

# Friends of Wanstead Parklands



## A Vision for Our Open Spaces

Our live tweeting from the recent Labour Party meeting



- audience of over 100! FWP Chairman John Meehan with Superintendent Paul Thomson.
- FWP chair - Wanstead Park can absorb many more visitors and should be better used. Paths can be improved and maintain natural appearance.
- FWP chair: We need to focus on access - state of paths make access difficult in particular for wheelchairs, buggies.
- Concerns from audience about deteriorating state of Wanstead Park and lack of investment.
- Cllr Sheila Bain concerned at delays to HLF bid and lack of funding and fully support FWP's plan. Keen on natural play facilities
- 1930s saw tennis, boating and bandstand on Wanstead park. More recently a 'natural' approach adopted
- FWP chair John Meehan speaking about tragic end to Wanstead house which was compared to Blenheim palace in its day.
- @ColEppingForest to get Wanstead park off the English Heritage at risk register
- 2 fly tips a day at Wanstead flats.
- 3.5 Albert halls' worth of water pumped into Wanstead Park's lakes each year!
- @ColEppingForest superintendent speaking about history of Epping forest.
- Superintendent of Epping forest says 220,000 visits to Wanstead park per year.

Follow the full story at

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=dBZ3LoPk5Y>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FWP Committee Meetings

#### Wednesday 8th March

Venue: Wanstead Golf Club  
Time 7.30

#### FWP A.G.M.

#### Wednesday 29th March

Venue: Wanstead Golf Club

Time: 7:00 for 7:30

Come along and meet fellow members—see inside for details of the evening.

### Wren Group Activities

#### Photo Exhibition

#### Late February

Venue: the Temple

Times: weekends

#### Valentin's Day Fun

#### Saturday 11th February

Venue: The Temple

Time: 11am -1pm

#### Walk: History on the Chestnut Trail

#### Sunday 19th February

Venue: Warren Road entrance

Times: 11am-1pm

## FURTHER DATES TO NOTE

### Valentines Day Fun at the Temple



**Saturday February 11th**  
**11am-1.00pm**  
**Storytime 12pm**  
**The Temple, Wanstead Park**  
**Valentine's Day crafts for children**  
**Make some love tokens and cards**  
**for friends and family**  
**Suggested donation: £2 per child.**  
**No booking required.**

A Friends of Wanstead Parklands event  
[www.wansteadpark.org.uk](http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk)

#### Further Activities

##### Go Wild in Wanstead Park

###### Sunday 12th March

Venue: The Temple

Time: 10am –3pm

Four 1-hour workshops run by Epping Forest Keeper Alison Tappley

10am: Fire lighting

11am: Shelter workshop

1pm: Fire lighting

2pm: Shelter workshop

Age 6-11, 15 per session. Cost £2.50 per child

Booking in advance essential:

see [www.wansteadpark.org.uk](http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk)

##### April Fools Day Fun

###### Sunday 8th March

Venue: The Temple

Time: 11am-1pm

Join in the jokes with the Friends of Wanstead Parklands jester, joke competition and make your own April Fools crafts.

Suggested donation of £2 per child. No booking required, but spaces are limited.

##### Walk: led by historian Richard Arnopp

###### Sunday 23rd March

Venue: Warren Road Park Entrance

Time: 11am-1pm

## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Is it still appropriate to say Happy New Year?

We have a new calendar the FWPL website so do have a look to see what is going on in and around the park.

We also have an update on the Tesco bid as you know the Friends have won £8000 for new seats and picnic tables at the Tea Hut. Tesco has now confirmed that the bulk of the money will be paid this month.

So the City of London is now in a position to start ordering the seats and tables and all being well installation should take place late by April/early May.

Final payment will be made once the work is complete and a completion report has been submitted.

Watch this space !



Examples of the new seating



## DID YOU KNOW ?

Members of the committee and 'old' friends or should that be long standing friends of the park often take it for granted that visitors know as much as we do. Whereas the Grotto and the Temple are familiar sights on walking around the park did you know that the although the buildings are no longer part of the park Wanstead Golf Club, who are associate members of the Friends, was the stables to Wanstead House and part of the estate.



We know the glade the long walk from the house to the lakes but did you know on the original plans there an amphitheatre, still faintly visible on the ground in the parkland and also an American Garden, lost to land outside the park today. There are articles about the history of the park on the friends website.



In the latest event in the popular "Tea at The Temple" series, local historian Mark Gorman, 22 January, told the story of how, in the 1870s, Epping Forest came to be saved for future generations.

Talking to an audience of about forty people Mark began by setting out the context, whereby London's population grew seven-fold between 1800 and 1900, and swallowed up great tracts of formerly rural Middlesex, Essex, Surrey and Kent.

At the same time, the accelerating "enclosure movement" saw many of the area's commons turned into private land. However, the Forest, in common with many other precious open spaces, was saved and, in 1882, Queen Victoria declared the Forest to be for "the use and enjoyment of my people for all time".

