



**DULWICH
PARK
FRIENDS**



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<http://dulwichparkfriends.org.uk>

February-March 2015

Dear Member,

Dig the Park - Saturday 7th March from 10am-1pm



Please come and join the next Dig the Park initiative on 7th March, when we will be planting bluebells and snowdrops 'in the green' in the village copse area. Planting in this state has succeeded well in the past not least because, unlike the raw bulbs, the plants are not an attractive food source to the many insatiable squirrels in the park.

We meet at the Francis Peek Centre (car park side) at 10am. If you arrive later, join us at the copse. Please wear stout shoes and bring some gardening gloves if you have them – we have spares.

Southwark cycling strategy - announcement at the Dulwich Community Council

At the Dulwich Community Council meeting on 28th January the subject of the cycling strategy and the concept of a 'Southwark Spine' formed part of the discussion (members were alerted to the consultation in our email of 12 December). Concerns expressed by many were as much about the process for the consultation as about the substantive proposals.

In any event, so far as the park is concerned, the Chair, Councillor Andy Simmons, announced the relevant cabinet member's decision that it will not form part of the spine (and nor will the park's opening hours be extended during hours of darkness).

There seems to be wide public support to encourage cycling and to make it safer. Some issues however remain for many on other aspects of the cycle routes outside the park. The Dulwich Society have provisionally booked the St. Barnabas community room (adjoining the church) on **14th March** for a public meeting to discuss alternative routes in Dulwich and also parking amendments. We will send you further information once received.

...and Townley Road junction

At the 28th January community council meeting the Chair also confirmed that Southwark Council would no longer incorporate a 'no right turn' in the revised scheme for the **Townley Road/East Dulwich Grove** junction to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians. *On 28th February there is a 'drop in Q&A' about the new Townley scheme, at St. Barnabas Parish Hall in Dulwich Village from 11am-2pm*

Review of the Year and Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm

The Friends' Review of the Year and Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 22nd 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. This year's meeting will include a presentation from **Daniel Greenwood** who leads London Wildlife Trust's Sydenham Woods Project. Daniel will speak about the woods and Dulwich Park as heritage conservation areas.



The proceedings typically last an hour or so, with questions and input welcome. Please join us for a glass of wine and a chat afterwards.

Committee

Chris Berry resigned as a committee member during the year. The remaining members have agreed to stand for re-election, as follows:

Emily Montague – Chair

Trevor Moore – Vice- chair

Gainor Cooper – Secretary

Michelle Pearce – Treasurer

Jackie Prescott – membership and website

Sigrid Collins

Angela Wilkes

Ian McInnes



If you would like to stand for election or have an item of business, please contact the Chair, Emily Montague, on 07800 765338 as soon as possible and in any event well in advance of the meeting.

Official 'unveiling' of *Three Perpetual Chords* by Conrad Shawcross – 18th April

The official launch of *Three Perpetual Chords*, the work by Conrad Shawcross selected to replace the stolen Hepworth, will take place on 18th April from 2pm. Soutwark Council warmly invite everyone to come along to this historic event. There will be a large marquee erected – precise location yet to be decided but likely to be at the rear of the café lawns, towards the Winter Garden. There will be more publicity nearer the time, including banners.

Memorial tree for Stella Benwell...

In memory of Stella Benwell, who did so much for the park, a 'Tai Haku' cherry tree will soon be planted near the lake in the park. A short ceremony to mark this will take place on **Sunday 8th March at 2pm**. Do join us – we shall meet by the lake at the shelter nearest to the Pavilion Café.

...and some other new trees for the park

Southwark Council contacted the Friends with the good news that they have funds to enable the installation of a number of new trees in the park. In consultation with the Friends and the Dulwich Society, a list of species was drawn up. The trees will include the following – you can look them up on the Royal Horticultural Society website here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=170> if you would like to see illustrations:



Ostrya carpinifolia - unusual seed heads (pic, left)

Prunus avium - native, flowers along the branch

Koelreuteria paniculata - large tree, coloured seed cases (pic, centre)

Davidia involucrata - 'handkerchief' tree

Cercidiphyllum japonicum - honey smell from leaves

Sorbus torminalis - native hedgerow

Tilia tomentosa *Petiolearis* - large tree, underside of leaves fluttering silver

Celtis occidentalis - sometimes known as the hackberry tree

Castanea sativa - spanish chestnut

Betula nigra heritage (pic, right)



Flood alleviation works

Now that the flood works themselves are more or less finished, the question arises: when will the working areas be properly reinstated and our park returned to normal?

We understand that, weather permitting, returfing of all of the main areas currently surrounded by temporary fencing will begin in March. The only area not to be returfed is the raised bund alongside the bowling green, which will be planted as a wildflower meadow.



The works have unavoidably necessitated alterations to the appearance of the park. No doubt we will get used to many of them, including the three large 'humps'. But perhaps the creation of a stone wall, just inside the 'cascades' (see pic), will take longer to get used to...

London Cycle Sportive – 10th May

For the third year in a row the Cycle Sportive will start in Dulwich Park, with an early set-up and cyclists leaving the park between 7.30-9.30am. The car park will be closed until 10am. We are told that the organisers have revised the number and locations of the speakers for their PA system, after noise complaints last year. The Friends have also asked them to ensure that there is better parking management than last year on College Road.

Dulwich Festival – opening event in the park during the weekend of 9th-10th May



The Dulwich Festival this year runs from 8th-17th May. A free opening event called 'Weighting' will take place in Dulwich Park, with performances during the weekend of 9th and 10th May.

Weighting, produced by Extraordinary Bodies, is described as a spectacular outdoor family show. It fuses music, circus, dance and theatre into a 45 minute show with a beautiful original live music score supported by a specially created community choir, which you can be part of – visit the website for more information:

<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents/weighting>

Extraordinary Bodies is the UK's only integrated disabled and non-disabled circus company and Southwark Council are proud to present this FREE outdoor circus show for its London premiere before it tours the world.

Dulwich Park Fair – Sunday 17th May 12-5pm



After missing out on the traditional May fair last year, due to the flood works, we are pleased to confirm that it will be relaunched this year. As well as the usual stalls selling goods of every variety and food providers across the spectrum of tastes, there will be a stage with local performers singing, dancing and playing music. Titan the Robot makes a welcome return – if you did not see him on his last visit, you are in for a treat of amusing banter and sometimes risqué comments about members of the crowd.

Rosebery Lodge – meeting rooms for hire

Rosebery Lodge is now in active use, with two smart meeting rooms available for hire at a modest £5/hr – see the flyer posted at the end of this newsletter.

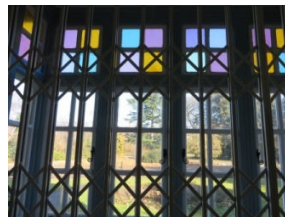
If you would like more details about any of the items in this newsletter, or have issues about the park you would like to raise, please call Emily Montague on 07800 765338.

Dulwich Park Friends



The Dulwich Society

COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS Rosebery Lodge, Dulwich Park



Two pleasant rooms for hire at £5 p.h.
Seating for 10. Small kitchen and WC.
No parking. Park hours only.

Contact Diana McInnes on 020 8693 6313
or email membership@dulwichsociety.com

