

Plumstead Common Environment Group

Newsletter

PCEG

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**CERTIFICATE of EXCELLENCE
COMMONS AWARD**

presented to

Plumstead Common

by the London in Bloom Trustees
in recognition of the contribution made to
the London in Bloom Campaign
2010



P.C.E.G.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 14 November at 3pm

at St Mark's Community Hall,
Old Mill Road

This is your chance to influence the future
direction and activity of the group.

An opportunity to hear what our
successes and challenges have been
over the past twelve months.

The vital task for our members of ensuring
that the group has the leadership and
management that it needs and deserves.

A chance to pay your subs!

PLEASE COME!



MINUTES OF THE PCEG MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 3PM AT ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL

Present: Simon Steptoe (Chair), Kay Bartlett, Patience and Bob Carlisle, Chris Cook, Chris Day (minutes), Marilyn Gregory, Harry Holmes, Eileen and Sandy Paterson, Jane Taylor, Lynn Walsh, Marcia Whittard.

Apologies: Viv and Bruce Bissett, Gina Clatworthy, Lorraine Dardis, Nick Day, Maria Freeman, Maria Kaustrater, Roger and Elizabeth Keyse, Marcus Sutton-Beynon. Sarah Van Gogh.



1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as correct. Simon then briefly updated the meeting on the following:

DOT'S BEQUEST

Following the last meeting members had been invited to voice comment on the decision that the picnic table should be sited at the picnic area on Blendon Terrace, or to suggest an alternative location. No comments or suggestions had been received. In view of the approaching winter, the meeting thought it best to delay the purchase of the table until the spring.

' WHY I LOVE MY COMMON' COMPETITION

A very successful display had been held at the Town Hall during the summer. [The group are most grateful to Sarah Van Gogh for organising this art and creative writing competition that had really advanced our relationship with local primary schools. Timbercroft, St Margaret's, Nightingale and South Rise Schools took part, and we thank them for their and their teachers' enthusiasm for the project.]



Rubbish collected on the second MADD day this year

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 2

Simon reported that the MADD on July 10 had been very successful and large amounts of litter and rubbish had been cleared from the Bowman's Hollow area of the Common.

The day had ended with an enjoyable annual picnic.

MAKE MERRY

As previously reported the Make Merry had once again been a very successful event and had raised over £500. [The actual takings were: bric-a-brac £306.84; plants (including leaf plates) £85.82; membership, 'Our Common Story' books and postcards £138.50. Simon thanked everyone that had contributed to the day.]

PLUMSTEAD LIVE

In its second year Plumstead Live had again been a well attended and popular event. The meeting expressed its thanks to Gina Clatworthy for giving her time and energy to project manage the event.

2. REPORTS

SLADE PONDS

The good news is that for the fourth year running we have gained the Green Pennant for the Slade Ponds. The bad news is the constant battle against graffiti and

vandalism. Over the summer we have suffered many grass fires most deliberately set, and although devastating at the time, great improvement is now apparent. Graffiti has also been a problem with tagging to anything that stands still. Nick installed a Community Notice Board which was vandalised within days, Colin took up the challenge and Mark III, for the time being survives. The Common is looking good with fungi and wild flowers. Weather conditions in early summer created their own difficulties with water levels at the pond being their lowest, at times approximately three feet away from the drain and a holding pond that it was possible to walk across. Surprisingly the wildlife thrived, we have had an abundance of frogs, and also small fish, dragonflies and a brood of four moorhens. The reed bed continues to be a worry, weeding has encouraged growth, but every torrent from the storm drain reduces their strength and number. The old weirs are also a concern and need some attention.

NATURE RESERVE

Marcia reported that the regular monthly work days had continued with an average of at least two members each time. There had also been another positive TFL workday. As with other areas of the Common, she also reported that the Nature Reserve had suffered from deliberately set fires over the summer.

GRAFFITI

No report was available.

MEMBERSHIP

Jane reported that 19 new members had been recruited since her last report. She had sent out reminders and membership now stands at 154.

