



Friends of Bournville Park Members' Newsletter October 2024

A **FOBP Trustees' meeting** was held on September 25th at the house of one of the Trustees. Nine trustees attended and two apologized for absence.

Penelope Thomas will stand down due to work and family pressures. The Trustees thanked her for her service setting up social media. We are seeking a new Trustee to manage the website and/or our social media. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Chair, Joan Hosfield: j.hosfield34@gmail.com.

Summer activities

There were very positive responses from parents and providers about all the activities. A final financial statement has been prepared for our funders, Awards for All (AfA).

Finance

The Treasurer had previously circulated FOBP accounts, which remain healthy. As a conclusion to the summer events, the Trustees agreed to pay £4200 upfront for double sessions of Forest School once a month throughout 2025. This required £1056.75 to be taken from our General Funds in order to supplement the remaining AfA funds. The Chair announced that we have received a grant of £4000 from May29th 1961 Charitable Trust which will cover two years funding of Tai Chi.

2025 plans

The Trustees plan to make new bids for 2025 activities but are pleased that Forest School and Tai Chi are already funded.

Pre-school Forest School

New pre-school double sessions of Forest School run by a provider, Ampersand (with links to Wild Tribes) have started Wednesdays a.m. and some weekends. These are funded by the Arts Council and there is a choice of free/donation tickets. So far, the morning sessions have filled up but not the afternoons. We are monitoring this new arrangement so if you are free on Wednesdays take a stroll to the park to introduce yourself and see how it's going.

<https://www.facebook.com/Ampersandprojects>

https://www.instagram.com/ampersand_projects

Tennis for Free (TFF)

Cliff Allum reported that TFF has funding issues so there will be no funds next year. A new Lawn Tennis Association programme called Play in Parks will rely on a volunteer network. The Trustees decided that a small group of Trustees needs to look at this more carefully. Cliff Allum has estimated an approximate annual cost of £2500 to continue running Sunday morning sessions. Funded sessions ended on October 12th but Trustees agreed to fund two additional sessions so that TFF finishes as planned on October 26th this year.

August 2025 events

The Trustees agreed that we should plan to repeat this year's activities next year, subject to funding being available.

Play equipment

A brief consultation with local people via Google forms did not produce many replies and

unsurprisingly there was no clear opinion. The Chair has corresponded with Sue Amey of Birmingham City Council (BCC) Parks Department and the BCC Play Officer. She has asked for a safety assessment of current equipment.

The Trustees had a wide-ranging discussion about equipment and development plans and it was suggested that we should look at

- i. Short term items e.g. repair of the safari jeep; replacement of the missing roundabout (though not necessarily like for like). We should try to undertake Park maintenance jobs over and above BCC work e.g. bulb planting.
- ii. Medium term e.g. a base for the table tennis table; some new equipment such as musical instruments; planting of a new flowering shrub area.
- iii. Long term developments e.g. completely new playground equipment; a multi use games area on one of the old bowling greens.

Noticeboards

Bournville Village Trust (BVT) has sent a warning about some inappropriate notices on BVT boards. The Trustees agreed to look out for these and remove them.

Membership Secretary

Besides seeking a Trustee to look after our social media, we need a Membership Secretary. If you might be interested, please contact Colin Thomas, who is doing this role at present, to discuss what is involved: c.r.thomas55@gmail.com.

Autumn colours

The Park looks lovely in the Autumn with the trees changing colour:

