

Friends of South Park Annual Report for 2012

Your committee is pleased to present this report on February 11, 2013 at the AGM as required by our Constitution, and even more pleased to report a successful year. Highlights included:

It was another **successful growing year** for the market garden and the community gardeners, including our first harvest of South Park honey. Many thanks to *Kathy Roll* and *Louise Connell*.

The **annual picnic in the park** was held on May 13, 2012 and again was attended by around 450 people. A raffle and a bake sale raised around GBP 400 for the Friends of South Park and we look forward to another great picnic event in May this year. Many thanks to *Andy Jones*, *Priscilla Ladha*, and the other members of the events team.

South Park was **awarded a Green Flag** this year after a judging process that we were part of in late May. The flag pole was erected in early February and there will be an event with the head of parks from the Council, Cllr Greg Smith, in mid-February.

On July 27, we have a **corporate volunteer day**. A team from an international advertising agency came to help make some dramatic improvements to the Shed, including paint, electric lighting, new flooring and restored doors.

In September, we **tried a pop-up movie screen** in the park with two showings: one aimed at adults and the other at children. While it was a pleasant experience for some, it didn't have the same support as the picnic event so we will likely not pursue this activity again.

On November 2, 2012 **Thomas's School did an in-service day** in the park with one of their classes, which included nature-related activities in the market garden, gardening, and a picnic. Thanks go to *Lisa Irwin* for organizing this event.

A **woodland bulb planting activity** with the neighbouring schools was spearheaded by committee member *Beth Patrick* on Dec 6, 2012. Five types of bulbs were planted by students at Thomas's, the Holy Cross Bilingual School at Marie d'Orliac, and Sullivan. The GBP 4,000 project was sponsored jointly by Quadron and the Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

And in early 2013, we received **fantastic results from our grant applications**, so special thanks to *Lance Pierson* and *Andrew Kaufman* who put many hours into preparing the applications:

Cricket nets received a total of GBP 65,000, including 56,000 from the London Marathon Trust, GBP 6,500 from the Council, and GBP 2,000 from Thomas's.

The MUGA court received a total of GBP 230,000, including GBP 120,000 from Sports England, GBP 85,000 from the Council, and GBP 25,000 from Voelva Environmental Trust.

Special thanks go to the entire committee for the dedication they bring to the park and its care, and to members, who continue to support the Friends of South Park and its important advocacy role. In particular, we'd like to thank Julie Land and Anthony Williams for their eagle eyes and support in all things planning-related.

Detailed reports for each of these achievements follow, as well as care committee work, including communications, membership, fundraising, finances, and maintenance.

The officers and committee members elected at the AGM in January 2012 were:

Chair: Alex Kennaugh

Vice-Chair: Andy Jones

Secretary: Kathy Roll

Treasurer: Louise Connell

Committee members were Teo Catino, Priscilla Ladha, Gloria Guy, Beth Patrick, Lance Pierson, and Linzi Coull. Lisa Irwin served as an ex-officio member.

Regarding regular meetings, the Constitution requires the committee to meet not less than four times in addition to the AGM. We met 8 times since last year's AGM (Feb 28, May 22,). We also had a walk-about the park with Neil Manning, head of park maintenance, on May 17.

Regarding communications, we have produced regular e-mail briefings, which are available on our website with our annual reports. We are grateful to Andy Jones for maintaining our online communications and Facebook page for the park.

Regarding membership, the new appeal effort launched at the annual spring picnic when we had a table and signed new members. We also continue to collect dues at the AGM.

Regarding finances, the Friends of South Park ends the year with positive account balance. The treasurer will provide an audited set of accounts and post them online.

Regarding a more effective workflow, the committee continued with 6 working groups that will be spearheaded by a committee member. Standing members and other residents are encouraged to become involved as well. The groups are communications, membership, events, planting, safety & maintenance, and market garden/NW corner.

Communications:

Membership:

Events:

Planting, safety & maintenance:

Community gardening: This past summer was our second year developing the community garden in the Northwest corner of South Park. Despite the challenging weather in the spring and early summer, all the hard work in the garden paid off. We harvested courgettes, runner beans, sugar snap peas, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuces and herbs. Also we had a very healthy pumpkin crop in the late autumn. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped throughout the growing season and those who watered when the sun was finally shining. Also thanks to Hammersmith Community Garden Association for their help, expertise and plant donations. We had several visits from the surrounding schools and the children helped to plant bulbs in the autumn. We also have a very active bee hive and have enjoyed some local honey. This autumn, we prepared the

garden for the winter by planting green manure in some of the beds. We also planted broad beans, garlic and onions which will be harvested in the spring. Going forward, we would like to experiment with some heritage plants, berries and a greater variety of flowers. We would also encourage and foster more participation with the local schools. If you are interested in helping, learning a thing or two, or just having a look, the gardening group usually gets together on either Tuesday or Thursday mornings. We are looking for volunteers, so please email if you would like more information. Children are welcome to join in also.