



Clissold Park User Group News

20th July 2024 update

Meeting and AGM

Park Users: Alexandra Hamit, Paul Brenells, Hilde Oord, Lucy Carter, Hugh Todd, Rachel M, Martha Gumn, Amir Dotan, Fliss Premru (Cllr), Sophie Cameron (Chair), Theresa Boden (Vice Chair), Carolyn Millar (Treasurer), Richard Crawford (Vice Chair & Biodiversity Rep), Daphne Steele (Dogs Rep), Amir Dotan (Park History Rep), Caroline Millar (Treasurer)

Via Google Meet: John Hudson (Vice Chair), Sarah Kissack

Apologies: Quinten Geurs (Park Manager), Isabelle Gore (Website rep), Sade Etti (Cllr), Ed Hall.

Previous Minutes: Approved

AGM

Election of Officers:

Sophie Cameron stood down as Chair and Alexandra Hamit was elected as Chair.

The following officers were re-elected at the meeting:

Theresa Boden, John Hudson and Richard Crawford (co-Vice Chairs)

Caroline Millar (Treasurer)

Park User Reps: the following have agreed to continue: Isabelle Gore (Website), Richard Crawford (Biodiversity) Amir Dotan (Park History), Daphne Steele (Dogs) and the following have agreed to volunteer Ed Hall (Skatepark), Lucy Carter (Runners), Older People (Paul Brenells).

The following roles are still vacant: Secretary, Cycling, Children and Young People, CPUG Events & Fundraising.

Accounts:

Treasurer Caroline Millar reported we started the year Feb 2023 with £3,419.51 and ended in Feb

2024 with £3,870.92. Full accounts are on the [website's news page](#).

There is continued income from the sale of postcards, posters and tea towels (at Know & Love on Church St). It was agreed that Accounts next year should be incorporated into normal tax year accounting from March.

The group is open to proposals as to how to spend money e.g. additional signage, nesting boxes, more hedgerows, raised seating in the dog free area etc.

(Motion agreed to investigate if any monies are due from filming in Clissold Park - independent productions and Antiques Roadshow – as that was the previous arrangement with Parks/Filming unit).

The Chair moved a vote of thanks to Isabelle Gore for all her work on the website.

Theresa Boden moved a vote to thank Sophie Cameron for all her hard work of the past 2 years as Chair.

Presentation from local author Hugh Todd on his book 'It Happened in Clissold Park' – available at Stoke Newington Bookshop.

Chair's Annual Report 2024

CPUG Ordinary meeting Chair's report 20 July 2024

Café: Procurement documentation still being prepared for main cafe.

19 July 8-5 Monday to Sunday Radu coffee van near dog free area.

Commercial operators: Will be writing to organisations that use park for commercial activities e.g. football clubs and personal trainers to introduce work of CPUG and ask for donation.

Biodiversity: Richard has developed proposals for volunteering activities and CPUG will be

funding some bird nesting boxes for volunteers to instal.

Splashpad: Reopened on Wednesday July 17th. We hope it will be operating more consistently through the summer. Some children's parties and school booking cancelled on short notice and comms still a bit slow.

Signage: Sophie has begun review of signage in park and contact details on park noticeboards and website and begun discussing with Quinten who welcomes our input. We may be able to fund some signs. Work is taking place on paths in the park and roundels will be repainted as part of this project, hopefully in September.

Cycling: Hilde volunteered to help organise a day of action to discourage bikes speeding in park - to be discussed.

Toilets: Signs have not been updated!!!! Toilets were closed yesterday and there were a lot of unhappy people - will feed back AGAIN
No update on new toilet timeline.

Drainage plans: Quinten has been asked to provide an update on drainage plans. Some drains were cleaned in winter, some replacement pipes installed. 'Wave' are doing leak detection tests. Playground issues are big jobs. Suds costed but not taken forward.

Self-closing gates: Update - some new designs are being trialled.

Animal welfare: Dog awareness signs have been put up around the lakes, most recent ones on synapse paper and a Swan Sanctuary recommended message/design. Gromit seems happy and well but being monitored closely. He is eating well and was the dominant one of the pair so that will help apparently.

Eurobins: Feedback from Sarah Kissack shared with officers.

Paddling pool area: No update.

Rough sleepers: Enforcement and outreach are aware and engaging with the rough sleepers in the Park and new instances reported directly and via Streetlink. Quinten also reports to enforcement and Streetlink by email. Enforcement matter.

Rose garden: Feedback being shared with local school to encourage parents to help preserve plants from increased play presence in area.

Phone thefts: Report to police. Can share crime reference number with Quinten.

CPUG Ordinary MEETING Chair's Report
Including Action points from last meeting

Disabled access to Clissold House has been deprioritised as the café is now shut.

Splashpad - Sophie Cameron to chase GLL manager for update – more consistent opening and better comms hoped for as some children's parties and school bookings were cancelled at short notice. Following missing part replacement it has been open since Wed 17th July.

