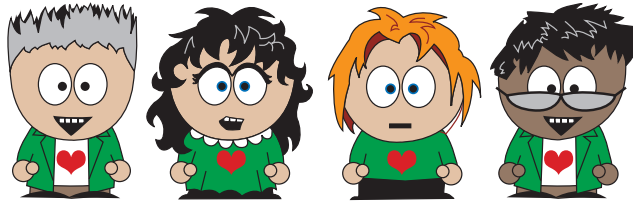


## FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Thursday 26th November**  
**Park Office, West Ham Park**

### **Attendees**

Ron Innell (Chairman), Roger Jones (Vice Chairman), Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Paul Thompson (Support Officer Outreach, Sustainability and Biodiversity), Nicky Brown, Pat Mossop, Abdul Sheik, Christopher Owens, Lyndsay Jones

### **Apologies**

Dini Patel, Sonia Wallace, Jo Barker, Frances Amey, Diana Malcolm, Helen Mossop

### **Introduction**

Ron welcomed everyone to the park office, as the Scout Hut had been unavailable.

### **Minutes of the last meeting:**

Minutes from the AGM, 4th June 2015 which were not available at our September meeting, were agreed as accurate.

The minutes from the September meeting were agreed, apart from noting that it had been decided to move the Bandstand concerts from August to July in future.

### **Park Update**

Lucy reported that the park now has a full complement of staff, with a new full time gardener, Sam, who has come from Kew Gardens.

The autumn tree survey has resulted in the need to remove some trees, and the Tulip Tree in the garden, which is held together by straps, is not doing well and is under review. It is still important to look out for infestation by the Oak Processionary Moth, and Lyndsay will remind the bird survey team what to look out for.

A grant has been obtained from the Lawn Tennis Association to resurface the tennis courts, which will have a re-launch in May with new coaching courses available.

The East London Business Alliance has offered to send a team of volunteers to help with projects. The lodge on Upton Lane is now to be let out, as it is no longer needed for park staff.

The license for the catering van has been renewed for a year whilst other options are considered. We need to agree a means of counting volunteer hours for park records. Lyndsay will ask the bird survey team to include the time spent on their returns and will pass this on to Paul. Roger suggested that we include on the agenda an item for people to report time spent, including work at home on posters, grant applications etc.

### **Recent Events**

Scout Group Bat Walk. This went very well, the Cub Scouts were well behaved and plenty of bats were seen.

Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile. The event had been a great success with around 100 people taking

part. The craft event and hedgehog house construction had also been very popular. Paul suggested that we nominate someone to take photographs and count numbers at each event, and also to try to complete some "60 Second Survey" sheets, as it is difficult to reach the target number for these, which is set by the management committee.

Visit to City Gardens Friends Group. Roger, Lyndsay, Abdul and Lucy had been shown around some of the Barbican gardens, and attended the Friends AGM. Roger explained how they structure and plan their work and events, which is completely different to the way we operate, with different aims. They have a core organising group, as we do, but also recognised groups of regular and occasional helpers. They presented a summary sheet of activities at the meeting, and Roger has prepared a draft version for our group, which he will update following discussions at this meeting and present for further discussion at our next meeting. Both groups felt that they could learn from each other, and the City group would like to visit the park. It was suggested that we invite them to our April meeting, and show them around the park first. Roger will contact their chairman, Sarah Hudson, and arrange this.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Park in the Dark. This will be held on Friday 4th December. Ron agreed to complete the application forms, and everyone agreed who was able to attend and how the jobs would be allocated.

The guided bird watching event prior to the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, will be held on Sunday January 17th, 2016, 10.30 -12.00

Two Stargazing walks/indoor presentations will be held on Friday 15th January 2106 and Thursday 18th February, both starting at 6.30pm

### **Preparing a Plan for 2016, and future role of the Friends**

Lucy handed round some statistics regarding park use and users, and some projects being considered for next year where volunteer input is being actively sought. We had a brainstorming session and discussion and various suggestions were made including:

- Regular monthly sessions for people to turn up and help with Park and Garden projects, probably at a weekend to include interested people who are still in employment.
- Regular Monday morning litter picking. A trial of this idea during the summer was suggested.
- More Friends events based around culture and history, following the interest raised in Dr Fothergill's plant collection by the display on the bandstand in the summer.
- Photographic competition.
- It was suggested that events could encourage people to join in with music and dance. Lyndsay has a friend who teaches Maypole Dancing, and will discuss the possibility of including this in our Spring/Summer event.
- Paul would be pleased for people to contribute short articles (about 150 words) to go into the Park Newsletter

### **Dates of future meetings**

As discussed in September, these are:

Thursday 26th November 2015

Tuesday 16 February 2016

Thursday 21 April 2016

Tuesday 21 June 2016

Thursday 22 September 2106

Tuesday 22 November 2016

### **AOB**

Ron explained that a friend of his and Marion's has left money in her will for Marion to distribute to local good causes. FWHP will be receiving £1000, which is wonderful news and should last us two or three years. It is too much money to be held for us by the Park, so we will need to have a bank account. Lyndsay will make enquiries as to the easiest, and least costly, way to do this.

Ron thanked everyone for their input, and closed the meeting at 8.30pm