



Clissold Park User Group News

December 2020 update

With the restrictions on public assembly continuing, we are still unable to hold any public meetings, so here is an end of year update on some of the things which are happening, or we hope to happen in the park. It is not a comprehensive list, and if park users have specific concerns they would like to raise please email either us, the park user group, on info@clissoldpark.com or the park manager on quinten.geurs@Hackney.gov.uk. Obviously if it is an emergency please contact the emergency services on 999, or 101 for less immediate issues.

Clissold Park has continued to be a haven for many of us during the upheavals this year and we would like to offer a huge thank you to the park rangers and gardeners who have performed herculean feats of rubbish removal, dealt with the frustrations and complications during lockdown and still kept the park looking beautiful for us all to enjoy. It is easy to forget how much work goes into keeping the park useable and without the staff it would be a much less enjoyable place to be.

We would also like to offer our grateful thanks for the fantastic service and support to park users the cafe staff have been providing throughout the year. Their patience and forbearance with switching back and forth between the different restrictions has been admirable.

The park is still very busy, and we ask that people continue to use the waste and recycling bins correctly. If they are full please take it to another bin or dispose of it at home.

There seems to have been a surge in the number of puppies in the park, in line with a national trend. The vast majority of people walking dogs in the park are sensible and responsible, and we encourage people to exercise and socialise their dogs in the park. Please make sure to clear up after them, and also be aware that not everybody is comfortable around dogs so a

little sensitivity may be in order. And for the non dog owners please bear in mind that many of the dogs are young and are still learning, again a little sensitivity will go a long way.

The user group has been inspired by the Campaign for Rural England (CPRE) to look into planting a hedge along the park boundary with Church Street, between the paddling pool and Green Lanes. CPRE was offering small grants for this, which we unfortunately missed out on. However we still hope to use our own funds to plant about 80 meters of hedge at the edge of the park, and a further 20 metres around the buggy park in the lower cafe area near the house. Nothing is certain at the moment and prices are still being discussed, but if it is to happen we will be asking local groups for guidance in how best to do it, and we will need volunteers to help with the actual planting. Obviously this can't happen while London is in Tier 4 restrictions, but if you would like to get involved please let us know on info@clissoldpark.com and we will keep you informed of progress. We will also put out a call for volunteers nearer the time.

Hackney Council is carrying out a consultation and is keen to hear people's feedback on the draft Park Strategy. It sets out a vision for parks and green spaces where communities are more actively involved, our parks and green spaces feel safe, welcoming, and cared for, there is more to do for a greater range of people, and the service is more environmentally sustainable. Fill out the online consultation.

The Council has also published the Annual Report for the Parks and Green Spaces service for the third year. The report looks back over the achievements of 2019/20, and looks forward to some of their key projects in 2020/21.

The Clissold Park butterfly dome is still not accessible to the public, but some volunteers have now been

allowed in to do some basic maintenance. Much of the planting inside the dome has survived, and is now being watered again. Unfortunately none of the seeds that were sown inside amounted to anything, but much of the planting and some of the seeds sown outdoors did well. We will keep the dome ticking over, and as soon as it is possible to get proper access to it again we will get everyone back involved and come up with a new plan for how best to move forward with it.

Update from Paul Mason, the manager of the Park Life Cafe in Clissold House:

The cafe is back to a takeaway only service in line with current government advice, sadly this will be the case until we return back to tier 2. We have decided to keep the ground floor cafe open this winter in order to give greater accessibility to customers who may have previously used the house lift to enter the cafe. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all of our regulars for all of your support over the course of this challenging year, we really do appreciate it. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

The User Group is still selling posters and pocket maps of the park. If you would like to make an order please email us on info@clissoldpark.com. We will deliver locally by hand and can arrange for more distant orders to be posted for a small cost. This can all be done in a safe and socially distant way.

Finally we would like everybody to continue to make the most of the park during the ongoing restrictions, and that is best achieved by us all being considerate and sticking to the rules about distancing and keeping ourselves and everyone else safe.

Happy new year to all the park users, let's see much more of each other in 2021, when hopefully things can return to something more recognisably normal.

Contacts

Park Keepers: 0208 3566834. This connects to a mobile.

Park Manager: Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 4215

Café Management: new details coming soon
Clissold House Venues and Events Officer, Christine Rupprecht: christine.rupprecht@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5505

Head of Leisure and Green Spaces

Ian.Holland@hackney.gov.uk

Lead Councillor for Parks:

feryal.demirci@hackney.gov.uk

Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /

Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Seargent in charge: Carroll Weeden

Carroll.L.Weeden@met.pnn.police.uk

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

Sign up for our latest news and browse this website / join our Facebook Group / and just come to the meetings!