

Chairman's Report 2016-17

It is my pleasure once again to report a successful year for our charity.

The new outdoor gym was installed in August, 2016. In October, 2016, Mr. James Gray, MP for North Wilts, visited Castlefields and in conjunction with the Town Mayor, Councillor Tom Rounds, officially inaugurated the new equipment. We are now hoping to extend the gym with another three items, at a cost of £11,500. Calne Area Board have already granted £5,500 towards the total. We have applications in place with Tesco's and Calne Lions, and also intend to approach Calne Town Council for financial support.

Throughout the year, our volunteers have worked enthusiastically to improve the park. In particular, an area of the wild flower meadow has been re cultivated. This involved a lot of digging and weeding. We now have a circular bed in the centre of the meadow that is full of wild flowers. A small group of determined workers have waged war on the "thug" weeds across the whole meadow. Their efforts are winning the battle and I thank them for all their efforts.

This time last year we were looking forward to the start of the wall restoration work. Although the rebuild did commence in August, 2016, the contractors encountered difficulties. This resulted in a reduction in the overall scope of the works. The current condition of the rebuild is less than satisfactory. We must continue to lobby Calne Town Council to ensure that the final reconstruction will be a credit to the park and Calne.

In October, 2016, we had the sad news that Joyce Mugford, our oldest and longstanding member, had died after being admitted to hospital. Although she had been housebound for a couple of years, Joyce still took an interest in our work. She had donated an owl box as a Christmas present to CARP in 2015. She visited the park in August, 2016 to celebrate her 90th birthday, with a picnic. Joyce's family have donated a new bench in her memory. This was installed near Chaveywell last month. I am sure it will be appreciated for years to come.

I would like to thank all the committee and volunteers for their hard work and support throughout the year. In particular a big thank you to Karen Boswell, who is standing down as a CARP Trustee after several years of being a major part of our group. She has raised our profile in the wider community. Karen was also a great "obtainer" of prizes for our fundraising events. I am sure local businesses will breathe a sigh of relief knowing that their profits will now be in tact. Thank you Karen for all your hard work and support.

So another CARP year ends, another one starts with challenges but with the knowledge that we can do it!!!

Denis Robinson
Chairman CARP

20th July, 2017.