

Friends of Mycenae Gardens

NEWSLETTER NO 2 WINTER 2012

Sign up at
www.MycenaeGardens.org.uk

First AGM will be Thursday 23 February 2012

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens launched in March 2011 and will hold its first Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23 February at 7.30, in the Greenwich Steiner School, Woodlands, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE.

Please take this as the formal notice of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to stand for election to the committee needs to be a member of the Friends and must be proposed by two other members of the Friends. A form is available to download online at <http://bit.ly/zmtClq> or write with the appropriate signatures direct to The Secretary, Friends of Mycenae Gardens, 75a, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath, SE3 7JQ to

arrive seven days before, if possible.

Membership is free, and is available online at <http://bit.ly/zLwuw>

The Friends relies on donations and does not ask for a membership fee. Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Mycenae Gardens and send donations to the secretary.

Council plants thousands of bulbs and plans to put in new natives trees and shrubs along Mycenae Road

Prospects for spring colour in the gardens have increased mightily thanks to the developing relationship between the Friends and the Parks and Open Spaces Department of Greenwich Council, which owns the gardens.

As part of our joint aim to improve the look of the grounds the council staff, with help from the Steiner School pupils, planted around 2,000 crocus bulbs and a hundredweight of daffodil bulbs before Christmas.

It wasn't necessary to call on those who volunteered for planting duty, but the Friends are grateful for the offer.

The plane tree leaves that in recent years have carpeted the ground, and swamped existing crocus plants, have also been removed, so there is every chance that the better-established bulbs will also stage a recovery.

Moves to restore the grass cover have met with mixed success. Two patches, one near Mycenae House and one near Woodlands, were reseeded in the autumn. The patch by Mycenae House took vigorously, but conditions were not so good for the patch behind Woodlands. The Parks and Open Spaces department has already begun another attempt to restore the sward for the spring.

In addition, the council team will be putting in native hedge plants along the Mycenae Road wall behind the chestnut fencing. The aim is to improve the appearance and also to provide



Protection: temporary fence to protect newly sown grass seed

nourishment and eventually some nesting habitat for the wildlife.

Thanks to the Parks and Open Spaces team for their efforts.

Thanks also for the picnic table that has been installed at the rear of Mycenae House and which will be a great asset when the weather improves.

Play equipment proposals: latest developments

The last newsletter – in the summer – raised some of the problems the Friends identified in a planning proposal from Greenwich Council to install play equipment beneath the ancient plane trees.

Following representations from the Friends, other groups and individuals, including a petition from more than 40 residents, the council withdrew its scheme.

Proposals which the Friends committee hopes will be more in keeping with the unique qualities of Mycenae Gardens are now being drawn up.

The Parks and Gardens Department has consulted not only the Friends, but also Mycenae House, the Steiner School and the Westcombe Society.

Ideas for a more modest installation with smaller less dominant pieces spread more widely in the grounds, have been

developed with Friends' input.

Proposals from contractors who have visited the gardens are being sought and supporters of Mycenae Gardens will have an opportunity to give their feedback when designs are available.

Greenwich Council has been invited to share the latest proposals for play equipment for discussion at the AGM.

● A tree survey has been commissioned by the Council to ensure proposals are in harmony with the trees.

The survey also highlighted some essential tree maintenance tasks, and some pruning to ensure tree health as well as public safety has taken place.

So the play equipment proposal has already had a beneficial effect on the health of the trees which are such a treasured aspect of Mycenae Gardens.

Dogs and children

The Friends are keen to tackle concerns about possible friction between the many children using the grounds and some of the dogs being exercised.

Mycenae Gardens is an open space and all users should be able to feel comfortable and happy there. However there is obviously a potential for issues when children who are not used to dogs come into contact with them, no matter how well behaved the dogs or well-intentioned the children.

Dogs can be scary for some children who have not had the opportunity to get to know them, and more adventurous children may approach unknown dogs too exuberantly for those that are not so familiar with youngsters. The Friends aim to develop a programme so that children can develop an awareness of the dogs and the sort of behaviour that works best when children and dogs share the same space.