

NO.69 MARCH 2013

THE FRIENDS OF

PROTECTING & ENHANCING



WWW.BLAKERSPARK.ORG.UK

BLAKERS PARK

OUR COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE

# NEWSLETTER

## Easter Monday Eggstra Fun

1<sup>st</sup> April

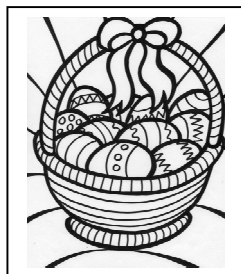
Traditional Community Event for Everyone  
– particularly for those of school age

### Our Plans for the Day

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 10.00am | Register for the competitions in good time  |
| 10.30am | The Egg Rolling Contest – bring your own hard boiled and decorated egg. No limit on the number of eggs you bring and it's just 10p per entry. See which egg rolls the furthest! |
| 11.30am | The Hunt for the Easter Chicks – a quiz to find the hidden chicks. WIN a chocolate egg or non-dairy veggie sweets   |
| 12.30pm | The Easter Bonnet Contest – bring your home-made bonnet and win a prize. 10p to enter   |

**Any profits will be donated to the  
Friends of Blakers Park**

Note to parents: If you will be accompanying a child, please consider offering to help us on the day by emailing [stokesfiona1@gmail.com](mailto:stokesfiona1@gmail.com) in advance



The Committee of the Friends of Blakers Park includes Caroline Bottrell, Marion Clark, Marjorie Cozens, Sally Cranfield, Tara Rogers (Secretary), Gerry Faulks (Treasurer), Max Glaskin (Chair), Sam Hart, Ian Lawes, Graham Preston (Vice Chair & Membership Secretary), and Marsali Stuart. Philip Smith is our Honorary Life President. Write to us at 77 Chester Terrace, tel 07981 490516 or email [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk)

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## **Margaret Bell 1932-2012**



We are sorry to report the death of Margaret Bell, who passed away on December 30, 2012. Margaret was a founder-member of the Friends of Blakers Park and had served as Membership Secretary and Newsletter Distributor.

Following a stroke in 2011 Margaret had moved to Patcham Nursing Home where she received very good care and from where her devoted sons, Kennedy and Philip, took her on many excursions around Sussex in their adapted car.

The funeral service was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dyke Road where Margaret and her late husband, Geoffrey, had been active members. The Friends were represented by Max Glaskin, Dominique Giudicelli, Marsali Stuart, Ian Laws, Mike Probin and Pam Tylor.

Margaret was a woman of wide experience: she had worked for Sussex University and as a human resources officer for Southern Water. Then, after her retirement in 1993 she immersed herself in work for the Martlets' Hospice, the Friends of Blakers Park, and various aspects of church life. In addition to all these activities Margaret found time to study with the Open University, to work on a history of the Brighton fishing fleet, and to create a haven for wild birds in her garden.

A person like Margaret was always what the Friends of Blakers Park needed, so we were grateful that she became Membership Secretary with responsibilities for all subscriptions, and then also Newsletter Organiser, when she took on the job of co-ordinating the delivery of the Newsletter.

Margaret was the kind of person who always did what she said she would do, and with marvellous calmness and a ready smile. We miss her. "When comes such another?"

*Philip Smith*

## **BulbWatch**

*Help us – by using your eyes!*

We want the park to be a riot of Spring colour but we've lost track of which bulbs are still flowering. Please help us update our records so we know where we should plant more to bloom next year

All you have to do is use your eyes each time you are in the park. When you see spring bulbs in flower, remember where they are, what they look like and the date. Then email us.

We have an undated plan of where bulbs were planted by volunteers years ago. Many bulbs will have died since and with your help we will update the plan and be able to choose where to do new planting ready for next Spring – and for years after.

As the different varieties bulbs come out at different times, BulbWatch is something you, your friends and family can do all Spring long. Just don't keep the knowledge to yourselves – share it with us by writing an email or sending your photos to [blakerspark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:blakerspark@hotmail.co.uk)



*Snowdrops – beside roots  
of removed tree opposite  
12 Cleveland Road, 21<sup>st</sup>*

*February 2013*

*Emailed by a park visitor*

## **Dawn Chorus Walk**

*Learn from a master to spot and identify the birds of Blakers*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 6am to 7.30pm**

We are incredibly fortunate that Mike Unwin has kindly offered to lead another dawn chorus walk through Blakers Park and up to Hollingbury Woods. Mike has travelled the world photographing and writing books about ornithology. He is also a great mimic of bird calls and song.

