

170th Anniversary



Birkenhead Park
1847

World's First

Park Manager's Foreword

"when one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world" (John Muir)

All living creatures need other creatures and plants in one way or another - even if the connection is not so clear.

Biodiversity is about the range of different living things and systems in an area. The more plant, insect and animal species there are in one area the greater the biodiversity and the healthier the ecosystem! The Birkenhead Park team are striving to enhance the parks natural resources by creating new and innovated habitats for wildlife and insects.

Paul Davies, Park Manager

BIRKENHEAD PARK : 170 YEARS

On Wednesday 5th April 2017, Birkenhead Park celebrated the 170th anniversary of its opening. Luckily for us – the weather was much better than it was all the way back in 1847, when 10,000 people stood in the rain at the gates to the Grand Entrance to be officially welcomed to the World's First Publicly Funded Park. At 170 years old, the Park still looks as fantastic and well-kept as it ever has been, and of course we had to have some form of celebration.

This year's anniversary celebration focussed on one of the prominent figures of Birkenhead Park's creation and early years: Edward Kemp. In recognition of Kemp's achievements and influence in Parks in Britain, the Birkenhead Park team worked alongside Conservation Areas Wirral to hold a special civic reception for the unveiling of a new Blue Plaque at the Visitor Centre. There were guest speakers talking about Birkenhead Park and the contributions Edward Kemp made to the early years of the Park and the plaque was dedicated by Wirral Mayor Cllr Pat Hackett shortly after midday. The event guests enjoyed a fantastic buffet laid on by the catering students of Wirral Metropolitan College, in addition to a special anniversary cake.

We'd like to give special thanks everyone involved with making our special anniversary celebration so successful, and we hope the rest of our celebrations this year go just as well.





Edward Kemp

Edward Kemp was an English landscape architect and an author. Together with Joseph Paxton and Edward Milner, Kemp became one of the leaders in the design of parks and gardens during the mid-Victorian era in England.

Kemp was not just an ordinary gardener but a well-educated man who went on to become well respected in his own right as a designer of gardens and landscapes. Taking on numerous commissions of work he requested that his salary as Park superintendent be reduced by one third to £100 per annum, thus ensuring his employer's agreement that he continue with private work. By way of a contribution to the Park, Kemp built his own house in 1859 (74 Park Road West) and was thus able to move out of his free accommodation at the Italian Lodge. Very early connections between Birkenhead Park and New York were made when, in 1857, the New York Park Commission consulted Kemp on their plans for what is now known as Central Park. It is suggested that the Commissioners also offered Kemp the position of Park Superintendent, a post he did not take up. Edward Kemp's work can also be found at Flaybrick Cemetery, Anfield Cemetery, Lymm Hall Lymm, Stanacres Raby, Stanley Park Liverpool, Hesketh Park Southport and many more.

Edward Kemp died in 1891 and was buried in Flaybrick Cemetery.

We would like to say a big thank you to all the Scouts, Sea Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Explorers and leaders who turned up on St George's day to help the Birkenhead Park rangers with the task of revamping the forest School area.

The day involved the children digging holes for 3 new pole lathes to be fitted in the forest school area as well as the planting of thirty new trees, spreading 3 tons of woodchip, making new paths, moving brash and wood.

The forest school site wasn't the only area to get a bit of TLC Sea Scouts and Explorers removed fishing line from the trees surrounding the lakes within the park and pulled in and removed litter with nets.

As well as all this they managed to do a huge litter pick in the park.

All in all the day was a great success, the sun was shining, and over one hundred young people turned up to participate.

It was fantastic to see so many youths working together to expand our wonderful Forest School Classroom and help maintain this glorious grade 1 listed landscape.





PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Returning to Birkenhead Park this year is our annual Photographic competition! There is always strong interest in this event and this year the theme is: Iconic Wirral. This means celebrating everything that makes the Wirral a beautiful place, this could be anything that makes you think WIRRAL, or anything that could describe the Wirral to someone who's never been here. So click those shutters and show off what makes us great!

EXHIBITION DATES: Monday 17th July -
Monday 31st May

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
Sunday 9th July

AWARDS PRESENTED: Saturday 9th July

Submission fee £2.50

Max 2 entries per person



STORM DORIS

On 23rd February this year, the UK experienced a "weather bomb" in the form of Storm Doris. Many areas of Wirral were damaged as a result, and the Park was not an exception. Sadly, Birkenhead Park lost 8 trees during the inclement weather, and the main vehicle gates had to remain closed throughout to ensure public safety. Thankfully, our quick reacting heritage gardening team were on hand to ensure safe removal of each of these trees and have begun a scheme to replace them with new features including some upcoming wildflower beds to add a bit of colour!



BIRKENHEAD PARK MASTER PLAN

In January this year, we consulted on a development plan for Birkenhead Park, known as the "Birkenhead Park Master Plan." During this time we asked for your views on our proposals for projects to take place in park to restore, improve and protect its grounds and features. The response to our plan was mostly positive and enthusiastic, and we'd like to thank everyone who took the time to read our plan and give their opinion on the future of Birkenhead Park. It is our intention to seek funding for these projects with a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (who invested in Birkenhead Park for a large restoration scheme during 2004-06) and other suitable sources in order to enhance the Park even further.



25



Race for Life

June
Sunday

Cancer Research UK,
Birkenhead Park

02

Pretty Muddy

July
Sunday

Obstacle Course,
Birkenhead Park

09

July
Sunday

It's a Knockout! & Family Fun Day

St John's Hospice,
Birkenhead Park



Junior Rangers Back to the Wilderness

Summer Holidays
Birkenhead Park

12

August
Saturday

Wirral In Bloom Festival

Flower & Veg show
Birkenhead Park

13

August
Sunday

19

August
Saturday

One Wirral Festival

Mencap & Wirral Evolutions
Birkenhead Park

11

September
Monday

**Gandey's Circus/
Circus Libre**

Birkenhead Park

24

September
Sunday

05

November
Sunday

**Bonfire Night
Fireworks Display**

Birkenhead Park

All donations go to improvements and upkeep of the park

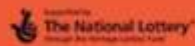
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Birkenhead Park

Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre
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WIRRAL



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