



NEWS FROM THE FIELDS

A newsletter from the Friends of Hilly Fields

August 2010

Welcome to Today's Bandstand Concert (22nd August 2010)

A big welcome to everyone to this afternoon's concert and for our last Bandstand event of 2010, we have great pleasure in presenting **The Roosters**.

Whether you are here as a "regular" or a "first-timer" and whether you are here just to listen or to partake in a picnic as well, we hope you have a pleasant and enjoyable afternoon. Also, young, old or somewhere in between, why not get up and jive to some good old Rock and Roll music?

If you haven't been able to come along but are reading this newsletter after the event, perhaps you might find a couple of minutes to read how what has been a popular, free, family event for our local community for over ten years now, might be under threat. If you can also spare just a few minutes to try and help preserve these events for the future, that would be great.

Today's Supported Charity

We hope that you might consider giving generously to today's supported charity, which is **The North London Hospice**.

Situated in North Finchley but also providing care in people's homes, the Hospice serves patients living in the boroughs of Enfield, Barnet, and Haringey with a potentially life limiting illness. They offer palliative care needs and as a charity, the Hospice relies on donations to maintain their excellent work.

SAVE THE CONCERTS ! COUNCIL TO AXE FUNDING

For over ten years now the Hilly Fields summer picnic concerts organised by the Friends of Hilly Fields have become a regular and popular feature of local life, where people in our local community and from afar have been able to enjoy a pleasurable, summer's afternoon attending a free event.

Thanks to the generosity of our audiences, thousands of pounds have also been raised for a variety of local charities.

We regret that the concerts are now under threat as the Council are withdrawing funding which has helped to support the events and enable them to happen.

If you would like to see the concerts preserved, you can help in a number of ways:

- * Please complete the attached letter and either return it to us today by putting it in the box by the Bandstand before you leave or by posting it directly to the Council
- * Write independently to the Leader of the Council to express your concern at the withdrawal of Council funding.

Cllr Doug Taylor
Leader of the Council
Enfield Council
Civic Centre
Silver Street
Enfield
EN1 3XA

- * email our local ward councillors as follows:
Cllr.Marcus.East@enfield.gov.uk
Cllr.Simon.Maynard@enfield.gov.uk
Cllr.Tom.Waterhouse@enfield.gov.uk

(Our local councillors in the past have always been supportive of these events and have often attended them. We hope that the new councillors will be equally supportive).

- * Write to the local newspapers to express your concern (Gazette, Advertiser or Independent)
- * Telling friends and neighbours who you think might be interested and able to lend some support.

We appreciate that local authorities everywhere are having to make cuts in the current economic climate, but the Council funding required to preserve the concerts is just £2,000 a year. This is hardly a huge return to the community on what we, as council taxpayers have to pay each year for ever-diminishing Council services.

What particularly concerns us is that many leisure events and amenities in other parts of the borough continue to be funded without any input or support from their local communities.



In the case of the Hilly Fields concerts, the Friends have worked long and hard (with generous support from individuals and businesses) to both protect and maintain Hilly Fields as a thriving, local amenity. This included raising the funds to restore the bandstand, (which the Council wanted to demolish) and to take out a 25-year lease.



The Council seem to be taking a view that they can “drop” Hilly Fields, on the grounds that our local community and the Friends can raise any money required for themselves, but in other parts of the Borough, they do not have to lift a finger. **We simply do not think that this is fair!!**

Any help you can give to lobby the Council would therefore be greatly appreciated and thank you in advance if you can find some time and effort to support us, and to help to keep the concerts going in 2011.

Would You Like to Join The Friends of Hilly Fields?

If you enjoy our concerts or otherwise use Hilly Fields and would like to see it preserved as a local amenity to be proud of, you may wish to think about joining the Friends of Hilly Fields. Please go to our website for details. The subscription is only £2 a year for individuals or £5 for families.

<http://www.hillyfields.info/>

Our website can also tell you more about the history of Hilly Fields and our achievements since being formed in 1998.

In addition to subscribing members, we would particularly like to hear from anyone who can voluntarily give up a few hours to help the current small, dedicated team with either general or more specialist tasks (eg organising or assisting at concerts, secretarial support, public relations, website editor, fundraising, etc).

Please contact us at:
info@hillyfields.info

Many Thanks,
 Tony Claydon
 Chairman
 On behalf of the Trustees of the Friends of Hilly Fields