

Minutes of the meeting of the Dulwich Society Tree Committee held on Thursday 27 April 2023.

Present: David Beamish (Chair), Patricia Hole, Mary Poole-Wilson, Glynis Williams.

An apology was received from Sam Taylor.

Declaration of interests: Members' declared interests are recorded in an appendix.

The **minutes** of the meeting on held on 5 January 2023 were approved.

Matters arising: The Chair was to follow up the proposal to seek new members of the Committee, and the possibility of producing digital maps, initially of the Old Burial Ground in Dulwich Village.

The Chair had circulated an update note covering most of the rest of the agenda.

Tree walks: Daniel Greenwood had agreed in principle to lead another walk for the Dulwich Society in 2023. A date had yet to be fixed.

Tree to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II: The Committee had agreed to go for a disease-resistant elm, and one had recently been donated to the Society and planted on 11 April by Jeremy Prescott in the Dulwich Picture Gallery garden. It was an *Ulmus* 'Wanoux' (VADA). Once the plaque currently on order had arrived, an appropriate ceremony would be arranged. [*Update: the plaque arrived on 28 April.*]

It was suggested that Mary Poole-Wilson should write to thank Mark Lane, who had proposed a disease-resistant elm.

Tree articles for the Dulwich Society Journal: An article on mimosa trees had appeared in the Spring 2023 Journal, the last under Brian Green's editorship. The new editors were Ian McInnes and Claire Richards, and at Claire's request the Chair had provided an article on tree planting to limit climate change for the Summer issue.

The following topics had been proposed for future articles:

- Crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) (article by Glynis Williams for the Autumn 2023 Journal)
- Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) (article by Mary Poole-Wilson for a Winter Journal, if possible Winter 2023)
- Stag's horn sumach (*Rhus typhina*) (article by the Chair)

In addition it might be worth revisiting the sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), the subject of an article by Belinda Hindley in 2013 (<https://www.dulwichsociety.com/the-journal/autumn-2013/dulwich-trees-liquidambar-styraciflua-sweet-gum>).

It was noted that in the past the copy date was usually the 26th of the month, e.g. 26 April for the Summer issue, but the new editors had asked for copy by the beginning of April for their first issue. So it was desirable for an article for the Autumn issue to be ready by early July.

Tulip tree outside 37A Dulwich Village: It was noted that there was to be a site visit on Wednesday 3 May at 12 noon. At this stage Southwark Council had declined to permit the Dulwich Estate to remove and replace the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), which was currently barred off for safety reasons because the ground around it was uneven. The view of most Committee members was that, as the pavement was a wide one, it would be desirable to make the tree safe, if practical, rather than remove and replace it.

Oaks near the Cox's Walk footbridge: The threatened oaks had been saved thanks to a revised plan produced by Southwark Council for making safe the footbridge. The relevant Southwark Council web page (<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/highways->

[defects-and-improvement-maintenance/bridges-subways-and-walls?chapter=3](#)) had recently been updated and now included pictures of a recently installed temporary access ramp. The page states “The new proposal takes into account the public’s requests to save the oak trees. The new proposal has increased the costs significantly. The revised cost is now at £900,000 and the ramp cost is at £107,000. We will seek additional funding for the increased cost of the works.”

Tree walk: James Thompson, Chairman of the Dulwich Society, had written to David Beamish to invite him to develop, as one of a series of themed walks, a tree walk around the local area, which could be followed using a mobile phone. The Committee discussed the route and the places to be included, such as the garden of Dulwich Library. It was suggested that the existing map created by Rosemary Lindsay (“Remarkable trees in Dulwich”) should be referenced. David was planning to discuss the practicalities with Sharon O’Connor. He envisaged that it might be useful also to create a PDF version, downloadable from the tree page of the Dulwich Society website.

Cleaner Greener Safer funding: It was proposed that, in the 2023 round of bids for CGS funding, the Committee should try again to obtain funding for tree planting in the unused space (at one time a lay-by) to the south of the College Gate entrance to Dulwich Park.

Patricia Hole suggested that funding might also be sought for tree planting in Alleyn Park; she would look into this.

Any other business: Patricia Hole raised the question of the nuisance caused by falling sycamore seeds. It was however noted that this was not considered a reason not to impose a Tree Preservation Order on a sycamore tree where that was otherwise desirable.

Attention was drawn to the micro-forest planted in 2022 using the Miyawaki method in the Horniman Gardens, close to the South Circular Road, to provide a green screen. See e.g. <https://www.ft.com/content/8bc0b940-7539-4c5a-ad9b-24798808ac2b> and <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/story/horniman-reveals-design-for-south-london-micro-forest/>.

Next meeting: Provisionally arranged for Thursday 6 July 2023 at 5pm.

Declarations of interest

David Beamish: Chair, Dulwich & District u3a. Volunteer, Dulwich Picture Gallery. Member, Dulwich Park Friends. Member, Woodland Trust.

Patricia Hole: No relevant interests.

Mary Poole-Wilson: No relevant interests.

Sam Taylor: Employed by London Wildlife Trust as manager, Sydenham Hill Wood.

Glynis Williams: No relevant interests.