

## FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

**Thursday 29 September 2016**  
**Scout Hut, Evesham Road**

### **Attendees**

Ron Innell (Chairman), Roger Jones (Vice Chairman), Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Sean Dillon (Learning Team Project Officer), Abdul Sheik, Helen Mossop, Nicky Brown, Jo Barker, Lyndsay Jones.

### **Apologies**

Dini Patel, Pat Mossop, Joel Farrell

### **Introduction**

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Minutes from the meeting and AGM on 21 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

### **Recent Events**

#### **Have-A-Go Day**

This had been very successful, with a lot of interest in tennis and cricket as well as several group picnics. The food stalls were considered to be too highly priced for the area, admittedly for large portions, and need to be given advice on prices and portion sizes another time. Lucy is proposing to trial a pop-up coffee stall in the mornings with a view to establishing whether there is demand for a café.

#### **Bat Walk, 25th August**

Conditions were favourable but there were only a small number of sightings. Around 60 people attended and most said they had enjoyed the event. A reporter from the Newham Mag attended and gave us a favourable write up. We discussed having a moth-attracting light and screen as well another time, we would need to test this first to see how well it would work.

*Post-meeting note: The Bat Walk on 30th September was attended by 70 – 80 people . There were even fewer bat sightings, but on leaving most people said they had seen at least one, and had enjoyed themselves.*

### **Bird Watching and Surveys**

Lyndsay was pleased to report a sighting of a juvenile Green Woodpecker in the gardens, and Helen had spotted the first Fieldfares of the autumn, an early sighting for us but having checked the RSPB website, not unknown.

Lyndsay will look at dates to try and arrange a simultaneous survey with the whole team, and also a public walk in November or December. She is also working on compiling figures to show trends over time, and will liaise with Stella about looking at past records. A national report into the State of Nature in Britain has been issued recently, and we will be able to compare our results with this.

## **Park Update**

Lucy reported that the re-planting of the ribbon beds with South African species would take place in the spring. The new Woodland Walk behind the tennis courts is now ready for new planting, volunteers are invited to help with this work on 12th and 19th October and also with bulb planting in the Rose Garden and native hedge planting in November.

The removal of the benches adjacent to Aileen Walk has been appreciated by the residents, and the benches are now under the previously empty black shelters.

The Nursery has now closed and Paul Harwood has retired and left the area. The Friends wish him well.

Lucy had received a request from a park user who wanted to set up a tennis user group. Lucy asked the friends what their thoughts were regarding a sports consultation group for the park. The City are also developing an events policy for the Open Spaces department - there are a number of questions that have been posed to capture local groups feelings towards events in the City's open spaces. Lucy will share these with Roger and Ron.

Sean gave an update on progress with his project. The tricycle will be available soon, and he has recruited some volunteers. He will take part in our Leaf Pile event with the trike and activities.

## **Fothergill Botanic Drawings**

Mary had emailed regarding progress so far, she and Jack are to visit Russia in June and hope to meet a representative of the museum where the drawings may be held. As National Garden Week is in mid June, it was decided that we would take part in the Forest Gate Arts Trail at the end of July, hoping to show examples of botanical drawings on the bandstand, raise awareness of the Fothergill drawings and history, and hold a related activity. It might be preferable to open the vegetable garden for National Garden Week and hope to attract more members.

## **Forthcoming Events**

- *Bat Walk* 30th September
- *Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile* will be on Sunday 6th November  
Most people at this meeting will be there to help. Sean had left by this point in the meeting. Lyndsay will speak to him and establish what the activities are and how much help he needs from the Friends.
- *Park in the Dark* will be Friday 2nd December  
If the night is clear, stargazing will also be offered, with people given two chances to leave the park and a 6.30 finish.
- Further stargazing dates will be chosen at the next meeting.

## **Dates of future meetings**

Tuesday 22 November 2016.

2017 dates to be selected at our November meeting.

## **Bank Account**

Ron has now presented all the necessary paperwork to the bank, and our account will soon be opened. He has also created an email address, [friendsofwesthampark@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofwesthampark@outlook.com). We need to agree who will have access to this. The next park newsletter will announce that the Friends are now formally constituted and that names on our mailing list will be passed from the Park to the Friends, giving people the chance to opt out of this if they wish.

## **Programme for 2017 and Working Arrangements**

Roger circulated copies of the document discussed at our last meeting.

We discussed the Wildlife Garden and the possibility of the Friends taking on some of the maintenance subject to agreeing responsibilities with regard to the Friend's capabilities and the Park's requirements. Lucy advised that the wildlife garden will be available for schools to use however there is no longer a dedicated member of park staff to facilitate the sessions. However, it is felt that the wildlife garden is an important refuge for wildlife and therefore should be maintained. The

new staff member will be working with a group of designated schools.

Lucy advised that a first aid training course could be available on the 4th November and will be held at the City of London Cemetery.

*Post Meeting note - the Friends group have been allocated 5 places. If anyone is interested in attending please contact the Park office.*

### **AOB**

The Scouts have received a much increased demand for ground rent from Newham Council, which threatens their ability to keep the site. Helen suggested that we should support them in a protest. This was agreed unanimously. Lucy reported that Ricky has advised Newham that the group cannot afford this amount and is awaiting a response. She will ask him to keep us informed of developments, and we will support the Scouts in any way possible.

Ron thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting at 9pm.