



# Members' Newsletter

## Summer 2013

This is the first edition of the Friends Members' Newsletter which we plan to publish twice a year. It is circulated to members electronically so please make sure we have your up-to-date email address. Hard copies will be available to those members who do not have email.

It's now nearly two years since the completion of the refurbishment of the park and the grounds of Fulham Palace funded by the Lottery, and it's been a great success. The central core area with its new play areas for kids of different ages, a rebuilt and improved water feature, a bigger sand pit, and a new and enlarged and refurbished café, are proving very popular. The water play area now operates from xx until yy. Look out for the activation pads to make it work – but please keep sand out of it. The lake and surrounding area has had additional planting, and a family of mandarin ducks have spent their early days there this year. The open spaces to the north and south, Fielders Meadow and Bishops Meadow, are looking better.

However some of the work was not completed satisfactorily, some features are already showing signs of wear, and there was work we wanted to see done which was not included. Your committee is in regular contact with Council officials to press for these to be sorted out.

### **Here are some of the issues:**

Bishops Meadow path drainage: the drains have been inspected. It has been found they are silted up, partially because the non-return valves at the riverbank have not been closing properly. Some clearance has been done so things should improve when we get rain, but more needs to be done.

Fencing in the central area: it's been broken down in places as it's been used to sit on. It's planned to add seating and to repair the fencing.

Hedging: some has taken well, but much hasn't. Vinci the contractor will return to replant where necessary.

Waste bins and recycling: we've urged the Council to provide more bins, and bins for recycling. Some have arrived, but more are needed. We've also asked that trailers and rubbish bins at the café are hidden and not a resource for foxes.

## **However we and the Council are looking to see how the park could be further improved**

The skateboard bowl is being well used and we've been pleased to see kids of different ages using it and working well together. It probably won't surprise you to know there are requests to enlarge it. In the place where it is there is scope for a modest expansion, and we are talking to some of the users to see what form this might take, and how it might be funded.

The riverside walk – removal of flood boards and repainting. The Friends have been instrumental in obtaining funds for a start on this work. A contract has been placed for the removal of the boards, but as the work has to be done at water's edge there are some health and safety issues to be taken care of. We hope we will see the boards taken away (for recycling) August-September. And also quotations are being sought for the repainting of the railings.

### **Events in the Park**

Open air cinema in the park: 13-15 July see [www.popupscreens.co.uk](http://www.popupscreens.co.uk)  
Hafad Summer Music Festival – Friday 23 August – 11.30am to 3pm -  
Line-up to be announced.

### **Volunteering**

A number of us helped with the clearance of weeds and rubbish in the Moat Gardens on Saturday 22 June – see photo. There are opportunities for more volunteer work in the park and in the palace gardens.

Contact Pauline McCormack at [pauline.mccormack@fulhampalace.org](mailto:pauline.mccormack@fulhampalace.org)  
020 7751 2437 if you'd like to help.



**Have your say** – The Council is carrying out a visitor survey this summer to obtain views on the park and the palace grounds. There will be an online questionnaire and face-to-face surveys. Please make a point of telling the Council your views.

**Friends Annual General Meeting** Wednesday 2 October - to be held in the park at the Community Room by the bowling greens. Short conducted walk in the park at 6pm – meeting starts 6.45pm

Roger Weston

July 2013

**Feedback** – we're interested in your views on any of the above or anything we've not included. Please contact us through the website

[www.friendsofbishopspark.com](http://www.friendsofbishopspark.com)

or Amanda 020 7385 5965 or Roger 020 7385 5444