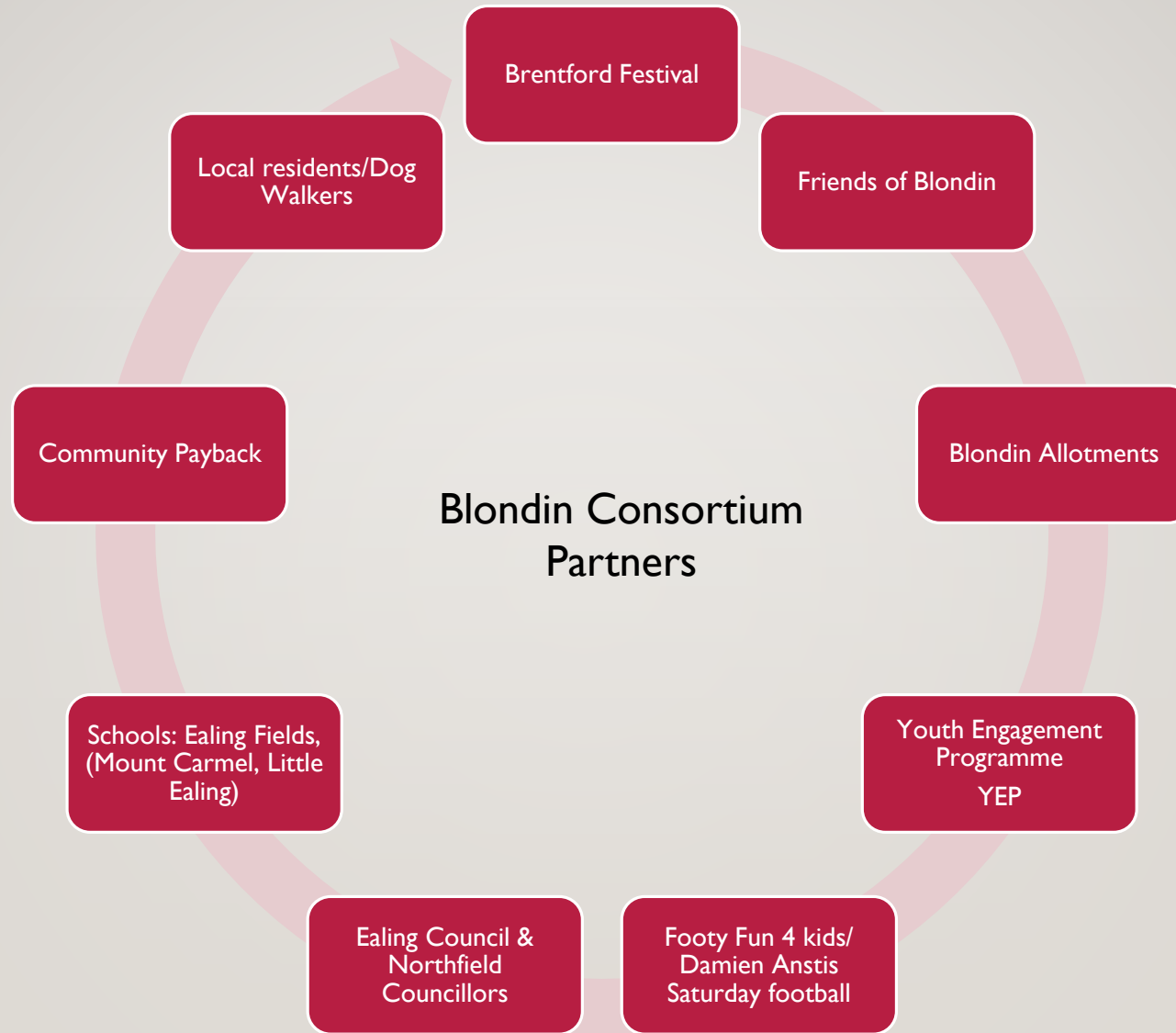


BLONDIN CONSORTIUM

THE JOURNEY STARTS HERE







Blondin park is the chosen site for the Brentford Festival. Its arrival in 2013 has proven very successful and with over 10,000 visitors each year it offers a great community event and an opportunity for charities and local businesses to showcase their work.

