

ISSUE 75 SUMMER 2015

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THE FRIENDS OF

BLAKERS PARK



PROTECTING & ENHANCING

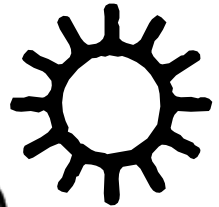
OUR COMMUNITY GREEN SPACE

# NEWSLETTER



21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

# & SUMMER FAIR



FREE  
ENTRY

SATURDAY  
20<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE  
11.30 TO 5PM

BOUNCY CASTLE • LIVE MUSIC  
GAMES • FACE PAINTING  
CAKES • STALLS • FIRE ENGINE

*Bring a Picnic*



COMMUNITY EVENT - ALL WELCOME!



@BLAKERSPARKFRDS





### In Memoriam

Marjorie Cozens 1927-2014

Our Honorary Life President, Philip Smith, writes –

Dear Marjorie passed away just before Christmas 2014 and our sympathy goes to her husband, Harold, who staunchly supported her in all her many activities. Apart from being a loving mother to her children Brenda and Geoffrey, Marjorie was a devoted Christian and active in every aspect of life in her Church in Stanford Avenue and in the community around.

Marjorie had been baptised into the Methodist Church as a baby and had lived all her life nearby. As a true shining light there, she was involved in almost every aspect of its life – the Sunday School (where she became a teacher at the age of 12!), the Women’s Fellowship, the Lunch Club and so on. Marjorie was also a very good cook and a keen tennis player.

We in the Friends of Blakers Park are deeply grateful for Marjorie’s commitment and energy and to have known this gem of a woman. She was involved from the start

on the Organising Committee, invited meetings to her house, and was active in many plantings of the bulbs and shrubs that we enjoy in the park today.

In memory of Marjorie, the Friends donated £50 to Action for Children, a charity nominated by her family. Her daughter, Brenda Skinner, writes: “On behalf of my family I would very much like to thank you for your donation to Action for Children in memory of mum and we would be grateful if you pass our thanks to the Friends. Mum loved Blakers Park and some of my earliest memories are of her and dad playing tennis on a Tuesday night - actually, I think I remember it so well because I was allowed to stay up late until their matches were over!! She enjoyed planting up bulbs and then watching as the flowers bloomed and she loved the community spirit on Summer Fair days. She really did get a lot of pleasure from being involved with anything to do with the park.”

### Friends of Blakers Park Committee

- Graham Preston: Chair & Membership Secretary
- Carole Ballardie
- Marion Clark
- Sally Cranfield: Vice Chair
- Gerry Faulks: Treasurer
- Max Glaskin: Secretary
- Marsali Stuart
- Philip Smith: Honorary Life President



**Contact us**

By letter to 77 Chester Terrace  
 By telephone 07981 490516  
 Email us friends@blakerspark.org.uk  
 or friendsofblakerspark@gmail.com  
 Follow us on Twitter @BlakersParkFrds  
 or on Facebook at 'Friends of Blakers Park'

# COMMUNITY PICNIC & SUMMER FAIR 2015

## OUR TWENTY FIRST COMMUNITY PICNIC AND SUMMER FAIR TAKES PLACE FROM 11.30AM ON SATURDAY 20TH JUNE.

We first organised this event in 1995 and we have every expectation it will be as good as all the others.

The Fair is just one of those very special occasions when you can come along meet friends and neighbours, listen to music, play games, buy books and plants or just browse all of the stalls. For al fresco eating there will be fabulous savouries and wonderful cakes for sale at the stalls and the Café will be open too.

The event is organised in association with Stanford Avenue Methodist Church and on the day we welcome representatives from FareShare, Greenpeace, Stanford Community Garden, the Red Cross and others.

As well as being such a fun event the picnic also helps to raise funds to protect and enhance the Park. 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 flower beds.



## GET INVOLVED!

Would you like to come along and play some music? We won’t be hiring a stage or PA for music at this year’s picnic but welcome musicians or small bands wanting to play acoustic sets. Please get in touch via friends@blakerspark.org.uk to book a 20 minute slot.

### *Can you help out?*

Perhaps you can give us a hand this year? If so, please get in touch if you could...

- Help us to set up on the morning of 21st from 10.00am-11.00am
- Help running kids games etc
- Help us to clear up from 4.30-5.30pm

Young people wanting to do some community work for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Scout and Guide badges, will be most welcome as volunteers.

Contact Graham on 01273 565170 if you would like to lend a hand

## BOOK A STALL AT THE PICNIC

*See the booking form  
on the back page*



## DOWN MEMORY LANE: OUR FIRST COMMUNITY PICNIC 1994



The footage of the Friends' very first community picnic was once thought lost.

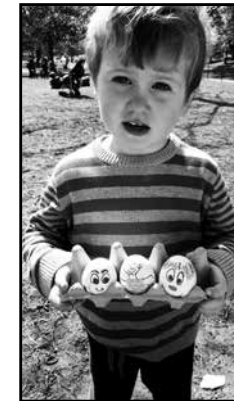
Through a series of extraordinary coincidences a copy of the edited video was found on its way to a dustbin. It was rescued and has been put on a DVD. It features hundreds of local residents, both young, old and in between.

