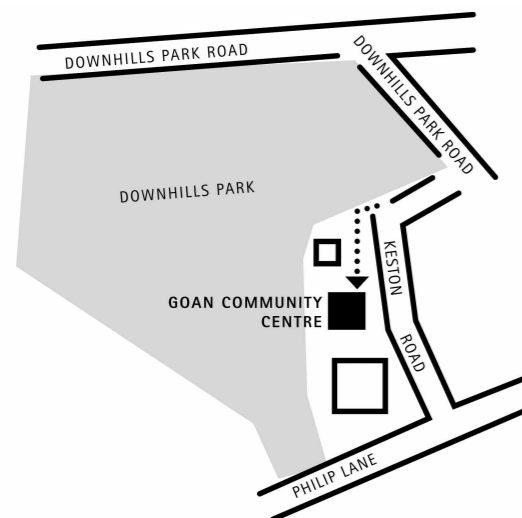


FRIENDS OF DOWNHILLS Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY
April 18th 2010
2 pm
at the Goan Community Centre
(off Keston Road, N17, see map)



Find out what improvements are planned for Downhills Park and *give your opinions!*

Important issues for discussion:

All welcome to discuss the pond, cafe (think of a name) and future park projects.

The Friends of Downhills Park work with the other Friends groups around Haringey to ensure that all green spaces get the attention and resources they need. We also support local residents associations in their efforts to improve facilities, services and neighbourhoods throughout the borough. By getting organised and speaking out Haringey residents can help to ensure that all our public services have the resources and management that's needed.... so please get involved!

More info: www.haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk and www.haringeyresidents.org



The Friends of Downhills Park Newsletter

FRIENDS' HARD WORK PAYS OFF!



This year has been a very positive one for Downhills with 2 exciting projects coming to fruition.

A wildlife pond for amphibians

One exciting development is the lovely wildlife pond that is being constructed on the site of an earlier one that was part of the landscaped gardens of a large Georgian house that stood in the area from about 1789 till 1902.

Recent research has shown that some three quarters (more than a million) of Britain's ponds have been lost over the past 100 years so our new pond will provide a much needed habitat for local wildlife. It will be an excellent educational resource with a

Ducks settle on the new wildlife pond that is being constructed in Downhills Park

dipping platform for local schools. There will be wheelchair access onto the platform with enough room for a wheelchair and a classroom of children. The pond is lined with a virtually vandal proof geotextile clay liner to give the pond a much longer life.

COME TO THE AGM

See back of the newsletter for details of the Friends of Downhills AGM on 18th April 2010 at the Goan Community Centre



The funds for the pond (£30,000) were raised by a charity, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, in partnership with the Friends. The charity will support the project and give advice and training to the local community.

In May there will be a community work day to plant aquatic plants around the pond (watch notice boards and blog for date and time) and an interpretation board will be installed detailing the different animals at the site.

The habitat around the pond will also be improved through creation of a wildflower meadow with various plants useful to wildlife for hibernation and foraging.

David Macdonald, chair of the Friends said of the project, "I am very pleased to see the wildlife pond take shape. The original Downhills pond was scrapped in 1968 and it was always my ambition to see a pond return. Fortunately the Friends were of the same mind, although it took a little time to convince the authorities. At last the advent of the London Living Water project and funding from BIFFA and Haringey's Making a Difference opened the doors and now the pond is under way. I would like to thank in particular Rebecca Turpin of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation for the work she put in to

help deliver the project. I hope the wildlife pond will encourage other Friends groups to follow us by building ponds to serve their local community, local schools and of course the native amphibians for many years to come."

A cafe for Downhills

After years of asking, at last work is to start on a new cafe building on the site of the old bowling pavillion. As the Recreation Department were not able to raise the money, Adult Services took over the project to build the cafe and will run it as a training scheme for people with disabilities. The cafe will be run by them 5 days a week, monday to friday.

This is obviously not ideal as many people will be using the park at weekends but the plan is to find local people or groups to volunteer to keep the cafe open at weekends for various activities and light snacks. Anyone interested in volunteering or using the cafe should contact the Friends or come to one of our meetings advertised in the park notice boards.

Italian gardens praised

The Italian Ornamental Gardens won Haringey Best Planting award 2009!

