

Friends of Lowndes Park

Newsletter—November 2008

Introduction

It is hard to get motivated when the very best hope that you held has been dashed. So I hope that you will forgive me the length of time between newsletters.

But motivated we must be, if we are to save Lowndes Park from steady, but inevitable decline.



Lottery bid

I am sure that you are all aware by now that the bid was unsuccessful. This was disappointing news but we always knew it would be tough, and with money being taken away from the initial pot, the odds were stacked even higher against us.

We have had some feedback which told us that there were 26 competing bids and eight were weeded out at the first stage. Our bid went forward with the other 17 but given the available money only eight were finally approved.

I don't think that our bid was at fault, and if we could have been in a position to submit the bid one or two years earlier I am convinced that it would have been a different story.

That said, we are where we are, and not where we would like to be. The

Friends have nothing to reproach themselves for, we acquitted ourselves well and I am grateful to each and every one of you for your support. Similarly the steering group who put the bid together can be proud that it was the best bid that we could have put forward with the resources and time available.

So what now?

Work goes on

We cannot abandon the park now. If anything we have an even bigger role to play than we had previously. What we said at the outset is as true today as it was then. If nothing is done about the park it will continue to deteriorate and decline. We cannot let this happen so now we need to set our shoulders

to the wheel and see what we can do.

Please renew your membership in January so that we can continue to carry things forward and join in with as many of our activities as possible. If we all pull together we are sure to get there in the end.

The steering group is meeting in early December and hopefully we can decide if it is worth another bash. This would be the last round and so many applications may be a bit rushed and we could submit a new and amended bid. It is of course a bit of a long shot but needs must and all that.



Swift over Lowndes Park

Make A New Years Resolution



Many people say that Lowndes Park is Chesham's 'Jewel in the Crown' but it does need a bit of tender loving care. Please help us achieve this by giving a little of your time, gardening skills are not essential but enthusiasm is.

I'm Joan Clark and at the AGM I volunteered to take on the task of co-ordinating the working parties to carry out gardening projects in the Park. My aim is to support those who already carry out valuable work and also encourage others to join in. To achieve this I need to be in contact with you all and I urge you to talk to me as soon as possible. I propose setting up a working party to meet on the first Sunday of each month from 10-12 noon.

Would you like to join us? If so, or if you want further information or to discuss alternative arrangements, please phone 01494 783035 or email: joan-clark@hotmail.co.uk

Guess the year this photo was taken?



We have been asked to publicise the Town Carol Service, which is to be held at St Mary's Parish Church on Wednesday 17 December at 8pm. Everyone is invited, please be seated by 7.45. We can stroll back through the park afterwards. Now how Christmassy is that?

Friends Committee

Michael Rowan (Chairman)

Sue Rowan (Secretary)

Phil Folly (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

Joan Clark
(Volunteer Coordinator)

Andrew Clark (Walks Coordinator)

Merrin Molesworth
(Newsletter Layout)

Vacancy
(Fundraising)

Phone: 01494 785146

Email:
michael.rowan@ntlworld.com

Fundraiser

Sadly Janet has decided to step down from the post of form filler in for the fundraising, which is a great loss, but we are grateful to her for giving it a go. This of course leaves a gap so if you think that you might be able to fill out the forms for the various applications that we will have to put together then I would be grateful if you could get in touch. Clearly this is more important now than ever.

Web site

We have a successful bid to the Chiltern District Council and so we should have the web site underway soon.

Finally

So the fight goes on and if anything we have to raise our game higher. We are not the first to suffer a set back like this and we won't be the last, but with your help we can still give Lowndes Park the prominence it deserves. So please stick with us and renew your membership by getting in touch with Phil Folly, and by joining Joan's band of volunteers doing what you can, be it the occasional hour or so or a more regular commitment.

We can do this if we all pull together.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the park enjoying yourselves over the coming months, and as for the Friends of Lowndes Park it is business as usual.

Michael Rowan

Corporate members

- *Lucia's Delicatessen*
- *the Bucks Examiner*
- *Chesham Environmental Group*
- *the Lowndes Park Model Boat Club*
- *the Chesham Society*