



## Clissold Park User Group News

### Notes of our March 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting

#### Attendees

Mark Forsyth, Yvonne Hill, Lee Stacy, Kath Willgress, Caroline Millar, Delilah Jeary, Theresa Boden, Richard Crawford, Sophie Cameron, Hilde Oord, Daphne Steele, Rose White, Isabelle Gore, Betty Manning, Daphne Kemp, Sylvia Anderson, Liz Simpson, Liz Hemmings, Julia Wood

**Apologies:** John Hudson, Ken Worpole, Lorraine Worpole, David Pitcher, Quinten Guers

#### AGM

##### Re-election of officers

The following officers were re-elected by the meeting:

Mark Forsyth – chair  
Theresa Boden & John Hudson – Vice Chair  
Caroline Millar – Treasurer  
Kath Willgress – Secretary  
Delilah Jeary – Minutes secretary

##### Specialist Reps

- Fundraising and BAME – We haven't heard from last year's rep and the CPUG would like to have this rep but there was nobody coming forward
- Children & young people – Rose White is a governor of Stoke Newington School and will follow up with the school to find young people who might be interested in being involved. Matthew Jeary is happy to continue if nobody else comes forward
- Website - Isabelle Gore will continue but would like some help with this – Please contact [info@clissoldpark.com](mailto:info@clissoldpark.com) to help.
- Older people – Sylvia Anderson
- Events – Theresa Boden
- Dog Walkers - Daphne Steele
- Accessibility – Does Anthony Larvin want to continue? TBC
- Cycling – David Pitcher
- Running – Lee Stacy

- Biodiversity – Richard Crawford
- History – Amir Dotan
- Skatepark & Sports – no representation. CPUG to contact football groups.

##### Accounts

A summary of the accounts was presented to the meeting and they were agreed. Detailed accounts are available if anybody wants to see them. Please email [info@clissoldpark.com](mailto:info@clissoldpark.com) for a copy of the detailed accounts.

The group has a current balance of £3552.83, of which £716 is profit from the sales of the poster and postcards.

The meeting agreed to put aside £1500 for the 130th Anniversary celebration to pay for activities for adults and children if necessary. It is planned to approach local businesses and look into having music of some sort. It is possible that we could apply to Hackney for a grant.

##### Chair's Report

It has been a fairly quiet year for the User Group, but it is hoped that there will be more activity in the coming year. In order for this to happen we really need to get more people involved, both with the User Group and more generally around the park. It would be great if we could encourage a more ethnically diverse and younger involvement.

There is less and less money available for open spaces and we will become more reliant on volunteers to go beyond the basic maintenance of the park. Activities such as the Open House Weekend in September, and the spreading of wood chips along the paths around the edge of the park are examples of where we need to get more involved as individuals. The council no longer has the necessary money. We have tried to spread the word through social media and we will seek out local organisations that we can team up with if possible.

Thanks go to all the officers and the reps who make the running of the User Group possible. Special thanks to Isabelle who does a lot of work on the website.

The AGM was called to a close and the regular bi-monthly meeting was started.

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes from previous meeting were approved with the following comments:

**The standpipe by the pond** has been fixed, but Daphne Steele, the dog rep, asked if it would be possible to replace the standpipe with a tap with a dog drinking bowl if the User Group raised the money for it? We need to establish what this would cost to install and maintain. Mark Forsyth will speak to Quentin about this and Sophie Cameron can raise it if necessary.

Can we put **minutes on the notice board**? Mark Forsyth was told that only notices with the Hackney logo on them are allowed on the notice board. He will raise this with Quinten Geurs, the Park Manager, and Sophie Cameron will also ask about this.

It was noted that Finsbury Park has a Friends noticeboard, so if we can't use the central notice board could we look into having our own?

## Park Manager's Report

**Cafe:** A menu refresh was carried out in the café in February.

The downstairs café was opened earlier than usual this year because of the warm weather. It will be opened when the weather is good enough to merit it.

Dining room at the back of the house is once again set aside as a quiet room. This does not require users to be silent, but to provide a quieter environment for café users who might find this more comfortable.

Begging around the café has decreased after staff have made an effort to move them on.

People are reminded that dogs need to be kept on leads near the café, and that bicycles are not allowed in the house at any time.

### Playground:

Repairs to the slide has been completed and the wood chip and sand have been topped up.

