

FRIENDS OF SIR JOSEPH HOOD MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS



Newsletter

January 2017

A flagtastic summer!

We got our flag back ! We are of course delighted and would like to thank everyone who supported the Friends and the council in the clear up operations before the judging commenced!

We have had an incredibly busy summer, we managed to keep the pool open with our fabulous extended family friends of The Friends on Facebook, our wonderful sponsors of banners and not forgetting the spectacular dance routine "Splash Dance" choreographed by Lizzy Gee of The Gee Force School Of Dance, catch it on YouTube. We have pledged £10,000 of funds raised towards the new splash pad.



"This park is such an important part of our community. It is not just a piece of my family's history but an important part of our future! I am so grateful to The Friends for the work done to preserve the facilities, please keep going!"

Maggie- Worcester Park.

Did you know?

- ⇒ **We raised over £7000 this summer with sales from the cafe.**
- ⇒ **We have the busiest paddling pool in Merton.**
- ⇒ **The path around the park is approx. 1k in length. Walking 1 circuit can burn 60 calories, running it 100 calories!**



Presentation of the Green Flag award for 2016/17

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Green Lane Primary and Nursery School



A new partnership for Merton's parks and greenspaces

All our local partnerships are crucial for maintaining a park to be proud of. The 22nd Wimbledon Scout group who work on our grounds clean up, Green Lane School who are shortly to become a forest school using the facilities at the park and many others. Merton Council has awarded their parks maintenance contract to idVerde the largest green space maintenance contractors in Europe. They will start work in Sir Joseph Hood Park from February 2017. We will keep you updated on social media of any changes. We are reassured that the current employees of the council park team, working in our parks, will stay with us and continue to use their local knowledge.

Alf Alcott Award

Back in 2007 Alf came along to the first meeting of the Friends and sadly died on the way home. In his memory his widow set up the Alf Alcott award, given for outstanding contributions to the work of the Friends in fundraising for a park to be proud of. See below the 2016 winner, a full list is on our website.



Daizi Cocum and Katarina Cabral

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, they are making a difference within their community. They undertook volunteer work for the Friends of the Park. They worked in the summer café and carried out weekly litter picks for three months.

THANK YOU

Our friends at GLPN School

“As a local community school, Sir Joseph Hood Park provides an invaluable resource. Our pupils regularly make use of the space and facilities to support with their wider curriculum, especially in our drive to develop outdoor learning. The park also provides the space for our pupils to undertake a wide range of activities, including the daily mile which we have implemented to enhance both fitness and well-being at the school. New Nursery and Reception families are welcomed into Green Lane with an informal picnic in the park and our children often vote for their class treat to be time spent enjoying the park with the teacher and friends. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such an asset right on our doorstep and it has become an intrinsic part of the broad and exciting curriculum we offer our pupils”

Sally Berlemont
Head Teacher

Green Lane Primary and
Nursery School

Save our pool the history



**Waking Up To Wildlife
in 2004!**

Left to right:

Caroline Ventom

Sophie Cabral

Dianne Walker

**Lets All Keep
Cool Save Our
Pool!**

**Can you spot an-
yone you know?**



They don't look a day older do they???? Photos from 2004

Paddling pool kept open 12 years of campaigning!

We kept the pool open again this year we think you'll agree it was a fantastic summer with some fabulous weather. With the Friends café operating from the crazy golf hut we sold thousands of artisan ice creams!!!

The splash pad appeal has gone from strength to strength.

Due to your generosity we are able to pledge £10,000 towards the replacement for the pool, just from money raised in the last 12 months. We know we can't raise all the money with ice cream sales, delicious though they are, we need benefactors, council support, match funding and even crowd funding to get to our target of £250,000. We have already had one benefactor pledging £50,000, that's a grand total of £60,000 in the pot!

At our AGM on 6th November we voted in a new Chair, Jane Pritchard and Secretary Sarah Thorne for the Friends. Caroline and Sophie the outgoing Chairs, handed over bundles of history and we found these fabulous photos of their work which started 12 years ago. We doubt it will do their kid's street cred any good (or theirs) but how time flies when you're having fun!

The history of the Friends' success is the foundation for our future. We are sure you'll join us in thanking Caroline, Sophie and Di for their tireless work over the past 10 years.

Support from Sir Joseph Hood's granddaughters



We would like to thank the wonderful Josepha Murray and Margaret Hood granddaughters of Sir Joseph Hood who sent us very generous donations towards the work of The Friends. They also provided some archive documents **THANKYOU.**

Josepha Murray and daughter Kirstie on a recent visit to SJHMPF's in 2016.

Contact Us

www.friendsofsjh.org

Contactus@friendsofsjh.org

[Change.org](https://www.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](https://twitter.com/sirJHMPF)

Dates for your diary

Fun Family Dog Show

14th May 2017

Plump up your pedigrees, mollycoddle your mongrels and join us for (probably) the best dog show in surrey !! Sponsored by Park Vets, look out for banners soon.

Family Fun Day

8th July 2017

Celebrate park life with us, bring your family and friends and make new ones!

And finally.....

A new website for 2017

Watch this space for our new website!. The very talented Oliver Pusey is hard at work preparing a fundraising friendly, social media savvy new website.

Would you like to volunteer to help the Friends? £5 buys you lifetime membership, contact us using the above details to join.