



Newsletter December 2007

New Look Website (www.highburyparkfriends.org.uk)

The new website is very dynamic. The photos that some of you have sent in are amazing! —So far there ~~is~~ ~~are~~ news ~~items~~, histories, comments and photos as well as a wealth of links to related sites, organizations and contacts. ~~and it is still being added to.~~ Items mentioned briefly in the Newsletter are ~~often described~~ in more detail on the website and you can now pay your subscription on-line. —Paid up members can contribute to the website by email at ~~ing-~~ contact@highburyparkfriends.org.uk

Subscriptions

Have you moved house? —If so, please let us know when you pay your 2007/8 subscription ~~and~~. Also let us know your e-mail address if you would like e-mail ~~updates~~. — The subscription is £5 per household (£3 unwaged) and you can pay on-line by PayPal or by cheque, made payable to 'Friends of Highbury Park' and sent to ~~the Subscription Secretary Ellen Pisolkar~~ at: 12 Woodville Road, Kings Heath, B14 7AH. —

The money goes on simple administrative expenses and the public liability insurance we need for the events we hold. —

Call for Volunteers

Our call for volunteers prompted email replies and attendance at our Volunteers Meeting on 21 November, from which we have identified a group of people willing to help with events and to report on conditions in the park, a volunteer newsletter editor, and a selection of offers for assistance with financial matters. — We are still looking for Committee members, project organisers and are always looking for people to contribute photos or stories for the newsletter and website!

Can you identify this tree?

Answer overleaf



Useful contacts

Park Ranger 454 7810
District Parks Manager 464 8728

A Matter of Trust

A report in *The Birmingham News* (22/11/2007) about the future of Highbury Hall and grounds is of interest to park users. —Neglected areas between the long pond and Yew Tree Road are being considered for sale and development, including the lodge, kitchen garden, and model farm. — These areas may be commonly regarded as parkland, but are not part of the land assigned to the Parks department. —Highbury Park Friends have always seen the Hall and grounds as having a very important relationship with the park. — The sale or development of land associated with Highbury Hall would eliminate the possibility of restoring historic gardens, damage —woodland habitat and may affect access.

Efforts have been made to clarify and discuss the matter with Highbury Trust directors (all of whom are Council officers). — While any plans to demolish, sell or develop areas around Highbury Hall, would be subject to public consultation, early involvement of interested groups would seem sensible. — Moseley Community Development Trust manager Tony Thapar has requested that Trustee positions be created for community and charitable groups. — We have decided to support Tony's efforts.

For more information visit <http://highburyparkfriends.org.uk>

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 8 December 2007
Tree survey – meet in car park at 10am

Tree Survey



Our aim is to survey all trees over two metres in girth and any 'special' trees as well. —We have mapped out over 200 trees in a third of the park so far. We have found a 'granddaddy' oak measuring more than five metres in girth and huggled poplars, limes, pines, alders, sycamores and (ouch) hollies. Ornamental trees near Highbury Hall include Purple Oak, Persian Ironwood and Deodar Cedar. — We have found interesting fungi and surprisingly, many of the trees have baby yews growing at their base.

Although we haven't finished the survey we want people to get to know some of these trees so Kings Heath Library has a display of results and we are applying for money to extend the survey, put the information onto a website, create a display and publish a tree trail to link in with the Walk 2000 route. —Please do join us – we survey for around 2 hours on a Tuesday or Saturday. — No experience necessary. Biscuits and training provided. Phone Ellen for details on 444 0819

Answer: —Photo overleaf is an Alder in Highbury Park.