



**Friends of
North Sheen
Recreation Ground**



North Sheen Recreation Ground 2018/9 Annual General Meeting

19th February 2019

- with post-meeting actions





- 1. Recap of the Friends' role and vision for the Rec**
- 2. Brief review of Friends' activity over last year / plans in place for next year - 5 mins on each:**

Treasurer's Report, Green Flag Award, Outdoor Gym, Trees, Flowerbeds, Paths, Dog Club, Paddling pool / Playgrounds, Communications, Reporting faults in the Rec
- 3. Election of Friends' Committee**
- 4. Discussion of ideas for further activity: Friends can put forward ideas for future focus e.g.: Tree labelling / Tree walks / Tree guides, Tree Fest event, Dog Club, other events / activities etc;**
- 5. Vote on priorities / decide on next actions**
- 6. Any other business**



Recap

Vision: Friends Organisation



Inclusive organisation
that acts as a catalyst
working with Richmond
Council to achieve our
Vision for the Rec

Organisation

- Democratic constitution that details Friends':
 - Objectives + Scope
 - Committee elections
 - Conditions of membership

Catalyst

- Not actually running the Rec (that is the responsibility of Richmond Council), but seeking to represent users' views on future developments and improvements

Working together with Richmond Council

- Aiming to improve communications with Richmond Council
- Suggesting and participating in plans for future improvements

Inclusive

- Free membership
- All Rec users can become a member, subject to Friends Constitution
- Expanding membership; particularly more active members willing to join in activities
- Working with sub-groups – a Champion in each area reporting back to the Committee

Friends' Vision

- Based on survey of users' views (as conducted in 2013 – to be repeated approx every 3 years)



Overall Vision for the Rec

Multi-use =

answering the varying needs of different user groups, e.g. children, teenagers, adults, footballers, players of basketball /table tennis, dog-walkers and café-goers; no single user group dominating usage to the detriment of others; using feedback from Rec user survey

Local =

appealing to users in the local vicinity; users arriving on foot; not seeking users from further afield (apart from sports fixtures)

To be an excellent multi-use local park we are all proud of, playing a positive role for local users and the environment

Environment =

positive, visible role for flowers and trees, enhancing the Rec's stress-busting qualities and supporting habitats for bees, butterflies and birds

Excellent =

as good, if not better than the best multi-use local parks (evaluated by Richmond Council user satisfaction surveys)

Playing a positive role =

being an uplifting place to visit – improving the quality of local users' lives; being good neighbours to those who live near the Rec

We are all proud of =

we all enjoy visiting the Rec and want to keep it as good as it can be



Treasurer's Report



Treasurer: Anna Gilbert

FONSR Income and expenditure 2017-18							
Opening Balance 1/9/17 £399.00							
INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
Date	£	Details	Date	£	Details		
			15/12/2017	£ 10.00	Cheque 100011 reimbursing S Burden for spring bulbs		
			20/12/2017	£ 20.00	cheque 100012 reimbursing G Lewison for laminating 5 posters		
	£ -	TOTAL INCOME		£ 30.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		
account balance as at statement date 22/01/18 was £369.00				369			
Uncommitted funds as at 18/2/19				369			

Treasurer's Next Actions:

- Anna Gilbert is handing over responsibilities for Treasury to Grant Lewinson (Anna will remain as a Committee member)
- Many thanks to Anna for all her valuable help as Treasurer and to Grant for taking on this role!

