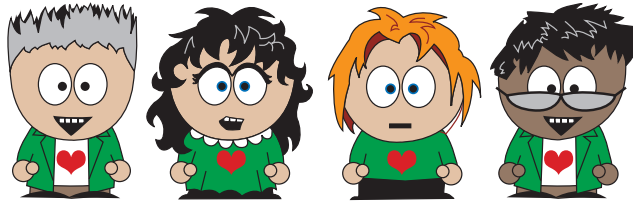


## FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Thursday 28th November 2013**  
**Scout Hut, Evesham Road, E15**

### **Attendees:**

Sue Banks, Jo Barker, Nicky Brown (Chairman), Ron Innell (Vice Chairman), Lyndsay Jones, Janice Kearsey, Martin Rodman (Park Superintendant)

### **Apologies:**

Joel Farrell, Richard Gentry (Interim Park Manager), Roger Jones, Pete Kearsey

### **Welcome:**

Nicky welcome everyone to the meeting.

### **Agree Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Minutes from 12th September had been circulated previously by email and were agreed to be correct.

### **Park Update:**

- Martin reported that the successful applicant for the post of Park Manager unfortunately had to withdraw due to personal reasons. The post has been re-advertised, there are 18 applicants, and interviews start on 10th December.
- The funding from City Bridge Trust runs to March 13th, 2014 and will provide for more wildflowers to be sown, and native trees planted.
- The Nursery is to have some alterations and improvements, and there is also funding for some path re-laying and for improvements to the public toilets.
- Martin thanked the Friends for our work on the batwalk, Leaf Pile event and continuing bird surveys.
- It was agreed that the Leaf Pile event would be held a week later in 2014, to give more time for leaf fall if the weather is mild again.

### **Park in the Dark:**

This year's choir is Newham All Stars. Stella and Jan will help with the catering.

### **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.

### **Revised Terms of Reference:**

These will remain unchanged, except for a maximum term of three years for the chairman. It was suggested that ideally there should be two different chairmen (even if they do not serve the maximum term) before a previous chairman stands for another term. It was agreed that Sue would put a suitably worded amendment into the Terms of Reference.

**Spring Event:**

- Nicky had contacted a Maypole dancing group, but they were too expensive.
- It was suggested that we tie in with the Park's poppy planting events, part of a national campaign to plant poppies to commemorate the First World War.
- Friends felt strongly that we should tie our event to a peace theme, possibly with paper poppies (we have plenty of red crepe paper) and peace messages decorating a tree. Nicky agreed to look into suitable dates.

**Bird Survey:**

Lyndsay had written out the aims and method being used for the surveys. Sue will email the safety and induction details for us to agree. This is to define the survey procedure for future use.

**AOB:**

- A star gazing event was suggested, as interest had been shown in this at the bat walk. Lyndsay will check suitable dates in February, as it is best to avoid too much moonlight. An indoor alternative was discussed for cloudy weather.
- It was suggested that an additional bat walk could be held in late August, as this event is so popular.

**Dates for the Diary:**

*Guided bird watching for RSPB Big Birdwatch* Saturday 18th January

(one week before the RSPB event so people can do their own bird survey on the RSPB weekend)

*Bat Walk* Thursday 25th September

*Leaf Pile Day* Saturday 15th November

*Park in the Dark* Friday 6th December

**Future Meeting Dates:**

Thursday 13 March 2014

Thursday 19 June 2014 – AGM

Thursday 11 September 2014

Thursday 27 November 2014

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