

PARKLIFE

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND

Winter Issue 2017

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Parks Update

Dear Friends, welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter.

Well, it's nearly the end of another year of activity in the park. We welcomed a new event in Cator Park this year; Coffee & Cake in the Park which took place in September – We had a great turnout with everyone enjoying the delicious, homemade cakes and several people signed up to be members. Thank you to everyone who came and made this event a success!



The memorial bench for Makayah McDermott and Rosie Cooper, paid for through public subscription via crowd-funding, was installed in Alexandra Recreation Ground in July on a spot opposite the football pitches which was chosen by Danielle, Makayah's mother, and Susanne, Rosie's mother. Relatives, friends and contributors attended. The ribbon was cut by Kathy Bance, Mayor of Bromley. Patrick Phillips represented the London Borough of Bromley. We wish to thank Penny Read and Alastair Ing from Id Verde who helped guide this project through to completion.

Our annual Bat walk took place in October, led by the very knowledgeable Ishpi Blatchley, saw about 40 people attending and we donated the £46 raised to the Bat Conservation Trust.

Also in October, the AGM took place, with Julian Fowgies, Principal Tree Officer for Bromley, giving a very interesting and informative talk on the management of trees in the borough.

And talking of trees there are some very exciting plans for the trees in our parks.....The planting of two small orchards! This will take place in Cator Park and Alexandra Rec' and will be in place by this time next year. There will be 5/6 trees planted in each park made up of plum, apple, crab-apple cherry and pear. In addition to this, many of the trees will be pruned over the coming months in Cator Park. Once the trees are planted we are looking for people to "Adopt a Tree" and become responsible for keeping an eye on and watering when possible a chosen fruit tree. If that sounds like something you'd like to be part of please let us know.



Earlier this month a small group of volunteers braved the drizzle and planted 3000 bulbs in Alexandra Rec' and later in November another group planted the same number of bulbs in Cator Park.

We need more volunteers - It only takes an hour or so of your time so please come along next time!



Thank you very much to everyone who completed our recent paddling pool survey. We undertook the survey to get the opinions of park users about possible improvements to the paddling pool. The results of this are being digested and will be shared in the new year. We have already pinpointed the need to put together a sub-committee or steering group for this project. This group would ideally be active in progressing grant applications, fundraising and communicating any progress. We have been told a revamp of this area could cost in the region of £180,000. If you have the time and are interested in being part of this exciting local project please let us know.

Up and Coming Events:

Look out for all our regular events in the next year. There will be Music in the Park in July, Carols in December, Bat walks, Spring, Autumn and Tree Walks, Cake & Coffee in the Park and much more! Details of these events can be found on the noticeboards in the parks and on the website.

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

Membership for Cator Park and Alexandra Recreation Ground

We are looking to grow our membership to help us engage with all park users and to encourage and promote the use of the parks. 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, simply choose one of the options below:

1. Email us at friends.cator-and-alexandra@live.co.uk and we'll send you an application form
2. Complete a Bank Transfer: Friends of Cator and Alexandra, A/c No. 61592226 Sort code 60-02
3. 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.

Name

Address Postcode

Telephone Email

Annual Subscription fees: Individual £3.00 Family £5.00 Organisation £10.00

Five year Family Membership £22:50