



Media Release

Tuesday 12 July 2007 – For immediate release

10,000 flock to Park100

Saturday 7 July saw St James' Park play host to over 10,000 visitors, who all flocked to attend *Park100*. Organised by the Friends of St James' Park in partnership with Park It!, *Park100* celebrated the hundredth anniversary of this beautiful park in the heart of Southampton.

There was something for everybody at *Park100*, as the sun shone on the crowds enjoying all that the park has to offer. Young visitors kept themselves active on the swing boats, and adventurous types tested their skills on the moving climbing wall. Meanwhile, a constant stream of children had their faces painted and transformed into tigers or fairies for the day.

Elsewhere, visitors browsed the history stalls and learnt all about the park's fascinating past, and checked out the magnificent replica Spitfire, which had pride of place in the middle of the park.

As afternoon wore into evening, local bands took to the stage and got toes tapping, as visitors relaxed with a pint from the beer tent.

Nichola Caveney, Chair of the Friends of St James' Park, said: "It was great to see so many people, both locals and those who had never visited before, relaxing and enjoying the entertainment. It was a fitting celebration of the hundredth birthday of this beautiful park".

Holly Rosenegk, Park It! project manager, said: "*Park100* was a credit to the Friends of St James' Park, who had worked incredibly hard, putting together this event for the people of Southampton. The park was full of life and offered an insight into the significance of the site to the local community. The Park It! team enjoyed working with the Friends and hope the event has raised support for the group within the local area."

St James' Park was chosen from over 200 applicants to represent the South region in Park It! 2007. Park It! is a national programme of events which aim to encourage people to discover the history of their parks and celebrate their significance in the local community.

The event was supported by local companies, organisations and staffed by hundreds of volunteers. More details can be found at www.fosjp.org.uk.

The event is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the national Park It! programme which is organised by GreenSpace. More details about Park It! can be found at www.park-it.org.uk.

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-Notes to Editors-



- Low-resolution images above. To request a high-resolution copy, please contact Becky Volker on 0118 946 9068 or email beckyv@green-space.org.uk.
 1. 'Fiona Kennedy, a volunteer with Southampton City Council Museum Services, demonstrates a gas mask to six-year old Alex Vowles'. Credit Andy Vowles.
 2. 'The Park100 Cake Grand Draw winner Kate Stone, who said 'The event was great - it was like Glastonbury without the mud!'' Credit Michaela Lawler-Levene. The cake was provided by Richard Hallett Cakes.
- **GreenSpace** (www.green-space.org.uk) is a registered charity that promotes the regeneration of parks and public spaces in our towns and cities.
- **Park It!** is a series of events taking place regionally in parks throughout the UK. Held over three years, this project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (www.hlf.org.uk) and organised by GreenSpace (www.green-space.org.uk) in partnership with local community groups and local authorities. These events will inspire communities to discover the history of their parks and celebrate their significance to the local people that use them.
- **The Friends of St James' Park (FoSJP)** was formed in January 2006 with an overall aim to work towards creating a park that will best serve the various needs of the community. FoSJP has been a great success, winning local and national recognition and in its first year has reached a membership of over 400 - the largest group of its type in Southampton. More details can be found at www.fosjp.org.uk
- If you love your park, why not enter a photograph of it into a national competition, **Postcards from the Park?** The competition, organised by GreenSpace, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund, runs until 1 August. Visit www.loveparksweek.org.uk for more information.

For more information on Park It! contact Holly Rosenegk, Project Manager on 0118 946 9064 or at hollyr@green-space.org.uk

