



## FMHP Chair's note - Philippa Welch

So now the summer draws to a close, and what an extraordinary one it was. The change in climate has produced an interesting season. The heavy rain and high temperatures have encouraged growth, and the trees in the Park are more beautiful than ever. There have been some cutbacks though and there are no more planted flowerbeds to be seen now due to maintenance shortages.



In the hot weather the park was popular for relaxation and picnics giving rise to frequent bin overflows. The council have assisted with extra collections however park users can do their bit and are encouraged to take excess rubbish home. The good news is that extra new bins are in place alongside the path bordering Parkside and replacing old rusty bins.



In July a funfair came to the field behind the Cafe bordering Daws Lane. The whole installation was up for just over a week. Luckily the weather was very dry, the ground very hard, and their heavy equipment left no trace of being there and it was well organised and we received no complaints of noise or nuisance. The funfair did not attract big crowds so is unlikely to be a regular fixture.




FMHP was pleased to attract 30 people for the **Tree Event** organised and run by Chelle Paice aimed to raise understanding and learn to identify the interesting and unusual trees in the Park. John Smith (ex-chair) also facilitated by leading an observation walk round the park.



## Outdoor Table Tennis Table

FMHP obtained a grant from the Hendon Area Committee for an outdoor table tennis table to be placed near the outdoor gym. All was going well, contractors employed -till we heard they had gone bust. A new firm has since been found and we hope work will be under way soon and park users can enjoy this new facility in the coming months.



 **Audit of the Park** took place with a Council representative from the Parks and Open Spaces. This is a regular feature of the work of FMHP where we liaise with the council on perceived issues and put forward many suggestions. During the recent audit committee leads pointed out problems, especially that of the Children's Play Area where new paths and ground coverings are needed. The ground can become very muddy in wet weather making it unpleasant to use. Continuing discussions are in place to fix this together with other park matters highlighted by FMHP to benefit members/park users.



## Park Developments

**Crazy Golf Area** - FMHP proposed to the Council to change this no longer used and neglected space into a closed dog-free play area, complete with Wendy House where toddlers can play safely within sight of their parents and carers who may enjoy a coffee in the café area close-by. This is under discussion as to timescale and funding available.

**The Cricket Pavilion** has sadly to be removed. It is an eyesore and an open invitation to more vandalism in its current state. FMHP will press again for its removal.

## FMHP Tea Quiz



**Thursday, October 24th in the Bowling Club.**

The time is 2.45 for a 3.00 start. It will be led by Chelle and Jim Paice. The cost is £10.00 including a raffle ticket. Sandwiches and homemade cakes will be provided. Book and learn more by calling 0208 959 2958 or emailing [pm.welch@icloud.com](mailto:pm.welch@icloud.com)

At FMHP AGM in March a resolution was passed unanimously to increase the subscription from £3.00 to £5.00 for both single members and families, making it less confusing for all concerned.

Any funds raised through events or membership is directed and used to put your ideas for a better park into action liaising actively with the Council for improvements.



FMHP extends warm Congratulations to Mill Hill Bowling Club who are celebrating the 100th year. This is a huge achievement and a great anchor of activity for the park being home to such a successful club over the years and into the future. We thank them also for their support to Friends of Mill Park.



**Come and meet us!** 

FMHP Information is on the notice board by the Café

*Invite your neighbours to join Friends of Mill Hill Park to make a difference to the local asset of the Park for all our users and that will give us a strong voice with the council and a range of expertise, including young people and families on the committee to further our work.*

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