

## **CRANFORD PARK FRIENDS**

### **Annual Report 2016-17**

We can all give ourselves a hearty pat on the back for the commitment of our volunteers supporting our activities in and for the park. One of our main achievements was working with Charmian Baker and her colleagues at London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH), which submitted our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the park and its buildings at the end of August. We must thank Justine Bayley, Robin Brown, David Wellavise and Sue Richards who took part, with myself, in several meetings of the Steering Group putting the bid together; also, all the volunteers who gave up some of their weekend to stand in Tesco's at Bull's Bridge in April quizzing 200 shoppers about their knowledge of the park. The results of this consultation were included in the bid. I'll say no more about the HLF submission as Charmian, chair of the Steering Group, has penned a report which follows this.

Our main summer event - the Family Day in July - was another success – despite a rain shower or two. A total of 52 volunteers (including St. Dunstan's parishioners) helped make this happen, to the satisfaction of to 400 people that attended. We also held nine Sunday volunteer sessions in and around the Secret Garden, producing another colourful display and talking to scores of visitors. Special thanks to Ron Bateman and Lyn who tended the garden for much of the year, despite illness. We held an extra volunteer session in March when 15 people turned up and gave the stables a thorough spring-clean. Thanks also to Ron's son Martin for help with the decorating.

Membership of the Friends has increased to 106 with many more registering to receive our event updates. We have held four quarterly meetings, all attracting healthy attendances. During the course of the year we led four themed guided walks around the park and hosted an enthusiastic school group from Botwell House in April. The History & Conservation group was as active as ever, Christopher Luetchford and his fellow volunteers welcoming 150 visitors to the stables for London Open House in September. A team of our volunteers also helped Dragana and Green Spaces reinstate the pond beside the information centre in September. As it gets established, it will mature into an eye-catching feature, attracting a variety of wildlife.

Regular riverfly and phosphate monitoring has been carried out on the River Crane; Wendy Marks is continuing to complete the weekly Butterfly Transect the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and I have given three talks to local groups about our work and the park's history and wildlife. Thanks to everyone who helped with the various events and to LBH Green Spaces for its continuing support. With our strong and enthusiastic group, in 2018 we can look forward to making the park an even better attraction we can all be proud of.

Bob Barton  
Secretary  
November 2017