

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 10

Summer 2008

Summer again and everything's growing very well. The new contractors for the park, Wyevale, are doing a splendid job keeping all under control.

Hampden Park in Bloom

The judges visited the park on 1st July, asked lots of questions and were very interested in our presentation of the work we had done over the last three and half years. One judge was able to comment that he was last here 4 years ago and could certainly tell that the Friends had been at work in the interim and was very impressed with our achievements. His words were 'keep up the good work'.

RSPB

We are happy to be able to give you a date for your diary. On 30th September Kim Richards of the RSPB will give us a talk on wildlife gardening.

The meeting will be at St. Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, commencing at 7pm. Admission is free and there will be refreshments, but any donations into our permanent feature 'begging bowls' will be gratefully received.

Decoy Pond

EBC have authorised a consultant to survey the pond and make recommendations as to the work required and the potential cost. The Committee of the Friends will see this survey and have an opportunity to chat with the consultant at the end of July, so we hope to have a lot

more information for you when we meet up in September.

Improvements to Park Paths

It has long been one of the top five wishes of members of the Friends to have the paths in the park restored and repaired, and made wheelchair and push chair friendly. To this end the Friends are applying for a National Lottery Grant and you may have seen our survey forms about. These are asking residents and park users for their signature in support of our aim. And any comments are also welcome. If you belong to a group or association and could gain some signatures for us please get in contact and we'll send you a form.

If you support our aims, but haven't seen a survey sheet, please write a letter which we can add to those already received from schools and Councillors.



One of the areas highlighted is the path around the war memorial, and while

there we noticed the memorial itself is in need of some restorative work. If you know anyone involved with this memorial please ask them to get in touch with the Friends.

Website

Great news on our website! It is almost up and running with the compliments of Ratton School and we would like to thank Matthew Bristow for the work he has and is doing, and Rebecca for her design. The background is complete and just awaiting organisation of a domain. We're nearly there. More news soon.

Arboretum

The sign has been installed and the new guide to the arboretum is complete. As you may remember this is to be a garden depicting the history of when certain plants and trees were introduced into the United Kingdom. For news on the date of the official opening please see Stop Press over.



Tutorial background documentation will be available via our and the Council website in PDF format and we hope these will enable the area to be used as an outdoor class room. Schools or students please contact the Friends.

WI

With the compliments of the Hampden Park WI we have been provided with copies of two leaflets they prepared for the Millennium. One is a walk around the pond and naming certain trees to see. The second is for children to spot various flora and fauna in the park. We will be reproducing these soon and make them available at the Café.

Environmental Enforcement Team

The environmental team for EBC is to be increased to five people and will work to assist better control of litter; control of dogs in the park, and fouling; fly posting and fly tipping; street trading; and graffiti. If you see any anti social behaviour that you think they could follow up on please contact the team on 01323 415934.



Alternatively, you can email them on communityenforcement@eastbourne.gov.uk. The team are asking for our help as their eyes and ears, perhaps with a photo to support your report. They have the fixed penalties that will back up our efforts and they, like us want to improve things. We look forward to welcoming them to our September gathering to meet you.

Working together with sports clubs

A Park Users Focus Group has been formed enabling all sports groups, businesses and Friends representatives to discuss with Councillors and Police their mutual problems and concerns. Vandalism and throwing darts at ducks were among issues discussed. The local Police hope to be able to come along to our September meeting to make themselves known, and chat to members. To report any incidents in the park call the police on 0845 6070999.

Volunteer Gang

For those who don't know, these are Members of the Friends (and often partners, husbands, wives and children) who come out to help with specific events or challenges. Not everyone is available every time, some can help with teas or cakes, some with spades and

forks, some only on weekdays some only at weekends. All help is welcome so please contact us.

Snowdrop Planting



Sixty children from Parkland Infant School planted snowdrops on a beautiful April morning on the bank between the water garden and the Decoy Pond. Again, thanks to the Volunteer Gang for their digging and PC Rockingham for shepherding the walk from school.

Your committee for 2008

Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Secretary
Committee

Sandy Boyce-Sharpe
Bob Jones
Lindsey Gwynne
Carol Hunter
Hugh Ball
Chris Hookham
Bryan Renn

My apologies to Chris - I left him off the committee list in the previous newsletter. We meet approximately 9 times a year, in the evening, and each committee member takes on a role to help with the Friends' work in between times. If you would like to help in any capacity it would be great to hear from you. This could be by being a committee member or joining the *Volunteer Gang*, perhaps training as a Project Manager or Risk Assessment Officer, or just helping now and again with litter picking.

Please use the contact details overleaf to get in touch but do provide your full details. Alternatively use it to set out any comments or thoughts you wish brought to the committee's attention. Thanks for all your letters. Sorry I can't reply to each one individually but please keep them coming. It is very encouraging.

Many thanks

Sandy

STOP PRESS

The official opening of the Arboretum will take place on Thursday 31st July at 10am by the Mayor. Please join us.

Revised Park Guide

With help from donations we've been able to finance the reprint of our revised Park Guide and we have pleasure in enclosing a complimentary copy with this newsletter. More are available via the Café or the Tourist Information Centre in town.

Membership Drive

The best publicity is word of mouth and we have been delighted with residents contacting us supporting the work we do and offering their help. But more always welcome. Once you have read your newsletter perhaps please share it with neighbours or leave it at the dentist.

My dearest wish is that almost every house around the park be a member of the Friends and then we can be sure we reflect their wishes when we negotiate the various initiatives with EBC. Please encourage your neighbours to join us. Membership application form below.

Photographs – a History of the Park

Have you by any chance any old photographs of the park that you can part with or could scan and send to us? We thought it might be a nice idea to create a photographic record of the park over the decades in hard copy but also for our website. We have a good selection of current photographs but would like anything you may have depicting the past. Please put approx. year on the back, and any names, etc. It may not be possible to return them so, please, only if you can part with them.

Friends of the Hampden Park

Membership Application Form

Fee £2 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____ Able to help: Yes/No Weekday/Weekend

Email address: _____

Comments: _____

Please return this form to
The Chairman and Editor, Sandy Boyce-Sharpe
Courtmead, Walnut Tree Walk, Eastbourne, BN20 9BP
Telephone 07802 884088 or email friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk