

# PARKLIFE



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND – SUMMER 2021  
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. I say Summer but it has felt a little like we have skipped right past and gone straight to autumn! This weather has benefits however as it has meant we haven't had to rally round watering the saplings and weeding has been that little bit easier – see the massive weed pile pic!



Our dedicated committee members and amazing volunteers have been busy in both parks. Good Gym volunteers have attended almost every working party helping us to keep things looking tidy – Without them we feel the park shrub borders in Cator park would still be full of brambles - Big thanks guys! An individual thank you goes to Adele Prince, Area Activator for the GoodGym Bromley, who has been instrumental in organising volunteers to help us. She is moving onto new ventures, and we wish her well.

Carrying on the thank yous and goodbyes we wanted to share with you the news that The Rev Canon Dr Nick Read,

Vicar at Holy Trinity Beckenham is soon to be retiring. We've really enjoyed working with him and have appreciated all the help and support he has given to the Friends over the years – especially with Carols in the Park which have had him welcome all the carol singers back to the church, into the warmth, after a rousing singalong! Thank you, Nick, for all you have done for your local community with amazing projects like Living Well as well as our parks!



**New for 2021** - We are very excited to announce a new art installation that we have commissioned to make a nature trail for both parks. Talented local artist Helen Cristofoli was asked if she could paint plaques depicting common flora and fauna including insects, mammals and plants often seen in our parks. There are over 15 plaques to find in each park. Each is made from recycled oak flooring tiles and has been beautifully hand-painted. We hope you all enjoy doing the trail which we hope to complete this summer.

**More Updates.....**

During 2020 lockdowns the Friends organised crowdfunding for more park seating. To date we have raised just under £2k and we are pleased to report that as a result a new bench is being installed in Cator park very soon. Thank you so much to all who have donated so far. We are continuing to raise money for a second bench for Alex RG in 2021. To donate please see our bank details below quoting ref Bench and your name so we can thank you!

**Paddling Pool Site News...** As many of you know there has been a wonderful and very popular children's paddling pool on the ARG site for many years. However, we were told earlier this year by the council that the pool would sadly not be re-opened due to financial constraints. The Friends have organised a sub-committee of local parents to help work with the Park Managers (LBB & Idverde) to re-open the space. The current plans are to secure a dog-free area for children and families in time for the summer holidays, with a longer-term view to develop it as an area of interest for the park –

hopefully as waterplay feature - but this is subject to costs and funding opportunities. We will report back on any developments. If you want to Join the subcommittee let us know.

**Volunteering.** Gardening sessions continue in both parks throughout the year. If you are able, please come along on one of the dates below or follow us on social media for extra dates/opportunities. Please bring hand tools and gloves if you have them, but don't worry if you don't as we have spares available. Supervised children are very welcome. We are also undertaking basic maintenance to the existing benches - if you'd like to help us sand down / re-varnish the benches please let us know. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our events or projects, or you'd like to get more involved in the committee, please get in touch. To date, we have completed over 500 hours since April 2021 to help our parks.

<b>Cator Park Meet by central notice board</b>	<b>Alex Recreation Ground Meet by the old Fountain</b>
Tuesday July 6 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm- 8.30pm <b>-Evening</b>	Saturday July 17 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm
Saturday July 24 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm	Saturday August 7 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm
Tuesday August 10 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm – 8.30pm <b>-Evening</b>	Saturday August 21 <sup>st</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm
Saturday September 4 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm	Saturday September 11 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm
Tuesday September 21 <sup>st</sup> 7.00pm – 8.30pm <b>-Evening</b>	Saturday September 25 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am-12.00pm

**Up and Coming Park Events:** To help us with our sustainability plan, if you can, please bring your own cups & plates. Please practice social distancing & hand sanitise frequently. Please also note that we only have ONE contactless payment card so if you can bring cash to events that will help us enormously!

**Music in the Park – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 3-5pm** Alexandra Rec SE26. Join us for an afternoon of family music from the Beckenham Concert Band. Bring camping chairs and friends. We'll have a tasty teas and cake stall; Himalayan Kitchen will be selling their delicious small bites, plus a raffle and two craft stalls. It promises to be a lovely community event.

**Paws in the Park – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 1 – 5.30pm** Cator Park, Aldersmead Road, Beckenham BR3. Our popular Family Dog Show is back with all tails wagging. Clever Claws and Surrey & South London Dog Training and Behaviour teams will be on site to provide dog hooping and Temptation Alley fun for all the dogs. Love my Hound, Spoilt Rotten Dog treats and Schnauzerfest will also be joining us and will have stalls with tempting treats and presents to buy for your pooches. There'll be plenty of fun for humans too, big and small, with hoopla, face painting, the Friend's Cake & Tea stall as well as the marvellous Three Hounds Beer company serving up their best beery beverages.

**Membership for Cator Park and Alexandra Recreation Ground**

Our annual subscription supports many park activities & helps us to preserve and enhance the park environments. 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 60-02-12
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