

## **Chair's Report**

### **Friends of Albert Road Recreation Ground & Children's Play Area**

1. This was another successful year for Albert Road Rec and the Friends' Group.
2. The activities of the Group focused on now established annual events which included the Easter Egg Hunt held in May, the Family Fun Sports day which took place at the beginning of September and the Bulb Planting Day last month. All of these events attracted a good number of local families and children. The Egg Hunt and the Sports Day were particularly successful and received good coverage in the local press. A new addition to the calendar was the Inaugural Summer BBQ organised by The Pavilion with the support of the Friends on 20<sup>th</sup> May. All of the events were partnership driven and I am grateful to Haringey Council, the Pavilion/Haringey Tennis and environmental charity BTCV for their support during the year.
3. Haringey Council's allocation of £136,000 for a range of improvements to the Ground and its facilities has been a very welcome boost. The Committee has been active in liaising with the Council in relation to the works proposed to be carried out over the next few months. I am grateful to Tony Healey for keeping us informed of developments in this respect. I am also pleased that a Council leaflet has now been produced to inform local residents of the planned works.
4. The Committee and I have also provided comment in relation to the comprehensive plan produced by Haringey Council which will form the basis for an application to secure Green Flag Status. We will continue to monitor this and will contribute in whatever way we can in order to ensure the success of the bid.
5. A negative development came in the form of anti social behaviour in and around Albert Road Rec by a small group of youths. The activities of this group became a particular problem during the Spring/Summer months. We deployed a number of strategies to address the issue which culminated in an all partner meeting which I chaired in July and which led to a series of measures taken by the Council, the police and Alexandra Park School. The problem appears to have dissipated now but we will remain alert to any similar problems in the future.
6. We have sought to maintain a dialogue with local schools, the parks constabulary and other local groups and organisations and this will continue.

7. Other highlights during the year include:

- A 'Better Haringey' Award for our local parks team following the Committee' nomination;
- Initial work being carried out by Gianluca to create a Friends website;
- Meeting to discuss the After School Club facility currently being erected within the grounds of Rhodes Avenue Primary School.
- Applications for Local Assembly funding – outstanding.
- Delivery of new play equipment.

8. Finally, my thanks to all members of the Committee for the dedication to our work and regular attendance at our Committee meetings and events. My thanks also go to Don Lawson, Tony Healey and his team, Neil McAllister, Ronnie Roche, Parks Constabulary representatives and Cathy Perry of BTCV. My very special thanks to Robbie for being generous with provision of the Pavilion and refreshments for our meetings and for sponsorship of the Sports Day.

Peter Droussiotis – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005