



**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012**  
**Scout Hut, Evesham Road, Stratford E15**

**Attendees:**

Sue Banks (Support Officer – Outreach, Sustainability and Biodiversity, West Ham Park), Jo Barker, Nicky Brown (Chairman), Ron Innell (Deputy Chairman), Lyndsay Jones, Janice Kearsley, Peter Kearsley, Avis Newman, Terry Newman

**Apologies:**

Joel Farrell, Roger Jones, Geraldine King, Kina Legg, Marlene Sidaway, Bob Smith, Catherine Tye

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

These were read and agreed as a true record.

**Introduction:**

Nicky welcomed the group to the meeting. She thanked everyone for his or her contributions to the successful Past Times event. Thanks were also recorded to Geraldine and the park staff for their support, both in organising and financing the event and for help on the day. It was agreed that the activities on offer had been very popular, especially the owl display and the crafts.

A number of people had commented that there had not been enough publicity and they hadn't known the event was happening. After a discussion, it was agreed that whilst this is always an issue no matter how much we think we have advertised, we still always get about as many people as we can cope with. However, we will try to ensure that our events go in the listings section of the Newham Mag, and are mentioned on Nusound Radio, the Forest Gate local station. Lyndsay agreed to contact these two with details of Leaf Day and Park in the Dark.

**Bird Survey:**

August had seen a flock of 10 pied wagtails, and sightings of willow and garden warblers. Bob is doing the September survey, which will be his last. Nicky thanked Bob for continuing to help with the survey after his move out of the area. Bob has now handed over the collating and forwarding of the survey results to Lyndsay. We now have enough volunteers to sustain the survey work, and Lyndsay will be the co-ordinator.

**Forthcoming Events**

**Bat walk**

Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6.30pm when the Park closes. Lyndsay will lead the walk again. Sue will take bookings. The event will follow the same format as previous years.

## **Leaf Event**

Saturday November 3rd. Geraldine had sent a message to suggest the event run for a shorter time than last year.

If the event is to be competitive, we need to find some other groups to take part. It was agreed that Nicky would see if Ricky could suggest any other Scout Groups who might take part, and also contact Christopher to find out if the Sea Cadets were interested, as they had not turned up last year.

After discussion it was agreed that the event would start at 13.00 with a guided walk. The competition piles would run from 13.30, and would be judged by Nicky solely on height after the allotted time. The piles would then be combined and jumped on! The craft event would run from 2.30pm to 4pm on the bandstand. Catherine is designing a 'green man' mask, which can be made from our existing supply of materials. Nicky will design the posters.

## **Park in the Dark**

Friday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Sue (and Ricky) suggest using paper lanterns and battery operated tea lights for safety. One or two jars were broken last year, although no-one was hurt. Nicky will look into the cost of this.

Jan asked that the refreshment tables be placed in a better lit area of the bandstand, as last year they could not see properly to make the drinks.

It was agreed that it would be nice to have carol singing, and that the park office could print out song sheets. Nicky will see if the music academy would be willing to play.

## **Events for 2013**

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch takes place weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> /27<sup>th</sup> January 2013, so we will run our bird watch walk on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, details to be finalised at November meeting

As it was getting late, it was decided to discuss the spring event at the next meeting, and to confirm the 2013 dates then as well. Nicky asked people to bring along their suggestions for the spring event.

## **Future Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting will be Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Dates for 2013 will be confirmed at the December meeting.

Dates suggested are 17<sup>th</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> April and July 11<sup>th</sup>

## **AOB**

No one wished to raise any other business.

## **Dates for the diary:**

Bat Walk, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October,

Leaf Pile Day, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November,

Park in the Dark, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Big Garden Bird Watch Walk, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

Thanking everyone for their input and support, Nicky closed the meeting at 20.10.