



Thursday 1st March 2012
The Scout Hut, Evesham Road

Attendees:

Nicky Brown (Chairman), Geraldine King (Park Manager), Sue Banks (Support Officer – Outreach, Sustainability and Biodiversity, West Ham Park), Larry Howell, Teresa Howell, Ron Innell, Lyndsay Jones, Roger Jones, Janice Kearsley, Peter Kearsley, Colm Kerrigan

Apologies:

Ann Easter, Joel Farrell, Carol Hinvest, Christopher Owen, Bob Smith, Catherine Tye

Introduction:

Nicky welcomed everyone, and thanked Charlotte and Catherine, who have now both moved away from the area, for all their work on behalf of the Friends. Catherine has kindly offered to continue to advise on craft projects.

Nicky passed on apologies from Lisa Ann Downs of Community Links who had hoped to be able to attend to explain the work of Community Links, and discuss co-operation with our group. She will try to arrange for someone else to come along to a future meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting:

Minutes from 1st December 2011 and the special History Day meeting on 26th January 2012 were agreed to be correct.

Vote for Deputy Chairman:

Ron Innell volunteered to take this role. He was seconded by Janice Kearsley and unanimously elected. Thank you, Ron.

Bird Survey

A flock of redwings had been seen briefly on 9th February, and a goldcrest had been seen, the first for over a year. There seem to be a large number of bluetits and great tits about, and both species of woodpecker are being sighted regularly.

Bob will do the survey in March, Geraldine in April and Lyndsay in May

History Day

Title: Jan suggested "Past Times in the Park", and Ron suggested "Follow our Journey from Fothergill to Gurney". It was felt that Ron's suggestion would make a good strap line under the title suggested by Jan.

Music: Nicky had contacted the Epping Forest Pipe Band but they were already booked up. Ann and Christopher had not reported any response to their enquiries from the Music Academy or Morris side. It was decided to wait another two weeks, and if nothing has been arranged Geraldine will contact Community Links and see if they can put us in touch with any musicians.

Action: Geraldine

Sports: Geraldine had contacted Newham's Children and Community Services team, who have agreed to organise traditional children's races, including providing all equipment, at no charge. The races will take place in the area between the bandstand and the playground.

Action: Ensure contact is maintained and Newham staff involved have all the information they need.

Peg Dolls: Jan and Ron had both found suppliers of peg doll bodies, which are quite cheap. We will need marker pens to decorate the dolls.

Action: Decide who is organising purchase of dolls etc, and who will be organising this part of the event on the day.

Boats: Ron will make a prototype and test it. Everyone was asked to save plastic tubs, e.g. margarine cartons, to make the boats. These can be dropped off at the office for storage.

Action: Ron to test prototype. Sue to email all Friends to get them to save plastic tubs.

Masks: After some discussion, it was agreed that Lyndsay would contact Catherine about designs to appeal to both boys and girls, and to be made from our existing supply of craft materials.

Action: Lyndsay

Historic Pictures and Information: Colm offered to make information panels about Park history, and Geraldine will sort out a photo display from the office archive.

Action: Colm, Geraldine

Geraldine will lead a history trail walk on the day.

Flyers: The park office can print flyers for us.

Action: Need to design flyers and decide how many are needed and where they are to be distributed. Nicky to design flyers. Geraldine to contact Tessa Sanderson to see if flyers can be inserted into Race Packs for the Newham Classic 10k run in April.

Dates for the diary:

Past Times in the Park, Saturday 23rd June

Bat Walk, Thursday 4th October

Leaf Pile Day, Saturday 3rd November

Park in the Dark, Friday 7th December

AOB

Nicky asked if anyone else could help with the website, updates etc. This can now be done from any computer. There was not much enthusiasm for this. It was agreed that Nicky has done a very good job and the website looks excellent. Ron offered to help keep the website up-to-date.

Future Meeting Dates:

The next meeting is scheduled only two weeks before the Past Times event. It may be necessary to call an extra meeting to finalise plans for the day. No date was suggested at this point.

Meeting arranged are:

Thursday 7th June 2012, AGM

Thursday 6th September 2012

Thursday 6th December 2012

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