

FROM THE PARK BENCH



Summer newsletter 2008

What a difference a season makes!

Welcome to our summer newsletter. As we reach the half way point of 2008 our beautiful park has survived some real extremes of weather in a very short space of time but as always, it has come through the worst of it looking fantastic. Be it the construction of the new toddler area in the playground, the lush new grass on the old decant village site or the dogs happily going about their daily exercise our park continues to look great and offer something for everyone.



Music in the park

On the 30th May, thanks to our lottery grant, the friends were able to stage their second free music and entertainment event. After a dodgy start (weather wise) the afternoon turned out to be a glorious one. Once the sun shone through the crowds flocked to the bandstand area and listened to some fantastic live music. The children were entertained by Punch and Judy and another fantastic entertainer. It is fair to say that a great time was had by all.



Contact number for English Landscapes

Since our last edition the number for English Landscapes (the main contractors in the park) has changed to 020 8313 4356.

News from recent committee meeting

Dog Fountain: The original dog fountain opposite the main entrance on Croydon Road will soon be capped off to prevent misuse by children and the litter caused by their water balloons. Dog walkers are reminded that there is a new dog fountain near to the main toilet block.

Parks Information Centre: We hope to be able to open the information centre on a more regular basis, at the very least, when there is an event in the park. We are just awaiting approval regarding its current electrics before we can open to the public.

Paddling Pool: The paddling pool is a continuing problem and ideally needs resurfacing to ensure that it is safer for the many children that use it. The friends have approached the borough about a long term solution to eliminate the continual patch work that has been a feature of the pool for so long.

Vehicles in the Park: There are still a number of unauthorised vehicles using the park. A plan has now been put in place to help eliminate this problem thus protecting the safety of park users.

Horticulture: What to look for: Garlic Mustard



Look for garlic mustard (also known as 'jack-by-the-hedge') in hedgerows, parks and gardens. It is important for orange-tip butterflies which emerge in May from the pupae in which they have been hidden in undisturbed vegetation for the last 10-11 months. Adults mate and lay eggs just below garlic mustard flowers, or on the stalks. The eggs turn bright orange after a few days which make them easy to spot. Caterpillars hatch after 7 days and eat developing seedpods and other parts of the plant. (Harry Calthrop).

Update on Membership

We now have 55 members overall. If you know someone who would like to become a member, please post the attached form to The Membership Secretary, The Friends of the Croydon Road Recreation Ground, 19 Clock House Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4JS. Cheques payable to 'The Friends of the Croydon Road Recreation Ground'.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Membership fee: Individual £3.00 Family £5.00 Organisation £10.00

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