

Facing the Crisis: Parks and People Stronger Together



With support from the Big Lottery (Awards for ALL), the North West Parks Friends Forum has been delivering a series of workshops throughout the North West which are designed to strengthen the role of Friends Groups in responding to the continuing crisis affecting so many of our public parks and green spaces. The North West has an unprecedented number of heritage and community parks, largely as a result of the Industrial Revolution and the rapid growth of towns and cities in the nineteenth century. But many of them are now under threat as a direct result of austerity.

Come and join us at our major, regional conference which will enable Friends Groups to respond to the current crisis. The conference will be held in Birkenhead's magnificent **Town Hall on Saturday 13th April 2019** (10.00 to 16.00), a location that can easily be reached by public transport. It will be open to members of Friends Groups, Gardens Trusts, Heritage, Civic and Conservation Societies, and park professionals from throughout the North West. Anyone involved in campaigning for adequate funding to preserve and enhance parks and green spaces will be more than welcome. There will be presentations by representatives of national organizations, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, the Parks Agency, and The Gardens Trust. A series of workshops will provide an opportunity for active participation on how to strengthen the role of Friends Groups, to enable them to demonstrate the widespread benefits of public parks, to campaign for effective funding, and to influence national and local policy.

This will be a free event: food and refreshments will also be provided free of charge. For anyone travelling a considerable distance (over 75 miles), some support will be offered to offset travel costs. This year also marks the 175th anniversary of Paxton's original design for Birkenhead Park, the first publicly-funded park in the world. There will be a reception at the end of the conference to celebrate this event! Professor Robert Lee Chair, NWFFF

Come and join us in Birkenhead on the 13th of April!

Professor Robert Lee, Chair, NWFFF.

Please reply to: nwparksforum@gmail.com