SCHOOLS LIAISON

No report was available.

GWAG

No report was available at the meeting [owing to the PCEG Chair's absence. (See News section)]

3. PLUMSTEAD COMMON NATURE RESERVE

FUNDING BIDS UPDATE

Harry submitted a detailed 'Funding Activity Report' to the meeting, which prompted questions and discussion. Bob (Treasurer) supported by other members, raised concerns that the Veolia grant will be paid in arrears and that PCEG funds will be required to pay the contractors for work completed; thereby causing difficulties with funding and cashflow. The possibility was suggested of approaching LBG for help with interim payments. Marcia also pointed out that if PCEG were successful in gaining the alternative minor funding already applied for, it could also be used for interim payments. Harry would look further into funding, but stressed the urgency of the project. He also expressed interest in using the locally based Riverwood project for signage and encouraged members to look at their work. The meeting thanked Harry for all his hard work and commitment.

4. ZERO TOLERANCE

Sarah VG submitted the following paragraph:

'On the Zero Tolerance front - the council got a big nudge from Cllr. Fahy and did a pilot of 6 weeks - patrolling in am and pm at various spots, in the way ND and I suggested. Rob Goring came to update me about this, and was very positive about the improved joined-up attitude that was promoted by the project, between parks staff, local police etc.

I requested that ND and I be included in any follow up/evaluation/future planning processes. (And I suggested next time, do it during term time as they will encounter more people in am doing the school drop off...)'

5. MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY 3

Simon suggested that as both extremes of the Common had been dealt with on the two previous MAD days this year; and in the absence of alternative suggestions that we concentrate on the 'middle' and support the Slade Pond area. To fit in with the regular pond work day regime, it was decided to change the date to Sunday 10 October at 11 am, all welcome.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. It appears that work on/near to Everett House prevents access to the Nature Reserve; it was asked whether there had been any liaison about this, no one was aware of any.
- ii. Chris mentioned that the next meeting was the AGM and he feared that poor attendance might prevent us being quorate at 15%; he suggested that the constitution should be reviewed.
- ii. Bob and Jane reminded that annual subscriptions could be made at the AGM.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The AGM will be held on Sunday 14 November at 3pm.



Jeremy Shearmur from the Parks Department and Sarah Van Gogh with children from Timbercroft School holding their "What I Love About My Common entries"

PCEG NEWS

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Dorota Palucii, Daphne Hirons, Boyle, David Hitchcock and Stephen Mann.

Glyndon Safer Neighbourhood Team

We welcome Sgt Paul Fraser, the new leader for the Glyndon team. We have already established a good relationship, and Sgt Fraser came to meet the Green Pennant judge to provide evidence of the good relationships we have across our community in Plumstead.

When the Slade Ponds was suffering regularly from various forms of anti-social behaviour, the Glyndon team began regular patrolling around the pond area, and also organised more plain clothes patrols to combat the issues arising; this also includes patrolling the area more when they are on later shifts.

The team is also working effectively with the local schools. There does seem to have been some recent improvement to the problems at the Slade Ponds.

The Glyndon SNT members are; Sgt Paul Fraser, PC Craig Reid, PC Mike Wiseman, PCSO William Dunford, PCSO Ann Lane, PCSO Christopher Allen, PCSO Kirsty Brown, PCSO Simon Longhurst

They can be contacted by phone on 020 8721 2638 or 07920 233825

Email: Glyndon.snt@met.police.uk

The SNT say: "At our public meetings we are asking you to tell us about the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood that matter to you. We will tell you what we are doing with our partners to make your neighbourhood safer and how you can help to decide our local priorities. We will also give you information about crime and people brought to justice. These meetings may include street briefings, drop-in surgeries or mobile police station visits."

