



## Clissold Park User Group News

### Notes of our May 9<sup>th</sup> 2015 meeting

24 park users and 16 CPUG reps were at the meeting as well as Park Manager Eleanor Potter, Hackney Events Officer Nick Thompson and Café Managers Paul Mason Zana Richardson.

Richard Crawford and Councillor Sade Etti gave their apologies

Mark Forsyth asked for a correction to the March minutes. It's Forsyth not Foster!

#### Report by Park Manager, Eleanor Potter

As requested at the special meeting on **dogs in the park**, Elle will produce a Frequently Asked Questions list with Hackney's dog enforcement officer and will also put up contact information on park notice boards.

The **Pump House kiosk** is being taken back into Council management and possible options for its use will be considered and consulted on. There are no immediate plans to open it this summer.

Elle had discussed with the Council's **Cycling Safety** team what might be done to improve the safety of both walkers and cyclists in the park. Notices urging a reduced speed have had little impact and more significant work might be needed, such as cobbling patches of the paths. All park users needed to be more aware of how they could avoid causing dangers to others.

The Cycling Team could focus their activity in the park and a cycling event in July was one possibility. There could be work done on assessing high usage areas that are a particular cause for concern. Eleanor and the Council's cycling team will meet CPUG Chair Caroline Millar and cycling rep David Pitcher.

A new **orienteering** trail has been installed in the park and several sessions have been run.

This is part of the schools' curriculum. A display rack with maps is downstairs in Clissold House so all park users can follow the trail.

The **Learning Programme** was extremely busy, with Lucy teaching 4 days a week. She had trained freelance workers to take over some lessons. There had been 16 sessions since Easter including a lot of pond dipping and was fully booked until half term. The **Growing Out project** gave young adults with learning difficulties a chance to do conservation work. The **volunteering programme** continued with companies paying the park to have groups work there. It was an income stream for the park; good for large scale jobs that its budget wouldn't otherwise accommodate.

Elle and Caroline had discussed a trial of **Micro Volunteering** in the park. Anyone can get litter-pickers and bags, gloves etc from the office on the ground floor of Clissold House whenever the park is open to do a short session of help. AND on your first go you'll be given a free cup of tea or coffee! This starts on the 18th May. Other activities may follow

The **clearance of the Top Mouth Gudgeon** fish from the ponds had been completed and all trace of the piscicide used had now gone. As previously reported, this essential process has regrettably also removed all other species of fish. A discussion of the future use of the ponds will be included in the next CPUG meeting in July. Elle is working with both Environment Agency Fishery Officers and the London Wildlife Trust to assess the various options and their potential effects. Even if restocking with fish was decided on, it wouldn't be done until next winter.

**Funding** had been bid for repairing pathways fencing, drainage etc. Needed to work out the scope and cost of putting fitness equipment in the park

A **runners' survey** is going out in the following week  
**Add a link here**

The **Butterfly Dome** is opening on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

CPUG will work with the park team to establish what kind of **Park Phone App** and/or printed map is needed. Posters, maps and leaflets as well as a smartphone app will be looked at. CPUG people involved will be Amir, Ken, Caroline, John, Kath and Theresa.

### **Report by Nick Thompson, Hackney Council's new Events Officer**

Nick thanked the meeting for inviting him and gave a **review of events** applied for in Clissold Park

**Manning's Fair** was on at the time. He was monitoring noise levels to ensure compliance with the terms of the Council's licence

**Anatolian festival** 22nd - 25th May. Set-up would start on Monday 18th and he would be based in the park for the whole week.

**Friends Together** 7th June. A Metropolitan Police community event, with bike security marking, stalls, etc.

**Carter's Steam Fair** 26th - 28th June.

**Daymer Festival** 5th July. Kurdish cultural event

**Yoruba Festival** 25th and 26th July. African Cultural event. Ian Holland, Head of Leisure at Hackney Council will be present in Nick's absence

**The Robin Hood Theatre** 23rd August. Hackney has given some tickets to CPUG which will be raffled at the Quiz Night to raise funds.

**Day in the Park** 5th September. Family event. Small stage, arts, food (not yet confirmed)

Fireworks Display 7th November (not yet confirmed)

CPUG appreciated all the work that had been done on noise control and is reassured that Nick would continue it. CPUG will continue to work with the Council to ensure that these events are well run with minimum disruption to people living nearby. There are still some concerns about noise, traffic rubbish etc.

Caroline reported that CPUG will for the first time be part of the Stoke Newington Literary Festival and hoped to build a continuing relationship with this prestigious and popular event.

Cath and Rod will run a festival workshop for children; including shadow puppet workshops on 7th June and Karen Littlewood will be running an illustration workshop for 5-10yr olds

These are being financed by CPUG and attendance is free.

### **Questions from Users**

Elle reported that a lot of work had been done on Playground maintenance and day-to-day maintenance was being increased, including cleaning the sand. Graffiti had been removed.

Lee had witnessed schoolchildren leaving **litter** behind and had spoken to the school Deputy Head. A teacher would patrol the park during lunchtime for a couple of weeks. This cooperation was appreciated but would litter picking teams from the school be a good way to dissuade offenders? Or withdraw persistent litterers' right to go out of school for lunch? Elle would arrange for rubbish bags to be placed at park gates and Lee would follow up with the school.

Litter had been noticed around the front of the Clissold House because wind blew it off the tables Cafe will ask staff to look out for that and to keep the area tidy.

Johnny Myers was concerned about **ducklings** dying. Were the terrapins killing them or perhaps crows and seagulls, which are also predators? Elle would include this in the review of the ponds, as well as terrapin control.

The **Paddling pool** will reopen at the bank holiday at end of May. Could the toilets in bowling green also be opened then? They would be open during the school holidays.

Amir, the CPUG History rep had **200 historic photos** of the park, including Victorian and Edwardian, that he offered to the group. Could these be used on the app? Could some be put on the wall in the cafe? The Cafe managers were keen on the idea and would discuss further with Elle and CPUG.

The new plaque on the **Memorial Fountain** had suffered weather damage and something of a better and more lasting quality was needed Elle was contacting the company that made it. Yvonne and Hilde have organised the following Sunday's Quiz night and there were a few last minute places available.

Elle confirmed that there are no resources available at present for the suggested rostrum on the Bowling Green. There are also some practical issues to be considered such as the safety and maintenance of the materials that might be used. Lucy Gijzen, will keep the idea in mind for future development of this area.

**Our next meeting will be in Clissold House from 11-12 on Saturday the 11th July 2015**

## **Contacts**

- Park Keepers: 0208 3566834. This connects to a mobile.
- Park Manager:  
[Eleanor.Potter@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:Eleanor.Potter@hackney.gov.uk) or call 020 8356 4958
- Café Management:  
[clissoldhouse@capergreen.com](mailto:clissoldhouse@capergreen.com)
- Room booking and house tours (GLL): Emma Finch  
[clissoldhouse@gll.com](mailto:clissoldhouse@gll.com) or call 020 7249 2308
- Head of Leisure and Green Spaces  
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- Lead Councillor for Parks:  
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- Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /  
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- Sergeant in charge: Sue Wright  
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- Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721 2923

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<http://www.clissoldpark.com> / join our Facebook Group / and just come to the meetings!