

## FRIENDS OF ADDISCOMBE RAILWAY PARK

<http://park.addiscombe.net/index.asp>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY 22.02.15

2.00pm Addiscombe Baptist Church, 201a Morland Road, CR0 6HD

**Apologies for Absence:** Anne Barcellos

**Attended by:** Ann Nicholson, Sean Fitzsimmons, Stephen Early, Richard Ogden, Ewald Schroder, Debbie Daintith, Brendan Daintith, Andrea Perry, Jonathan Moore

### **Treasurer's & Secretary's Report on Park Activity 2013-2015**

In summary, over the last two years we have had a work party out in the park almost every month, comprising 5-10 individuals, and we've derived much satisfaction in driving a steady, if slow, series of improvements to the park. In summary, we have weeded out large amounts of brambles, buddleia, horsetail and sycamore right across the park; extracted large amounts of brick and other rubble from the water course in phase 2; regularly litter picked; planted trees, most notably along the Woodside school wall in phase 2 and in the vicinity of the blackjack tree in phase 1 in a communal effort with children from Woodside school.

Our Treasurer has done a fantastic job in updating and expanding our website regularly, keeping it fresh and interesting with photos, historical timelines, maps, videos and –most significantly – with details of our monthly practical efforts as follows:

- 11th January & 8th February 2015: we cut back the brambles and creeping plants opposite the school exit triangle in preparation

- for planting several Oak trees
- 9th November 2014: we cut back the nettles and brambles behind the water course
  - 12th October 2014: we removed the brambles from the school wall which had grown more than 2 metres high. No young trees appear to have survived in this area of the park
  - 14th September 2014: we tidied up the triangle area near the school exit gate
  - 8th June 2014: concentrated on keeping the horsetail and weeds down to protect the young trees
  - 9th March 2014: we cut back the brambles along the path at the northern end of the park and strimmed the grass around the young trees by the school wall
  - 9th February 2014: we spread 18 bags of wood chippings around the young trees on the school exit triangle
  - 12th January 2014: the day was rather wet so we just litter picked the whole park removing 6 bags or litter
  - 8th December 2013: we planted around 30 young trees
  - 10th November 2013: we litter picked the park, and worked on the water course, widening and deepening the ditch area
  - 8th September 2013: we weeded around the school triangle, but had to stop early due to rain. At the allotment radishes have been harvested. The allotment page has been expanded to include further pictures of the allotment
  - 11th August 2013: we weeded around the water course area and jubilee trees and watered the new trees. A new page was added for news about the allotment
  - 14th July 2013: the weather was very hot. We cut back the weeds and undergrowth around the young trees and watered them
  - 9th June 2013: we weeded and watered around the young trees
  - 12th May 2013: we undertook a big clean-up operation removing 13 bags of rubbish from the park, and weeded around the water course area

- 3rd May 2013: the children from Woodside School planted trees in the park on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. They have done a wonderful job planting trees around the Apple tree enclosure at the Southern end of the park. Jonathon and friends have been busy tidying up the allotment area at the end of North end of the park. They have also been planting bulbs
- 14th April 2013: we were completing work around the apple tree enclosure ready for the planting of trees and shrubs. The weather was a lot better. Jonathan and friends continued work at the bridge end of the park
- 17th March 2013: we were working around the apple tree enclosure again preparing planting areas for trees and shrubs. It was wet and cold. Jonathan and friends continued work at the bridge end of the park
- 10th February 2013: we were working around the apple tree enclosure preparing planting areas for trees and shrubs. It was wet, muddy but not too cold, and good progress was made

### **Plans for the Future**

- Keep ripping out brambles and buddleia from the banks all the way through the park, to make space for tree-planting and gradually improve the overall look from wasteland to a planted up park of more interest to humans and nature alike. Despite extensive amounts of rubble throughout the park, there's some rich looking soil along the banks away from the mostly barren stretch by the school wall
- Although we have already planted up the edges of the blackjack field in Phase 1 (known as "the orchard") with a variety of trees and shrubs (hawthorn, hazel, oak, wild rose), we now wish to expand planting across the orchard with fruit trees (probably a mixture of apple and pear trees) and will look into how best to secure such trees within our limited budget, and figure out exactly where we should plant, probably in the autumn at the earliest. The council (via Alison Plant) has previously offered to help us

- out with leftover planting stakes, although when the time comes we will need to enquire about delivery of an industrial amount of “Croypost” from the council to mulch around freshly planted trees
- Install information boards that describe the friends group and celebrate the 150 years since the railway was founded, using vandal proof boards held by the council at factory lane as offered by Alison Plant. We will however need to first secure funding to pay for their design and installation
  - Options for applying for funds: Sean shared ideas about securing funds for obtaining community funding for specific projects within the park from:
    - Jewsons the builders & DIY suppliers (deadline 12/04/15) – volunteers? <http://www.buildingbettercommunities.co.uk/>
    - Cooperative movement (not currently accepting applications!) <http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/local-communities/community-fund/>
    - Waitrose – green token led contribution from a local branch of Waitrose to a local community organisation (for general funds) [http://www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/inspiration/community\\_matters.html](http://www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/inspiration/community_matters.html)
    - We organise a “Big Lunch” event in the park, which in 2015 would fall on Sunday June 7th <http://www.thebiglunch.com/>

***Rather than just relying on our Treasurer to make these applications, in the future the whole committee needs to pull their resources and time to prepare them, ideally with one person in charge but drawing on everyone’s expertise***

- Obtain trees from the “Woodland Trust” (website currently down) either by ourselves or in collaboration with Woodside School as done previously
- Query Transport for London regarding the future of a sickly and

large conifer right by the historic Blackhorse Lane bridge, as it threatens both the park and the bridge (ES to enquire)

### **Treasurer's Report**

- The current balance is £98.83p
- We received a council grant of £253 and paid out £233.01p to BTCV for membership and public liability insurance.
- There have been several unsuccessful attempts to raise additional funding for specific projects. It is hoped that some recent leads about new funding sources will yield better results.
- It should also be possible to raise additional funding at the Addiscombe Carnival, by holding a tombola.

### **Election of Key Posts and other Committee Positions**

- We wholeheartedly thank Anne Barcellos, our previous and founding Chairperson, for her effort, determination and good humour to get us organised and off the ground in 2011 until 2013
- Andrea Perry was elected as our new Chairperson. Andrea recently joined us as and we welcome her fresh ideas and communication skills
- Richard Ogden (Treasurer) and Ewald Schroder (Secretary) were re-elected unopposed
- Long-time volunteer Jonathan Moore, our urban guerrilla gardener whose allotment in the phase 3 section predates the park itself, was voted onto the committee as Conservation and Heritage Officer
- The other committee members were happy to continue over 2015-2016, namely Ann Nicholson, Debbie Daintith, Brendan Daintith – thanks for your continued support, effort and input

### **Any Other Business**

Ever since this friends group started in 2011, we have been indebted to the generosity and hospitality of Stephen Early, Pastor of Addiscombe Baptist Church, for providing us with a great venue to meet in.