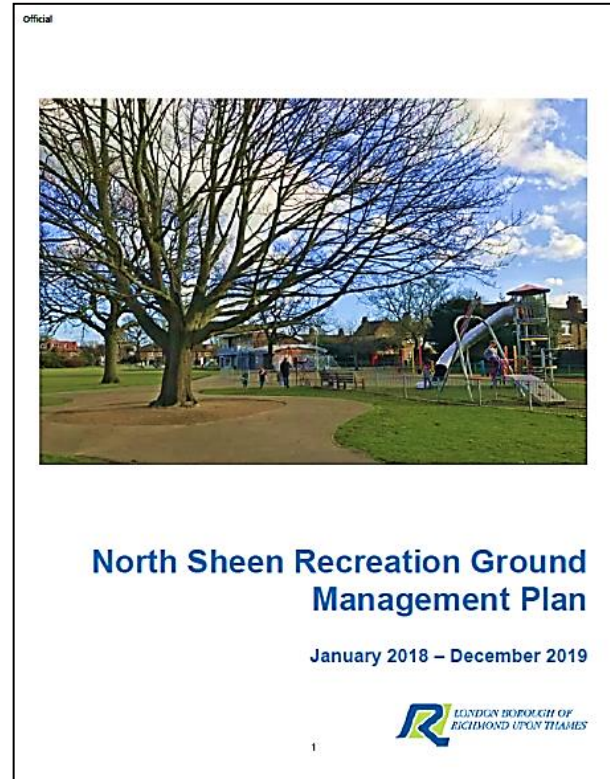


Rec wins Green Flag Award!



The Rec was awarded a Green Flag Award for being an excellent park – July 2018

- Richmond Council entered the Rec into these Awards with input from the Friends Committee - we supplied the Rec Vision, suggested amendments to the Management Plan and Sue Burden + Peter Hart were present when the judges came to inspect the Rec
- Green Flag Awards are run by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government with Keep Britain Tidy; they judge against 8 criteria:
 - *A welcoming place*
 - *Healthy, safe and secure*
 - *Clean + well-maintained*
 - *Sustainability*
 - *Conservation + heritage*
 - *Community involvement*
 - *Marketing*
 - *Management*
- The main benefit to Rec users is it gives us a written Management Plan for the Rec that is agreed by Richmond Council and the Friends Group; this specifies exactly how the Rec is managed e.g. how often litter is collected and the planned tree planting





Outdoor Gym



Next Actions

- Intro sessions on first Saturday of each month, from April 6th
- Friends volunteers to also offer ad hoc one-on-one introductions - info to go on a sign near Outdoor Gym and in Pavilion etc
- Sue to contact Richmond Council about a height info sign

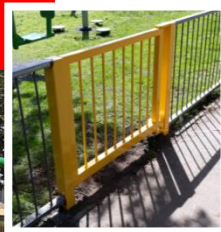
VISION: Sports
Encouraging informal / free-to-access sport and fitness activities including outdoor gym

2018/ 19 Update

- Friends supplied research on awareness of Outdoor Gym + proof of training sessions to justify London Marathon Charitable Trust grant
- Second gate direct to path installed May 18
- 4 free training sessions run by Friends volunteers Sept-Dec 2018 – many thanks to Anna Gilbert + Grant Lewison!
- Friends lobbied Richmond Council for the repairs carried out in June 18
- Friends marked 1.4m min height restriction on all equipment + requested appropriate signage



Friends volunteers



DO YOU WANT TO GET FIT FOR FREE?
The outdoor gym in the North Sheen Rec (by North Road entrance) is waiting for you and it's free to use! We are now holding free training sessions for new users, at 10.00am – 11.00am on the first Saturday of each month, from 1st September.

Friends of North Sheen Recreation Ground

Come along and try out the apparatus – ordinary clothes are fine

NB The equipment manufacturers specify the minimum height to use the equipment safely is 1m 40cm (4ft 7ins)

Chest Press

CW-02

This unit provides an upper body workout focusing on the chest and arms.



Leg Press

CW-06

Use the Leg Press machine to strengthen and build the thigh and hip muscles.



Skier

CW-08

Strengthens lower back and abdominal muscles to improve flexibility.



Cross Rider

CW-23

A full body cardio workout using the arms and legs simultaneously.



Enjoy your workout!