They will be holding a Public meeting on 30/11/2010 - 19:00 - 21:00 at Glyndon Community Centre, Raglan Road, Plumstead, SE18

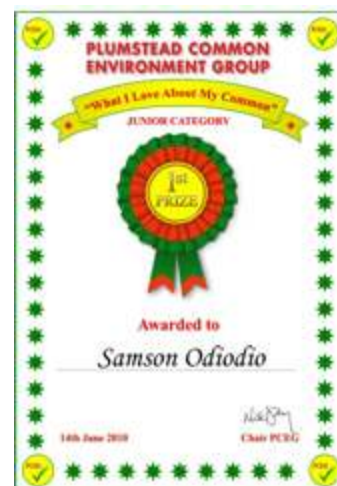
"What I Love About My Common"

The competition entitled "What I Love About My Common" was devised by the Plumstead Common Environment Group, and project managed by Sarah Van Gogh with the assistance of Nick Day.

PCEG members wanted to encourage local children to recognise and express what a precious local resource Plumstead Common is, and came up with the idea of a creative competition. Entries came in from four local schools: Timbercroft, Southrise, Nightingale and St Margaret's, with drawings from the infants, and pieces of expressive writing from the juniors. All the entries were on display in the main entrance of Woolwich Town Hall from 22nd June to 2nd July, where one could read about making snow angels, racing up steps, feeling a worm, and hearing foxes, and see wonderful artwork, including monster trees, picnics, kites and dogs.

Jeremy Shearmur, from the Parks Department, Frances Ward, the Education Officer from the Greenwich Heritage Centre, Nick and Sarah were the judges. They were all impressed by how much the children had really observed and thought about their natural surroundings, and how much the older children were able to express why they valued the wonderful, big green space on their doorstep.

Sarah, who had suggested the idea of a competition, said, "I hope we can make it an annual event. It's a great chance for PCEG to support local efforts that foster an



appreciation of Plumstead Common, and an awareness of how we can all care for and benefit from it, for future generations."

Nick said. *"Ever since I was greeted with the remark "I don't like Nature -- it's dirty", when working with a local secondary school, I have been acutely conscious of our obligation to better enable children to see themselves as partners and stakeholders in the world around them. The green spaces of Greenwich offer so many ways to help generate in the future custodians of our world a sense of value and responsibility, and PCEG have an important part to play in promoting their importance.*

It always puzzled me that children spend so much time in closed rooms being taught about places and things that they are unlikely to ever experience at first hand, while right outside their door is a learning resource alive with boundless possibilities."

In undertaking to work with the council in the care, conservation and development of Plumstead Common, PCEG are conscious of a serious obligation to encourage the use and enjoyment of our green spaces by young people. We want to encourage and promote natural space where children can play safely, and also find how fascinating the world around them can be. The "Forest Schools" and "Schools in the Parks" programmes that are being taken up by many teachers around Greenwich offer a chance for children to take part in structured activities in beautiful and inspiring green spaces. The Plumstead Common Nature Reserve is just one place actively used now by local schools.

We are working hard to get training and knowledge in this field. Nick has been to two schools workshops and obtained CRB clearance to work with children. We are developing some really positive partnerships with local schools. Sarah van Gogh's great initiative in developing this competition has chimed well with some of the new educational drive in Plumstead, and it shows how much we all value those who, in turn, value our precious world.



Ganesha Gifts

Jo Lawbuary and Purnendu Roy, long-standing members of PCEG, have made another generous gesture towards the group. They asked us down the their Plumstead warehouse to collect a vast quantity of environmentally friendly leaf plates which we can sell to raise funds. We sold a lot at the Make Merry.

If you are near Gabriel's Wharf on the South Bank, or King Street, Covent Garden ,why not pop in to see their selection of Fair Trade gifts and household items.

Heavitree Road Reservoir

Nick applied to English Heritage for this remarkable Victorian structure to be officially listed. The initial assessment has been taken to consider whether it holds special architectural or historic interest.

Extracts from the initial report are below. It sets out the information upon which EH will base our recommendation to the Secretary of State.

