FRIENDS OF GREENWICH PARK
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021 Registered Charity No: 1029933 Number 88

Greenwich Park Revealed is Underway

On their Induction Day in the Queen's House – the Team who will Bring the Dream to Reality

From left to right: Suzy Minett, Project Support Officer; **Ellen Roelvink**, Landscape Architect; **Adam Stoter**, whom some of you may know already as he manages the Apprenticeship Scheme across the Royal Parks, **Charlie Blackmore**, Graduate Landscape Architect; **Graham Dear,** Programme Manager, who needs no introduction and who will be supervising all aspects of the project; **Helen Wallis**, Partnerships and Community Engagement Officer; **Jane Pelly**, TRP Landscape Architect; **Andrew Mayfield**, Community Archaeologist; **Sean Morris**, Build Project Manager; and **Alice-Rose Hoyle**, Senior Landscape Architect/Landscape Project Manager.

If you wish to read about the project in detail then The Royal Parks website has a whole section devoted to Greenwich Park Revealed giving more information on the project team and the project itself, with videos and plans about all its aspects. It is well worth a visit and can be found at www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/greenwich-park-revealed.

Graham Dear, Project Manager, writes:

It's a mixed feeling beginning to feel optimistic about the future; the vaccination programme proceeds and Greenwich Park Revealed enters the delivery phase, but at the same time there is the impact of the pandemic.

For Greenwich Park the future looks bright. The newly recruited team which will deliver the project is in place and raring to go. In partnership with Tramshed, we are planning a programme of covid-secure events this summer including two world music concerts on the bandstand, a family sing-along cinema, Commedia Theatre and a youth focused car free day. Check the Park website for details.

The deer will now move to Richmond Park as they are very sensitive to disturbance. On the advice of our vet the deer will be moved in August and return in 2023 when all the building work in the Nursery Yard and Wildlife Centre is complete. We will take the opportunity to do some habitat improvement work to the deer park which will enhance the meadows for wildlife.

Also in August we will be doing a visitor distribution mapping of the park. Using a technique we developed in 2019 we count and map the visitors in the park at one time. To do this we need 20 volunteers. If you would like to help please email Helen Wallis, hwallis@royalparks.org.uk. In return we can offer a once only, never to be repeated, tea and cake in the deer park (the deer will be at Richmond Park). We will repeat this again in 2024 to compare the impact of the project on visitor distribution.

Locals will be aware of the ongoing housing development on Greenwich Peninsula. To facilitate this Thames Water need to lay a new water-main from Greenwich. The Royal Parks have granted them a licence to bring the main through the park from

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King George Street Gate to Park Row Gate, following the line of footpaths. The build is from September 2021 to February 2022 and we are working with Thames Water to minimise any disturbance to visitors. It's not ideal but the only alternative route was along Romney Road. Thames Water will be paying an appropriate licence fee. Readers will be pleased to note that The National Maritime Museum have completed the installation of their water main.

When you read this, I will have been on the sleeper train to Glasgow for a holiday cycling in Argyll and the Hebrides. My last cycle tour holiday was in 1987 so it was time to get back in the saddle!

Remembering Liz Coyle

Greenwich Park lost a True Friend when Mrs Elizabeth Coyle (Liz) passed away on 14 May 2021. Liz was an early member of the Friends of Greenwich Park and joined its Committee in 2004. From 2006 Liz served either as Chairman or Vice-Chairman. From 2012 she also edited the Friends Newsletter.

Liz embodied all that is best about the Friends of Greenwich Park.

Her energy was extraordinary. She organised plant sales in Blackheath and many cultural events for the Friends including Gardeners Question Times and the Annual Lecture. She led highly successful visits for Friends. The plaque commemorating Ignatius Sancho was installed while she was Chairman. She was always to be relied upon at any Friends' event that needed a bit of organising. Liz guided us through many challenges, not least when she took a firm but constructive line with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. Her patience and diplomacy helped ensure that damage to the Park was minimised and contributed to the overall success of the events in 2012.

Liz built excellent relationships with Park staff, with Royal Park trustees and with the Friends Groups of the other Royal Parks. In recent years she was active in helping the Royal Parks win the major grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Greenwich Park Revealed.

In all her work she was wise, good humoured and indefatigable. She was supported by her husband, Jeremy, who was invaluable as adviser, writer, photographer and transport manager for innumerable events. She will be greatly missed. There will be a memorial service at All Saints' Church, Blackheath on 21 July at 2 pm.

