

Friends of Bournville Park Members' Newsletter May 2025

A **FOBP Trustees' meeting** was held on May 1st at Bournville Village Primary School. We thank the School for their hospitality. Nine trustees attended and two apologized for absence. Matt Rogers was welcomed to the Board of Trustees.

Finance

The Treasurer had previously circulated FOBP accounts, which remain healthy. There was a discussion about transfer of banking signatures from the previous Treasurer and Chair of Trustees to the current Chair (Rachael Manamley), Treasurer (Sam Wright) and Benn Scofield. This turns out not to be as easy as one might hope but it was agreed that Rachael, Sam and Benn would go the bank to sort this matter out, with forms completed by every Trustee, even those that will have no access to the account.

Activities

Tennis for Free

Work to repair the tennis courts was due to start in the second half of April. At the time of the Trustees' meeting, repairs had not begun. However, as of today (28th May), the repairs are underway and should be complete by the end of this week. Tennis for Free can now continue as before.

Summer events

The Chair reported that EcoBirmingham had confirmed that they would run the holiday cycling course as they have done in previous years. It would be held on Bournville Green behind the Hub as the ground is flatter than previous locations. The funding for this year would be for cycling alone. Dr Bike, which held a session on bike maintenance last year, has regular sessions at the Hub, and it was agreed that these would be advertised on the Park's noticeboards.

After the Trustees meeting, Centreport confirmed that it will provide multisport coaching for two hours a day for five days week commencing August 18th.

Planning of the picnic has begun. It will be like last year's – the duck race, silent disco, games. There will be some tennis coaching. The Bowls Club has been contacted about tasters on the greens and a reply is awaited. Windswept Workshops have been invited back. Bournville Bees have agreed to come along and talk to people about beekeeping. It is hoped we will be able to use Zettle to raise money through donations, particularly at the picnic. The plan is to have Zettle set up in time for the picnic.

Gardening Club

It was discussed how often Gardening Club should run. It was agreed that the first event would be a litter pick during half term. This happened on May 26th. Fifteen volunteers including four children were involved and they did an excellent job. Thanks to all of them.

Volunteers also helped clear some of the northern boundary of the Park so new hedging could be planted. Thanks to them too. However, new hedging planted by school children on the School boundary was vandalized. Very upsetting.



Nature in the Park



Although Spring is more or less over, the Park has had some glorious sights, especially the cherry blossom.

Cherries are a metaphor for life: here for a while, then gone. Enjoy the beauty of the Park whenever you can!

Some years ago, the Friends planted lots of daffodil bulbs. Many survived. They are difficult to photograph but here is an attempt!



In five minutes resting on a seat in the Park, your Newsletter Editor used a bird song identification app to recognize the calls of greenfinches, goldfinches, robins, at least one blackbird and one wren, and of course wood pigeons and crows. Sometimes people hear woodpeckers, which is always exciting. Why not sit for a while on one of the benches in the Park and listen out for bird song?

Barista Express

The “BaristaExpress” booth on the car park still sells coffee/tea/cold drinks/cakes but the opening hours have changed: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm. We think this is welcome addition to activities in the Park. We don’t have a financial interest in this endeavor but encourage you to stop off, say hello, and buy a drink!