



**DeptfordFolk**  
**Activity Report**  
**2017/2018**

# 1. Governance

## Public Meetings and Attendance

DeptfordFolk is the park user group for **Deptford Park and Folkestone Gardens**. Protecting and enhancing these parks and other routes, parks and green spaces in the area is the purpose of the organisation. The organisation constitution, **meeting minutes and relevant documents are all available online**. Minutes are published no later than 28 days after a meeting. Last year DeptfordFolk held quarterly public meetings and attended all Evelyn Ward Local Assemblies.

### DeptfordFolk Public Meetings (Minutes Online)

- 21 March 2017 — AGM and Spring Meeting
- 4th July 2017 — Summer Meeting
- 27th September 2017 — Autumn Meeting
- 28th November 2017 — Winter Meeting

### LBL Evelyn Ward Local Assembly

- 28th March 2017 (*Information Stand*)
- 29th July 2017 (*Information Stand & Activity*)
- 3rd October 2017 (*Evelyn200 Presentation*)
- 3rd February 2018 (*Priorities/Evelyn200 Presentation*)

**DeptfordFolk public meetings** were held in in Festa Sul Prato in Folkestone Gardens and between 25 and 35 people came to each. DeptfordFolk’s mailing list now contains 1300+ people and 1150+ follow on twitter. Notices are published at least 28 days prior to a meeting.

Meeting **agendas are discussed by the DeptfordFolk committee** which consist of three quorate members elected at the AGM and others who bring various skills and insight to the organisation. The DeptfordFolk committee meets in advance of public meetings and anyone can **email [hello@deptfordfolk.org](mailto:hello@deptfordfolk.org) to suggest agenda items**.

DeptfordFolk works in partnership with LB Lewisham council officers to ensure enhancements to the parks can continue to be maintained and cared for.



From L-R: DeptfordFolk Secretary Georgia Smith, MP Vicky Foxcroft, DeptfordFolk Chair Trina Lynskey

## Award Winning!

In November DeptfordFolk received the **Mayor of Lewisham Award for Volunteering**. Thanks to everyone who gets involved, supports events, responds to consultations and brings ideas and inspiration to improve our parks and our area.



## DeptfordFolk Committee Report

The 2016-2017 *Deptford Challenge Trust* survey and activities (reports available at [www.deptfordfolk.org](http://www.deptfordfolk.org)) gave DeptfordFolk a solid foundation and purpose for 2017-18. Having a clear list of priorities to work toward that were decided by our community means we can show the changes happening in the parks are genuinely what is needed. Transparency, consultation and engagement continue to be key priorities for DeptfordFolk. Our parks and green spaces are public assets that belong to everyone and enhancements benefit the whole community..

This year we have had continued support from our local partners Evelyn Parents Forum, Deptford Park Playclub, 2nd Deptford Scouts, Sir Francis Drake School, Deptford Park School, Festa Sul Prato, FareShare, Deptford Working Histories, London Ramblers and, of course, park users and local residents. We had great support from the Mayor of Lewisham Steve Bullock, MP Vicky Foxcroft, GLA Assembly Member Len Duval this year which enabled DeptfordFolk to secure major investment into the public realm.

The big news for DeptfordFolk is the realisation of a project we have been working towards for many years. A £2.9 million TfL/Mayor of London Liveable Neighbourhoods award for Canal Approach, Rolt Street and Scawen Road Pocket Park. There will be full consultation on the project over the next six months. In 2018 the DeptfordFolk Evelyn200 project will celebrate John Evelyn and see 200 trees planted in the Evelyn Ward to highlight poor air quality and celebrate our cultural heritage.

## DeptfordFolk Park Priorities

- #1—Folkestone Gardens Playground
- #2—Folkestone Gardens Pond
- #3—Seating & Benches
- #4—Deptford Park Footpaths
- #5—Safety & Access
- #6—Deptford Park Secret Garden
- #7—Safer Neighbourhood
- #8—Events & Activities



The Deptford Challenge Trust funded a park user survey and report which has established DeptfordFolk's park priorities.