Progress on quality and adequacy of **signage in the park** – Sophie Cameron has begun a review of signage and noticeboard contact details, discussed with Quinten Geurs Parks Manager who welcomes our input. Suggestion for CPUG to be able to fund some signs. Roundels will be repainted hopefully in September as part of work on paths. Noted that Park Rangers contact details need to be clear on the Rangers yard gates.

Toilets signage when out of order to splashpad toilets – feedback has not been acted on, the signs have not been updated. Also no update as yet on the new toilet refurbishment timeline. Chair to feedback again to Parks.

Drainage – Chair has asked Quinten to provide an update on drainage plans. Some drains were cleaned in winter, some replacement pipes installed. "Wave" are doing leak detection tests. Playground issues are major jobs, and the SUDS system was costed but not able to be funded.

Self -closing gates in the play area, dog free area and rose garden long standing request – Quinten has now found a possible design that is compatible with our gate design and hopes to trial soon. The gates to rose garden, playground and dog free area are still not being routinely closed by park users.

Animal welfare – Gromit the remaining goat, following the death of Wallace, is being closely monitored but he's eating well which is an indication of good mental health and was the dominant one of the pair which helps. Dog awareness signs have been put up around the

lakes, most recent ones on synapse paper and a swan sanctuary recommended message and design. Thanks to Fliss Premru and Richard Crawford.

Café – Procurement documentation is still being prepared for the main café. In the interim from 19th July - Radu's Coffee (& Tea etc.!) van will be by the dog free area Mon – Sun 8am- 5pm. Discount offered for use of your own cup. Sophie Cameron has raised the issue with the Mayor but will approach councillors in chamber about expediting procurement.

Padding pool area – no update on the consultation planned.

Rose Garden plant damage has worsened – feedback is being shared with local schools to encourage parents to help preserve the plants from the increased children's play activity and presence in the Rose Garden.

Commercial operators – Chair to write to organisations that use the park for commercial activities e.g. football clubs and personal trainers to introduce the work of CPUG and ask for a donation.

Rough Sleepers – This is an Enforcement matter. Enforcement and outreach are aware and engaging with rough sleepers in the park – new instances can be reported directly to the Park Keepers and via Streetlink. Quinten Geurs also reports to enforcement and Streetlink via email.

Cycling – Hilde Oord proposed a day of action to discourage bikes speeding through the park – there is a 5mph speed limit and pedestrians have right of way. It was suggested that perhaps it could be combined with a bike doctor and neighbourhood police information/presence. To be discussed at next meeting. Theresa Boden to check confirmation from council re: speed limits and no motorised bikes or vehicles in park.

Biodiversity – Richard Crawford report – please refer to Richard's report/notes as it will be clearer detail.

Vote of thanks to Richard and Biodiversity volunteers for their work protecting the bird nesting areas. CPUG to fund some new bird nesting boxes for volunteers to install. Richard to send costs of bird nesting boxes and waterlily bulbs for the New River. Volunteers needed by Richard for future Biodiversity projects and Quinten, Parks Manager is looking for volunteers

for bulb planting in Nov. See Richard's email contact and Quinten's contact on the website.

Phone thefts and robberies in the park - Please do report to police & neighbourhood police and share the crime reference number with Quinten Geurs. Fliss Premu proposed escalating the issue with Councillors and Police, ASB Neighbourhood Police Liaison to request further safety meetings with schools and increased Neighbourhood walk throughs. Fliss Premu and Sade Etti to hold ward meeting and invite Chair & Officers CPUG.

Eurobins & Waste Collection –from park user Sarah Kissack - Although 2 recyclables Eurobins and food waste bin have been added by the playground these are often overflowing while other Eurobins have mix of residual waste and recyclables so could there be more Eurobins for separate collection of recyclables. Could Festivals have dedicated waste management arrangements such as reusable cups and separate collections of recyclables, food waste and residual waste? Feedback has been shared with Parks officers.

AOB

Fundraising – proposed we could investigate having a stall at future Festival or park events in the park to promote CPUG and sell maps, postcards and tea towels. We would need volunteers to staff throughout the day(s).

Petition/Online Poll for Park Users – a Change.org petition was suggested and started by Frieda Schicker, calling for a public consultation on future provisions for the café, which is currently at 88 signatures. The Parks Development Manager Sam Parry is aware of the petition.

Growing Communities Clissold Site Report – Sophie Hogan?

Volunteers: 20 at least 12 regulars, age range from 20s-70s. Since Feb 2024 over 500 volunteer hours completed.

Visitors: over 450 – 3 local nurseries groups
Plant donations: individuals & organisations include Women's Mental Health and Groundwork. Help with compost for St Mary's Church & Second Chance Café.

Trainee growers: 4 total on 6mth traineeships – 2 based at Clissold on Tuesdays.

Contacts

Park Keepers: 0208 3566834. This connects to a mobile so please leave a message.

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

Café Management: new details coming soon

Clissold House Venues and Events Officer:
venuehire@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5505

Head of Leisure and Green Spaces:
Ian.Holland@hackney.gov.uk

Hackney Council Cabinet Member for Parks:
caroline.woodley@hackney.gov.uk

Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /
Clissold.snt@met.police.uk

Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

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/ [join our Facebook Group](#) / and just come to the meetings!