



APRIL 2010

Park News

The Henburys Rose Garden Wall



Here is Ross of E.R.M. on the final day of work on the wall. Ross told me that over eight weeks broken bricks have been replaced by matching bricks and the top six layers of brickwork have been repointed. New copings have been added so the fine old wall is now stable and secure. Good for another 150 years?

Drainage

Pipes, piles of gravel, and cabins show that drainage work continues. For a detailed outline of the drainage proposals see HPF January newsletter.

Recent Events

Highbury Hall Trust Public Meeting

At a further public meeting at the Council House on the 24th of February Tony Thapar of the Moseley Community Development Trust gave an illustrated presentation, The Highbury Concept Plan, on behalf of the Highbury Coalition. He

gave details of the Coalition, a brief history of the Trust, and the recent intervention of the Charity Commission. The important heritage of the house and garden were underlined together with an assessment of current needs for restoration and repair. A vision of "An independent charitable trust managing Highbury to benefit the citizens of Birmingham" included objectives for the charity, potential trustees, proposals on charitable activities, and consideration of funding options and future income. The meeting ended on a hopeful note as Councillor John Alden indicated that representatives of the Highbury Coalition would be invited to meet with the City Solicitor, David Tatlow, and himself to respond to the Charity Commission's proposal that the Council remain custodian trustee but alongside a management committee who would be the charity trustees.

Meanwhile there is concern about the closure of Chamberlain House and the consequences of this for the Day Centre. See the Moseley CDT website for further details www.moseleycdt.com/

HPF Spring 2010 Work Party

On Saturday the 27 March, in partnership with Quadron, BCC Parks, and Birmingham & District Bee-keeper's Association, HPF headed a team of 15 volunteers to cut back the brambles, bushes, and underbrush that were casting shade and increasing damp conditions in the apiary. On a fine, sunny day loppers and saws were wielded and piles of branches dragged away. We worked hard and were bolstered by refreshments spread out beneath the HPF gazebo by David Papadopoulos who organised the event. By mid



afternoon sunlight replaced the damp shade in the apiary and in the cleared out ditches glinting water rippled. For fuller details, and musical accompaniment, see <http://highburyparkfriends.org.uk/wp/?p=460>

Highbury Community Orchard – Grafting Workshop



Phil Osman writes that on March 6th a grafting workshop at Fox Hollies School was attended by 16 people who grafted some 40 saplings using scions (topstock) taken from the Chamberlain-era 'fruit tunnel' at Highbury's Four Seasons Garden Project. The 'fruit tunnel' is about 100 years old, with apple and pear trees whose fruits were most likely grown for use in the Chamberlain kitchen. These surviving trees are the source of a new generation of trees being nurtured by local volunteers for a Highbury Community Orchard planned for the park. This grafting workshop was the first use of the antique stock.

The workshop was led by Wade Muggleton, a Senior Countryside Officer for Worcestershire County Council. Philip (Oz) Osman, of Kings Heath Centre Partnership, who organised the workshop with support from Alys Fowler, Fox Hollies School, Four Seasons Garden Project and Highbury Park Friends, said "Most of the participants had little or no previous grafting experience but we anticipate a reasonable success rate with the grafts. We plan to run a workshop each year in February/March. For information about future grafting workshops and the Community Orchard, contact Oz by email ozzz@blueyonder.co.uk (preferably) or phone on 07816 622 459.

Future Events

Forage and Folklore in Highbury Park with Pam Smith and Alys Fowler, Sunday, 2 May, 11 a.m., meet at the Alcester Road entrance to Highbury Park.

Find good food in the park as you forage with Alys Fowler, whose interest in thrifty gardening and grass roots environmental work is known to us from *BBC Gardeners' World* and *The Edible Garden*. As we walk Pam Smith, a local horticulturalist with a passion for urban ethnobotany, will point out some of the forgotten plant folklore stories associated with plants

growing at Highbury - tales of death, and romance, plus a few tips to keep witches away!

Photography Walk in Highbury Park with Su Richardson and Doug Taylor, Sunday, June 13th, 11a.m. - 1p.m., meet at the car park in Highbury Park.

Join us for a walk through the park taking photographs as we go. Explore with us a variety of visual perspectives of this historic and beautiful place. Bring along your camera and prepare to experiment a little! Doug works with film, and will bring some examples of his work. Su will bring a 'point and shoot' digital camera with her, and a background in the visual arts.

Annual Subscriptions

Our membership year runs from 1st September to 31 August. Membership is £5 or £3 per household. The money is used to help cover the costs of the newsletter, the website and the public liability insurance for events that we organise. Cheques may be left at York Supplies, Waterloo Road, in Kings Heath, or posted to Highbury Park Friends c/o Flat D, 65 Oxford Road, Birmingham B13 9ES.

Useful Contacts

HPF Committee

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HPF web site

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

District Parks Manager

Sue Amey: 464 8728

Ranger patrol

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Birmingham & District Beekeepers Association John Madgwick: 558 8623

Local Councillors

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Highbury Park Friends is supported by a grant from