The 2016/2017 activity report, survey findings, previous news letters etc. are all available on the DeptfordFolk website [www.deptfordfolk.org](http://www.deptfordfolk.org)

# Priority #1 - Folkestone Gardens Playground



Evelyn Ward has one quality playground where children can play and learn outside of schools hours. Deptford Park Playground needs attention. Folkestone Gardens Playground, promised in 2015 has not materialised. Evelyn Ward Child Poverty is at **43%** (January 2018 figures) almost **twice the Lewisham average**.

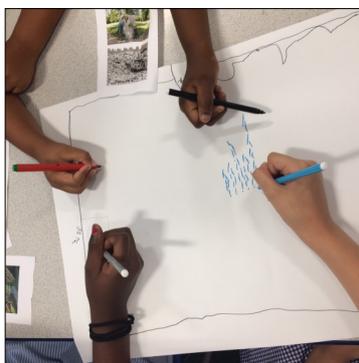


£2m Section106 money from Evelyn developments was to be spent extending Addy & Stanhope Secondary school but this expansion has now been cancelled.

Lewisham was the first borough to sign up to the **Sugar Smart campaign** and **create an environment** in which it is easier to make a healthier and less sugary choices. DeptfordFolk have requested drinking water fountains to be in all parks



(Above) bleak playground in Folkestone Gardens. (Middle & Right) Playground design workshop with Sir Francis Drake School 2017.

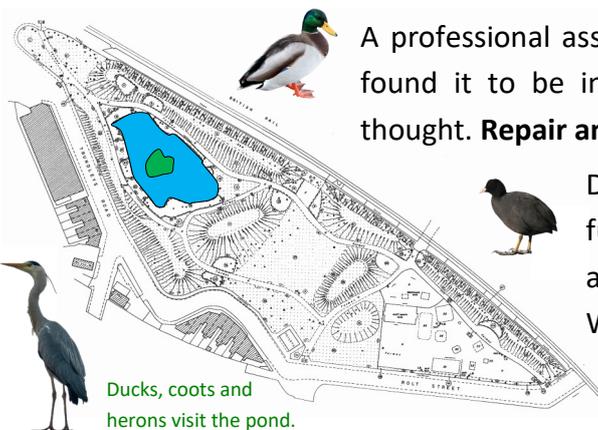


## WHAT NEXT?

DeptfordFolk have requested that funding be made available for Evelyn Ward **Playgrounds** to **tackle inactivity and childhood obesity** through out of school play and learning in our parks.

DeptfordFolk have requested that all Lewisham parks have a drinking water fountain (chosen by park users) to support the Sugar Smart campaign

# Priority #2 - Folkestone Gardens Pond

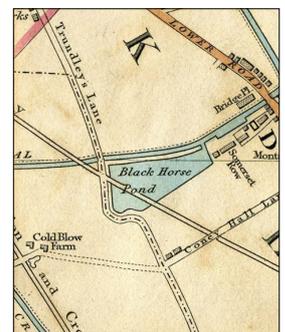


Ducks, coots and herons visit the pond.

A professional assessment of Folkestone Gardens Pond found it to be in far worse condition than originally thought. **Repair and lining replacement will cost £60k.**

DeptfordFolk have applied for grant funding to cover the cost of the pond and provide **new seating** in the park. We await the outcome of this bid.

Success would mean work undertaken in late 2018



An 1837 map shows the **Black Horse Pond**, part of **The Surrey Canal**, at the same location.

## WHAT NEXT?

Await outcome of grant funding request. LB Lewisham have confirmed additional funding should the grant application be successful. If funding is unsuccessful apply to alternate funder.



