

Friends of Mycenae Gardens

Newsletter No 6 Spring 2016

Sign up at
www.mycenaegardens.org.uk

Next AGM at 7.30pm Tuesday 8th March 2016

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens will hold its fifth Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 8th March 2015 at 7.30pm in Woodlands**, home to **Greenwich Steiner School, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE**.

Membership of the Friends is free and existing members do not need to renew. However, donations are very welcome and should be forwarded to **The Secretary, Friends of Mycenae Gardens, c/o GSS, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE**.

Anyone wishing to stand for election to the Committee needs to be a member of the Friends and must be proposed by two other members of the Friends. Please write with the appropriate signatures direct to **The Secretary, Friends of Mycenae Gardens, c/o GSS 90 Mycenae Road, London, SE3 7SE**.

Dear Friends

It has been a busy year for the Friends Group. Work in the Woodland Dell has been a major focus of activity but we have also seen bulb planting, an outdoor exhibition of sculptures by the late Brian

Taylor, a revised website for the Group, a successful Parksfest event, and finalization of the Management Plan for the Gardens. On behalf of the current committee for the Friends of Mycenae Gardens I hope you enjoy reading about the year's activities and that you will consider joining the Group if you are not yet a member.

Eileen Bell *Committee Chair*

Woodland Dell

In Spring 2015 we applied for a grant from the Capital Clean-Up volunteer programme run by the Mayor of London - our intention was to use the funds to clean up the Dell, which had become sad and neglected. We had noticed it had become unkempt - particularly at the entrance on Mycenae

Road, with dog mess, litter and was generally overgrown.

The Woodland Dell is classified as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance and for that reason we wanted to learn more about the wildlife that currently exists in the Dell and share it with the local community. Therefore, we requested Joe Beale, local ornithologist, together with botanist Juliet

Cairns, to carry out a bird and plant survey of the Dell during the spring and summer last year. The information and photos Joe gathered were later used by his wife, Yu-Hsuan Lin, a Graphic Designer, to design a beautiful Wildlife Information Board that we were able to commission when we were awarded the grant. This is now installed at the entrance to the Woodland Dell.



In the Autumn we organized several volunteer days in the Dell. We sought volunteers from among the Group's membership and also from beyond the immediate local area through the Team London volunteering website. We were fortunate to have help from a fantastic group of volunteers who stepped forward to help with the work. We cleared the perimeter path of dog mess, widened the path by removing brambles and nettles and planted a range of woodland plants. The Council replaced the rotting waste bins. We

created woodpiles from fallen branches for insects and stag beetles and dug beds and planted a hedgerow, native bulbs and wildflowers to provide food for birds and insects and enhance biodiversity. Lori Wilson, Ollie Halsey, Wendy Leung, Maggie Ellis, Megan Wright, Geoff Brighty, Ann Hill, Colin Gillespie, Shirley and David Broughton, Tim Hoe, Joe Beale - thank you all so much for your hard work.

The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Councillor Norman Adams,

unveiled the Wildlife Information Board on Sunday 24th January 2016 and in his address, he emphasised the value of green spaces within urban areas and their increasing vulnerability and praised the Friends of Mycenae Gardens and volunteers for their work in protecting the Dell and increasing its bio-diversity. The information board has been placed in clear sight of the entrance to the Woodland Dell and will welcome visitors as well as revealing some of the wildlife treasures within.



Wildlife Information Board

This project would not have been possible without the Capital Clean-Up grant, or the support of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Parks Department, and the amazing volunteers who worked on the weekends to clear, prepare and plant! We are grateful to Joe Beale - for his time, knowledge and enthusiasm, Yu-Hsuan Lin for her wonderful creativity. Also, Men in Sheds, a local volunteer group based in Eltham, who made the beautiful oak stand on which the Wildlife Information Board is mounted. And last, but not least, a huge thank you to local resident, David Broughton, for installing the Board.

Autumn Planting

In the Autumn we planted (perhaps thousands) of native bulbs donated by Royal Borough of Greenwich in The Glade, under the Sycamore tree in Mycenae Gardens and in front of Mycenae House. Again, we were able to do such good work because we had great volunteers! Thank you Lori Wilson, Wendy Leung, Jo Denson, Sophia Brown, Ann Hill, Shirley and David Broughton, Marilyn Little, Lucy, Otis, Hana and Tim Hoe.

Management Plan

We were delighted to receive confirmation from the Parks Department that our Management Plan has been adopted by the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this to fruition.



Parks Department - Royal Greenwich

The Friends Group would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thanks to Steve Roedel and Lee Beasley who will be retiring from the Parks Department at the end of March this year. Both men have been a great support to the Friends of Mycenae Gardens and Woodland Dell over the years, and we will miss their friendly help and advice. We wish them every happiness in their future endeavours.

Parksfest 2015

The gardens were alive with the sound of music, dance and family jollyments again last June. Over a thousand people attended despite the first two hours being lost to the rain.

By popular consent the day was a great success and keen to do it all over again. The Friends Group were out in force, staffing their stall. We were most grateful to all who made donations to the Friends on the day.

We are pleased to confirm the **PARKSfest** for 2016 will be on Sunday the 10th July between Midday and 5pm and once again be totally free.



Sculptures by the late Brian Taylor

During the year visitors to Mycenae Gardens will have noticed sculptures which have been installed throughout the area. These sculptures were by the late Brian Taylor (FRBS FSPS), a celebrated figurative sculptor. Lauded by his mentor Henry Moore, Brian Taylor worked all around the world but lived and worked in Greenwich for the last 20 years of his life. His wife worked with Mycenae House to present this wonderful exhibition in Mycenae Gardens.

Future work in the gardens

We are considering installing a bench within the gardens. This and other suggestions will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM.



Volunteers sought

We will soon be seeking as many volunteers as possible to join us on a series of volunteer sessions in which we are going to be aerating and de-compacting the soil under the London Plane trees and spreading mulch to protect the roots. The work will involve pushing garden forks into the ground to open up the soil. This will be repeated at 6 inch intervals throughout the area under the trees. Ann Hill has been liaising with a local volunteer group called "goodgym" who have agreed to join in with helping us. More helpers will be required to spread the mulch after the decompacting work so wheelbarrows and spades would be useful on those days! If you would like to volunteer to help with this task please use the contact form on the website or respond to the call for volunteers that we will send to current members. Information will also be displayed on the noticeboard in the Gardens.

About the Group

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens and Woodland Dell are an association of local residents and users of the Gardens who work together respectfully as users and caretakers of the Gardens in consultation with the local authority and other bodies.

If you would like to join the Group please do not hesitate to contact us via the website (<http://mycenaegardens.org.uk>) or email us at friendsofmycenaegardens@gmail.com

Updated website

In the Autumn we launched a new website for the Friends Group. The new format will allow us to make more frequent updates and to communicate updates about the Gardens to members of the Group and to the public.

Sign up at
www.mycenaegardens.org.uk