Please report any problems with the equipment to Richmond Council:

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks_and_open_spaces/report_a_parks_fault.htm (select "other" in issue list) or call 0208 891 1411



***Any interest in an
“Easy Fitness” class
in the pavilion?***

Easy Fitness:

- ✓ ***Suitable for:***
 - ***those new to fitness***
 - ***People “taking it gently”: following surgery etc (check with your doctor first!)***
- ✓ ***No lying on the floor; simple exercises***
- ✓ ***No special clothing or kit necessary***
- ✓ ***30 minutes during the day on a weekday in the Pavilion***
- ✓ ***Fee per class to professional trainer***

**Next
Action:
Feedback
will be
sought soon
to find out
if there is
sufficient
interest to
run a class
like this**

What we agreed
at last year's AGM

Trees



Environment Champions: Peter Hart and Sue Burden

VISION: Environment

Positive role for flowers and trees, building the Rec's stress-busting qualities as well as habitats for bees, butterflies and birds

Trees – next phase 1

- We have asked Richmond Council for 3-4 Fruit trees to be planted on the west side of the Rec; these reflect the orchard / market garden history of our area and could be a focus for tree walks

Trees – next phase 3

- Possibly hold a “Tree Fest” event in 2018
- Themed around trees – what they do for us / how we can encourage them
- To be confirmed – volunteers needed

Trees – next phase 2

- Richmond Council's Tree Officer did a survey of the Rec's 98 trees in 2016
- We would like to get permanent identification labels on all trees, so we can create information sheets / guided tree walks
- We would need to get a grant (Tesco's environment fund, etc) to cover the cost of the labels



Trees



Trees – next phase 1 New trees to be planted

2018/19 UPDATE

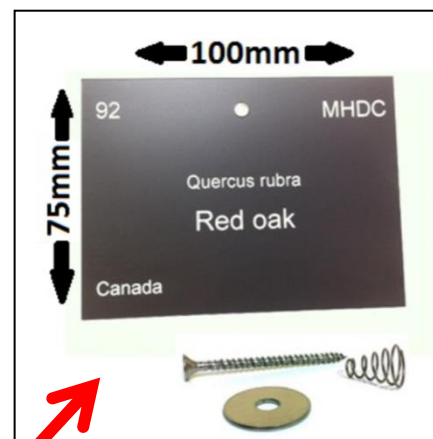
- Richmond Council's Tree Manager promised in 13.2.19 email that *"We will of course be planting trees and this will be taking place during March/April."*
- Revised proposed location for fruit trees group – West or South-facing; not East-facing
- Other trees to be planted will be crab apples by Marksbury Avenue entrance
- Deceased trees (rem. = removed):
 - Whitebeams #70 + #71 (disease) rem
 - Laburnham #92 (old age – died) rem
 - Prunus Avium Plena #44 (old age + damaged bark) rem
 - Hornbeam #23 (strimmer damage) rem
 - Hornbeam #30 (? Dry Summer - died)

New Trees to be planted Next Actions:

- Sue will communicate when there is news about the new tree planting in March / April



Alutag £8.95 for 25



Garden Label & Sign Co
– engraved label + fixing
£6 - 11 each, depending
on quantity

Spring washer
fixing £0.84



Plantsmap.com



Trees

Kew
Gardens
Label



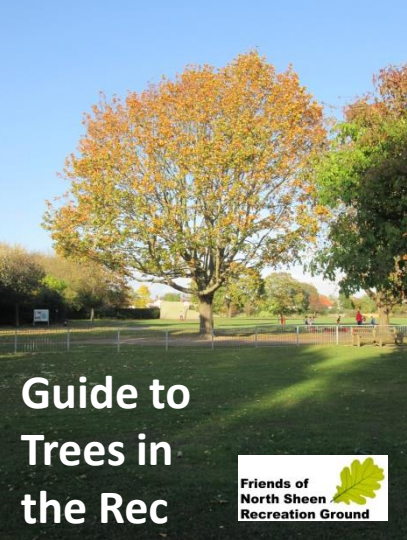
Trees – next phase 2 Tree Labels

2018/19 UPDATE

- Richmond Council's Tree Officer has OKed trial of tree labels, using labels like AluTags or engraved labels from Garden Label & Sign Company and special spring-washer nails (13.2.19)
- Tree information (not in short supply!) and photos need to be collated to create Tree Information Guides and Tree Worksheets suitable for schools
- Funds for labels etc to be sought from supermarket environment funds
- We will start with selected trees and expand the Guide over time

