## FRIENDS OF SHREWSBURY PARK

# NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2012



#### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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**Chair: Kathy Smith** 

Secretary:

**Libby Agate** 

Treasurer:

Sonja O'Sullivan

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Carol Farr

Kris Inglis

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Ron Senkus

USEFUL NUMBERS: Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhood: 0208 649 3540

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Shrewsbury Park Residents Assoc: Len Newland, Chair, 0208 854 4423



# Message from the Chair

Dear Friends of Shrewsbury Park,

We have been asked why we have not held a summer event this year. When we were planning the events for the year, we decided it would be very difficult to compete with the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics. The people who organise our dog event needed a break, so we decided not to have a summer festival, but to have a monthly get together.

In February we cleared a path through the old allotments. In March we had a Spring Walk and in April we cleaned the woods facing Rowton Road. We had a Bat walk in May and cleared a path through the old nature reserve in June. In July we cleared ivy from the trees and brambles from the fallen tree in the top field.

We hope to see you at our events.

Kathy

#### **Activities and Events in the Park**

## Hanging out with the Bats – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012

There was a great turnout for the Bat Walk, proving that our little elusive neighbours in the Park continue to fascinate us humans.

We happily strolled the route enjoying the first truly dry, clear evening in weeks, admiring the newly sited bat boxes . Some folks developed a real eye for siting roosts in tree holes and added to our count. After an hour of patient wandering through the paths and swapping tales - and the leaders crossing their fingers the whole time- the first detector flapped into life and a batch of agile pipistrelles began their flypasts. Everyone was delighted as they zipped and dived close by, intent on finding a meal and not bothered by us.

Thank you to everyone who turned out to support our first independent Bat Walk. And thank you to all the enthusiastic young people and well-behaved dogs too. We had a great time too, and will let you know when the next one is planned. And thanks for starting the bat detector fund off with £20.73!!

Keep your eyes peeled in your own gardens at dusk this summer....

A good place to find out more is on the Bat Conservation Trust website <a href="https://www.bats.org.uk">www.bats.org.uk</a>

#### New bat boxes for the Park





### **Park News**

#### **Horses in Shrewsbury Park**

We had received a number of complaints from our members regarding the Kings Troop exercising their horses in the Park. In particular, a number of riders use the Dothill entrance from Garland Road, which is a narrow lane. This path has been churned up by the horses and one of the members had to step aside into brambles with her dog so the horses could get by. We had not been consulted on this issue by the Council, so we contacted them regarding members' concerns. We also contacted all our members for their comments.

Although 14 members said they did not mind the horses using the park (under certain conditions), an overwhelming 73 members were adamant they did not want the horses using the park.

We have a meeting in August with the Commanding Officer of the Kings Troop, together with other Friends of Parks in Greenwich, when we will put forward members' views. To read the comments made by our members please see our Website: www.fspark.co.uk

#### Fallen tree

After complaints from children hurting themselves on the brambles whilst playing on the fallen tree in the top field, Kathy and Ron spent an hour cutting back the brambles.

We hope the children can enjoy playing on the tree again.



#### Not a member?

The benefits of membership include:

- Entitlement to vote at Annual General Meetings to elect Board Members and influence the development of the Park
- Keeping up-to-date with what is going on by receiving the newsletters and annual report
- Getting involved in Friends events

We no longer charge for individual membership (but would welcome a donation).

The cost of membership for businesses is £20 pa. For this cost we will put an advert for your business on our website.

If you would like to join, please see our website, or email: fspdog@hotmail.com

# To help us all be safe, and to care for the Park, we ask you to:

- Put your litter in the bins provided.
- Pick up your dog mess—please do not give dog owners a bad name.
- Please do not pick any wild flowers, leave them for everyone to enjoy.

If you see any motorcycles in the park, please report them. See contact list

You can find out more about us by visiting our web site.

Www.fspark.co.uk

