

Dukes Meadows Trust  
The Pavilion  
Market Drive  
Chiswick W4 2RX  
Telephone 020 8742 2225

Honorary Patron Richard Briers CBE



Dear Friends and Members

**Spring 2011 Newsletter and AGM notice**

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday 19th May at 7pm at Dukes Meadows Community Centre. Please come along if you can.

Last year saw the completion of our fabulous new adventure play area. We are grateful to all the funders whose generous support enabled us to build it; The Big Lottery, London Marathon Trust, Veolia Environment Trust, Extended Schools, Garfield Weston Foundation and Hounslow Council. Also to the wonderful young people from the Croft Centre in Kew and those living locally, who first got involved whilst at Cavendish School and continued their support when they moved to Chiswick Community School. These young people's ideas and commitment shaped the design and inspired us to raise the funds to build it. The playground has been very popular and well used since it was built and we are delighted that the young people are looking after it; so that there has been virtually no damage to it.

The water play area, new adventure play area and orchard make Dukes Meadows a great destination and we are pleased to see more and more people coming to enjoy it, which is supporting the farmers market. We are working to implement the Transport and access plan for the area with Hounslow Council so that the Meadows can cope with the increased number of visitors.

We planted more trees and daffodil bulbs in the orchard last autumn. The area looked lovely this spring with the trees in blossom and the daffodils in bloom. We have applied for grants to extend the meadow that we started last year to bring summer colour and enhance the area's bio diversity

Maria our Development Manager has moved to Wiltshire to be near her boyfriend. Elizabeth covered for a few months before moving on. This prompted us to review what the Trust now needs. We have no immediate plans to develop any more major projects in the park and now have quite a large area of improved amenities that we want to look after and keep in good condition. We would also like to develop more small projects to improve the bio diversity and habitat value of the meadows. We are, therefore, now recruiting a Ranger and Project Officer rather than another Development Manager. We are hoping to recruit someone with experience and skills in park management and horticulture.

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

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Registered Office: The Pavilion Market Drive Chiswick London W4 2RX  
Registered charity no 1106538 Company No: 5218748

I am delighted that we have secured funding through the Heathrow Community and Environment Awards to put on another series of Summer Fun events. Events on offer, all starting at 11am are;

22<sup>nd</sup> May - Albert & Friends Circus Workshop

5<sup>th</sup> June - Fallow Fields Falconry display

19<sup>th</sup> June - Punch & Judy

3<sup>rd</sup> July - Amanda's Action Kids

17<sup>th</sup> July - Donkey Rides

31<sup>st</sup> July - Amanda's Action Kids

14<sup>th</sup> August – Kidsrome Farm Animals

The events will again all be free and we would like to make sure that as many children as possible have the chance to enjoy them. We have some lovely posters to advertise the events. If you could help us by displaying a poster in a school, church or other public place, please get in touch by email [Kathleenhealy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Kathleenhealy@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone on 0208 742 2225.

We would like to run the Easter egg hunt and egg and spoon race we have organised in previous years, but need a few more volunteers to make it happen. If you would be able to spend a few hours on the Sunday morning before Easter helping out please get in touch.

We are delighted to have won a Gold, London Mayor's Safer Parks Award. This is a great testament to all the hard work of the local community and support from the police.

Now that we have completed and paid the final invoice for the play area we are progressing the project to build an additional four studios where the old Tractor Shed was on the front of the Pavilion. We are grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation which has provided us with a grant of £20,000 and we have set aside funds from our reserves so we are confident that we have enough to go ahead. The existing studios are at full occupancy and we receive frequent enquiries. We anticipate, therefore, that there will be a good demand for the additional spaces.

Our Sunday volunteering sessions continue, we have a loyal pool of regulars and are delighted that some of our Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from a couple of years ago have come back to help us. We are able to complete a great deal of work through the year, which helps enormously in keeping the park looking good. If you would like to join us please drop me an email and I will add you to our email reminder list.

Everyone who has been or is involved in the project can feel enormously proud of what we have achieved. The Meadows once vandalised and fly tipped and often strewn with the carcasses of burnt out cars; is now a lovely and very popular place filled with children and adults playing and having fun. We will continue to work hard to maintain what has been achieved and to make it even lovelier.

Hope to see you at one of our events or at the market or one of our volunteer days.

Have a good summer.

Best wishes

Kathleen Healy  
Chair