The Hunt for Butterflies

Hot days in the heat of the midday sun are best for spotting butterflies and, armed with Factor 50 and hats, we've been out and about recording what we've seen. Under the watchful eye of Helen Wallis, Greenwich Park's Partnerships and Community Engagement Officer, we undertook the Crooms Hill transect (a mapped-out path for the study of butterflies). The study was carried out for the National Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and the same walk is strictly adhered to every time, with the temperature, wind speed and how much cloud there is all recorded, as well as butterflies spotted, of course!

We completed two fantastic, interesting butterfly training sessions via Zoom with naturalist Joe Beale, so we were testing out our skills. The rule is to look 5 metres up, and 2.5 metres to either side of the path. Anything spotted outside of this distance is not counted.

We trekked through bits of the park that are off the beaten track and first up we spotted two pretty Holly Blues fluttering around together. We were hugely encouraged by this great start. We headed past Queen Caroline's Bath under the shade of some trees, with dappled light around us, and a Speckled Wood landed on a leaf nearby. Another result. Those Speckled Woods really have the right idea as this cool section was definitely the best place to be on a sweltering hot day. Up high we spotted a Large White, recognisable by its fast flight.

We headed through the Rose Garden and carried on round the outside and past the Reservoir looping back through the trees towards the Anglo Saxon Barrows to an area of the hill where sheep's sorrel grows. The Small Copper lays eggs on this plant and it's a favourite food for the caterpillars, so it's a good place to spot them. The Small Heath which likes a variety of habitats can also be found here. We spotted a butterfly – which one? We recognised the dark spots and vivid orange of the Small Copper.

I felt privileged to be able to take part. It's such an enjoyable thing to do, and I feel that although I'm a complete beginner I've made some progress and am learning loads along the way.

Wendy Rigg (butterfly training course participant)

Around the Park

Work on replacing and repairing the railings, coping stones and gate of the reservoir will begin soon though no date has been announced. Parts of the walls along Maze Hill are bulging and leaning and will be taken down and rebuilt. Again, no date but should be soon. The boating contract has been re-let and should start up on 1 July 2021. The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed a newly-planted copse of trees in the area to the east of the Queen Elizabeth Oak – an experiment we understand to extend habitat for wildlife, to see what challenges arise and to direct future plantings.

Calling All Bird Enthusiasts

The Friends of Greenwich Park Bird Walkers are a friendly group of amateur birdwatchers who meet on **the last Sunday of every month at 8.30 am. inside Blackheath Gate**. Join us for an informal ramble round the park, noting the species we see and hear and sharing our knowledge. Binoculars and cameras recommended.

Autumn Fungus Foray

We hope to be able to organize a Fungus Foray in October this year. Details will be posted on the website and on the Friends' notice boards in the Pavilion Café and near the Blackheath Gate. The Foray will be free of charge.

Bandstand Concerts are Saved

Hurrah! Despite the extension to the Covid restrictions the Bandstand concerts will be held each Sunday in July and August, and on August Bank Holiday Monday but there are some changes from the original plan. The band on 11 July will be the Mardi Gras Jazz Band (as on 4 July); on 18 July the Meantime Band will perform; and on 30 August we will hear from the Great Cross Country Band. All the concerts begin at 3pm, so bring a chair, a rug, a picnic and enjoy!

Discounts for Friends

We have been able to negotiate a discount of 25% on food (Sunday to Thursday, 12 noon to close) at Café Rouge in Greenwich for Friends. This is equivalent to the generous offer we received pre-Covid. Friends should also remember that there is a 10% discount at Waterstones Greenwich and at the Cafes in Greenwich Park. But remember that you must show your membership cards to benefit from these offers.

History Research Group

This group has been regularly meeting each month via Zoom although research has been limited since many of the libraries and archives are closed. We maintain a core of researchers and if you would like to join us please contact info@friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk for details of our meetings. We are particularly interested in hearing your stories of the Park and with some help from the new Community Archaeologist and Archivist, Andrew Mayfield, we hope to assemble some oral history resources.

Ignatius Sancho

Some of you will remember when we raised funds for a plaque for Ignatius Sancho. Well now you can hear some of his music. There is a short film prepared by the Blackheath Halls with the Blackheath Halls Orchestra featuring three of his minuets and giving some details of his life. You will find this at https://youtu.be/vPUDQkjCHCM and one of our committee members, Lesley Jones, is playing the violin

Queen's Orchard Reopens to the Public

The Queen's Orchard, a favourite spot in the park for many, reopened on 23 June. After being closed for 18 months, with volunteers only being allowed back earlier this year, the delights of the Orchard are welcoming visitors again:
Wednesday-Friday: 10.45am-1pm and 1.30-4.45pm,
Saturday-Sunday: 9.15am-12 noon and 1-4.45pm.
Alex Andrews from Gavin Jones and the volunteers have spent the last few months getting things ready, and along with plenty of spring rain followed by the recent warm weather, the plants are flourishing. The bed by the entrance is dotted with pink geraniums, with dahlias, hollyhocks and cosmos on their way, while the peonies are taller than the volunteers. The fruit and vegetable plots are also doing well, and it's hoped that on Sunday 5 September the Orchard will be able to hold its annual Open Day, when visitors can make a donation and take home some of the produce.
Cliff Wilkinson

