



# Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, April 2013

## **We've gone digital!**

We'd love all our members, and all those who are interested in the future of the park, to sign up as associates on our new website, [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk) This will enable us to demonstrate a groundswell of support and widen our mailing list. We also invite you to 'like' us on Facebook, at [www.facebook.com/friendsofwimbledonpark](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofwimbledonpark) and to follow us on Twitter @fowpsw19. Feel free to re-tweet our news, and to tell all your friends about us. We can only protect the park if everyone mobilises.

## **Wildflowers to bloom again this summer**

The wildflower beds that brought so much colour and enjoyment to the park last summer are to feature again this year. The flowers are all annuals, which will have self-seeded. The council cut down the old growth last autumn and rotovated the soil, and the first new seedlings are now springing up. If the regrowth is too sparse, additional seeds will be sown.

## **Car park extension: third round of consultation**

Merton Council has called for a third round of consultation on its proposed car park extension, as a result of a new traffic report. FOWP is continuing to fight the proposal but needs all members to make individual representations to the council. See our website, [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk), for the full story and details of how to object.

## **Remote controlled boats**

Remote controlled boats are becoming an increasingly frequent presence on the lake, causing a lot of noise and disturbance to nesting birds. Doug Napier, Merton's greenspaces manager, has agreed that signs should be put up banning the activity, and that this ban should be properly enforced.

## **Traffic order rejected for Wimbledon Championships**

Residents of Revelstoke Road by the entrance gates are disappointed after their calls for a traffic management order (TMO) were rejected by the Highways Departments of Merton and Wandsworth Councils. A TMO was sought to close the section of the road leading into the park during the Championships, to prevent drivers mistakenly entering and then having to turn round or back out, something that causes disruption and nuisance to residents. FOWP is appealing against the decision.

## **Winter Wonderland protests gather force**

The Hercules Athletics Club is protesting strongly against the proposed Winter Wonderland in the park, which would see the athletics track out of action for a significant period during winter 2013.

## **Protecting trees on the golf course**

We suspect that some trees may have been felled on the golf course. FOWP feels strongly that these trees should be safeguarded by tree protection orders (TPOs). We will try to



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find out whether a tree survey has ever been done on the golf course, and what steps would be required to get TPOs in place.

## **Gym closure**

The gym in the park has closed and there is a notice up saying members will be contacted, though this has not yet happened. It seems that the equipment is faulty, and there is a question mark over whether it is worth repairing it. FOWP is to discuss whether it would be a good idea to provide 'green gym' equipment in the park, a move that could prove popular with teenagers.

## **Sports news**

The resurfacing of the tennis courts is now complete and feedback is positive. The work cost around £200,000 but there is annual revenue from the courts of £80,000 to £90,000, so the cost should soon be recouped. Tree planting has yet to take place around the beach volleyball courts, but the council wants to wait and see how the area is used by visitors and spectators before proceeding. Meanwhile, the adjacent area will be reseeded and new picnic benches installed.

## **Park loses police presence**

The police centre in the park during Wimbledon Fortnight will be relocated to the Territorial Army Centre in Merton Road.