



Newsletter

March 2006

Park improvements

From time to time we have reported on plans to carry out improvements to the park including the restoration of the area near Highbury Hall and Chamberlain House and providing a children's playground.

There is not much more to say at this stage. A small amount of the money needed has been found – over £90,000 from the Reddings development - but most of it still has to be identified. The Lottery is certainly a source but is likely to be a long way off as the Council has not yet decided on its priorities for bidding to the Lottery.

The plans are also affected by the discussions that are going on about the future of Chamberlain House.

The next stage is for a historical survey of the park to be carried out. This is to make sure that all the historical features are plotted and are not destroyed by the work.

We will keep you informed of developments.

Our website:

www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk

Forthcoming events

Saturday 8 April 2006, 11:00 a.m.

Two park walk

A walk in Highbury and Kings Heath Parks to compare and contrast two different parks – one informal and the other more structured and 'manicured'.

Saturday 16 September 2006

Litterpick and tidy up



The November walk led by Stan Gardner

Pat Callaway

Pat, one of the founders of Highbury Park Friends and chair since its creation some six years ago, has moved away from the area. She has gone to live in Wales.

As the person who has taken over the chair of the Friends on an acting basis, I would like to pay tribute to Pat for all the hard work she has put in. She was a tireless campaigner. She tended to concentrate on day-to-day issues, constantly contacting the Council about maintenance matters that were being ignored. We wish her well. She will be greatly missed.

The Friends' committee presented her with a nice framed photograph of the park – something to remember us by.

Bob Blackaby

Subscriptions

Please pay your 2005/06 subscriptions if you have not already done so. If you do not have a pink membership card it probably means you have not paid! It is £5 per household (£3 unwaged). Please pay Bob Blackaby 266 Moor Green Lane. Cheques payable to Friends of Highbury Park.

The money goes on simple administrative expenses and the public liability insurance we need for the events we hold. At the moment we do not receive any grants.

A summer afternoon in the park

Things are at a very early stage but the Friends are planning to hold an event in the park in June or July. We are talking to Moor Green Residents Association about it and possibly also we would run something in conjunction with Highbury Hall because they are planning a Joseph Chamberlain celebration this year.

Some of the things that might happen are:

- Tree walk
- Pond dipping
- Demonstrations e.g. woodturning or weaving
- Nature 'treasure hunt'
- Bird watching
- Dog training
- Tug-of-War
- Visit to beehives

Watch this space!

Joining the committee

If you would like to join the committee or help the Friends in some way, please email bobblackaby@btinternet.com or nunovo@blueyonder.co.uk Or phone 449 3498 (evenings or weekends)

Useful phone numbers

Park Ranger: 454 7810

Police (non-emergency): 0845 113 5000