Nature conservation, events, and engaging the community

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Cemetery Park Manager
The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Why am I here?

Been invited here to share with you our experience at THCP.

It may help you with your site and with bringing to life your aims & objectives.

So, let’s go!
What is THCP?

- Closed cemetery – 1841 to 1966
- Public Park
- Owned by Local Authority
- Managed via an SLA by FoTHCP
- London’s most urban woodland
- One of London’s Magnificent Seven
- Zone 2, Mile End
- An LNR & SINC with listed monuments
“This park is an envisioned wild England whose dense diversity could not thrive without close management.”

“And I hear a plane go overhead, or maybe a siren in the far distance, and as it passes, I realise I haven’t heard another sound. My ears acclimatise, and fill with the gentle rushing of leaf litter on the floor, the sound like pouring rice of the papery poplar leaves along the perimeter, the thick buzz of the damsel flies. The city has disappeared.”

“...here, in the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, amongst this tangled growth, death seems different: the foundations of the life that lives upon it. The space that was fenced off by man for his dead has been reconsecrated by nature, with life instead.”
Who are the FoTHCP

- Registered charity since 1993
- Company limited by guarantee since 2004
- Volunteer led – trustees + committee
- Three full-time, paid staff
- Outward looking
- Innovative
- Accommodating
- Award winners
Some of our challenges.

- Litter
- ASB
- Public opinion
- Austerity
- Resources
- Neglect by LBTH
- Money
- Governance
- Strength of the Board/new trustees
Day to day

- Litter picking
- Public enquiries
- Volunteer work parties
- Walks and talk
- Training
- Forest school
- Environmental education
- Emails
- Research
How?

• Committed and we are added value
• Community support/building partnerships
• Political support
• Recognition of our vulnerability
• London based
• Inclusive and open minded – welcoming
• Website and social networking, e-newsletter
• Press releases
• Forward looking
• Visible and active
Why it works

• We’re unique in Tower Hamlets
• We’re unrivalled in the Borough
• We do something that is special and greatly appreciated
• We celebrate and communicate
• We take advantage of popular topics
• We combat deprivation
• We hardly ever say, no
HOW CAN I HELP?
Keep in touch

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@FoTHCP

#TowerHamletsCemeteryPark
Don’t forget to visit.