



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our 10th May 2014 meeting

At the meeting:

Caroline Millar (Chair), John Hudson (Secretary/Vice Chair) Ken Worpole (President), Delilah Jeary (Minutes) Mark Forsyth (Dog owners), Wendy Forrest (Running), Liz Fewings (Biodiversity), Yvonne Hill and Hildy Oorde (Fundraising), Anthony Larvin (Accessibility), Bruce Irving (Park Manager), and 18 other Park Users.

No apologies received.

Action from the March meeting:

Woodland track: Caroline, Wendy and Bruce will meet on Monday 12th. ACTION CM

Rubbish bin for QEW gate: Nearly there! A less used bin will be relocated while more are being obtained. ACTION BI

Resurfacing work under the cantilever swing in the play area still pending. Repair work to the paths around the Clissold House had been completed.

The re-provision of anti-slip surfaces on the new footbridges will be done after the old bridge is reopened.

The Butterfly Dome is open and very popular. Helpers are still needed for an hour or so at a time during its short season. Please email Lucy.Gijsen@hackney.gov.uk to volunteer and find out more.

A cuddly toy squirrel and messages of congratulation have been sent to young **Frederick Potter** and his mum, Park Manager **Elle**, both of whom are reported to be thriving.

Forthcoming Events are listed in the Park Manager's report. Reports and concerns about them should be fed back to CPUG.

The new notice board outside **the One O'clock Club** was welcomed.

Chair's Report from Caroline Millar

At a meeting with residents of **Queen Elizabeth Walk**, Caroline learnt of Council plans to repave and tidy the south end of QEW and the area outside the back of the Town Hall – but keeping the historic bollards. A cycle lane will be created running alongside the park and foliage must be kept from overhanging the railings.

Caroline has been to a meeting of the **SN Church Street Business Association**. We are not going to become members, but will keep in touch and their members will be running some food stalls at the Clissold 125 event.

The fundraising **quiz night** will be on the 11th May. Several valuable donations had been made by local restaurants for auction prizes. Thanks were made to Yvonne and Hilde for all their hard work in organising it.

There had been a successful **dog event** organised by the Council on the 24th April. MF confirmed that it had been a good event, very popular with lots of new people joining in. Others who would have liked to go were disappointed that it had not been advertised more. Because this had only recently been held the planned dog event for Clissold 125 will not now go ahead.

Mannings Funfair has also been in the park recently. It was thought that its charges were rather high but otherwise no problems had been noted.

BI, CM & JH have met with skateboarders (who by then had joined the meeting) in the **Skatepark** about the adjacent basketball and table tennis practice area. Balls were dropping dangerously into the bowl and it was agreed that the two areas should not really be next to each other.

It was suggested that a practice area for the very young or very new skateboarders might be set up in that area providing existing activities were satisfactorily relocated elsewhere in the park. The meeting fully and enthusiastically supported the suggestion and BI agreed to look at costs, etc. with the skateboarders and other play area users. ACTION BI

Restoration work has begun on the **Commemorative Fountain**, including cleaning the stonework, replacing the taps and reinstating the missing stone ball at the apex.

The Council has identified funds to install original style hoop-top low railings around the flower beds (which will be replanted as necessary) and to resurface the paths in time for the celebration of the park's 125th birthday on the 24th July.

Extended opening hours: opening times are currently variable and unpredictable.

Earlier and reliable opening times are wanted by dog walkers, runners and commuters.

Some Hackney parks don't close, others do after dark for particular reasons such as the protection of the animals in Clissold. There might be a budget problem to extend the opening times (BI). Alternatives to night-time locking were suggested and the planned evening access by the tennis club was raised.

It was decided to set up a working group to report back and to raise the issue with the next Park Strategic Development Board Meeting. ACTION JH & CM

Anyone interested in joining the group or giving a suggestion or opinion should contact CPUG (see below)

Park Manager's Report from Bruce Irving

The year's **target for visits** to the park was 2,000,000. The electronic gate counters had recorded 3,004,094 including 288,000 in April.

Bookings for Clissold House are up by 20% and it is fully booked until end of the summer.

The **floor in the Café's back room** has been refurbished after damage from dragged furniture etc. Please help take care of it!

The Clissold House wi-fi is down. The wi-fi provider has gone out of business and a new contract is being set up.

The Cafe is to confirm its **opening hours**, including the garden area which is weather dependent. It closes quite early in the summer evenings. The meeting was in favour of longer café opening hours.

The **Pump House Kiosk** will be open from noon at weekends and every day during the summer.

The **'Mega-van'** will be back near the play area over the summer and the cycle stand by the paddling pool.

The **Paddling pool** is being cleaned and tested and will open from the last May bank holiday or possibly earlier if we have a hot spell.

The **Pavilion toilets** will be open all summer.

A **Park User Survey** will be conducted again this summer.

Early morning **litter** collections have started and night time crews are used in summer too.

A **litter bin** will be moved to the Queen Elizabeth Walk gate. Each new bin costs £500. Could the inner container be bigger as existing half sized ones fill up too quickly? ACTION BI

Work on the **Old Bridge** will be finished by end of May - the replacement of anti-slip surfaces on the new bridges will be done by then.(AL)

A **sign is needed** at the animal enclosure entrance warning that there is temporarily no throughway across the bridge. ACTION BI

The **Education Sessions** for the summer term with Lucy Gijzen are all booked.

In the last year Lucy has run 37 workshops for 1000 children and 200 parents and teachers.

The **One o'clock Club educational sessions** continue, aiming for more attendance through better promotion. There will be a one week **Nature Club** in the summer.

The **London Wildlife Trust** is back on Saturday 31st May to work on dead hedging, pond maintenance and creating a wildflower meadow. Full list of dates will be on our website.

Forthcoming Events (noise levels and site use will be monitored by Council officers):

- The Anatolian Festival over the late May bank holiday
- Carters Steam Fair

- Clissold Park 125th Anniversary Family Fun Day June 21st
- Daymer Festival on 6th July
- Yoruba festival on 26/27 July.

Also planned: A *Son et Lumiere* event with 'silent' **Fireworks** on 8th November, subject to tests of the effects on park animals and wildlife.

A new supplier has been found for the **Christmas Ice Rink**. This will be submitted to Planning this summer.

New Issues

Should a **Community Notice Board** be erected for general (non-commercial) information, not just about the park? Who would manage it? There is a noticeboard at the Church Street Library and other older ones outside the Town Hall. Would these be more useful? This needs Council approval. The views of Park users and Councillors are welcomed. ACTION JH

A **bench is needed** by the tennis courts. But where? ACTION BI

Playground issues: Very **nasty graffiti** inside the log cabin by the trampoline - the cabin should be closed until it is removed. ACTION BI

The ground at the bottom of the **big slide** is muddy and has dished, creating a big drop for smaller children.

A magnetic catch on the play area **entrance gate** is needed to keep it shut and exclude dogs. ACTION BI

Clissold Park 125th Anniversary Celebrations. There will be a Family Fun Day on **June 21st** including a children's event, live (acoustic) music in the cafe area and much more. Posters will go up a month in advance.

On the evening of 24th July **the Park's 'Birthday'** will be celebrated with a brief opening ceremony around the restored drinking fountain and a recreation of the 1889 photograph of crowds around Clissold House on opening day.



Descendants of Joseph Beck will be among the guests. All are welcome. However an experienced photographer is need to take such a challenging shot.

**The next CPUG meeting:
11-12 on Sunday the 6th July 2014
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

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

Sergeant in charge: Sue Wright

Sue.C.Wright@met.pnn.police.uk