



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**
Reg Charity No 1067472

**Newsletter
Autumn 2007**

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Join in!

We've relaunched our programme of activities with a fresh new look:



We will be **planting bulbs on Saturdays 10 Nov, 24 Nov and 8 Dec, 10am to 1pm**. Just turn up and follow the signs - we provide tools and refreshments. There's something for all ages and levels of ability, and you'll have the pleasure of admiring the beautiful display you have created next year, the year after and many after that. Get the family together or a group of friends, or come on your own. It's fun, it's fresh air, and you'll be doing your bit for the park.



On 29 September we planted fritillaries in the American Garden. Thanks to everyone who came, especially Wayne, Clive, Victor & Tony from Quadron, who provided much-needed muscle when the mechanical turf-cutter broke down! We had another successful session on 27 October when we planted 8,000 crocuses in the grass around College Gate (left).

We now have a long-term programme for planting 200,000 bulbs over the next three years (funded by DPF, The Dulwich Society and Cleaner, Greener, Safer – see p3) including snowdrops, colchicum, daffodils, narcissus, tulips, scilla, crocus and camassia. Many are Victorian varieties, in keeping with the park's history. Next spring and summer we'll lay hedges, and work on the wildlife conservation area and Village Copse.

Activities for schools and other organisations are available as part of the programme. If you want to know more, contact details are at the end of this newsletter (and see enclosed flyer).

Dulwich Park wins Green Flag

We're pleased to report that the park has been awarded Green Flag status (the national standard for public parks and green spaces). You may have wondered why the park has suddenly sprouted flag-staffs in the lawn next to the café and at the College Gate entrance – they're waiting for our 'green flags'!



Park buildings

We're pressing the Council to reach a decision on making Rosebery Lodge the borough's Warden Centre. However, there is still no word on suitable tenants for College Lodge, and until there is, work cannot start on either building. As the lodges are falling deeper into disrepair, DPF is lobbying the Council for action.

The new Francis Peek Centre has been used over the summer for various types of event. If you are interested in booking it, contact gerald.moynihan@southwark.gov.uk or phone 020 7525 1052.

Tour of the Winter Garden

On Sunday 9 December at 11.30am, Isaac Marks and Stella Benwell, the original designers, will lead a tour of the park's Winter Garden to see how it is maturing and examine different features. Meet at the Winter Garden, which is near the Court Lane entrance. There is no charge, but a small donation to Dulwich Park Friends to support the upkeep of the garden would be welcomed.

Christmas Fair

The Pavilion Café in the park is organising a Christmas Fair on Sunday 2 December, 9.30am – 3.30pm. Dulwich Park Friends will be there. Check www.pavilioncafedulwich.co.uk for further details nearer the time.

Cleaner Greener Safer

As you'll know from our last newsletter, Dulwich Park Friends applied to Southwark Council's 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' scheme for money for various projects. We are very pleased that we have been awarded funding as follows:

- £2,000 for bulb planting. The Dulwich Society has kindly offered another £1,000, which together with £1,000 from DPF makes a total of £4,000.
- £5,000 for a recirculating pump for the lake. This will be matched by £5,000 from the park's own budget. The pump is badly needed to keep the water in the lake properly oxygenated.
- £3,000 to plant the lake (plus £1,500 each from The Dulwich Society and DPF, giving a total of £6,000). Plants are needed in and around the lake to help oxygenation, stabilise the lake margins, and provide a better habitat for wildlife.
- £3,000 for a water fountain in the vicinity of the café.

This is a really good result, and it will make a huge difference to the park.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank The Dulwich Society for their generous contributions.

In addition, the Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme is contributing £7,000 for a lost child facility in the park. The Friends are working with the local police and the Council to put this in place. The facility is likely to be adjacent to the café.

Stella Benwell

Stella has elected to stand down from the Dulwich Park Friends committee, after countless years of service. She was the only remaining founder member of the Friends on the committee. We would like to thank Stella for her tireless energy and enthusiasm, especially concerning plants and trees in the park, and we hope she will continue to be associated with the Friends for many years to come. The park's current success owes a great deal to Stella.

Former tennis courts

The area that used to be the tennis courts has been an eyesore for several months since the park works site office moved out. We are pleased to say that the contractor is now making good progress to restore the area, as well as renovating the grass from the old tennis courts up to the café. However, these areas will be fenced off until the grass is well established.

Incidents in the park

Please continue to report unpleasant incidents to us (see contacts below). We are still lobbying the Council to improve the warden service and local community policing, and it has improved. The more we know about, the more we can do something about it. Anything reported will of course remain completely confidential.

New residents

As well as attracting the handsome mandarin ducks, the lake is now home to a pair of little grebes (also known as dabchicks). We're hoping both species will stay around to breed next year.



Mandarin duck



Little grebe

Help the environment

Many people prefer to have this newsletter on paper, but if you're happy to receive it electronically, please email Christine Brandon at clbm@btinternet.com with the subject line 'DPF newsletter'. Remember to give your name and postal address so that we can find you on our membership database.

Contact us if you want information or need to report an incident

By email: chair@dulwichparkfriends.org.uk

By post: PO Box 16860, London SE21 7ZQ

Via the website: www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk

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