

FROM THE PARK BENCH

Spring Newsletter – March 2007

Friends welcome new Chairman

At November's AGM Stephen Tickner 'volunteered' to be the next Chairman of the Friends. Here we meet the brave man himself; "I was born in Beckenham and have lived in the area for the last 38 years. Married to Tasha, we have three children Kieran, Lucas and Paige. I work in London for a design consultancy as the office manager. As well as accepting the position as Chair of the Friends, I will also be the Chair of Beckenham Round Table for 2007/2008 - that's the group that organises the charity fireworks display in the Recreation Ground each year, amongst other things. And in my spare time (ha, ha), I'm training to become a Cub Scout leader at the 10th P&BN Scout Group".

Colour in the park

If you go down to the park today or in the coming weeks hopefully you'll be in for some pleasant surprises! Naturalised daffodils provided by Barclays Bank and planted by their staff are slowly but surely emerging in front of the decant village and close to the gazebo. Daffodils planted by the Friends in 2005 are giving a fine display at the entrance to the old bowling green. Most of the main flowerbeds have either or both polyanthus and pansies, with tulips to follow a few weeks later. They will provide a magnificent show as always and the contractors and their staff are to be congratulated.

Can anyone identify the small trees at the back of the central bed facing the main entrance? No prizes given but they are of Mediterranean origin.

Has anyone noticed a new arrival - a tree bearing the label *Prunus Incisa Louisa Leo*, not named I am assured after Louisa Allen who is the Friends Project Officer liaising between the Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground and the Council] It is close to where we hope to site our notice board expected from May onwards. By the time you read this it is hoped that a replacement Lebanon Cedar will have been planted as the original did not survive its move from the decant village area. Please look at the bench placed close to it and note in whose memory the original tree was planted.

Major works in our playground

If you have wandered through the park this week you will notice that it is 'in bits'. A large section of the playground will now be closed until Easter for large scale reconstruction works. A new climbing net is being put in, swings moved, a HUGE slide installed, and a path laid to the hospital end pedestrian gate. Disruption will be caused but the council assures that this will be kept to a minimum. It is an unfortunate coincidence that the weather has suddenly turned good although this also means that the works should be completed more quickly than it would in wet weather conditions.

Goodbye to 'old' friends

As I am sure many of you are aware, two of our founding members, Val and David Bays recently moved to pastures new and departed the sunny green fields of Beckenham. Both David and Val were instrumental in setting up our Friends group and their hard work will be sadly missed. However, we hear that they are already well settled and wish them all the best in their new home and dog walking territory.

News from recent committee meetings

Play Area After some discussions about the exact amount of money available to the Friends group from last year's decant money, we are delighted to announce the purchase of a substantial new piece of play equipment. 'The tree house' should be installed by late spring and is sure to create great excitement in the local area. Watch this space for details of proposed press coverage.

Water Park Plans for converting the paddling pool into a futuristic water park are still very much in the (water) 'pipeline'. More discussions will take place regarding the possibility of obtaining grants to fund this massive project. We would be interested to hear your views on this. Do you see this as a good idea for the future of the paddling pool? Please let us know by e-mailing matta nd jo 1 @ bU nternet, com

Fun in the Sun Plans are underway for a series of summer events in the park, including: concerts, fun days and community activities. Any ideas are most welcome.

Chocolate The annual Round Table Great Easter Egg Hunt takes place in the park on Good Friday (6th April). Log on to www.rtl04.org.uk/easter for more information and an entry form.

Update on membership

Membership reminders were dispatched last November and at present numbers are down slightly on last year. The committee is currently discussing ways to increase membership numbers and raise the profile of the Friends group given the high volume of park users.

	2007	2006
Family members	23	31
Single members	19	19
Cancelled memberships	7	N/A

If you would like to become a member, please post the attached form to The Membership Secretary, The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground, 19 Clockhouse Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4JS. Cheques payable to The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground.

Name

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Address

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TelephoneE-mail

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Individual membership: £3.00 Family membership: £5.00 Organisational membership: £10

Please feel free to contact us via our website www.becrec.net