

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



Pretty much there...

The capital works are now virtually complete. The new playground is open and the splash play area being much appreciated during this heatwave! Some issues remain with the zip wire, but this is in the process of being resolved.

The new flower beds in The Grange and the Churchyard Gardens have offered beautiful colour to the area and much time has been put in by volunteers to help maintain these beds. Many of the new trees are establishing well, and apples are showing on some of the new orchard trees, though we are aware that some have struggled in this drought and will need replacing.

The stock pond habitat is establishing well. Lots of new plants have been planted by volunteers and a team have regularly been removing unwanted blanket weed. Thanks to this work lots of wildlife has been spotted including frogs, newts and dragonflies and the newly established wildflower banks have been attracting the bees and butterflies as well as adding colour and interest.

What remains?

Two key elements remain:

1. Handling the remaining silt, which will be used to reclaim part of the old depot and convert this back into woodland
2. Planting the lake islands

It is anticipated that both these items will take place in September/October time to take into account weather and the summer holidays.

There will be final repairs to the ground once the silt has been moved and this area will remain fenced whilst the grass re-establishes. Much of the current chestnut fencing is due to come down shortly.



What's been happening in the park?



The Beddington Park Big Lunch

On the 3rd June the community came together to celebrate The Big Lunch. It was a great afternoon of fun and games. There were crafts to get stuck into, egg and spoon races, rounders, volleyball and the tug-o-war, all for free! The weather was beautiful and it was wonderful to see the community get together in this way.

A huge thanks to the members of the community who helped organise this event and to the following organisations for taking part: 350 Squadron Air Training Corps, Be Epic, SamiArt, CAOS and The British Red Bus.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The magic came alive over Midsummer in Beddington Park, as SAVVY Theatre performed promenade performances of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The audience saw different areas of the park in a new light as the fairies flitted amongst the trees, the lovers argued in the river and the players performed their comedy in amongst the wood and gardens.

The magic was furthered by the beautiful creation of fairy doors, fairies and dream catchers made by adults and children in the community, and spread along the performance route. Thanks to SAVVY Theatre Company for such a magical time!



Get involved at Beddington Park!



Volunteer Open Day

Are you interested in volunteering opportunities in the park? Have you helped previously and are interested in getting further involved? Come along and find out about the various different opportunities at our volunteer open day, plus see inside the new volunteer facilities! Just drop by on Friday 27 July, 2-4pm, and find out more in our new room at the Pavilion Café.



Wandle Clean Up

The Wandle Trust return for their annual clean-up of the River Wandle in Beddington Park on **Sunday 12 August**. Get your wellies on and help clear our beautiful river of rubbish to keep this space pristine.

Meet the team in the car park behind the cottages at the end of Church Road at **11am**. Refreshments and equipment provided. Please dress appropriately for working outdoors.

Email cleanup@wandletrust.org.uk for more info.



Green Flag Award for Beddington Park

We are thrilled to have been awarded a Green Flag Award, recognising the quality of Beddington Park. This wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of the Idverde grounds team and of the many volunteers who have contributed their time to improve and maintain the park.



Thank you all!

Events – a highlight of upcoming activities & events



For more detailed information on any events please see our 'What's On' guide – available on the Council website - or contact sarah.price@sutton.gov.uk

Regular Exercise Opportunities

Mondays

Forever Fit walk & gym sessions, 10am,
Meet outside the Pavilion Café. Free.

Fridays

Melanie's Walks, 10am, outside St. Mary's Church. Free.

Nordic Walking, 1pm, outside the Pavilion Café. £3.

Saturdays

Bootcamp classes, 9am. Free. Booking required through www.ourparks.org.uk

Every third Saturday

CTC led *beginner's cycle ride* through the park and surrounding area. Meet 2pm, outside the Pavilion café. Free.

Summer Holiday Activities

Weekly Drop-In Kids Club

Every Tuesday morning, 11am–2pm

During the school holidays this summer we'll be running free drop-in activities each week. Sessions take place outside the café unless otherwise stated. Details of each session are listed below. *Parents/carers must remain with their children at all times.*

Tuesday 24 July – Create a pipe cleaner dragonfly and learn more about dragonflies and damselflies - do you know the difference?

Tuesday 31 July – Bug activity sheets (please note, this is self-led, sheets can be collected from the table in the café.).

Tuesday 7 August – Create mini trees using leaves and bark rubbings then head off on a self-led walk with our ID sheets to try your hand at tree identification.

Tuesday 14 August – Make butterfly and moth masks and take part in the Big Butterfly Count.

Tuesday 21 August – Enjoy the formal Grange Gardens and make paper flowers. *Note:* In The Grange Garden SM6 7BT.

Tuesday 28 August – Make a finger puppet to take part in story time. Stories read at 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1pm and 1.45pm.

Other Holiday Activities

Thursday 26 July & Thursday 16 August - Xplorer

Explore the park, find the markers, complete the challenge, have fun together. Start point by the Pavilion Café. Drop-in 11am-1pm.

Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 August – BEAR hunt! BEddington ART!

We're going on a BEAR hunt - **BEddington Art Rocks!** Create your own cardboard binoculars in the morning and/or paint pebbles with bears and other designs in the afternoon, then explore the park with our map, hunting for other pebbles and birdwatching. Look out for BEARS!

Drop-in 10am-12pm and 1-3pm.