

Fitz Park Trust
Chairs Report September 2025

Keswick Games

Fitz Park was the venue in August for the inaugural Keswick Games. The weather was more than kind, very hot in fact. The day was a great success, with lots of fun and games for all ages. Keswick Cricket Club hosted a barbeque and provided refreshments and there were several catering vans with a range of food and drink on offer.

Thanks for a job well done must go to the Events Organiser, The Events Committee, and to all who turned up to help on the day. Everyone who took part contributed to the fun, and it will be good to see this as an annual event.

Arson and Vandalism incidents in Fitz Park

Unfortunately, we have had several incidents of deliberate arson attacks, and vandalism in Fitz Park during the school holidays:

29th July

Incident 1

Litter was burnt on the surface of the MUGA. Repairs required and temporary closure

Incident 2

A Wheelie bin was set on fire above the Cricket Club. Area cleared by Parks staff

30th July

Another Wheelie bin was again set on fire in the area above the Cricket Club. Area cleared by Parks staff

4th August

Incident 1

A Wheelie bin was set on fire on the grassed area of Archery Field, opposite the BMX track. Area cleared by Parks staff

Incident 2

A wine bottle was smashed in the children's play area, cleared by Parks staff.

6th August

A pile of clothes were burnt in the Sensory Garden, Wivell Park. Cleared by Parks staff

18th August

The Tarmac repairs following the arson in the MUGA on 29th July were dug up. This needed a further repair and closure of the courts again.

22nd August

A paper recycling bin was set on fire on the area above the Cricket Club. Area cleared by Parks staff.

We have engaged with police about these incidents and they have taken a number of steps, including;

Carrying out a late night plain clothes patrol

High vis patrols of the park at random times

Use of the drone to survey the areas of the park which were affected

Stop and search of a number of youths under Section 1 of PACE for items used for damage or arson. No lighters or accelerants were found.

I understand that police patrols will continue in the area.

Although we always have incidents of vandalism, particularly in Fitz Park, and usually during school holidays, this has been a sustained campaign and there is reason to believe the same offenders were responsible for all of these incidents.

We have had no further incidents since the school term restarted.

We will need to be more vigilant during school holidays, but this is difficult, given that most of these incidents took place late at night under cover of darkness.

Trustees may wish to consider if they wish to extend CCTV coverage in the area at some point, particularly when the new Play Area is installed.

Jean Murray

Fitz Park Arson 2025

1. **29 July 2025** – Litter burnt on surface of Multiuse Games Area – Repairs required and temporary closure.



2. **29 July 2025** – Wheelie bin fire on area above the Cricket Club, area cleared up by Parks Staff.



3. **30 July 2025** – Wheelie bin fire on area above the Cricket Club, area cleared up by Parks Staff



4. **4 August 2025** – Wheelie bin fire on grassed area over from BMX Track, area cleared up by Parks Staff.



5. **4 August 2025** – Wine bottle smashed in Play Area, cleared up by Parks Staff.



6. **6 August 2025** – Burnt clothes at Sensory Garden, Wivell Park, cleared up by Parks Staff.



7. **18 August 2025** – Tarmac repairs to Multiuse Games Area dug up, needing another repair and closure of courts.



8. **22 August 2025** - Recycling bin fire on area above the Cricket Club, area cleared up by Parks Staff.

