



Newsletter

Winter 2006

PO Box 16860, London SE21 7ZQ

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) works to Dulwich Park

Almost two-thirds of the refurbishment scheme is now complete – despite some early delays beyond the contractor's control – and is due to finish at the end of May 2006. Recently, the CCTV survey of the drains has shown they are in worse repair than originally budgeted for. This will probably not come to a surprise to those who have seen water cascading down the carriage drive after heavy storms! Fortunately, the HLF has approved an application to release contingency funds to remedy this.

The lake basin was drained when the bird nesting season eventually finished and the silt removed from site. As a result of the delays caused by waiting for the birds, costs have of course escalated. Works to install the new lake weir and re-circulating system between the rivulet and the lake have started. The reed bed area has now been constructed and the board walk over the lake is taking shape. Once the goose-proof fence has been installed around the lake and the island edge, the new planting can start in the spring and the lake can be re-filled. The nature conservation area (formerly the squirrel enclosure) is now largely complete with a serpentine path running through it and the estate rail fencing and gates finished.

The horse ride has been restored to its original level and re-edged. The equestrian sand does not appear to be a hit with dog walkers though who have complained it turns fur orange!

On the sports field, the new tennis/multi-sports courts are under way and the fencing is due on site within next month. When structural loading problems were discovered in the former cricket pavilion, it was decided to demolish it rather than refurbish it. The cricket pavilion has now been rebuilt with better foundations and an extension added so that there is a school meeting room. New trees,

yew hedging and mixed native hedging have arrived on site and will be planted along the western boundary shortly. The bowling green will be re-turfed in time for the new bowls season in May.



Cricket pavilion

Three out of the four park entrances and railings have now had all the stonework and the metal work conservation completed. Rumble strips have also been added to slow traffic down and the entrance to the car park enlarged. The car park changing rooms (formerly the Rangers' Office) are on schedule and the internal refurbishment is underway.

A long overdue clearing of the rhododendron area has been undertaken and an irrigation system installed. Many silver birches are being replanted at the moment in the glade and new planting of missing ornamental rhododendron species will start in February. The toilet block by the café is almost complete despite initial set backs with isolating a power supply.

At the end of the project a new tarmac surface to the carriage drive will be laid and a gravel surface to the internal paths and the site

furniture will be installed. Repair works to the main carriage drive have already started, along with re-alignment and replacement of damaged kerbs.

Other plans for the park

Sadly, all the contingency funds have now been used but we are delighted to report that we have managed to secure funding for some of the extras on our wish list:

Village Copse – The Dulwich Village Preservation Society has given us a grant to plant a small woodland area in the corner of the sports field. The design has been agreed and the planting should start in the spring.

Wild meadow by Rosebery Gate – Southwark Council has agreed to fund the planting of the wild meadow in the spring.

Boating house on stilts – Southwark Council agreed to pay for the foundations of the boating kiosk in the lake and it is looking into whether the boating operator would finance the building of the boating house in return for the boating franchise.



The new boardwalk

Pavilion Café vandalism

Dulwich Park Friends was granted £10,000 for CCTV for the café from Southwark's 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' programme to try and deter the recent spate of vandalism. Subsequently this was increased to £20,000 and the café is waiting for quotes for a system with remote computer link.

Membership drive success!

Thank you to everyone who has helped increase our membership by almost a third in the last four months. If anyone would like to join us on the committee we would very much like to hear from you!

The lodges

Southwark now has vacant possession of the two lodges in the park and planning applications to refurbish them have been lodged. We are delighted that the long-term future of the lodges has finally been secured; College Lodge will become a centre for horticultural excellence and training, and Rosebery Lodge will be the wardens' base for all the Southwark parks.

Tree and memorial bench donation scheme

The park manager, Rosie Thornton, has organised a donation scheme and many trees and memorial benches are needed for the park. Please contact her on 020 8693 5737 if you would like more information.

The Committee

Chair	Emily Montague	020 7501 9120
Vice Chair	Juliet Filose	020 8693 5336
Secretary	Averil Batchelor	020 8693 7025
Treasurer	Sigrid Collins	020 8693 1223
Members:	Stella Benwell, Robert Johnson, David Nicholson-Lord, Angela Wilkes	

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