



Autumn 2013

The flood boards have gone!

We are pleased to report that the flood boards fixed to the riverside railings in Bishops Park have gone. They were installed after the Canvey Islands floods in 1952 as an additional flood defence, but were made redundant when the Thames Barrier became operational in 1982. However they have remained, slowly rotting away and very much an eyesore, so we are very pleased to see them gone. The Friends obtained funds for their removal from Viridor Credits Environmental Company which



administers landfill tax, with the assistance of Ruth Hutton, co-ordinator of the *Thames Strategy - Kew to Chelsea*. The contract for their removal was placed and supervised by the Parks Department of Hammersmith & Fulham Council. But there is more to do. Removing the boards has fully revealed the fine, good looking



railings, which have been there since the river wall was built in 1893, now 120 years ago. But the paint on them is faded and flaking and they urgently need attention. So quotations are now being sought for their renovation and repainting, hopefully with Viridor's help. Sadly we've found that the cost has been more than anticipated because the old paint is lead-based and so needs careful disposal, and their position above the river wall means there are some health and safety issues for the contractor.

Work in hand and planned

We've been concerned at the poor state of the grass in Bishops Meadow particularly near the central area. As previously reported drainage of the path has been improved and we hope this will help the meadow. Temporary fencing has been removed. We've asked that vehicles do not use this area to access the riverside walk and elsewhere.

Damaged fencing around the skateboard bowl has been removed and will be replaced. Benches will be installed. The Council is looking to expand the skateboard area with more features for young boarders.

There has been further planting round the pond and we hope the temporary ugly fencing installed to protect the young plants will soon go. However you are reminded to encourage children to paddle in the paddling area, and not in the pond!

Friends' Annual General Meeting

The Friends Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 2 October in the Community Room in the park. There was a short conducted walk beforehand to look at some of park which need attention, and where work is going on. In addition to the usual issues of an Annual General Meeting we heard a short presentation from David Page, the Director for Safer Neighborhoods in the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea. It was followed by a lengthy question and answer session with him and other officers from the Council and the Fulham Palace Trust.



Farmers' Markets

The Mayor Councillor Frances Stainton, seen here with Ross Spurrier, organiser of Farmers Markets, and Pauline McCormack, Community Development Officer, Fulham Palace Trust, officially opened the Bishops Park Farmers Market on Sunday 6th October. Markets are now held in the central area on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month - 10am to 3pm.



Upcoming Events in the Park

Thursday 31 October Hallowe'en Crafts and Pumpkin Parade

Friday 1 November Fulham Fireworks

Gates open 6pm close 7.45pm. Children's 7.15pm. Main display 8pm.

Admission on the gate £7. Advance tickets £5 www.lyric.co.uk or 020 8741 6850. Under fives free.

Saturday 7 December National Tree Dressing Day

Saturday 14 December Charity Christmas Winter Wonderland Fair

More information on these events will be available nearer the time: see www.fulhampalace.org.uk or www.friendsofbishopspark.com

Volunteering There are ongoing opportunities for volunteer work in the park and the palace gardens. Contact Pauline McCormack at pauline.mccormack@fulhampalace.org

This Friends Members' Newsletter is published three times a year and is circulated to members electronically. Please make sure we have your up-to-date email address. Hard copies are available to those members who do not have email.

Roger Weston

October 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

or Amanda 020 7385 5965 or Roger 020 7385 5444