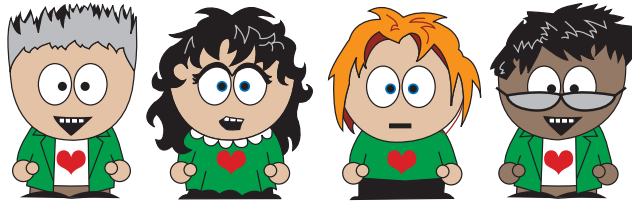


FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

Thursday 13th March 2014
Scout Hut, Evesham Road, E15

Attendees:

Sue Banks, Nicky Brown (Chairman), Ron Innell (Vice Chairman), Lyndsay Jones, Roger Jones, Janice Kearsey, Rosie Thornton (Park Manager)

Apologies:

Jo Barker, Mary Edmondson, Joel Farrell, Laurie Howell, Pete Kearsey

Welcome:

Nicky welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agree Minutes of Last Meeting:

Minutes had been circulated previously by email and were agreed to be correct.

Park Update:

Rosie Thornton introduced herself as the new Park Manager, and outlined her career to date, including time at Kenwood House her previous post as Parks Manager for Southwark Council. She explained that the park has two temporary garden and nursery staff to cover the coming busy period, and that the park's "Roots and Shoots" scheme apprentice had won an award for "gardening against the odds". The Friends asked that she pass on our congratulations to the apprentice. The Lord Mayor's visit will take place on June 6th.

Bird Survey:

Rosie is keen on bird watching, and would be prepared to help with our survey if Alison decides to move away.

Review of Park in the Dark, Bird Walk, and Stargazing Events:

About 70 people attended Park in the Dark. It has been suggested that this event might start a bit later than 4.30 in future, as people who are at work find it too much of a rush or are unable to attend. The choir was very popular, and Nicky will ask them along for this year.

25 people attended the pre-RSPB Big Birdwatch walk. They all took away RSPB survey forms to complete the following weekend, and said they had found the walk interesting and enjoyable.

The stargazing event was only advertised by email, as we could only accommodate 15 people in the office for the slide show and extended talk if the weather was cloudy. The event booked up almost immediately, with a waiting list for places, the sky was fairly clear on the night, and there was a good response from those attending. We will plan to hold some more sessions over the next winter, and it was suggested that we keep a record of the names of those who attended, to try and ensure as many people as possible have the chance to attend.

Volunteer Registration Forms:

Sue now has completed forms from all Friends who are taking part in our events, and all those involved with the bird survey.

Next Event:

This will be "Poppies for Peace". Nicky had looked up relevant WW1 dates, and it was decided to hold the event on 28th June, which is the date of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the war.

We will make a 'peace tree' by attaching branches to the playground railings. Sue will ask the park staff to collect suitable small branches.

Lyndsay will check the craft materials in the shed, and make a prototype poppy. Lyndsay will contact Catherine for help and advice on the poppies, and about a template for a dove shape, on which to write peace messages to be attached to the 'tree'.

It was suggested that we have the portable stereo system as used for Park in the Dark. Choice of music to be decided later.

AOB:

Nicky's three years as Chairman will end at the AGM in June. She asked if anyone wished to volunteer as the next Chairman, and Ron said that he would be willing to take on the job.

Following a discussion about how to attract more people to come to meetings and help run events, Ron suggested that people might prefer to take on a practical project in the park, rather than just help out with events currently planned. Rosie will consider whether there is a project which could be suitable.

Dates for the Diary:

Bat Walk Thursday 18 September, but possibly another date as well

Leaf Pile Day Saturday 15th November

Park in the Dark Friday 6th December

Future Meeting Dates:

Thursday 19 June 2014 – AGM

Thursday 11 September 2014

Thursday 27 November 2014

Nicky thanked everyone for their input, and closed the meeting at 8.05pm