



1 Snow making the park look like a winter wonderland. Copyright Victor Ho

Co Chair Update

Winter and Lockdown #3 are here, and our small park is getting a lot of heavy use. There was a tiny moment of joy last week when we had a few hours of snow - children, large and small, old, and young were out enjoying the white stuff.

There have been concerns expressed about the amount increase in dog mess in the Park. All owners must pick up their dog poo - we have been told that fines will ultimately be issued if the noncompliance continues. Other owners need to educate new dog/puppy owners on the necessity of picking up after their dogs and disposing of it properly.

Some members have asked about Bishop's Meadow and the Council's plans for reseeding this area. Pauline McCormack from the Council responded as follows: "*We will revisit the grass area, hopefully in the spring, to see if it is going to make a recovery, if not we will reseed. It wouldn't be appropriate for us to reseed at the moment as we may have to fence off areas and take them out of use which would mean less of the park being available for use at a time it is very much needed.*"

Outdoor Gym - Plans have progressed regarding the installation of gym equipment in the park. The area selected is next door to the skateboarding area. The plan may have to be adjusted to allow for best fit and to avoid tree roots. Click on this [link](#) for more details.

friends of BISHOP'S PARK



Rose Garden - In the autumn we ordered and, with the help of the Gardening Group, planted out 42 bare root roses, (to see a list of roses ordered [click here](#)). If you look carefully at the stems of the roses you can see they are beginning to bud - spring is on the way! Further funds have been made available, so the committee agreed on ordering a further 10 plants to fill in a few additional gaps. Mulch has also been ordered and the Gardening Group hope to plant and mulch the beds in the coming weeks. If you look carefully at the stems of the roses you can see they are beginning to bud - spring is on the way! Some of the roses have been planted in memory of loved ones. The new bench is now in situ which adds to the symmetry of the area.

Fulham Football Club have submitted a Planning Application outlining the materials they are suggesting using on the façade, roofs, and external areas of the new stand. Details below. The only concern we have is with the design of the folding barriers that close off the riverside path on match days. Instead of folding away into the structure of the stand they split down the middle so part will be a barricade along the river side of the path. This has been highlighted before but without success.

The Moat Garden survey has been completed by 107 people, with many great suggestions and ideas. **The survey is still open till the end of February, so do please send on the link below to anyone you think might like to fill it in – the more ideas contributed the better and also helps us win funding bids: [link to survey](#).**

One key issue was the state of the pathway which has recently been dealt with by the Council with the removal of the old tarmac path and the installation of a new clay-based aggregate called Cedec. Cedec is a more permeable surface that allows for better drainage than tarmac and fits in with the Borough's sustainable urban drainage and flood risk management plan. Over time this aggregate will compact and harden so there will be fewer issues with water pooling and soft areas. It is also very easy to repair unlike the tarmac. The sloped area of tarmac was not suitable for using Cedec as the incline was too steep and the aggregate would have washed down far too quickly. Channels have been installed to alleviate the rainwater; the tarmac area will be topped in the spring when a topcoat can be applied.

If you might be interested in volunteering in the exciting works in the Moat Garden update, please let us know by emailing us with your [details](#).

Litter Pickers - There is an unofficial litter picking group coordinated via WhatsApp on Sundays. If you would like to be added please [email](#) to add your details. Depending on the weather and the time of year the group tend to pick up litter from 3pm on Sunday afternoons meeting by the water fountain by the entrance to the sand pit. Bags and picker sticks provided.

Cafe - we have been advised that the lease for the cafe is at signature stage and the new proprietors will be in place shortly.

Plant donations - We are looking for sponsorship or donations of plants for the park. The Council has cleared one of the large beds in Priors Bank of bamboo. We are looking for shrubs and flowering plants for this area. A recent offer of sponsorship has been temporarily withdrawn. Claire Mee, a local landscape gardener, has donated 6 azaleas. The council has prioritized taking down the hazel and removing the bamboo in the Priors Bank beds. Replacement shrubs are preferable to bulbs due to their longevity - bulbs tend to disappear around Mother's Day and Easter.

