

THE BEDDINGTON PARK NEWSLETTER

Issue No.9

December 2016

Welcome to the latest edition of The Beddington Park Newsletter! Read on for an update on the HLF project, what's been happening and what's to come.



HLF Project Update

Over the last few weeks most of you will have noticed the tree works have been completed on the lake. We apologise for any inconvenience this work may have caused, with the main pathway closed at times.



Understandably the result is one of significant change. As with any large-scale project we will have to suffer periods where the park is not looking its best to reach the finished product. We would like to reiterate the breadth of research, work and consultation that has gone into the project. There has been involvement from ecologists, The London Wildlife Trust, the EA, arborists and more, in order to ensure we could carry out the work as sensitively as possible. To achieve the widely requested goal of dredging the lake a large proportion of the silt has to remain on site and, following EA regulations, much of it must remain within the lake area. For this reason some of the silt will be placed on the three islands – to make one larger island – thus requiring all the vegetation currently there to be removed. Once the silt has been relocated and settled, the island will be replanted creating a significantly better habitat than what was there before. In time the birds and more wildlife will return. The trees have been removed at this time of year to discourage nesting so that work can be carried out without disturbing nesting birds, and potential delay to the project can be minimised.

In January there will be further tree felling around the stock pond. This will allow the pond to be dredged and restored to become an attractive feature of the park. Currently these trees, most of which are self-sown, cause significant leaf litter that contribute to the silt problem. As part of the restoration a range of plants and trees, that will contribute more significantly to the habitat, will be planted.

Information on which areas of the park will be closed to public access, and when, will be made available as soon as the schedule of works has been finalised. The main works are expected to begin in the spring. Keep an eye on the boards near the Grange Lake for regular updates, drawings and information as the project takes shape, as well as online and via twitter - [@beddington_park](https://twitter.com/beddington_park).

What's been happening in the park?

Community Tree Planting Events

In November we had the first of two tree planting events. We started with some training for our new Tree Wardens who were then raring to go to assist the volunteers who turned up to help planting. We successfully planted 75 trees alongside the river by the flint bridge. Following this success the Tree Wardens helped lead another planting session earlier this month. With the support of 13 volunteers of all ages another 65 trees were planted near the lime tree avenue. Thank you to our Tree Wardens and all who participated! Keep an eye out for our next planting event when the winter ends.



Reminiscence Sessions

Members of the local community had the opportunity to participate in three Reminiscence Sessions in Beddington Park and Hackbridge. It was wonderful to hear some of the stories from those who grew up in the area between the 30s and 60s. We enjoyed tales of donkey and cart rides round Beddington Park, retrieving and selling lost golf balls from the old golf course, bombing in the park during WW2, post WW2 celebrations in the park and more. Thanks to all those who came along and shared their memories.

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Get involved at Beddington Park!

Could you deliver a talk?

We're looking for speakers to deliver talks as part of our new lecture series. Designed to share knowledge related to the Park, talks can cover topics such as plants, conservation, wildlife, permaculture, The Wandle, local history and more. If you are an expert or enthusiast who would like to share information on a chosen subject, then get in touch today – email sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk

Tree Wardens

Our Tree Warden Scheme has now started. This is a great opportunity for anyone 16+ to help maintain, increase and care for the many trees in our park. The scheme involves training sessions (internal and external), group activities, and materials and support for independent work. How much you get involved is up to you! To get involved email sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk

Join the Friends of Beddington Park

Love Beddington Park and would like more involvement? Why not join the Friends of Beddington Park? Get involved in activities like maintaining the Friends' flower bed, and attend meetings and talks to discuss how to make Beddington Park the best it can be. Contact chairman@friendsofbeddingtonpark.co.uk for more info.



*Sutton Parks Service would like to wish all
Beddington Park users a very Merry
Christmas. Be sure to enjoy a few wintery
strolls through the park this festive season!*



Events

For more detailed information on any events please see our monthly '[What's On](#)' guides or contact sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk.

Festive Activities

Winter Walk – Take a winter stroll round Beddington Park and find out more about the Christmas & winter traditions that spring from our plants and wildlife. Booking required. **Sunday 18th December, 10am. FREE.** Call 020 8770 6060 or email Sarah (above).

Make Natural Tree Decorations – Drop in to The Grange Garden to make some Christmas tree decorations from the materials around us. Find us under the gazebo. **Thursday 22nd December, 10am-2pm. FREE.**

Free Regular Exercise Opportunities

Fridays – Healthy Walks, 10am outside St. Mary's Church.

Saturdays – [Bootcamp](#) (9am) and [Yoga](#) (10am) classes. Booking required.

Nordic Walking

Coming soon! With the New Year comes new opportunities. Look out for this Nordic Walking group starting in **January**. Nordic walking offers a full-body workout with particular benefits for those suffering with joint problems. These sessions are run by a trained leader, with an induction provided on your first day.

Exhibition & Talks

In February 2017 visit [Honeywood Museum](#) for an exhibition on Beddington Park: "Then, Now and Next." Discover the park's history and view the plans for the HLF project. Plus, see the winning photos from our photography competition.

Visit during one of our drop-in Q&As to ask questions about the project.

Exhibition runs **4th – 26th Feb 2017**. Entry is **FREE**.

Drop-in **Q&As** **Thurs 16th Feb, 2-4pm** & **Sat 18th Feb, 11am-1pm**.

Talks: *The 2015/2016 excavations at Beddington Park* - findings from the last archaeological digs, **Wed 8th Feb, 7.30pm, £3.50**.

From Tudor Deer Park to Public Park, **Wed 16th Feb, 7.30pm, £3.50**.

Please call 020 8770 4297 to book a place at either of these talks.



@beddington_park

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020 8770 5000