HISTORY: The Reservoir in Heavitree Road, Plumstead was constructed in 1854. Plans of 1854 show the structure largely as it currently (2010) exists, with the exception that two tall chimney-like water gauges that project above the roof have since been removed. The cross section shows that the roof was part of the original construction. A note on the plans states that the 650,000 gallon capacity reservoir was constructed for the Woolwich, Plumstead and Charlton Pure Water Consumers Company in 1854 from designs by the engineer Samuel Collett Homersham MICE (1814-1886).

Documentary and cartographic evidence suggests that water was extracted from a well at the main Rose Street (since been re-named Waverley Road) site, where there were three further reservoirs, and was pumped up to the higher level Heavitree Road reservoir, which acted as a service reservoir.

The Plumstead Woolwich and Charlton Spring Water Consumers Company was provisionally registered on the 3 May 1852. The company name was changed to the Plumstead Woolwich and Charlton Consumers Pure Water Company on 24 May 1852, and it had

powers 'for obtaining or raising water or construction reservoirs ... and ... to build, later, repair or pull down any buildings on such land in such manner as they think fit'. The company suffered financial difficulties at an early date, presumably due in part to the high investment costs of establishing a water supply company, with an application for the official liquidation of the company being made in May 1854. The following year, the share capital was increased and the company was changed to a limited liability company in 1856. Further legal actions were taken to recover monies but the company was wound up by 1858. The North Kent Water Company took over the running of the Reservoir but this was amalgamated by Act of Parliament with the Kent Water Works in 1864, which in turn became subsumed into the Metropolitan Water Board. The Water Board produced a scheme for a replacement concrete roof just prior to World War I, which was never realised.

Homersham was appointed as the engineer for the Heavitree Road reservoir on 9 November 1852 (National Archives documents B10/75 and C26/502). There is no entry for Homersham in the Institution of Civil Engineers' Biographical Dictionary of Civil Engineers in Great Britain and Ireland (2008) (Volume 2: 1830-1890, published in 2008). However, he is mentioned in the entry for Sir Frederick Joseph Bramwell, with whom he worked on an unrealised proposal for an atmospheric railway line between Hyde Park Corner and The Bank (p115). Homersham is recorded as a founding member of The British Meteorological Society (which became The Royal Meteorological Society) in 1850, having been the vice-president of the earlier Meteorological Society of London.



The civil engineer was clearly involved in the water supply industry in the years following the pioneering public health legislation, evidenced by his authorship of a Report to the Directors of the London (Watford) Spring-Water Company in 1850.

The Reservoir in Heavitree Road, Plumstead was built as part of the C19 public health reforms in response to the unsanitary conditions in the fast-expanding urban areas. The Report on The Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Classes in Great Britain, 1842, and the Health of Towns Report, 1844, led to the passing of the first Public Health Act in 1848. In subsequent years, new methods of sewerage went side by side with improved systems of water supply. Many towns had well-established water-supply systems by the 1850s, often by pumping from wells or rivers, but the quantities required for major cities required more ambitious schemes. Arrangement for water supply in London had been well-established by the 1850s. Robert W Mylne's Map of The Contours of London and its Environs, Showing the Districts and Areas Supplied by the Nine Metropolitan Water Works' Companies of 1856 shows that the Plumstead and Woolwich was the most recently formed and by far the smallest of the nine water companies that existed at the time, in terms of the number of tenements supplied. Water quality became a key issue but even by 1854, when this Reservoir was constructed, the nature of water-borne disease was only beginning to be properly understood.

DESCRIPTION: The site contains two reservoirs, both of which are covered and substantially below-ground. The western reservoir is an 1854 brick and iron structure with a shallow pitched roof, whilst the eastern reservoir is much later: a 1932 reinforced concrete, flat-roofed structure. Both have grassed roofs.

The 1854 reservoir is a double-chamber stock brick structure, with cast iron columns supporting iron beams that in turn support a roof made up of brick jack arches. This type of structural arrangement had been developed by textile mill designers in the late C18 and had become a commonplace form of construction by the 1850s. The original 13 bay double-chamber reservoir was constructed with battered sides, the two chambers are divided by a central dividing wall aligned north - south. The junction between the brick floor and the walls is radiused. A north-south aligned channel is built into the floor of each chamber, which together had a capacity of 650,000 gallons.

