

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION 03-04

THE PROJECT 05-06

THE HISTORY/PORTOBELLO HOUSE 07-10

THE HISTORY/HOLDERNESS HOUSE 11-12

MAP ONE 13-14

MAP TWO 15-16

MAP THREE 17-18

WILDLIFE IN TIVOLI PARK & KNIGHT'S HILL

WOODS 19-20

FLORA 21-22

FAUNA 23-24

THE COMMUNITY 25-30

HOW TO FIND US 31

BIBLIOGRAPHY 32

CREDITS 33



'The biggest threat those two sites have is climate change. As the weather warms up and gets wetter and colder, open spaces really need to be designed to accommodate that.'

*- Iain Boulton,
Lambeth Environmental Compliance Officer &
Ecologist*

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been developed to highlight the historical background, flora and fauna of Knight's Hill Wood and Tivoli Park. In order to preserve their inherent qualities and richness, the charity Nature Vibezzz believes it is essential not only to understand something of the area's history, but also to document its current biodiversity and the community that engages with it: everyone from regular park users and local residents, to nature lovers and anyone simply passing through.

We feel this is especially important at a time when families in urban areas are increasingly disconnected from nature. In comparison to previous generations, many young people have far less freedom to explore, play and roam. Not only do they have fewer opportunities to reach wild places beyond the cities where they live, but are not even discovering the natural world on their doorsteps.

Instead of connecting with the nature around them through their senses: touching climbing, looking at plants and insects, for example, young people are spending more and more time indoors. Partly this is through parents and carers becoming more wary of the urban world, thanks to heavier traffic and other risks, but also increasingly from screen-based distractions, like social-media and gaming. As a result a vital, life-affirming respect for and interest in the natural world is being lost.

For these reasons, our intention is to develop and manage the site as a Local Nature Reserve in the near future. Towards this goal, over the last 18 months Nature Vibezzz has involved the community in surveying each site's biodiversity, as well as contributing their opinions and taking part in creating new features that will be left for the future.

See picture(right): Nature Vibezzz community mid-constructing wildflower heart.



Together we have also worked to keep the areas clear of waste, promote good habits and to challenge negative preconceptions about these local green spaces. In short we aim to conserve an invaluable piece of natural history in the heart of urban south London.

Volunteers from all walks of life have been trained in documentary and research techniques to interview and record the history of the sites, working together to produce this booklet and a DVD to give future generations a record of their local green spaces.

Through recording and celebrating this work, we aim to inspire individuals and families in the area to continue to enjoy and care for Tivoli Park and Knight's Hill Woods. By doing this we hope to ensure that these unique local green spaces are preserved for generations to come.