## Priority #3 - Seating & Benches

DeptfordFolk successfully applied to the **Veolia Environmental Trust for £39,800** to:

- replace missing, broken and mismatched benches in Deptford Park
- Provide new larger bins across Deptford Park
- Put a plaque on each bench with local historical information
- Provide a notice board at the Evelyn Entrance with a map of the park and information on the park's history

**Lewisham Council** have contributed **£10k** to the project which will be delivered by Glendale. Total project cost **£50k**.



Rotting, mismatched and missing benches will be replaced. Plaques will celebrate local history. Bins no longer fit for purpose will be replaced with larger fox-proof bins.



*All designs subject to final community consultation*



### WHAT NEXT?

Submit required documents. Spring 2018: Arrange a scheme of work to install benches, bins, plaques, notice board in Deptford Park.



## Priority #4 - Deptford Park Footpaths



Work has been ongoing with Glendale park management to upgrade footpaths in Deptford Park. The worst paths have now been re-laid with work on the rest of the paths undertaken as funding is released.

It's great to be able to get around Deptford Park safely particularly for those with limited mobility. Most of the paths will be completed by summer 2018 .



### WHAT NEXT?

Continue to keep everyone up to date as work progresses via mailing list, meetings and social media.



# Priority #5 - Safety & Access

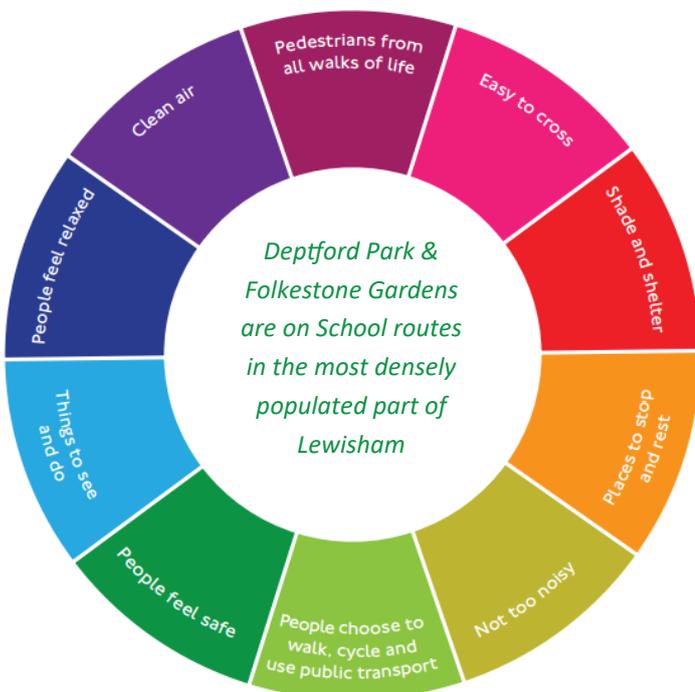
## Healthy Street Indicators

Getting to and from Deptford Park & Folkestone gardens needs to be better. Links to other parks, green spaces and major housing developments needs to be safer and more enjoyable. DeptfordFolk have been working with Lewisham Council and Sustrans to improve the local area and in line with the Mayor of London's Healthy Streets indicators.



## Rolt Street Re-Design

In 2017 DeptfordFolk worked with Sustrans to redesign Rolt Street on the south side of Folkestone Gardens. The project was shortlisted for a **2017 Mayor of London Healthy Streets Award**. The feedback from the collaborative planning session were positive and DeptfordFolk would like to use this approach for future urban re-design projects in the area.



## £2.9m Liveable Neighbourhood Funding:

DeptfordFolk, Lewisham Council & Sustrans worked together on a successful bid for a **£2.9 Million investment into the area** around Deptford Park & Folkestone Gardens from the

**Mayor of London's Liveable Neighbourhood Fund**. School Governors, TRA groups, the Scouts, Evelyn Parents forum, GLA member Len Duval and MP Vicky Foxcroft supported the bid.

