

PARK LIFE



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CATOR PARK AND ALEXANDRA RECREATION GROUND – SUMMER 2022

FB & Insta: @catorandalexandra Twitter: @catoralexandra www.friendsofcatorandalexandra.com

Dear Friends, 2022 has been a great year so far for our parks – it's hard to know where to start with all our news – there's been so much going on!

Events... We were delighted to introduce our first ever Pride in the Park event as part of Penge Festivals' 50th year in June. This celebratory day brought together our local LGBTQ+ community and allies to share a wonderful afternoon together. There was so much great entertainment from storytelling by fabulous drag queen, That Girl, to relaxing walks with Park Bathe, Energising dance routines from the Ballet in the Park group, music with Lori May, lots of lovely stalls and of course our delicious trademark cake and refreshments with some simply amazing pride-themed goodies. We love our wonderful, diverse community! Also in the same month was our evening Bat Walk. It's always an interesting night discovering facts about, and listening out for, our local Pipistrelle population. The night was well attended raising £150 for the Bat Conservation Trust. Heading back to April, Easter in the Park was back – a lovely time was had by all looking for Easter rocks, biscuit decorating, hat making and sand art to name but a few of the activities on offer. And we still have a lot more fun on offer this year – why not follow us on our social media channels to keep up to date?



Planting in the parks update... Planting this year has really gone up a level with the planting of 60 new saplings in both parks, plants purchased from the Living Well plant sale such as new rose bushes and shrubs and the installation of the wonderful willow arch in Cator Park. The arch is a great point of interest for the park and was funded by a mixture of successful grant applications by committee members as well as our fundraising activities. Another new planting plan in the pipeline is a shrub and sapling corridor against the Studland Road side of Alex Rec – we are nurturing / growing on around 120 Hawthorn and Birch saplings to plant in the Autumn. Please look out for our volunteering shout-outs for help with digging these in. As the hot weather continues, we have been asking people to help us with keeping new and vulnerable plants hydrated – even a one litre bottle taken along to the park will make all the difference. We have also started an adopt-a-tree campaign with the aim to spread the watering between our community. If you think you could adopt

one, please let us know and we will assign you your own tree to water.

Art in the park.... Adding to our lovely nature plaques by Helen Cristofoli that were installed in 2021, we were excited to unveil our new feature "Owls in the park". The talented Elena Howard (insta: @ElenahowardClay) made us some special permanent little furry friends and hid them for people to find in the park and did a special spin-off Pride version with rainbow-coloured owls. We are so lucky to have local artists who want to collaborate with us to enhance our parks for everyone's enjoyment – a big thank you goes out to them.



Park Bench Updates... There have been three memorial benches added to the parks this year. Two in Alex Rec in memory of John Parker founder of Alexandra Nurseries and one in Cator Park in memory of Ian McBride, a park supporter and volunteer, and his dog, Rocky. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed towards these – it's been lovely to see people already using them to have a rest in both parks. We are about halfway to another two benches – one for each park via our go fund me page – we'd love to have these in place before the end of the year. Visit our website if you'd like to contribute. If you are considering privately sponsoring a bench in memory of a loved one you are welcome to contact us to help you with the process or contact Idverde directly at yasmine.pala@idverde.co.uk.

In other bench news, the friend's team and volunteers from the Gordon Moody Organisation – a charity that tackles gambling addiction - spent an afternoon doing a grand job of refurbishing benches in Cator Park, litter picking and gardening. We were so impressed by their willingness to get stuck in and very grateful for their help. There are more bench refurb planned for both parks Alex rec – see below for volunteering dates if you would like to help in future.

Padding Pool Site News The children's pool area is now open for public use (no dogs please) and new gates and planters have been installed. We await the Open Space Strategy decision on the development of this site.

Reporting Crime in our parks: We often get asked about anti-social behavior in our parks. We recommend that if you see anything that doesn't look right in the park you call Ward Security (number below) in the first instance. They are a mobile park security service contracted to look after the security of all London Borough of Bromley Parks and operate with patrol dogs. If you see a crime taking place, please call the police directly on 999.

Useful Contacts - Ward Security: 0845 847 6180, Idverde (responsible for grounds maintenance): 020 8313 4438., Fix My Street – the place to report any graffiti, litter, fallen trees etc. at www.fixmystreet.com.

Volunteering: Our list of people to thank for volunteering grows ever longer as more people than ever this year have come along to help us keep the parks looking in tip top condition. BIG thank yous to all our volunteers including the Good Gym, Duke of Edinburgh students, Gordon Moody Organisation, Committee members, we salute you all. Want to meet new people, and feel great about improving your local environment? Please do join us!



For Gardening parties please see dates below:

Cator Park Meet by Bridge / Storage Container	Alex Recreation Ground Meet by the old Fountain
Sunday Aug 7 th - 10.00am-12.00pm	Saturday July 30 th 10.00am-12.00pm
Tuesday Aug 16 th 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Saturday Aug 13 th 10.00am-12.00pm Bench refurb
Saturday Sept 3 rd 10.00am-12.00pm	Sunday Aug 14 th 10.00am-12.00pm Bench refurb
Tuesday Sept 13 th 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Saturday Aug 27 th 10.00am-12.00pm
Sunday Sept 25 th 10.00am-12.00pm	Saturday Sept 17 th 10.00am-12.00p

Up and Coming Park Events: To help us with our sustainability plan please bring your own cups & plates to events. Please also note that we have just two contactless payment cards so if you can bring cash that will help us enormously.

- Paws in the Park** - Sunday 4th September, 12.30 - 5:30 pm, Cator Park
- AGM 2022** - Wednesday 16th November 7pm; West Beckenham Bowls club
- Santa Paws Festive Dog Walk** - Saturday 10th December 11.am - see flyers for details
- Carols in the Park** - Sunday 11th December 3pm Alexandra Recreation Ground

Membership for Cator Park & Alexandra Recreation Ground

Our annual subscription supports many 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 with the information below
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**