

**NO.64 AUTUMN 2011**

**THE FRIENDS OF**



PROTECTING & ENHANCING



[WWW.BLAKERSPARK.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BLAKERSPARK.ORG.UK)

**BLAKERS PARK**

OUR COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE



# **NEWSLETTER**

*Learn all about*

## **The Birds and the Bees and Blakers Park**

**7.30pm Thursday 13th October 2011**

**Stanford Avenue Methodist Church**

**FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY**

*Expert guest speakers* including:

Mike Unwin, travel writer & RSPB photographer –  
Vanessa Tourle, beekeeper

Plus: Updates on the local road safety campaign, have  
your say about the Friends of Blakers Park and bring your  
ideas because it's also our Annual General Meeting

*As if that's not enough, not only will there be  
FREE TEA and COFFEE but also BISCUITS!!!!*

The Committee of the Friends of Blakers Park includes Margaret Bell (Membership Secretary), Marion Clark, Marjorie Cozens, Sally Cranfield, Gerry Faulks (Treasurer), Dominique Giudicelli (Deputy Chair), Max Glaskin (Chair), Lee Griggs, Sam Hart, Graham Preston, Jane Skea and Marsali Stuart.

Philip Smith is our Honorary Life President.

Max is at 77 Chester Terrace, phone 07981 490516

Dominique is at 10 Southdown Road, phone 07772 040 733

Email us all via [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk)

This issue was edited by Max, scrutinised by the Committee. He's thrilled skinny when someone sends something to be published, particularly when it rhymes, such as the poem below by Matt Kettle, poet in residence at Dishy's Café in Blakers Park (the BEST place to buy decent ice cream, tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches and, now, traditional sweets). In an unexpected turn of events, the editor has received two more contributions, from Noelle O'Riordan-Booth and Sally Cranfield, to both of whom he extends unfettered gratitude. Everyone else who uses Blakers Park might now be looking down at their shoes in shame for not having submitted anything but you are forgiven and you can all come to our wonderful Annual General Meeting to drink tea and scoff the free biscuits.

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### **Road Safety Campaign Continues Apace**

The road safety campaign, launched by Cleveland Road residents in the Spring and which arose because of fears for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on the roads surrounding the park, continues. The campaign has clear objectives to:

Reduce the speed limit in the area; Introduce traffic calming measures;

Narrow the southern end of Cleveland Road to enable the safe crossing of pedestrians; Establish clear and safe pedestrian crossings to Blakers Park.

A petition to the City Council needed to gain 1250 signatures to trigger a debate by the full council and, happily, due to the enthusiastic collection of signatures by concerned residents, volunteers and local school children, the target was rapidly exceeded. By the original deadline of 24 June, the combined total of nearly 1900 signatures was handed in to the Council. The next step will be presenting the concerns and objectives of the campaign to the Council in three minutes on 20 October, after which the Council will debate the matter.

Should you have any input or would like to help with the presentation, please contact me on [blakersroads@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blakersroads@hotmail.co.uk), or via Facebook (Blakers Park Road Safety). I will also be at the Friends of Blakers Park AGM on 13 October. Please come along. Plus, it's not too late to add your name to the petition as the Council has re-opened it. Simply go to <http://tinyurl.com/blakersroads>.

*Noelle O'Riordan-Booth*

### **Going to Blakers Park**

In wintertime it's stark  
In summertime it's all heart  
But I've certainly made my mark  
Which is a good start in Blakers Park.

I don't want to upset the applecart  
Sally and Hallie making a jam tart  
Things going on in Blaker's Park  
It's all heart. Play your part.

*Matt Kettle*

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Half Term Activity with Blakers Park Special Branch

# TERRIFIC TREES

Friday 28th October, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Wood you believe it? The oldest living residents of the park (the trees) want the company of the youngest. There's a leaf hunt, quiz and masterclass in bark rubbing. Worth rooting for. And it's FREE!

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**ENTHUSIASM AND FRESH AIR** We have two extra flower beds to look after – around the Clock Tower and near the toilet block – so we need volunteer gardeners. Our experts will give advice, as will our park ranger and CityParks. Interested in learning about plants? Send an email to [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk) or phone our Park Ranger, Emma Keane, on 01273 292929.

