



**DULWICH  
PARK  
FRIENDS**

**Newsletter**

**Autumn 2010**

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## **Dulwich Park scoops gold in London in Bloom**



We know what a fantastic park we have, and now others are recognising it, too. The park has had a very successful year, receiving a gold award in this year's prestigious RHS London in Bloom competition (left), and very high marks for its successful Green Flag submission. In addition,

several members of the Quadron team have received recognition for their outstanding work. Well done everyone!

## **Welcome, Trevor – and farewell, Robert**

New DPF chairman Trevor Moore first came to the park when he joined Dulwich Runners in 1985. His involvement with DPF in recent years led to an increasing interest in the history and ecology of the park and he joined the committee in 2008. Trevor hopes DPF can develop green initiatives such as rainwater harvesting, as well as helping to tackle litter in the park. In real life, Trevor belongs to a group of 'business angels' providing seed capital to entrepreneurs. He is also a part-time accredited funeral celebrant for the British Humanist Association, a compulsive long distance runner and an (as yet unpublished) author!



A huge thank you goes from everyone in DPF to Robert Johnson, our previous chairman, for his excellent leadership, under which DPF and the park has thrived. Robert and his wife Liz have moved to Sussex to build their dream eco-house, and we wish them every success.

## New birds on the block

Careful management of the park means it is becoming more and more attractive to birds. Species not seen until this year include kestrels and sparrowhawks, which breed in Sydenham Hill Woods and are now hunting in the park, and a willow warbler (right) spotted near the lake. In addition, both pairs of little grebes bred successfully again this year, raising two chicks each. This is excellent news, as they are unusual birds to find in an urban park environment.



## College Lodge and Rosebery Lodge

As you may have seen, Southwark has started work on the exterior of College Lodge. Once this has been completed, Whippersnappers will embark on the first phase of remodelling the interior to make it fully accessible. The aim is for Whippersnappers to start operating from College Lodge early in the new year. Meanwhile, work has not yet started on Rosebery Lodge, which means Dulwich Vegetable Garden behind the lodge is still without the facilities it needs to become a community/educational resource.

## Wildflowers, not weeds!



The meadow in the Village Copse provides a beautiful show of flowers and attracts bees, butterflies and other insects, but it was mistakenly cut early this year before the seeds had time to set. To rectify this, DPF's monthly Dig the Park event on Saturday 2 October, 10-1pm will be to re-seed the meadow. Do come along to scatter some seeds, and come back next summer to enjoy the lovely display.

## New park liaison officer

We are very pleased to welcome Will Walpole, right, as Dulwich Park's liaison officer for the Southwark community warden service. Will says: "I've been working in parks for 11 years and I've been with the community wardens since they started in Southwark's parks in 2004. Dulwich Park is a wonderful place, incredibly



safe with a fantastic atmosphere. My role is to try to keep it that way, carrying out patrols to reassure visitors and being a point of contact for any concerns or information. I'm based in the Francis Peek Centre with Paul Highman, the park manager, and we work alternate shifts so there are more times when park staff are available to the public. You'll probably see me patrolling the park on a bicycle but I'm always pleased to stop for a chat. Please feel free to pop into to the Francis Peek Centre to say hello, or you can email me at [will.walpole@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:will.walpole@southwark.gov.uk) or give me a call on 07940 457 592".

## Bats blossom in the park



London Wildlife Trust (LWT) organised a night-time bat walk in the park in July. The weather was perfect - fine and dry with lots of flying insects. 34 people turned up to look for bats, walking along the park perimeter where they often found feeding, and then around the lake. Using electronic detectors, the group were able to hear the bats echolocating their prey. They saw common and soprano pipestrelles, and female Daubenton's bats scooping up insects from the surface of the lake. All UK bats are protected. If you would like to know more about bats in the area, contact Ashley White at LWT - email [awhite@wild.london.org.uk](mailto:awhite@wild.london.org.uk) or call 020 7252 9186.

## Global Xchange on the rails



Global Xchange, a programme run by the British Council and VSO, gives young people from different countries and cultures the opportunity to work together and make a practical contribution where it is needed in local communities. Facilitated by DPF, Dulwich Park was lucky to receive the services of 24 willing volunteers this summer. They painted the railings and weeded overrun areas. Not only did they perform brilliantly, they saved regular staff precious time for more substantial tasks. We will welcome them back to the park next year.

## Litter and foxes

One of the downsides of the popularity of the park, especially in summer, is litter. There are many litter bins, but they quickly become full, especially at weekends. DPF is working with the park manager to see if bigger bins can be provided, and if they can be emptied later in the day so that foxes do not get a chance to scatter the bin contents over the park. We are also seeing if a barbecue area can be provided, as people using barbecues in the park have burnt the grass. Any form of fire, including barbecues, is currently illegal in Dulwich Park.

## Join our email list

If you have email but still receive this newsletter by post, please join our members' email distribution list. Contact Christine Brandon at [clbm@btinternet.com](mailto:clbm@btinternet.com) with the subject line 'DPF newsletter'. Printing, paper and postage costs money we'd much rather spend on the park.

### Contact us

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