



# FRIENDS OF SIR JOSEPH HOOD MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS

Newsletter

April 2016

## The Future of The Friends

Formed in 2003, The Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields are a pioneering voluntary group comprised of local residents, working together to preserve promote and enhance the park facilities. The future of the Friends has never been so promising. Spurred on by the council's plans to close the parks historic pool, membership has flourished as partnerships with schools, scouts and local businesses have strengthened. Working with Merton Council the Friends aim to continue to support a park to be proud of, run for the community by the community.

## Did you know?

- ⇒ The Friends have helped raise over £250,000 to date.
- ⇒ Fundraising by the Friends enabled the revamp of the tennis courts and new basket ball courts to be created.
- ⇒ Over 9000 visitor hours were spent at the historic paddling pool in just 5 weeks last summer.

*"We use the park at least once a week, usually cycling there so the children can practise riding their bikes in a safe place. We love all the activities on offer at the park - the wildlife walk, the crazy golf, the paddling pool and the playground. It is a beautiful place for all visitors from the community and beyond"*

Sarah, New Malden



Splash Dance launch a great success 19th March 2016

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## Akela Speaks



*"On behalf of the 22nd Wimbledon Scout Group, can I thank the friends for allowing the Group to undertake the community project today to prepare the crazy golf course ready for use by the public over the coming months and arranging for the litter pickers to be available for us to collect the rubbish around the park and surrounding areas.*

*We received some really nice feedback from the community as to how nice it was to see young people taking part in helping to keep the local park looking nice. Not only is the park used lots by the young people in the area but the group have been proud to have been paramount to obtaining the funding for the basketball courts. We are also pleased to be able to use the park during the summer evenings for lots of activities ranging from water rockets to games and treasure hunts which the young people really enjoy. Please keep me informed of any other activities in which we can be a part of."*



## Splash Pad Appeal 2016

It's no surprise that Merton Council will have difficulty maintaining the borough's paddling pools beyond 2016 due to budgetary constraints. Local government has to do more with less and at times like these, the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood can rise to the challenge of safeguarding the pool which has been a feature of this park since the 1950s.

The pool is the park's main attraction during the summer months. Families with young children spend all day in the park enjoying the pool and exploring its other facilities - a play and picnic area, sports courts, café, crazy golf, woodland walk and wildflower meadow. It is very likely that the closure of the pool would lead to a decline in the park's overall use and a return to the derelict conditions last seen in the 2000's.

There is considerable local support for retaining the water play facility. An interactive 'splash pad' – an accessible, environmentally friendly and low maintenance alternative to a paddling pool – would retain the 'heart and soul' of the park during the summer. Splash pads have proved popular at two other parks within Merton borough, they are low maintenance, easily accessible and a sustainable environmentally friendly option for the future

The Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields have started fundraising and, so far, substantial pledges have been received from Merton Council and from a private benefactor. We are confident that we will be able to raise the required funds so that the splash pad funds are raised for 2018.

Want to help? Log in to our Facebook page, learn the "#splash dance16" routine, upload your video, sign our petition, join the Friends and share our message on social media.

<http://www.friendsofsjh.org>

Graham Fairclough  
Cub Scout Leader

22nd Wimbledon Scout  
Group



# Crazy Golf Overhaul



Smile for the camera your half way there!

## Scouts Come to the Rescue!

The 22nd Wimbledon Scout Group armed with scrapers, brushes, paint and true grit!, turned out in force on Sunday 17th April working in community spirit to revamp the crazy golf area of Sir Joseph Hood Park.

The sun shines on the righteous and the group of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, supported by friends and family worked flat out leaving the area in tip top shape ready for a spring re-opening.

The Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Park will be running their popular café staffing the crazy golf hut Sunday afternoon's providing refreshments as the sun prepares to get its hat on for May half term and bank holidays!

Standing together with schools and community groups like the 22nd Wimbledon Scout Group, The Friends are stronger, the park is brighter and our community values excel.

The Friends would also like to thank Merton Council parks team for supplying paint and equipment for the refit.



# Green Flag Award

The Friends were integral to the Park winning the first Green Flag award back in 2007, keeping the flag for 8 years until 2015. Help us win back the Green Flag, a prestigious award setting the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK.



The Green flag standards are what the Friends strive to secure for the park: for it to be a welcoming space, safe and secure, clean and well maintained, demonstrating conservation and heritage with community involvement.



Would you like to volunteer to help the Friends? Whether its staffing the café as a volunteer, helping with our conservation and planting, volunteering at an event or joining us at our regular litter picking, there is a place for all. £5 buys a family lifetime membership.

Help us fly the flag again in 2016

## Contact Us

[www.friendsofsjh.org](http://www.friendsofsjh.org)

[Contactus@friendsofsjh.org](mailto:Contactus@friendsofsjh.org)

[Change.org](#) Friends of SJH

Facebook Group: Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

Facebook page: Sir Joseph Hood MPF Splash Pad Appeal

[Tweet@sirJHMPF](#)

## STAR QUOTE

Tell us how you use the park on our Facebook page and your quote could be featured in the next addition.

*"My family and friends use the park on almost a daily basis- walking to see the horses, letting the kids run wild on the grass, picking blackberries in summer, looking for bugs and birds, playing in the kids play area, playing tennis and crazy golf, and when it was filled splashing in the pool, meeting up with friends for picnics, jogging on the running track and using all the exercise equipment and so much more. My kids have learnt to scooter and now busy learning how to ride a bike in the park. It is a fantastic space and hopefully will be kept in great condition for many years to come"*

## And finally.....

## A new Website for 2016

Watch this space for our new website! We know how busy all our Friend members are on Social Media. It's time to give the Friends a facelift.....no anaesthesia needed . Do you have experience of website design? Want to help the Friends from home around your own commitments, our technology team would love to hear from you on the contact details above.