DIARY DATE: Sunday 2nd September 2018 noon to 6pm visit www.brentfordfestival.org.uk for details.

Friends of Blondin Park



The Friends of Blondin Park group, which I chair, is a voluntary group set up in September 1998 to support the Council's Countryside Service in maintaining and developing the newly established Blondin Park Nature Reserve and the neighbouring Blondin Park. The nature area was established in 1997 on a former allotment site after local residents supported this use for the area. Nearly everything you see now in the reserve was introduced, including most of the trees, the wildflower meadow, the community orchard and the pond. The Friends group was able to apply for grants from the National Lottery and Green Corridor and considerable amounts were raised, which covered the installation of benches, paths, gates, decking round the pond, a welcome board and public art. Later in 1997 the Nature Reserve was formally opened and the park, formerly known as Northfield Recreation Ground, was officially renamed by the great-grandson of Charles Blondin, the famous French high-wire walker who lived near the site on his retirement. In 2001 the area was granted Local Nature Reserve status.

Over the years, the Friends have held workdays on site with the Council Rangers, undertaking tasks ranging from clearing brambles, pruning and mulching the apple trees, clearing paths and litter-picking. They have also organised or been involved in major planting events such as bulb, hedge and tree planting, in both the nature reserve and the park, as well as organising several very popular 'Blondin Days', now superseded by the Brentford Festival in Blondin. The group is also consulted by the Council about developments being considered for the park and this is an important aspect of its role.

The park, which was once a fairly barren space of grass with a few trees dotted around and surrounded by a chain-link fence, is now transformed into an attractive wildlife-friendly green space, with a children's playground, adult gym equipment and a mini-MUGA (multi-use games area). In 2017, it was awarded a Green Flag followed by a second in 2018. However, there is more to be done: we are looking forward to being involved in further improvements to widen the use of the park, in particular enabling better use to be made of the sports field as part of the Blondin Consortium.

Helen Johnson



Active Citizens in Parks

Our intention is to collaborate with residents, communities and businesses in a way that is sensitive to different neighbourhoods and interests, and capitalise on the rich assets and capabilities within the borough to strengthen citizens' capacity to help themselves and each other. This involves a culture shift within the council towards an enabling role and a willingness to put residents in control through mobilising peer to peer support. Our aim is to increase citizens' self-sufficiency and achieve improved outcomes whilst reducing unnecessary demand on public services.



Ealing Fields is very keen to support development at Blondin as this will be a close-neighbour and keen to support our local community to improve/develop.

Mr Mark Bedford
Associate Headteacher

We have not yet engaged with Little Ealing School or Mount Carmel School who both use the site



Footy Fun 4 Kids has been running a very popular football club at Blondin Park for the last 4 years. We have engaged with over 1000 children since 2014, helping them to develop not only their football skills, but also their confidence and social skills. We are highly popular with local residents and have grown mainly through word of mouth.

We really care about the children we work with and their families, and would love to see the facilities at Blondin improve to benefit the local community. We feel it is very important that any development at Blondin Park retains a community feel, as the families that live in the area really care about where they live and what happens in the area.

We are excited to be involved in the process of developing the proposed site at Blondin Park. As sport is close to our hearts, we would love to see purpose built football pitches at Blondin Park, and also a running track, to encourage local residents in the community to engage in sport and physical activity. Toilets and changing rooms would also be highly beneficial to the site as it would help to increase the participation of sport and physical activity, as there would be more that could be offered from the site. For example, if toilets were to be present at Blondin, we would be able to offer full day school holiday clubs, which would be useful to local families. Lara and Chris Webb-Butler



Saturday Football – Outreach work

Saturday Football is a community outreach using football to positively impact the local area. We were established in 2004 and will be celebrating our 15 year anniversary in 2019. Since then we have welcomed hundreds of individuals to play a fun game of football on a Saturday amongst friends. This develops a great sense of community, friendship and social inclusion.

