



FRIENDS OF PORTSWOOD REC

AGM CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR REPORT FOR 2025/26

In 2025 we trialled the idea of running some kids activity sessions on the first Saturday of June, July and August which we called FoPR Kids. These were targeted at Primary school aged children, the sessions offered the opportunity for kids to try a range of craft activities, nature trails and quizzes. With between 10 to 20 kids attending each session, amongst other things, children were able to try their hands at decorating plant pots and stones, creating bird pictures, making bird seed balls, leaf rubbing and collaging, as well as getting involved in bug hunts, searching for worms and bird spotting. With the additional draw of the new play equipment in the playground, a good time was had by all.

As a group, we also took part in Southampton's Urban Wild week, holding our 'Wild Wonders - Bee's, Bugs and Beasties' event during May half term which attracted over 200 children. Due to bad weather most activities took place in the Scout Hut in Brickfield Road. We also attended a final gathering where Friends groups and voluntary organisations from across the city gathered together on Southampton Common to bring Urban Wild week to an end.

Conversations have also taken place with Southampton Saints football academy, to investigate the feasibility of holding some football coaching sessions at the Rec. Discussions are still ongoing and we remain hopeful that something could come of those discussions in 2026.

Big thanks has to go out to the small team of volunteers, (core of 4/5 people, plus extra hands when available), that have worked hard in making all the sessions held a success. The hope for 2026 would be to build on what we achieved last year and hold monthly sessions from April to September, but in order to achieve that, we are in need of more volunteers to join us in planning and running the sessions.

Tony Ridley Children's Activities Coordinator

22 February 2026