

[www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/](http://www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/)

**The Friends of Southwark Park Annual Report 2010/11**

On 3rd November 2010 a Special Meeting of The Friends of Southwark Park approved a revised constitution. Our aims and objectives are the promotion, protection and enhancement of Southwark Park, King’s Stairs Gardens and King George’s Field, to be achieved in partnership with other organisations and the wider community.

**Promotion– over the past year we:**

* Extended our reach into the local community and beyond by creating our own website [www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/](http://www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/). Many thanks are due to David Gee for his voluntary help in setting up the site, and to various members for allowing us to use their photographs.
* Campaigned successfully for the retention of the Bermondsey Carnival in Southwark Park and ran a stall there on 2nd July 2011
* Took a stall at the Rotherhithe Festival in King George’s Field on 9th July 2011
* Took part in the Southwark Park Tea Dance on 23rd April 2011
* Ran guided walks in Southwark Park for parents from Albion Primary School on 4th February 2011 and parents from Grange and Snowsfields Primary Schools on 30th June 2011
* Gave a talk to Abbey Centre, Pimlico on 14th March 2011
* Gave a talk to Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Local History Group on 25th May 2011
* Were awarded a grant from Rotherhithe Community Council to carry out a photography project, which will culminate in a public exhibition in The Gallery in March 2012.

**Protection– over the past year we:**

* Campaigned against UK Power Networks proposal to use Southwark Park as a base for their New Cross to Finsbury Market cable tunnel project. Southwark Council’s Cabinet and Assembly were lobbied, as was Rotherhithe Community Council. Over 2,300 signatures were gained on a petition, which has been submitted to UK Power Networks and the Leader of Southwark Council. Many thanks are due to the members who took the time to help with the petition in the park, at the various events and at Surrey Quays Shopping Centre. Thanks to elected representatives who supported our work. At this stage UK Power Networks have yet to withdraw their proposal.
* Supported the Save King’s Stairs Gardens Action Group in their campaign against Thames Water’s proposal to use the park for the Thames Tideway Tunnel. We donated £500 to help the campaign and sent a formal letter of objection to Thames Water. The issue remains very much alive.
* Drew Southwark Council’s attention to the longstanding instances of unapproved access gates and ways into Southwark Park from neighbouring properties. The Council has indicated it will take measures to sort out this important issue.
* Raised concerns about the danger to park users from cycling in Southwark Park.
* Gave our views about the use of Southwark Park for a proposed Combined Heat and Power project, which is being considered by Southwark Council and Veolia Environmental Services.
* Gave our views on F.A. Albin and Sons proposal for the establishment of a Memorial Garden in the north-west sector of Southwark Park.
* Raised questions about what implications the development of the former social club at 386 Southwark Park Road might have for Southwark Park.
* Conducted site tours with the Parks staff and drew attention to a range of practical improvements needed in Southwark Park and King’s Stairs Gardens.

**Enhancement– over the past year we:**

* Successfully called for an outdoor gym on eastern edge of The Oval, which was installed and has proved to be very popular.
* Supported the Rotherhithe Caryatides project, resulting in the two historic structures relocation to Southwark Park, thereby adding a major attraction to the park. Special thanks must go to Gary Magold for his conception, fundraising, implementation and publicising of the project; and also to Southwark Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.
* Supported Southwark Park Bowling Club in their efforts to upgrade the facility, and also provided funding for the first ever book on the history of the club.
* Worked with Southwark Council to ensure that the Old Nursery site is brought back into public use after so many years lying idle. We successfully pushed for the implementation of clearance works, which should be completed this autumn, and argued strongly for the improvement of the boundary security between the site and Gomm Road residencies. We also gave our views on the future use of the site and have asked to be involved in the selection of potential occupants.
* Continued to press the case with Southwark Council for the long-overdue upgrading of the outdoor Sports Centre. We have been informed that a decision about capital funding is expected in October 2011.

**Partnerships and Community – over the past year we:**

* Increased the level of interest in our work in the wider community. This has been largely due to the petitioning over the UK Power Networks proposals, meaning that we now have a much larger database of contacts than a year ago. As a result we have seen quite a few ‘new faces’ taking part this year.
* Maintained our long and close relationship with The Gallery, which hosted our meetings and the Caryatides project launch event on 4th June. The Gallery encouraged parents and children from our guided walks to visit Dilston Grove, and has agreed to host our photography exhibition. Thanks to Ron Henocq and all the staff.
* Continued our good relationship with Southwark Park Bowling Club, who regularly attend our meetings and support our initiatives.
* Developed better links with the residents of Gomm Road, primarily due to the Old Nursery project.
* Developed better links with Hawkstone Estate residents through their involvement on the Committee.
* Reinforced our links with Time and Talents through plans to involve young people in our photography project.
* Re-established our connection with the Young Friends of Parks through Groundwork.
* Maintained our good partnership with Southwark Council’s Parks Team. There have been many staff changes over the past year, and we would like to thank all those who have worked with us in the past, but have now moved on: Agnes Appleby, Nina Chantry, Emma Longman, Rosie Thornton and Christine Wildhaber. Welcome to the new team – Andy Chatterton and Andrea Pita.

**Officers and Committee 2010/11**

The following people served: Michael Daniels; Gary Glover (chair); Kathy Hennessy; Ron Henocq (assistant treasurer); Jerry Hewitt; Marjorie Hill (treasurer); Pat Kingwell (secretary); Christine Savory; Sue Sexton; Amanda Squires (vice-chair) and Corinne Turner (membership).

**Meetings 2010/2011**

The following meetings were held:

28th September 2010 Annual General Meeting

13th October 2010 Committee Meeting

3rd November 2010 Special Meeting

26th January 2011 General Meeting

30th March 2011 General Meeting

13th April 2011 Committee Meeting

1st June 2011 General Meeting

13th July 2011 General Meeting

10th August 2011 General Meeting

**Finances**

At 20th September 2011 our account is in funds.

**Gary Magold**

At the last Annual General Meeting, after many years as our secretary, Gary decided to take a break. As a founder member of The Friends he has been at the heart of every positive change in Southwark Park’s fortunes since 1995. We place on record our thanks for his immense contribution. The good news is that he continues to be actively involved in our work!

20th September 2011