

NO.66 JUNE 2012

THE FRIENDS OF

PROTECTING & ENHANCING



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BLAKERS PARK

OUR COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE

# NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BLAKERS PARK & STANFORD AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

**INVITE YOU  
TO OUR ANNUAL  
COMMUNITY PICNIC**



**SUMMER**



**FREE  
ENTRY**

**FAIR**

**SATURDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE  
11.30 TO 5PM**

**BOUNCY CASTLE • LIVE MUSIC  
GAMES • FACE PAINTING  
CAKES • STALLS • FIRE ENGINE  
*Bring a Picnic***

The Committee of the Friends of Blakers Park includes Caroline Bottrell, Marion Clark, Marjorie Cozens, Sally Cranfield, Gerry Faulks (Treasurer), Max Glaskin (Chair), Sam Hart, Keith McMurray, Graham Preston, Dario Saracini, Jane Skea and Marsali Stuart. Philip Smith is our Honorary Life President.

Max is at 77 Chester Terrace, phone 07981 490516

Email us all via [blakerspark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blakerspark@hotmail.co.uk)

This issue was edited by Max, supported, encouraged and monitored, wisely, by the Committee. Although he pretends not to enjoy the challenge of writing it every season, he was genuinely delighted that his plaintive requests for contributions elicited terrific responses from David Stephens and Philip Smith. So he thanks them and looks forward to being inundated with news, fiction, poems, drawings, photos, nostrums and cheerful epithets from Blakers Park, Fiveways and beyond. In line with the new sustainability statement which we have for the community picnic, many of the words in this newsletter have been recycled from previous issues, as is the paper. When you've done with it, please pass it on and, eventually, tear it up into little pieces and drop it in the compost where worms put it back together and read it by torchlight.

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### The Friends of Blakers Park anti-graffiti campaign

The City Council anti-graffiti unit provided the Friends with paint and warning tape to tackle outbreaks in and around the Park, and I have plodded away with the process of blotting out 'tags'. The Bus Company has a unit which is very helpful and I give them a ring whenever the bus shelters in Beaconsfield Villas have come under fire. Otherwise it is a process of blotting out the defacements with patches of paint. The colour does not always match, but I think people appreciate the effort. The Friends follow the 'broken window' principle: if one window is left unrepaired, then soon all the other windows in a building will be smashed. It is good to see that in other parts of the city people are also 'patching' over graffiti.

In February Blakers Park was targeted and the Clock Tower, Café and park signs on Preston Drove were defaced, but the 'tags' have now been covered up.

You can't please everyone, however. When I asked permission of one person to paint over graffiti, she said, "No, leave it. They'll only come back to do it again."

Ah well!

*Philip Smith*

# YIPPPPEEEEE!!!

It seems like only a year ago that we put on the Umpteenth Blakers Park Community Picnic & Summer Fair, in association with Stanford Avenue Methodist Church. Yet the UmpteenthplusOne is almost upon us. Prepare to be thrilled beyond reason on Saturday 16th June because:

**Brighton & Hove City Council** is generously supporting the cost of our new stage and marquee, which should allow the entertainment to go ahead whatever the weather may do (now that's a hostage to fortune if ever we wrote one)

**The Bouncy Castle is back**, and so is the wonderful **Face Painter** and, after an absence of 24 long months, the big red **Fire Engine** will be open for all to climb aboard.

There will be the best array of **Stalls** this side of Hadrian's Wall and who could possibly resist the **Megastall of Delight** run by the Church and supplying the utmost in **Homemade Cakes, Nurtured Plants and brilliant bric-a-brac**.

You should, of course, bring a **Picnic** but if you can't, or even if you can, there will always be the delicious **BBQ**. We've also been told to expect **wine tasting** sessions...

However or whatever you eat and drink, please bring **reusable or recyclable** cups and plates and take your litter home with you. Otherwise the event won't be sustainable and the planet will be that much poorer.

**Children's Games** are the highlight for the younger visitors, who cannot resist the opportunity to hit a clown on the nose and win a rub-on transfer. And there will be the fantastic **Community Games** including tug-of-war, hula hoops, spacehoppers, etc.

Never forget the **LIVE MUSIC** which starts at 11.30 am when the glorious Varndean School Samba Band leads the opening parade. Then it's non-stop **local musicians** until long after the sun is over the yard arm.

If fate is kind, the thrilling **Brighton Mummies** will entertain us with one of their unique and boisterous takes on the traditional celebratory performances.

There's **FREE ENTRY** for everyone but please bring a tin or jar of food, or dry goods, to donate to the **FareShare** stall by the entrance because they will pass it on to people who need it more. Dogs on leads can come in if owners behave.

There's a **stall booking form** on the back of this newsletter and it must be submitted by 2nd June. More can be downloaded from [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk), as can copies of the **stunning poster**, as seen on the front cover of this issue.

And never forget, bring your **friends, family and neighbours** because that's what it really all about – bringing the community together in peace, harmony & picnics.



The first part in an occasional series about  
the roads around Blakers Park

## The Street where I Live

Havelock Road, like most of the neighbourhood, is made up of splendid Victorian houses (especially No. 73 where I have lived for some 20 years) but perhaps it is worth stopping for a moment and wondering who Havelock was? Or perhaps what a Havelock is?

Well my road is indeed named after a prominent Victorian who also given his name to many other places and one strange object. So who was Havelock (and he should be pronounced *have lock* not *haverlock*) and why was our road named after him?

