

NO.67 AUTUMN 2012

THE FRIENDS OF

PROTECTING & ENHANCING



WWW.BLAKERSPARK.ORG.UK

BLAKERS PARK

OUR COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE

# NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF BLAKERS PARK

**INVITE YOU  
TO OUR ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

IN STANFORD AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

**THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 7.30PM  
OCTOBER**



FREE TEA, FREE COFFEE, FREE BISCUITS!!!

**A  
G  
M  
2012**

**PLUS!!!!!!  
OUR  
TREES,  
YOUR  
TREES**



An Expert Presentation by Alister Peters

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

Max is at 77 Chester Terrace, phone 07981 490516

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

The responsibility for all these words lies squarely on the shoulders of Max Glaskin who can do little with them except shrug. He's relieved that the entire committee has checked every dot, comma and glottal stop because, if push came to shove, he knows they'd stand by him and he wouldn't be alone in the dock. Well, at least, he hopes that would be the case. So if you find anything wrong in these pages please don't pick on Max alone. He means well but sometimes gets carried away. Or should be.

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## The Sweep of History

*Just before we went to press, a note was received at Blakers Towers asking if we wanted a video of the park's Centenary celebrations of 1994. A few days later a VHS tape arrived – 32 minutes of instant nostalgia. It has clips of dozens of local people, some in Victorian clothing, a brass band, a couple of speeches and the Mayor awarding prizes and scrolls to a diverse array, young and old. If you were there, you'll remember it well and might be glimpsed among the hundreds present. If you weren't there, then the video will fill that gap.*

*We've done a quick conversion of the video into digital DVD format, a process which has reduced the quality a touch but you can still feel the heat of the sun on that warm afternoon 18 years ago. Copies are now available, to raise funds for the Friends and for the filmmaker's charities.*

*The video was kindly donated by **David Ansell**, member of the Institute of Chimney Sweeps (contact him on 01273 414961, 07724 148817, [dsansell@talktalk.net](mailto:dsansell@talktalk.net) or [www.davidthechimneysweep.co.uk](http://www.davidthechimneysweep.co.uk)). He gives a percentage of his profits from sweeping chimneys to The Teenage Cancer Trust and other charities. David's daughter Beth died early this year from cancer, aged 18, and had herself been fundraising for some time (see [tinyurl.com/bethansell](http://tinyurl.com/bethansell)).*

*So, if you'd like a copy of the DVD to help raise funds for Blakers and for David's charities, please send £5 to 77 Chester Terrace BN1 6GD (cheques made payable to Friends of Blakers Park). If you live more than a mile from the park, please add £2 for postage (more if you're overseas).*

## NEWS

Once a year the park's Friends go indoors – for our public Annual General Meeting. It's a tradition that dates back decades and is packed with ancient rituals, including The Tapping of the Mic, Dunking the Bourbon and Renewing Our Membership. The Chair gives thanks to everyone for overlooking his inadequacies. Then everyone can say what they'd really like to see in the park – changes, improvements and enhancements. Anyone who has ever been to Blakers is welcomed to put themselves forward to join our committee of community-minded renegades – no experience or ID needed. Phone Max on 07981 490516 or email [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk) to nominate yourself or someone you know (pets not eligible). There are swift elections (call or email if you wish to stand for Chair, Deputy or Secretary) and then order is gradually restored as a local person of worth steps forth. This year we are delighted that arboriculturalist Alister Peters is going to calm things down with an illustrated talk about the trees of Blakers Park, the trees in your gardens and his work with trees in Brighton and across the south. He's a great speaker and will answer your questions about everything tree-like. It all happens at **7.30pm on Thursday 18th October** in Stanford Avenue Methodist Church so do come along – it's more convivial than staying in. And it's free. And you get a cuppa and a biscuit.

*The annual Spring Clean at the end of March was a fine community event that happily coincided with sunshine. Unusually, it took place on a Saturday, instead of a Sunday, and that threw a lot of people out. So it was a quieter affair which, in the end, didn't matter because the park was exceptionally clean before the volunteers arrived. Nevertheless, the community still managed to shift 316 kg of leaf mould and rubbish. It was taken away for us by Chantelle Hoppe of CityParks. Medal of Honour for cleaning above and beyond the call of duty goes to Kate Mackay for collecting 4 kg of dog poo. The Brighton Brass Ensemble made a harmonious and melodic guest appearance. The entire gathering was organised by Caroline Bottrell in a most uplifting manner.*

Don't expect many students from Sussex University to volunteer to help in the park. The Uni's official volunteering scheme, Project V, won't promote volunteering opportunities unless the organising group, e.g. Friends of Blakers Park, agrees to pay travel expenses. Many small groups, including the Friends, can't afford such costs. So students who live within walking distance of Blakers won't be told by their University how they could help in their own neighbourhood. Fortunately, Brighton University's volunteer office has a much higher regard for the communities in which its students live.

