

# THE SOUTH PARKER



Issue no 39

## SPECIAL 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### 10TH ANNIVERSARY FOR SOUTH PARK GARDENS

You may not realise that it was nearly ten years ago that South Park Gardens was opened again to the public following its restoration. The fabulous makeover was made possible by the Friends of South Park Gardens and Merton Council working together and winning a grant of over £1m from the Heritage Lottery Fund via its Parks for People programme.

We would like to offer our thanks to everyone who made it possible – too many people to mention by name. Thank you for working to make the Gardens such a lovely place for the community to enjoy.

We will be celebrating this special day; for more details, please contact [friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com).

### AGM REPORT

We were delighted to have a good turn out for our AGM in March. There was lots of good news to celebrate, including the success of the gardening in keeping the beds looking good, the increasing popularity of the Garden Pavilion for a wide range of activities, new rubbish bins and welcoming Chris at Bliss in the Park who has made the kiosk so attractive and popular. The finances are robust, and we continue to organise a range of very successful and popular events for the community. Helen Buckley was welcomed as a new trustee.



*Some of the committee members, trustees and supporters of the Friends.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Friends of South Park Gardens events:

- Sun 9th June - Annual Picnic
- Fri 14th June - Over 60s Cream Tea
- Fri 12th July - Over 60s Cream Tea
- Sat 2nd November - Fireworks & Bonfire Party

#### Other events:

- Sun 23rd June - Sport for All (charity event)
- Sun 30th June - Barbecue with Jazz (organised by Bliss in the Park)
- Sun 14th July - Charity Bike Ride Finale

See inside for more details on these events...

### MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership already this year. This is just a quick reminder to anyone who hasn't done it yet. Joining now covers you for the year until the end of December. It is only £5 per household. If you are not a member, why not join now at [www.southparkgardens.org/join-us](http://www.southparkgardens.org/join-us).

### FSG ANNUAL PICNIC - SUNDAY 9TH JUNE

The Friends' annual picnic will take place in the Gardens on Sunday 9th June from 2pm. We are pleased to announce that the fabulous Melodians will be attending to play some uplifting, happy music. Please come with your friends and family and a picnic.

Tea and cakes will be served at 4pm and we would love to receive donations of cakes and biscuits (home-made or otherwise). There will be traditional races and we have a bar serving local draft ale, Pimms and soft drinks. So do come along and have fun.

# EASTER EGG HUNT

After a cloudy start to the day, the sun shone down on our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Over 300 children took part and they were entertained by the Spring Fairy and Mr Rabbit with games and songs, while the Easter Bunny took to his unicycle to entertain the queues. As ever, we are grateful to Ellisons for sponsoring this community event, and Magical Quests.

The raffle was won by Justin, Lise and Clara (right).

We were all so busy running the event on the day that we did not manage to take any photographs of the Easter Bunny on or off his unicycle or Mr Rabbit and the fairy. If you have any photographs you are happy to share with us please email in to [friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com). Many thanks.

Each year after the Easter Egg Hunt any unsold/unclaimed prize chocolates are donated to a local care home. This year the residents of Wimbledon Beaumont Care Home run by Barchester Healthcare were the lucky recipients. The photograph below shows residents and staff of Wimbledon Beaumont with Sylvia, one of our trustees, and the donated chocolates.



## OVER 60S CREAM TEAS

The Friends' popular cream teas are being served to anyone over 60 from the local area (around the Gardens) from 2pm to 4pm on Friday 14th June and Friday 12th July – in the Garden Pavilion.

Please ring Jil on 07805 729007 to book a place or email the Friends at [friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com).



## JAZZ AND BARBECUE IN THE GARDENS – SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

This event is being organised by Chris at Bliss in the Park. Come and enjoy some mellow live jazz and eat delicious food; from 12.30 until late.



# GARDEN PAVILION ACTIVITIES

The room in the Garden Pavilion is available for hire for classes and community activities. Here is a snapshot of what is happening in there at the moment.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10:00-12:00 Tai Chi Qigong	9:15-10:15 Core Restore	10:00-11:00 Tai Chi Pain & Wellbeing	9:30-12:30 Art Class	9:00-11:00 Puppet Shows	9:30-11:00 Japanese Reading Group	Occasional Paint Pot Parties and Craft Events
14:30-16:30 Mah Jong (alternate weeks)	16:00-17:00 Computer Science Club	16:15-19:15 Youth Mentoring Group	12:30-15:30 New Afternoon Art Class	12:30-14:00 Irish Music Practice	13:00-14:00 Japanese Class	
			16:00-17:00 Children's Art Class		Monthly on Saturday afternoons Calligraphy Class and Baking Group	

Councillor Paul Kohler holds a monthly surgery in the Garden Pavilion from 11:00-12:00 on the last Saturday of the month.

## HELP WITH ROOM BOOKINGS

Room hire at the garden pavilion is now running very successfully and is almost fully utilised. This requires a fair amount of administration, like invoicing, as well as regular checking of the room, locking and unlocking, setting up, and cleaning. If you have some spare time and like the sound of helping with any of these tasks, please do get in touch with the Friends via our email [friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com), or by post in the post box on the side wall of the garden pavilion.

## SPORT FOR ALL - CHARITY FITNESS EVENT SUNDAY 23RD JUNE

Taste of Sport is a collaborative, community event aiming to get families and friends out having plenty of fitness fun in the park together, whilst also raising money for some great charities: Molly's Smile Fund, Mind, Momentum and Cancer Research. It is organised by Bliss In The Park, Fitwise, HA fitness, FitnessSize and FitState.

The event starts at 10am and finishes with lunch at Bliss In The Park! Tickets available soon from the kiosk. They are also looking for volunteers to help out on the day. Get in touch at [TasteofSport1@gmail.com](mailto:TasteofSport1@gmail.com) to find out more.

## CHARITY BIKE RIDE FINALE - SUNDAY 14TH JULY

This is not a Friends event, but just to let you know that at 3pm ish on 14th July we will have around 50 cyclists finishing their gruelling Paris to London charity bike ride in the Gardens. For more details go to [www.vegasafterparty.co.uk](http://www.vegasafterparty.co.uk).



太極

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First class is free, all classes are ongoing, no prior experience is required

[www.eightgates.co.uk](http://www.eightgates.co.uk) [info@eightgates.co.uk](mailto:info@eightgates.co.uk)

# FIREWORKS & BONFIRE PARTY - SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

It may only just be spring now, but we are already thinking ahead to our ever-popular fireworks event in November. It takes a huge number of people to help put this event on and to run it safely. The date is fixed, and we now need a variety of volunteers to help with different areas of the event: ticketing, bar, food, bonfire, and electrical! If interested please email [friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsouthparkgardens@gmail.com).

## NEW BULBS PLANTED

We were delighted to have received a quantity of bulbs when we put in a bid for them from Bulbs for London - MPGA and Taylor's bulbs. Here are some of them in flower. They were planted all over the Gardens.



## MIKEY AND MIA

Here is a photograph of the blue and gold macaws Mikey and Mia, regular visitors to South Park Gardens.

Their owners bring them into the gardens regularly for a bit of safe exercise - allowing them to stretch their wings. They have very colourful plumage and are friendly birds, who love being out in the sunshine.



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