**THANKS TO:** Jack Latimer and Sam Scaife at Community Sites for redesigning our website, Andrew Mann at Synchronmedia for hosting our interim web site for its first year, Morgan Carn Partnership for lending us their meeting room, Wettons for cleaning the loos, Mel Levy for her Autumn Path Clean, Stanford Avenue Methodist Church for hosting our AGM, Fiveways Directory for publicising our events so expansively, Groundwork for providing excellent Community Games and Simon Bottrell at 7Creative for poster design.

**WE DEPEND** on the generosity of local businesses to donate prizes to our Community Picnic raffle. So we are extremely grateful to those that came forward, without a moment's hesitation, to support us. In return, please support them – though we hope that you do already! Our kind-hearted donors include: Fiveways Co-Op, Savery Books, Little Earthworms Day Nursery, Forfars Fresh, Mary Reynolds Therapeutic Massage, From The Seed, Blakers Audio Visual, New Dawn, Hummingbird Studio, David & Co, Counters 4U Ltd, FareShare, Miss Mole's Flower Emporium, Fiveways Fruits and Sole Sister.

**VARNDEAN SAMBA** band provided the best ever start to our Community Picnic on a blustery day back in June. Their driving Latin rhythms lifted the temperature and resounded around the park as they paraded. The pulsing crescendos and vibrant drumming put everyone in carnival mood and we really do hope that they will come back to Blakers Park very soon.

**MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Committee members spent three hours walking the park with Council officers to identify things to be included in the gradually-evolving Management Plan – which will go for public consultation before being finalised

**THOUSANDS MADE HOMELESS:** The Bug Hotel in the dog-free area has been demolished by persons unknown, less than a year after it was constructed. All kinds of insects now seek shelter before the winter sets in.

## Community Picnic June 2011

This year's picnic was quieter than most – the live music had to be cancelled at the last minute because of threatened downpours. Yet the throngs thronged, the castle bounced, sheep bleated and the ducks got hooked, raising enough money for the Friends to buy more plants, put on more events and print this newsletter.

Baaa!





Terrific Trees Part 1 was held in the summer and helped youngsters find out about trees up to 20 times their own age. They all went home with goodies from the quiz and leaf hunt – and we hope they will keep an eye on Blakers' trees for generations to come. The sequel, Terrific Trees II, will be held in the autumn half term, on the morning of Friday 28th October. Not to be missed.

Children and their adults spent a busy morning mucking in (*right*) to clear the two new flower beds ready for planting later in the year. At the same time, others cleared mud from the paths so scooters and skateboards can run smoothly.



Groundwork brought Community Games on summer evenings and everyone enjoyed the tug of war. Unfortunately the photo (*below*) doesn't show the well-built toddler at the other end of the rope.



## Nature Needs Nurture

All young things need nurture. Children don't thrive without loving care, as well as food and water. Neither do saplings. Sadly, the young trees in Blakers Park have not received the love and attention they need and have not been given the right environment to thrive. Hence, there are six dead saplings in Blakers Park at the moment.

When David Archer and Alistair Peters each led their excellent 'Tours of The Trees', first in October last year and then in May, they both talked about how young trees need to be nurtured. It now seems apparent that the council is not fulfilling this role and it may now be down to the community to step in and take a hand in looking after our trees.

One very important requirement is that the base of each tree should be cleared of grass and weeds and surrounded by mulch, for two reasons. First, it allows water to soak right down where the tree's roots can absorb it. Secondly, it will reduce the chance of CityParks' grass cutting machines from getting so close to the tree that the trunk is damaged. Unfortunately there doesn't seem to have been the resources to carry out this maintenance work around the base of the majority of our young trees. Consequently, most have clearly suffered through lack of water and the trunks of some have been damaged.

All this is especially galling for those of us who have donated trees to the park, usually in memory of a loved one. I myself have had two trees planted over the last eight years in memory of my parents and both saplings have died and had to be replaced. I am now fearful that my replacement tulip tree, planted near the café, is not going to survive, as it is looking poorly and is still very small.

