



Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, August 2015

£1,000 boost for Capability Brown commemoration

We were delighted to receive a donation of £1,000 from the All England Lawn Tennis Club towards the celebration of Capability Brown's 300th anniversary next year. FOWP has formed a small sub-committee to work on the plans, with proposals so far including a commemorative plaque explaining that Wimbledon Park was designed by Capability Brown, and a booklet containing an outline of the park's history and ecology. If you have any ideas for good ways to mark this important anniversary, there is still time to get involved, so do please contact us.

Roll up your sleeves and join us for litter picking

Ever feel frustrated by the litter that gathers in the woods and hedgerows of the park? If so, it's time to do something about it! We are launching a monthly litter-picking group to clear those hard-to-reach spots that Merton staff don't have the time or resources to tackle. If you would like to join us, meet at 10am on Sunday 23 August at the tennis kiosk by the café. All equipment provided.

Looking after Horse Close Wood

Thank you to everyone who responded with comments on Dave Dawson's proposed management plan for Horse Close Wood, which will now be considered and hopefully approved by Merton's Greenspaces team. We have had a meeting with St Cecilia's School to plan how pupils can get involved in some of the work in the wood, such as tree-planting and conservation. We hope this will begin in October 2015.

Name change for FOWP Committee

We are planning to change the name of our main committee to FOWP Forum, to stress the fact that we want it to be a place for debate and collaboration with FOWP members and users of the park. In line with our constitution, we will be putting this to the vote before the start of our next meeting on 20 October at 7.15pm. If you are able to attend and vote on the change, you would be very welcome.

Classical music comes to the park

There are three major events scheduled for the summer: a children's fair on 1-16 August, the Fantastic British Food Festival, back for its second year running on 29-31 August, and a classical music concert on 11 and 12 September. The concert will take place in the athletics stadium, and features the City of London Sinfonia conducted by Stuart Stratford, with a fireworks finale. For more information and to book tickets, visit <http://www.merton.gov.uk/news-events/events/classicsinthepark.htm> If you hurry, there is a 10% discount on tickets purchased in July. Feedback forms for all these events will be available as soon as possible on our website, but in the interim please use the general enquiries form.

Lake pollution incident

During Wimbledon Fortnight, members of the Angling Club were alarmed to discover dozens of dead fish in the lake. Environment Agency officers were called in, and believe the incident



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was caused by fat and grease in the lake, possibly discharged from the sewer system. The EA is carrying out an investigation and FOWP has asked to be kept informed of the outcome.

New lighting to replace vandalised bollards

Lighting bollards in 'Stadium Lane', which were vandalised earlier in the year, are to be removed and replaced with taller, solar-powered lights. These will emit low-level lighting which will increase when sensors detect movement along the footpath.

Tennis campers get stuck

Wimbledon Fortnight on the whole went smoothly this year. However, local residents reported concerns about campers from the queue trying to climb out over the gate on Home Park Road, which was locked each night at 9pm. On several occasions people got stuck and had to be helped down using ladders. We reported this to Merton and officers will raise the issue with AELTC when they have their debrief on the event.

BBQ worries

BBQ season is upon us again and the perennial concerns are being voiced. Large parties are generating huge quantities of litter, meaning the park is often in a sorry state after the weekend. The disposal bins are not always used correctly and on one occasion the fire brigade had to be called as one bin was smoking. There are also worries that BBQs are being lit too close to trees, with Horse Close Wood particularly vulnerable. We have made Merton aware of these concerns.

Children's play area

A broken self-closing gate into the children's play area is to be fixed by Merton Council after we raised concerns that dogs are getting into this section of the park.