If you missed Mike's visit last year, get yourself out of bed for this rare treat. Children should jump on their parents' beds about 5.30am to make sure they come. It's totally **free** but there will be an opportunity to donate to the Friends and the RSPB. If you have any binoculars, they can be helpful. Dress for warmth.

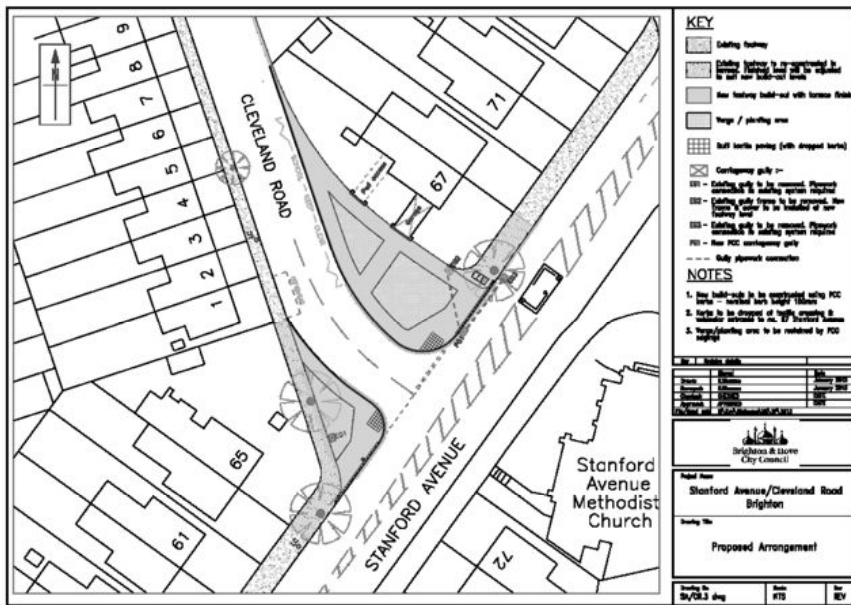
The birds themselves have been practicing all winter and the word is that they are preparing a special performance of trills, chirrups and tweets, with two crescendos likely to be sung in gangnam style. Don't believe it? Come and hear it for yourself.

## NEWS

**Gardeners Needed** – The five flower beds in Blakers Park don't tend themselves. They are planted and cared for by the Friends. If you like them please lend a hand. Contact Marion Clark on 01273 551727

**Royal Approval** – The process of making Blakers Park a Queen Elizabeth II Field in Trust, which will give it an added level of legal protection, is continuing. The Council and Fields in Trust are doing the legal paperwork. Then a plaque will be put in the park so all can see. We might hold a special event to mark the occasion so sign up for the e-bulletins via [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) to stay informed.

Road Safety work – The Council doubled the sum to spend on improving road safety near the park and held public consultations before Christmas. The outcome is that the majority of residents who voted opted to have the south of Cleveland Road narrowed to make it easier for pedestrians to cross. The work should have begun by the time you read this and is due to end by the beginning of April.



The Council hopes that community members will help to plant the grass areas that will replace tarmac. Unfortunately the Friends do not have enough active volunteers to take this on so we are urging residents to contact Jo Brooksbank at the Council on 01273 291819 to lend a hand.

It's hoped that a tree will be planted on the larger area near the Montessori school, depending on the findings from an exploratory tree pit that's to be dug first.

**Keeping the Books** - Should you happen to need an excellent, experienced and versatile bookkeeper, may we recommend the services of our Honorary Treasurer, Gerry Faulks? Not only has she helped the community with her generous support of the Friends but she is also ridiculously good. Drop her a line at [geraldine.faulks@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.faulks@gmail.com) and tell her a Friend sent you.

**Open Houses** – Cleveland Road artist Lucy Parker will be opening her house at the weekends throughout the May festival (4<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May) as usual, but this time will be exhibiting paintings and sketches of Blakers Park. See them in full colour at 47 Cleveland Road. In the meantime, here's one to be going on with, called "End of Term". Who do you know in this picture and shouldn't someone call health & safety?



