

# Friends of Shrewsbury Park



## Spring Newsletter 2014

### Chair's message

Welcome to our Spring edition, we are hoping Spring will be a dry one!

We have made a great start to the Dohill project – see inside for more details.

We produced a calendar for the first time, and were pleased that it was both beautiful and useful. We are asking members to take photographs now for the 2015 calendar and hope you will take part in our photographic competition.

We have a busy year ahead, planning the Summer Festival, fundraising both for the completion of the Dohill path, and the drinking fountain. We have a full calendar of events, including bird and bat walks and cleaning. Please check the website regularly for details and please contact us if you can help. We will of course continue to send you emails (and letters for people without email).

Graham Penn has taken over the design and maintenance of our website, so please do have a look. We thank him for his hard work on this.

We look forward to seeing you in the park.

*Kathy*

### Contact details:

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### Committee:

Chair: Kathy Smith

Secretary: Simon Heywood

Treasurer: Sonja O'Sullivan

London SE18 299

Members: Kris Inglis, Tina Muddle,  
Graham Penn, Ron Senkus,

## The Dothill Project

The Management Committee have been working on plans to improve the entrance to the Park at Garland Road and Dothill for several years. (Dothill is the former road that ran from Garland Road to Plum Lane). We wanted to prevent flooding across the path, and to stop motorcycle accessing the park.

The path across Dothill flooded regularly, making it very difficult for school children on their way to school, and other park users.



To provide drainage, members of the Friends of Shrewsbury Park first dug a trench, and lined it with stones. This initially stopped the huge puddle forming when it rained.



However, this was not a permanent solution. We were successful with a bid to Veolia Trust, and were awarded a grant to pay for the kissing gate, path drainage and notice board, with a commitment from the Royal Borough of Greenwich to help with the shortfall.

We wanted a **kissing gate** that allowed wheelchair users to access the park, but stop motorcyclists.



To **improve drainage on the path**, Alan Scott and his team from Complete Ecology Ltd dug a trench, put in a pipe with holes and layered gravel on top of it. This work was completed quickly so as not to disrupt park users Ron,

Kris, Clive and Simon made 13 **bird boxes** and children at Timbercroft Primary School painted them. They came to the Park to help the Council's tree gang put the boxes in the trees along Dothill. John Beckham, a Park Ranger, told the children about bird boxes.

Later, after the breeding season had finished, John arranged for the bird boxes to be cleaned. One of the

boxes had been damaged in the storm, but seven of the remaining twelve had been used successfully, although one of these contained eggs that had failed to hatch. He thought it was a successful first year.

Amber Poppelaars, the Project Manager with Interfaith Action, offered volunteers to help with reclaiming the path through the former Nature Reserve. Amber and a number of teenagers (Miranda Brown, Tadhg Crowley, Ankit Dhakal, and Kostas Voukelatos) came to help Kathy Ron and Sonja cut a path through the brambles and nettles.



Will Hudson, Sculptor, made the **notice board** from English Oak. We put information about the project onto it.



## Celebration event

This took place on 29 November 2013. The Mayor, Councillor Angela Cornforth, and her consort, Brian O'Sullivan, came to cut the ribbon that

"opened" the Dothill celebration. The children from Eaglesfield Primary School, who were involved in making the bird boxes, came with their teachers.

The Mayor praised the project, adding it was a blueprint for other Parks to use, and she then cut the ribbon.



Carol thanked the Veolia Trust, not only for the grant, but for their help with publicity of the project and help with the monitoring forms.

Kris spoke about the children's involvement with the bird boxes



The children showed everyone where the boxes were, and walked with the Mayor. They told her that one of the bird boxes had been inhabited within 3 days of it going up.

Refreshments were provided at the end of the walk. Libby Agate had baked and donated a celebration cake. A number of our members attended and we were lucky it was a dry day.

## **Photographic competition**

We invite you to capture images of the Park over the next few months. They can be dramatic, seasonal, humorous, exciting, tranquil, close ups or panoramic– with or without people and wildlife, colour or black and white.

Please send your photos to [fspdog@hotmail.com](mailto:fspdog@hotmail.com) with 'photo comp' as the subject. It would be very helpful if you also produce a suitable print if possible. Please include your name and a caption, and how best to be in touch with you.

Judging will be done at our Summer Festival on 19 July by all who attend. The winning photographs will be included in our 2015 calendar.

We hope to organise an exhibition in Shrewsbury House in the autumn for all entries and also display a gallery on the website [fspark.org.uk](http://fspark.org.uk)

Be creative and have fun!



## **NOT A MEMBER?**

It's free to join, and you will be kept up to date with our activities.

You can apply via our website, **[www.fspark.org.uk](http://www.fspark.org.uk)** or email: **[fspdog@hotmail.com](mailto:fspdog@hotmail.com)**



## **Please help us look after the park**



Help us keep the park beautiful by picking up your dog mess and your litter and putting it in the bins provided. Join our clean up sessions.

If you see anything suspicious, please contact the police.