



New Community Park Warden appointed



South Park Gardens has a new Community Park Warden – Jil Hall. Jil started work in

May and will be helping put together the detailed bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. She will also be out and about in the Gardens making sure that it is always a safe and pleasant environment for its many users. Jil has been working with Friends of South Park Gardens (FSPG) in recent years and has organised several of the successful FSPG events, so will already be known to many of you. One of Jil's tasks is to find more volunteers to help with a range of jobs that need doing in the Gardens. These may include park patrols, user surveys, guided walks, liaison with schools and community groups and bulb planting.

Questionnaire results – you love the Gardens

Many of you will have completed a questionnaire about the planned refurbishment of the Gardens. Preliminary results show that of all the many positive comments received, top of the list was:

- Enjoying the flowers and planting
- Enjoying the open space
- Appreciating the trees
- Great space for children to play in
- Peace and tranquility

Things that need improving included:

- Poor toilet facilities
- Poor paths
- Lack of children's play equipment
- Lack of seating and bins
- Too much dog poo and litter

All these comments have been taken on board for the detailed bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The bid will be submitted by the end of September deadline and we will hear the result within four months.



Toilets – good news

The good news is that the toilets have now been refurbished and are open between 8.00am and 4.30pm.

There is also a disabled toilet (next to the Ladies') that is accessible with a Radar key.



LOTTERY FUNDED





Gardeners' compound

There are plans to upgrade the gardeners' compound. The old buildings will be replaced and the area opened up. The Friends of South Park Gardens will also be provided with a storeroom for their events equipment and a meeting room. The new building will improve a neglected area and will enhance the overall look of the Gardens. Plans will be available to view in the Portacabin in September.

Bookfest

The Gardens will be host to a number of celebrities in October. June Whitfield will be coming to open the Book Fair on Sunday 14 October. There will be a range of interesting events in the marquee on Saturday 13 October including a 'Dragons' Den' for aspiring writers with a panel including Sandi Toksvig, Michelle Paver, and literary agent, Peter Straus. For more information see www.wimbledonbookfest.co.uk

Local history group

The local history group is now set up and is working on a brochure detailing the history of the local area and the Gardens. The group will be liaising with Merton Library and Heritage Service on an intergenerational history project.

Schools liaison

Jil Hall and Land Use Consultants have been talking to local schools to see how we can make the Gardens more appealing to them. Plans are underway to provide further educational facilities and activities available for schools. Activities include sports, art, maths and science projects.

I LOVE MERTON'S PARKS

A heart declaring love for Merton's parks appeared in South Park Gardens for a week in June (16 - 24). Many park users were given an application form enabling them to nominate a park they love and win a prize.



Feedback Form (please send to Park House, 66 Kings Road, Wimbledon SW19 8QW)

We'd like to know what you think about South Park Gardens. Please use this form to let us have your views.

Name.....Tel Number.....

Address.....

I think.....