Cast iron columns standing on square, stone bases are aligned in two north-south rows in each chamber. These support iron beams aligned west-east, which are tensioned with wrought iron tie rods. Some of the cast iron columns have been encased in concrete in the

late C20 for added structural support. The roof covering is formed by brick jack arches that spring from the iron beams.

It has been suggested that the roof is a later addition, although this is unlikely and is perhaps based on a difference in appearance of the bricks below the waterline, which have been sealed with some form of thin slurry and those above that remained dry. The latter have efflorescence on the surface, almost certainly a result of high humidity over many years drawing salts of the surface.

The central dividing wall between the two reservoir chambers rises to form a ridge to the roof. The upper section of the wall is punctuated in each bay with a semi-circular headed opening. The two rows of columns to either side stand at different heights and the west and east outer walls are the lowest points and stand approximately at ground level.

The roof is grassed on the top face and consequently, the external appearance is simply of a shallow-pitched grassed form rising to a north-south ridge, enclosed by a perimeter brick wall. The only external clue to the subterranean space is a small brick entrance that stands at the southern end of the central ridge. Brick-built, stone-capped retaining walls surround steps which lead to the entrance door, above which is the inscription 'PW&CWW / 1854'. The abbreviation 'PW&CWW' presumably standing for Plumstead Woolwich and Charlton Water Works. A modern reinforced door has been externally added.

Full inspection

The machinery of the reservoir was relatively simple, and generally survives. The water inlet is currently in the east wall of the east chamber, in the form of an 18" cross connection valve. Within the reservoir, water overflowed from the east chamber into the west chamber via a connecting pipe.

The original arrangement appears to have been an individual combined inlet and outlet valves to each chamber at the northern end. Each chamber has a cast iron overflow at the southern end. Water level gauges shown on the early plan no longer survive.

The appearance of the reservoirs from Heavitree Road and Ancona Road to the north, is simply of a high brick boundary wall with a stone coping, which encloses the site to the north, west and part of the south. The wall is of the same stock mostly yellow brick as the main 1854 reservoir, laid in English bond, and construction evidence would suggest that it is of the same date. There are no associated structures, the boundary wall being formed tightly around the two reservoirs.

Greenwich Council Integrated Enforcement Programme

Sarah Van Gogh and Nick have been in an extended dialogue with various council officers and councillors with regard to tackling the “low level” crime – litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, dog fouling etc – that so blights our neighbourhood and affects the quality of life for all.

As a result of a series of meetings the Council commenced a six week intensive integrated enforcement programme in August with a focus on dog control but also picking up on other ASB. The programme targeted a number of parks and housing sites and acknowledged that it had developed from discussions and proposals prepared earlier in the year between PCEG and the Council.

The parks sites included in the programme are:

1. Plumstead and Winn's Commons
2. Bostall Gdns/ Bostall Woods and Heath
3. Eltham Park South
4. Hornfair Park

The focus of the first week was awareness raising and education with patrols taking place on each of the sites. The focus of the following 5 weeks was enforcement with a number of patrols on each site.



A dog being exercised in the “Dog Free” picnic area

The council Parks Department believe they have formed a strong partnership between the Council's Enforcement Team, Neighbourhood Services, SNT's and Parks for the delivery of the programme.

Green Pennant Awards 2010

This is the fourth year running that we have gained a Green Pennant Award for the Slade Ponds., and we got an excellent report from the judge. Nick has been invited to be a judge for the awards now, which means they must place some store by what we have achieved at the site.

It's sad that yet again, the council's great and good haven't thought to congratulate the hard working volunteers who do so much to care for this lovely green space in the borough.