*There's a new page on our website that we hope will serve the community well – it's Lost and Found and does exactly what it says on the tin. It's simple to use – just complete the Comment form on the page and we'll publish it pronto. With luck people will quickly be reunited with their property. It's at [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk)*

## Picnic Pictures



Saturday 16th June  
2012 – the Community  
Picnic and Summer Fair  
raised funds to protect  
and enhance our park.





The professional bouncy castle display team entertained in between the music, dancing and mumming plays. Picnickers officially renamed it Cakers Park.



## On the Agenda

The Friends are working with BHee, a project run by Sussex Wildlife Trust and funded by the City Council, to teach pupils about nature. The hope is that Blakers Park will become a venue for the schools' wildlife projects. It's not about lions and polar bears but more about the insects, birdlife and trees. It is very early days but the expectation is that things will begin in the Spring, although there is a chance that a moth survey may happen as early as this Autumn. Keep an eye on our website at [blakerspark.org.uk](http://blakerspark.org.uk) to see when things start.

*The process of getting a Management Plan for the park has been hibernating for several months but now we understand that the Council has appointed a new member of staff who will be taking it forwards. This means that there will be some public consultation to discover how everybody would like the park to be managed for the years ahead. It will be your opportunity to guide the future of the park. When we know more it will be posted on our website.*

Unfortunately we've got no news about the road safety improvements that the Council had agreed to fund with £30,000. We'd understood it would be used to narrow the entrance to Cleveland Road from Stanford Avenue but ideas may have changed since the early summer.

*Every month we send out an e-bulletin of short news items from Blakers Park. To receive it you must have an email address and simply enter it into the form on the right hand side of our home page, [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) The e-bulletin is not intended to replace this newsletter but it can deliver news in a more timely fashion and remind people of events in good time. Better sign up then!*

*Members may like to know that Margaret Bell is being well looked after at Patcham Nursing Home following a spell in hospital after a stroke. It is good to see the devoted care of her sons, Kennedy and Philip. They have acquired a car which takes a wheelchair and Margaret is having many outings around Sussex. Margaret was our Membership Secretary and organised the distribution of the Newsletter with splendid efficiency. On our visits we all chat happily and are glad to see her lovely smile and shrewd appraising gaze.*

*Philip Smith and Marsali Stuart*

*Thanks to all of our newsletter deliverers, David Ansell (sweep), Simon Bottrell at 7Creative for the front cover and AGM poster, Fiveways Directory for publishing our news, Brighton & Hove Council for supporting the Community Picnic, and the following local traders who generously donated prizes to our raffle - Sole Sister, David & Co, Living at Fiveways, Savery Books, Fiveways Fruits, Elwood Wines, Barfields the Butchers, Streakers Hair Studio, North Village, The Eleventh Flower.*

## Blakers – the friendliest park in the world

Blakers Park is 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's no reason not to. If you feel good about Blakers Park, join the Friends. If you feel indifferent, you can still join. If you hate Blakers Park, join and we'll give you the support you clearly need. 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, BN1 6GD or 61 Havelock Road BN1 6GL

## What's On?

...more than you'd believe. Visit [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) for the entire calendar, to download posters and to keep more up to date than a glossy fashion advert

### **Thursday 18th October 2012 7.30 pm**

Stanford Avenue Methodist Church

**Annual General Meeting** – free for everyone, with free tea, coffee and limitless biscuits. There will be a talk about "Our Trees, Your Trees" by local expert Alister Peters. He'll tell you everything he knows and answer your questions about your trees and those of Blakers Park. There will also be elections for the Committee and Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The Committee is famed for its friendliness, light-heartedness and enthusiasm about, well, everything, and each Committee member has, so far, won the main Euromillions jackpot. So why not put yourself forward as a candidate to join the Committee? Email [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk)

### **Monday 29th October 2012 10.30am-12 noon**

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

### **Wednesday 31st October 2012 5pm-9pm**

**Halloween** – Blakers Café

The Fiends of Blakers Park claim the night in one of the best All Saints' Eve gatherings in Brighton. Trick or treat, lanterns, pumpkin competition, face painting, dangling doughnuts, find the witch, spooky food, mummy contest, apple bobbing and scary dancing music.

### **Friday 21st December 2012 6pm onwards**

**Christmas Carols & Yuletide Mummers**

Brighton Mummers and the Brighton Brass Ensemble return with songs, music, storytelling, a mumming play, roasted chestnuts and mulled wine. A great event to mark the moment that our days begin to get longer. Bring your instruments to join the ensemble – email [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk) for more information

### **Wednesday 26th December 2012 12 noon to 1pm**

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

You must know the score by now. It's your chance to wear those knitted Christmas gifts for the first time – and possibly the last – in public without fear of prosecution, as we band together and parade about the park with our heads held high (often topped by a fetching bobble hat and/or a seasonal balaclava). For those who have experienced the whole uplifting gathering, it will come as no surprise that our good friends at BBC South were keen to broadcast it live last year but the committee decided it might've made the London 2012 Olympic opening ceremony look somewhat tawdry by comparison and the opportunity was tactfully declined. This year those with reindeers on their woollens will carry the flag.