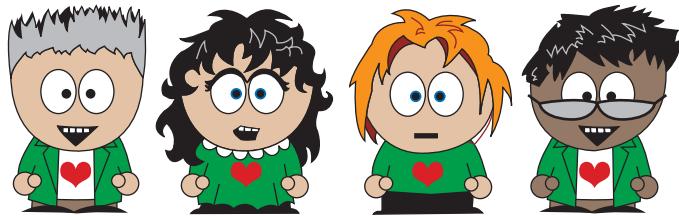


# FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ❤ WEST HAM PARK

## AGM 2020 – an update

Hello Everyone,

The past 12 months have been a period of contrasts for the Friends Group, much as it has been for all of us. During 2019 and early this year we held a lot of very successful events. Those attending the bat walks last summer witnessed a spectacular display from the park's bats, and the creation of a real monster leaf pile followed in November. We were treated to some excellent festive songs during 'Park in the Dark' and the New Year started with a good show from the park's birds during our January bird watching weekend. Finally our Astronomy weekend included a lovely night for star watching and the International Space Station passed right overhead giving a great view to those taking part.

Since then the COVID-19 pandemic has meant we have had to cancel all our activities. I do hope you enjoyed the newsletter we produced in May, and the updates and pictures on FaceBook. At present we will not be planning to hold any activities until Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile in November, subject to conditions and rulings nearer to the time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant a number of the Parks' staff have been unable to work. This has reduced the staff on duty and restricted the opening hours of the park. A small group of volunteers from the Friends are now helping the park for the months of July and August, by opening the park's gates first thing in the morning and undertaking litter picking. This has meant that the reduced number of staff the park have available, are able to look after the park better and keep the park open for longer in the evenings.

As you may know we postponed our AGM from the original date of July 2nd to later this month. We normally hold the AGM on the bandstand in the park. However, to comply with social distancing rules the bandstand can only

accommodate a maximum of two people from each of six separate households. We could extend numbers by using the whole of the enclosure around the bandstand, but this is too large for everyone to hear the person speaking, and is only practical in good weather.

In view of this, and that any in-door venue would have similar restrictions, I feel there is no alternative to proposing that the AGM does not take place this year, and that all the elected Friend's officials continue in their current role for the next 12 months. The next AGM would take place in summer 2021. I have discussed this with the current elected officials of the Group who support this proposal and are willing to continue in office for the next 12 months.

If anyone feels they are unable support this proposal please respond to the FWHP by [email](#) before 20th July. I will then consider our options. Personally I am happy to continue in my role as Chair for 12 more months but after that I would want there to be a new Chair.

Finally I would just like to mention litter in the park. Did you know there are 90 bins in the park, and with the amount of emptying undertaken, on a peak day 350 bin sacks full of litter are collected. That's a huge amount of waste that has to be processed, not to mention the number of plastic sacks involved. So, please to try to take rubbish home with you when using the park. We are exploring ways of involving a wider group of the Friends to assist with litter picking in the future. More news of that in the coming weeks.

I hope we will be able to welcome everyone to a FWHP event in the not too distant future. In the mean time please keep safe and enjoy the park's facilities and thank you for your continued support.

Roger Jones  
Chair, Friends of West Ham Park