**Trees** - Huge thanks to Karel Ironside for donating two pot-raised beech trees. The Council's arboriculture team is planning to plant them shortly. And thanks to Maggie Bliss, Susan and John Moss for donating a tree to be planted in memory of their mother, Gladys Moss. It'll be near the trees already planted in memory of Gladys's brother John and sister-in-law Hilda, within a stone's throw of the café.

**Thanks** - to all of our newsletter deliverers, Simon Bottrell at 7Creative for the masthead, Brighton Mummers, Brighton Brass Ensemble, Fiona & Dominic for organising the Easter Sunday activities, Mike Unwin for conducting the birds, Noelle O'Riordan for the successful residents' campaign to improve road safety, Wettons for cleaning the toilets, Frosts for maintaining the clock, Fiveways Directory for publishing our news and Philip Smith for contributing.

OLD NEWS - The 30 minute video of the 1994 centenary celebrations is now available on DVD. Drop £5 and your address to 77 Chester Terrace and we'll burn you a copy that's fresher than a daisy plucked from the dog-free area. Most of the proceeds will go to charity and a small amount to the Friends.

Management Plan – At the risk of sounding like a cracked record (digital-generation readers should ask their parents what that means), we are expecting to get a draft of the long-awaited Management Plan any day now. The committee had a good meeting with Jim Alison of CityParks Projects and we will work on it before asking the entire community to contribute. The Management Plan lays out how Blakers Park will be cared for in years to come.

The Editor – of this newsletter is Max Glaskin, whose book *Cycling Science* will be published in May by Frances Lincoln. Unlike the book, this newsletter has been double-checked by the entire committee and it's much better for it. And it's free.

Life's a Picnic – You, too, can feel warm all over by helping Sam Hart run another fantastic Community Picnic. Call her right now on 07740 531250 and email her on [samhart2@btinternet.com](mailto:samhart2@btinternet.com)

Support your team - Blakers Park Tennis Club now has four teams in the City-wide Parks League, one in each division. So you'll be able to watch matches every Tuesday evening and alternate Wednesday and Thursday evenings. They practice on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings (as if they need to!)

Special Delivery – Get 30 mins of exercise every 3 months and a sense of wellbeing by helping to deliver this newsletter. Contact [geraldine.faulks@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.faulks@gmail.com)

Forgot something? - You're not the only one. So here's a gratuitous picture from the winter in Blakers, to fill a gap in our collective memories. It's one of the Brighton Mummers who put on another wonderful Christmas play and, with the Brighton Brass Ensemble, roused us through Christmas Carols on the winter solstice.



## 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. C'mon, fair's fair. No Friends means no events or flowers. 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 we'd expected, to be honest, and if you would care to visit [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) you can be more up to date than an atomic clock

**Right Now and All Through Spring** Throughout the park  
**BulbWatch** – See page 3 and [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk)

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March** 2pm onwards Dishy's Café  
**Crime Prevention Drop-In**

PCSO Simon Turvey will be on duty to give advice on reducing the chance of crime in our neighbourhood. "I'll have plenty of crime prevention information and leaflets to give out, please come along and say hello."

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April** 10am – 1pm  
**Easter Monday Fun and Games**

Egg rolling, hunt the chick, Easter bonnet contest. See the front page and [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk)

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** 6am to 7.30am, meet at Cleveland Road entrance  
**Dawn Chorus Walk**

World-travelling ornithological photographer and writer Mike Unwin, who is also an amazing birdsong mimic, will be leading us around the park, pointing out the calls and songs of our feathered residents. Those of a nervous disposition should note that we may also venture north of Preston Drove and stroll as far afield as Hollingbury Woods.

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June** 11.30am to 7pm  
**Community Picnic & Summer Fair**

"The best open air community event in the world"-TripAdvisor. "#Luvit"-Twitter. Booking forms for stall spaces will be available at [www.blakerspark.org.uk](http://www.blakerspark.org.uk) at the end of April. Enquirers before then will be put in detention.

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## Stop! Thief!

This cold-hearted character waited by the café until we were distracted by a delicious sausage roll and, before we knew it, he'd half-inched our favourite bag, legged it across the tennis courts and melted into the crowd. Thanks to high-speed CCTV we are able to bring you this photo – if you see him please let us know. In the meantime, why not treat yourself to an Easter gift – one of our striking double-handled cotton shopping bags? And buy one for everyone in your street (low interest loans available for residents of Ditchling Road). They're only £3 each so don't be churlish. Just pop the money and your address into 77 Chester Terrace.

