



Newsletter

Summer 2007

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<http://www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk>

Green Fair

The Green Fair, held on Sunday 20 May to mark the end of the Dulwich Festival, was a resounding success, with over 100 stalls and 15,000 happy visitors. Events ran on time, and virtually everyone provided their services for free.

Our special thanks to Rosie Thornton (our park manager) ably supported by Paul Highman, Southwark Park's manager, whose enthusiastic, energetic staff were still smiling at the end of a long, hot day; Will Walpole and the wardens, who did such a great job on security and crowd control (there were no major incidents and fewer minor incidents during the fair than on a normal Sunday). Thanks also to Victoria Goode for doing such a fantastic job organising the event; Annie Smith for the music; Caroline Tyzack for the green stalls, Marilyn O'Donaghue for the green tent, and everyone else involved in the fair.



Southwark councillors take their turn on the park's new roundabout

It was great to see our local councillors out and about, launching the new roundabout that accommodates wheelchairs.

Most of the food on offer during the fair was organic, and more than half the stalls had a green theme. Dr Bike, from Southwark Cycling Sustainability, repaired 53 bikes free of charge. One of these has been donated to the Dulwich Park's head gardener to help her to get around more quickly. The electric cars – Gee Wiz and MegaCity – were a great hit, as was the Zipee (electric bike). The Dulwich Society's plant swap tent raised £120, which they have kindly donated to the Friends – thank you.



The green way to get around: electric cars and bike

Miraculously, the park was back to normal the next day – just as well, as the Green Flag inspection took place three days later.

Green Flag award

DPF chair Robert Johnson went round the park with the Green Flag inspectors on a sunny May morning. (Green Flag is a nationwide organisation that assesses public parks using a wide range of criteria). They were liked what they saw, and the park was looking lovely, but they did have concerns, such as the number of areas that are fenced off. We will find out if we have been awarded a Green Flag in July.

New committee members

We are delighted to welcome two more committee members, Jackie Bradshaw and Ed McCarthy. We're always looking for enthusiastic people to join us, so please get in touch if you are interested.

Volunteers

The volunteer programme appears to have ground to a halt – the last two events (planting the dry garden and clearing weed from the lake) have been poorly attended. We seem to get more people when there's something to show for the effort, so in future we will concentrate on bulb planting in the autumn, hedge laying in spring and lake planting in the summer. We are considering whether volunteer events should be held midweek and/or Saturdays. Let us have your views! We're also investigating whether local secondary school pupils would like to get involved.

Park buildings

A meeting was held with senior Council officers, the Dulwich Society and the Friends in May, the outcome of which is that everyone would like to see Rosebery Lodge used as the Warden Centre for the borough. The Council is now investigating ways for paying for its repair and conversion.

The Council has decided College Lodge should be a park shop and/or tea-room open to the public throughout the park's open hours. Open-market tendering is underway and we will let you know what happens.

The new Francis Peek Centre in the park opened for business just before the Dulwich Festival, and was used every day of the festival – the Young Art exhibition (they're coming back next year), pond dipping with the London Wildlife Trust, a talk on the park's secrets and other events. The Centre is now being used by the London Wildlife Trust and Whippersnappers for activities for children, young people and adults. The Centre can be booked via Southwark Council's environment and leisure department. The Friends are encouraging the Council to arrange evening events in the Centre over the summer, while it's still light.

Lottery works

Outstanding works are:

- Grassing the area where the tennis courts used to be
- Water circulation in the lake (the Council is investigating a solution using the pump in the rivulet)
- Marginal, underwater and reed-bed planting in and around the lake
- The boathouse. Unfortunately agreement with the operator could not be reached so there will be neither boathouse nor boating this summer. We'll try again next year.

The Friends are working with the Council and park officers to get these issues resolved.

Cleaner Greener Safer

Cleaner Greener Safer is a scheme run by Southwark Council to provide funding for environmental and safety improvements in our community council area, including public parks. It's an opportunity to make a real difference. The Friends are applying for CGS funding for three projects:

- mass bulb planting around the Queen Mary's and Court Lane entrances
- a wide variety of aquatic plants for the lake
- two water fountains in the vicinity of the Pavilion Café.



Nesting moorhen

Incidents in the park

From time to time we hear about unpleasant incidents in the park, which is always distressing. We are working with the Council to improve the warden service and local community policing, so please let us know of any incidents via the website or email (see below). The more we know about, the more clout we have to do something about it. Anything reported to us will of course be confidential.

Help us to help the environment

Please help us to reduce the number of newsletters we print and distribute – save the planet, as well as helping the Friends to save time and money (printing costs, envelopes, labels, distribution ... it all adds up). We know that many people prefer the paper version and that's fine, but if you don't mind receiving the newsletter electronically, email Christine Brandon at clbm@btinternet.com with the subject line 'DPF newsletter', giving your name and postal address so that we can find you in our database.

If you have suggestions, need information about the Friends or want to report an incident, please contact us:

by email: chair@dulwichparkfriends.org.uk

by post: PO Box 16860, London SE21 7ZQ

via the website: www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk