



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**

Newsletter

Summer 2009

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Whippersnappers take on College Lodge

The new tenant at College Lodge is Whippersnappers, a community investment company providing a wide range of activities such as community fun-days and multi-cultural story-telling to enable people of all ages, needs and backgrounds to express themselves through music, dance, sports and the arts – see their website



www.whippersnappers.org. Whippersnappers also provides work experience, training and employment for young people, people with special needs, lone parents of pre-school children, professionals and individuals. They have operated successfully at Brockwell Lido for the past 12 years and are expanding their activities into Dulwich. They will be a very welcome addition to the park as well as providing a base for other volunteers using Dulwich Park.

The council will start refurbishing the exterior of College Lodge in February, and it is hoped that Whippersnappers will open in Dulwich Park in July 2010.

Green gym gets the go-ahead

The council's Cleaner, Safer, Greener (CGS) scheme has awarded £20,000 to DPF for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment for teenagers and adults in the park. We are liaising with the park manager to decide where to put the gym, while the supply of the equipment is put out to tender by the council.

Dulwich in Bloom

Dulwich is an Urban Community finalist in the UK-wide Britain in Bloom competition, and will be judged on **Monday 10 August**. Make sure your garden is looking good, and if you'd like to help ensure the park is immaculate, please get in touch.



Lost children's area

A corner of the lawn adjacent to the café has been designated as the park's lost children's meeting place. It will be marked by a brightly-coloured sculpture (left) by local artist Jennifer Lewis. There will be a special event in the park to introduce the new facility on **Sunday 2 August at 3p.m.** on the grass near the café. Come along – there will be lots of fun and games, and it's all free!

Creeping thistles

The Village Copse, planted in 2007 adjacent to the cricket nets, has been overrun by creeping thistles. Although they are of course just another wildflower, creeping thistles are particularly invasive and could smother some of the less vigorous wildflowers in the copse's pretty meadow area. As chemical controls cannot be used in the park, volunteers from DPF have been pulling up the thistles to prevent seeding and inhibit next season's growth.



Yarrow, knapweed, tufted vetch, bird's foot trefoil, clover and grasses in the copse



Pulling up the creeping thistles – itchy, scratchy, prickly work!

Boats back soon?

The council is getting nearer to appointing a boating concession for Dulwich Park. Work on the new boathouse will begin in November with DPF contributing £18,000 towards the cost (CGS money from 06), with the balance paid by the operator. Boats may even be on the lake later this summer.

More money for planting

CGS has awarded DPF £3,000 for more planting in the park. We will discuss with head gardener Ric Glenn whether we should keep going with bulbs or try other plants or shrubs.

New park manager



Paul Highman, formerly Southwark Park manager, has taken over Dulwich Park from Rosie Thornton, who was in charge for many years. DPF thanks Rosie for all her hard work and support. We look forward to working with her in her new role as Southwark's acting principal area parks manager, as well as working with Paul.

Pick your own?

DPF has applied to the London Orchard Project for a grant to plant native fruit trees in the park. The Project aims to create mini-orchards across London, which will help reduce the carbon footprint of fruit consumed in London and support biodiversity conservation.

Lizard mosaic

The mosaic created by children at last year's Dulwich Park Fair was unveiled in the dry garden by park manager Rosie Thornton at this year's fair. It looks great!



Open air cinema

This year's films in Dulwich Park are *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, 15 August; *Back to the Future*, 22 August and *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*, 29 August (7.30 for 8.15pm). Get tickets and information from www.thescreenonthegreen.com.

Last but not least: help us save time and money

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Contact us

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