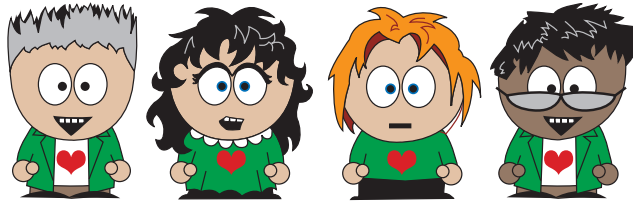


FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

Thursday 14th March 2013
Scout Hut, Evesham Road, Stratford E15

Attendees

Nicky Brown (Chairman), Ron Innell (Vice Chairman), Sue Banks, Jo Barker, Chris Dowling, Lyndsay Jones, Roger Jones, Janice Kearsy

Apologies

Anne Easter, Joel Farrell, Pete Kearsy, Colm Kerrigan, Christopher Owen, Marlene Sidaway

Introduction

Nicky welcomed everyone, and started by clearing up the confusion over dates of events and meetings. The correct dates are given at the end of these minutes.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from 29th November had been circulated previously by email and were agreed to be correct.

Bird Survey

Bob has submitted his last annual report, and is kind enough to offer advice should we need it in the future. We thank him again for all his work on the bird surveys.

There have been a lot of interesting sightings over the winter, and we were lucky to have a group of Fieldfares and Redwings around for the RSPB birdwatch event on 26th January. 25 people attended this guided walk and found it fun and interesting.

We note that some warbler species seem to have stayed in Britain over the winter – Jan and Pete have had a pair of Blackcaps in their garden all winter, and Alison has spotted a Garden Warbler in the park's garden.

AOB

Nicky decided to take this item next. It has become apparent that we need to set up the Friends group in a more organised way. Sue Banks explained that we may be either a group of volunteers under the direction of the park staff, which is closest to how we operate now, but everyone would need to register individually as a volunteer, OR we become a completely autonomous group having our own Public Liability Insurance, bank account, first aider, risk assessments, etc. We would need to obtain more funding to support ourselves in this form. The matter has been raised because of concerns that we do not have public liability cover. After discussion it was agreed that Sue would find out which option the Park management would prefer and get back to us. We may need to obtain a one-off event insurance policy for the Spring event, which should not be expensive.

Spring Event

This will be held on Saturday 27th April. The title will be ***Heroes and Heroines – story-telling and music-making in the park***. Pete Castle, the storyteller/singer will do two sessions of 45 minutes

(more if going very well). The event will start at 1pm, and will take place on and around the bandstand. From 1.45pm we will have the craft activities. After discussion it was agreed that Chris Dowding will lead a group in a songwriting activity, and Lyndsay and Catherine will lead making and decorating various shakers and other instruments made from recycled materials.

It was agreed that Friends would save empty cans (with lids removed leaving no sharp edges) plastic water bottles with lids (although we should be able to source a large quantity of these from the 10k/ half marathon in the park on 14 April), and large plastic tubs (if we do not have enough left from last year's boat-making. Lyndsay will check this.)

We will need to buy a quantity of assorted elastic bands, and some dried beans for the shakers. We will have to warn people that these constitute a choking hazard for under-three year olds.

The following people will be there to help on the day: Nicky, Ron, Marion, Jan, Jo, Lyndsay, Roger, Catherine, Chris. All other volunteers very welcome.

Publicity

Nicky will do the posters over Easter and Sue will print them in the office. We will ask if some can be displayed at Discovery, Stratford Library and Stratford Circus. Lyndsay will deliver them if this is possible.

Dates for the diary:

Bat Walk Thursday 26th September — NOTE changed to Thursday from Friday evening

Leaf Pile Day, Saturday 2nd November

Park in the Dark, Friday 6th December

Future Meeting Dates:

Thursday 27th June 2013 (AGM)

Thursday 12th September 2013

Thursday 28th November 2013

Nicky thanked everyone for their input, and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.