



HPF Bulletin

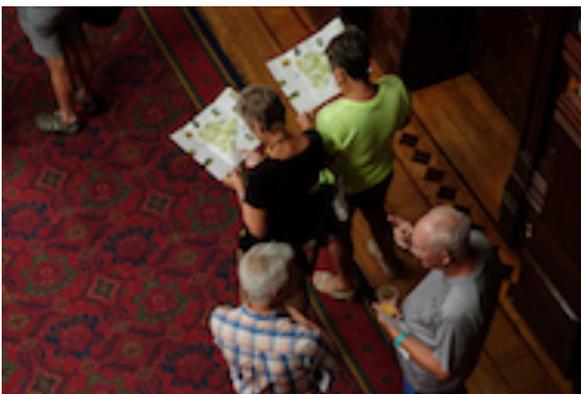
July 2018

Our long awaited Highbury Tree Trail was launched on June 11th at a lovely evening event, with forty-five attendees. We were treated to an introduction about trees at Highbury from Ellen Pisolkar, ecologist, and Cathy Clarke, botanical artist, who produced the Tree Trail Leaflet. As the launch took place at Highbury we were then able to step through the french windows and explore some of the trees nearest the hall. The trail highlights some of our ancient, veteran, and notable trees, together with some trees of seasonal interest. We've held a number of events to support the launch, including an event for children and a walking meditation on trees.



You can pick up a copy of the Tree Trail leaflet at York Supplies or download it from our website (under Wildlife / Habitat - Trees). A big thank you to the Chamberlain Highbury Trust for all their help with the launch.

NB. On Saturday July 14th there is a walk around the Tree Trail with Tony Sames from 10.30am - 12.30pm. Meet in the car park



pictures courtesy of paperwolfproductions.com



Nature Notes

Trees in Highbury Park are full of holes! Many birds nest in these holes including woodpeckers. Both the Green Woodpecker and the Great Spotted Woodpecker have nested in the park recently. Last week a mass of feathers showed that a Green Woodpecker had been killed, possibly by a Sparrowhawk. Woodpeckers predate on nestlings and the Nuthatch takes measures to protect its nest by reducing the size of the entrance hole with mud. EMP



Bat Walk with BrumBats 9th May 2018

Twenty seven of us attended an informative introduction to the world of bats, when BrumBats volunteers led us on a twilight walk around the park.

We learned a lot; bats are the most diverse species of mammal worldwide, with Costa Rica providing a home to the most, with around three hundred species. There are currently seventeen species of bats living and

breeding in England. The most common bat species is the Common Pipistrelle weighing four grams. It can eat up to three thousand midges per night weighing up to two grams, half the bats' body weight. Other species found in the UK include Noctules, Soprano Pipistrelles, and Daubentons. Bats can live up to thirty years and use echo location to find food including fruit, insects, birds and the blood of other animals in the case of vampire bats (not found in the UK.) Bats have only one offspring per breeding cycle and only 30% of bat offspring survive

During our tour of the park we located bats using special bat detectors provided by BrumBats; they used their extensive knowledge and expertise to lead us to the best spots to seek out our nocturnal friends within the park and we were not disappointed.

Gail Pittaway

PS. We have previously encountered four species of bats on Bat Walk at Highbury; common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctules and Daubentons. This time a fifth species was identified; Brown long-eared bat. This is a first for Highbury and we were delighted to have the sighting confirmed after the event.



Highbury – A history of the house and gardens; a talk by Peter Marsh 26.4.2018

Peter gave a highly informative talk to a lively HPF audience and we are pleased to present a brief summary. Joseph Chamberlain commissioned John Henry Chamberlain (no relation) to design and build Highbury in 1878 as his Birmingham residence. The house, then technically in East Worcestershire, was named after his North London birthplace of Highbury and was located close to the city of Birmingham but within the surrounding countryside of Moor Green.

The design of the house has similarities with Birmingham School of Art in Margaret Street, designed by the same architect. The house and gardens became a statement for Joseph as an aspiring national figure with the house's large number of rooms providing the base for his political power. Here he developed many of his political thoughts and ideas and delivered several political speeches, sometimes to large crowds of supporters. The orchid and green houses also played an important role in forming Joseph's political image.

He wore the orchids he bred on his lapel, having them transported from Highbury by train when he resided in London. Peter postulated the notion that Joseph's power was closely connected with Highbury and that when he worked as Colonial Secretary, for example, travelling to work abroad in South Africa in 1899

prior to the Boer War, his power began to wane.

Although Joseph had six children, Highbury was not a family home, as Joseph was an austere father figure who busied himself in his study composing public speeches or working away in London and staying at his London home. It was not until he married his third wife, Mary Endecott, that the house became animated and the children experienced any real familial warmth.

Upon Joseph's death in 1914 the family felt unable to keep the house on and Mary moved away to London. Highbury was left to Austen Chamberlain who, along with Joseph's second son Neville, had his own family home. The house was subsequently given to Birmingham City Council

Peter Marsh is currently researching, "Highbury - A Life History Of the House and Gardens," which will be published in due course.

Gail Pittaway. Highbury Park Friends

Vandalism issues

We are sad to report that the xylophone in the children's play area was set on fire and vandalised recently. A temporary repair has been undertaken but we need to raise £500 for a permanent repair. If you have ideas for sources of funding or would like to make a donation, please let us know.

Do you know your butterflies? Events

One sunny day in May as a few of us walked around the park we observed six species of butterfly enjoying the sunshine. They were; comma, speckled wood; large white; holly blue; brimstone and orange tip. Do know which of them are below?



July 14th. 10.30am - 12.30pm

A walk around the Highbury Tree Trail with Tony Sames

August 11th. 10.30am - 12.00pm.

Highbury's Neighbours: A historical walk around the Moor Green Estate with Gail Pittaway.

September 16th.

Heritage Day at Highbury

September 26th.

Highbury Park Friends AGM. Moseley Exchange. 7.00pm

Guest speaker: Maureen Perrie

October 13th.

Highbury Harvest Event

November 1st. 11.00am - 12.30pm

Mindful of Trees: An event for children and their adults with park ranger, Jan Tomlinson

For all park events please meet in the car park and wear footwear suitable for walking over uneven ground. Everyone welcome.

Everyone welcome.

All events are free of charge.

Help needed

We are a small voluntary group and always welcome others who would like to be more involved. Please email us if you would like to discuss volunteering.

Highbury Park Friends

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