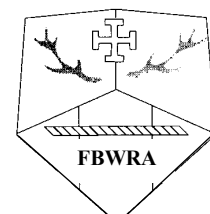


newsletter

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

fbwra@btinternet.com



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FRIARY PARK BOWLS CLUB EXPANDS COMMUNITY USES

In previous editions (Spring and Summer 2017) we reported on how Friary Park Bowling Club were taking over responsibility for the Friary Park bowling green and clubhouse, following the Council's action in stopping the Council subsidy for the public bowling greens in the Borough (from April 2017).

Now, a year later, the Club has successfully got through the first year of the new "regime" and is preparing for its second season as a "community club", with membership open to all.

Whilst keen to recruit new members the Club is also looking to broaden and expand the use of the bowling green on a not-for-profit basis and has just announced three new "projects".

First, local school the Wren Academy will be bringing groups of students and staff to the green for tuition and to play one afternoon each week (the Club has received a grant from the

Council to purchase "junior bowls" to facilitate this).

Second, it is planned that the charity "Community Focus" (which is based in the park in Friary House right next to the bowling green!) will be using the green one morning each week.

Third, on Sunday mornings throughout the year a new "Junior Park Run" group is to use the clubhouse as a base.

Additionally, later this year, the Club is looking to open the green to the public on a "pay and play basis" at certain times/days, using equipment loaned by the Club. Prior to that the Club is holding an Open Day on Sunday 3rd June (11a.m. – 4p.m.) when anyone who is interested will be able to have a go at bowling. For further details please contact the Club's President, Barry Carmody, tel 0773 664 9420, email barrycarmody68@gmail.com.

Friern Barnet & Whetstone Residents' Association

AGM
Thursday 10th May 2018
at 7:00 p.m.

at St John's Church Hall,
Friern Barnet Road, N11

All Members Welcome

The meeting will be followed by a presentation
by Mr Reasonable (John Dix)

DT

What is "Love Whetstone" up to?

Following two successful Wake up Whetstone Community events on the High Road in Whetstone in 2016 and 2017, the Committee is taking a break this year to concentrate on some of its projects.

The next Wake up Whetstone event will therefore take place on 9 June 2019. Our projects include adding to the six planters already on the High Road in Whetstone, producing an historical plaque near the "whetstone", adding to the number of benches - they keep disappearing for "refurbishment" but not returning, ensuring that the Christmas Tree tradition continues and of course, the 'Just Do your Bit' anti-litter campaign - see separate article.



More ambitiously, we would like to show off the lovely trees on the High Road by getting them lit. This is particularly expensive and will require serious fundraising.

More broadly, a number of communities successfully organise 'Art Trails' in their areas. We have a large and active group of artists in our area whose work it would be terrific to promote. An 'Art in Autumn' art trail is a possibility later this year. In addition, together with Barnet Borough Arts Council, a crowdfunding campaign is about to begin to try and get a piece of public sculpture called 'Pyrrhic Victory' produced - see separate article in the next issue of this Newsletter.

MJ

Friern Barnet and Whetstone Residents' Association

- We are non-political
- We work for all residents in the area
- We discuss issues with Local Councillors and Council Officials
- Associated with the following bodies
- The Federation of Residents' Associations of Barnet
- The Finchley Society
- Friends of Friary Park
- Open Spaces Society
- The Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
- Coppetts Wood Conservationists
- The London Green Belt Council
- Love Whetstone

A WORD TO THE WALKERS

Is there a green space round here where you frequently take your children, walk your dog, stride or cycle or jog? Do you care about it? Would you tell us what you think of it?

Friern Barnet and Whetstone has plenty of parkland and green space, but Friary Park is the only one ever to get a mention in this newsletter. (That's because two of our

committee members are also on the Friends of Friary Park.) How biased! Let's change that.

Just a profile and then a periodic brief update from you on the green space you know best would be warmly welcomed. You know – how you use it, why you like it, things that “they” have done well or not so well, urgent action needed, bright ideas you've

had. That brilliant photo you've been meaning to take?

We could share your notes at the monthly committee meeting, raise your concerns with the Council's Green Spaces team, and then gradually profile more of our open spaces for everyone in the newsletter. If you like the idea you can email me on yvonneruge@live.co.uk

YR

News from Friary Park

The drab appearance of Friary Park after a hard winter is now being relieved by the emergence of daffodils and crocuses. Sadly though, we have just lost three mature trees from the Park boundary between Manor Drive and Park Way due to trunk decay. We are having a meeting soon with the Council's Tree Officer to discuss the choosing and location of new trees.

We are working with FBWRA to fund and replant a shrub bed in what was known as the 'quiet' garden. This will comprise a number of new shrubs

surrounded by the low box hedge. Interest has also been shown in providing a small skatepark for younger children on the tarmac below the existing site for which funding will need to be sought.

The Council's 'Parks & Open Spaces Strategy' which would have opened the door to bid for substantial funds for all the Borough's parks has been shelved due to financial constraints. Apart from any funding awarded, the Council would need to match much of it from its own resources.

As always, the Friends of Friary Park regularly put pressure on the Council to address issues where the level of maintenance falls below standard. If you need to tell the Council of any problems you come across in any of our parks or open spaces you should email parks@barnet.gov.uk. We have regular monthly meetings with the Council Parks Department to discuss issues of concern and opportunities for improvement.

There are also plans to upgrade and resurface the tennis

courts and the Friends will be buying a new flag for the pole outside the House as the present one has become frayed. We are aware that this article only refers to Friary Park. Members are welcome to submit any comments about the other parks and open spaces in our area.

Volunteers are invited to join the friends for a 'litter-pick' on Friday 6th April at 2.30pm. We will be meeting outside the cafe. Bags and pickers will be provided.

RT



The photos show the trunks of the recently felled trees, and another view showing the bare nature of the boundary alongside Friern Barnet Lane due to lack of trees and bushes

“Just do your bit” campaign supported by the Council

We have already had a great response to the article in the last Newsletter asking residents to support our anti-litter campaign. A number of you have already contacted us asking to be involved. When it was posted on the Love Whetstone Facebook page, it was shared by many groups and seems to be prompting a call for a similar campaign up in High Barnet!

A meeting with the Council confirmed that some help is available in the form of equipment (litter-picking sticks, sacks etc.) but sadly no funds to help us publicise the initiative more widely though there may be grants that we are eligible for.

A poster has been produced for local Notice Boards, Schools and Community



groups and leaflets which will be distributed to homes in the district.

We are asking residents not only to do 'their bit' but also to identify and let us know particular patches that need attention for a litter-picking session. As the weather gets better, a team of litter pickers will go out and help clean up these litter black spots.

We also plan to engage our local schools in this project.

Please email fbwra@btinternet.com or info@lovewhetstone.co.uk to register your interest.

MJ