Under the headings of: 'Welcoming', 'Signage', 'Personal security', 'Safe equipment and facilities', 'Dog fouling', 'Sustainable materials use', 'Waste recycling and minimisation', 'Conservation of landscape & historic features', 'Promotion of green space / project', 'Litter and waste management', 'Links to the wider community', 'Involvement in decision making', 'Involvement in operations', and 'Appropriate provision for the community', no recommendations were considered necessary

We were recommended to: Continue to keep path clear of vegetation at all times, Consider some work on levelling some areas of the path, Try to encourage local authority to repair steps as soon as possible on health and safety grounds, Continue the good links with the local authority and police to encourage progress in dealing with these anti social problems, Consider further surveys for the site in the future including updating the bird survey carried out some years ago, and Actively pursue any funding opportunity.

There were dog poo bags available from our community sign at that time, and we are aware that we need to find a robust way of making these available here.

It was suggested by the judge that we aim to develop the Plumstead Common Nature Reserve to meet the standard for Green Pennant award application in the coming years. She thought "The Group will ably meet the challenge of the site once funding has been secured."

The judge's additional comments were: "Plumstead Common Environment Group are well established and have been very active over the years in developing Slade Ponds as a peaceful haven for the local community as well as a habitat for a variety of wildlife species. They have a very committed Chairman well supported by members of the Group. Consequently there is very little to be said in recommendation."





London in Bloom Awards 2010

Plumstead Common won a Certificate of Excellence. This is our third consecutive award.

Members of the PCEG were invited to a reception in the Town Hall to celebrate. Chrissie Day, Simon Steptoe and Kay Bartlett went along to represent us.

We are grateful to Locksley Douglas of the Parks department for steering Greenwich entries through the judging process

Michael Rosen at St Margaret's

As a spin-off from PARKSfest2010, we were able to arrange a visit to St Margaret's school by Michael Rosen, celebrated author of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt".

The event, which was held on the common, was enjoyed by children and adults alike, and they were thoroughly entertained in the sunshine. We received a letter of thanks from Jeremy Lunnon, the Head.

We are most grateful to Kate Powling of the Friends of East Greenwich Pleasaunce for making this event possible for us.



Earn Your Travel Back Scheme

The work parties organised by BTCV have done some more great work at the Nature Reserve. In their visits in July and October, they have continued to clear and maintain the pathways and done a lot of work clearing the perimeter in readiness for the fencing work.

Tom Nandi, of BTCV, has told us that they very much like working at the site. The paths that they have made certainly make the site more accessible and reduce risk for local schools that take children down there.

The picture on the left shows where the perimeter has been cleared ready for fencing work.



Plumstead Common Bowling Green

The bowling green has benefited from a grant in the "Playground to Podium" scheme. £15,000 has been spent on the pavilion, converting the previous groundsman's store into changing room and tea room accommodation. The ladies lavatory and changing room has been refurbished as well and put back into use. The green, lovingly tended by the council green keeper has the reputation of being the best in the area. Considering how it was only recently prey to terrible vandalism which rendered it unplayable, this is very good news. The ASB has been greatly reduced by the installation of boundary railings and a lockable gate.



Plumstead Common Road Speeding Traffic

A local resident contacted us about his concerns regarding the excessive speed of vehicles on Plumstead Common Road. It might be interesting to see the council's response.:

Thank you for your enquiry regarding speeding problems on Plumstead Common Road.

Unfortunately Plumstead Common Road is one of the few locations where we are prohibited from installing any traffic calming measures. Plumstead Common Road is a major bus route with several routes running along its length and is also a preferred route used by all of the emergency services.

We are also unable to erect a speed camera as these are the responsibility of the Safety Camera Partnership. They are usually erected once a series of accidents have occurred at a particular location. Although in the present financial climate there will be less cameras installed.

I have however commissioned a speed survey to be undertaken on Plumstead Common Road, if, as you claim, there is excessive speed our results will be passed on to the local Police for them to begin enforcement.

We do have some temporary speed signs that we rotate from site to site, I have added Plumstead Common Road to that rotation list. When the signs are erected they will be left in place for three months then moved to one of the other sites. In our experience we find that these signs are very affective when they are first erected, if we leave the signs in place any longer drivers become used to them and will start to ignore them.

