

Clissold Park User Group News November 2013

Meeting notes for November 2nd 2013

At the meeting:

Caroline Millar- Chair, John Hudson – Secretary/Vice Chair; Eleanor Potter – Park Manager; and 14 other Park Users.

Apologies: Ken Worpole, Mark Forsyth and Yvonne Hill.

Action from the November meeting

Park Development Officer and volunteers are working with the **One O’Clock Club** on monthly sessions with children and parents.

Contrary to rumour, there is absolutely no plan to close the very popular club, only to cooperate with it in running new activities.

Ambient noise levels are being measured as part of the new **events noise controls**.

Proposals for a **2014/15 Christmas ice rink** will be submitted to Planning before Christmas and this will be an opportunity for public consultation about the project.

The chair of the **Drinking Fountain Association** will visit on November 11th about a grant to renovate the commemorative fountain.

Julie Moorehouse will be setting up a **park running club**. Repairs will be made to some parts of the track.

The celebration of the **New River’s 400th birthday** went very well with a family fete on the Bowling Green. A mosaic made during the day by children will be installed on one of the new bridges. The Big Draw event was also a very popular day.

How best to have **information on the trees in the park** was discussed, including using a phone app or QR codes.

Park Manager’s Report

Sadly, there was significant **damage to trees in the 28th October storm**, mostly to mature trees. 4 complete losses, 2 of which were particularly important (a Caucasian Ash and a Turkey Oak). 12 trees had significant limb damage.

Much thanks to park staff for all their work. A fast clear up meant the park was only closed for two days while it was made safe. Most people understood why, but park staff received appalling abuse from a few who insisted on climbing in, with their children into what was a dangerous situation.

The replacement of a large number of failed refurbishment trees and shrubs will be paid for by the contractor and planted by park staff over the next two seasons to make sure that they can be properly maintained to maturity. Consequently, during this time memorial or sponsored trees cannot be accepted.

London Wildlife Trust volunteer numbers are growing steadily. 89 so far and feedback has been very positive. Work has been mainly on the lakes and last month an area of wildflower meadow was also planted near the New River. They will work on the planted islands; planting more oxygenating aquatic plants to combat algae and cutting back lake margins so wildflower planting can be better managed. Also on the woodland track, topping up the woodchip and creating a log boundary to the path to protect tree roots.

We are always looking for more people so join us on the first Sunday of each month!

Work in the Play Area starts on Monday the 4th. Surfaces under swings, the aerial runway and pendulum swings will be replaced with softer and more resilient surfaces. The climbing route next to the big slide will be given a new surface and a possible water leak will be checked by Thames Water.

A **replacement Town Hall entrance gate** is being specially made to match the other new gates (hence the delay) and will be installed in the next month.

The old bridge is to be refurbished. The works under and inside the bridge are being assessed and are planned to be finished by early next spring.

A main contractor has been appointed to the **Tennis Project**. Work probably will start in early December once UK Power Networks have supplied power to site

The new **responsible dog ownership leaflet** was launched on 16 October. This went well and most park users were very supportive. The enforcement team will now be visiting the park to emphasise the importance of dog control orders and issue fixed penalty notices if necessary. Feedback from dog walkers and all users is encouraged.

In response to questions about the **welfare of the birds in the aviary** raised by Vicki Nielis, park staff will be reviewing the provision of branches and green material in the cages. Elle will keep Vicki informed.

September's **park usage figure** was 268,974 and the total since May was 1,534,024. A faulty counter at the lodge gate was replaced so the actual figure was even higher. (post meeting note – October's usage was 220,780; the total since May 1,754,804).

Eleanor Potter has now been appointed in the **job of Park Manager**, on a fixed contract until 2017 when the current HLF funding ends. She will be focusing more on development issues (rather than staff management) and is still the main point of contact for the park. She will begin maternity leave on 17th January and recruitment of cover has begun.

Future CPUG events

Saturday 7th December – Christmas Market

1 December Tree walk with Tree Musketeer Russell Millar – meet at Clissold House steps at 11am

Saturday 11th January 2014 11am – 12 noon – our next meeting

Membership of the Stoke Newington Conservation Committee, which is consulted on planning issues by Hackney Council, is open to local people. Contact Tony Harms the CPUG email for further details.

Our next meeting: Saturday 11th January 2014, 11 to 12, Clissold House

Contacts

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

Park Manager: Eleanor.Potter@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 4215

Café (Company of Cooks): clissoldhouse@companyofcooks.com

Café Manager: Aylin Sulo aylin.sulo@companyofcooks.com

Room booking and house tours (GLL): Emma Finch clissoldhouse@gll.com or call 020 7249 2308

Council Officer for Parks: Colin.stuart@hackney.gov.uk

Lead Councillor for Parks: jonathan.mcshane@hackney.gov.uk

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

Seargent in charge: Sue Wright Sue.C.Wright@met.pnn.police.uk