



Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, May 2014

Freedom of Information Act application

We have submitted a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to try to get more detailed facts and figures about the park from Merton Council. Our request broadly covers: income and costs relating to Wimbledon Park; plans for structures in Wimbledon Park; and plans for the environment in Wimbledon Park. Having reliable information will enable us to plan more realistically and effectively. We will let members know when we get a response.

Capability Brown – 300th anniversary

The 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown falls in 2016, and will be marked with a nationwide festival celebrating his life and influence. With the cooperation of Wimbledon Park’s owners, we would like to take part in this celebration. Merton Council and the Wimbledon Club have yet to offer their support, but Helen Parker from the AELTC (with responsibility for the Wimbledon Foundation) has given the go-ahead for us to contact the festival organisers.

We need keen gardeners!

FOWP’s new gardening group is gradually taking shape, and will tackle projects such as spring bulb planting, regenerating the banks of the eastern stream and occasional litter picking. We have a number of volunteers already and now need someone to help run the group. If you are interested in getting involved, either as a gardener or coordinator, please contact FOWP chairman Nick Steiner on n.steiner@btinternet.com

Green shoots of recovery

The former temporary car park area was reseeded in April and the grass is growing fast. The area is still fenced off to protect the new turf. Our thanks go to Merton Council’s Doug Napier, Tom Kilduff and their team for doing such a professional job.

Barbecuing in the park

Merton Council is installing eight barbecue disposal bins around the water activities and bowling pavilion area. We would like to know your opinions about the use of the park for barbecuing – to join the debate, please visit our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/FriendsofWimbledonPark

or follow us on Twitter: @fowpsw19

Planning applications for park improvements

A full planning application will shortly be submitted for the Wimbledon Club’s proposal for the athletics stadium, subject to the terms of a community trust. Meanwhile, our application to improve the ambience in Revelstoke Road and the entrance to Wimbledon Park has been sent to both Cllr Stephen Alambritis and Cllr Ravi Govindia. We await their feedback.

Better signage

We feel the park needs better quality signage, in keeping with a Grade II* Heritage Park. We aim to draw up a detailed plan with costings; upgrading the noticeboards, for example, is likely to cost a total of around £15,000. We would like to install new fingerposts at each



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entrance and others at key points around the park. Particular attention should be given to suitable signs directing visitors to the All England Club, since they tend to enter the park by mistake.

Poppies to brighten park this summer

The wildflower beds near the bowling green have been sown with red poppies.

Facelift for park facilities

As the busy summer season begins, various facilities around the park have had some TLC. The café has been revamped, the bowls pavilion has new doors and windows, and the toilets in the water activities centre have been done up. The stadium has been refurbished – the track now has a Grade B competition certificate and recently held a successful youth event. Green stanchions and yellow chains have been provided for the Revelstoke Road car park.

Paving stones stolen

Thieves forced the lock on the gates at Revelstoke Road on 5 April, stealing York flagstones from the area around the public toilets.

Ping pong plan

Merton Council is considering providing an outdoor table tennis table, possibly on the eastern side of the tennis courts.

Golf club lease

We understand that the AELTC is not renewing the golf club's current lease, which is due to expire in 2041. The implications for the park are not yet clear.