The project will include **community consultation** in 2018 on the **Rolt Street Re-Design, pedestrianisation of the street in front of Sir Francis Drake School** and **re-opening Canal Approach** for walking & Cycling.



## WHAT NEXT?

DeptfordFolk & Lewisham Council will be working together to provide opportunities for everyone to contribute their ideas through public consultation. Consultation and engagement and feasibility work will take place in spring/summer 2018.



# #6 - Deptford Park Secret Garden

A decade ago the Deptford Park Residents Association and others produced The **2008 Deptford Park Masterplan**. Many of the issues raised then continue today.

The *Secret Garden* is the site of two houses destroyed during WWII. It is located just South of the Evelyn Gate on the east side of Deptford Park.



*“The secluded garden area, enclosed on three sides is the only hidden area of the park. It can feel unsafe and is therefore underused.” - DP Masterplan 2008*

Although Deptford Park is locked at night access can be gained via the Secret Garden from Evelyn Street as the **fence is broken**. Bushes, shrubbery and a willow structure have created secluded spots where evidence of **ASB, alcohol and drug** use are evident. Residents whose homes back onto the park have experienced **burglaries and attempted burglaries** on their homes. The Secret Garden needs a purpose and could be a great educational space if made secure and used in a defined way.



A willow hut at the back of the Secret Garden has evidence of ASB, drug and alcohol use.



Fencing separating the park from homes on Evelyn Street needs repair.

## What’s Happening Now?

DeptfordFolk and Lewisham Council (LBL) were **awarded £10k** from the Mayor of London’s Greener City fund to plant fruit trees in the Secret Garden. This was matched by **£10k** from LBL. These are scheduled to be planted on March 1st with an accompanying signage, fence repair and gates. The removal of bushes and shrubbery at ground level will reduce ASB. The area will become an educational resource for local schools and community. Total project cost **£20k**.



SUPPORTED BY

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

## WHAT NEXT?

Plant Community Orchard and provide opportunities for local people to learn how to care for the trees and use the space.

# Priority #7 - Safer Neighbourhood

This is an ongoing priority and is a combination of policing and designing out danger when looking at the public realm in and around the Deptford Park & Folkestone Gardens. As the parks improve and more people use them they become safer due to the presence of local people and community events. Improvements to access will make school routes and walking to/from/between parks safer.

- **Liveable Neighbourhood: £2.9m** to improve the streets around Deptford Park & Folkestone Gardens
- **Greener Cities: £20k** to define *The Secret Garden* and reduce ASB
- **Benches & Bins: £50k** for places to sit and bins will reduce litter will make parks feel safer
- **Evelyn200: Two Hundred** new trees in the Evelyn Ward will improve the neighbourhood

# Priority #8 - Events & Activities

DeptfordFolk continued to hold events, activities, pub quizzes and public meetings over the last year. Many of these were part of the Evelyn200 project (see next section) or the increasingly popular Cycle Programme. With the support of other local groups the local community enjoyed a range of activities which also drew new park users to Deptford Park & Folkestone Gardens.



## A Midsummer Faery Den Sunday July 9th Folkestone Gardens



Theatre in Folkestone Gardens with our friends *TeatroVivo*. Storytelling, singing and dancing in an interactive experience loosely based on Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.



## DeptfordFolk Pub Quiz The Black Horse SE8



DeptfordFolk held a pub quiz in early 2016 to engage as many people as possible in improving the area. This has become a weekly event now run by The Black Horse with the occasional DeptfordFolk takeover to promote the organisation and celebrate. In November 2017, during **National Tree Week**, We had a quiz with a tree dressing-up round. We also celebrated the *Mayor of Lewisham Award*, £2.9m *Liveable Neighbourhood Funding* and *Mayor of London Greener Cities Funding*. DeptfordFolk will continue to do an occasional takeover of the regular Blackhorse pub quiz.



