

Dear Member

### **'Park manager' confirmed**

Southwark has now implemented the proposed structural changes to the way in which its parks are managed, in light of the need to make cost savings. Paul Highman, known previously as our park manager, has been appointed as contracts and services manager (CSM) for the Dulwich area (the role which has replaced park managers). Although I expect everyone will continue to refer to Paul as the park manager, his area of responsibility includes many other open spaces in the south of the borough, including Belair – so he is a busy man. Paul awaits the appointment of the contracts and services officer who will assist him. A consequence of the restructuring is that Andy Chatterton, formerly the contract standards officer for Dulwich Park, is now CSM for the Southwark area. DPF wishes him well and thanks him for his help over the years.

### **Barley straw sausages, anyone?**

No, not the latest from Heston Blumenthal ... Some of you may have already noticed the mysterious giant straw 'sausages' floating in the lake, tethered to the booms that mark the boundary of the boating area. Barley straw releases natural chemicals into the water which inhibit the build up of algae in the lake. The use of this process in recent years has proved a great success, with the added advantage that it is cheap, too. The installation was funded by DPF out of last year's Cleaner Greener Safer grant from Southwark, as one element of work in the lake that also included reed planting and debris clearance. Over two days, a group of volunteers mustered by the Friends worked with a team from the Trust for Urban Ecology (TRUE). When you next walk over the boardwalk, take a look at the improvements to the reed planting and the general layout of other aquatic plants.



## Talking rubbish again – and this time it's good news



Many of you will be aware that we have been lobbying for improvements to rubbish collection arrangements in the park. Finally, this has paid dividends. Recent weekends have seen the arrival of 'paladin'-style bins at key hotspots around the park. Already the decrease in scattered debris is noticeable, as well as proving that most park users will put their rubbish in a bin on leaving – as long as there is a receptacle into which to put it.

## Open air cinema in Dulwich in August x2!

Nomad Cinema returns to the park on Sunday 14 August to screen *The Goonies* (12A), described as "a warm bath of mid-80s nostalgia". Visit <http://www.wherethenomad.com/events/outdoor-cinema-goonies-dulwich-park-london/> for more details. On Bank Holiday Monday, 29 August, there will be a sing-a-long, open air showing of *Grease* (PG) in the grounds of Dulwich Picture Gallery. So hunt down that jar of Brylcreem and visit [http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk/whats\\_on/galleryfilm/grease\\_sing-a-long.aspx](http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk/whats_on/galleryfilm/grease_sing-a-long.aspx) for details.

## Anyone for tennis?

Well, it can be a long wait. We have received feedback concerning the difficulty at times of getting access to the tennis courts in the park. It seems that some users, once ensconced, are reluctant to finish their games within a reasonable period and make way for others who are waiting to have a game. Please let us know if you have found this a problem – the more evidence we have, the better our chances of persuading Southwark to address the issue.

## Another rose pruning masterclass?

After the success of the 'masterclass' as our Dig the Park event on 2 July (take a look at the roses around the bowling green to see the impact), there will be a follow-up session during August if there are enough takers. Please let us know if you are interested and we will send details once they are finalised.

### **Winter celebration at Dulwich Park**

In last month's update we mentioned an event in the park proposed by Southwark for the autumn, celebrating 'light'. The project planners, Emergency Exit Arts, have now called this a 'Winter Celebration', with the idea of including singing and dancing, as well as the core light elements (the highlight of which is likely to be two human Catharine Wheels as the finale). EEA are keen to involve community groups such as choirs, bands and church groups who might not only make a cultural contribution, but also possibly provide premises for workshops to create the structures to be illuminated for the event. If you have any ideas, please do contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, a happy bumble bee on one of the artichokes in flower on Snake's Lane:



As always, feel free to contact me at any time on park-related issues.

Regards

**Trevor Moore**

Chair, Dulwich Park Friends

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