



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**



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@DulwichPark

dulwichparkfriends@gmail.com
<http://dulwichparkfriends.org.uk>

March-April 2013

I'm dreaming of a white...Easter?' Hang on a minute!

Spring has sprung, but you wouldn't believe it from the recent snowfall. The spring bulbs are getting mightily confused, although some of you will have noticed the new planting of crocus and dwarf daffodils on the embankment inside the Court Lane gate, doing their best to put on a show. These were planted by a contractor last autumn, following the park manager's long held objective of cheering that strip up (it needs it, given its popular usage for other purposes by desperate dogs when unleashed).



The fruits of the mass daffodil planting during the October 2012 'Dig the Park' are now there for users to enjoy, just beyond the Fireman's Alley entrance (see pic), with more later flowering varieties yet to bloom. They may have an anaemic season this time round, given the bizarre weather.

Review of the Year and Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 23rd April, 7pm at the Francis Peek Centre, Dulwich Park

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR A QUORATE VOTE TO CHANGE OUR CONSTITUTION (SEE BELOW). IF YOU WANT THE FRIENDS TO CONTINUE SUCCESSFULLY, PLEASE COME ALONG.

The Friends' Review of the Year and Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd April at 7pm in the Francis Peek Centre (the community building adjacent to the car park) – this letter is formal notice for that purpose.

Do come and hear about the eventful and productive year we have had. The proceedings typically last an hour or so, with questions and input welcome. Afterwards please join us for a glass of wine and a chat.

This year's meeting will include a short **presentation from Letta Jones about the unique trees of Dulwich Park.**

Changes to constitution

In order to give more flexibility to the decision-making and structure of the Committee, the

Committee has decided that, subject to approval by the AGM, the constitution of the Friends should be amended as follows:

That Rule 4.4:

‘A Quorum of the Committee is 5.’

be amended to read:

‘A Quorum of the Committee is 4. In the event of a tied decision, the chair (or in the chair’s absence, his or her delegate) shall have the casting vote.’

That Rule 4.5:

‘No member shall hold the same office on the Committee for longer than three years.’

be amended to read:

‘No member shall hold the same office on the Committee for longer than three years unless the members agree at the Annual General Meeting occurring at the end of the relevant officer’s term in office.’

Committee

Dave Clark has resigned from the Committee. The remaining members have agreed to stand for re-election and Christopher Berry has agreed to stand as a new member of the committee, as follows:

Emily Montague Chair
Trevor Moore Vice-Chair
Gainor Cooper Secretary
Sigrid Collins Treasurer
Jackie Prescott Membership/website
Angela Wilkes
Michael Mittelman
Christopher Berry



If you would like to stand for election, have any comments, or have any item of business you would like included in the meeting, please email or call.

Rain, rain go away...

Over a hundred seagulls have paid the park regular visits in recent weeks (see pic below), no doubt espying the pooling water in the rain-sodden park and fancying a splash. Even the gorgeous Jeremy Clarkson has to acknowledge that there is definitely changeable weather occurring, if not climate change *per se*.



As a consequence of the appalling conditions, ***the April Dig the Park is cancelled.***

The staggering volumes of surface water during the past few months have, as previously reported, served to heighten the need for some measures to be taken to mitigate the flood risk downstream through Burbage Road, Turney Road and on to Herne Hill. Meetings of interest groups (including the Friends) and local individuals have now happened and Southwark plan on submitting an 'in principle' application to the Environment Agency for a grant by the end of April.

Head Gardener, Ric Glenn, moves on to pastures new...

Dulwich Park's Head Gardener, Ric Glenn, has left to take up the post of head gardener with the Cadogan Estate. Ric has always been a supporter of the Friends, leading many of our monthly 'Digs', as well as having the wider best interests of the park at heart.

As a sign of appreciation, the Friends and some individuals contributed to a gift for Ric the nature of which cannot be disclosed, as he doesn't yet have it and will read this letter before he does...

...and welcome to Natalie Meredith

Natalie (see pic) has been Ric's apprentice for several months and those of us who met her on the last Dig the Park were impressed by her enthusiasm. We wish her the best in her career.



Assets of Community Value

The Localism Act 2011 gave local groups the opportunity to nominate local authority-held assets as being 'Assets of Community Value'. The effect of a successful nomination is that before the authority can dispose of an asset it must give the nominating community group the chance to bid to buy the asset instead. The Friends are nominating the park as such an asset, although it is difficult to conceive of circumstances in which Southwark (the owners) would attempt this, given that the park land was vested in them as a park for the people forever.

'Tree Tales' 11th-13th April

From 11th-13th April, Southwark Events are running 'Tree Tales' in the park, next to the café, an event that combines making plastic bottle tree sculptures with storytelling. There will be family workshops on the first two days, with the culmination on the final day – a Saturday. More

information here:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200157/festivals_and_events/3002/tree_tales

'The Curious Exchange' 10th-19th May (but get involved now)

Artists Jane Millar and Fran Burden are working to create Dulwich's own curiosity shop, sponsored by Southwark Events, to be known as '**The Curious Exchange**'. This will run from 10th-19th May and will therefore span the whole of Dulwich Festival week. If you would like to create and donate an object to the 'Cabinet of curiosities', visit here for more information: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200478/the_curious_exchange



Volunteer stewards needed for the Fair on Sunday 19th May

The Friends always support Southwark in their organisation of the annual Fair in the park. Much of this goes on behind the scenes but, on the day of the Fair itself, we need a volunteer presence to work with the Southwark staff.

The event is a roaring success – in no small measure due to volunteer efforts. So if you think you can spare two or more hours' time on that date, please call the Friends.

The Little Book of Big Scams

Around once a month the Friends send a representative to Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings, made up of local groups and the Safer Neighbourhood Team from the local police. At the most recent meeting, in addition to reporting lower crime figures for Village and East Dulwich wards, Sgt. Turnbull handed out copies of the Met Police's excellent booklet with the above title. This summarises many of the current scams used by fraudsters to part you from your money – worth a look, as well as drawing to the attention of anyone you know who might be vulnerable. The pdf is here: http://www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf Some hard copies are in the Francis Peek Centre lobby (ask in the office if none on display).

Crime and Police Plan

For those interested in the Met's crime and policing plan for Southwark, you can find it here: <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/mission-priorities/police-and-crime-plan>

East Dulwich police station will close, but there are initiatives afoot to try and salvage some local representation. Otherwise the nearest stations will be at Peckham Rye and Camberwell.

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

Trevor Moore
Chair
07967 000546