

Chairman's Report March 2012

1. A new interpretation board at Tent Peg Lane Car Park and a "Welcome to Jubilee Country Park" wooden sign at the St. James's School pedestrian entrance are scheduled to be installed by the spring. Both of these were funded by the Friends of Jubilee Country Park.
2. To commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, I am currently writing a little book about the history of the landscape that now makes up Jubilee Country Park. The book will be priced at around £5 and all profits will go to the Friends of Jubilee Country Park. The book will contain many previously unpublished photographs as well as a great deal of new information about the fascinating and varied history that this area has witnessed. Those of you who receive Tony's monthly email will be advised as to when the book is published and where it may be purchased from. If you are not on email, it will be advertised on our notice boards, in the NewsShopper and the Petts Wood Gazette. If you would like to pre-order a copy, telephone me on 07840-542261 or email me at jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk Copies of my first book, "Not Forgotten-The Crooked Billet" are still available at £4.00 each from Webster's Social Stationers, Queensway, Petts Wood, Diplocks of Chatterton Road, Bromley and also at the Beeche Centre, High Elms Country Park, Farnborough(11am-4pm Sat & Sun only). This tells the story of the V2 rocket attack on the Crooked Billet pub at Bickley in 1944 and the connection this incident has to Jubilee Country Park. The profits from this also go to the Friends of Jubilee Country Park.
3. Consideration is currently being given to making a grant application on behalf of the Friends of Jubilee Country Park for funding for partial lining of the Loosestrife Pond and also for installing pre-vegetated coir matting to cover the exposed liner at Ray's Pond. Sue Holland and Marcus Jordan will be working on this project.
4. Many of the Nature Trail Posts, of which there are about 20, are rotting in the ground. When funding is available, we intend to replace these with more durable posts made from recycled plastic material. These in appearance look very similar to wood but will be much more robust in terms of weather (and vandall!) resistance .
5. The Friends of Jubilee Country Park worked alongside Bromley Countryside Volunteers hedge-laying in the field near the Oxhawth entrance in January. It was great to have their additional help and hedge-laying expertise. This work has been undertaken both for its benefits to wildlife and also to enable the rather muddy path there to be opened up to the light. Hopefully, additional evaporation of surface water resulting from this will prevent the path becoming overly muddy and therefore hazardous to walkers.
6. Complaints have been submitted to Bromley Council regarding the following-
 - a. The Cycle Track symbols & the speed humps on the access road to Thornet Wood Car Park need repainting urgently. We have been told this is to be done.
 - b. Large cracks have developed on sections of the Cycle Track at Tent Peg Wood and Thornet Wood. We have been told they will be filled.

- c. The tree roots which have been protruding through the tarmac on the path from the pedestrian railway footbridge to the Radar gate at Tent Peg Lane which present a serious trip hazard. We are still waiting for action on this.
 - d. Having been criticised in the 2006 People for Park's competition about the lack of signage at the rear of Bromley High School indicating that Jubilee Park can be accessed via the narrow lane beyond Thornet Wood Road, we are still waiting for a brown Country Park sign to be installed. The Friends have even offered to pay for this ourselves to speed up the process. We have now been informed that although it will be done eventually it is "low priority". We have not entered the People for Parks competition since as there seems little point if, when we attempt to follow the recommendations given, the Council keep us waiting for six years and still nothing happens!
- 7. It has been decided that in future non-members attending Friends of Jubilee Country Park talks at the Garden Room will be asked to pay an admission charge of £2. Admission will be free for members of the Friends.
 - 8. We have only 10 packs of Jubilee Country Park chicory notecards left, priced at £2.50 each (for a pack of six cards, three each of two designs). We do not intend to produce any further notecards, so if you would like some this is your last opportunity! Let me know if you would be interested in purchasing any.
 - 9. Remember, if you have any good ideas about walks, talks or outings the Friends could arrange, or thoughts about projects in the park we might be able to consider, do let us know. New ideas and new people on the Committee would be most welcome.

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