

The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground

www.becrec.net

Newsletter - September 2006



A View from the Park Bench: The AGM will be held on 1st November. This is currently our main event for members to meet each other and for you all to 'have your say.' With so much going on in the park, and with a growing membership, we would love to hear from you. Please come along to meet, and to support, your 'friendly' friends group! DB

What we do and why your Friends group needs you! – Our inaugural meeting was two years ago and since then, the decant village has been built and it seems it will remain for a while longer. Fortunately it is not too much of an eyesore and does produce a source of income which has been and will be put to good use in the park.

Since our first AGM in 2005, volunteers have been engaged in bulb planting around the disused bowling green, planting trees, the shrubs which have provided hiding places for ne'er do wells have been removed, the play area has been greatly extended and new railings put in place, with persistence the paddling pool has been repaired and is, at last, operational, and a number of repairs and replacements to lights, water fountains, etc. have been undertaken. The council and its contractors have carried out the major part of these tasks taking our views into consideration and keeping us informed of progress.

In the future, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, major plans to introduce a water feature on the site of the paddling pool, (together with the possible relocation of buildings to provide better facilities for the general public) are contemplated. They depend a great deal on grant funding and all avenues are being explored to make this dream a reality - again with the encouragement and support of the council. A separate application for a grant is being made to cover the cost of a notice board to be sited near the information centre.

In all probability much of the above might not have happened or would not be in train if the Friends group did not exist or did not work in partnership with the London borough of Bromley. A strong committee is required, not only to account for subscriptions and keep members informed but also to monitor and advance projects as they develop.

We ask you all to consider nomination to serve on the committee for next year whether as a committee member or an officer. Nominations should be proposed and seconded and the agreement of the nominee obtained. Particularly, we need a nomination for a person to take the chair at meetings; mainly to see that business is dealt with in an orderly fashion, but if necessary and desired, to delegate/take the lead on current projects. Please remember that membership of the committee is not a life sentence! It would be preferable to have a turnover of personnel year upon year so

that we do not get stale, we introduce new ideas and we spread the load. Please offer your services at, or before, the coming AGM.
Brian Hermon – Treasurer.

AGM
Wednesday 1st November 7.30 pm
Balgowan School Hall, Balgowan Rd, Beckenham



As Autumn begins it can mean only one thing - time for our Annual General Meeting, and this year's news should prove to be very exciting: We would like to share with you the proposed plans we have for a water playground in the park.

Please come along and see the plans for yourself – take part in the discussions and put forward some of your own ideas – it's a huge project and only just in the planning stage so all contributions will be very welcome.

Members of council's Parks department will be available to answer your questions and listen to your concerns.

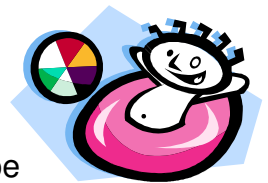
We must also vote on the committee members and again are looking for your help in finding a new Chairman – if you would be interested in this or any other committee position please contact me before the meeting and we can have a chat about what it involves and you can meet the other members.

Some wine and light refreshments will make you feel welcome – we look forward to seeing you there.



Jo Steele – Secretary

contact: 020 8658 2669



Andy Biggs gives an update on the proposed water playground project - As Playground Officer for The London Borough of Bromley it is always interesting to work on a scheme that you know will be a fantastic benefit to large numbers of children especially when it is something slightly out of the ordinary. The paddling pool at Croydon Road has been a draw for children for many, many years, but has become expensive and difficult to maintain. A new scheme is underway to replace the paddling pool with a 'Water Playground'. What's a water playground? Well instead of having standing water that has to be filled up and emptied everyday, it has a number of water features, comprising large metal tubes, pipes, and arches which deliver water in different ways, such as sprays, fountains, and soakers. These can be set up to make a more interactive play experience. Not only are they safer, as there is no standing water which can become contaminated, but they work on a recycled system that will save water, an important feature after this years drought orders. We are at an early stage of the scheme but hope to have it completed for the summer of 2008. Further details will be available at this years AGM so do come along and have a look.

Andy Biggs - Parks Project Officer. London Borough of Bromley

Contact Us: Please contact us via our website www.becrec.net or by telephone on:
020 8289 6989