Saturday Football is wholeheartedly inclusive of all people and we have welcomed all genders, cultures and backgrounds. Many individuals have had difficult experiences such as substance abuse, bereavement, family breakdown and prison to name a few. However, Saturday Football a time where they can escape these difficulties, switch off for a period of time and have fun.

We have seen some really positive changes among the individuals who have played at Saturday Football and the vision is to see Ealing continually develop. Saturday Football is committed to the individual and we will continue to work on improving the society around us. "Blondin Consortium – this is an interesting development". Damien Anstice



The Youth Engagement Programme is a grassed root organisation, it was established in May 2016 and gained its registered charity status in January 2017.



We work with young people on an individual and group basis often giving respite to them and their family. Each young person has their own tailored programme enabling them to engage into activities they have a passion for or just want to explore further.

The programme has been designed to help young people improve their chances of employment by offering them coaching support and bespoke activities in order to build skills and confidence and ultimately put them on the right path to a successful future.

We have created a number of social enterprise programmes where young people have taken the lead giving valuable work experience opportunities in different pathways as they transition into adulthood.



All those engaged with us have individual support plans, these are then used as tools to develop their skills and emotional wellbeing. Outcomes have included: better self-awareness, increased resilience, more motivation, higher aspirations as well as increased confidence, self-esteem and self-worth.

The young people we work with often have complex needs so being able to contribute to society is extremely important to them, we offer them an opportunity to start their journey of living a more useful life.

One of our working model is to give opportunities to young adults whose passion is to work with young people who may have a disability/additional needs by employing them to be developmental workers. It is not uncommon for us to be working with young people who do not have the social skills to build successful peer relationships especially those young people on the autistic spectrum, our model addresses this as our young adults are able to support them in building the skills to maintain appropriate relationships.

The potential of the Blondin Consortium is huge and we follow the desire to have a community building for our young people to show their skills. We envisage a Community Café run by us. We already make doggie treats, chocolate and jam and could facilitate children's parties in association with the football club therefore making the whole project more sustainable. Karen Jenkins

HEAR IT FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES

A SHORT PRESENTATION



So what do we need?

We need your support we need you all as part of our crowd - we will be crowdfunding in the future and need to know we have your support.

We need you to voluntarily share your skills with us to spread the load -

Examples: Website designer Social Media planner

Committee for Blondin Consortium including those with a financial acumen

Volunteers for events – including the Brentford Festival and Friends of Blondin/LBE Ealing events. Tradesmen, maybe draughtsmen, ground workers, quantity surveyors

Bid writers, to name a few and we would of course welcome your suggestions.

You talk to us at the end of the meeting, or at the bbq event – advertised on the next page or contact us via the website supporters@blondinconsortium.org.uk

We will be launching the BLONDIN CONSORTIUM at the Brentford Festival on 2nd September 2018



This will be the first of many events in the park Please join us.

BLONDIN NATURE RESERVE
 *GUIDED WALK*

JOIN US ON
29TH JULY 2018
12:30 – 2:30

Walk starts at 1pm and will be led by
John Wells

- **FREE BARBEQUE**
- **SMOOTHIE BIKE**
- **REFRESHMENTS**



MEET US AT THE ORCHARD
Blondin Consortium

Poster designed by Amy – aged 15 – Participating in Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze

THE ORCHARD PROJECT


FIND US HERE:

 @WeAreTheOrchardProject
 @OrchardProject

FREE NATURE WALK & BBQ

Blondin Park Community Orchard

Sunday 29th July 2018
12am until 2:30pm

- A guided walk at 1pm: learn to identify wild flowers and plants
- Refreshments
- Discover your local orchard
- Free BBQ

FOR MORE INFORMATION

☎ 07714 745401
✉ jack@theorchardproject.org.uk



The Orchard Project is the working name for the Orchard Project (Cause) Ltd.
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