

Friends of Chapman's Green AGM: Chair's Report for 2020 & 2021

The pandemic has meant that cross 2020-21, the Friends' activities have been more limited than we would have liked (and there was no AGM in 2021). Nonetheless, we have collectively invested **over 150 hours of volunteer time** into the park over these last 2 years and set the stage for some exciting plans in 2022.



Growing our networks

- We have continued our partnership with Grown22, whose occasional advice is much appreciated, and are developing a partnership with charity Inspirit.
- The Friends mailing list has grown during 2020-21, and now stands at over 70. Our WhatsApp group includes 20, and our meetings and meet-ups generally attract about 10. In 2022, as our activity ramps up, we aim to convert more of our 70 email-receivers into active members. Thanks go to Sam for maintaining the email list and sending out all our communications.

Supporting a cleaner, more welcoming park

- Since lockdown measures permitted we have reinstated our monthly litter picks – thanks for Cynthia for coordinating these. During 2020-21, and in spite of several months when we were not active, we cleared over **50 bags-worth of rubbish** from the park.
- After delays, Haringey Council was able to introduce and publicise measures to discourage drinking in the park. Woodside's local policing team have since stepped up their patrols of

the park and deterred groups from drinking, thereby reducing the litter and other anti-social behaviour taking place. The park is still ill-used by some people – and the test will come as the weather improves in the Spring – but the situation appears to have improved during the second half of 2021.

Inviting local people to enjoy the park through community events

- This was the main element of our activity impacted by the pandemic – we held no community events in 2020, and only a modest outdoor get-together for Friends in summer (rather than the fair we would have liked), plus another small get-together for Friends at Christmas.

Working with Haringey Council to enhance park maintenance and facilities

- We understand that the Council's attention has been elsewhere during the pandemic, and staff changes also appear to have impacted on our contact with the Council. As a result several things we hoped would have been actioned – not least the creation of the children's play area – are still in the pipeline.

Revitalising the pavilion

- In the summers of 2020 and '21 we picked up our work to paint the back of the pavilion, following our work on the front in 2019. A big thank you to Alex H for leading this work and doing the lion's share of it.
- Earlier this year we signed a memorandum of understanding with Inspirit, a charity introduced to us by Haringey Council. We've been pleased to see Inspirit make use of the building and look forward to them signing a lease with the Council soon.

Work to reimagine the former bowling green and plans for orchard-planting

- This has been the main focus of our attention during 2020-21 as we have tried to expand our physical activity from litter-picks into gardening. After digging a 40m border in Spring 2020 we planted a strip of wildflower seeds to create the first stage of our 'mini-meadow' and repeated this in 2021 with help from In Spirit staff and service users. Both summers the wildflowers looked great!
- In summer 2021 we mowed a diamond shape into the green to trial a potential future layout, and agreed that we would 'rewild' the four corners, including planting fruit trees to create an orchard. Thanks to Bobby for leading on the orchard plans so far, including connecting us up with expert Peter May. Thanks to Adrian for beginning work on a wooden planter from recycled wood.
- During winter we have planted spring bulbs in the corners of the green and undertaken a general clear-up of the site.
- We have recently met with Quentin Given from the local Friends of the Earth group, and as a result should be planting our first trees on the green in the next month – enabling the Friends to be part of the Queen's Green Canopy project for the Jubilee.

Rob Francis, Chair

February 2022