

**The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground**  
**Newsletter No.2- January 2005**

***View from the Chair/Park Bench...***

*I used to think that Parks were only used during the summer months. But, as I sit down to pen a few words on a Sunday evening in the middle of January, I'm delighted to report that the park was packed for most of today.*

*On Sundays our dog, Jessie, gets two good long runs around the park. This afternoon we made our usual, but essential, pit-stop at 'our' park bench. We a/ways sit and wait whilst Jess is taunted by 'just out of reach' Squirrels. Val and I chat and discuss how to put the world to rights with anyone who passes by. It's the ritual.*

*But this January afternoon was just like a (very cold) summers day. Footballers, tennis players, doggie walkers, joggers, a packed playground with kids of all ages having fun, shoppers passing through to the High Street, and other visitors warming up over some hot chips and a cuppa from the cafe. Wow!*

*Brilliant sunlight, park almost on our doorstep, most things seem to be in bud, the grass verges are all freshly trimmed, Jeff keeping things tidy and emptying the bins, the first hint of hayfever, and us laughing at Jessie's attempts to catch up with her furry friends (no chance of that today!)*

*Now, if you ask us, popping down the 'rec', is pretty close to an ideal way to spend an hour or two on a Sunday afternoon- any time of year!*

*David B*

***STOP PRESS: 8 new members signed 26/11/05 - a very warm welcome!***

***Website launched: 'www.becrec.net'***

*Since the note in our last newsletter, your committee have accepted a very welcome offer from Terry Guntrip to set up a website for us. Terry came to the committee and gave a short demonstration of the website for the friends group. Terry has donated the website and will act as webmaster. He has even donated the initial fee for the registration.*

*Those of you with internet access can now see the Friends website by visiting [www.becrec.net](http://www.becrec.net))*

*Terry will do most of the hard work but we do need comments and contributions from all members for it to work properly. What would you like to see on the website? Please have a look and consider writing some short pieces for Terry to put on the website. Many of our members have used the park for decades - there must be some great tales to share? People new to the park - what ideas do you have?*

*At our committee meeting, Jon Mills (Bromley Council) welcomed the initiative and he will find out how LB Bromley might be able to help support it. Jon will also investigate a link on the LBB website.*

*We will also use the website to publicise some of the events and meetings that we hear about. We know it will help us to get information out quickly, but we acknowledge that some members may not have internet access.*

*Speaking of which, if you would prefer to receive your newsletter or any other updates by email, please let us know. It will also help us to keep costs down. You can email us on [friends@becrec.net](mailto:friends@becrec.net)*

*As requested at our AGM, Brian, our Treasurer, has opened a bank account at one of the High Street Banks. Two members have been asked to act as auditors for the accounts.*

*Park 2005 closing times are on the attached sheet*

John Chart at Holwood's will run a training session at the park for members of Friends Groups: Pruning Techniques - when to prune, why to prune and what not to prune Wednesday 16th February at 10.30am. Please contact David or Val by 10th February to book a place.

**Bromley Heritage Talks** January to March - please see the attached sheet for a series of short talks which will be held at the Civic Centre. If you would like to attend any, or all of the three remaining talks, then please book directly with the organisers.

**Committee Meeting held on 12th January:**

- There was a long discussion on items raised by members at the AGM. These included:
  - Warning that gates are (or are about) to shut and 'lock-ins'
  - Park security/safety for staff and pubftc/first aid/'responsible' person
  - Police contact/presence in the park.
  - Funfair - future events, repairs from previous events and safety of equipment. Access to park (esp. swings and paddling pool) during 'country crafts fair' or similar events.
  - Repairs in the park - concerns in particular about the condition of the footpaths near the toilets.

In addition other ongoing and outstanding items were discussed. These included:

- Graffiti and vandalism in summer months
- Lack of drinking water.
- 'pooper scooper' bins,
- access to public vehicles

Jon Mills was able to provide an update on a number of these issues. Jon and Louise Simpson will continue to work with us on all these issues.

- **Investments in the park** arising from the Hospital site development and the decant village:

To do the development work, a decant village comprising of temporary buildings is proposed to be sited in the park and a rent will be charged by the council. We believe that this rent should be invested in the park. Opportunities remain unclear and this will continue until we know that the development is finalised and we know how much real money is available. The Friends want to have a say in how the council decide to invest any income from this project.

Would members please consider what facilities or long term initiatives that they would like to see in the park? Let us have any ideas and we will put them to the council officers.

- We are preparing a draft flyer to be delivered locally to attract new members.
- **Member activities:** We plan to hold the summer BBQ event for members again this year. Details will be circulated as soon as we have it in place. Please let us have more ideas or suggestions.
- **The next committee meeting will be held on - Wednesday 6th April 2005.** Please tell us of anything you would like the committee to discuss and we'll add on to our agenda. If you'd like to attend please let us know as limited space is available.
- Contact us with comments, suggestions or literary contributions for the next newsletter: David or Val on 020 8289 6989 or email [friends@becrec.net](mailto:friends@becrec.net)