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Autumn 2018

Dear Member,

It's bluebells time: Dig the Park Saturday 3rd November 10am-1pm

Help us carpet the American Garden with bluebells. You may have noticed that in most of the area, the rampant growth of brambles in amongst the rhododendrons is now under control. This is thanks for the most part to the efforts of successive corporate teams engaged by idverde's Development Manager Andy Robinson.

This autumn sees our third successive planting of native bluebells. The image below shows some blooms from the productive planting in autumn 2017. We have procured thousands more bulbs for this year's effort.



Do come along and help in this epic project – it will be hugely satisfying to see the fruits of your labours in the Spring. Meet at the park café at 10am or join us in the American Garden later. Stout gloves (we have some spares) and shoes welcome.

Commercial events in the park

Members will be aware that several commercial events took place in the park over the summer. These included regulars like The Luna outdoor cinema and one or two new ones, such as 'Tinseltown', which took place over two days in June.

With continuing budget cuts, we recognise the need for Southwark Council to raise funds from different sources – indeed their aim is for events staff and process to be self-financing.

However a free leisure facility like the park is a rare phenomenon these days, highly valued by those users who cannot otherwise easily access outdoor space.

Unfortunately, Southwark has often notified the Friends for 'consultation' on proposals at a point when it is too late to alter plans, although we succeeded in modifying some of the practical aspects in some cases. The Friends subsequently attended a meeting with Southwark Events, along with The Dulwich Society, at which Southwark acknowledged that the process had not been acceptable on a couple of occasions this season – and provided reassurance that more time will be given for effective consultation in the future.

If anyone has any feedback on this summer's events, or suggestions for the Friends to put to the Council, please let us know at the email address above.

Lewisham Concert Band returned for sounds in the sun – 9th September

The popular Lewisham Concert Band returned in September for another concert that spanned the musical spectrum from jazz to classical and pop in between. Perfect weather provided ideal conditions for the concert to attract an attentive audience, with park visitors in large numbers out to enjoy the sun.



Procured by the Friends through a grant from Southwark Council, the plan is to repeat the event next year.

The shrinking lake

With the hottest summer for decades, water levels in the lake have reduced substantially. This has in turn impacted on water quality and has affected some of the wildlife that would typically be enjoying the lake at this time of year.



A focal point of level reduction can be seen at the lake outlet by the bridge on the inner carriageway. The height of this needed to be raised as part of the flood relief works, leading to the construction of a concrete and stone wall (see left - yes, truly hideous). As can be seen from the image, the water level is nowhere near that outlet; indeed the holding area has almost dried out completely.

The lack of water flow and broken aerating pumps have led to the stagnation of the water in the rivulet beyond, in turn allowing rampant duckweed to return. The Friends are applying for a grant from Southwark's Cleaner, Greener, Safer Fund to procure an expert assessment of

the state of the lake and the best way to improve the lake aeration, planting and biodiversity.

Boots on the Ground by Tangled Feet: 9th–11th November – a free event starting at the park café

Inspired by the centenary of the mass demobilisations from WW1 and the tales of modern-day veterans, Boots On The Ground is a promenade headphone show which invites its audience to exchange their shoes for a pair of Army boots and follow the intertwining stories of men who are stepping back from war. Can they find peace on their return to civilian life?

Setting out from an Army tent in Dulwich Park, the audience form a unit, are given their marching orders, join a squadron of fellow civilians and embark on an hour-long walk around the local area together.

You can find more details and book free tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/boots-on-the-ground-tickets-50216661386>

Sunbeams

October mornings can be awe-inspiring, as well as photogenic...



Best regards,

Dulwich Park Friends