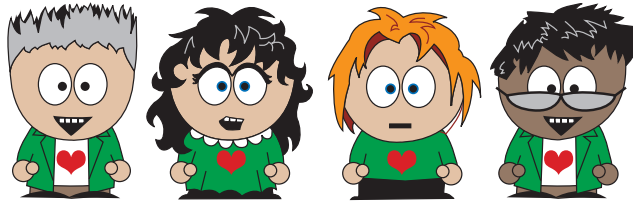


# FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Thursday 30th April**  
**Scout Hut, Evesham Road**

## **Attendees**

Ron welcomed everyone to this special meeting to arrange The Friends' summer event. Present were Ron Innell, Lucy Murphy, Paul Thompson, Nicky Brown, Roger Jones and Lyndsay Jones.

## **Apologies**

Joel Farrell and Martin Rodman

## **Park Update**

Lucy reported that the remedial and maintenance work on the trees was now complete, and there were no major problems with tree diseases. The Park budget is generally on track, but the nursery continues to be in deficit. Ron suggested that volunteers could possibly help out in the nursery. The Friends will be kept up to date with plans. Keeper Paul Rust has been replaced following his retirement, and a further new keeper and part time summer keepers are being recruited. Changes have been made to the charges for use of sports facilities, making weekday hire cheaper in line with other nearby sports facilities. The junior cricket is popular, and a tie in with Essex County Cricket may be possible.

Paul reported that several volunteers had helped with work in the Wildlife Garden, and with the establishment of another wildflower area at Country Gate. The Gardening Club was also running again in the Vegetable Garden. There are a good number of school bookings for the summer.

## **Summer Event**

This will take place on Sunday 28th June.

Paul has arranged for the RSPB to attend, and also the Dogs Trust. He will contact the bee keeper and see if he would be prepared to show the hives and talk to people.

The Friends theme will take the form of a treasure hunt to find elements of the food web within the park. Lyndsay has a suitable food web picture which can be adapted. As everything starts with energy from the sun, Lyndsay is looking into the possibility of finding someone who can bring a solar telescope to the event. We will also run a craft stall as usual, pom-pom insects, details to be worked out.

A discussion followed as to exactly what would be offered and how many people would be needed. Ideally we would have people visiting:

Wildlife Garden to see mini beasts, but not pond dipping as there will probably be too many people to do this safely or well.

Wildflower Meadows to see butterflies

Entrance to fox earth in the garden of Margery Cottages, also a good place to see various birds

Orchard area – importance of trees and also food for humans

Birds in all places

Nicole will be on duty and may be able to lead a tree identification walk  
It was suggested that there could band playing for some of the time. Paul will look into this.

### **Funding**

Paul has started an application to Newham for a "Lets Get the Party Started" grant, and will pass this to Nicky for submission as it has to come from The Friends.

There is £134 remaining in the Friends funds.

It was suggested that the Gurney family might be prepared to give the Friends some support, as they have shown interest in our events when these are reported to the management committee. Roger and Lyndsay agreed to draft a letter and liaise with Lucy about this.

All present agreed to continue to work up the details and liaise with each other by email, as the meeting had run out of time, closing at 8.30pm. Ron thanked everyone for their time and interest.