In the meantime, take care, keep your distance, and look for the first signs of spring.

Melanie Healy and Rowena Vaughan, Co-Chair Friends of Bishops Park

BISHOP'S PARK

friends of



News

Found notebook: a dark blue Moleskine 13cm x 21cm notebook, dropped Wednesday 20th Jan outside 54 Stevenage Road. Contact us if you might know the owner.



Gardening Group

The first of the winter sessions took place this last Monday 1st February. Where the rose beds were weeded, and the new bare root roses planted. Also mulch spread. There will be further sessions when the bare root roses arrive, and mulch delivered. If you would like to take part, please email with your mobile details and you will be added to the Whatsapp Group. Dates are also on the [website](#).

The next official session is **Wednesday 3rd March**, 9.30am meeting by the bowling green



Fulham Football Club

Construction of the new riverside stand continues apace. You can see on the [FFC website updates](#) on the work. A Planning Application regarding the materials to be used on the exterior facades, roofs and other external surfaces has been submitted. Do have a look, the illustrations with the application are good and worth looking at. Look for the document [FFC POP RS XX RP-A-9112](#)



The Moat Garden Survey Closing date extended.

The small strip of land that runs between the Kings Head at the mini roundabout of the Fulham Road, Fulham Palace Road and the Palace Garden Centre is known as the Moat Garden.

This piece of land was donated to the borough by the Church Commissioners in 1924. Historically it was and is part of the moat that used to surround Fulham Palace. This piece of land needs some attention. To gauge public interest and garner suggestions we have drafted a survey.

Please take 5 minutes to complete this [survey](#).

Sunday Market

The market was closed by the Council due to concerns over the lack of social distancing by people attending. Amanda Lloyd Harris, Councillor for Palace Ward says that the Council is looking at re opening the market, but only when they have a way to ensure people's safety. Until that has can be assured the market will remain closed.



Gardening Tips

Put all Geraniums in sheltered areas to guard against strong frosts.

Keep grass leaf free to avoid waterlogging.

Clean your gardening tools and feed the birds regularly.



Nature Notes by Jane Swithinbank

The wonderful colours of autumn are now well behind us, but they certainly lifted one's mood at the time and provided interest over the many months as the various species acquired their full glory. Even amongst the same species as the circle of acers this took some time for them all to turn depending on their position in relation to the sun. The plane trees, as always, were the last to change and lose their leaves at the end of the year. The roses seemed to want to keep on blooming for ever and looked amazing against the backdrop of autumn colour.

We are now nearly halfway through winter which can seem bleak on dark, gloomy days but there is always something of interest to catch one's eye like the lichen which I photographed a few days ago. It is not a plant but two organisms, algae and fungi living in a symbiotic relationship and is a good indicator of pollution as it will die if the levels of sulphur dioxide (a by-product of atmospheric pollution) are too high.

Sadly I did not see the park under snow but after all the recent rain new wetland areas suddenly appeared on Fielder's Meadow reflecting the trees and clouds. I fully expected to see some ducks swimming around on them but that day it was only dogs having fun and a few black-headed gulls nearby in their winter plumage of no black heads – just a bold, dark smudge near the eye! In summer, their heads are a dark chocolate brown! More reflections were provided by the spontaneous moat which appeared alongside the balustrades.

The robins have been singing all through the winter to keep their territories, and sadly even at night because of the effect light pollution is having on them. It is such a waste of their precious reserves of energy. They are now being joined by other species like tits and wrens with the calls of woodpigeons, magpies, jays, crows and ring-necked parakeets and the drumming of the great spotted woodpecker adding to the mix.

The grounds of the Fulham Palace have splendid displays of snowdrops and crocuses are appearing. Spring cannot be too far away.



friends of BISHOP'S PARK



2 January 2021, orange glow over the construction of the riverside stand at Fulham Football Club.

Picture by Rolaine Turner (published with permission).