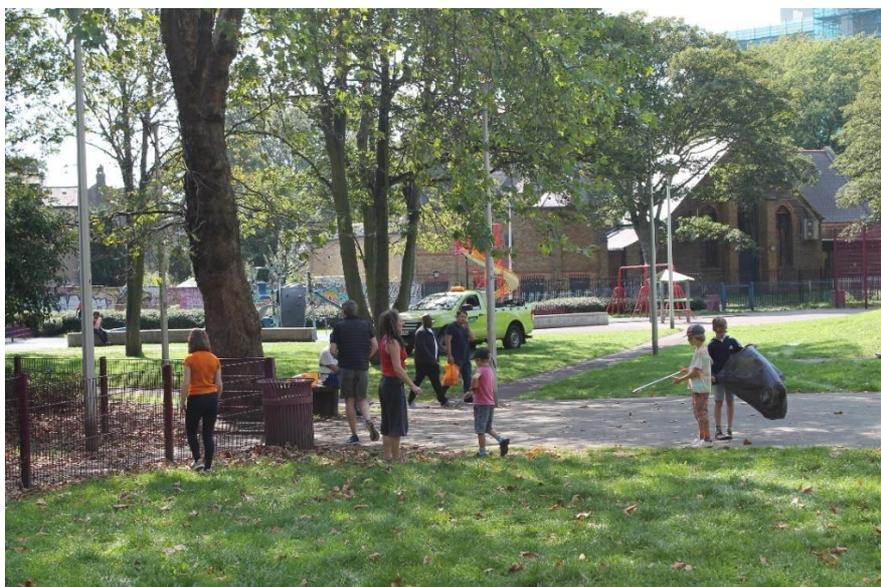

WHAT THE ECK?

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FROM
THE FRIENDS OF ECKINGTON GARDENS

Hello friends!

We are delighted to tell you that we have now had a number of clear up Saturdays over the summer and autumn, but you probably already know that and hopefully have attended a few yourself. We'd like to thank all our volunteers who have joined in with bulb planting, sign cleaning and of course litter picking. Also, we'd like to extend a thank you to Glendale, the park management company, who provided equipment and bags (most of the time – and if they didn't, the volunteers made a plan themselves!). Please attend our next public meeting on **7 November 2018**, 7pm at the Somerville Stay and Play (more on this below).

We think the hard work is starting to pay off – many local people have taken note of the efforts being made and we are certainly raising awareness of our small green space.



So, what else have we been doing?

Our Chairperson, Shereener, attended the Green Spaces Forum in September and reported that the gardens are in desperate need of an update and thorough clean. As a result, a representative from the Council is going to visit the gardens with a view to reporting back on what needs to be done. Of major interest is that in 2019, there is a potential opportunity for us - applications can be made from green space user groups for funding, for initiatives that assist in the areas of public health and the environment. Thanks to Shereener for taking the time to find out – even more reason to keep supporting your FEG representatives and give us feedback and your ideas.

Our Treasurer, Benoit, attended the Open Space Quality Workshop on 9th of October run by the Council. It was an opportunity to be briefed on the Council's assessment of the quality of over 350 greenspace sites across the borough. They are doing this assessment to make sure that our precious greenspace sites are protected and that they work to achieve the highest quality standards. Many thanks to Benoit for ensuring Eckington Gardens was represented – keeping us very much on the Council's radar.

Community meeting

It's been a while since we have had a public meeting. However, the FEG representatives have been meeting regularly throughout this year. Please attend our next public meeting on **7 November 2018**, 7pm at the Somerville Stay and Play. Come along and find out what we've been up to and how you can help. A reminder will be sent nearer to the time.

Next clear up

Our next clear up will be **1 December 2018** - please keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram pages to keep up to date. Please note that the clear up on 27 October 2018 has been cancelled due to a clash with another local Halloween event.

Report fly-tipping!

Fly-tipping and litter are major problems in the area. The quicker the fly tipped items are reported to Lewisham Council, the sooner they will be collected. An easy way to report on the go, is to download the FixMyStreet app (freely available). It is so easy to use, and every report is a step towards improving our immediate environment. Visit www.fixmystreet.com or search in the AppStore on your phone to download.

Another good thing to know is you can also report other issues via FixMyStreet, such as: street cleaning not sufficient, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling and more. The Council is planning on improving signage about litter and fly tipping, so if you think your area is a hot spot for these, please report and ensure the Council is made aware of it.

Littering and dog fouling

Littering and dog fouling continue to be a problem for all urban green spaces. We, as always, want to encourage users to use the bins provided and to take rubbish home with them when the bins are

full. FEG will continue to work with Glendale to provide some new signs aimed at discouraging littering and dog mess.

Last, but not least: we want to hear from YOU

If you have any ideas, announcements or suggestions please do get in touch at contact@eckingtongarden.org