Plumstead Live 2010



The second year of this free concert was a great success. Gina Clatworthy project-managed the event almost single-handedly; the group and the Plumstead community are indebted to her. The weather was much kinder than last year and those of us who stayed all day had an absolutely great day with a wide range of music that meant there was literally something for everyone.

It was particularly gratifying to see the ethnic diversity of the audience. There were many children, too, who seemed to be having a splendid time. This was a genuine community family event of which PCEG, and particularly Gina, can be very proud.

The council have already indicated that they are keen for the event to be repeated next year.

Comedy on the Common

Sat 6 Nov 10

Doors open: 7pm. Show time: 8:15pm. £8 on the door or book online Licensed bar.

Comedians: Stephen Allen, Tony Dunn and Tony Law

Sat 11 Dec 10

Doors open: 7pm. Show time: 8:15pm. £11 on the door or book online. Includes a free drink. Late Licensed bar.

Comedians include: Lewis Schaffer, Michael Skinner and Jessica Forteskew





Embrace the Wild

New Community Nature Conservation project in Abbey Wood

Embrace Cooperation Ltd (registered not for profit company) is pleased to announce a new community nature conservation project based in Abbey Wood and starting in October 2010. This three month project has been awarded £ 7,875 by Big Lottery Community Wildlife grant to run nature conservation activities in Lesnes Abbey Wood. Attached is the project poster.

The project will involve 8 FREE public (open to everyone) & 6 tailor-made (for young people) events. The following public events have been scheduled on the project.



Events open to the public

1pm to 4pm Saturday 30th October 2010 Nature Photography Walk

1pm to 4pm Saturday 6th November 2010 Glade Clearing

1pm to 4pm Saturday 13th November 2010 Fungi ID Walk

1pm to 4pm Friday 26th November 2010 Nature Photography Walk

1pm to 4pm Saturday 4th December 2010 Tree Coppicing

1pm to 4pm Saturday 18th December 2010 Traditional Wooden Fence Making

1pm to 4pm Saturday 15th January 2011 Traditional Wooden Fence Repair

1pm to 4pm Saturday 29th January 2011 Glade Clearing

The project will also run six FREE tailor-made events for young people which will be run with local youth organizations and/or schools and will be run at suitable times/dates for the participating groups. Embrace is interested to hear from local Bexley and Greenwich schools and youth organizations regarding organizing tailor made events in Lesnes Abbey Wood for them.

Project web site: <http://embraceenvironment.wordpress.com/embrace-the-wild/>

For more information, book on place on an event or organization a tailor-made event for your school &/or youth organization please contact: john.c@myembrace.org

Tel: 020 727 49450 or 079846 629 96

GWAG

One thing that may be of interest, though, and that is more urgent is the fact that someone called Yvonne who worked for a company called Walk England that is doing some consultancy work for Natural England was looking for people who want to talk to her about accessibility of DESIGNATED nature reserves. She wants to talk to users and non users of these designated nature reserves to see what makes them a good nature reserve in terms of access. If anyone would like to talk to those people, let nick or Trui Meyns (our GWAG rep) know. Apparently, they'll be happy to come out and visit and possibly even pay for a drink or even lunch. Now Nick is back in London he's willing to accompany any local person/people who has something to say about our Nature Reserve.

Woodlands Farm plan to plant 200m of hedges every year in the next 10 years. Lambing Day Saturday April 3

Friends of Parks: Well Hall Pleasaunce plan a bird watch for 30 January 10 to 3

Many thanks to Trui Meyns for being the PCEG rep at GWAG meetings.

The Nature Reserve Improvements Project

Situated at the Western end of Plumstead Common, behind Blendon Terrace, this is a wooded area containing a variety of trees. It had long been neglected, becoming an unofficial dumping ground. Neighbours and local activist got together in 1991 to clear the huge accumulation of rubbish and, in so doing, founded PCEG. With the cooperation of Greenwich Council and a grant from the Coop, PCEG adopted the site, protecting and enhancing the biodiversity, its inherent value and distinctiveness. There are a number of different trees including sycamore, ash, a number of mature false acacia, some London planes, holly, sessile and English oaks. Of special note is an old black mulberry. The group have planted several young trees and shrubs. In 2003, the site was officially designated by the GLA as a Site of Local Importance. Regular monthly work sessions are carried out at the reserve to maintain this peaceful reserve for future enjoyment.