# Priority #8 - Events & Activities Continued

The 1st Annual  
**Colin Blythe Memorial  
 Cricket Match**  
 Sunday August 6th 1pm-4pm

Join DeptfordFolk for a relaxed afternoon in Deptford Park for...

- A very informal cricket match (get involved!!!!) bring a picnic
- Fun & Games with bats & balls for children and young adults
- Lazing on your picnic rug and watching the match
- Cricket tea from our friends at FareShare
- No knowledge of cricket required! No requirement to play
- A local Cricket Coach will be running plenty of fun activities

FareShare are bringing treats and information about local **volunteering opportunities**.  
 Bring a picnic and enjoy watching the match in lovely Deptford Park.  
 Join the **cricket match** or the coach led **games for adults and children**. No cricket knowledge necessary!

Get In Touch! Get Involved!    [hello@deptfordfolk.org](mailto:hello@deptfordfolk.org)    [www.deptfordfolk.org](http://www.deptfordfolk.org)

## Colin Blythe Memorial Cricket Match Sunday August 6th Deptford Park

Colin "Charlie" Blythe was born in Deptford on May 30th 1879. and played cricket for Kent and England. Blythe was one of the finest bowlers of cricket's "Golden Age". Over 100 years later Blythe still ranks in the top 10 fastest cricketers to reach 100 wickets. During the First World War Blythe joined the 12th battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. 2017 marked 100 years since his death in WWI.

DeptfordFolk held a *Wild Cricket* afternoon in Deptford Park. It was great fun with a lot of people who had never played the game before. This will be come an annual fixture and DeptfordFolk are discussing more regular cricket activities in the park.



Local Cricket coach Asher came to give tips and support the game. **FareShare** provided cakes and biscuits while **Evelyn Parents Forum** provided hot drinks for the Cricket Tea. There were medals for all! Many parents said they would like their children to have the opportunity to play cricket more regularly.



# Priority #8 - Events & Activities Continued

## Evelyn Assembly Quarterly in Evelyn Ward

DeptfordFolk attend local assemblies to let the community know what we are doing. We put information in The Evelyn News which goes to every home in the ward and we have made presentations about Park Priorities, Evelyn200 and cycling at this year's assemblies.

Information goes to every home via the Evelyn News



Lewisham



Everybody loved our *Park-on-a-Biscuit* activity at the Evelyn Assembly Summer holiday event.



**Evelyn Parents Forum volunteers  
@Deptford Park Play Club**

Deptford Park Se85ag  
2016 National Federation of ALMO's Award Winners for  
Best Resident led Community initiative

Present a Family Sunday Halloween celebration!

At Deptford Park Play Club **Sunday 29 October** 10.30am to 3.00pm  
(no admittance 12 midday-1:00pm)  
**Families with under fives and older siblings welcome!**  
*'Priority given to Lewisham Homes families living in the Deptford area'*

10.30am  
Face Painting  
Arts & Crafts  
**Scary Rocket Blasting**  
Deptford Folk  
Pumpkin Carving

12.00 Lunch time

1pm - 2pm Story time  
**Room on the Broom**  
Halloween dress up  
essential!

Supported by

## Halloween Party Sunday October 29th Deptford Park Playclub

In 2017 DeptfordFolk once again supported our friends at Deptford Park Playclub with the Halloween Party. DeptfordFolk supported children to make and blast bottle rockets.



# Priority #8 - Events & Activities Continued



## Winter Get-Together Sunday December 10th Festa Sul Prato

DeptfordFolk and Festa Sul Prato had a low-key afternoon of singing and music at the café in Folkestone Gardens

**Evelyn Parents Forum**  
2016 National Federation of ALMO's Award Winners for Best Resident led Community initiative  
2017 Mayors Award for Voluntary Contribution to the Community

Our volunteers invite you to  
**Deptford Park Play club for our Family Christmas Fundraiser!**  
Donations on the door and table top Sale!  
Families with under fives and older siblings welcome!

