

# Friends of Mycenae Gardens

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## Newsletter No 8 Spring 2018

### *Next AGM at 7.00pm Thursday 22nd March 2018*

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens will hold its next Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 22nd March 2018 at 7.00pm in Woodlands**, home to the **Greenwich Steiner School, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE**.

Membership of the Friends is free, and all those who use or are interested in the gardens are urged to join the group to contribute their ideas and to help with the protection and management of the gardens. There is a membership form on the website at [www.mycenaegardens.org.uk/membership/](http://www.mycenaegardens.org.uk/membership/).

If you have time, and are indeed a friend of Mycenae Gardens, please consider helping us preserve the gardens by standing for election to the Committee. You need to be a member of the Friends group and must be proposed by two other members of the Friends. There is a nomination form on the website (see the link in 'Membership'/ 'Committee members'), to be returned by email to [friendsofmycenaegardens@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmycenaegardens@gmail.com), or by post to The Secretary, Friends of Mycenae Gardens, c/o Mycenae House, 90 Mycenae Road, SE3 7SE.

## *Dear Friends*

This has been a mixed year, in which some parts of the gardens progressed and other areas retreated. New bulbs were planted along the beech hedge and elsewhere, and the group cleared and is remodelling a bed just outside the garden entrance to Mycenae House. However, a falling tree crushed many of the larger plants we had previously planted in the Glade, and the remainder were overrun by brambles before the fallen tree was cleared away. You can read more of our successes and setbacks elsewhere in this newsletter.

A particular focus this year has been on trying to improve and facilitate communication with and between the members of the group. The hope is that, with easier communication, members will be more involved and will find it simpler and more congenial to join in the efforts to preserve and enhance the gardens. As a first step, we have set up a Facebook group (currently open only to members, although that may change). This has so far attracted little interest, perhaps because it has not been sufficiently advertised, but perhaps because Facebook's star is falling. We have more recently set up a Twitter feed. Details of both are to be found at the foot of this page. Please join or follow one or the other. They will allow members to contribute their thoughts and ideas for development of the gardens. They will allow us to advertise work that needs doing, not just as in the organised 'planting days', but also minor tasks that can be undertaken by any member with 20 minutes to spare. And we hope that the photos and other contributions from each of us will enable all to appreciate and enjoy these gardens.

Coincidentally, we have been coping with the bureaucratic whirlwind raised by the General Data Protection Regulation. All existing members will be asked in due course to give new and explicit consent to our holding their names and email addresses. We fear that this will be one of many such requests that you will receive, but we have to do it. Please forgive the intrusion, but do not overlook the message: if you do not explicitly consent we shall have to take your name and details off the membership list.

**Mark Barnes** Committee Chair

## *Autumn planting day*

The autumn planting day saw a small but dedicated group of members and supporters plant several hundred bulbs and carry out other works of routine maintenance. Here, two volunteers show how to weave the beech hedge. (There is an explanation of this technique in the Facebook files).



**Your community needs you.** The Friends of Mycenae Gardens is just one of several such groups in the borough. The borough's Parks and Open Spaces strategy is: "To work in partnership with the local community to provide and sustain ... safe, attractive, diverse and flexible parks", specifically by working with local Friends groups. The groups provide ideas and management tailored to the needs of the particular park and its users. This only works if users get involved.



[friendsofmycenaegardens](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofmycenaegardens)



[@mycenaegardens](https://twitter.com/mycenaegardens)

## The shrub beds

The children of the Greenwich Steiner School have been repairing and replacing the ropes and stakes around the shrub beds. These are still being cut with depressing frequency. The culprits are unknown.

The children have also been tending to the shrubs more generally – see the picture right.

While the children were tending the shrubs in these beds, other shrubs were suffering from erosion. In December the GSS teachers pointed out that three shrubs in particular had been suffering from heavy footfall (out of school hours), and suggested that they be roped off. That work, and the loosening of the soil around the shrubs, is imminent at the time this newsletter goes to printing. The slopes further down the hill still suffer. Remedies suggested by the committee were rejected by the council on technical grounds, although the

council has agreed to shore up the exposed roots of a vulnerable holly.



## Elsewhere ...



A joint effort by teams from Mycenae House, the Council and the Friends cleared this overgrown bed and replanted it, first with a tree provided by friends of the late Janet Gillespie, and then (by the time you read this) with other shrubs and bulbs,

chosen to provide some colour throughout most of the year.

The experimental turf planted in November 2016 had a promising start, but has not had a good winter. We are no longer so hopeful that it may provide an answer to the erosion or to re-turfing parts of the bare ground. We would welcome any further suggestions for dealing with the problem.



It is a great pleasure to welcome back the statues created by the late Brian Taylor (FRBS FSPS).

Although the horse (in particular) is very tempting, please treat the statues with care, and avoid climbing on them.

## Parksfest 2017

Parksfest 2017 was held on Sunday 23rd July 2017 in Mycenae Gardens and once again provided us with a great celebratory day of culture, food, performances, activities and lots of family fun.

We attracted record numbers, and their feedback suggested they thoroughly enjoyed the programme of live music on the Garden stage, along with a wide range of workshops, demonstrations and have-a-go sessions all across Mycenae House and at many stalls in the gardens. The photo gives some idea of the atmosphere but you can also see footage of this and previous events on Youtube!

The Friends of Mycenae Gardens stall enabled us to meet new people, hear ideas and feedback and talk about our plans for cherishing the gardens. Children (and some adults) made seed bombs, or embarked on the Tree-Sure hunt (see below).

We are planning to do it all again this year and plans are afoot to hold it on **Sunday 1st July between 12 midday and 5.30pm** (subject to license).

We hope you will join us!



*The Tree-sure hunt challenged players to identify trees of the gardens by their leaves. How many of these can you identify? (Answers below)*



Cherry



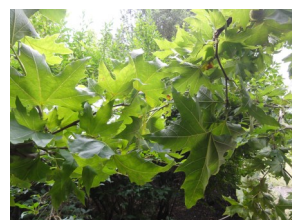
Maple



Holm oak



Lime



Plane