The project seeks to improve the infrastructure, public awareness, sustainability and access to the Nature Reserve. Firstly, by replacing the low chain link boundary fencing from Bramblebury Road to Blendon Terrace; removing excessive bramble, tubers and shrubs, and planting native hedging behind the new fence to improve biodiversity. An ecological survey as well as a maintenance and management plan will help preserve and sustain the nature reserve. The nature reserve spans a steep ravine: creating poor accessibility and hazardous conditions for many users all year round. PCEG propose to increase access and safety for the nature reserve users by installing terracing using recycled timber and aggregate to form the steps with handrails to the steepest areas. Create an alternative clearway path at the eastern end of the site for greater access into the nature reserve.



We aim to improve local understanding and educational opportunities by installing interpretative signage boards at each entrance to the open space.

Finally, PCEG want to increase local awareness of the nature reserve through open days and other events to increase public awareness, interest and involvement in the conservation work to the nature reserve.

Activity Report

Funding

A Grassroots Grant has been offered to us. We must ensure Veolia payments of invoices must be carefully managed to ensure PCEG retains a positive cash flow.

Harry Holmes has requested a formal letter of match funding to PCEG from Delia Fanon at Aggregate Industries Association (AIA).

We have received guidance from AIA on the step design details, and pictures of projects they have carried out.

Harry has put in an application to Greenwich Planning Department; for Section 106 community funding, but there has been no progress on our bid for £3K.

The Co-operative Community Fund application for £1.93K was unsuccessful.

The desktop survey and database review was carried out using LBG's agreement with GiGL. This then can be deemed match funding of £470.00.

Discussions with Sam Eastop are in progress to offer final funding needs to get the scheme up and running.

Fencing installation quotes have been received from:

Atkins Fencing Contractors – labour & materials quote: £13,520.00



Chestnut Fencing – labour & materials quote: £13,803.00

JDC Fencing - labour & materials quote: £18,154.00

Drayton Fencing - labour & materials quote: £12,708.80

Recycled timber step and aggregate quotes received from:

BTCV - £13,821.33

London Wildlife Trust - £14,759.18

Groundworks London - £10,929.00

The Ecological survey was carried out on 26th September by LWT

Contact and partnership working: All Glyndon Ward Councillors were contacted. The leader Chris Roberts responded extremely quickly to mobilise, the Deputy Leader Ray Gerlach, Cllr Radha Rabadia and Sam Eastop, who rang me to discuss alternative match funding support from Parks

Among the next steps are to meet with Riverwood Project to discuss supply of sign frame & handrails, to contact LBG Youth Services & Reparation Team, SNT & other local charities, seek funding, materials, native hedging or plants

A schedule of native hedging types is to be forwarded for the group to discuss, choose and order. The hedging should be planted by February, latest March 2011 and can be linked to an event. BTCV also have the capacity to co-ordinate, plant and organise an event. One idea is to use this as a publication and awareness event to celebrate the start of work, possible barbeque and hot drinks to encourage volunteers and involvement

There is a small clump of Japanese Knotweed located in the clearing created by EYTB. The advice of the council is to leave it untouched at the moment because they are investigating a new method of killing it by injection. They are encouraging us not to be alarmed by the knotweed and to consider managing only the false acacia saplings.

Quotations for alternative 'heritage style' fencing are to be provided before placing orders with a fencing contractor

A steering group member will meet with the lowest two contractors and Harry before placing any orders to carry out work

The project commenced in September with the ecology survey. Fencing work is now scheduled to start in November 2010

It must be clear from the above that Harry Holmes has put enormous effort into diligently helping this project so far and negotiating us past the hiccups. We are indebted to his vision and expertise

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