

# FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Thursday 5th January 2017**  
**Scout Hut, Evesham Road**

## **Attendees**

Ron Innell (Chairman), Roger Jones (Vice Chairman), Abdul Sheik, Helen Mossop, Pat Mossop, Nicky Brown, Jo Barker, Lyndsay Jones.

## **Apologies**

Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Joel Farrell, Mary Edmondson

## **Introduction**

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes from the meeting on 29th September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

## **Recent Events**

### **Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile**

Around 100 people had attended this event, all went well and people were as enthusiastic as ever. The craft event was "Green Man" masks, made with paper plates and leaves. Sean was present with the "Wild East" Trike, and a good number of children took part in his activities.

### **Park in the Dark**

Around 80 people attended, again all went well. Note for 2017 – we need two flasks of hot chocolate as well as the blackcurrant.

### **Stargazing 4 January 2017**

38 People attended, we had a clear night and everyone was interested and enjoyed the event.

## **Park Update**

Roger gave this report on Lucy's behalf. There has been a lot of tree maintenance work carried out, including the removal of 12 ailing trees. The Plane trees lining the paths are under stress from ground compaction, and a programme of scarification to allow water to reach the roots will be undertaken. This will involve closing off areas for a six week period but is the only way to save the trees. A new tree strategy is to be developed to take account of climate change and changes in use patterns in the park. The Friends will be involved in the consultations.

Changes will also be made to the use and management of the Vegetable and Wildlife Gardens, Lucy will bring suggestions to the next meeting.

A short list of options for redevelopment of the Nursery site has now been drawn up. The Friends are to have one representative at the consultation group. After discussion, Pat Mossop was chosen as our representative.

Sean has recruited seven volunteers to help with the Wild East Trikes, they are all aged 17-18 and looking to expand their CVs by doing voluntary work.

### **Fothergill Botanic Drawings**

The Forest Gate Arts Trail organisers will be delighted for us to take part. Mary and Lyndsay are to make a start organising this in February. The dates for the event will be known soon.

### **Forthcoming Events**

A guided bird watching walk will take place both Saturday and Sunday 14/15 January to encourage people to take part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January.

The next Stargazing event will be Thursday 2nd February, 6.30 – 7.30. After discussion we decided not to try and make this a ticketed event, as there had been no problems caused by just letting people turn up, and numbers had been easily containable.

### **Programme for 2017**

*Bird Watching* Sunday 2nd April, and possible Saturday 1st as well, to be decided.

*Bat Walks* will be held towards the end of August and September, dates to be chosen later.

*Leaf Pile* Sunday 5th November

*Park in the Dark* Friday 8th December

*Open Gardens Weekend*, 17/18 June. It was decided that the Vegetable and Wildlife Gardens would not be opened this year, as we have yet to decide on a management plan for 2017.

### **Dates of future meetings**

Thursday 2nd March

Thursday 22nd June AGM

Thursday 14th September

Thursday 16th November

### **AOB**

There is no further news about the rental increase to be imposed by Newham Council for the Scout hut. The Scout Group will inform us if they need us to help with any protest.

Ron thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.