

friends of BISHOP'S PARK



Co Chair Update

It's been a busy few months. Spring has sprung, the storm in February brought down the top of the lovely Cedar tree in the park. The next day I noticed a pair of Egyptian Geese had taken to standing at the break.

Most importantly we would like to invite you the members to a **drinks party** with sponsorship from Marsh and Parsons. This will be kindly hosted by the **Tea House on Wednesday 22nd June, 6 - 8pm**. We would like to thank you all who pay such an interest in the Park contributing your time, energy and skill sets.

The wonderful medical negligence team led by Thomas Riis Bristow of **Irwin Mitchell**, volunteered to work a day in the park. Hopefully you will meet some of them at the drinks party in June. The team spent the day with ID Verde supervising the (with one of our committee Harriet Lewis). Due to their hard work, we have a new stag beetle hotel, 50 new whips were planted in and two areas of alkanet was cleared in the Moat Garden.

If you know of any other corporation that would like to get involved with work in the park, please do let us know.

The litter picking group, led by Sarah Jane Johnson, is proving to be one of our most popular groups. These wonderful people not only collect litter on Sundays, but also when the Wandsworth Bridge Road had a day event, they answered the request to go and collect litter there at the end of the day. Superstars.

Last week there were two walkabouts in the park. One with council officials explaining their gardening plans to the gardening group members, as well as discussing the latest issues, list of repairs and remedial works being

planned. The following day a walk, with John the inspector, was part of the Bishops Park Green Flag application - we do not have the results of that yet.

Do keep an eye on our website and on the notice boards for new and continuing initiatives including fundraising by selling duck food from The Tea House!

Hope to see you all on the 22nd June, meanwhile have a lovely Jubilee Weekend.

Melanie Healy and Rowena Vaughan
Co Chair
Friends of Bishops Park



Top LH Egyptian Geese in the broken Cedar tree, RH Irwin Mitchell gardening team



Bottom LH Committee walkabout RH litter pickers at the Wandsworth Bridge Road Carnival





Gardening Group

The next meet up for the Gardening Group is Wednesday 1st June. 9.15 by the Tea House . New Gardeners always welcome.



Duck Food

We are working on a new initiative:- selling duck food at the Tea House. This will raise funds for the Friends to help make our Park look more beautiful. We will be buying floating swan & duck food from Ark Wildlife. <https://www.arkwildlife.co.uk/> This type of product is essential as when it floats it can obviously be eaten by wildfowl but also picked off the surface by seagulls, so there is no waste on the shore for rats.



Gardening Tips

- Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering. Keep plants looking attractive and encourage more blooms, whether in beds and border, containers or hanging baskets.
- Care for houseplant while on holiday.
- Water tubs and containers.
- Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
- Pick courgettes, before they become marrows.
- Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up.
- Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs.
- Give the lawn a quick acting summer feed.

Moat Garden

A water source has been found in the Moat Garden, however, a soil contaminate report

Litterpickers

All organised on Whatsapp, but generally meet on Sunday afternoons. If you would



now has to be arranged before we can proceed further with plans.

like to join please email: Sarah Jane Johnson

Platinum Jubilee

There is a lot going on in the borough this weekend. The beacon is being lit in Lyric Square on Thursday evening, a market on Friday and Picnic in the Park (Ravenscourt and Bishops Park) on Saturday and Sunday. Many streets around the borough are having street parties. See [here](#) for more details.



Fulham FC

Roger Weston

Based on FFC's Residents Newsletter May 2022 and feedback from council officers.

The new stand will be in use from the beginning of the new season with an initial capacity of approximately 2,000. (It will have a capacity of about 4,500 when finished.)

Completion of fitting out of internal spaces and concourse areas of the new stand is planned for the summer of next year 2023, which we assume will include opening the new riverside footpath past the club. No indication as yet as to how and when this will be accessible.

No detail yet of a new pier and associated reed beds, riverside path (in the river) and other encroachment into the river. Need planning permission from LB of H&F, River Works Licence from Port of London Authority, and licence from Marine Management Organisation. The river is not the clubs to buy, privatise or obstruct. They claim it will NOT have any negative impact on

recreational use of the river, but no clarification as to how this would be able to operate **at all states of the tide without causing obstruction.**

We are told that the club is seeking a further extension of the lease of the area of Bishops Park adjacent to the football club being used in connection with the construction of the new stand. We regret the continued loss of a significant area of the park, but welcome what we assume will be a continued income stream for park improvement projects.



Nature Notes

Jane Swithinbank

What a glorious spring we have enjoyed with masses of cherry blossom and magnolias blooming in the park under clear blue skies.

The large Magnolia family is named after the French botanist, Pierre Magnol and originates from the Americas and [S.E.Asia](#). They evolved more than 100 million years ago and are one of the most primitive forms of flowering plants on the planet. They predate even bees and so to survive they developed large, sometimes plate-sized, and often scented flowers to attract beetles for pollinating. I think the one pictured here in Pryors Bank Garden in March is the early flowering Saucer Magnolia and nearby is a Grandiflora which is often the last to bloom in late summer. If you look between the large leaves you will see the bulb-like buds already there at the end of May. Some more examples of magnolias are to be seen next door in the Fulham Palace Gardens, such as the Magnolia Virginiana sent from America to Bishop Compton in 1688 and there is also a beautiful Magnolia Delavayi. This species was discovered in China by the French Jesuit missionary botanist, Pierre Delavay.

For me the highlight of the planting around the wildlife pond at the moment is the Iris Pseudacorus with its rich yellow flowers and providing a backdrop in the park is the Elder (Sambucus Nigra) with its numerous clusters of white flowers. Hedge bindweed peeking out through little gaps in the dense foliage of the viburnum makes it look like a new and unusual species at first glance!

There were quite a lot of Canada geese and Egyptian geese grazing yesterday and a pair of mandarin ducks and although I didn't see any young, there were mallards, coots, and moorhen nearby or on the water. A very active magpie was feeding on the ground and disappearing high up in the trees making it difficult to capture his beautiful blue feathers in a photograph.

The rose garden is already looking superb and a foretaste of the summer which is almost upon us.



Top LH The fascinating feet of the coot. RH Male Mandarin duck



Middle LH Magnolia Grandiflora RH Iris pseudacorus



Bottom LH Magnolia by Pryors Bank RH The large trumpet flower of bindweed