

Friends of Dollar Park – AGM 2013

Chairman's Report

It looks like the summer has finally arrived having missed spring out entirely this year! Looking back it has been a busy but also frustrating year for the Friends of Dollar Park. It was a year when the weather was not exactly kind to our efforts with the summer months serving up endless days of rain and the extremely cold easterly winds blowing late into March and early April but suddenly, all of that seems a distant memory now that the sun has finally arrived.

The park is now once more looking great. The ground staff have been busy during the long winter months improving the path network and have carried out considerable improvements to the park boundaries with the replacement of the beech hedging and broken fencing on the eastern perimeter. There has also been lots upgrading and replanting throughout the park but this is particularly noticeable at the western entrance and the long border at the entrance to the walled garden and our thanks should go out to the team for all their hard work.

The major casualty of the inclement weather was of course the delays to the Walled Garden. Work to the project was severely impeded by the seemingly constant rain of last summer and it is really only getting back on track now. Louisa and her team have stuck steadfastly to their task however and she informs us that she is hopeful that we may be able to have public access to the area by August of this year.

The tennis facilities continue to attract greater numbers and are going from strength to strength. I notice as I write that preparations are underway for the coming season with new lines and nets being installed in readiness for this year's activities.

I suppose the most frustrating aspect of the year has been our lack of progress in bringing our Community Hub and toilet provision any closer to fruition. Despite our best efforts we are no closer to making this, our most important project, a reality and this has been a major disappointment. Nevertheless we remain fully committed to bringing the project to life and will continue to explore ways to breathe new life into this increasingly sad eyesore at the heart of our park.

Finally, it is with regret that I have to inform you that I am unable to continue in my role as Chairman due to an increase in my business commitments elsewhere. I must say that the last 4 years as Chair have been most rewarding and I have been gratified by the support given freely by the group to the cause that is Dollar Park. I was looking at pictures of the park from about 5 or 6 years ago and this made me realize just what a striking contribution we have made to the overall improvement of the park environment and it has been an honour and a pleasure to be involved in this transformation. Lastly I hope that you will continue to support our group as I will certainly be doing and I hope to see you at future meetings and indeed may bump into you in the park for a chat!

Chris Morris

Chairman Friends of Dollar Park