

## **Newsletter**

### September 2005

# Improvements to sports and play facilities and access

A number of improvements to the park are currently being discussed.

The Council is due to receive significant sums of money from some of the housing developments in the Moseley area, some of which are earmarked for play and sports improvements in local parks.

The Friends have been consulted about ideas for a number of possible improvements to Highbury Park:

- Marking out a sports pitch on the level area near the car park
- A play area for young children at the Kings Heath end of the park
- Fixing trip rails along the road leading to the car park to stop cars being driven on to the grass
- Making a footpath leading from the Shutlock Lane/Dads Lane entrance to separate cars and pedestrians

The Council is at present carrying out a costing exercise on these proposals.

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#### **Highbury Park Friends**

'Working to improve the amenities of Highbury Park'

#### Forthcoming events

#### Highbury History

Saturday 17 September, 11:00 am

A walk led by historian Mike Hodder. Meet in the park opposite the post box in Moor Green Lane.

#### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 22 September, 7:30 pm, Kings Heath Community Centre, Heathfield Road, Kings Heath.

Our speaker is Alison Millward, a local parks and open spaces expert. Please come along to what promises to be a very interesting talk and also to say what you would like the Friends to do over the coming year.

#### Tree Walk

Saturday 19 November, 11:00 am

Our third tree walk led by Ros Marshall. Meet in the park opposite the post box in Moor Green Lane

#### Improved access

We are very pleased to report that, following a request from the Friends, access to the park from the Shutlock Lane/Dads Lane entrance has now been improved. This should particularly help wheelchair users and people with pushchairs.

#### Our website

Please visit our website:

www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk

#### Dogs Day June 26th

Every dog has his day, they say, and for some lucky dogs that was this blazing Sunday in June. The marquee was put up with great speed and efficiency by the scouts, and although intended as a shelter against rain, it was equally appreciated for the shade, as the day was so sunny.

The Wythall trainer, Louise Downing, led the group of dogs in an impressive display of obedience training, getting the team to 'sit', 'lie down' and 'wait' on command. Then others joined in and found that this kennel-club method based on kindness, really worked for their dogs as well. Louise also answered questions and gave training advice to individuals.

All who were there had a good time. Thanks to Louise and her team, and to the committee for organising the area, the drinks, the quiz and all the other things that made the day successful.

We are hoping to arrange more events like this, for other sections of the community. If you have any ideas for further events, and you can help organise them, please get in touch with a committee member.

#### PAC

#### Pitmaston housing development

The Council has consulted the Friends about a planning application for a housing scheme involving the Pitmaston offices and land in Moor Green Lane.

We have commented that, if the development is to go ahead, it will increase the demand for open space and therefore the developers should be required to contribute some money towards the improvement of Highbury Park.

#### Membership of the Friends

Membership of Highbury Park Friends is open to all those who support the aims of maintaining and improving the park. Annual subscriptions of £5 per household (£3 unwaged) should be sent to Bob Blackaby, Treasurer, 266 Moor Green Lane, B13 8QL

The money we raise from the subscriptions pays for such things as postage, printing and public liability insurance.

We have now stopped general distribution of the newsletter. If you want to continue to receive it, please pay your subs! Our new year started on 1 September.

#### **Useful numbers**

Park Ranger: 454 7810 Simon Cooper, District Parks

Manager: 464 8728 Police (non-emergency):

0845 113 5000

Environment agency (water pollution etc): 0800 80 70 60 Birmingham and District Beekeepers Association (John

Madgwick): 558 8623 Highbury Park Friends Treasurer: 449 3498

#### Sign writer wanted

Are there any sign writers out there? We would like to have our logo painted on to the notice boards in the Park. Please contact Bob Blackaby 449 3498 (evenings and weekends) if you can help.

#### **Thanks**

Our thanks to Phil Evans for kindly donating the paper for this newsletter.