

PARK NEWS

WHAT THE RANGER'S UP TO...

The green surface on the pond is duckweed (Lemna) which are tiny plants. Each plant will grow a bud and turn into two on a hot sunny day, so if at the beginning of the day you have ten square metres by the end you'll have twenty...

Duckweed has its benefits, as whilst growing it absorbs nutrients in the water filtering it. Queens Park pond has too many nutrients from Herring Gull excrement and leaves that have fallen in so there is a constant source of food for the duckweed. Too many nutrients means too much duckweed. In a small garden pond it can be easily skimmed off, and a net over the surface in autumn prevents leaves falling in, however in a pond the size of Queens Park's it's a bit trickier.

If you would like to help, we work in the pond from 1pm on Tuesdays. Come and join us.

Apart from a little too much duckweed the pond is very healthy: if you look at the clearing on the east side you can see the water is clear and teeming with life. We have frogs, newts, dragonflies, damselflies, water boatmen, diving beetles and a myriad of other wildlife you'd expect to find in a pond.

GARDENERS WANTED

We hope, with our Park Ranger, Lindsay, to set up a Friends of Queens Park Gardening Group. The aim is to improve the look of the park with new planting, which the group would then assist in maintaining. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sandra or Cicely (contact details below) with your address, telephone number and/or email address.



FACEBOOK PAGE FOR FRIENDS

We now have a Facebook Page for Friends of Queens Park. A website is soon to follow. You can access the face book page by a search under Facebook Groups for "Friends of Queens Park Brighton."

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

Work on the improvements to the playground in Queens Park has now been completed, and local children and their parents can enjoy increased amenities including swings, new climbing frames, a large slide, roundabout, zip-wire, extra sand pits and playscape. The park has now one of the most comprehensive play facilities and adventure structures in the Brighton and Hove area.

Queens Park was fortunate in having the improvements completed before the national government introduced its programme of cuts. Only a few of 27 such local schemes escaped the axe.

Wild in the Park

Wildlife in the pond had its best year for decades with masses of frogspawn in the Spring leading to thousands of tiny froglets emerging from the pond in June.

These were joined by numbers of Smooth and Palmate Newts which have not been seen in the pond for some years (they must have heard about 2010 being the United Nations 'International Year of Biodiversity').

In July there were Emperor Dragonflies hunting insects on most days (see photo). The Broad Bodied Chaser Dragonfly was a new species making an appearance with the yellow females seen laying eggs under the duckweed and the blue males favouring the sun soaked western fence-end as a hunting station.

Here they were joined by dozens of little electric blue Damsel Flies.

Both geese and Moorhens successfully raised broods in spite of attacks from dogs (which are now allowed to roam free in the pond and other sensitive wildlife areas of the park).



Newly emerged Emperor Dragonfly Queens Park 17 July 2010
Photo: Chris Lowe

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I would like to join the Friends of Queens Park

Name

Address

Phone number

Post Code email address

Please send this form, or email Sandra or Cicely.

Friends of Queens Park Officers and Committee

Chair: Sandra Magson
Phone 691947 email: smagson@live.co.uk

Secretary: Cicely Knowles
Phone: 693364 email: cicelyknowles@sky.com

Other Officers and Committee members:

Jackie Lovesey, Mag Morris, Ann Ewings, Chris Lowe, Crispin Wynne-Roberts, Fiona Bruce and Owen Aaronovich (job share), Peter Lythell, Johnny and Lynda Webb (job share), Amanda Brace and Mark Strong (job share), Guy Smyth, Chris Cooke, Gillian Keenan