BE ALERT - railings stolen from nearby park

Local residents around South Park Gardens are being asked to be vigilant, especially at night. Thieves have recently made off with ten sections of metal railings from around Cottenham Park in west Wimbledon. It is suspected they were stolen to order, or to be melted down for scrap metal value by thieves. They had only been up for 12 months or so and were stolen at around 1.30am on a Friday night.

Residents in the South Park Gardens area may remember when the park gates at Trinity Road were stolen just ten years ago. The thieves had dressed in high visibility jackets like council workmen on that occasion and used a flat bed truck. If you see anything like this going on whether in working hours or at night, be suspicious.

Please note that the Council has no plans to remove any railings or gates and any activity like this should be reported immediately to the police.

New garden maintenance arrangements - meet the team

A regular gardening team has now taken charge of the maintenance and upkeep of the Gardens. Managed by Simon Woods, the team consists of Martin, Barry, Andy and Tom. They are pictured here on a very cold day, interrupted from clearing some of the shrub borders. In the summer Andy will be visiting the Gardens to cut the grass every 3 weeks or so.

They do pick up litter as they go, but emptying the bins and litter picking is now carried out by a different mobile team, which visits the gardens twice during the week and once at weekends.

They would like to know how you feel they are doing, so please make your views known to the Community Park Warden, Jil at jil.hall@merton.gov.uk

Incidentally, you may like to know that John Macey and Robin Willson continue to be employed by the Council. They are working in a different mobile team in another part of the borough.

Check out the website: www.southparkgardens.org
Music Festival – film

Merton Council has produced a half hour film featuring a range of leisure and sporting activities taking place in the Borough during 2011. To see the film go to the London Borough of Merton website www.merton.gov.uk/summer-of-culture. The 5 minute piece about the South Park Gardens Music Festival starts at around 11 minutes into the film.

The Friends of South Park Gardens are delighted that the organisers are hoping to hold another Festival this year – see the website, which will be updated shortly with this year’s details on www.southparkgardensmusicfestival.com.

If you are a young person, who would like to perform at this year’s festival – look on the website for details.

Friends Skills Audit

The Friends are looking to increase their available skills so are looking for people to help with specific tasks – so would like to hear from anyone with a background in charity administration, accountancy, marketing, PR and general administration, also anyone with knowledge of surveying, building, architecture and horticulture. Whether you are a current member or not, if you can offer any of these skills and a few hours of your time, please get in touch.

Dogs

We are noticing more dogs being let off their leads and dog waste not being picked up. The two things are related. It is much more difficult to see where your dog is going if it is off the lead. If a dog does its business in the shrub beds, it may be missed and then could be “found” (ie trodden in) by a small child playing there or by our team of gardeners, keeping the Gardens tidy. This is both unpleasant and unhealthy for them.

Dog Owners: please be responsible and keep dogs on their leads and pick up their waste.

Easter quiz 2012

The Easter quiz this year is on:
Sunday 1 April at 3pm.

Come and meet the Easter Bunny and find lots of lovely chocolate eggs. Tickets will be sold on the day. It is a popular event aimed at children from as young as 1 up to around 10 - there is a treasure hunt for older children.

I would like to join the Friends (please tick) [ ]

Name: ............................................................
Address: ............................................................
Postcode: ............................................................
Tel number: ............................................................

I can help with events: (please tick) [ ]

Please return to: 66 Kings Road, Wimbledon London SW19 8QW

Email address: ............................................................
Mobile number: ............................................................

REF: 054279