



Bowdon Church School
Grange Road, Bowdon, Cheshire
WA14 3EX

30 June 2009

BOWDON CHURCH SCHOOL POND - BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

On Friday 10 July, Bowdon Church School formally opens its renovated pond site to the local community.

The Head Boy and Head Girl of the school will cut the ribbon in the presence of the Bishop of Chester, in a ceremony attended by the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of the Borough of Trafford and by Graham Brady MP.

The pond will also be used as a community facility, to be enjoyed by local primary schools, holiday clubs and groups, allowing them to come and study the abundant wildlife in a safe and local natural environment.

Work on the project began in March last year. The pond site had become so neglected and inaccessible that school visits had to stop - even though the area is only 30 metres from the school classrooms!

Bowdon Church School's PTA set out to raise funds and seek sponsorship to renovate the area.

Katie Forbes, Project Leader and Vice-Chair of the PTA said: "A generous grant from the Oglesby Trust started the ball rolling by funding the new dipping platform, and we worked hard to secure other sponsorship and donations."

Working parties took place throughout the year, with teachers, parents and children working together to create dedicated wildlife areas and construct the Outdoor Classroom.

Trees and shrubs from the Woodland Trust's Trees for Schools offer were planted by groups of schoolchildren. School families sponsored nature signboards and donated items such as bird tables and a "Nestcam."

Several school children donated bird feeders and bird boxes that they had made at their local Cub Scout group. The site now also has a hedgehog house, log piles for insect observation and a newly planted bog garden.

Sharon Martin, Acting Head Teacher said: "Throughout the school year the pond project has been a big initiative." Liz Brierley, Acting Head Teacher added: "The children have really enjoyed being involved and getting their hands dirty."

Community organizations were also invited to support the project, including the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and the Greater Manchester Probation Trust. Volunteer teams built the large new dipping platform during an icy week in February. Subsequently teams of offenders repaired and replaced fences in a Community Payback scheme.

Whatever their skills, there's been something for everyone to do - and everyone has really enjoyed making a difference to the site.

Sharon Kupusarevic, PTA Chair said: "It's actually very rewarding. There's always a great team spirit and a lot of enthusiasm, even if people do sometimes get soaking wet or stuck in the mud!"

To book a visit to the pond site, please contact Bowdon Church School office on 0161 928 8907.

Ends

Note to Editors: Press & photographers are invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday 10 July at 12 noon-1pm.

For more information about the Pond Renovation Project contact:

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