



## FRIENDS OF MOUNTSFIELD PARK

## Winter 2016 Newsletter

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### Mountsfield Park Café to open in Spring 2017!

After a rocky planning process, permission from Lewisham Council has been secured for a new cafe and toilets. This will be an extremely important community facility, and we are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported this, including the 1000+ signatories to our petition in the summer.

The Cafe Operator is working through final conditions in negotiation with the Council before construction begins. Assuming there are no unexpected delays, this means that the new cafe will be open for business from late Spring 2017.

### Park Problems - maintenance and litter

We continue to be grateful to park users who take the time to report litter and other problems. This helps Lewisham Council and Glendale to respond as quickly as possible, ensuring that the park is a safe and welcoming place for all.

**As a reminder, all problems should be reported to Glendale on [020 8318 3986](tel:02083183986), or [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)**

Many users have expressed disappointment at ongoing litter problems, caused in part by the local fox population. With increased picnicking in the park over the summer and a decrease in park keeper time, foxes are making an enormous mess! We are thrilled to announce that Lewisham Council and Glendale are working to find the funds to install fox-proof bins. We continue to communicate with them about this and will update park users as this work progresses. Repairs to some of the play equipment (including the sand pit) are also under discussion. Watch this space!

### Trim Trail progress

As reported in the last newsletter, £17k funding from the London Marathon Charitable Trust and the Rushey Green Assembly Fund has been secured to pay for new trim trail equipment for the park.

After consultation with local residents, equipment has been selected and is scheduled to be installed in the park before Christmas 2016. Glendale have also announced that the existing Roman Rings fitness equipment will be reinstalled at the same time. FOMP will meet with Glendale and Fenland Leisure in the coming weeks to discuss progress.

We're really pleased that park users will be able to access this new facility. We are grateful to both funds for investing in our park, and to Glendale for their ongoing support.

### Mountsfield Park Christmas Carols 2016



Santa hats and reindeer antlers at the ready! Friends of Mountsfield Park's annual Christmas celebration will take place from 2pm on Saturday 17 December 2016.

With mulled wine, mince pies, and a great big festive sing-a-long, it's a fantastic way to celebrate the start of the holidays. Make sure it's in your diary - FOMP have been practising Frosty the Snowman and you don't want to miss it!

Donations of home-made mince pies will be very gratefully received! Please email us at [mountsfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:mountsfieldpark@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Making the Community Garden more accessible**

FOMP is very pleased to announce that a bid for £1500 to Rushey Green Assembly to improve the accessibility of the community garden was successful!

We are keen to ensure that the community garden is welcoming for everyone. This funding will allow us to install new gate locks, a large sturdy accessible circular picnic table to seat at least 8 people, and will modify the existing picnic benches, improving accessibility for everyone.

### **Community Garden Volunteering Opportunities**

Mountsfield Park's Community Garden is beautiful at this time of year, and continues to be a valuable community facility. It's open to visitors all year round so please do visit and enjoy it! We are always looking for volunteers, either to contribute to ongoing running of the garden, or to help out with one-off projects. Here are some great examples:

- Volunteers built a raised pumpkin bed next to the polytunnel. Our friends at GoodGym helped volunteers to shovel a huge pile of compost for the new pumpkin patch. Many thanks to everyone who helped out, and also to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association who provided us with the funds to buy the compost from Glendale.
- Volunteers planted more than 300 Woodland Trust native trees in the park
- Volunteers helped with rose and bulb planting in the rose garden.

To get involved, please do get in touch with us via Facebook or Twitter, or by emailing us at [mountsfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:mountsfieldpark@gmail.com)

### **Tree planting - volunteers needed**

FOMP is grateful for a contribution from the Woodland Trust of 420 native saplings which will be planted across the park.

And we need your help! If you would like to contribute to the further transformation of the park by helping us to plant the trees, please contact us at [mountsfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:mountsfieldpark@gmail.com) or by leaving us a message on the FOMP Facebook page.

### **Do you love Mountsfield Park? Would you like to get more involved?**

FOMP is run by a small group of local volunteers and there are many ways in which you can get involved! There's a lot to do to make Mountsfield Park even better:

- We run and develop community events including annual Christmas Carol singing, a summer picnic, and the Teddy Bear's Picnic.
- We volunteer in the community garden
- We consult and lobby the Local Authority and Glendale about the funding and upkeep of the park
- We organise litter picking and signpost problems in the park to Glendale and/or the Local Authority

There is always more that we could do, and we would be really grateful for any ideas, support or expertise you can offer! Please do get in touch with us via Facebook or Twitter, or by emailing us at [mountsfieldpark@gmail.com](mailto:mountsfieldpark@gmail.com)

