

Happy New Year and welcome to the latest South Park newsletter. As you can see the Gardens are closed and restoration works have started. This is the planned timetable of works:

Nov 2008	Diseased and unwanted trees removed, borders cleared, Old seats, waste bins etc removed
Dec 2008	Compost added to borders, new shrubs planted
Jan 2009	Paths dug up and waste material re-used New trees planted, mini beast sanctuary created
Feb, Mar & Apr 2009	New path surfaces laid, lights and power installed Boundaries planted.
May 2009	Benches, waste bins and barriers installed, flower-beds planted
Jun 2009	Gardens reopened date to be announced
21st Jun 2009	Grand Opening Ceremony & Picnic

The work has gone well so far and Hortech are keeping up with the programme of works and timetable. The laying of the new paths is dependent on having good (dry) weather, so we are all hoping for a dry winter.

Hortech is a specialist landscaping company which was established in 1987. It started as a grounds maintenance company in the Midlands, then expanded into landscaping and has grown to a UK wide company with two nurseries, seven regional offices and a turnover of £11m. Hortech Landscape's experience in restoration projects in heritage parks made the company an excellent choice for the South Park Gardens refurbishment.

Schools Plant Trees

We were delighted to welcome pupils from the four closest primary schools – The Priory, Holy Trinity, St Mary's and Pelham – to the Gardens to each plant a commemorative tree. The four trees – Silver Maple – *Acer Saccharinum* (Holy Trinity); Purple Leaf Flowering Plum - *Prunus Cerasifera 'Nigra'* (St Mary's); Japanese Crab Apple – *Malus Floribunda* (The Priory) and Hupeh Crab Apple – *Malus Hupehensis* (Pelham), will have plaques to identify them. We will be giving each school updates on the progress of their tree and are hoping that the pupils will make regular visits to see them growing.



Check out the new website www.southparkgardens.org





Mini-beast sanctuary

A new mini-beast sanctuary is being created in the northeast corner of the Gardens. This will be a useful resource for local schools and will help pupils observe and learn more about insect habitats. We are hoping to attract stag beetles, cockchafer, wood lice and butterflies (amongst many more). Hortech have also set up some logs under the big cedar tree to provide an 'outside classroom' for schools to use.



Bench Scheme

There will be over 20 new benches installed in the Gardens and an opportunity for people to donate more. If you would like to have a bench installed and dedicated to a loved one, please look at the relevant page on the website.



We are also setting up a bench lottery, which will give people an opportunity to win a dedicated bench for just £10. Check the website for details.

Website Launched

There is now a new website where you can check the progress of the Gardens' restoration and get information about the Friends of South Park Gardens, events and how to get involved. You can download back copies of this newsletter, membership forms and bench scheme application forms.

The address is: **www.southparkgardens.org**.
For more information call: Jil Hall on 020 8542 0638

Residents' Tours of South Park Gardens

There will be guided tours for residents to show the progress so far. If you would like to join one of these please complete this slip and return to: Jil Hall, Park House, 66 Kings Road, SW19 8QW.

please tick to indicate which tour you would like to join:

Tuesday 24th March at 10am

Saturday 4th April at 10 am

Wednesday 22nd April at 6pm.

Name..... Tel number.....

Address.....

..... Post code.....

Email address..... Mobile.....