



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**

Newsletter

Spring 2011

PO Box 16860, London SE21 7ZQ

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www.dulwichparkfriends.org.uk

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 27 April, 7pm, Francis Peek Centre



Members are cordially invited to our AGM at the Francis Peek Centre (the building adjacent to the car park) on 27 April. Our guest is Edward Mayer from Swift Conservation, who will give a presentation on the decline of swifts in the UK and what can be about it – such as installing swift boxes (which we're doing on College Lodge).

If you have an item for the agenda or are interested in joining the committee, contact chair@dulwichparkfriends.org.uk. Do come to the meeting, so that we can let you know what we've been doing and what our plans are for the next 12 months. After the AGM, join us for a glass of wine or a soft drink.

We urgently need more committee members. Those proposed so far (all are currently on the committee) are:

Chair	Trevor Moore
Vice Chair	Emily Montague
Treasurer	Sigrid Collins
Secretary	Angela Wilkes
Membership & newsletter	Christine Brandon

Dulwich Park Fair, Sunday 15 May, 12-6pm

Put the date in your diary! Stalls, music, food and all the fun of the fair, better than ever. Let's hope for sunshine!

Winter Garden walk, Sunday 27 February



DPF established the park's beautiful Winter Garden in 2002. It was designed and planted by members Isaac Marks and Stella Benwell, who will lead this year's Winter Garden walk on Sunday 27 February, 11.45-12.30pm; meet at the Winter Garden.

This is the ideal opportunity to discover the wonderful shapes, colours and perfumes of winter plants (a list will be available on the day). The event is free, though donations are always welcome. For more details contact Ursula Allison, Southwark's community outreach officer for Dulwich Park, via email ursula.allison@southwark.gov.uk or phone 020 7525 2068.

The Mix

DPF has been encouraging Southwark to reconsider its proposed relocation of the youth event called The Mix to Dulwich Park in 2011. Our objection is based on the scale, rather than the content, of the event. We were consulted as a park users' group and have been told local residents will be consulted separately. However, under the council's present budgetary constraints, the scale of the event may be modified. If you would like to know more, please contact us.

Accessible swing

A fully-accessible swing designed for disabled children, including those in wheelchairs, will be installed in the playground during March. Funding has come from Southwark Council via the previous government's Aiming High for Disabled Children scheme.



Your subscription is due 1 March 2011

If you pay annually, please ensure that you have sent us your subscription (£5 families, £3 individuals/concessions). Chasing late payments costs us money. To avoid the bother of annual renewal, please consider setting up a standing order. There's a membership/renewal/standing order form on our website, or contact us for details.

The lodges

Having refurbished the ground floor in the first stage of redevelopment, Whippersnappers is due to start operating from College Lodge in April. Meanwhile, DPF and other organisations are encouraging Southwark to find the £6,000 shortfall to get the kitchen and loo at the back of Rosebery Lodge into working order for the Dulwich Vegetable Garden project.

Another award for the park



Dulwich Park's maintenance contractor, Quadron, has won a national British Association for Landscape Industries (BALI) award. The judges visited the park during the summer and said "big expectations rest on Green Flag-winning Dulwich Park and the Quadron team has more than met them". They also remarked that Dulwich Park was better than Kensington Gardens!

Rubbish and recycling

Colourful new recycling bins designed to appeal to children have been installed in the playground. Recycling bins will also be introduced in the vicinity of the café. The bins are experimental, to see if people will use them. The waste in these bins must not include any food - if it does, the entire batch is contaminated and can't be recycled, so please don't use them for your leftovers! Use the other bins instead.



Update from Paul Highman, park manager



This is a hard time of year for the park. In December it was covered in snow for over a week, followed by nearly two weeks of solid ice, which had a huge impact on the trees, plants and wildlife. Now that Spring is approaching, we can see tree and flower buds swelling every day, waiting for the longer, warmer days so they can burst into life. Spring is one of my favourite seasons - it reminds me of smiling and laughter, and the flora and fauna are in harmony again.

I'm really pleased to announce that a new boat house will be erected in the lake in March, accessible by a drawbridge - a first in a Southwark park! I'm looking forward to working closely with Whippersnappers when they move into College Lodge in April. I'm also pleased to tell you that a new safety surface has been installed under the hugely popular table tennis tables.

This year there will be a change to the flower beds in front of Rosebery Lodge. Building on the 'grow your own' theme, they will be changed from traditional bedding plants to colourful fruit, flower and vegetable beds with the help of volunteers from the Dulwich Vegetable Garden. This will help save money, too.

I am holding a coffee morning in the Francis Peek Centre on Sunday 12 March, 10.00-12.00. Please contact me on 020 8693 8635 to book a slot if you'd like to talk to me.

I would like to thank Dulwich Park Friends for their continued commitment to improvements in the park. I hope everyone visiting the park carries on enjoying it and all it has to offer.

Email newsletter

If you are on email but receive this newsletter by post, contact Christine Brandon at clbm@btinternet.com with the subject line 'DPF newsletter'. Email costs nothing, but printing, paper and postage costs money that we'd much rather spend on the park.

Contact us

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