

FRIENDS OF SIR JOSEPH HOOD MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD



Newsletter

June 2018



Who let the dogs out?

Our 2nd “Fun Family Fog Show “on 12th May was a great success. The rain didn't dampen our spirits as we celebrated our four legged companions. There is much competition in the dog world when entering the egg and spoon race and Harper always leaves the pack behind when demonstrating his best trick! We are incredibly grateful to **Park Vets** who sponsored the show again, Angie braved the rain to hand out magnificent rosettes and of course huge thanks to Julia who made spectacular scones for our cream teams. A firm favourite in the Friends diary the dog show will be back in 2019 so start practicing your tricks now! Can't wait a whole year? Bring your dogs along to our Party in the Park on **01 09 18** and have a go on our dog agility course. Check out the wonderful photos taken by our friend Rebecca Challis who not only mastered the art of working with children and animals together....she donated her time and photos to the Friends with no charge. **THANKYOU**

<https://rebeccachallisphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/dogshow> password: dog



Harper winning best trick



Dog show egg and spoon race—top left Gladys ready to fly!

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New West Barnes Councillors

Since the Friends formed in 2003 we have had fantastic support from our West Barnes Councillors Gilli and Brian Lewis-Lavender. Gilli served the ward for 18 years supporting us with many local issues including keeping the paddling pool open. On behalf of all the Friends we would like to offer them a heartfelt **THANKYOU**. Your passion and commitment to park services were always in abundance.

Our new councillors Hina Bokhari, Eloise Bailey and Carl Quilliam have already made their presence known with their support for Raynes Park Little League, campaigning to ensure they have a future continuing to provide accessible child centred football coaching in the park. Did you know they have played there since 1968?

Hina is our park representative and can be contacted by email:

hina.bokhari@merton.gov.uk



Alf Alcott Award

Back in 2007 Alf came along to the first meeting of the Friends and sadly died on the way home. In his memory his widow set up the Alf Alcott award, given for outstanding contributions to the work of the Friends in fundraising for a park to be proud of. See below the 2018 winner, a full list is on our website.

THANK YOU

Chris Zaijka



A true local legend, Chris has always gone above and beyond to support the Friends. Having lived in the park as a Merton employee, post Merton contracting out services to ID Verde, Chris has been made redundant and been asked to leave his home in the park. Words are not enough to thank you Chris for all you have done. We very much hope you stay part of our community.

“ As a Forest School Green Lane Primary and Nursery School are incredibly lucky to have such a fantastic resource as Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field on our doorstep! Just on the other side of the horse paddock the school has invested in on site forestry resources, however we regularly use Sir Joe’s memorial wood for our extended learning activities. Forest school is an exciting opportunity for children to experience nature and learn outdoors where they can achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem. Children learn through practical hands on activities that develop life skills such as resilience independence and responsibility, valuable for education and beyond. We are grateful to all the hard work done throughout the year by the volunteers, members and wider community of the Friends of the Park.”

Jane Pritchard
Co—Chair of Governors

Green Lane Primary and
Nursery School

- ◆ Plastic free picnic

Local families were supported by Sustainable Merton to organise the first Plastic Free Picnic in Merton this year on Earth Day 22nd April. At the picnic in Sir Joe's Children learnt loads about using bees wax wraps instead of cling film and reusable boxes instead of throw away containers.



Plastic free picnic on Earth day

- ◆ Lets party!

- ◆ Charity Status

- ◆ Your membership

- ◆ Pool appeal

What have we been up to?

We had our first “**Sir Joe's Party in the Park**” last July and enjoyed it so much that we are preparing to party again on 01 09 18! We will be joined by our local **22nd Wimbledon Scouting group** who are firing up the BBQ, **Coombe Boys School** show-casing their sporting achievements and a range of free sports and exercise, yoga and physio. As well as bouncy castles and afternoon teas we will be welcoming local businesses and Holy Cross Church team into our Friends community.

We are committed to converting The Friends to a Charity and aim to have our application accepted by the Charity Commission before the end of summer 2018. This should enable us to reach those rare grants which fit the Friends charitable objectives, streamline and regularise our volunteers' activities.

The Friends is a life membership organisation. Fundraising is one of our goals but the most important objective is to promote the use of the park and in doing so expand our Friends community. If you are not already a member please contact us through the website and for £5 you can be granted life membership. Data privacy has been such a hot topic lately with GDPR. The Friends will not use your details for marketing, will not supply your data to any 3rd parties without your consent and will delete, amend or correct your data should you ask us to. We need to maintain a register of members to operate, however we limit the information we keep for membership purposes only. If you would like to know more please visit our website and read our privacy notice.

The splashpad appeal was central to our fundraising activities in 2016/17. We have ringfenced £10,000 of funds raised to support future investment in a splashpad or upgrading the current facilities. In the meantime we are reviewing our 2018 spending and anticipate investing in an upgrade of the crazy golf facilities.

WE NEED YOU



Whether it is baking cakes, joining a litter pick, volunteering at an event or helping to organise one we need help throughout the year. We are incredibly grateful for the fantastic support we receive without which we simply couldn't operate. If you would like to volunteer for the Friends in any capacity please contact us.

We have a new treasurer Bernie McAlister who has kindly donated his time to prepare our accounts in preparation for charitable status registration as well as providing regular financial reporting.

Contact Us

www.friendsofsjh.org

Contactus@friendsofsjh.org

[Change.org](https://www.change.org) Friends of SJH

Facebook Group: Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

Facebook page: Sir Joseph Hood MPF Splash Pad Appeal

[Tweet@sirJHMPF](https://twitter.com/sirJHMPF)

1st September 2018 12 –3pm



Celebrate park life with us, bring your family and friends and make new ones!

The last weekend before school starts let us do the BBQ and provide the entertainment.

And finally.....

A new website for 2018

A big **THANKYOU** to the very talented Oliver Pusey who developed our new user friendly website. Check it out and let us know what you think.