**Butterfly dome:** Quentin and Mark had a meeting with Butterfly Conservation to discuss the

possibility of the User Group taking responsibility for planting and maintaining the dome as a habitat for native butterflies. The plan would be to add plants for caterpillars to feed on, and the outside area around the dome with plants to encourage and feed adult butterflies. It is too late to introduce caterpillars for this year but planting could be done in preparation for next year. Butterfly Conservation can advise about planting and sourcing caterpillars. Hilde and Yvonne offered to raise some funds to pay for plants since otherwise the User Group will be paying all costs if this goes ahead. It will also only proceed if we can provide volunteers to do the necessary work. Mark Forsyth, Richard Crawford, Liz Simpson, Liz Hemmings, Julia Wood, Daphne Steele and Sylvia Anderson have volunteered to do the planting and ongoing maintenance. It was noted that the keys have been lost to the dome, but they can be replaced.

**Tree work** is all up-to-date. Eight more trees are being planted next week.

**Drones, electric scooters and skateboards** are not allowed in the park. Speak to rangers if they are bothering you.

**Wood chip** for the less formal paths has been delivered but we need volunteers to help spread it.

## Proposed development of the Kennaway estate

Sophie Cameron informed the group about a proposed development of the Kennaway Estate, which is located on Church Street to the east of Carysfort Road near New River Café.

Southern Housing Group, who own and run the estate, are about to submit a planning application to intensify the estate and build quite big blocks overlooking the park on what is currently green space. Some of the existing tenants are not that happy about the proposed development as there have been some issues with Southern Housing's management of the estate with alleged poor upkeep by the landlords. There is a link about the development at

<https://www.shgroup.org.uk/about-us/latest-news/latest-developments/kennaway-estate/our-ideas-for-kennaway/>

Social Housing is being demolished and the tenants will be decanted for the duration of the build. The new additional housing will include units for sale and to rent, some at affordable rates, some at market rates.

It was agreed that the User Group should respond with respect to the impact on the park, with particular emphasis on safety and possible increased traffic.

Sophie will keep us posted and Mark Forsyth will liaise with her on this.

## Biodiversity

Richard Crawford discussed biodiversity in the park. He is pleased about the butterfly dome developments. Richard will provide Isabelle with a species update to put on the website – for instance there is a peregrine falcon living by the church - and he is plan-ning a BioBlitz to establish what is living in the park. Richard is already aware of 48 dif-ferent species. We will investigate whether Stoke Newington School pupils might want to get involved in this.

## AOB

There is a food market proposal to have fresh produce and hot food sold from stalls every Saturday in the bandstand area the park, run by the people who run something similar in Victoria Park. It wouldn't take up the entire bandstand area and questions have been raised about pedestrian and cycle access through the area and how dogs could be accommodated in the plan. It would provide some revenue to the Parks' Department, not ring- fenced for Clissold Park. If you have something to say on this do let Mark know – it is only a proposal at this point.

Open House in September – the park management is opening up the house on the 21st & 22nd September and the User Group has been asked to provide volunteers on the weekend. Amir Dotan will do a history talk and Mark forsyth will provide details about what the User Group will be doing – perhaps guided tours or general meet and greet. It will not be too labour-intensive and volunteers can do it in shifts, specifying when they would be available.

Muggings have increased around the park, in places such as the back of the Town Hall and the path by the church. School students are mostly the targets, but a knife was pulled on a dog walker in the park in the middle of the afternoon recently. Safer neighbourhoods team, park management & police all aware of this and are working together to try to improve the situation. Some stores on Church Street, for instance Beaucatcher, are designated safe spaces where children can go and get help. Rose White is

looking at a possible logo that children could recognise. If you see anything untoward please call the police.

Replacement and repair of the **locks on the gates of the dog free areas** are on the job list for the park. Gates by the aviary are always left open – can you look at the signage or put magnets on the gates?

There has been no update on **the Pump House tender**. If people lobby their local councillor it might hurry this along.

The User Group is organising a **celebration of 130 years of Clissold Park** to be held on 22nd June. A volunteers' meeting was held immediately following the User Group meeting. If you can help with this event please get in touch.

**Thanks to Mark Forsyth**, our Chair.

**Next CPUG meeting:** Saturday 11th May 2019  
11am to 12.30.

Venue: Clissold House, Clissold Park

Contacts

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

Park Manager: [Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:Quinten.geurs@hackney.gov.uk)  
or call 020 8356 4215

Café Management:

[clissoldhouse@capergreen.com](mailto:clissoldhouse@capergreen.com)

Clissold House Venues and Events Officer,  
Christine Rupprecht:

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Head of Leisure and Green Spaces

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Lead Councillor for Parks:

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Police: 0208 721 2923 / 07879 603106 /

[Clissold.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:Clissold.snt@met.police.uk)

Seargent in charge: Carroll Weeden

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Clissold Safer Neighbourhood Team: 020 8721  
2923

To join Clissold Park Users Group

Sign up for our latest news and browse this website / join our Facebook Group / and just come to the meetings!