



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our November 14th 2015 meeting

Notes of the Meeting on Saturday 14th November 2015

Apologies were received from Ken Worpole, Elle Potter Park Manager, Mark Forsyth, Yvonne Hill, Delilah Jeary, Betty Manning, Isabelle Gore.

14 Park users attended

Correction: last meeting's note should have read: Lee Stacy

From the last meeting

Proposals for the **restocking of the Lakes** is awaited. A survey report from the Environment Agency which will be used, alongside comments from park users and Hackney's Biodiversity Partnership, to inform a decision. Feedback from park users to date favours not reintroducing fish.

Proposals to display the **park staff's names** and photographs has been put to their union.

Seating for less mobile people was not provided at the fireworks display. This will be reconsidered before next year's event

Park Manager's report– given by *Caroline Millar on behalf of Elle Potter, CPUG chair*

The RSPCA is being consulted about the **foxes in the deer enclosure**. Preventing access and the effects of relocating them are among the issues being looked at. Fox-proof rubbish bins have been suggested, but park bins are now emptied regularly. However food scraps and rubbish are regularly left

around the park by users, often during the night when the park is closed which is to some extent beyond the control of park staff.

Vandals have caused **minor damage** to the wooden benches by the south door and fireworks placed in the guttering. The Café manager had suggested that the benches be moved, but as they were made for that location, are well used there, and could be even more vulnerable elsewhere, the meeting was strongly against this idea.

Repairs to the commemorative **fountain** are to be made.

Some **path resurfacing** will be done over the coming months.

The invitation to tender for the **Pump House** has been delayed while Hackney Legal agrees the terms of the lease but anyone interested can contact the Park Manager for general details.

The **bulb planting** programme is continuing and **more trees** will be planted over the winter. Trees can still be **dedicated** but not with plaques. An on-line location plan exists and it may be possible to use the TiCL Tree Trail App to identify individual trees and include a dedication.

The last Park Development meeting learnt that **café** usage has increased but income is slightly down after the price reductions.

Surface **water drains** had become blocked by leaves etc. and will be repaired. A new leaf-collecting machine is being purchased

There are plans to refurbish the old stable block in the yard next to Greenway Close for the depot's use.

There will be a **Christmas Market** from the 18th to the 20th of December. CPUG will be running a stall but we will need **lots of volunteers**.

CPUG Chair's Report

The **Open House** day on 20 September was a success with 350 people visiting our room to view Amir's slide show, which will be added to our website. Sales of his new park postcards also went well and around 20 people attended each of four guided tours of the Clissold House.

7,500 people came to the **Pyrotechnic** evening on 7 November which was well received, with much better weather than last year. **Future events** will use e-ticketing to avoid the queues for ticket collection at the gates. The sound was rather low and the fireworks were not silent. All gates should be used for exits to avoid bottlenecks. Corporate funding will be considered for next year to reduce charging as this had been successful in other parks. Many volunteers have fed back as part of the Council's debrief on the event.

The **CPUG and other volunteers** had been a huge help and were warmly thanked.

Ken Worpole's talk: An Idea That Changed the World, on his new book *New Jerusalem: the good city and the good society*, was a sell-out and was much praised and enjoyed. And it made a £100 profit for us!

Complaints and Concerns – received since our last meeting

A toddler had been hit by a cyclist and suffered a broken leg..

The fate of the fox family had continued to create concern on Facebook.

A wasp nest has had to be removed after some people had been stung.

Some parents were allowing their children to dig holes in the bowling green lawn - creating

an unsightly mess and causing a tripping hazard.

Several complaints about dogs not being on leads around the café as is required despite requests from park staff.

Several complaints about walkers of multiple dogs in the park not being responsible.

The area on and around the hill in the play area needs a cleanup and more regular attention.

Suggested CPUG Funded Events in the Park in 2016

- Provide a venue for the Literary Festival in June
- Two Sunday afternoon lectures held in Clissold House on local history subjects – E.g. a history of the house, with slideshow; Mary Wolstonecraft; the Abolitionists.
- Three or four Thursday evening musical events in the café garden
- Guided walks – co-ordinated with the Hackney events team
- Drawing walks
- Tea dances
- Open House day
- A community event for children and families

These are being further explored and costed over the coming months.

Other CPUG Fundraising Projects

- Outdoor Gym equipment – *Funding options are being explored*
- Extra swings in the play area – *the Park Manager is looking at where these might be located. A parent has volunteered to help with fundraising*
- The Lodge entrance drinking fountain – *John to contact the Fountain Association about a grant*
- Skateboarding training facility for smaller children in the space behind the Skatebowls – *skateboarders are investigating costs*

Volunteering

Corporate volunteer days bring in a good income for the park as well as lots of people to take on large jobs, but the monthly general public sessions have not been well attended. Better publicity is needed. One issue may be that these are not drop-in events but require safety briefing and training and therefore run at fixed times and for several hours. This makes for quite a long commitment on a Sunday which seems to put people off. Micro Volunteering, allowing short periods of work at various times, would be re-trialed in the New Year

Questions and Suggestions from Park Users at the meeting

Could practical/creative workshops be run in the Bowling green or elsewhere – E.g. carving?

There has been a noticeable increase in Personal Trainers using the park. Should they be given guidelines on what is acceptable? Some are wrongly using young trees to support equipment. The Bowling Green is sometimes taken over by their classes and by kick boxing training, which some see as being unsuitable around the young. Might they be asked for a voluntary contribution?

The photographs on display in the Café are welcome, but are rather small, postcard sized. Could bigger print sized versions be put up?

Our new Postcards, produced by Amir, will soon be on sale in the Café and Stoke Newington Bookshop.

Our next meeting is between 11am and Noon on Saturday the 9th January 2016

In the meantime the Clissold Park Users Group wishes all Park Users a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year