



Friends of Mill Hill Park

Residents committed to making a difference

Newsletter | Autumn 2016

No 34

Welcome to our new look and feel!

We look forward to having even more of the neighbourhood join the Friends of Mill Hill Park. Please visit our website: friendsofmillhillpark.org and sign up for membership (£3/year/individual or £5/year/family) to start receiving our newsletter, the essential digest of what is happening in your local park.

Philippa Welch
Chair, Friends of Mill Hill Park



Progress in the Park

Since our AGM at the beginning of April we have had an interesting six months. Sadly, we had to accept the resignation of Clare Zinkin, who has been a stalwart member of our committee, and produced our newsletter for us. We thank her so much for all her helpful input. We were delighted to be able to co-opt Thandi Hasa, who kindly offered her help, in her place. She will now be producing and maintaining the newsletter and new website.

At the AGM, John Gillett, of the Neighbourhood Forum, told us of two projects they were pursuing. It is very pleasing to announce that both have come to pass. There is now a new Cricket Pavilion to replace the hideous containers that had stood since the original one had been destroyed in an arson attack some years ago. Cricket has once again been played there.

The Daws Lane Car Park has also been renovated. Attractive new lighting has been installed, the parking guidelines repainted and the whole area cleaned. In consequence it is being used much more carefully and less litter is left lying about.



The Skateboard Park

We are progressing at a good pace with this project. We had a consultation document circulated which received an overwhelmingly positive response, and we are now beginning our application to the Lottery Fund. The Barnet Parks Department is very keen to see the Skateboard Park launch in Mill Hill Park. We continue to work well with them and hope we can announce some project milestones shortly.



Sign up to our newsletter!

Join our mailing list and receive future *Friends of Mill Hill Park Newsletters* by email. Contact us at: info@friendsofmillhillpark.org to sign up!



The Last Six Months

On our own part we have been waging war on the rising tide of litter that seems to be submerging us all. Before the Car Park was made over we had a litter picking morning and in just two hours we collected six sacks of rubbish from it. It was a most satisfying exercise and the three of us involved were very pleased with the results. This September we did it again, and with the help of a member of the Residents Association who kindly joined us, filled eight sacks. We cleaned all the Car Parks and the path from Flower Lane to the tunnel under the A41. There are no litterbins on that side of the Park; we have requested the Council to install some there. We found some interesting objects too: a very nice jar and a pair of men's and ladies' shoes!



Annual Park Audit

We delayed our annual audit until after the Fair, so that we could inspect the ground after they had left. As mentioned they caused very few problems and the damage from heavy vehicle wheels soon cleared. We informed the Council of a fallen tree branch, which is still there at the time of writing, though other tree work has been carried out. A dangerous tree has been removed near the children's playground and the willows along the path up from the A41 towards the Rise have been severely cut back. The Park is in general being kept clean and tidy by the Council, although we have seen a rise in water bottles being discarded by

joggers. The Council teams are out every day, though not always early. The Wild Flower Field is cared for carefully, not being mown too early in order to allow the flowers to seed. We hope to introduce some shrubs into the flowerbed alongside the tennis court later in the year.



The Country Fair

As reported in our last newsletter, Mill Hill Park was to be blessed with a Town and Country Fair in late June. The two days of the Fair were attended by an estimated 1000 people on each of the days. There were a few stalls selling jewellery and clothes, two selling fudge and a great cheese one. There were pony rides sheep racing(!), owls, hawks and a dog show. The organisers cleared up very well afterwards. The damage to the grass was minimal and it soon recovered. We feel that they cannot have profited too much from the event, however so it may not occur again, but it was a fantastic idea and it brought some of the community out together.



Come and meet us!

We are hoping to have a table near the cafe on **Saturday 8 October 2016 from 10.30am** to make ourselves and our aims known to more people and to encourage new members. Do come along and bring any friends who might be keen on keeping our Park such a delightful and busy open space, catering for so many varied interests for all ages.