



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**

**Newsletter
Spring 2010**
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Capture the park for the future

To mark the 120th anniversary of the park, the Pavilion Café and Dulwich Park Friends are creating a photographic archive called Capture the Park.



As Tarka Cowlam (pictured), proprietor of the Pavilion Café, puts it: "I'm sure there are lots of photographs of the park languishing at the bottom of drawers, in boxes in the attic or in electronic limbo on someone's PC, waiting for the chance to be seen by a wider audience. We are keen to alert people to our project before the pictures are lost forever. Today's snapshot could be tomorrow's photographic gem." As well as creating an archive, postcards, calendars or Christmas cards may be produced to raise funds for the upkeep of the park.

If you have photographs to contribute, please contact Tarka at dulwichparkphotos@googlemail.com or call 020 8299 1383; or contact Trevor Moore, Chair Elect of Dulwich Park Friends, at trevoramoores@aol.com, tel. 07967 000 546.

Subscriptions due 1 March

If you pay your subscription annually, please ensure that you have sent it (£5 for families, £3 for individuals/concessions). Reminders involve a significant cost to us. To avoid the hassle of annual renewal, please consider setting up a standing order. There's a form on the website, or contact us for details.

What's happening in the American Garden?

You may have noticed fencing around some of the beds in the park's historic American Garden, beloved of Queen Mary. Head gardener Ric Glenn became concerned because some of the shrubs – many over a hundred years old – were showing signs of disease. Initial investigation by the



RHS at Wisley has identified the presence of *phytophthora cinnamomi*, a pathogen that can cause plants to die back. Southwark parks department has commissioned a specialist report, the outcome of which is awaited. The fencing is a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the disease, for example by dogs running around and spreading it on their paws.

Outdoor gym almost ready for action

As we go to press, the finishing touches are being applied to the park's new outdoor gym equipment for adults and young people (11+), funded by the council's Cleaner, Safer, Greener scheme. You'll find it either side of the jogging track adjacent to the children's playground. Instructions on how to use the items safely and effectively are shown on each piece of equipment. Several items allow more than one person to use them at a time, so you can enjoy a workout with a friend.

Boating really is coming back!

After several disappointments, we are pleased to report that Southwark has now appointed Bluebird Boats to operate rowing boats and pedalos on Dulwich Park lake. With luck the boats will be back for the summer, and in due course a new boathouse will be built.

Management of the park

On 23 March, DPF sent a deputation to Southwark council's Executive, seeking assurance that Dulwich Park will continue to have a dedicated park manager, in the light of proposals for the introduction of a shared manager. We felt that the proposals were being rushed through. We were assured that no changes would be made without proper consultation with DPF and other parties.

DPF Annual General Meeting Wednesday 28 April, 7pm, Francis Peek Centre

Join us for our AGM at 7pm on Wednesday 28 April at the Francis Peek Centre in the park. The committee will bring you up to date with what we've achieved over the past year and our plans for the future. Malcolm Bridge, Surrey's recorder for butterfly conservation and a member of the Dulwich Society wildlife committee, will present an illustrated talk on the park's butterflies.

If you would like to stand for the committee, or if you have an item for the agenda, email chair@dulwichparkfriends.co.uk. All members are cordially invited – do come, and join us for a glass of wine after the meeting.

Dulwich Park in Bloom 2010

There's a new category in this year's RHS 'In Bloom' contest specifically for parks – so Dulwich Park is applying for an award in its own right.



Dulwich Park Fair

If you haven't already put it in your diary, this year's Dulwich Park Fair is on **Sunday 16 May**, 12-6pm. There will be birds of prey, a city farm, huskies, the dog show, the Victorian funfair, children's entertainers, pony rides, martial arts displays, have-a-go archery, great food and drink and a lot more – a great day out for all the family. Let's hope for better weather than last year.

Green Schools programme



Southwark and DPF are working with the Centre for Wildlife Gardening, part of the London Wildlife Trust (LWT) to promote educational outdoor activities for primary age children in Dulwich Park. The sessions tie in with key stages of the curriculum. Feedback from schools who took part last summer were excellent. To find out more, contact Mara Crippa, LWT's community projects officer for Southwark; email mcrippa@wildlifelondon.org.uk; tel. 020 7252 9186. Website www.wildlondon.org.uk.

Dulwich Vegetable Garden in Dulwich Park

In spite of the bad winter, a lot has happened in the Dulwich Vegetable Garden (DVG) at the back of Rosebery Lodge. The raised beds, including one that's wheelchair-friendly, will soon be planted and the path laid. A greenhouse and toolshed will be installed shortly. The aim of the DVG is to encourage local people of all ages and abilities to 'grow their own' in whatever space is available – not just gardens but patios, balconies, pots, window sills, containers, old tyres, chimneypots and so on. The project still needs volunteers – contact Andy Bodycombe at andy@andy.bodycombe.co.uk or 07736 176 841 if you can help.

Dulwich Going Greener
Registered Charity No. 1108985

Dulwich Vegetable Garden

Are you an aspiring gardener?
Can you lend us a hand?

Dulwich Going Greener is creating a vegetable garden at the back of Rosebery Lodge in Dulwich Park.

It will be used to encourage local people of all ages and abilities to 'grow their own' on patios, balconies, window sills, containers, old tyres, pots and so on.

We need more people to help us to set up the garden.

Please contact
andy@andybodycombe.co.uk
or tel. 07736 176 841.

Follow the project on
Twitter at www.twitter.com/DulwichDVG
Project Dirt at www.projectdirt.com/group/DulwichDVG
www.dulwichgoinggreener.org.uk



Anyone for (table) tennis?

Four outdoor table tennis tables will be installed shortly in the children's play area for everyone to use. Rackets and balls will be available free of charge from the park manager's office in the Francis Peek Centre.

Get your newsletter by email

If you are on email but still receive this newsletter by post, please join our email distribution list by contacting our membership secretary and newsletter editor, Christine Brandon, at clbm@btinternet.com with the subject line 'DPF newsletter'. Printing and posting costs time and money we'd prefer to spend on the park!

Contact us

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