Chances are you'll recognise someone you know - or even yourself.

This little peek into living local history is on sale for just £7 to raise funds for the Friends so we can continue to hold the annual community picnics.



## EASTER FUN EVENT 2015



## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS

GET YOUR BLAKERS GOODIES BY CONTACTING US AT [friends@blakerspark.org.uk](mailto:friends@blakerspark.org.uk)

**BAGS FOR LOCAL LIFE**  
THEY'RE CHIC, THEY'RE PRACTICAL AND THEY HAVE TWO HANDLES - COUNT 'EM! THEY'RE PERFECT FOR CARRYING ON YOUR LEFT SHOULDER OR EVEN ON YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER.  
**JUST £3.**



**PAST & PRESENT:**  
A HISTORY OF BLAKERS PARK

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR LOCAL GREEN SPACE, BUY ONE OF THE LAST COPIES OF **£7**



Easter Monday saw the park teeming with children and families for the annual egg-rolling and treasure hunt event. Around 100 revellers, bathed in early spring sunshine, scoured the park for clues leading to chocolate eggs. Meanwhile, Dominic presided over the serious business of rolling (not throwing!) hand-decorated eggs down the hill. This peculiarly English custom proved to be so popular with some grown-ups that they are getting their own 16+ category next year.

The true family nature of the event was cleverly captured by one 4-year-old competitor who said: "I had a lovely time - Daddy enjoyed painting the eggs for me!"

Over 60 eggs were rolled and the going was declared 'good'. The winners were: Florence, under 5's; Lily, under 10's; Mark, over 10's. Many thanks to Fiona, Dominic and Sam for organising another successful event.

Choccy prizes courtesy of the Friends.

## GETTING *Connected*

One of our plans for 2015 is to build a more connected community around Blakers Park. We're delighted that Fiveways neighbours Simon Bottrell and Sue Korman have joined us to help take this idea forward. Sue and Simon have worked together on similar projects for the Brighthelm Trust and one of the things they are doing is designing a new website for the Friends – looking to connect the more local people around our shared love and enjoyment of the park.

## BLAKERS PARK STORIES, PICTURES, MEMORIES??

We're also investigating the possibility of creating interpretation panels for the park to enhance understanding of this vital green space.

We would love to know what information you think we should include. If you have any memories of the park or any photographs we could use, please get in touch.

Email Sue and Simon at  
friendsofblakerspark@gmail.com

## *Green fingers at work*



At last Spring has come to Blakers. The early aconites made a good show and we have added more with the hope for a yellow carpet around the trees near the beds at the top of the park.

Activity in the beds is increasing. An optimistic planting of assorted spring bulbs in the cafe side bed has produced an exquisite clump of tiny irises and several magnificent fritillarias, their frilled leaves and pendulous yellow petals appear curiously exotic.

Grasses around the clock tower have been given a hair cut and we must wait for them to spring back into life.

The many shrubs: cotinus, sambucus, buddleja etc, pruned several months ago are now showing signs of new life. It will be a nervous wait to see if the salvias, collected from the specialist collection will have survived in the Cleveland Road bed.

All the best from our gardeners Marion & Ed

Our garden group meets on Tuesday afternoons to look after the planting areas which provide a lovely mixture of perennial and shrubs. Thanks to Stanmer Nursery for their recent donation of some new plants.

If you would like to volunteer some time helping out as part of the garden group, please contact friendsofblakerspark@gmail.com

## TEA & CAKE UNDER THE TREES

Blakers Park Cafe provides a selection of fresh, home-made food and is well known for baking great cakes and some of the best sausage rolls and scotch eggs in the area. Summer opening times are usually from 9.30-5.30pm



## JOIN THE FRIENDS



Since our launch in 1989 The Friends of Blakers Park has grown into a local institution. Blakers Park is a real pocket paradise and it is our pleasure to work with neighbours, other local organisations, businesses and the Council to help maintain and improve it. Together we've helped Blakers to remain one of the nicest parks and best kept secrets of the city. Will you join us and become a Member?

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

*Thank you!*

# BOOK YOUR STALL AT THE 2015 COMMUNITY PICNIC



## Friends of Blakers Park Community Picnic & Summer Fair in association with Stanford Avenue Methodist Church

**Saturday 20th June 2015, 11.30am to 5.00pm**

I would like to book a stall. My stall is in aid of the following Charity (if any)

\_\_\_\_\_

The kind of items on my stall\* will be –

\_\_\_\_\_

Please tick 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 6th June 2015. Stall space is limited and will be allocated according to date of application. Maximum stall space: strictly 3m x 3m and must be identified by a gazebo. All items must be displayed on tables – none on the ground or on railing. In the unlikely event that there is any space left on the day, the fee will be £30.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel & Mob numbers \_\_\_\_\_

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. 01273 565170

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

Please note: No vehicles will be allowed in the park between 11 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.

\* This must be completed so that your application can be granted

*Thank you and look forward to seeing you there!*

