

# Friends Annual Report appendices

## Grant Funding

Examples of grant funding securement 12/13:

Grant funding has been secured to remedy the decaying paddling pool at St Mary Cray. This funding will provide a new modern sand and water play facility at Riverside Gardens. This will be an improved play area for the children of St Mary Cray, whilst at the same time providing a much easier facility for Bromley to maintain in future years. Officers have worked with the St Mary Cray Action Group to secure £20,500 from the Veolia Environmental Trust and £2,500 from the Capital Community Foundation towards the project.

The Friends of Keston have secured a £10,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a series of interpretation boards and printed history trails.

£70,000 was secured from Public Health for two outdoor gyms at Betts Park, Anerley and Farnborough Recreation Ground. As part of their introduction a series of free fitness training sessions were available for interested residents to find out how to use the equipment. These are part of a trial and are proving successful to date.

The kitchen at the newly established Duke Community Centre is being upgraded to allow healthy lifestyle training alongside its use as the centre's café. This was made possible through a £10,000 grant from the grant funding programme Happy Healthy Crays and sponsorship through Howdens Joiners.

Pine Walk and Southlands Road Allotments Associations have secured funding for on-site toilets totalling £16,500. Hook Farm Road secured an £8,000 grant for water butts to conserve water, chicken keeping equipment, new sheds, training, and ergonomic tools.

Officers have worked in partnership with Elmstead FC to secure £50,000 from the Football Foundation for the refurbishment of football pitches at Chislehurst Recreation Ground, including drainage and re-levelling. The Chislehurst Playing Fields Association has also contributed a further £3,000 in addition to the £10,000 granted in the last financial year.

Orpington Football Club at Goddington Park has successfully secured £138,000 of sponsorship and grant funding towards the refurbishment of the on-site pitches and pavilion improvements from a range of funders.

£155,000 has been secured through the Transport for London Local Implementation Plan to provide a number of walking and cycling improvements throughout parks and other green spaces.

This year we have again secured UK Woodland Assurance Scheme accreditation to enable the Council to seek additional funding for woodland improvements. A holistic woodland management programme is being integrated to ensure the timber felled from Bromley's woodlands will be cost neutral by providing income through commercial timber sales or to be used as fencing on Bromley's land. This complements the habitat management programme part funded by two Higher Level Stewardship grants from Central Government which was achieved this year.

This year, three Big Lottery Community Spaces projects were successfully delivered in partnership with associated Friends groups, using funding secured last financial year. These included the expansion of the playground at Glentrammon Recreation Ground and introduction of play equipment for 7-13-year-olds, the opening event of which was attended by over 400 local residents.

The transformation of South Hill Woods saw access improvements, including a new pathway and woodland management works to 'open up' areas of the site and encourage more people to use this valuable local asset. As part of the project the group and officers worked alongside a Landscape Historian to find out more about the site, the findings of which have been interpreted on a series of information panels at the park entrances and other key points. Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground worked alongside officers to install a trim trail for children within the existing playground. The equipment was designed to complement the existing facilities and was introduced to the community through a successful launch event.

A series of sustainability grants have been secured from the Big Lottery to ensure the continued development and promotion of these capital projects which were delivered on-site this financial year under the Community Spaces programme (funding having been secured last financial year). This includes South Hill Woods, Glentrammon Recreation Ground and Chislehurst Recreation Ground.

The Friends of Hollydale Open Space had been working with officers this year to deliver their island restoration project using £5,000 funding from the Veolia Environmental Trust. This included coir matting to stabilise island banks, planting to attract wildlife (and subsequently bats) and reduce intrusion and signage.

### **Sponsorship**

This year saw the successful conclusion of Green Gym at Winsford Gardens, funded by the Glades Shopping Centre. The volunteers are now independent, and have reformed as a Friends Group and carry on the maintenance tasks for their park. The Glades enjoyed this partnership so have offered £15,000 more funding to set up a second Green Gym at College Green, Bromley, to improve this historic landscape over the next year. Veolia is Bromley's partner for Brook Lane Community nursery. This year they have cleared over 100 tons of fly tipping, provided gates to ensure site security and are sourcing recycled materials to start building the infrastructure of the site. The Ranger team have provided their expertise to cut back the vegetation working with the community and JusBe has supplied many volunteer hours.

