

# PARK LIFE

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND

*Summer Issue 2018*

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Dear Friends, welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. And what a summer so far!

The planting of two small orchards took place in Cator Park and Alexandra Rec' late last year. We knew it would be a hard first year for the fruit trees but hadn't been prepared for these seemingly endless days of sunshine!

Thanks to all our wonderful tree volunteers who have carried watering cans, bottles of water and an ingenious home-made water trundle over to our new trees giving them a much-needed watering during this unusually hot weather. It's been a real community effort and it's been lovely to meet new friends of our parks. The trees are surviving and everyone's efforts have now been rewarded with our first fruit! If you are planning to walk through the park why not take a 2 litre bottle of water with you?



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And it's not just the trees that are feeling the love from keen helpers - we've had working gardening parties at both parks. Gardening dates are listed on the Friends noticeboards. Monthly pruning and tidying of the house border at Alexandra has kept the wonderful roses and other plants looking glorious and over in Cator park a group from the Good Gym, Bromley – an initiative which gets runners out helping the communities they live in by stopping off to do good while out on their run – helped clear a mountain of weeds and overgrowth. You can find out more about the initiative here in a blog about the day <https://www.goodgym.org/reports/you->

Community is a strong theme this summer as we are also very pleased to be receiving support from Holy Trinity's 'Holiday at Home for the Over 50's' from 23 to 26 July. As part of this initiative, Rev. Nick Read is supervising the making of two wooden planters and an obelisk for the lodge house border – this will take place between 10.30 to 4.00pm on these days.

Finally, thank you to everyone who completed our recent Friends Parks Survey. From this we are initiating a Paddling Pool Review and an application for a Professional Volunteer Coordinator for Penge Parks.

## Up and Coming Park Events:

**Paws in the Park** – We’re really pleased to announce a NEW family-friendly event this year - “Paws in the Park”. This will be a fun afternoon for anyone who loves their four- legged doggy fur buddies! The fun starts at 1pm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September in Cator Park. We’re now calling for dog owners to enter their pooches into the competition. There’ll be a variety of categories including Best Groomed, Doggy Most Like Its Owner and Best Junior Handler. Entry is just £1 per category and there will be prizes and treats for all. Even if you don’t have a dog there is something for everyone – There will be craft beer and food stalls, face-painting and more! For the full list of categories please head to our website, twitter page, face-book page or park notice boards.



**Family Fun Day** – July 21st- Alex Rec. Family Fun Day in collaboration with the West Beckenham Bowls Club and Seymour Villas Football Club. The Friends will be having a gazebo selling drinks and cake from 10.00am. There will also be a free Tree Walk at 12.00pm led by arboricultural officer Hugh Chapman.

**Music in the Park** July 22<sup>nd</sup> 3-5 pm. Bring a picnic, your friends, family and neighbours and listen to the Beckenham Concert Band at Alex Rec. There’ll be homemade cakes, a stall from the Penge Food Assembly and tasty Nepalese goodies from the delicious Himalayan Kitchen as well as a raffle.

**Bat Walk Day** – October 9<sup>th</sup>. Led by the very knowledgeable bat expert Ishpi Blatchley who will be guiding the walk at 6:15pm. Meet by the Friends Notice board in the centre of Cator Park, Aldersmead Road, Beckenham BR3. Bat detectors will be provided.

**Carols in the Park** December. Date tbc.

## 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)

## 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](mailto: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**