



Friends of Chislehurst Recreation Ground
Registered Charity Number 1163405

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 -19

The Friends of Chislehurst and Walden Recreation Grounds, also known as FOCRG, was established in 2010 and became a charity on 3 September 2015. It is governed by its Constitution, most recently amended 30 July 2015. The charity's principal objective is to assist in maintaining and improving Chislehurst & Walden recreation grounds and associate community facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area with the object of improving their conditions of life. Funds are raised through grants, events and by encouraging donations from local people and businesses. We rely on this funding and volunteers to provide free community events and park improvements.

Once again FOCRG Volunteers have had a busy year. Working in partnership with idVerde we retained our Green Flag status for a third year. We also earned Outstanding in the RHS London in Bloom "Its your Neighbourhood" award for the third time.

Although we receive much support and membership stands at 558 households, 834 members, the number of actual volunteers remains low. We have a committee of 8 plus a further 6 – 10 regular volunteers, mainly family and friends of committee members, who can be called upon for projects. The new gardening club has introduced a further 6 regular volunteers. Other volunteers litter pick regularly but anonymously. The Chislehurst 5th Cubs help FOCRG tend the shade garden and habitat haven. A small but dedicated group come with their Akela every couple of months on Saturday morning.

With this level of regular volunteers, FOCRG decided we could not by ourselves continue to stage the type and scale of events the community had come to expect in the Recreation Grounds. We therefore enlisted CLEAR Synergy CLG to manage Chislehurst Rocks for us. This way we were able to keep it as a free community event, but with the professional organization required, which proved very successful.

We also made the introductions for the first commercial Food and Drink Fair held at the end of June, which was very well received. Our knowledge of the local community and our excellent communication network enables us to evaluate what people want in their recreation grounds and we hope idVerde and LBB will continue to listen and accept our recommendations.

We are extremely grateful to the Chislehurst Society for their ongoing support with grants for new planters and the garden shed, as well as a substantial grant to purchase the Whyte Family archive. FOCRG hope this collection will provide more information about Miss Agnes Whyte who donated Whytes Wood and the bird sanctuary to the people of Chislehurst. The material is currently with the Chislehurst Society Local History Group who are collating information for us. Bromley Friends Forum also provided a grant of £190 towards the gardening shed.

In total, volunteers gave approximately 1248.3 hours to protect, promote and improve their Recreation Grounds.

A summary of our activities is given overleaf with approximate volunteer time in hours.

Barbara Arora
Chair FOCRG 22nd November 2019

Work parties: 429 hours

- “Spruce up for Spring” where volunteers cleaned signage and playground equipment (22)
- Painted noticeboards (3)
- Regular weekly Gardening Club since 1st May 2019 (256)
- Chislehurst 5th Cubs Saturday work mornings x 4 (70)
- Blitz the Butt day – to raise awareness of environmental harm from discarded cigarette butts (3)
- Garden shed building in conjunction with Invicta Scout Group. One day to clear site and pour concrete base in the Scout’s compound. Erection of metal shed 6x 8’ to store gardening club equipment. (75)

Events 368 hours

- Build a Gingerbread House. Fund raiser in conjunction with Invicta Scout Group. Includes planning, collecting materials, making up samples, feed back (36)
- Half Term activities in The Roost. 2 x Story Telling sessions and 1 Craft afternoon. Free but donations welcomed. (21)
- Paws on Plastic campaign to raise awareness of plastic waste. Prize for best picture of dog with collected plastic litter. (7)
- Chislehurst Rocks – major sponsor. Run on our behalf by CLEAR Synergy CLG and volunteers (300)
- Remembrance Poppy wreath. Made from recycled plastic bottles (4)

FOCRG Committee Meetings 79 hours

- 4 x Regular meetings (48)
- 1 x AGM and Open Meeting (25)
- 2 x Chislehurst Rocks planning meetings (6)

Meetings with idVerde / LBB 11 hours

- Green Flag and management plan meetings (3)
- Site meetings re infrastructure, playground equipment, trees (5)
- Final Pavilion site meeting (1.5)
- Meeting with Amy Rogers and James Hillsden re water fountain (1.5)

Interaction with other organisations Approx 52 hours

Participation in Bromley Friends Forum (12)

Guiding Green Flag and London in Bloom judges around site. (9)

Attendance at the London in Bloom Award ceremony (12)

Delegated sports manager and FC Elmstead, the resident football club

Chislehurst Rotary, Chislehurst Lawn Tennis Club (1)

Liaison with Ward Councillors and various LBB officers from environment and green spaces, properties, planning, enforcement & security departments. This involved meetings, emails and phone calls (3)

Met Police Safer Neighbourhood Team: CAP meetings and reporting of antisocial behavior (8)

Chislehurst Town Team and Visit Chislehurst for mutual publicity

Chislehurst Society

Invicta Scout Group and Chislehurst 5th Cubs (2)

Local schools: Coopers and Bullers Wood students held their end of exam celebrations in the Rec.

Friends of the Rec assisted with the clear up! (5)

Mentoring 5.3 hours

Meetings to help formation of new Friends Group at Goddington Park, Orpington (5)

Email advice to Horn Park Friends Group re drinking water fountains (20 mins)

Behind the scenes 479 hours

Emails and phone calls, minutes and newsletters (50)

Website management (15)

Identify and apply for grants, donations, awards (6)

Treasurer's duties i.e. book keeping, banking, dealing with accountant, submitting records to Charity Commission (50)

Social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram – used to generate interest, explain policy and works in the Rec, advertise events, raise awareness and stimulate discussion of environmental and community issues. Monitor and edit comments on our various platforms. Research and design for campaigns, posters etc. (350)

Building up a photo library to document nature and activity in the Rec. Needed for grant applications. (8)

Ongoing tasks 125 hours

Supply of poo bags – collect from sponsors, fill dispensers daily. (60)

Litter picking, cleaning up dog mess. (25)

Cleaning drinking fountain (8)

Printing, laminating and distributing posters in the community (10)

Management of notice boards (10)

Graffiti removal (5)

Plastic bottle recycling i.e. empty containers, take bottles home for recycling (3)

Preparation of equipment for loan/hire. Checking and storing on return (4)

Total volunteer hours, excluding Chislehurst Rocks 1248.3 hours

Chislehurst Rocks alone approximately 900 volunteer hours.