

# PARKLIFE



## NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND

Summer Issue 2020

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Dear Friends

Welcome to the Summer issue of the newsletter. We hope this edition finds you all safe and well.



Never more so than now have our local parks meant so much and been so well used by our community. From the beginning of lockdown we saw an increase in people coming into the parks for much needed fresh air during the initial government-prescribed one daily exercise. As lockdown has eased we continue to see activity as people arrange meet ups with friends and family.

Our parks have been a welcome place of escape for many of us and I'm sure they've helped tremendously with our wellbeing during this time. It's been lovely to see our community expressing themselves in the parks in the form of chalk messages to our key workers to imaginative projects like the Wiverton Snake in Alex Rec - where a mystery person started a "Rock Snake" that anyone can add to! Also did you know there is a Geocache in Alex Rec? Find out where to find it and more info at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).



It has to be said that although we were not able to carry out some of our normal gardening and plant maintenance in the parks – for example the weeding and pruning of the park house border in Alex Rec - the roses and other plants and flowers did not stop blooming and we still saw an amazing display there and throughout both parks this year.

We're pleased to report that, despite lockdown holding us back, there was still a lot planting and project activity in both parks. We hope that you have noticed our newly installed tree saplings. There have been 30 trees planted in each park, given to us by the Woodland Trust – a selection of Rowans, Silver Birches and Wild Cherry. Some of the committee and our regular volunteers have done an amazing job watering and caring for them during the hot spells we have had. Unfortunately we've had a few casualties so if you are able, on any hot, sunny days why not take an extra bottle of water with you when you visit the parks and water any saplings or smaller trees you come across – every little helps!

Just before lockdown, in March, we saw the installation of a Cator Park bug hotel. The hotel is made up of pallets and bricks stuffed full of organic matter to make life comfortable for our miniature park guests. The Hotel is now open for business and we're hoping to expand the chain to Alex Rec later this year!

And... that's not all that's new! In Alex Rec we've seen the completion of the mural around the bowling house. It now wraps around the entire building and is a bright and colourful new focus in the park – showcasing the park, its wildlife and its regular users like the Seymour Villa Football Club who helped to fund the project.





Mural by [info@aeroarts.co.uk](mailto:info@aeroarts.co.uk)



### More Benches needed: Crowdfunding appeal!

With the increase in use of our parks this year we think it's vital to add extra benches to give those who need it a place to sit, contemplate or simply have their lunch. Benches are expensive however- around £1700 for one bench, including the installation. The Friends have started the pot with £100 for

each park. We have set up two crowdfunding pages – please see below. As we've been unable to fundraise in our normal ways this year, we hope you can help us with a donation, however large or small for this project.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/park-bench-for-alexandra-recreation-ground>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/park-bench-for-cator-park-beckenham>

### Up and Coming Park Events & Activities during Lockdown

As expected, many of our events this year have been cancelled but we'd love to resume them as soon as it is safe to do so. Please look out for our notices on the park notice boards for details.

### Paws in the Park

Paws in the Park is going digital! We may not be able to host our live Paws event this year but hope to bring some of the doggy madcap fun direct to your living room. We'll be hosting a canine themed quiz via zoom and having a virtual dog show on social media and some other surprises! We'll be unveiling more details soon so watch this space!

### Membership for Friends of Cator Park & Alexandra Recreation Ground

The annual subscription supports many park activities including guided seasonal walks, night bat walks and concerts. It also helps us to preserve and enhance the park environments by liaising with the council, through 'green gym' activities including light gardening, bulb planting and developing and implementing new ideas for the good of the parks. We need your support to continue this work. It's easy to join – email [friends.cator-and-alexandra@live.co.uk](mailto:friends.cator-and-alexandra@live.co.uk) and we'll send you an application form or complete the details below and return to Friends of Cator and Alexandra, 262, Kent House Road, Beckenham, BR3 1JN. Please make cheques payable to Friends of Cator and Alexandra. Or complete a Bank Transfer: Friends of Cator and Alexandra, A/c No. 61592226 Sort code 60-02-12

Name ..... Address .....



..... Postcode .....

Email ..... Date: December 2020 Newsletter

Annual Subscription fees: Individual £3.00 Family £5.00 Organisation £10.00 Five-year Family Member

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**Useful Contacts** - Ward Security, a mobile park security service: 0845 847 6180. Id Verde – responsible for grounds maintenance - 020 8313 4438. Fix My Street – report any graffiti, litter etc. at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).