

# Friends of Millhouses Park

A Better Park for Everyone

## Community Partnership Projects School Half Term February 2011

February half term saw a partnership, led by Tom Tay of the Friends of Millhouses Park and Holly Barnes from SCC Forestry plus members from Friends of Holt House School, Carterknowle and Millhouses Community Group, SCC Parks & Countryside, SW Community Assembly Chair & staff, the Deputy Lord Mayor plus South Yorkshire Police all join forces to plant new Live Willow Tunnels and Dens in the playground and new pollution absorbing trees alongside Abbeydale Road South. The Projects were funded by the Big Lottery Fund & SW Community Assembly.

**BIG  
LOTTERY  
FUND**



The Monday dawned cold and wet with flurries of snow driven down the valley by arctic air but this did not lessen the enthusiasm of the two dozen volunteers and their children who turned up to plant the Willow. Soon tunnel shapes could be seen and the supple whips were being woven into a domed top. Lunch time saw tiny frozen fingers warmed round

hot chocolate provided by Tom in the refreshment tent where still warm, home cooked, cakes and other goodies waited to entice even large fingers! Later warm scones arrived - which disappeared in a few minutes. There was a lot of work to be done but at the end of the first day the structure was clearly visible, as was a lot of mud which covered everyone.





The next day started slowly but with better weather and we were joined, further down the park, by Tinsley Tree Project operatives who were to do the bulk of the Ginkgo tree planting between the "Football field" and Abbeydale Road South. This is to form a pollution absorbing screen along what has been reported as one of the worst traffic pollution corridors in Sheffield (well above permitted EU levels). These trees are also referred to as "Dinosaur Trees" because they were already well established in the dinosaur era. They have been known to live for 2,400 years and are fantastic for mopping up pollutants. We are indeed lucky to have

these. There will also be a new, difficult to obtain, disease resistant Elm to be planted in the park; it is great that we are planting this tree in our Park - the beginning of the re-establishment of these magnificent species.



The Willow tunnel weaving continued throughout the day and we were joined by



visitors to the playground who were interested in what was happening and wanted to join in. Eventually the chipped bark was shovelled into place and spread by a multitude of small hands until the ground was covered and the tunnel fit to use - which is just what the children did with great pleasure.

The area is fenced off for now to let the Willow establish itself, start to grow and, hopefully, turn green.

A splendid two days for the community and we were left with the comment "What a great day, when can we do something like this again???"

Well done to all concerned.

A few magical moments...

