

FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

Thursday 4th June
The Bandstand, West Ham Park

ORDINARY MEETING

Attendees

Ron Innell, Lucy Murphy, Paul Thompson, Sean Dillon, Nicky Brown, Roger Jones, Jan Kearsey, Victoria Umunba, Khadiza Choudhury, Jo Barker, Laura Payne and Lyndsay Jones.

Apologies

Joel Farrell and Mary Edmondson

Introduction

Ron welcomed everyone, especially members of the Gardening Club joining us for the first time, and Sean, a temporary member of the park staff.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held mostly to plan the Summer Event, had been circulated and were agreed to be accurate.

Park Update

Lucy reported that the Lord Mayor's visit had gone well, and was also attended by local Borough Councillors. The Lord Mayor formally opened the new Winter Garden, which has been dedicated to the memory of Dr Gustav Pagenstecher who was a teacher to the Gurney family and was instrumental in raising funding from local businesses to ensure that the park was saved for the public when the Gurneys no longer wished to keep it.

The tennis courts are being upgraded, and a partnership formed with the Lawn Tennis Association to encourage more use and better coaching standards.

New keepers and gardeners have been taken on, some permanent and others to cover the busy summer period.

Residents in Aileen Walk have requested that the benches outside their houses should be removed, as they encourage anti-social behaviour. Lucy is looking into this, possibly just over the summer when people are more inclined to loiter.

Park Primary School have requested a dedicated entrance to the park opposite the school, as building work will restrict their playground and they will need to use the park more. This is also being considered.

The Friends will be consulted about these alterations when details are known.

The programme of events for the summer will be updated to include pond dipping, and a wider variety of music on the bandstand.

Paul reported that the Gardening Club was going well, and there are a good number of school

bookings for the summer.

He will try to get the park involved with the Forest Gate Art Trail. Several ideas were discussed for this.

Newham Hospital had asked if the Friends would like to help with their events for air quality awareness on 17 June. This was too short notice for those present, but Paul can provide information if anyone asks, and will show the event on our mail list.

Bird Survey

Lyndsay reported that Alison has now moved too far away to take part in the survey regularly. She will be missed, and we thank her for all her help over the last few years. Frances Amey has joined the survey team, and we welcome her.

There are a number of summer visiting species being seen now. We have not seen any green woodpeckers for quite a while, but do not have any theories as to why this should be.

Summer Event

This will take place on Sunday 28th June.

Paul has arranged for the RSPB to attend, and also the Dogs Trust. He will contact the bee keeper and see if he would be prepared to show the hives and talk to people.

Nicky has obtained a grant for us from Newham Council. She will make a provisional shopping list and email it round for checking.

Ron has arranged for a photographer to attend.

Jo will be in charge of the craft table, with Jan, and everyone else will help as needed.

Nicky has designed a poster. Smaller flyers will be made to give to the cubs. Lucy will ask Park Primary to take some, and it was agreed that everyone would put some flyers through doors in their own street.

Lyndsay will mark up the map for the places of interest for the "Treasure hunt". Khadiza suggested that a map showing all the events taking place could be given out as people enter the park, and Lyndsay will include this. Lyndsay is still hoping to find someone who can bring a solar telescope to the event.

The programme for the day will be:

11.00 onwards – volunteers arrive to help with preparations.

12.00 – activities start with habitat Treasure Hunt

12.30 – 13.30 Mini beast hunt and pond dipping in the wildlife garden

13.45 – 14.00 Pollinator talk and beehive tour by resident beekeeper – Hendrik Strauss

14.00 – 16.00 craft activity

14.15 – 14.30 wild flower meadow talk/tour

15.00 – 16.00 repeat of activities in wildlife garden

There is also the possibility of a visit to the beehives, and a guided walk to the wildflower areas if there is demand. Paul has a spreadsheet showing the details of the day's events.

AOB

As agreed, Roger and Lyndsay had drafted a letter to the Gurneys, regarding funding for the Friends. However, on reflection Martin Rodman and Lucy decided that this approach was not appropriate.

Lucy is checking the terms of the park's covenant to see exactly what may and may not be charged for.

Future meetings and events

Meetings: Thursday 17th September

Thursday 26th November

Bat Walks: Thursday 20th August sunset 8.20pm, bats should appear about 8.50pm

Thursday 3rd September sunset 7.45pm, bats 8.15

Leaf Pile: Sunday 15th November

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Ron thanked everyone for their help during the year, and said that he felt all our events had been successful and well attended. We had been lucky with the weather for both our bat walks, and seen plenty of bats which delighted all who attended.

There have been many staff changes over the year, and we welcome all the new staff members, and send our best wishes to those who have left.

Ron then handed over to Lucy to conduct the elections for Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman:

Ron offered to continue in this role, and was elected unopposed.

Deputy Chairman

Roger offered to continue in this role, and was elected unopposed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm