

Lettsom Gardens Association

Autumn, 1983

Hello, Everybody,

We decided to send out a letter to all the members of the Lettsom Gardens Association during the summer - but the time and the holidays drifted away.... Hence this Autumn newsletter!

The Fun Day: we thought we'd say a bit about who did what and how on the Children's Fun Day on 17 July (well, it may seem a bit like ancient history now, but time's winging away towards the next one - and some more people may want to become involved in organising it next summer).

It was suggested at the last AGM to spend the money left over from subs., on a Fun Day for all the children in the neighbourhood, and a small committee, consisting of Alison, Alistair, Bradley, Quita and Richard, set about organizing the event.

The actual day was sunny (it was our dance that did it!), the Gardens were full of willing helpers, and hordes of excited children with painted faces swarmed around, enjoying themselves on the stalls, the inflatables and in the refreshment tent (where Bradley was hiding her light under a bushel, slaving over the tea-urn, along with Suzanna, Charles and Bill). Activities ranged from roller-skating to badge-making, from a treasure-hunt to a Punch-and-Judy show - and rumour even has it that Alistair was seen disappearing into the sunset, shaking off flour and water from his pretty party dress (would the man who took a photo of this event please be kind enough to send a copy to Quita, at 39, Grove Hill Road? Many thanks!).

The whole day cost Lettsom Gardens Association a total of £61.41, but this wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of many different people. Certain items were begged or borrowed from those listed below and our most grateful thanks to them:-

Southwark Youth Office for the marquee and badge-making machine;
Ken Dale, Southwark Play Officer, for the roller-skates, climbing-frame and toys;
Bryan Watts, Southwark Entertainments Officer, for Professor Alexander and his Punch-and-Judy Show;
Riverside Youth Club, Deptford, for the inflatables (gallantly manned by Bob Parker, who also provided all the electrics for the day);
MacDonalds, Peckham, for orange squash, the Boy Scouts for hot-dogs, and Terry Buckland for candy-floss;
Miss S. Ball, of SEGAS, Old Kent Road, for balloons and other oddments;
Bill McCullough, of London Adventure Playgrounds Association, for the rope for the tug-of-war (shame we tore it in half!);
and three cheers for Dulwich College for providing us with a megaphone at very short notice!

Also, a very big thank you to:-

Jackie Thorpe for setting up and organising the Under-5's Corner, with her band of helpers;
Brian Cooper for making games and helping to run them, along with his family;
Peter Covington for his artwork;
Stella and the other two ladies who did the lovely face-painting;
Duncan and Jools for the treasure-hunt;
Mr. and Mrs. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Griffith-Jones, Diana Lord, Sharon, Mick, Terry, the two Veronica's, Rosalind, Conrad and Ann for helping with the stalls and generally;
Mrs. Taylor and Jane Brenton for sandwich-making;
Also, thanks to Ivanhoe Stores for an alcoholic raffle-prize, the Passage Book Shop for the book-token and Judith for baking us a cake

Thank you, too, to Alison and her family for allowing their garden to become the Storage Ground of the World.

Finally, our thanks to Cathy James, for organizing the Barn Dance (even some of the uninitiated were seen to shake a leg, even if it wasn't always at the right time or place!). Has Lettsom Gardens ever seen such revelry before, I ask myself?

The Gardens: despite the dry weather, the Gardens are flourishing, and many members have enjoyed the blackberries and berries. The twisted willow, which members helped to plant last year, has survived, but some of the trees have suffered the ravages of small children. Could parents remind their children to use dead wood for building their camps, rather than breaking bits off the trees! Also, not to cycle in the top end of the Gardens (because the tree roots are being exposed), and to be sure to leave the Gardens at dusk.

We are being given a selection of about forty shrubs at the end of October and we are hoping that people will volunteer to plant one shrub each. Anyone willing to help please contact Moira on 274 5599.

Cathy Winthrop, who devotedly tends the Gardens all the year round, needs more help. She is struggling to keep things going with very little support, and it is up to us to make sure that the Gardens are kept in order. Gardening is done on the first Sunday of every month (March to November) and members are asked to put in at least one appearance each year. If you aren't a gardener, you may fear that this will be boring, or you won't know what to do, but, in fact, you will find a whole new experience - you will put roses into your cheeks (and into the ground), trim your waistline, gain a healthy appetite, find new friends - in fact, discover a whole new Meaning of Life!

Membership and Subscriptions: we have more than 150 paid-up members this year, but some subscriptions are still overdue. If you have yet to pay, please see your street rep as soon as possible.

There are now 12 members on the Dog Kennel Hill Estate, and it would be very helpful if one of them would like to become street rep next year. Volunteers for this satisfying, fulfilling and easy work should contact Alistair on 733 7184, or form an orderly queue outside 39, Grove Hill Road!

Bonfire Party: A bonfire party will be held in Lettsom Gardens on, or around, 5 November (watch the notice-boards). Perhaps families could bring along some fireworks, so that we could have a good display - and how about some food and drink?

Lonely Hearts' Column: Richard Bird, ex-street rep from 39, Grove Hill Road, is now languishing in Indonesia. All contributions - pressed flowers, conkers, acorn cups, letters from Home, and magic mushrooms - to:-
R. Bird, Space Islands Light Industries, Satellite Station, Wirogunan MGII/76, Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia, where they will be gratefully received.

This is the first Lettsom Gardens newsletter of its kind.

Would you like to receive one regularly?

Would you like to contribute?

All articles, comments, poems, complaints, thoughts, ideas, and items to sell or swap to:-

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