



www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/

The Friends of Southwark Park Annual Report 2011/12

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:

- Fully supported the successful Green Flag application for Southwark Park.
- Helped bring the 5th November fireworks display back to Southwark Park.
- Ran a photography project and a public exhibition of photographs of Southwark Park and King's Stairs Gardens taken by local adults and pupils of Albion and Rotherhithe Primary Schools. Thanks to Rotherhithe Community Council for the grant.
- Produced new publicity banners for use at community events and other functions.
- Took a stall at the Rotherhithe Festival in King George's Field on 14th July 2012.
- Ran a guided walk in Southwark Park in August 2012 as part of Southwark Libraries Well-Being Week.
- Maintained our reach into the local community and beyond through our website www.thefriendsofsouthwarkpark.co.uk/. Many thanks are due to David Gee for his continuing voluntary help in updating the site.
- Recognised the growing interest in the media to use Southwark Park and contributed to Southwark Council's Events Team's 'Filming in Southwark Park Guidelines'.

Protection– over the past year we:

- Lobbied Southwark Council to take enforcement action over unapproved access gates and ways into Southwark Park from neighbouring properties.
- Gave our views to Southwark Council about a proposed Combined Heat and Power project, and thus avoided potentially disruptive pipe laying through Southwark Park.
- Met with the Senior Officer responsible for the Southwark Park Playroom at one of our General Meetings and called for certain site improvements and better publicity and communications.
- Supported local residents in their opposition to an application to put advertising signs near Southwark Park opposite 147 Lower Road.
- Registered our concerns about boundary encroachment and some damage to trees in Southwark Park during the early stages of building works on the former social club at 386 Southwark Park Road.

- Met with the developer of the former Park Lodge site in Lower Road to try to ensure that the new flats and holistic health centre do not have any negative environmental or security impacts on Southwark Park.
- Drew Southwark Council's attention to the misuse of trees in Southwark Park by private fitness trainers.
- Registered our opposition with Southwark Council about a proposal to use the derelict sports centre in Southwark Park for motorcycle training.
- Drew attention to a range of practical improvements needed in Southwark Park, including lake islands maintenance; the lake fountain; the former lido fountain; the children's water play feature; the land in front of Dilston Grove gallery; the hazardous path at Moreton Gate; and the Coronation Chestnut Tree.
- Continued to back the Save King's Stairs Gardens Action Group in their campaign against Thames Water's Thames Tideway Tunnel proposals.
- Supported the designation of King's Stairs Gardens as a Village Green and as a Queen Elizabeth Field.
- Drew attention to important areas of improvement needed in King's Stairs Gardens, including lighting; paths; railings; bollards; and a water leak into St. Peter's Church.

Enhancement – over the past year we:

- Worked with Southwark Council to try to bring the Old Nursery site back into public use after so many years lying idle. We successfully pushed for the improvement of the boundary security between the site and Gomm Road residencies. Following the abortive attempt to interest a third party to run the site, we held a public meeting on 1st September 2012, and have urged Southwark Council to take full responsibility for managing the area for public benefit.
- Continued to press the case with Southwark Council for the long-overdue upgrading of the outdoor Sports Centre. Councillor Veronica Ward came to our November 2011 General Meeting and a Senior Officer subsequently attended another meeting, and advised that, subject to funding, improvement works could begin in early 2013.
- Contributed to Surrey Quays green link with Canada Water consultation process.
- Contributed to Southwark Council's consultation on how to improve the cafe.
- Contributed to Southwark Council's Open Space strategy, and are gratified to see that improving both the Old Nursery and the cafe are in the published strategy.
- Pressed Southwark Council to enhance King's Stairs Gardens Jubilee Stone.

Partnerships and Community – over the past year we:

- Continued our good relationship with Southwark Park Bowling Club. We backed their efforts to better maintain their facility. We successfully pressed for the long-overdue installation of the London Marathon plaque near the synthetic bowling green, but, along with the club, have been frustrated at the various problems connected with the maintenance of the surface, which has restricted its use by disability groups. We also pressed Southwark Council for an appropriate solution to the damaged pavilion roof, which remains an eyesore.
- Maintained our long and close relationship with The Gallery, which hosted and helped organise the photography project exhibition in March 2012. Thanks to Ron Henocq and all the staff.

- Continued to work with Bermondsey Beat in putting on the Bermondsey Carnival in Southwark Park on 2nd June 2012. Thanks to Phil Burkett and Russell Dryden.
- Provided financial and organisational support for the Jubilee celebration event at King's Stairs Gardens on 3rd June 2012.
- Contributed to consultation on location and raised monies for the replacement of the Alfred Salter memorial in King's Stairs Gardens.
- Put our name to the charity Froglife's 'Dragon Finder' pond restoration application to the National Lottery, which should benefit the pond in the wildlife area.
- Backed several community organised events in Southwark Park including, the Breast Cancer Campaign's Girls v Boys Run and Apathy's a Drag Art Project in May; Local Motions Big Dance 2012 event in July; and the forthcoming Tunnel 2 Towers Run.
- Maintained our good partnership with Southwark Council's Parks Team. Thanks to Andy Chatterton, Andrea Pita and all colleagues.
- Maintained a high level of interest in our work amongst the wider community. We have a database of almost 500 contacts who receive regular updates.

Officers and Committee 2011/12

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

Meetings 2011/2012

The following meetings were held:

21 st September 2011	Annual General Meeting
12 th October 2011	General Meeting
16 th November 2011	General Meeting
18 th January 2012	General Meeting
6 th February 2012	Special Meeting – I Love Jamaica Day
15 th February 2012	General Meeting
14 th March 2012	General Meeting
16 th May 2012	General Meeting
20 th June 2012	General Meeting
18 th July 2012	General Meeting
1 st September 2012	Special Meeting – The Old Nursery

Finances

At 20th September 2012 our account is in funds.

Pat Kingwell
Secretary
20th September 2012