

Keeping it Green

When Mary and Lucy Sanders left their land to Bromsgrove town
They gave some firm instructions that no trees would be cut down
Unless a tree should be diseased or dangerous they said
And then we'd have to quickly plant another one instead.
The land was meant to bring well-being to the population
For health and relaxation and for rest and recreation.
There were nearly forty acres of rough pasture-land to clear
With marshes, bogs, and holes and stones and a rubbish tip we hear.
The Battlefield Brook which ran right through was carefully redirected
And bridges and paths were put in place so each area was connected.

The holes were filled, the land was drained and covered with fresh soil;
New trees and shrubs were planted taking many hours of toil.
A putting green and swings and slides and tennis courts were made
And a round pond fringed with willows gave tranquillity and shade.
They laid a brand new Bowling Green right opposite the gate,
And Sanders Park was officially born in Nineteen Sixty Eight.
Since then the District Council have worked hard from dawn to dark
With grounds men, many volunteers and Friends of Sanders Park
To meet the Sanders' covenant and not to let them down;
To keep a green and pleasant place near the middle of our town.

So now we have a Skate Park and two multi-user courts
By stretches of well-tended grass for a multitude of sports.
There's a play-park for the children and a café and pavilion
And every year our visitors number nearly half a million.
You can walk the old historic paths that the Royal Hunters knew
Or follow woodland nature trails with flowers and wildlife too.
Battlefield Brook ran red with blood in times of civil strife
But now it's home to Water Voles and teeming with new life.
We've a shelter for the teenagers and a Bonfire each November
And toilets tended twice a day from January to December

You can sit and picnic in the sun or walk the dog each day
You can watch the Bandstand Programme or feed the ducks and play.
Babies, children, teenagers and people of all ages
Enjoy the "lungs of Bromsgrove" in all its yearly stages.
The Council work to follow guidelines, ethical and sound:
Recycling, using peat-free compost, planting all year round;
Beautiful flowers each season through and a vast array of trees.
The hedges trimmed, the grass well-mown; a place to take your ease.
So we fly our Green Flag proudly as it says our park is great
The very best green space around – a cause to celebrate!