Discussions began last year with the Regional Managers of the Nugent Retail Estate, who are working with officers to support the redevelopment of the new sand and play area in Riverside Gardens. Nugent have contributed £10,000 of sponsorship towards the project, with a commitment to explore further investment in capital and revenue improvements to integrate the Retail Park into the community. The local branch of Jewsons have also committed up to £3,000 worth of materials towards the project.

Sponsored in part by Coolings nursery, the grounds maintenance team worked for over a year planning and preparing for the Queens Diamond Jubilee visit to Bromley, making improvements to Queens Garden. The centre piece was a living three dimensional crown that was created by a specialist company, InstaPlant, to mark the Queens visit on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The crown was made of a metal framework which took a month to create ahead of its planting and growing-on in the greenhouse through the cold months. The crown was installed on 30th April 2012.

## **Green space volunteers**

The Friends of Crystal Palace Park have been conducting essential woodland and grassland management work in the countryside area designed to provide environmental education for school groups. This has involved scrub clearance, hedge weeding, planting and pond clearance; and conducting butterfly, woodland plants and wildflower surveys. Thames 21 have been commissioned, utilising £20,000 of DEFRA 'Maintenance of Surface Water Drainage assets' funding, to remedy the silt build up at Glassmill Reservoir. Working with the community, Thames 21 are teaching residents new skills enabling them to continue the maintenance requirements once the project has been completed.

Well Wood Friends meet up on the third Saturday of each month and deliver a range of activities such as cutting back vegetation encroaching on the paths, thinning out trees, removing invasive species, doing conservation work to improve biodiversity, and improving the infrastructure by erecting benches, planting native species and conducting wild flower surveys.

High Broom Wood Friends improve woodland diversity and accessibility and continually remove the sycamore, holly and brambles which has allowed bluebells to re-emerge in greater profusion. They also continually maintain the river bank to deter erosion and have regular litter picks to keep the area tidy.

Friends of South Hill Woods & Kingswood Glen have been involved in the delivery of pond improvement works for biodiversity at Kingswood Glen. This grant funded work included desilting of the ponds, tree works to reduce shading and leaf fall, and installation of interpretation panels.

Friends of Keston have been involved in the delivery of pond improvement works for biodiversity and a variety of other practical conservation work and improvements to Keston Common, Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Woods. They have recently submitted a successful grant of £10,000 to the Heritage Lottery Fund for interpretation and improvement works.

The Friends of High Elms have continued to undertake valuable management on site both for wildlife and visitors ensuring the gardens are kept in good condition, participating in woodland and other habitat management across this important Site of Special Scientific Importance.

The Friends of Biggin Hill have adopted Jugg Hill and have moved on to the 3<sup>rd</sup> land parcel to coppice ash, bringing the woodland back under management and leaving higher quality tree space to develop with the secondary aim of encouraging chalk land flora to return.

The Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground have been transplanting self-sown oaks to other parts of their landscape to provide succession. They have also been regenerating a small neglected orchard of mature apple trees, felling some and pruning others. The orchard is in a prime focal position so not only was this necessary work for the good of the recreation ground but it was good on the eyes too.

The Cray Valley Friends have continued to make an impressive difference to the Cray Valley parks. Once every two weeks they tackle all the parks on a rota basis and every time they report less and less rubbish. They are also the eyes and ears of the community reporting any problems in the parks. They have worked with the Environment Agency to

establish new reed beds along the River Cray. Bulbs and tree whips planted last year are now in full bloom with more conservation work to take place.

The Friends of St Paul's Cray Recreation Ground are a sub-group of the newly formed Little Chislewick Group, and have made a huge difference to the Brook Park area in a short time. Every Saturday a group of Friends meet up for a general clear up and to action conservation work. Paths have been cleared back, and river work is undertaken with the group having their own waders. Dog waste has been tackled and local dogs now have pride of place on the notice boards, following Hollydale's example of deterring dog offenders.

A volunteer was responsible for finding the Oak Processionary Moth outbreak in Bromley at Bethlem Hospital grounds. It is one of the best examples of local people being the eyes and ears of the community and reporting problems to the Council. Due to her actions, the Council and the Forestry Commission were able to act quickly in removing over 4,000 caterpillar nests from the hospital grounds and set up a monitoring strategy to identify and contain other OPM incidents in the Borough to control the outbreak.