**Babushka**

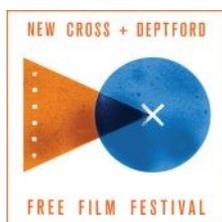
10.30 Crafts with Kay  
Face painting Glitter  
Tattoos - Louise  
12.00 Lunch time  
1pm -2pm Story Telling  
Babushka & Song time with Caroline.

2PM meet Father Christmas  
Christmas dress up welcome!

Thursday 21 December  
10.30am to 3pm  
At Deptford Park Play Club (inside the Park)

## Children's Christmas Party Sunday December 21st Deptford Park Playclub

DeptfordFolk contacted our good friend Father Christmas who came to visit the children in playclub and bring gifts from the north pole.



## Planned events for 2018:

- NXDFFF Cycle Powered Cinema in Folkestone Gardens and other films in the area
- Walks, Talks and other Evelyn200 related activities across the summer
- 4 quarterly public meetings
- Colin Blythe Memorial Cricket Match
- Second Sunday Cycle Repair and other cycling events
- Supporting seasonal events with other local partners
- Tree planting for Evelyn200 in Winter 2018



**WHAT NEXT?**

Continue to run regular events in the parks and develop strong partnership with other local groups. Film Festival, cricket, winter gathering, cycling and tree planting all proved popular as did partnerships with *Evelyn Parents Forum*.



# 3. Cycle Programme funded by TfL

In 2017 DeptfordFolk were awarded £10k over 3 years to run a cycle programme in and around Deptford Park and Folkestone Gardens. The **monthly cycle repair sessions** at Ron Hoskins Scout Hall have proved popular and will continue in 2018 as will the **cycle maintenance classes**. This year DeptfordFolk and TfL held a **consultation on Cycle Super Highway 4 (CS4)** which will run down Evelyn Street. DeptfordFolk also funded **Dr. Bike sessions at the Riverside Youth Club**. The New Cross & Deptford Free Film Festival (NXDFFF) event in Folkestone Gardens, a **cycle powered outdoor cinema**, will be back again in May 2018.



TfL held a well attended **CS4 consultation afternoon** with DeptfordFolk alongside the regular SSCR which regularly sees 25-40 people over the 4 hour session.

**FREE! Second Sunday Cycle Repair**  
**FREE! Bike Maintenance Sessions**  
**FREE! Guided Rides from Deptford**

DeptfordFolk are funded by TfL and Cycle Grants London to support cycling to and around Deptford Park & Folkestone Gardens SE8. If you want to learn how to **adjust, repair and maintain your bike** or your **children's bikes** we can help. DeptfordFolk run **FREE! cycle maintenance sessions** tailored to accommodate all cycling levels: **beginners, intermediate and advanced**. You can **drop-in or volunteer** at the monthly **FREE! Second Sunday Cycle Repair** to fix your bike and support others to get on their bikes. **Get involved, get in touch!**

@deptfordfolk  
www.deptfordfolk.org  
cycle@deptfordfolk.org



A women's bike maintenance class was well attended.



Free in Folkestone Gardens!

A new **FREE** to use deluxe bike stand/pump/tools in the park.

## Second Sunday Cycle Repair

**DeptfordFolk & Lewisham Cyclists**  
**FREE** bike repair sessions  
 Second Sunday of Every Month  
 10am-2pm on Quietway 1

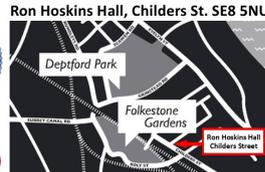
Get on your bike on Quietway 1 in 2018  
 Get your bike fixed  
 Get your children's bikes fixed  
 Learn how to maintain your bike  
 Get cycling information  
 Learn about cycling activities in your area

### 2018 Drop in Second Sunday Dates

Jan 14th - Feb 11th - Mar 11th - Apr 8th - May 13th - Jun 10th  
 Jul 8th - Aug 12th - Sep 9th - Oct 14th - Nov 11th - Dec 9th



**LEWISHAM CYCLISTS**



www.deptfordfolk.org  
 www.lewishamcyclists.co.uk

@deptfordfolk  
 @lewicyclists

cycle@deptfordfolk.org  
 lewishamcyclists@gmail.com



Cycle activities have attracted a number of **dedicated volunteers** who run the workshops and support related activities. Part of the funding included formally training a local person to be a qualified mechanic. This is underway and the person trained has also found some part time work doing bike deliveries for a local merchant.

