Welcome....

...to our first edition of The Lightwoods newsletter.

Our aim is to try to keep people up to date with developments in the park on a regular basis. At the AGM last month it was recognised that one of the major issues over the next couple of years will be managing people’s expectations about what is happening with regard to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid.

In the next year there will be a lot of meetings to sort out the administrative things that need to be done behind the scenes. Preparation for issuing tenders for the work has to go through a lengthy procurement process, and it could be over 12 months before a single spade strikes the ground.

Things will be taking place, although they may not be immediately visible to people in the area, and it may give the impression that nothing has actually happened. For that reason we need to keep people informed of progress. There is also a further need to consult about issues such as how the House will be used upon completion.

But also, we don’t want to lose the involvement and enthusiasm which we have seen over the last couple of years.

So we will continue to welcome events which showcase our wonderful park, such as the annual May Day festival which attracted over 20,000 visitors this year, and the Bearwood Shuffle music events put on by the Bearwood Promoters.

Our next ‘biggie’ will be the second Drive-in Movie - Mama Mia - see details on page 2... but before then we’ve got...

**Zeitgeist Media Festival**

in conjunction with Truth Justice

Lightwoods bandstand Sunday 15th September 12-5 will include 4 bands and 3 solo Artists with Trevor T as compere.
Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

With recent examples of vandalism in Warley Woods, most notably the destruction of the 5 memorial benches, we would like to ask all park users to be extremely vigilant of any behaviour they would consider to be anti-social. The proximity of our park to Warley Woods may mean that anyone creating issues in the Woods may have started their evening in Lightwoods.

If you see anything untoward please call the POLICE on 101 and please ask for a log number otherwise the call will not be recorded. (you can do this anonymously if you wish.)

Disruption likely around Kings Head junction

We are told by Birmingham City Council that they expect the roadworks around improving the Kings Head junction will start in January. The work will take around 6 months to complete, and will also involve filling-in the subway under the Hagley Road.

Whilst that could lead to much disruption and traffic congestion throughout the period, at least the result should mean a pedestrian phase on the traffic lights and a safer crossing for people coming to events in the park.

Lightwoods HLF Update

Now we have had a chance to take in the news that Sandwell Council and the Friends Group have been successful with the Round 2 Parks for People Grant for Lightwoods Park and House, it is an appropriate time to highlight the timescales of the project.

At Round 1 a number of national companies with a track record in Heritage Lottery restoration work submitted tenders to undertake surveys, investigations and design works. After interviews and evaluations the successful tender was Sandwell Urban Design who produced detailed design drawings and specifications for the works that have now been approved by Heritage Lottery as part of the Round 2 award. Urban Design will manage the project through to completion.

The contract has been agreed with HLF and the Council and we now have permission to start. Sandwell MBC’s Urban Design will continue with final designs (in conjunction with the project board and the Friends Group).

It is envisaged that works on site will commence in October 2014. Completion is anticipated to be March 2016 with the house opening in the Summer.

In the meantime, if there are any businesses interested in occupying Lightwoods House (office space/kitchen etc) contact the Lightwoods Park Project Officer cherie_osullivan@sandwell.gov.uk to register your interest. Anyone else wanting to get involved with the project in any way be it marketing, photography, hosting events etc please contact Cherie.

I would like to thank all of the friends group who have been involved with the project over the last 3 years - your hard work has contributed to the success of the grant award. I look forward to working with you all over the next 3 years and seeing the end result of which will be what we all want - Lightwoods Park and House fully restored. We will keep you involved and in touch with what is happening with the project in a variety of ways over the next 3 years - your hard work, dedication and love for Lightwoods Park and House needs to continue throughout the duration of the project to ensure its overall success and I hope you enjoy the park and house with your families for many years to come.

Thank you once again.
Cherie O’Sullivan, Project Officer

If anyone wishes to volunteer for any of our activities, please contact Marie via marie.marshall@yahoo.co.uk