



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**

Newsletter

Spring 2009

PO Box 16860, London SE21 7ZQ

chair@dulwichparkfriends.org.uk

www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk

A date for your diary!

Dulwich Park Fair

Sunday 17 May, 12-6pm

no parking - use public transport

everything from farming skills to dragons
live music, steam fair, market stalls galore
plenty of food and drink and much more



Dulwich Park

May 2009

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Pavilion
Cafe



Another date for your diary: DPF AGM Thurs 30 April, 7pm, Francis Peek Centre

Join us for our AGM at 7pm on Thursday 30 April at the Francis Peek Centre in the park. Apart from bringing you up to date with what we've done over the past year and our plans for the future, Dave Clark will give a presentation on the birds in the park and how they have changed over the years. Do come – it's your chance to ask us questions, the talk will be fascinating and you can join us for a glass of wine afterwards.

More committee members please!

Dulwich Park Friends urgently needs more committee members to help with projects and the day-to-day running of the Friends. Get in touch (see back page) or talk to us at the AGM. Try a couple of monthly committee meetings to see how you get on. Please help - we really need more people!

Helping kingfishers, swifts and house martins

In the last newsletter we forgot to say that the kingfisher bank was also funded by Dulwich Community Council as part of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme – our apologies. Many of you will have seen the kingfisher bank and perches from the walkway; it has recently been seeded so it will blend in with the surroundings. For swifts and house martins, it is hoped that some artificial nests will be installed on the Francis Peek Centre and the lodges. These birds are declining in the UK, so we want them to nest in the park.



Kingfisher bank being seeded



Man-made nests for house martins

Films in the park

The outdoor cinema in the park last August bank holiday proved very popular, so there will be more films this summer. Look out for details in due course.

Subscription reminder

Please check that you have sent this year's subscription (£5 for families, £3 for individuals) if you pay annually - it costs us a lot to chase up late payments. If you would like to pay by standing order, please contact us for a form (see back page).

100,000 bulbs planted

On a bitterly cold day in January, DPF volunteers planted the last of this season's 100,000 bulbs funded by the Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme. If you have been to the park recently, you will have seen the glorious displays of colour. The crocuses around the College Gate entrance were particularly spectacular.



Lizard mosaic

At last year's fair, children were involved in creating an a beautiful mosaic in the shape of a lizard for the park's dry garden (adjacent to the café). It is hoped that Soutwark's small works team will be able to install the mosaic in time for this year's fair on 17 May.

Jolly boating weather?

The good news is that four operators are interested in offering boating on the lake. The council is assessing the applications and hopes to announce the operator by 30 April, in time for this year's boating season.

The lodges

The council's programme of works indicates that work will start on refurbishing the exterior of College Lodge this September, although no announcement has been made about a potential tenant. The future of Rosebery Lodge is still undecided, but the back garden is now being transformed into a model allotment for the park.

Schools programme

As you know, DPF has been pressing the council to make use of the Francis Peek Centre for natural history education and conservation projects for local schools. We are pleased that the council has appointed the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) to provide a pilot scheme of ten sessions this coming summer term.

Dulwich in Bloom

Plans are well underway for this year's competition. Local businesses are being approached to sponsor ready planted, easy to care for, self-watering containers decorated with the logo. Contact us to find out more.



Model allotment

DPF is supporting Dulwich Going Greener in making a model allotment in the park, in the back garden of Rosebery Lodge. Allotment volunteers have recently joined our Dig the Park events



to clear the overgrown plot. To support invertebrates, birds and other wildlife, a substantial 'dead hedge' has been created from the undergrowth which has been cut down. Stag beetle larvae discovered during the clearing work have been carefully moved into the dead hedge. The allotment still needs more volunteers;

if you can help, contact David Smart at smart194@btinternet.com or tel. 020 7733 8335.

Save paper and postage

To get this newsletter by email contact clbm@btinternet.com with the subject line 'DPF newsletter', giving your name and postal address so we can find you on our membership database.

Contact us

email: chair@dulwichparkfriends.org.uk
website: www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk
post: PO Box 16860, London SE21 7ZQ
(registered charity no. 1067472)