# 4. Evelyn200



The DeptfordFolk Evelyn200 is project to plant 200 trees in the Evelyn ward, Deptford. It is inspired the legacy of **John Evelyn**, a 17th century diarist who wrote about trees, air quality, urban design, gardening and horticulture. Evelyn lived in Deptford at Sayes Court Manor, long since demolished, along with his famous garden.

Evelyn200 will celebrate the first publication of John Evelyn's diaries 200 hundred years ago and start to address the fact that this area has the lowest number of trees and the worst air quality in Lewisham.



## Tree 1 of 200

November 6th 2017



The First Evelyn200 tree was planted on November 6th 2017 on the **800th anniversary of the 1217 Charter of the Forest**. DeptfordFolk is a Charter Branch. The first tree was planted by children from Deptford Park School, local residents and Air-Quality champion Sophie Mc Gevor. It was and funded by Lewisham Council and is an **Acer Campestre field Maple** call called **"Evelyn"**.

Urban trees are expensive. They have been grown for a number of years at a nursery and cost a lot to deliver. DeptfordFolk are working with Lewisham Council Greenscene (The Land Owner) Glendale Park Management and Lewisham Homes (Park and Green Space Managers). However, the trees have instant effect.

DeptfordFolk is sourcing funding from a range of organisations. Local and national organisations, businesses and developers are keen to be involved and funding is recorded on the Evelyn200 Tree-Tracker. 100+ trees will be planted in Phase 1 of Evelyn 200



DeptfordFolk are working with Brockley based Street Trees for Living and have planted 12 trees on local streets so far. STFL have been a huge support for Evelyn200



# 4. Evelyn200 Continued...



Evelyn200 Project Phases:

**Phase 1: November 2017—April 2018: Tree Planting**

**Phase 2: May 2018—September 2018: Arts & Events**

**Phase 3: October 2018—February 2019: Tree Planting**

Tree planting takes place during the winter months. The goal is to plant 100 trees in phases 1 and 3. Phase 2 will be an opportunity to learn more about trees, John Evelyn and the urban environment.



Following a consultation evening in November 2017 DeptfordFolk planted an Orchard in Deptford Park in January 2018



This event was attended by Mayor of Lewisham Sir Steve Bullock, MP Vicky Foxcroft and GLA Member Len Duval and 120 local residents

## Community Orchard Planting & Wassail

Sunday January 28th

Deptford Park

Tree Planting 10.30am—1pm

Celebration: 2pm—4pm



Come along to Deptford Park and help plant a community orchard with DeptfordFolk, Evelyn Parents Forum and The Orchard Project. We will replace a lost grove in Deptford Park with various fruit trees. Digging, planting and learning with a free lunch for participants.

After planting there will be a celebration with singing, dancing, digging and sausages. Bring a mug for hot mulled cider/juice. **All Welcome!**

### Children's Activities at Deptford Park Playclub 10.30am—3pm

Plant trees in the park with your family  
Make masks, musical instruments, colourful head-dresses and crowns for the Wassail at 2pm

Woodland Singing & Storytime  
Healthy Lunch & Snacks Provided

£2 first child  
£1 Siblings



Remember: DeptfordFolk AGM & Spring Meeting Tuesday February 13th Festa Sul Prato  
www.deptfordfolk.org | hello@deptfordfolk.org | @deptfordfolk



