

PARKLIFE

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND

Winter Issue 2019



@catorandalexandra



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www.friendsofcatorandalexandra.com

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

There has been a lot of activity in the parks throughout the autumn and this winter so far. The friends along with some enthusiastic park volunteers undertook the annual bulb planting days in both parks, planting over 3000 more bulbs (tulips, daffodils and native bluebells) which should look gorgeous come Springtime. You may have noticed recently that the borders in both parks have been re-shaped, pruned and trimmed keeping them looking neat and tidy. The noticeboard in Cator Park has been re-installed & we are looking at ways to have more tools available for volunteer gardening in both parks. We are also reviewing the paddling pool options with idverde & LBB to secure its long-term future.



We are very grateful to the Holiday @ Home for the Over Fifties project at Holy Trinity Church especially Janice Bessant for building wooden planters and an obelisk which will be installed in Alex Rec later in the year. Along with these we have also been kindly donated four (Silver Birch and Field Maple) tree saplings by two local people who received them as part of the "Free Tree Giveaway" from the Woodland Trust. These will be planted later in the year.



We welcomed two new events in 2018 - Paws in the Park in Cator park and Santa Paws in the Parks. Dog lovers were treated firstly to a fantastic Summer event which was attended by over 350 people. There were plenty of stalls for everyone to enjoy and the great weather ensured a good time was had by all. Thank you to all who supported this event by holding a stall or helping out on the day. Our second doggy event was our Christmas jumper wearing Santa Paws in the park which consisted of a walk from Alex Rec via Cator Park, ending at the café at Kent House Station. A pawsome way to end the park events calendar year!

Save the Date! On April 20th, 2-3.30pm we are hosting another eggciting new event this time in Alex Rec – **Easter in the Park**. This Easter-themed event will be tied in with the Penge Easter trail and will feature a fabulous egg rock egg hunt, Easter themed crafts, (biscuits and baskets) to keep the children amused and refreshments. We even have a few pawesome rocks for your pooch to get a special carob egg for your pup.

We will, as usual, be holding gardening working party days in both parks throughout the year. If you are able please come along to one of these dates. If you can bring trowels, pruning tools and gloves but don't worry we have spares if you need them! Supervised children very welcome.

Alex Rec - All session to take place 10-12am on Saturdays – Meet by the water fountain.

May 11th & 25th, June 8th & 22nd, July 6th & 20th, August 3rd, 17th & 31st, September 14th & 28th

Cator Park – Sessions at 10-12am on a varied weekend days. Meet by central noticeboard.

April 6th & 28th, May 18th, July 7th, Aug 10th, Sept 7th & **Tues eve** 7pm on June 11th, July 23rd, Aug 20th Sept 24th

Up and Coming Park Events:

Spring Walk – Sunday April 7th Led by Chris O’Shaughnessy. Meet at 1:45 for a 2.00pm start by the fountain in Alex Rec to begin the walk then onto Cator park via the Pool riverbank, ending at Kent Coffee and Flowers where walkers can enjoy a discounted treat. Donations gratefully received towards Friends activities.

Easter in the Park – April 20th 2-3.30pm Alexandra Recreation Ground – Eggstra special Easter fun in the park! Look out for full activity details on posters nearer the time.

Music in the Park – July 28th- Come and enjoy a sunny musical afternoon. Bring a picnic, your friends, family and neighbours and listen to the Beckenham Concert Band play in Alexandra Recreation Ground.

Paws in the Park - September 8th More doggy focused fun in Cator park. Categories and entry details to follow.

Bat Walk – October 12th 6pm - Cator Park, Aldersmead Road, Beckenham BR3. Meet by the noticeboard. Bat detectors will be provided & a short talk by Bat expert Ishpi Blathcley.

AGM – October 2019 If you love your local park please come along to support us and find out our plans.

Carols in the Park. December 8th. Start the Christmas season with our annual music and mince pies date!

Volunteering. If you’d like to volunteer at any of these events or get more involved in the committee or our projects, please get in touch with us Twitter: @catoralexandra, FB @catorandalexandra or via our email adr below.

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 for more members 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 60-02-12
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

Email

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

Five year Family Membership £22:50 Five year Ind. Membership £12:50