Tree Labels Next Actions:

- We agreed to go for Kew Gardens style perspex labels and to do a test one for Richmond Council to OK (cost from current funds)
- Info on label to be common name, Latin name, country of origin and Richmond Council tree ref. number



Guide to
Trees in
the Rec



Example Tree Information (currently on our website for a few trees)

Indian Horse Chestnut, Aesculus indica, is native to the lower slopes of the north-west Himalaya, from Afghanistan and Pakistan to western Nepal. In the Himalayas it is one of the dominant trees of deciduous forests, growing alongside oaks, maples, birches and laurels.

It was introduced to Britain in 1851 by Colonel Henry Bunbury, a friend of Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of Kew Gardens from 1865-1885, who planted seeds in his family's Suffolk garden.

Its conkers, inedible and poisonous, come in a smooth and spineless case. They are wrinkled, darker and smaller than that of the standard Horse Chestnut.

Tree Guide Next Action:

- Volunteers agreed to take on one tree each, to create tree guide (Sue will provide example template), including 5 photos: 1 per season + leaf close-up



Trees



Trees – next phase 3 Tree Fest

2018/19 UPDATE

- Tree Fest idea to be considered for 2020 after phase 2 is complete
- Tree labelling and Information worksheets from phase 2 will provide a relevant framework for a Tree Fest event, as well as a long-term resource for Rec users

Tree Fest Next Action:

- We agreed to review the idea of the Tree Fest at our next AGM; current focus for trees is phase 1 and 2

Friends of North Sheen Recreation Ground



Flowers



Environment Champion: Peter Hart and Sue Burden

VISION: Environment

Positive role for flowers and trees, building the Rec's stress-busting qualities as well as habitats for bees, butterflies and birds

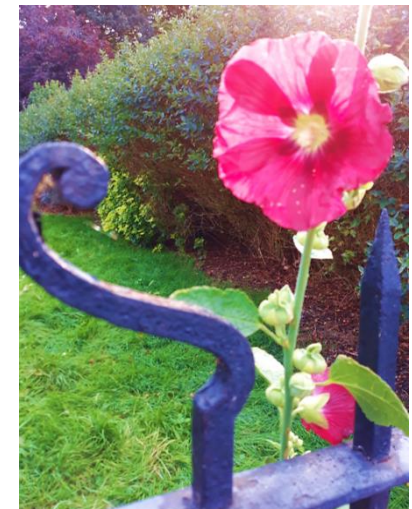


2018/19 Update

- ✿ Any ideas for WW1 memorial poppy flowerbed?
- ✿ It seems a good idea to keep this feature and to focus on colourful wildflowers / insect food plants

Flowers Next Action:

- Sue to contact Richmond Council to suggest keeping poppy flowerbed as above





Path resurfacing



Environment Champion: Peter Hart and Sue Burden

Paths Next Action:

- Sue to contact Richmond Council about slippery mud + puddles on the path in front of Pavilion on behalf of Rec users



2018/19 Update

- ➔ Following lobbying from Friends Committee, the badly damaged paths by the Marksbury Road entrance and around the junior playground were re-surfaced in June 18; the drainage was also renewed by Richmond Council at cost of c£80k
- ➔ Paths by the Dancer Road gate + in front of Pavilion will need re-surfacing soon



Dog walking



Vision: Dog Walking
Encouraging
responsible dog-
walkers to enjoy the
Rec in harmony with
other Rec users



Dog Walkers Champion: Pam Ibrahima

Dog Club

If you would like to join the **Dog Club**
in **North Sheen Rec.**

We would offer:
Dog Birthday Parties
Dog Photo Exhibition with Prizes
Dog Show
Classes

Meet in Park

Wednesday 15th March 12am to join
and have your dogs picture taken.

