

Friends of the Tarn July Newsletter

This is a reminder that next Sunday (28th July) is our final Tea in the Tarn for this Summer. If you haven't yet partaken of our delicious cakes and savouries and haven't admired and sat on our extended level grass area, delay no longer!

Successes

This July we have held our most successful series of Teas in the Tarn for the last four years. We are very grateful to all our visitors for both your financial generosity and your complimentary comments and loyal support for our efforts. Now our Community Area has proved such a success, we hope that next year we can revive our participation in Parkfest and organise some entertainment to please both adults and children.

Thanks to some persistent work by our Greenwich Parks Liaison Officer, we have been granted the extra money needed to resurface some of the most uneven paths, allowing safer access to the community area. This was work included in our original bid, so we are delighted that the project can now be properly completed.

Grumbles

Our volunteering efforts continue every Thursday between 11.00am and approx 3.00pm. We have had some dispiriting moments recently, due to vandalism. Our planters, which had only recently been filled with shade loving plants, were tipped over and one was set alight. There has also been evidence of other fires being lit and rubbish, including broken bottles, being scattered around the hut area. This causes danger for the wildlife as well as the public. The Parks Security Team have been alerted.

Litter is another constant problem, not only caused by visitors, but being blown in through the gates. We collect up several bagfuls each Thursday.

We are also concerned that carp have recently been introduced to the small pond. This pond is maintained as a wild-life area to encourage amphibians and a variety of invertebrates. Greedy carp are not compatible with this aim! We have also seen people fishing in the lakes, an activity which is strictly prohibited. How we wish we still had a regular Park Keeper, as in the not-so-distant past!

The Future

We are very grateful to Catherine from Tarnwood Park, for her continuing development of our new web-site. Please visit it at thetarn.org. We also have Facebook and Instagram pages at “friends of the tarn” We welcomed many new visitors this month because they had seen our posts. Laura is to be congratulated on initiating the sites and maintaining them with regular updates and photos.

We hope to encourage groups to visit the Tarn and take the opportunities to study the environment and the wildlife, to be stimulated to undertake art projects, to jog or exercise, to sit on the logs and listen to a story or have a picnic. If you know of a school, nursery, uniformed organisation, yoga group, art group etc. who may enjoy a visit, please tell them about our special park. If we know of a potential group visit in advance, we can arrange for one of our volunteers to be there to open up the facilities.

We are awaiting planning permission for a brick built storage unit to be erected. At present we have to move bulky gardening equipment, as well as tables and chairs, in and out of the kitchen area and toilets as we have no separate storage space. This facility will be a huge asset and will allow us to open up the Gents’ toilets, which at present are impenetrable!

Your generous donations at our Teas make these projects possible, so, once again, a BIG THANK YOU!...and we look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Enjoying watching a baby hedgehog being fed by Pat from Willow Wildlife



