

Friends of Sudley Estate

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE FIVE

SPRING 2008

The Transformation Begins with a little help from our friends



December 2007 was an excellent month for the Sudley Estate.

New gates were fitted at the main entrance to Sudley Park (pictured below). An important phase of the scheme to widen the entrance from Mossley Hill Road, enabling safe access for larger vehicles. The gates, crafted from solid oak, are very similar in appearance to the originals.

On 13th December, as the finishing touches were being applied to the gates, eight semi mature oak trees were planted in Sudley Park. They were donated by **Mossley Hill Resident's Association** to celebrate 800 years of the City of Liverpool.

We hope that the **Eight Oaks of Mossley Hill** will become established as a local landmark for many decades. They will certainly be a focal point of our work as plans take shape over the coming months. The oaks are planted in an irregular 'S' shape, running from the Barkhill Road gate, northwards towards the house. Thousands of wild flowers will be planted within the area, creating a figure eight. New mowing regimes have been discussed with Glendale (Liverpool) Ltd. These will involve reducing the frequency of cuts to some areas, to allow various species to thrive. Most will be native meadow, hedgerow or woodland plants. The



first of many woodland edge plants have already planted. Last autumn, children and staff from **Booker Avenue Infant School** planted wild primroses and white campion in an area previously choked with an over abundance of ivy. Clearance work



Alison Gillett, Bibby Line Group

was carried out by members of staff from the **Bibby Line Group** head office in Duke Street Liverpool, as part of their voluntary work in the community initiative, for the company's bicentenary celebrations. We are very grateful for their help and hard work.

On 5th February 2008, Andrea Titterington, representing **Liverpool Football Club** and Rev. Shannon Leadbetter, met with members of FOSE at Sudley Park to discuss much needed restoration work to the Hillsborough Memorial Rose Garden. Within days of the meeting a donation was received from LFC, enabling us to replace

most of the roses. Each of the six beds has a centre piece of a white standard rose, surrounded by the red variety, named 'Liverpool Remembers'. The preparation of the beds, the planting of two hundred and seventy six new roses and the transplanting and pruning of the saveable old stock was carried out by **Glendale (Liverpool) Ltd.**, who also planted the oaks, (pictured left).

Brass plaques have been fitted to the iron gates at either end of the garden.





Woodland Planting: Mrs. E. Gibson, (top left) Head teacher, Booker Avenue Infant School. Carole Ward (top right) with staff and children of the school after a successful planting session at Sudley.



One of the first wild primroses to appear in the woodland edge area for many decades, planted on 15th November 2007

Des res at Sudley



Eighteen bird boxes, hand made by FOSE member Ron Fleming, have been placed in suitable positions around the estate. Some are open fronted, a style frequently favoured by robins and wrens. Others are the more familiar blue

tit box with a 1 1/8" (28.5 mm) entrance hole. A larger diameter can be used to encourage larger birds, including great tits. The boxes were positioned last October. Happily, some of them are already attracting interest from our feathered friends as potential homes. As early as the second week in March, blue tits were seen entering one of the boxes, with beaks full of nesting materials.



On the subject of birds: wood peckers are often seen and more often heard in the Park. One was recently spotted pecking and probing for insects or larvae in the old horse chestnut, between the walled garden and the conservatory of the house. Unfortunately, this will not be repeated too often in the future. The tree has been identified as suffering from a form of bark canker. A fatal condition. We have reported the problem to the Parks and Estates department. The tree is due to be removed during April.

New for Old

During the last twelve months or so we have lost several mature trees to disease and storm damage. We are working to have these replaced. It is hoped that for every mature tree lost, at least two replacements will be added.

New Dawns

On March 27th 2008 ten excellent specimen trees were planted in Sudley Park. They are Dawn Redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) a fast growing coniferous tree, originating from China. Unlike the majority of conifers it is deciduous. Before shedding its foliage in the autumn, it turns from green to shades ranging from russet to bright yellow. These trees were provided due to the efforts of Derek Dottie from [Liverpool City Council Parks and Estates](#).

