



# Friends of Wimbledon Park

News update for members, May 2016

## **Check out our new website**

Our new website is now live at [www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk) We've redesigned it to make it more user friendly, and added lots of new information about the park, including its wildlife. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, where you'll find the latest updates on our activities and ways to get involved.

## **Outsourcing of parks maintenance**

Merton Council is outsourcing the maintenance of parks in the borough but will not reveal details of the contract or levels of service expected, saying these are commercially sensitive and therefore confidential. We have a good working relationship with the staff of the council's Greenspaces Department, and we are concerned that this will be lost if private contractors come in. We recently met with representatives from the GMB Union, which wants the existing maintenance team to be able to bid for the contract – something the council has so far resisted. We are looking into ways to put pressure on the council in this matter, and are joining the Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum (IMGSF) so we can add our voice to those of other Friends groups in the borough.

## **First leaves sprouting on 1,000 new trees**

The 1,000 trees planted back in February by FOWP and our 100-strong team of volunteers to enhance Horse Close Wood and help screen the Wimbledon Park Road car park are doing well. The saplings are getting established and are covered with new leaves. Thank you again to all those who helped. We have put up temporary signs to help people identify the different tree species until we can purchase an information board.

## **Last year's Classics in the Park made a loss of £78,000**

Last summer's Classics in the Park event made a loss of £78,000. Merton Council plans to repeat the event this year, now titled Live at Wimbledon Park. The line-up is as follows:

Friday 26 August – The City of London Sinfonia

Saturday 27 August – The Definitive Rat Pack, featuring Suzie Kennedy as Marilyn Monroe

Sunday 28 August – The Brand New Heavies

Monday 29 August – Horrible Histories (daytime shows for families)

## **Working for a cleaner wood**

Our latest litter pick in Horse Close Wood on Sunday 10 April revealed garden debris, including offcuts of decking and plastic buckets, accumulating in the area that backs onto Southdean Gardens. We have drafted a letter to residents highlighting the problem and reminding them not to dump waste over their garden fences. We are also working with Merton Council to try to deter people from dumping garden and other waste in the Wimbledon Park Road car park, a persistent problem. Our next litter pick is at 10am on Sunday 8 May and you would be very welcome to join us. Meet at the tennis kiosk; all equipment provided.

## **National Grid works complete**

National Grid works in Horse Close Wood are now complete and the large area that was cleared has been sown with cornfield annuals which will flower over the coming months. A



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management plan for this area, to encourage the growth of glade-loving species, is being drafted by Dave Dawson in conjunction with Dave Lofthouse of Merton Council.

## **New flowerbeds to add colour**

We have plans to install some raised flowerbeds near the park entrances on Revelstoke Road and Wimbledon Park Road, to make it more attractive for visitors as they walk in. These would be planted and maintained by pupils from St Cecilia's School as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are currently seeking permission from Merton Council and if we get it will be seeking sponsorship from local businesses to help pay for the construction.

## **Dates for your diary**

27 June – 10 July – Wimbledon Tennis fortnight

13 August – Capability Brown tercentenary celebration

26 – 29 August – Fantastic British Food Festival

3 November – Fireworks