

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



LOTTERY FUNDED

It's 2017 and the team are pulling together the finishing design touches for each project element to secure contractors and begin work on site. Significant time has been spent refining the lake design following further surveys and investigation. These surveys have unearthed new results that have dictated a change in the proposals.

The previous drawings reflected the plan for a by-pass channel, which sought to act as a sustainable solution carrying silt away from the lake.

However, in recent months it has become clear that this solution is no longer viable. Recent tests have highlighted levels of permeability in the lake bed that could lead to water draining from the main lake into the channel. The costs to remove this risk are too high and cannot provide the required certainty.

As such, two options without the new channel are being considered. Option 1 dredges the lake and sees the construction of a silt trap to try and contain silt deposits in one place. Option 2 is a straight dredge only, with an understanding that this will be required again in another 40-50 years. Whilst this is not ideal, the associated costs with cleaning a silt trap at least once a year are significant, with little revenue certainty to commit to this. Roads required to export the silt could also be detrimental to the landscape.

Both options are still being evaluated but the Steering Group, the Council, HLF and the Design Team believe a straight dredge is the best solution to achieve the main aim of cleaning the lake.

Whatever the solution the silt will still be used to create one large island with a great habitat created for the ducks and birds.

This month further tree removals are taking place in and around the stock pond. Once a fantastic feature of the park the pond is now heavily silted and obscured by a range of self-sown plants. Removing some of these will help open up the space once more, and prevent significant leaf litter that would contribute to silt build up.

Keep an eye on the boards in the park for regular updates, drawings and information as the project progresses, as well as [online](#) and via twitter - [@beddington_park](#)

Get involved!

Observation Surveys

Volunteers are needed to help us observe who is using the park and how. Each year we have to submit data to the Heritage Lottery Fund - our funding body - to show how use of the park is changing. If you enjoy walking round the park then you could help us by completing a survey as you go! This survey is by observation only and training is provided. A great way to support the project whilst enjoying the park! To get involved email sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk

Tree Wardens

Join the Beddington Park Tree Wardens to help maintain, increase and care for the many trees in our park. The scheme involves training sessions, group activities, materials and support for independent work. To get involved email sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk

The Great British Spring Clean

After last year's successful *Clean for the Queen* we're taking part in the *Great British Spring Clean*. Join the Rotary Club and our Volunteer Coordinator to take part in this big community clean up. All equipment and refreshments will be provided.

Join us in the park at **10am on Sunday March 12th**. Location TBC.



New Nature Play sessions

An exciting new play opportunity is coming to Beddington Park! Nature Play is an initiative for families who want to connect with nature and enjoy some child-led play in the beautiful surroundings of Beddington Park. A volunteer facilitator will guide parents on ways to use the outdoor space.

These weekly sessions begin on Friday 24th at 10am and are free to join. Just meet outside the Pavilion Café. Please note that parents maintain responsibility for their child(ren) throughout the session. In order for all children to enjoy their Nature Play please leave dogs at home. Playing with the natural surrounds around you is a wonderful sensory experience for growing, inquisitive minds. Nature isn't clean and is unpredictable so please dress for changeable weather and getting dirty!

Find out more about the initiative at www.nature-play.co.uk and on [Facebook](#) or contact cathy@cathybussey.com for more info.

Photography competition results and the Beddington Park exhibition

Congratulations to the following winners and runners-up of last year's photography competition:

Natural Wonders: 1st & overall winner Tristan Clayton, 2nd Conor Fortune, 3rd Jo Flood

A Park for People: 1st Steve Mann, 2nd Natasha Pyke, 3rd Zoe Nihill

A Built Heritage: 1st Chris Sinfield, 2nd Sandra Gates, 3rd Linda Wood

You can view these photos right now, until the 26th Feb, at [Honeywood Museum](#) as part of the *Beddington Park; Then, Now and Next* exhibition which guides you through the park's history and the future plans for the park.

You can also find out more about the HLF project by visiting the exhibition during our drop-in Q&A sessions with the Project Support Officer. These take place on **Thursday 16th February, 2-4pm** and **Saturday 18th February, 11am-1pm**.

For more detailed information on any events please see our monthly 'What's On' guides or contact sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk unless otherwise stated.

HALF TERM

Scavenger Hunt – Get hands on with nature with this self-led family fun scavenger hunt. Pick up your pack from 'Scavenger HQ' by the Pavilion any time between 10am and 1pm and begin hunting! **Tuesday 14th February, 10am-1pm. FREE.**

Dovecote open day – See inside this amazing scheduled ancient monument located at the end of Church Road. **Wednesday 15th February, 10am-2pm. FREE.**

Regular Activities

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

Fridays – *Nordic Walking*, 1pm. Small fee. Call 020 8770 6959 to join.

Fridays – Parent and child *Nature Play*, 10am. Free

Saturdays – *Bootcamp* (9am) and *Yoga* (10am) classes. Free. Visit

www.ourparks.org.uk to book.

Every 3rd Saturday – 2-3hr CTC *guided cycle ride*. Pavilion Café, 2pm. Free.

Every 2nd Sunday – *Conservation task days* with SNCV. Call 020 8770 5821. Free.

Spring Lecture Series 2017

Following two great history talks by John Phillips at Honeywood Museum we are excited to announce our talks for our Spring Lecture Series. All talks are free and take place at St Mary's Church Centre, Church Road SM6 7NH. Booking required – 020 8770 6060.

Monday 20th March - *Bats of the Borough*

by Derek Coleman, Volunteer Warden for London Wildlife Trust.

Monday 10th April - *The Geological History of Beddington Park and the Surrounding Area*

by David Gill, Education Officer for Wandle Trust.

Monday 15th May – *The Beddington Park HLF Project*

by LUC, principle landscape designers for the HLF project.

Monday 12th June – *Roses Grow on You!*

by Ian Hudson, formerly Garden Manager at the Royal National Rose Society.



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www.sutton.gov.uk
020 8770 5000