Growing Success

Several varieties of native wild flowers planted last June by [Liverpool City Council Rangers](#) are now established and showing signs of new growth, as are the primroses (pictured above), planted by the children of Booker Avenue Infant School.

The Year Ahead

We are delighted to announce that this coming year will see some significant enhancements taking place at Sudley, including.

- In excess of 10,000 wild flower plugs and bulbs will be planted.
- Dozens of native trees will be planted.
- Ornamental shrubs will be used create and



The sundial in the Hillsborough Memorial Garden.

The brass dial has now been restored and is securely in place.



revive formal areas near to the art gallery.

■ Herbaceous perennial plants will make a massive difference to the avenue adjacent the old walled garden. This area should be in full bloom this coming summer.

This has been made possible by the acquisition of grant aid through City Council's Community Resources Unit Funding Programme. We were initially alerted to the availability of this funding by **Cllrs. Tina and Ron Gould**, who also supported our application. We also found that the team at **Community Resources Unit** were very helpful regarding the processing of our application.

Thanks

Without the help, support and expertise of those mentioned in this newsletter, the Friends group could not have hoped to develop our ideas as quickly or successfully.

Equally important are our members. Without them, there would be no Friends group. It is our membership, whether they be subscribers or active committee members, which give us momentum and credibility. Membership has more than doubled over the last twelve months. For just 50p a month you to can help make a difference by becoming a "Friend".



The magnificent collection of art housed within the Victorian splendour of Sudley House is without doubt one of the hidden gems of Merseyside. Visitor numbers have increased considerably, since extensive renovations to the building were completed in 2007.

2007 was the eight hundredth anniversary of King John issuing his charter to the City of Liverpool. To celebrate this momentous year, Mossley Hill Residents Association donated eight oak trees. The Eight Oaks of Mossley Hill were planted in Sudley Park in support of and as part of, the work of Friends of Sudley Estate.

We are a voluntary organisation. Amongst our aims are:

- Regeneration; including the introduction of areas planted with native species of trees, shrubs and plants.
- Renovation and ongoing maintenance of existing formally planted areas.
- To encourage the use of the area as an educational resource for local schools.

You can help with this valuable work, by becoming a Friend of Sudley Estate. The cost of membership is just £6 per household per year. Membership is renewable each April. So if for example, you join in October, you would only be asked to pay £3.

Please complete the form overleaf and send it to:

The Membership Secretary, Friends of Sudley Estate, 31 Elmswood Road, Liverpool L17 0DH

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AGENDA

1st Annual General Meeting of Friends of Sudley Estate

at 8.00 p.m. on 10 April 2008

at SARA Hall, Rundle Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, L17 0AQ

Chairman's welcome and opening remarks: Miss. C. Ward

Apologies

REPORTS:

Treasurer

Copies of the accounts to be circulated at the meeting. Presented by Mr. D. Thomas-Jones, Hon Treasurer.

Approval of accounts.

ELECTION of OFFICERS:

Nominations should be made to the secretary prior to the meeting. However, late nominations can be accepted from the floor.

Officers to be elected:

Chairman Vice Chairman Secretary Assistant Secretary Treasurer

Refreshments.

Speaker John Tobin - Liverpool Ranger Service

Any other business:

Including contributions from members which at the discretion of the chairman, may be discussed at the AGM or referred to a forthcoming general committee meeting.

Contributions should be submitted in writing to the Hon. Chairman or the Hon. Secretary, not later than three days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Raffle

Closing remarks.

To JOIN or to RENEW your MEMBERSHIP, please fill in the following and either bring it to the Annual General Meeting or post to:

The Membership Secretary, Friends of Sudley Estate, 31 Elmswood Road, Liverpool L17 0DH

I wish to join Friends of Sudley Estate. I enclose £6.00 Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**:

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Telephone No _____ E-mail _____

Signed _____

If paying by cheque, please make payable to: Friends of Sudley Estate

If you would like to contact us: 0151 724 2682 or 0151 729 0541