

Park Ranger Report - Milton Creek AGM 2022

40 Tuesdays volunteering took place in 2021, with lots of home work set and hours done behind computers and form filling. The hours worked are around 1300 with the best days being 17 people on the park working (When NCS came along to help) with 9 days having 10 or more people working.

Rosie joined us as the apprentice and has fitted in well with the stuff that we do around the park. Although she was very quiet and is now starting to come out of her shell a lot, she has from day one reminded me of things that we have coming up in the week and has done a great job of keeping track of what, when and where are doing. And its amusing when she sits in the truck and goes its Chilly Brrrrr.

Tasks we have completed in 2021 include tree planting, painting room inside and out, setting out for the new storage container even managing the pond plant reduction by a good percentage. My favourite has got to be the combined event come volunteers task day being the Reindeer making. Some Tuesdays when I have had annual leave the team have still gone in to work, and missed me like a hole in a bucket (Fingers crossed you can see the video) attached.

Events returned with the Frisbee golf being the first event back after covid rules were relaxed, with the events in room and people drop in events such as bird surveys, art exhibitions, boot box making and reindeer making we have had good numbers through the total just shy of 500 people coming along. The Frisbee event has been picked up by Love parks and we have been short listed as part of the final three, results are in February keep your fingers crossed.

The new toilets fully opened ready for Easter it was not long before we had our first issue, thinking it was the locals blocking the system, I was not correct after some further investigation and a call to the supplier there was a blockage in the drainage from the building works. The Children found the doors a nice area to practice throwing brick and stones at causing the doors to look a bit shabby. The Trust have been on the case and Green Spaces have been working hard to secure funding for CCTV, and I am happy to say the 8 m posts and ground works are complete and they are just waiting for the cameras to go on.

The Facebook page for the park is still going strong and numbers of visitors are still great with posts reaching around 3000 people every time we post. This helps with the events and promotion of events at the park with sell outs as fast as 40mins for some events.

Room has been a great addition to the park and has had a good few people come along to display their art works, mud larking finds and schools using the space, Something bigger is needed for some of the events we run, we have had a number of chats about ways forward for the future.

Hopefully things will move forward for events in the coming year, with restrictions not holding us back. We have kite making, tree planting and coppicing events planned for the winter months and looking at working some bigger events for May onwards working with DS Smiths, ideas test and the Creative Estuary project that secured £20,000 pounds for stone sculptures at the country park.

Most of all in my little report I want to say a BIG thank you to the volunteers that come to the parks and carry out all kinds of work, and put in many hours working behind the scenes on some of the crazy ideas that we come up with while chatting and working in the park. This includes clocks being made for Room, bug hotels being put together and Christmas decorations being made at home in the garage along with many other things. It's really great to know I am supported In taking the park forwards.