



FRIENDS OF OXHEY PARK

Newsletter 30

April 2015

What's been happening

Compared with last year, recent months were bound to seem relatively quiet. But in fact a great deal has been going on, especially in terms of planting. Early in spring there were carpets of snowdrops and crocus by the steps, followed by the ribbon of small daffodils at the top. Beds of colourful but tough plants that can survive with little water or maintenance are now established by the entrances. Look out for bergenia, grape hyacinth, sage, red hot poker, lavender, Lenten rose, periwinkle and dogwood. We also have new trees, mainly hornbeam, oak, Himalayan birch and Norway maple.

Inevitably there was some finishing off to do and some defects, notably in paths, to remedy but most of these have now been dealt with. The children's playground and adult gym are both very popular and levels of litter, vandalism and graffiti are down.

Well done, Veolia and Watford Borough Council and thanks to Paul Rabbitts. Green Flag status for 2015/6 has been applied for.

Sandy, our chairman, has been even busier than last year. The boom he installed in the river (near the Mercedes showroom) has prevented a great deal of litter from flowing through the park and some scruffy areas where rubbish has accumulated over years have been 'deep cleaned' this spring. He has many ideas for projects to improve the park, especially to increase biodiversity. To hear about these you really must come to the **AGM on 22nd April**, see below.

The new road and the Irish Club

We were sad to see the abrupt clearance of greenery around the Irish Club and await with trepidation the disruption and noise in the months ahead as the road is built. Sandy and Keith have attended meetings with councillors and planners in an effort to reduce the damage the road will do and to ask for the Friends to be consulted in any future plans for the club site.

Friends of Oxhey Park 2015-6

Because general levels of litter have improved, the usual small band of Friends who turned up for our first two clear ups this year was able to cope. But as the weather warms up litter tends to increase and then by May and June the Himalayan balsam needs dealing with so we hope for good turnouts this summer. It is also possible that Friends can help this year with projects such as restoring the terraces in the lower park.

More details at the AGM on 22nd April

As with many voluntary organisations we find it difficult to recruit officials and committee members. Our Chairman Sandy Belloni, Secretary Celia Smith, and Treasurer Jill Bramley, have all agreed to stand again but Chris Moore has had to resign from the committee because of other commitments and that leaves only me (Jean Alexander) as a committee member. If you would be able and willing to join the committee please let Celia know by Monday 20th April.

Subscriptions

Obviously everyone is welcome to help in the park whether officially Friends or not, but the Committee is proposing to reinstate the £2 per household subscription for members, as opposed to last year's 'voluntary donation,' a vague term which caused confusion.

Although we have a WBC grant which covers essentials such as insurance, we try to pay our own way on items like refreshments. If you cannot make the AGM, please try to get your £2 in to Jill on a Clear Up.

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 22nd April

This will be held in the Community Room in Tesco, 7.30 for 7.45 pm

This is your opportunity to hear about the latest projects for the park and to make your own comments and suggestions.