Info- Pam 07715808666





Dog walking



Dog Walkers Champion: Pam Ibrahima

Dog Photo Exhibition August 2018
First Prize Photo

Dog Club Next Action:

- Pam to fix a date for Rec Dog Club dogs (...and owners?) Fancy Dress Tea Party



First Prize winner Rita



Exhibition organiser Pam



Paddling Pool

Playgrounds Champion: Katy Robins



VISION: Playgrounds
Encouraging play for all children that is active, fun, safe, inclusive, social ; with paddling pool

2018/19 Update

The Friends Committee will lobby Richmond Council to encourage any paddling pool re-surfacing repairs to take place before Summer 2019



Paddling Pool Next Action:

- Sue to contact Richmond Council about timing for paddling pool maintenance



<http://e-voice.org.uk/fonsr/>



Follow @FriendsNSR

- ### Communications Next Actions
- Many thanks to Ruth Gledhill for organising our website and Facebook page until now
 - Due to work commitments, Ruth can no longer manage our communications (but will remain as a Friend)
 - Until further support is identified, we will focus on keeping the website up to date and keep Facebook as as “semi-static”
 - Any suggestions / volunteers welcome (full training given if needed)



Reporting faults in the Rec



Richmond.gov.uk

Services | The Council | My Richmond

Services / Parks and open spaces

Parks and open spaces

Richmond upon Thames is famous for its greenery and is the only borough where residents live on both sides of the river. There are over 500 hectares of formal parks, sports grounds, playgrounds and nature conservation sites for residents to enjoy.

[Find a park](#) [Report a fault](#)

- ***Please report any faults in the Rec directly with Richmond Council via their website (google “Richmond Council Parks”) or call them (someone is there 24 / 7) on 0208 891 1411***
- ***If the response is unsatisfactory / the problem is not rectified, please let Sue know and she will take it up with Richmond Council***



Election of Committee Members



16. The Members shall elect a Management Committee (“the Committee”), consisting of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and not less than three nor more than eight other Members.

17. The Committee shall conduct the business of the Group, and may regulate its own meetings from time to time as it considers fit.

18. The first members of the Committee shall be elected by a simple majority vote of those persons present and voting at a public meeting of those who have expressed a wish to become Members upon formation of the Group. Those so elected shall hold office until the close of the first AGM. The Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall each hold office until the close of the third AGM, but shall thereafter be eligible for re-election for one or more further fixed terms.

Friends’ Constitution (full document available on website and Facebook)

Committee Members Elected 19.2.19:

Chair: Sue Burden; Treasurer: Anna Gilbert handing over to Grant Lewinson (Anna will remain as a Committee member); Committee Secretary: Katy Robins; Environment: Peter Hart; Dog Walkers: Pam Ibrahima; Membership: Michael Fletcher – MANY THANKS TO ALL!



Future Priorities



**Discussion of ideas for further activity:
people can put forward ideas for future
focus e.g.:**

Tree labelling / walks / guides

Tree Fest event

Other events / activities, ideas etc

Vote on priorities / decide on next actions

Priorities for next year:

- Tree Labels
- Tree Guide
- Outdoor Gym Intro sessions
- Dog Club Fancy dress Tea Party
- Encouraging maintenance from Richmond Council:
 - Paths
 - Paddling pool
 - Continuing WW1 flowerbed



Any other business

***Please raise any
areas of concern /
interest / new ideas***

**Friends of
North Sheen
Recreation Ground**



Thank you for your participation!