



JANUARY 2011

New Year, New Logo, New Membership Leaflet

Best Wishes for the New Year.

We hope you like our new logo. It now incorporates an original line drawing inspired by one of the English (Pedunculate) Oaks, within the meadow area of Highbury Park, a reminder of the importance and heritage of the trees and plants within Highbury. The artwork was completed by local artist Catharine Clarke, who also designed our new Membership Leaflet. Through the Grassroots Grant we were awarded last year, we were able to commission this new leaflet. It will be distributed throughout the local area and hopefully will encourage new members to join Highbury Park Friends and to become more directly involved with their local park.

Any suggestions for where leaflets may be distributed, or if you know of anyone who would like to become a member, then we would love to hear from you.

Park News

Migrating Birds - Waxwings

Flocks of these beautiful birds come to us every winter from Scandinavia, sometimes in very large numbers. Their calls are distinctive - a high pitched jubilant trill. Often this is the first thing that alerts you to their presence, then a glance into the nearest trees or bushes will reveal a group of them - slightly smaller than starlings and with the distinctive crest. They have already been spotted in Kings Heath this year - roaming from tree to tree looking for the



remains of apples and the berries on cotoneasters, hawthorn, and rowan trees. If the berry-bearing shrub happens to be in a car-park this is no barrier to their appetites and shoppers are frequently delighted to see flocks gorging themselves before flying off to trill in a nearby tree. Have you spotted waxwings in Highbury Park? We'd like to know.

Playbuilder Scheme for Highbury Park

A small budget from the Central Government Playbuilder Project has been allocated to develop an amenity area for young children in Highbury Park. The money has to be spent by March 2011, so the consultation and design process has been compressed. The Birmingham City Council designers proposed "an amenity space instead of a play area, with a group of natural landscape features put together to allow children to use their imagination". The Landscape Practice Group contacted interested parties to ask for feedback. In the short time allowed HPF put a great deal of effort into collecting feedback through our website and through surveys in the park. Responses to questions on the location of the amenity area, materials used, and overall design were forwarded to the design team. Below is a simplified sketch plan indicating the area and some of the materials to be used - wooden carved benches, grass mounds, stone boulders, a stone labyrinth, and a stone table with timber stump trees.



The proposed location is opposite the Henbury wall, where the former sheds were. This area has been reworked several times, so the land itself is not historically sensitive. Following consultation the proposed location has been moved further north east to blend in with the woodland. Funding constraints have placed limits on the current scheme, if further funding and revenue become available it may be possible to extend the play area and to add additional items of play equipment.

Recent Events

Tree Dressing Event

On Sunday 5 December a winter sun lit the tree dressing and tree planting day. Hawthorn whips were planted, a festivities tent, flag-and-bunting-stall, speed knitting, and tree decoration contributed to the enchantment.



The Green Man, Barry Patterson, drew people from across the park with pipe playing and festive garb. Hot drinks, roast chestnuts,

peanuts and potatoes were served as hand-warmers and tasty treats for passers by. What a good day.

Future Events

The Chamberlain Family Letters, a Talk by Professor Peter Marsh, Wednesday 26 January 2010, 7.30 p.m., Kitchen Garden Cafe, 17 York Road, Kings Heath.

See the enclosed leaflet for more details of this event. Places are limited. If you are not able to reserve a place by email you could turn up early on the night as doors will open at 7 p.m.

See the Park in all Seasons and Learn New Skills

Orchard Work Parties, 12 noon onwards, every second Sunday from 2 January, at the orchard site.

Grafting and clearing. See park notice board or HPF website for map of locations.

Coppicing and Hedge-laying Most Wednesdays from 11 a.m. Ring David, (0121) 242 1845, to check times.

Learn fence building techniques, use of traditional woodland tools, and habitat maintenance.

Chamberlain Garden Pathways Most days, ring David, (0121) 242 1845, to check.

Make a dramatic difference to the landscape through this path clearing work.

Clearing/ Conservation Work Parties 24 and 27 February 2011.

Further details of times nearer to the dates. Laurel clearing, hawthorn hedge planting, and woodworking techniques such as fence and path building.

We'd Like Your Help

HPF is a voluntary organisation and we would like the help of more volunteers. If you like organising and helping to run events, or have website skills, enjoy research and writing, or would be interested in liaising with organisations such as Birmingham Open Spaces, Birmingham City Council, or Highbury Hall consortium we would love to hear from you. Contact us by telephone or email, or come along to our next Committee Meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday 3 February, CDT Building, 149 -153 Alcester Road, Moseley Village. We will be planning events for 2011. Add your enthusiasm and we will offer light refreshment.

Useful Contacts

HPF Committee

David Papadopoulos: (0121) 242 1845
E-mail:
contact@highburyparkfriends.org.uk

HPF Membership Secretary and HPF mail:

c/o York Supplies, 55/57 Waterloo Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SD

HPF web site

<http://www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk/>

Birmingham & District Beekeepers Association, John Madgwick: 558 8623

Ranger Patrol: (0121) 454 7810
(use this to report urgent matters)

Birmingham City Council: (0121) 464 8728