Wildlife Activities for the Family

The Wildlife Centre volunteers were simply thrilled to finally be able to restart our activities (previously known as 'drop-in sessions') at the end of May on a beautiful sunny afternoon, when we welcomed many eager and keen faces to our tables. Due to Government Covid Guidelines, we are aiming to hold all our summer activities outside the Wildlife Centre building. Do come and join us in the gazebos where we can offer the chance to sow seeds, handle deer antlers and feel the weight of them, pick up a nature bingo trail sheet, or choose your own colours to decorate a fox or ladybird mask. We plan to promote sustainable pledges at our next date and welcome all visitors and any prospective volunteers who would like to join our team, usually on the **last Saturday afternoon of each month from 1 – 3pm. See dates on page 4**.
The Wildlife Centre is near the south end of the lake in the Flower Garden. The events are organised by the Friends Wildlife Group on behalf of The Royal Parks and provide the chance for children and young people to find out about wildlife in Greenwich Park.

The New Photography Group

The new photography group now has 25 members. We already have a lively presence on-line, both on Flickr and in a Facebook Group. We took advantage of the recent glorious weather to meet for a couple of photography walks in the Park – one early in the morning and one in the evening, overcoming all the anticipated anxieties of new members to the "club": Am I good enough? Are the others all experts? The answer for everyone is that we welcome photographers of any type and with any level of experience and skill, from those using a smartphone right up to top of the line DSLR kit. All of us enjoyed the company, the chance to learn from the others in the group and the opportunity to pick up on their ideas and inspiration. Quite a few were just glad to have the excuse and chance to get out their cameras and experiment. We'll plan further Park walks, projects and challenges and maybe even work towards meetings where we can look at our photos and critique composition and technique. However, it's one step at a time for the moment and it will be the members of the group who decide what we tackle, how often and to what extent. If you'd like to join the group, send an email to Jonathan Chandler at jonnychaz@outlook.com
Check us out on Flickr:https://www.flickr.com/groups/fogp/
And join us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/4052934121450242

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	**Wildlife activities for families at the wildlife centre**
Concerts at the Bandstand	Saturday 24 July, 1-4pm
Saturday 3 July, 2-4pm: *Sounds of the World*	Saturday 28 August, 1-4pm
Sunday 4 July: *Mardi Gras Jazz Band**	Saturday 25 September, 1-4pm
Sunday 11 July: *Mardi Gras Jazz Band**	Saturday 30 October (beware of the bats!), 1-4pm
Sunday 18 July: *Meantime Band**	
Sunday 25 July: *Graham Pike Jazz Band**	**Bird Watching Rambles (meet at Blackheath Gate)**
Saturday 31 July, 2-4pm: *Sounds of the World*	Sunday 25 July, 8.30am
Sunday 1 August: *Old Jelly Rollers**	Sunday 29 August, 8.30am
Sunday 8 August: *Shadey Scandals**	Sunday 26 September, 8.30am
Sunday 15 August: *Heroes Band**	Sunday 31 October, 8.30am
Sunday, 22 August: *South London Jazz Orchestra**	Sunday 28 November, 8.30am
Sunday 29 August: *Greenwich Concert Band**	Sunday 19 December, 8.30am
Monday 30 August: *Great Cross Country Band**	
**These concerts are organised and funded by the Friends. They start at 3pm and end around 5pm.*	
Queen's Orchard Open Day	**London Marathon**
Sunday 5 September, from 11 am to 2 pm	Sunday 3 October
Fungus Foray	
October 2021, see website and Friends notice boards	

Friends of Greenwich Park
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Annual subscription: UK £5; overseas £10. Cheques to Friends of Greenwich Park with sae please, and sent to the Membership Secretary, or pay online via PayPal at the Friends' website: www.friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk
All enquiries to: info@friendsofgreenwichpark.org.uk

Greenwich Park (Tel: 0300 061 2380) is one of London's eight Royal Parks. The others are Bushy Park, The Green Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park. All have links with former royal palaces or hunting grounds. Between them they cover 2083 ha. (5000 acres) of historic parkland. The Royal Parks also manages Brompton Cemetery. In Greenwich Park there are police phone boxes at St Mary's Gate and at Blackheath Gate. In an emergency dial 999; for other calls Tel: 020 7161 9740.

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