It might be useful for people to contact the Parks Department and ask how the Council can assist us with maintaining the newly planted trees in Blakers Park. At the moment money spent planting trees is being wasted through lack of proper after care. This seems a huge waste and it is such a great loss for all of us who enjoy our park.

The Friends of Blakers Park have already been approached by a local resident who is interested in helping to maintain the trees correctly and he has spoken with Emma Keane, our Park Ranger, about this. She has said it would be fine to go ahead and clear around the trees and she would provide mulch. Are there any volunteers who would be happy to help with this work and form a group to ensure continuing tree maintenance in the future? If so, please contact me on 01273 279 691 so that I can co-ordinate it.

*Sally Cranfield*

## Do you take Blakers Park for granted?

We don't. To be honest, we worry about what could happen to it, or, more to the point, what won't happen to it. We've lost count of the times over the years when we have had to press for action to keep the park how the community likes it. But we can't do these things on fresh air and good wishes alone (though both are always welcome) so we ask you to stump up an embarrassingly small subscription which will pay for our printing costs and the tubs of home-made optimism that keep us going.

There are **two different** ways to show you care about Blakers. The **first** is the simple form you can fill in and give to us with cash or a cheque made out to "Friends of Blakers Park".

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please write your email address below to receive news and events by email:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose payment for the following (please circle):

One year's membership £3.00

One year's membership students and unwaged £1.50

Three year's membership £9.00

Five year's membership £15.00

The **second** way to join us is to complete this standing order mandate.

### Standing Order Mandate

My bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

My account no: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort code: \_\_\_\_\_

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank instruction: Please pay £3 beginning with immediate effect and on the same date each year to Friends of Blakers Park

Account no: 21262734; Sort Code 40-05-27; *HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1 5EY*

This Standing Order Mandate supersedes all previous standing orders to Friends of Blaker's Park

When you've filled in your name, address, phone & email details and completed **either** the membership payment panel (with payment) **or** the standing order mandate, please drop this in at either 77 Chester Terrace or 10 Southdown Road.

## **What's On?**

This list is fallible so visit the What's On page of [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) which is more up to date than you suspect.

### **Thursday 13th October 2011 7.30pm – 9pm**

#### **The Birds and the Bees of Blakers Park & Annual General Meeting Stanford Avenue Methodist Church**

The secret nature of Blakers Park, with fascinating talks about our birds by acclaimed travel writer Mike Unwin and by local beekeeper Vanessa Thurle. Also Noelle O'Riordan-Booth on the road safety campaign and the Friends' Chairman blathering on about the past year. The AGM gives all members a chance to discuss progress and set our direction. Let us know in advance if you would like to stand for election to our relaxed and amiable Committee. Our Constitution and the Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting are available to download from the "About the Friends" page at [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk)

### **Thursday 20th October 4.30pm onwards**

#### **Hove Town Hall**

Blakers Road Safety Campaign presentation to the full B&H Council meeting

### **Friday 28th October 2011 10.30am to 12 noon**

#### **Terrific Trees part two**

Half term activity for young people who want to know about the park's trees and win themselves some nice little prizes.

### **Monday 31st October 2011**

#### **Halloween - Dishy's Café**

Trick and treat, lanterns, pumpkin competition, face painting, dangling doughnuts, find the witch, spooky food, mummy contest, apple bobbing, scary dancing music.

### **Saturday 12th November 2011 11am to 2pm**

#### **Community Hedge Planting**

Families, friends and neighbours are all encouraged to come to plant the new hedge along the perimeter of the park. It'll be fun, educational and, most importantly, another small step to making Blakers Park even better. Everyone is welcome, tools will be provided but bring your own gloves and suitable footwear. Youngsters should bring an adult with them even though they're boring.

### **Monday 26th December 2011 12 noon to 1pm**

#### **The Wonder of Woollies – all around our park**

The second annual informal Christmas Jumper, Hat, Scarf and Gloves Parade  
New for this year: Socks. Wear your new woollies with pride and show the world how warm and cosy you feel. Get up off the sofa, move those legs towards the park and laugh with gusto in the face of Jack Frost. Any onlookers caught smirking on the sidelines will be condemned to suffer runny noses all year round.