Mark argued that these victories were not only due to the work of influential conservationists and the City of London, important though these were, but that a key role was played by the mobilisation of public opinion and mass protest.

The talk was followed by tea and cake in the downstairs sculpture gallery.

## FRIENDS LET THEIR HAIR DOWN AT ANNUAL QUIZ!

Our third annual quiz at the Leytonstone and District Ex-Servicemen's Club was another great success. Attended by about 60 people, we recruited 25 new members and raised more than £500 to support the Friends work.

Thanks to all who helped, in particular Dwight Wood and his family who took the lead in organising the event, and Tricia Moxey who put together the quiz and asked the questions. Also, of course, to those who attended and contributed so generously via the raffle, to the club for its hospitality, and to Star of India for its excellent catering!

As usual, the "practical task" was one of the most popular elements of the evening, as it gave people a chance to re-live their time at primary school. This year the task was to create an object out of newspaper and sellotape which was capable of floating unaided in a washing up bowl full of water for FIVE SECONDS! It also had to be accompanied by an entertaining narrative.

The overall winners of the quiz with their prize, a case of sparkling wine.

## Notice for A.G.M for the Friends of Wanstead Parklands

**Wednesday 29th March 2017**

Introduction by our Chairman: John Meehan  
followed by:



A break to socialise and chat to other members  
followed by our

Guest speakers and

Wanstead Park 1890-1940: images from a personal collection  
by Richard Arnopp

With an opportunity to buy DVD and books about the park and its history

**There will be refreshments tea & coffee  
the Club Bar will also be available**

**Place: Wanstead Golf Club Overton Drive  
Time: 7 for 7.30 prompt start**



## Changes at The Temple

If you are a regular to the park and the Temple you will see a few changes when you next visit.

The space downstairs is gradually being converted for community use and some of the older furniture is going into storage. More practical folding chairs and tables have been purchased and are stored under the stairs for use at events such as talks and activities. The four large pieces of statuary will all be moved to make a bigger more flexible public space and the modern flagstone floor which gets soiled very easily will be cleaned and sealed. These changes are being introduced carefully so as not to deflect from the beauty of this historic building but to bring it more to life.

Friends of Wanstead Parklands have proposed a series of monthly events to help raise the Temple's profile and footfall. These events will of course be supplemented by other activities such as, eventually, weddings!

Our first activity was the wonderfully lively 'Mistletoe' a musical miscellany in December, which was attended by 250 adults and 89 children, and the second in January was the excellent illustrated talk by Mark Gorman on the Fight to Save the Forest, which was fully booked.

As well as the listed activities see previous page later in the year there will be live music picnic afternoons in the Temple Garden and don't forget.

April 23rd: City of London Bluebell Day. Details to follow.



Elsewhere in the park, current clearance work will tidy and open up the area around the Warren Road entrance.

Overgrown vistas should reappear, some redundant notices have been removed. Two noticeboards have been moved to better positions, one has now been sited near to the Tea Hut so you can read the notices while you sip your tea.



There are plenty of health walks organised by the City of London and Redbridge Council.

**In Wanstead park walks take place on a Thursday.**

Meet : at the Park Entrance at Warren Road Car Park

Time : 11am

2nd February

23rd February

16th March

They usually take the form of an hour long walk and will cover 2.5 to 3 miles.

**All welcome just turn up!**

# Friends of Wanstead Parklands

Find us at <http://www.wansteadpark.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/46936535702/>

Contact us at [wanstead.parklands@googlemail.com](mailto:wanstead.parklands@googlemail.com)



## STOP PRESS:

as always your committee welcomes new members – several key posts are vacant.

Why not come along to the AGM or any of the regular Committee meetings to find out more.

Our proposal to set up a rota of occasional volunteers to help on Temple opening weekends has not so far been taken up as the City of London have recruited more staff to fill the gap and prevent the unexpected weekend closures.

We though would welcome volunteers willing to take on either portfolios or individual tasks.



## FRIENDS OF WANSTEAD PARKLANDS:

In 2009 a group of local people reactivated the dormant Friends of Wanstead Parklands group to raise public awareness of the history and ecology of Wanstead Park and to campaign for its preservation and enhancement. Wanstead Park is where Epping Forest meets east London.

For an area so close to residential development, there is an abundant variety of plant, animal and other natural life, as well as more than a hundred bird species (around fifty breeding there). The varied habitats include lakes and ponds, woodlands, open rough grassland and mown playing fields. The Park's history is also extraordinary.

It was the site of Colen Campbell's great Wanstead House, built from 1715 for the Child family, and demolished in 1824. The grounds - of which important features remain - were one of the finest examples of English Landscape Movement of the 18th Century (the Park is now listed Grade 2\*). A previous house was occupied by Elizabeth's minister Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Recent work has demonstrated that Wanstead Park has been occupied since pre-Roman times.