



www.spa1869.org.uk

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Annual Report 2022-23

Introduction

The Association's activities in 2022/23 have been positive.

Events and Activities Programme 2022/23

Over the last year we have organised a programme of activities for all ages including:

- Six free guided heritage walks: 'The Arts and Southwark Park' on 15 October 2022; 'Factories of Bermondsey' led by Ann Smith on 16 October 2022; 'King's Stairs Gardens 60th Anniversary' on 13 November 2022; 'The Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Boundary' led by Geoff Fairbairn on 5 March 2023; 'Schools near Southwark Park' led by Geoff Fairbairn on 18 June 2023 and 'Southwark Park: Then and Now' led by Pat Kingwell on 16 July 2023
- Carol singing at the Southwark Park Gallery led by Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Choral Society on 3 December 2022
- Ada and Alfred Salter Day on 21st May, including a free bandstand concert by The Fabulous Honeys, children's storytelling and activities with Bernadette Russell and June Savory
- a Come and Try session for adults hosted by Southwark Park Bowls Club on 25 July 2023
- a free bat watch for adults led by John and Janet Cadera and Andrew Self on 6 August 2023

Trees in Southwark Park

We:

- planted a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Tree (a Tulip) which is registered as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. An informal ceremony was held on 23 April 2023, and His Worshipful the Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Michael Situ, formally unveiled the plaque on 6 September 2023.
- Obtained agreement of Southwark Council to plant a tree commemorating the 75th birthday of King Charles in November 2023
- obtained the agreement of Southwark Council to replace the Mayor of London's Tree (a Hornbeam) removed due to deterioration.
- organised a free guided tree walk led by noted expert Paul Wood on 3 September 2023.

Community Engagement

In addition to the activities mentioned above we took part in or supported:

- the Remembrance Sunday on 13 November 2022 at West Lane Memorial Gardens
- A heritage talk for the Norwegian Church Women's Group on 16 February 2023
- Norwegian Constitution Day on 17 May 2023
- Greening The Blue Day on 25 November 2022
- Biscuit Day at The Blue on 27 May 2023
- Southwark Park Cricket Club Festival on 22 July 2023
- Bermondsey Carnival on 6th August 2023

Tennis for Young People in Southwark Park

With great support from Decathlon and Art Invest we ran a 48 week project of free weekly tennis sessions for 7-13s. Some 45 different children have participated, of which more than half played the game for the first time. In the winter of 2022/23 the scheme moved indoors to Wade Hall on the Dickens Estate, before re-commencing in the park in April 2023.

Promotion of the Parks

We have maintained contact with our patrons, members, supporters and elected representatives. A 'newsletter' has been regularly circulated to over 400 people and feedback tells us this has been appreciated, especially the detailed records of bird life provided by John and Janet Cadera.

Southwark 2030 and Other Planning Issues

We contributed fully to Southwark Council's public consultation on the future of services by holding a well-attended event on 15 March 2023 at Bubble Theatre. Many comments on the future of Southwark Park and King's Stairs Gardens were taken and forwarded to the Council. We await developments.

We are registered by Southwark Council as a formal consultee, and as such we objected to the commercial K-Pop Music Festival, which would have reduced public access to Southwark Park unacceptably during the peak summer period. In the event the Festival did not take place.

Watchful Eyes

We know it is hard to maintain park facilities in good order, and thank the staff for their efforts. However, over the past year we have drawn the Council's attention to the leaks in the Jabez West memorial fountain; our concerns about the Ada Salter Garden brick pier works; the downgrading of bedding plants and most disappointingly, the clearly unfinished project to beautify the Park depot. We also secured funding for Parks to install seating near the Southwark Park tennis courts, but as yet there has been no implementation of the benches.

Partnerships

As an open and outward-looking group we value partnerships and have been pleased to retain the positive links we have developed with many groups and individuals since our formation in 2018. There are too many to itemise, but in the past year it is worth recording that we benefitted by working with Albion Street Community Charity, Blue in Bermondsey, John and Janet Cadera, Deli Felice, Green Connections 106, Our Rotherhithe Group, Peek Frean Museum,

Poise Tennis C.I.C., the Salter Centenary Committee, Andrew Self, Southwark Park Bowls Club, Southwark Park Café, Southwark Park Cricket Club, Southwark Park Galleries, St. Peter and The Guardian Angels Church and Trees for Bermondsey. Beyond the immediate neighbourhood we continue to be members of Community Southwark, Southwark Green Forum, London Federation of Green Spaces and the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.

Membership

We have 319 individuals in our member/supporter database, an increase of 43 on the previous year. With sadness we respectfully record the deaths of Dan McGlynn, our former Projects Officer, and John Mannering, our friend from Southwark Park Bowls Club.

Finances and Funders

Our account is in funds. We warmly thank our various funders, including Albion Street Community Charity, Art Invest, Decathlon, Southwark Council, Trees for Bermondsey and United St. Saviour's Charities. We also thank those individuals who made financial and other donations to help us with our voluntary work.

Our Patrons

We are honoured to have Jenny Bianco, Neil Coyle M.P. Travis Elborough, Mary Gibson and Rt. Hon. Sir Simon Hughes as our patrons.

Officers and Management Committee 2022/23

We thank the following people who served: Ballers Academy (co-opted), Dave Fisher, Gary Glover, Marjorie Hill (Assistant Treasurer), Pat Kingwell (Secretary), Denis McMillan (co-opted), Gary Magold (Treasurer), Barry Marsh, Benita Meli (Deputy Chair), Pam Miller, Ann Smith (Chair), Amanda Squires (co-opted), Sarah Vaughan (co-opted) and Simon Wilks (co-opted).

Meetings 2022/2023

General Meetings were held on: 16th November 2022, 18th January 2023, 17th May 2023 and 19th July 2023

Management Committee Meetings were held on: 11th October 2022, 6th December 2022, 7th February 2023, 11th April 2023 and 6th June 2023.

The Secretary
Southwark Park Association 1869
20 September 2023