Officers have worked closely with the Environment Agency in the Crays – meetings are held every two months along with community consultations and schools information days. The reed beds are established, the weir removal has created an excellent teaching zone and chalk river habitat, and work continues to improve the fish runs.

Nash College now hire BEECHE for three days per week. Working from High Elms, this learning/mobility disability group learn new skills to help with employment opportunities. The centre delivers a varied and practical work programme based around conservation tasks and learning experiences, and learning includes building insect, hedgehog, bird and bat boxes, litter and vegetation clear up days around the High Elms estate and making Christmas decorations.

### **Street Friends**

The Big Bromley Brush Up focused on Petts Wood in March 2013. Over 40 people from local businesses, town centre manager, local Ward Councillors, the Street Environment Officer and Petts Wood 5<sup>th</sup> Scout Group collected over 50 sacks of rubbish around the streets and alleyways.

### **Working with Young People**

The Young River Keeper Scheme goes from strength to strength. As well as continued improvements to the River Cray and its surroundings, the scheme has improved the young volunteers' outlook on life and increased their sense of achievement and self worth. It has also enabled these teenagers to become closer to the Cray community.

The Bromley Youth Advisory Panel has acquired 4 new members this year. They are working on a funding application to raise local environment awareness, with the aim that this will encourage increased youth membership of Bromley's Friends of Parks groups. They have also volunteered to deliver work days at the Brook Lane Community Nursery project.

The Challenge is an intense four part programme for 16 and 17 year olds delivered as part of the government's National Citizen Service (NCS). This programme comprises physical and team challenges, and social action projects. Over the summer, officers worked with

over 70 young people over three days in Betts Park and Hayes, carrying out confidence building exercises and environmental management tasks inside parks and along streets.

BEECHE has provided environmental education, events and activities for approx 7500 participants, including over 150 class visits, the delivery of 350 A Level Student courses, 7 Continuing Professional Development courses. 16 teaching staff have gained Forest School teaching qualifications and are now delivering Forest School within their own school grounds.

Sixteen children's paid activities were organised for High Elms Country Park and Crystal Palace Park, including a Bug Hunt, Pond Dipping, and a Dinosaur Tour. This year officers have ensured all activities are provided without a net cost to the Council.

### Conferences and Awards

<b>Team London Achievement Certificate</b>  (Mayor of London award)	Friends of Chislehurst and Walden Recreation Ground
<b>LEAF Tree &amp; Woodland Awards 2013</b> (Mayor of London award)	The Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen
<b>Green Flag Community Award</b>	Dorset Road Allotments
<b>Unsung Hero Award</b>	Alan Francis (Willet Rec) Peter Jordan-Derring (Mottingham Woods) Les and Pam Dale (Darrick and Newstead Wood) Vivienne Tatam (Hollydale) Stephen Ernout (Glentrammon) Linda Sokoloff (Glentrammon) David Jeffrey (High Broom Wood) Anne Pilfold (Keston Common) Ishpi Blatchley (South hill Wood) Mike Smart (Hoblingwell / former Forum Chairman) Darren Russell (Hoblingwell)
<b>London In Bloom Neighbourhood Achievement Award</b>	Friends of Alexandra Cottages Outstanding (Level 5)
<b>London In Bloom Neighbourhood Achievement Award</b>	Friends of Biggin Hill Outstanding (Level 5)
<b>London In Bloom Neighbourhood Achievement Award</b>	Friends of Chislehurst Thriving (Level 4)

<p><b>London In Bloom</b>  <b>Neighbourhood</b> Achievement  Award</p>	<p>Friends of Tugmutton  Thriving (Level 4)</p>
<p><b>Bromley Environment Awards</b>  Garden Awards</p>	<p>Hannah Barnes  Sidney Carter  Fleur Wood  Phil Baxter  Blandsford Drummond  Friends of Glebe Housing Association  St Cecilia's Leonard Cheshire Disability</p>
<p><b>Mayor's Civic Reception</b></p>	<p>Bob Fisher – Bromley Countryside Volunteers  Jan Wilson – Bromley Countryside Volunteers  Dot Kilsby – Friends of South Hill Wood and  Kingswood Glen  Rachel Bailey – Friends of South Hill Wood and  Kingswood Glen  Mary Hempstead – High Elms Friends</p>