To give him his due, we are talking about Major-General Sir Henry Havelock, KCB born in Sunderland in 1795 and died in India in 1857 about 40 years before the road which bears his illustrious name was built.

If you are keen to get an idea of what this eminent Victorian soldier looked like, next time you are up in Trafalgar Square seek out his statue – which

Ken Livingstone wanted to replace - upon which you will see this rather stern warrior looking out over the city and engraved beneath him the words, *Soldiers! Your labours, your privations, your sufferings and your valour will not be forgotten by a grateful country.*

1857 was the year of the infamous Indian Mutiny and Havelock was in the thick of it, marching his men half way across India to relive the besieged British garrison at Lucknow.

Unfortunately for him he contracted dysentery and died shortly after. But he was not to be forgotten by his *grateful country* being made a baronet, promoted to Major-General, and his widow and son receiving an annual pension of £1,000, enough I suspect to buy more than one new residence in Havelock Road.

So apart from his imperial achievements- if you are British that is - is there anything else worth knowing about him?

Well the Victorians had a thing about statues and there is another of him in his birthplace, Sunderland, there is a district of Nebraska called Havelock, a Havelock Road of course in Lucknow, another in Dartford, Kent where he went to school, a Havelock Town in New Zealand for some reason, and nearer to home another Havelock Road in Croydon which is built over the military academy where he trained.

And why in Brighton? I suspect the South Coast was a place for ex- Indian Army officials and civil servants to retire to their bungalow (named incidentally after Bangalore) or to a newly built terrace house.

And am I happy to live in a road named after such a person? Well, I would probably prefer a Mandela or perhaps Aung San Suu Kyi road but then our neighbourhood reflects not only the people who live here now but also times past – think of Wilson Avenue and Preston Drove and even our Blaker's park.

And the 'havelock' or strange object named after him? Next time you are in the desert, or better the Foreign Legion, and the mid-day sun is beating down upon your back you'll be grateful for your cap and that useful piece of cloth that hangs down the back to protect your neck. Its name?

Yes you've guessed it – the Havelock.

*David Stephens*

## **What's On?**

...more than you realise. Visit [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) for the full skinny

### **Sunday 13th May 6 am**

Dawn Chorus guided walk - Meet by the Cleveland Road entrance, after downloading our Bird List from [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk)

### **Summer half term** Date and time to be confirmed

Terrific Trees - Activity for young people who want to know about the park's trees and win themselves some nice little prizes.

### **Saturday 16th June 11.30 am to 6.30 pm**

Community Picnic and Summer Fair – eat cake with friends and play games

### **Friday 20th July 5 pm to 8 pm**

Community Games – celebrate the last day of term with those wild people from Groundwork and their ropes, hoops, sacks, spacehoppers etc

### **Thursday 18th October 7.30 pm**

Annual General Meeting

### **Wednesday 31st October**

Halloween – Blakers Café

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

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## **STOP PRESS**

Brighton Mummers are recruiting new performers aged 17 and upwards so visit [www.brightonmummers.co.uk](http://www.brightonmummers.co.uk) and call Graeme on 275012

We now have tree monitors for Chester Terrace, Lucerne Rd and Lowther Rd. Call Sally on 01273 279691 if you'd like to help keep an eye on local trees.

There'll be a full report about the Spring Clean in our next issue. Honest.

Our email address went bonkers so now we have [blakerspark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blakerspark@hotmail.co.uk)

Monthly news updates are emailed to everyone who adds their details to the form on the right hand column of our home page at [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk).

We'd like to thank: our faithful deliverers, Wettons for cleaning the toilets, CityParks for postponing the playground refurbishment until after Easter, Simon Bottrell for artwork, Liz Lyddon for overlooking the naming error in our last issue, JP Garrett Electrical of Southdown Ave for expert advice, Morgan Carn Partnership for hosting committee meetings, Fiveways Directory for publicity, Alan Griffiths & Emma Keane for progressing the Management Plan and Dominique Giudicelli for everything.

## Feel good about Blakers Park

Everybody likes Blakers Park. It's a gem. But it would be different if the Friends hadn't protected it from unwanted changes. Now the Friends keep an eye on it all, improve it and organise free events for everyone. So please join or renew your membership now – there are even two new categories, to save households money and giving groups the chance to join. If you feel good about Blakers Park, join the Friends. Don't do it soon, do it now.

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 individual membership	£3.00
One year's membership students and unwaged	£1.50
Three year's membership	£9.00
Five year's membership	£15.00
One year's household membership	£5.00
One year's group membership	£30.00

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 £ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Blakers 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 77 Chester Terrace, Brighton BN1 6GD

Book a space for your stall at the

**Blakers Park Community Picnic, Summer Fair &  
Community Games**

in association with Stanford Avenue Methodist Church

**Saturday 16th June 2012  
11.30am to 6.30pm**

My stall is in aid of the following Charity (if any):

.....

Please delete as appropriate:

I enclose the fee of £15 for non-members

I enclose the fee of £12 for members (membership form overleaf)

The small print: Applications should be submitted by 2nd June 2012. Stall space is limited and will be allocated according to date of application. Maximum stall space: 3m x 3m. In the unlikely event that there is any space left on the day, the fee will be £18.

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Tel & Mob nos:**

**Email:**

Please send this form with cash or cheque (made payable to "Friends of Blakers Park") to: Graham Preston, 97 Chester Terrace, Brighton BN1 6GD. (Tel: 01273 565170)

**All stall holders should bring their own tables and are  
asked to take their litter home.**

<p><b>No vehicles will be allowed in the park between 11 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.</b></p>
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