HIGHBURY PARK Friends

Welcome to our winter bulletin

We hope you and your loved ones are keeping well. Just a short bulletin at this time to keep you up to date with Highbury through the winter months; there is a limited amount of news given our current situation. It's a bit muddy round the park but you might have already spotted catkins and the odd snowdrop, so Spring is definitely on the way!

Covid update

Sadly, the on-going Covid situation has meant that we are still not able to resume activities in the park; this has been very frustrating for everyone. All volunteering activity has been paused again during the current lockdown, although the landscape architects overseeing the Chamberlain Highbury Trust restoration project of the paths and main drive near the house are now working on site. We will keep you posted when the situation changes and look forward to resuming our events programme as soon as it is safe to do so.

News from the Chamberlain Highbury Trust

The Chamberlain Highbury Trust is looking to recruit a new chair to shadow the current post- holder and take over the leadership of the CHT in March 2022.

The main duties are:
To maintain a clear and ambitious strategic vision and direction
Provide leadership
Ensure good governance

Further details can be found at www.chamberlainhighburytrust.co.uk/recruitmentofchairoftrustees

Poisoned meat in Highbury and Kings Heath Parks

We contacted you before Christmas with an alert about meat, allegedly contaminated with rat poison and slug pellets having been left in Highbury, Kings Heath and several other local parks. At the time we conducted a good search of the park but didn't find anything. We circulated the information widely on social media to inform as many people as possible.

The police are aware of the threat and we would urge you to remain vigilant and keep a careful eye out for both canine friends and small children whilst out and about in local parks. You might prefer to keep your dog on a lead for the time being.

Off Road Driving

We've had a number of comments from you about off - road driving at Highbury and we find the situation as depressing as you do. More cars seem to be using Highbury since lockdown and since parking charges were introduced at Cannon Hill. We have been requesting that tree trunks be placed down the main drive for about 18 months now but action from the Parks Department has been very slow. We hope to be able to report some more positive news next time

Nature Notes

Black Ivy berries ripen over winter providing food for the early immigrants such as Blackcap and Chiff-chaff as well as sustaining Wood Pigeons, Redwing, Thrushes, and Blackbirds and Parakeets are feeding on Acer and Ash seeds still hanging on the trees

Mallard males and females can be found throughout the year on the long pond. They often roost on the grassland above the pond, and move down into the water as dogs appear. At least one family of Mallard chicks survived this year – others succumbed to predators – maybe foxes or herons.

Jackdaws are common in the park and are smaller than the more numerous crows. They are commonly found in a group – and have the collective noun of a 'clattering of Jackdaws'. More polite than a 'murder of crows'!

Spot the Mistletoe! Can you spot the one clump of Mistletoe in the Park? High up in a tree. *Clue* – north of the small bridge over Shuttock Stream. EMP.

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