



FRIENDS OF QUEEN MARY'S PARK NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

What a Summer!! The park possibly saw its driest Summer ever. The UK saw its hottest summer on record since data collection began in 1884. We saw an unprecedented 40 days where temperatures topped 30C.

Sadly, we also saw several collapsed trees & branches over the Summer in QMP. Sutton Council advise this was a common problem across the whole borough with 5 major branches collapsing in just one week. QMP was no exception.



The Committee have also taken the initiative by looking to plant replacement trees. One such example is the orchard area of the park where we planted a Granny Smith back in May.



Sutton Parks Landscape Artist of the Year Competition 2026

For the first time Queen Mary's Park entered this competition. It was a great success with many great paintings and drawings completed. We are now compiling a 2027 calendar with the best entries. If you are interested in a calendar, please email calendar@friendsofqueenmaryspark.org.uk Calendars will be priced at just £15.



QMP Friends Group AGM 2026

The following were elected or re-elected at the recent AGM.

Chair: Mark Wyatt **Treasurer:** Ray Liffen **Membership Secretary:** Owen Jones

Secretary: Jane Wyatt **Website Manager:** John Penfold

Other Committee Members – Councillor Lisa Webster, Arveni Dooki, Moira Butt, Pia Boltiador

The Friends Group would like to express a special thanks to Susan Kenworthy who after 20 years on the Committee is standing down. Susan has been one of the park's biggest supporters over this time and her ideas & contribution to the success of the Friends Group will be greatly missed.

www.friendsofqueenmaryspark.org.uk

Diary dates for 2026/27

- **End of Summer QMP Litter Pick – Saturday 26th September 2026 @ 11.00**
- **Queen Mary's Hospital & QMP Archaeological Site History Walk – Saturday 24th October 2026 @ 11.00.** (Walk led by local historians Ann Morton & Andrew Skelton)
- **Big Garden Birdwatch – Weekend of 30/ 31st January 2027** (Led by local ornithologist Doug Shaw.)
- Please keep an eye on the park noticeboards, website and our Facebook page for additional information on these and other planned events.

Photography in the Park – Are you interested in joining a group?

If anyone is interested in joining a class to learn about how to photograph nature in the park, then please message capella.boltiador@gmail.com or doug@consultingartist.com . The Friends Group is looking to support a group that would promote this activity.



Tai Chi Classes in QMP

These classes led by Michelle Jones over the Summer were a great success and very well attended with an average of 10/12 people every Sunday morning. These classes now take a Winter break until the Spring when Michelle will be starting them up again.

Critically endangered tree found in QMP

We recently discovered that QMP is home to several True Service Trees (*Sorbus domestica*). There are believed to be fewer than 1,00 such trees currently growing in the UK and are extraordinarily scarce.

Many thanks to John P who is the Friends Group Website Manager who uncovered this amazing fact on one of his two walks a day in the park with his dog Coby.



The Friends Group Nature Sub-Committee is also looking at a project to name the most interesting & rarest trees in the park. We will keep you updated on this initiative but hopefully we will start work on this early in 2027.

Green Flag Award 2026/27

We are delighted to announce that we have retained our Green Flag Award for 2026/27. Many thanks to all park users who have helped us retain this award.

