

PARKLIFE



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND

Winter Issue 2020

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Welcome to the Winter 2020 issue of the newsletter. We hope this edition finds you all safe and well.

What a year! Having our AGM on Zoom, not being able to host our much-loved annual events, trees falling down and other such occurrences have made it memorable and not always for the best reasons. Looking back it has felt at times like this pandemic would stop us from being able to carry out our vision for enhancements in the parks however (through socially distanced, small groups of volunteers) we have managed to continue some of our projects with much success.

We forged ahead with our Tree & Bulb planting programme with the planting of over 2000 spring bulbs including bluebells and tulips in both parks. In Cator Park six new rose bushes were planted as well as 2 Yew trees donated by some local residents. We hope this will give all visitors a lift in spring 2021. We have plans to add further tree saplings to both parks we may be asking for help in nurturing trees at home before planting out in the parks so if you are able to foster a couple of trees for a while next year please get in touch! We'd like to thank volunteers from the Good Gym, local residents and members of the Friends of the parks for helping out with keeping Cator & Alex looking ship shape for all our users during this strange year.



Our most recent project has been the addition of a bug hotel in Alexandra Rec. We hear new tiny guests are already checking in and making themselves cosy in this superb six story dwelling – we encourage park users to collect pine cones and other organic matter to add to the hotel to keep it open for our insect guests!

Paddling Pool Site Survey

Unfortunately, idverde have informed us that the paddling pool is no longer viable in its current form and that we need to canvas opinion on what to do in this area. To this end we are conducting a survey on the possible future uses of the area to help inform the project team in January 2021

We'd really appreciate as many replies as possible to help us make the best choices and enable us to campaign for what users of the park would like to see happening in this area in the future. The link to the survey is www.menti.com/1yx2c2pcxe. Any survey answers need to be completed by December 13th. You can also email in your views to the Friends.



Up and Coming Park Events & Activities

As expected, all our live events this year have been cancelled but we'd love to resume them as soon as it is safe to do so. We do have this online event & by bookings obnly Mulled wine drop in for you though.....

Christmas Quiz

We'd like to invite you all to an online Christmas quiz on Sunday 13th December – we will be hosting the quiz live on Zoom and it will be a great way for everyone to come



together to celebrate our wonderful parks and community. The quiz is free but as we have not been able to hold our usual live fundraising events, we gratefully welcome donations for our bench appeal.

More Benches needed. Please help!

Have you enjoyed sitting in your local parks in 2020? We'd love to make everyone that little bit more comfortable by adding an extra bench to each park. The Friends 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. We have been quoted around £1650 per bench so they are not cheap to install but we think they would make great and necessary additions to the parks. At the time of printing we have received the following donations, £527 for the Cator Park Bench and £200 for Alex RG. It would be great to have a boost to these pots before the end of the year.

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

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



Membership for Friends of Cator Park & Alexandra Recreation Ground

The annual subscription supports many park activities including bulb planting. We need your support to continue this work. It's easy to join – email us 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: Individual Membership £12.50, Family Membership £22:50

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.