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THE FRIENDS OF

 PROTECTING & ENHANCING



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
14TH
JUNE
11.30 TO 5PM**

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

Community Picnic – with Community Support

The Community Picnic and Summer Fair is scheduled to start at 11.30am on Saturday 14th June. It should be the 21st time it's held and, if it goes as well as the previous 20, it'll be utterly delicious. It's a rare chance for the entire community to gather together, play silly games, eat al fresco and buy fresh savouries and cakes made by the clever cooks who live amongst us.

We raise some funds by organising the Community Picnic and these are spent on protecting and enhancing Blakers Park for everyone. In the last two decades we've saved the land on which the children's playground now stands, assisted the Council in creating the café, campaigned successfully for new public toilets, organised many free events for families and, thanks to our indefatigable volunteers, planted and maintained the five flower beds.

It may seem a bit premature but we want to say a big THANK YOU to all who have kindly volunteered to help this year's picnic happen. Not only are you selfless and considerate members of the neighbourhood but also, and it almost goes without saying, you are wise, intelligent and so extraordinarily beautiful that the deities are weeping with envy. We know that there are many other such fine people reading this who have been too busy to get round to offering a little practical help yet but we really do need just a few more volunteers to make sure the picnic is up the usual standard and that everyone, children in particular, has a lovely time.

- You can volunteer for as little as an hour and it's not hard work.
- It can be before, during or after the picnic - or for all three periods.
- Young people wanting community work for their Duke of Edinburgh awards or Scout and Guide badges, will be most welcome as volunteers.

So, please join the long list of local people who have helped us over 21 years of Blakers Park Community Picnics and Summer Fairs by emailing us now at friends@blakerspark.org.uk or by phoning 07981 490516.

There are a couple of things in particular which we need help with and the picnic won't happen without them. First, We need an adult with a vehicle to collect and return the Red Cross gazebo, which is being lent to us by the generous Friends of William Clark Park (aka the Patch). The Red Cross can't function without it and without the Red Cross the picnic can't go ahead.

Finally, we need to borrow one more gazebo, to be the HQ of the Friends of Blakers Park on the day. Do you have one you won't be using that day?

**We're looking forward to the picnic – help it to happen by
volunteering – email friends@blakerspark.org.uk**

On the Street where you live...

Waldegrave Road

What does the right hand man of Mrs Thatcher, a well-known cookery writer and Lady Di have in common?

Well it would seem our very own Waldegrave Road. Let's begin by dismissing the first two: first William Arthur Waldegrave, younger son of the 12th Earl Waldegrave, Privy Counsellor, Tory cabinet minister and confidant of Mrs T and descendent of the noble family of Waldegrave (about which more later) and second his wife Caroline erstwhile principal of Leith's Cookery School, and co-author of Leith's Cookery Bible which, by the way, will come in handy if the food at the revamped Preston Park Tavern disappoints...



Which leaves us with our third, Lady Di or rather her ancestors. If cast you mind back to her great grandfather the 6th Earl Spencer and then cast your mind back even further to his great grandfather, Admiral Lord Hugh Francis Seymour son of Seymour-Conway, 1st Marquis of Conway (do keep up) who married The Lady Anna Horatio

Waldegrave daughter of Maria Waldegrave (1736-1807) you will discover that she was married first to James, the second Earl Waldegrave, – who sadly succumbed to smallpox – and then to William Henry, 1st Duke of Gloucester, and brother of George the Third, who would bequeath the nation a son and Regent, an abiding love of agriculture ('farmer George') and the Royal Pavilion. Clearly Maria had an eye for the main chance.

Sadly her brother in law thought otherwise and banished William and Maria from Court, reinforcing this with the passing of the Royal Marriage Act in 1772 which gave him and future monarchs the power to approve or forbid any marriage into the royal family.

But back to our happy – or as it turned out unhappy - Maria and William Henry. As seems to befit royals he soon tired of his wife taking a fancy instead to her lady in waiting, Lady Almeria Carpenter. Maria's marriage, like Diana's, became 'a little crowded' but upon the Duke's death the King softened a little and provided her with an allowance. She lived on at Oxford Lodge on the Brompton Road in London, where she died on 22 August 1807. She was buried at St George's Chapel, Windsor, on 31 August.



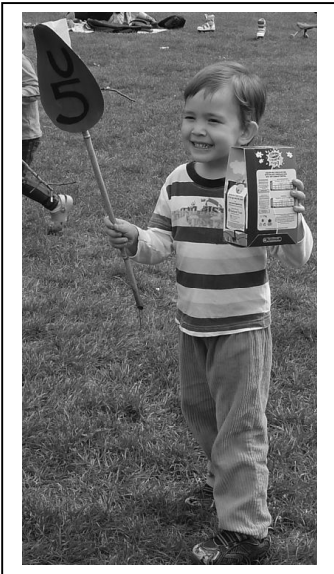
Before we leave Waldegrave Road it is perhaps worth knowing what Waldegrave actually means. It seems it is comprised of two words, *Walde*, which means *forest*, and *Grave* which means *steward*; so a *Waldegrave* was a Steward of the Forest, or as William Waldegrave, younger son of the 12th Earl, became under the iron lady, Secretary of State for the Environment with a wife, Caroline who urged us all to use fresh herbs and fruits of the forest when going in search of a good meal.

Which incidentally I'll pass on to the chef of the new PPT. Just in case...

David Stephens

Easter Monday Fun Day

Thanks to Fiona, Dominic, Cadi, Richard, Sam and Emma, and the to the Co-Op for donating prizes, the day was an eggstraordinary success. Here's the evidence.



Blakers – the two way family favourite park

It's wonderful that so many people ask the Friends for help and information about the park. We have accumulated a lot of experience over the years and are delighted to have a good relationship with the Council officers, who help make things to happen. Yet it is mystifying why so many of the people who ask us for advice and information don't support the community group by becoming members. Is £3 too much? What do you think? Please put your money where your thoughts are so we can continue to thrive together.

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 97 Chester Terrace, Brighton BN1 6GD or 70 Beaconsfield Villas

Book a space for your stall at the

**The 21st Blakers Park
Community Picnic & Summer Fair**
in association with Stanford Avenue Methodist Church

**Saturday 14th June 2014
11.30am to 5.00pm**

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

.....

On my stall will be:

.....

Please delete as appropriate:

I enclose the fee of £18 for non-members

I enclose the fee of £15 for members (membership form overleaf)

The small print: Applications should be submitted by 31st May 2014. Stall space is limited and will be allocated according to date of application. Maximum stall space: strictly 3m x 3m. In the unlikely event that there is any space left on the day, the fee will be £25.

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 gazebos
and are asked to take their litter home.**

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