



The Friends of Broomfield Park

Notes from the Open Meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2014 at the Ruth Winston Centre

The meeting began with a viewing of the 2013 film of Broomfield Park by Christine Lalla. This film can be viewed on www.friendsofbroomfieldpark.org

Members of the committee of the Friends then gave updates on work in the park.

Parks Police

The Safer Neighbourhoods Parks Unit, represented by PCSO Karen Netz and PC Ann Berry, reported on the team's work in Broomfield Park over the past three months. There were individual incidences of:

- cannabis detection and arrest
- male Exposure
- theft
- dog on dog incident
- break-in in the cafe

The Police Mobile Unit participated in the Broomfield Park Festival on Sunday 7 September. Members of the public were given advice and their questions were answered. The Police presence was much appreciated and helped to raise the profile of their work. The best number to contact the police on is 101. This number is for non-emergency and is a 24 hour number. 999 is, as always, the emergency number.

Remembrance Garden and WW1 commemoration

The commemoration on August 4th was well attended. The Interpretation Board in the Garden of Remembrance was ready in time for the day. Further information from the event can be read in the September edition of Palmers Green Life, produced by Anthony Webb, estate agents.

***The Armistice Day service is to be held on 11 November at 10.30 in the Garden of Remembrance.**

An application to the War Memorial Trust for £28 k for restoration work has been placed and we await the outcome.

The restoration work covers the following five areas:

1. **World War 1 memorial temple** - urgent repairs are required to the roof as the slates have loosened (because of weathering and ivy growth) allowing water to get in and damage the decorative oak ceiling and inner stone walls which contain the granite tablets.
2. **Memorial cairn** - Some of the individual stones (up to twenty) are broken as a result of weathering and need to be repaired or in a few cases replaced.
3. **Paved area in front of memorial** - The York-stone paving slabs and steps down to the pond are uneven and a hazard and have been poorly patched over the years. The broken slabs need replacing and the whole area needs to be relaid with the correct type of cement.
4. **The pond and fountain** - The fountain no longer exists and the plinth is damaged and both need to be rebuilt according to the original design (see archive photo). The flagstones around the edge of the pond are in reasonable condition but need to be re-cemented to match the paved area above.
5. **Handrails for disabled access** - Access to the War Memorial is along a path under a pergola with steps which are difficult for disabled people. Two handrails are needed to improve access and it is proposed to use wood that matches the original pergola.



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Call for help

Are you a volunteer gardener and would you be willing to help tidy the Remembrance garden prior to the Remembrance Service?

If yes, please come along on Sunday 9 November from 10-13.00 and bring your tools and gardening gloves.

Greenery Cafe

The cafe has been enormously successful. The volunteer-led cafe, which operates on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, is establishing regular customers and is becoming a hub for the community.

The high quality drinks and cakes are extremely good value and the ambiance is warm, friendly and relaxed.

Volunteers were disappointed but undeterred by the recent break-in and normal service was quickly resumed. The effect of the break-in is that monies raised, which were intended to contribute to park projects, will now be used firstly to pay for a new coffee machine and to improve security.

Opening times over the winter months have not been determined.

The Orchard

The orchard is now in its 5th year and is going from strength to strength. It has recently been awarded Gold by Enfield in Bloom as an 'Innovative Growing Space'.

In addition to 30 varieties of fruit, the orchard is growing wild flowers and there are three apiaries with well-established colonies of bees producing delicious honey.

9 October was apple growing day. This was well-attended. Visitors participated in a range of fun activities as well as sampling some home grown produce.

The wildflower meadow sowing in the main park has worked well. It is intended to plant a second plot and to include more poppies, especially relevant in this centenary year.

Future plans include establishing a wildlife pond and a community growing space. This will be sited between the orchard and the tennis courts. The friends hope to get a licence and to encourage people to join in community growing.

The Conservatory

The Conservatory is looking particularly colourful at present and is well worth a visit.

It has had a successful summer season with 4754 visitors between April and September.

The Conservatory holds a range of events throughout the season, including an Open Gardens day in Arnos Park Lodge. Monies from activities are used for the continued development of the conservatory planting. Recent acquisitions have included two statement plants forming an impressive entrance.

Enfield Council is currently painting the conservatory outside.

Railings removed from around the toilets at the Triangle are being considered as more suitable surroundings to the conservatory than the existing builders railings. Costings for restoration and placement are in process.

The final event this year is a sale of house and conservatory plants on Sunday 30 November.

The Conservatory won a Bronze award in Enfield in Bloom for its exceptional contribution to the community.



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Broomfield House

Following the local government elections Council Leader Doug Taylor and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have adopted a new approach to the Broomfield House problem. The intent is to work towards a bid for an Enterprise Grant from the HLF. In the words of the HLF, these grants are intended to plug the gap between the costs of repair and the value of the property after restoration. The project has to be led by a not-for profit group, though commercial partners are encouraged as minority stakeholders. These could for example operate the café, rent out office space, or manage artists' studios in the stableyard under lease arrangements.

A Project Board has been set up chaired by Councillor Bambos Charalambous, on which the Broomfield House Trust will have two seats and the Friends one (although they may request a second seat). The first meeting has been called for 13 October.

Under guidance from English Heritage, LBE are commissioning a Conservation Management Plan for the whole park. A condition survey has been completed on Broomfield House's remaining structure (which reported positively). A similar survey will be undertaken on the Stableyard. Using an expert identified by Ivor Evans, a condition survey has also been commissioned on the Lanscroun murals. There is a good prospect of the main wall sections being restorable, but the ceiling remains are too fragmentary to allow restoration.

When all the information has been assembled, an Options exercise will be conducted to consider the future of the whole park and its various components. An issue to be resolved is how any of this might sit with restrictive Covenants on activity in the Park. Our focus will be on maximising use of the House and Stableyard for community use, and bidding for Parks for People grants to improve the rest of the park, including the baroque water gardens.

English Heritage used this process to help sort out conflicting issues in the much more complicated Gunnersbury Park renovation project.

The Trust will post more details as they become clear on its website www.broomfieldhouse.org

Bowling Green and Pavilion

The Friends are keen for this to remain as a community asset and were disappointed by the brevity of the lease proposed by Enfield Council. The summer scheme of sports activities provided by Elite Youth Development was very successful and the group are keen to offer similar services at other points in the year.

Silver Fit, a group offering exercises for the Over 50s, is keen to be involved in the park in conjunction with Ruth Winston Centre. Discussions are currently being held and any successful outcome will be advertised.

Ultimately, the Friends are aware that use of the pavilion and bowling green will be put out to tender.

Going Forward - What next for the park

A bid to the Residents Priority fund for two signposts in the park is in abeyance.

Discussion followed to consider which projects are to be included in any new bid. The committee are aware that conflicting bids are not appropriate. Consideration will be given to a number of proposals - the railings around the conservatory, wildlife pond, sign posts etc before submitting any bid.

The committee will keep you informed via the website.



The Friends of Broomfield Park

Come and join us!

Do you want to be more involved in the park and its activities?

Become a Friend of Broomfield Park and support your local community.

Terms:

Life membership £20

3 years membership £5

Send your details - name, address, telephone and email together with a cheque made out to The Friends of Broomfield Park to:

The Secretary
78 Lakeside Road
London N13 4PR

Dates for your Diary
2015 open meetings are:

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 9 February	19.30 - 21.30	Ruth Winston Centre
Monday 18 May	19.30 - 21.30	Ruth Winston Centre
Monday 12 October	19.30 - 21.30	Ruth Winston Centre