

PARKLIFE



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION
GROUND

Autumn Winter Issue 2016

friends.cator-and-alexandra@live.co.uk



Dear Friends

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter 2016 edition of this newsletter.

We wanted to start this edition by adding our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Makayah McDermott and his aunt Rozanne Cooper who were tragically killed just metres from Alexandra Recreation Ground playground on 31st August.

It has been such a big shock to all who live in the area but we have to say that the wonderful sense of community has been amazing to witness with fundraising efforts by various local groups reaching at least £15,000. We have discussed and have had enquiries about fundraising for a memorial bench in the park. This is something we would support 100% but we are awaiting confirmation from the family to be sure it is something they would want.

Parks Update

It's been another successful year of park activities. Our summer Music in the Park event in Alex Rec with the wonderful Beckenham Concert Band, the Spring Walk around both parks and along the river Pool embankment, the Penge Festival Bat walk in Cator Park with Ishpi Blatchley - all were very well attended and enjoyed by everyone present. The paddling pool in Alex Rec has also been very well used and enjoyed this summer. We thank Penny Read and Andy Hodgson of the Landscape Group for maintaining and repairing it throughout the summer.

Talking of improvements – we are investigating the possibility of getting the Penge “Men in Sheds” group to build us a new bench for the paddling pool area and for the Cator Park children’s area for next year. This would be a nice collaboration of local groups if the council agree to the plans!

We are often asked about the lack of toilet facilities in the park – this has been especially so when families use the paddling pool. Unfortunately, although there once were open toilets situated around the back of the bowling club, these have been closed by the council (as have many public conveniences) and due to cuts there sadly are no plans to re-open them.

You may have noticed that the Park House is up for sale. This house has been lived in by the current owners for over 50 years – it's almost a feature of the park and we hope that its new owners enjoy surroundings as much as we do. The park house was once a fire station then became the park keeper's lodge when the park was a gated facility and locked at dusk!

Your Parks Need You!

If you'd like to join us why not drop us an email? We'd love to hear from you if you'd like to do some bulb planting, pruning or helping at one of our events.

Up and Coming Events:

Working Party for the Park House Border: These will recommence in April 2017.

Carols in the Park: on Sunday December 4th at 3.00pm. Meet by the fountain to sing traditional carols accompanied by the Beckenham Concert Band. Followed by free mulled wine and mince pies in the Holy Trinity Centre, Lennard Road. Nibbles by Himalayan Kitchen and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Ends about 5.00pm.

Useful Numbers

Park Security - Security in our parks is managed by Ward Security who operate a mobile service with dogs please contact them on 0845 847 6180 if you are in need of assistance in the parks.

English landscapes Maintenance Ltd - are contracted to carry out park grounds maintenance and look after all the parks and open spaces throughout the borough. Call them on 020 8313 4438.

Find Out More!

Did you know that as well as our website at www.friendsofcatorandalexandra.com we also have our very own Facebook page? Why not like us and get updates during the year on what we are up to in and around the Parks! We'd love you to post photos you have taken of the parks and let us know your ideas on making the parks better places for everyone!

How to join the Friends of Cator Park and Alexandra Recreation Ground

If you would like to join the Friends of Cator Park and Alexandra Recreation Ground please complete the details below and return with your remittance to Friends of Cator Park and Alexandra Recreation Ground, 15 Aldersmead Road, Beckenham, BR3 1NA. Please make cheques payable to Friends of Cator and Alexandra.

Name

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Address

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Telephone Email

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