

Enable Parks Team, managing parks on behalf of Wandsworth Council.



Welcome to Wandsworth Parks newsletter. This issue you can find out all about:

- Furzedown Wildflower Meadow
- Latchmere Recreation Ground Consultation
- Biodiversity in the Rivers
- Wandsworth's Allotment Challenge 2017
- Playground Developments
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Summer of Parks 2016 Survey Feedback
- Sports Pitch Litter Complaints

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## Furzedown Wildflower Meadow



The first, and so far the only, wildflower meadow in a public park within the borough has grown from strength to strength. An open day was held for members of the public to learn more about the wildflower meadow, why it was important and how to get involved.

Over the Summer we witnessed a profusion of colour with ox-eye daisies, tufted vetch, wild carrots, pink and white campions. Bumblebees, hover flies and other pollinator insects were frequent visitors to the site supporting the ecology in the local area.

The meadow will develop year on year, the new plug plants will add more variety of flowers. Already many pollinators have found their way to the flowers.

## Results from Latchmere Rec Consultation



As part of Wandsworth Council long term plans for the management and maintenance of Latchmere Recreation Ground, market research company, CFP, were commissioned to consult with the public as to how £63,000 of nCIL money should be spent.

Below are some of the results:

- Since the large swathe of tarmac was removed and grassed over last winter, the area has been used more frequently as social space, which is seen a positive change
- A new path across the wide grass is needed to connect the gate on Burns Road with the playground inside the park, preferably with 'natural' surfacing
- Aspects of natural areas were valued and should be enhanced, specifically the mature weeping willow trees
- Dog control and dog fouling is a problem
- The old toddler's playground area provides an opportunity to accommodate new features
- Planting for colour was top priority - with mixed perennials and autumn colour to replace the tired old evergreen shrubs
- A community garden would meet a local need, given the lack of allotments in Battersea
- The character of the Rec should not be too radically changed, it should not be made too formal

As a result of this feedback, a path will be created across the new grass, new benches will be installed in the preferred style and a trial for a dog-free zone will be looked into. In the longer term there will be more colourful planting and measures to enhance wildlife here.

For a copy of the final report please contact the Parks Team

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## Biodiversity in the Thames - smelt fish that smell of cucumber



The River Thames provides excellent conditions for fish to spawn and grow into juveniles. The river's tidal flow allows fish to move between saltwater and freshwater. These changing tides also help juvenile fish to move upstream where they can find shelter in the shallows and avoid being swept out to sea on the next high tide.

The slower waters upstream around Wandsworth Bridge are prime breeding ground for smelt - known for

its strong scent of cucumber! The European Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*) is a sea fish that needs freshwater for spawning. European Smelt is a conservation priority at national and international level and it can act as an indicator of water quality due to its sensitivity to pollution.

Contact Enable Parks for a more information

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## Wandsworth's Allotment Challenge 2017



Sunday afternoon, 22 January 2017, 2.30 to 5.30pm  
Chatham Hall, off Northcote Road SW11 (opposite Northcote Library)

Once again we are pleased to have an opportunity to share allotment and food growing experiences, swap growing tips, seeds, etc, pick the brains and experience of other allotment holders and edible gardeners.

The afternoon is open to new and experienced allotment holders and anyone interested in edible gardening. It will be a friendly, informal session, so come with your questions and be prepared to provide answers or suggestions as well.

To book your place please contact the Parks Team

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## Playgrounds



Wandsworth Council has embarked on a two year plan to revamp it's playgrounds to ensure that they are accessible to all children, including those who use wheelchairs, are autistic or who have a visual or hearing disability .

Earlier this year, Tooting Playground received £56,000 from the Wandsworth Local Fund (WLF). Following extensive consultation with park users, the playground has been improved with new equipment, steps into the toddler area have been replaced with a ramp and old/damaged safety surfaces have been replaced

with artificial grass.

The project was managed by Wandsworth Council's Design Service, supported by Enable Leisure and Culture and delivered by Wandsworth Operational Services.

Other playground improvements that are funded by the Wandsworth Local Fund include:

- **Swaby Gardens, Earlsfield** work is due to start on a £163k refurbishment to the junior area. The toddler area is being relocated within the junior area to allow for a larger community area and new play equipment is being installed. Work is expected to be completed in July 2017.
- **King George's Park** £70k is being spent to resurface the junior playground. The works will begin in October 2016 where the safety surface will be removed and play bark installed.
- **Leader's Garden, Putney** logs, stepping stones and bug hotels are being installed to make use of the shaded area and transform part of the garden. Works are set to be complete by mid 2017.
- **Garratt Park** £179,800 of funding has been agreed for a refurbishment of the junior play area for 8-16 year olds. Work begins in 2017/2018.

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## Volunteers Required



Looking for something more involved than a walk in the park in your spare time? We have three volunteering roles, none of which replace paid staff time.

### 1. Map archives volunteer

We have various rolled up plans and maps of parks and an empty plan chest. Mainly late 20th century in date, the pile may also include older plans and designs. We need your help to catalogue and file them.

### 2. Bird record scribe

To collate past records of bird recordings on Tooting and Wandsworth Commons. If you passionate about bird life, with a keen eye for detail and are familiar with record keeping, this could be perfect for you! For current bird lists [visit our website](#).

### 3. 'Green Flag Award' assessors

[The Green Flag](#) is the national standard for public parks. We are looking for volunteers who can identify areas of improvement in their local park as part of an initial GFA assessment. In the longer term this may assist in winning a green flag for your local park.

There will be an evening meeting in the Battersea Park Conference Room to explain background and way forward, refreshments provided, open to all potential volunteers and Friends. Date: January 2017 (to be confirmed)

For more information about any of these volunteering opportunities and to book your place at the January evening, please contact the Parks Team.

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## Summer of Parks 2016 Survey Feedback



Over the Summer 18 sites were visited to talk to park users to understand their views about their local park. An online survey was also launched so people could feedback their views online.

The overarching opinions are:

- The local parks generally have a good identity, they are well designed and easy to find your way around.
- Most people think their local park is friendly, and fairly well cared for.
- People who visit parks generally feel safe in them, whereas those who responded online were less confident.
- Feedback indicates that both the range of facilities to attract visitors and the quality of what is there could be improved. By working with local people, over time improvements will be made.
- There is little in the way of information available in parks. Watch this space as we continue to build the website, develop apps for park trails and install noticeboards!
- Local parks are busy with playgrounds, sports, and visitors relaxing. While there is wildlife all around us, these are not always the places you go to find them.

Contact Parks Team for a copy of the report.

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## Sports Pitch Complaints



It is a condition of booking a sports pitch that all clubs are responsible for clearing away their litter. Failure to clear up the litter results in a fine, repeat offences can result in a ban on bookings from that club.

If you are offended by the litter left after a sports match, contact Parks team and let us know the time, date, and park. We will follow up all complaints.

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**Contact details:**

Parks Team: 020 8871 7530 [parks@enablelc.org](mailto:parks@enablelc.org)

Allotments Team: 020 8871 6441 [allotments@enablelc.org](mailto:allotments@enablelc.org)

Parks Police: 07500 959 422 or 0208 871 7124

If you get locked in the park after hours: Wandsworth Emergency Control 0208 871 6900 (24 hours)

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