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Autumn 2017

Dear Member,

Bluebells time: Dig the Park - Saturday 4th November from 10am-1pm

We planted this magnificent spread of bluebells last year. Why not join us this year to continue the spread for Spring 2018?



Image courtesy of Gerald Kelsey, Head Gardener

After last year's phenomenally successful planting of heritage bluebells in the American Garden, we're repeating it this year, on Saturday 4th November. Our goal is an annually extending carpet of bluebells beneath the rhododendrons. ***Be part of its creation!***

We meet at the café at 10am. If you arrive later, hunt us down in the American Garden. Please wear stout shoes and bring some gardening gloves if you have them – we have spares.

Sterling work from Dulwich College team

Andy Robinson, idverde's development officer, recently established a relationship with Dulwich College. He reports:



“They are providing a group of 10 students for about an hour on Thursday afternoons and have been briefed on the maintenance programme for the American Garden. They have completed three sessions on-site with us now and really do get stuck in! Despite only being an hour long session, the many hands really do make a dent in some of the weed clearance within the gardens and, should we

sustain the relationship long-term, we stand a good chance of their efforts making a real difference.

As always, Gerry, Shane, Natalie and the rest of the Park's team have been instrumental in making this arrangement work.”

Discussions are now taking place with other schools – more anon.

Cleaner, Green, Safer

Given the number of accidents, as well as reports of excessively fast **cycling in the park**, the Friends obtained a grant from Southwark's Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund to procure signs that remind everyone that the park has shared routes that are not part of the public highway. The eye-catching signs are now in place.



They may be cute as goslings, but **Canada geese** numbers in the park have increased considerably since the fencing around the lake island was taken down around three years ago. To act as a disincentive to breeding pairs in the coming seasons, and reduce the birds' dominance amongst the local species, the Friends have this year applied for a grant to reinstate the fencing.



Some of the original **boundary oaks**, including this magnificent specimen by the lake, are showing signs of stress – because of the compressed soil around their bases, limiting access of rainwater; and also, alarmingly, because of the amount of canine urine that seeps into the soil.

The Friends have applied for a grant to ring fence this beauty and allow for the creation of better soil conditions around its base.

View from the café...

Rob Colicci writes:

“The cafe has been open almost a year and since the refurbishment we have increased the number of visitors to the cafe four-fold, and we are experiencing a very high number of

regular visitors. We would like to thank all our customers for their support and especially the Friends of the Park, the Saturday parkrunners and the organising committee.

Over the summer we added a new range of healthy salads and more recently we have finally added freshly squeezed orange juice and freshly squeezed pink grapefruit juice. We will be adding a few more new dishes for the winter months so watch out for these arriving in November.

If any of our customers want to hold an event at the cafe or have any suggestions for us, please do not hesitate to speak to one of our managers.

Thank you all for your support.”



Farewell to an old friend

Glyn Davies, a long-standing Court Lane resident, died on 10th October at the grand age of ninety-six. Glyn was mad about horticulture and in the 1950s worked in Dulwich Park. Among other things, he would mow the lawns and look after the cricket pitch, which used to be at the far end of the playing fields. Near-neighbour Stephen Henden has written an obituary for Glyn which will be published in Dulwich on View – link to follow.

Two anniversaries – parkrun...it’s catching

On 7th October Helen Hayes MP made a speech to the assembled Dulwich parkrun throng, to mark the 13th anniversary of the inaugural parkrun in Bushey Park in 2004. But the day also marked the first anniversary of Helen’s first parkrun. Now she has run the event forty-three times!



Helen explained how her initial reluctance to run blossomed into enthusiasm, as she began to realise not only the physical benefits, but the mental ones too: running is a perfect way to relieve stress. There are now 476 separate weekly parkrun events and the runners have covered an astonishing combined 89,046,275km.

So why not try your first ever parkrun? It's free, you register only once, and you can walk if you want. There is even a tail walker to shepherd all the participants home to a cheery finish. See <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/dulwich/>

Rosebery Lodge – meeting rooms for hire

A reminder that Rosebery Lodge is in active use, with two smart meeting rooms available for hire for community purposes at a modest £5/hr. Contact Diana McInnes on 020 8693 6313 or email membership@dulwichsociety.com.

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

PS Unexpectedly warm weather brought thousands to the park to revel in the autumn sunshine...

