

# The South Parker

Friends of South Park Gardens

Local people working to restore, protect and improve South Park Gardens



Registered Charity No: 1162459

Issue no 31 • Winter 2016/2017

## GARDENS AWARDED GOLD IN LONDON IN BLOOM AWARDS for the first time!



Congratulations and 'Thank You' to the gardeners (Tom, Barry and Andy, pictured left) and Gardening Club members for all their hard work in gaining this prestigious award. **Well done!**

### Feedback welcome

We and the Council always welcome feedback and / or questions about the Gardens. If you would like to know about something or let us know any concerns please email us or use the feedback form link here

<http://southparkgardens.org/feedback-form/>

### Join FSPG in 2017

Don't forget to renew your membership (or join us for the first time) in 2017. Membership is only £5 per household and easy to do online. Membership runs from January to December.

### Park Bins and Litter

We have chosen new bins for the Gardens. They have lids to help prevent our furry visitors from emptying the bins every night! We have also selected a style of bin that respects the heritage spirit of the Gardens.

We still need **your help** to ensure that litter gets into the bins in the first place!

If anybody has a bit of free time or needs to do some voluntary hours for Duke of Edinburgh we have litter pickers and gloves!

### Fly tipping

Enforcement at the Council would like to remind local residents not to put household waste in park bins as this is actually 'fly tipping'. You have been warned!

Your support means we can do so much more to ensure the upkeep of our lovely Gardens. Remember members get priority booking and reduced prices for select events, such as the Fireworks.

<http://www.southparkgardens.org/join-FSPG.html>

### Garden Maintenance

Merton Council has appointed a new company 'idverde' to maintain its parks and open spaces from 1 February. We attended a meeting with them and other Park Friends groups in January. The contract will require them to be responsible for both gardening and litter collection. A different company, whose contract starts in April, will deal with street cleaning.

Our park is a flagship park and a high standard of maintenance is required by the contract. **YOU** can all help us with the new contract because it is based on outcomes. If we do not think the grass is short enough or the beds planted in the way we are used to then we can ask for the issue to be addressed.

**The kiosk has seating inside during the winter** and it is a lovely place to enjoy a coffee and look out on the beautiful gardens while staying warm and comfortable!

### Wildlife Corner

There are flocks of long-tailed tits in the Gardens! We have also spotted yellow hammers.



Take a moment to stand quietly and look up in the trees.

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### Classes in the Garden Room

Please look on our Facebook page and our events calendar online for information and dates of classes in the Garden Room. There are art classes for children and adults, pottery painting, body conditioning and yoga and a café for people with dementia and their carers.

Please get in touch if you would like to run a class or hold a business meeting there. If you are a community group looking for a meeting place, don't forget that we have a special rate for non-commercial events.

**The Gardening Club** is looking forward to a new year of activities. We now have raspberry, red currant and gooseberry bushes planted in the raised beds. If you would like to get involved with this project just let us know and we will put you on the Gardening Club email list.

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### Community Development Fund

The trustees are discussing the possibility of creating a fund to help people organise small non-profit making events in the Gardens or Garden Room. The Gardens are a resource for everyone and one of the aims of the Fund is to make sure there are a range of activities suitable for all. Watch our website for details.

### RECENT EVENTS: Carol Singing in the Gardens

The second year of this joint event between Holy Trinity parents and FSPG was a huge success and raised an impressive £1100 for a local women's refuge, Housing for Women. Thank you to everyone involved with it including sponsors Eddison White! The Putney and Wandsworth Brass Band were excellent and have already been reserved for 2017.



### EVENTS 2017

#### Sunday 9 April from 3pm - Easter Egg Hunt

This popular event is aimed at children under 7. Tickets available on the day only.

#### Friday 30 June & 14 July from 2:30pm to 4:30pm - Over 60s Cream Teas

Local residents over 60 years old are invited to the Garden Room for a free cream tea.

#### Sunday 18 June – Summer Picnic

Once again, feel free to come along to enjoy a picnic with friends. This is a free community event for everyone, young and old. There will be entertainment for the kids and the traditional yummy tea and cakes.

#### Saturday 24 June – Holy Trinity school Summer Fair

Contact [hotsemail@gmail.com](mailto:hotsemail@gmail.com) if you want to get involved

#### Saturday 4 November 2017 – Fireworks

Our family-friendly event returns. To be in with a chance of getting a ticket for this sold-out event, please remember to join FSPG early in the New Year.

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**Volunteers.** Please contact us if you would like to join in and help behind the scenes or with our events or gardening club. Please follow this link. <http://southparkgardens.org/volunteer-form/>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/FriendsofSouthParkGardens](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSouthParkGardens)

**Twitter:** @southparkgdens