Goodbye and thank you to Michael

Over the last few years Downhills Park has undergone great changes for the better and this was very much down to the Friends working in partnership with Parks Manager, Michael Loughnane. He has now left Haringey and moved on to a job nearer his home. We would like to thank him for his dedication to his work and for the legacy he has left behind him, especially the lovely flower beds and Italian Gardens and we wish him luck in his new job.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR WEBSITE ON
www.downhills.org.uk

ART IN THE PARK – 10th anniversary!

It only seems like yesterday that the first **Art in the Park** took place in Downhills Park. I had imagined only a handful of people would turn up but in the end a couple of hundred did! Since then the event has grown and become an eagerly anticipated yearly event. This year will be its 10th anniversary so together we hope to make this the best ever!!

Put the date in your diary,
Sunday July 18th, 1pm-6pm

Downhills Friends Meetings

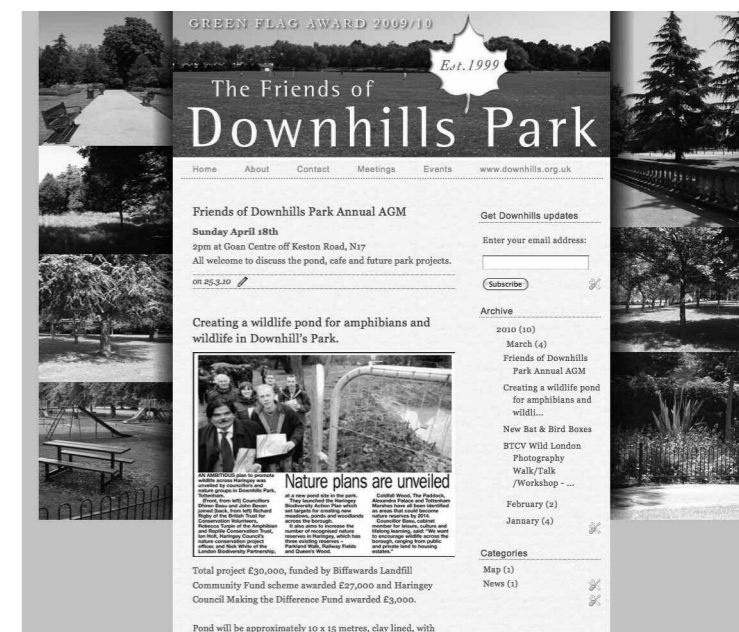
The Friends of Downhills Park meetings are held 6 times a year and the dates and times are advertised on the park notice-boards and blog. *All are welcome and encouraged to attend!*

Friends new BLOGSPOT

The Friends have now got a new BLOGSPOT. This will give you instant access to information about park news, Friends meetings and events. If you subscribe to it by entering your email address then you will be kept up to date when anything new is added to the blog. The blog will not take the place of our website which gives you much more detailed information about the park and its history, it is really just a way of keeping a quick and easy check on what is going on.

To access the blogspot go to:

<http://friendsofdownhillspark.blogspot.com>



BTCV events in parks

ACTIVITIES IN DOWNHILLS PARK

Kids Go Wild this Easter

Friday, 16 April (2-4pm), half-term nature fun with arts & crafts, meet: park playground – OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES

Go Batty about Bats (in Dowhills Park and Lordship Rec)

Friday 30 April (8pm +), hear and see real bats with BTCV and the Bats Conservation Trust, meet: Philip Lane gate, Downhills Park - 8pm OPEN TO ALL NITE OWLS!



Park View Academy students handing over bird and bat boxes they had made to the Friends of Downhills Park and parks staff.

Activities in other parks

CHESTNUTS PARK

Kids Go Wild this Easter
Monday, 12 April (2-4pm), half-term nature fun with arts & crafts, meet: park playground – OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES

RAILWAY FIELDS

Kids Go Wild this Easter
Thursday, 15 April (2-4pm), half-term nature fun with arts & crafts, meet: park playground – OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES

ALEXANDRA PALACE

Nordic Health Walk
Saturday, 17 April (2-4pm), experience Nordic walking during this taster session, which has twice the benefits of normal walking, meet: Underneath BBC Tower, Alexandra Palace, N22 - LIMITED SPACES, please book

SPRINGFIELD PARK

Tuesday conservation
Tuesday 27th April (10am-3.30pm), join BTCV's Tuesday conservation group
Meet: Springfield Park, Park Road, Nearest tube: Bounds Green – OPEN TO ALL