

The Friends of Birkenhead Park Committee/Park Roots Board

A Plea for Additional Support

All the members of the Committee/Board do an outstanding job, but there are only six of us (including the new Treasurer, Philip Holmes). If you think back over time, the scale of the tasks performed by the Friends has been transformed.

The **Volunteers** play a critical role in helping to maintain the Park and by contributing to the events, both big and small, that take place throughout the year. They have planted and look after their own borders with flowers and herbs which add considerably to the range of colour in the Park. Our excellent website is maintained by a single Volunteer who is always keen to receive new material, while two members are always ready to distribute information either by email or facebook.

Members of the Committee are responsible for a range of activities, including monitoring planning applications in order to safeguard the unique legacy of Paxton's landscape and its wider setting. They develop and run major projects, such as the Edward Kemp Community Garden and Growing Area, and secure external grants for other initiatives, including the Hedd Wyn Festival (2017) and the educational and heritage project on the forgotten refugees of Birkenhead during the First World War (2019-20). But they also contribute to strategic planning for the Park, in particular by assembling the case for listing Birkenhead Park as a World Heritage Site and chairing the Birkenhead Park Partnership.

Set against the tasks we perform, one fact is very clear – currently, there are too few of us!

In order to respond to the many challenges facing the Park and to ensure that it receives the praise it deserves, we need a number of you to help us out in running the Friends. The following positions need to be filled as soon as possible:

- 1. Membership Officer (with responsibility for keeping in touch with members and for increasing overall membership, specifically from younger age groups);**
- 2. Secretary (to take notes and produce draft minutes at our Quarterly meetings and at Committee/Board meetings which are held every 5-6 weeks).**
- 3. Social Media Supporter (although we have fairly good coverage at the moment, we always welcome additional support in this area).**

Or if you are interested and willing to offer help in the running of the Friends in any other way, just let me know (w.r.lee@liverpool.ac.uk; 0151 652 8534; 07985 364171). We would be immensely grateful for any assistance which you can provide!

With best wishes,

Robert

Professor W R Lee

