacement of the floor because we couldn't dry the building out sufficiently. Then to add insult to injury part of the ceiling came down, we weren't sure if the materials contained asbestos or not so tests were undertaken and thankfully it wasn't found. The insurers refused to cover the costs and subsequently quotations were sought for plasterers and scaffolding. The work is due to be undertaken at the beginning of June. Following on from that the electricians are due to attend site to put in the wiring ready for the new heating and lighting and finally the new floor can be laid. We were grateful when Erewash Borough Council and latterly Mr Ledger stepped in to store the pews for us as you can see from the photos they would have been completely in the way. It is hoped that we might be able to reopen the building before the end of the year.

Other Cemetery News

Wildflower Meadow

Cllr Mills and a group of enthusiastic volunteers continue to monitor the field and remove thistles and unwanted weeds, we are hopeful that the wildflower seeds will give a display later in the year but it's not clear how the bad weather will have affected the ground, so we've got everything crossed for success!

Cemetery Map

After a lot of back and forth we eventually managed to get the completed map installed on site at the cemetery this should help people to locate where the plot they are looking for is located. Eventually the Clerk hopes to link the information to the national burial grounds map.

Gardens

Massive thanks go to the teams from Breaston in Bloom for their hard work on the Centenary, Queen Elizabeth II, Butterfly and Shade Gardens, all of their efforts make the open spaces much more pleasant places to be for all our visitors and residents. Thanks also to Mrs Harvey and Mrs Davis for their hard work on the Sensory Garden another peaceful place to sit and enjoy the lovely spaces we are lucky to have in the village. The shade garden was created out of the site of the old butterfly garden, which was struggling to survive under the cover of the adjacent trees. The team who worked on the area have worked wonders planting shade loving plants and tending to the space each week. It was dedicated as a memorial to those lost to Covid19 last summer.
The Queen Elizabeth II Garden (formally the Jubilee Garden) was re-dedicated on the 26th of April 2023 in memory of the late Queen.

Johnson's Meadow

We continue to maintain the field as a part recreation ground, part nature reserve with most of the field left to wildflower, with a football pitch and picnic bench for those who would like to rest awhile. Unfortunately, we've heard from Erewash Borough Council that some anti-social behaviour has been reported in the area, reports have gone to the local beat team, and they have added it to their patrols for monitoring.

April Tornado

Unfortunately a couple of trees in Johnson's meadow, 1 on Perks Park and a large tree on Duffield Close were badly damaged by the tornado on the 15th of April and costly emergency work had to be completed to make the spaces safe. The maple on Duffield Close had to be felled and will be replaced in the autumn.

We thank the Caretaker and Clerk for their continued efforts, often above and beyond to make the village a better place to live.