

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11

Friends of the Hampden Park

Winter 2008/09

A difficult summer for all gardeners, not least those in Hampden Park. Still, I hope you all agree that the trees this autumn have been lovelier than ever and the improvements all over continue.

Hampden Park in Bloom Hampden Park in Bloom gained a silver award this year and the judges awarded the Friends a Certificate of Excellence for the help we gave. Great!

Website The Friends' website has been finished by Ratton School and will shortly be ready. Watch this space for the URL.

Photographs – a History of the Park
Thanks for the photographs received. I will share them when we meet next.

RSPB The member's evening on 30th September was very successful and thanks go to Kim Rogers for a great presentation. Also thanks to the ladies who provided the cakes. Scrummy!

Neighbourhood Panel Crime in the Park has been horrendous this summer, from burglary to arson. You will have seen in the press that there are Neighbourhood Panels being set up all over Eastbourne. One of the first three is the Hampden Park area panel which is available on www.eastbournenp.org Please use this to report any incidents of vandalism, crime, litter, anti-social behaviour, etc., in the park or where you are. Only by doing this can the police build up a satisfactory picture.

Water Garden Over recent weeks young people on a Prince's Trust scheme have been planting unwanted EBC geraniums from seafront summer bedding & local children from Parkland Infant and Hampden Park Infant Schools have been planting 1500 native English bluebells. Over 250 children involved and their families. Wonderful!

The Parks Dept. of EBC will be planting scented shrubs, clearing the stream banks of weeds, dividing and moving the bamboo. It's hoped, in time, to recreate this as the new sensory area with seats, sights, sounds and smells to delight.



Children from Hampden Park Infants

Membership Once you have read your newsletter perhaps please share it with neighbours or leave it at the dentist, doctors, hairdressers or a.n.other.

Park Toilets
Despite our dismay at EBC not reinstating the toilets in the children's play area, we are delighted to announce the renovation of the existing toilets adjacent to the café will take place soon.

Social Diary Dates 2008

2nd December Mark Probyn Asst. Director – Amenities and Contract Management & Gareth Williams Parks and Gardens Manager on 'Hampden Park from a Management Perspective',
20th December RSPB walk entitled 'A break from Christmas Shopping' 10am meet outside the Lakeside Café

Social Diary Dates 2009

25th January RSPB Great Garden Bird Watch meet 10am opposite Lakeside Café

3rd February AGM followed by a talk by member Lionel Jones on his collection of old Post Cards depicting Hampden Park.

Winter, date to be confirmed, rededication of the renovated War Memorial in Hampden Park

Spring, date to be confirmed, official opening of the new paths in Hampden Park financed by Community Spaces grant obtained by the Friends

30th June Ratton School Science Club young members' presentation on the project they have undertaken to be given at Ratton School. 'Park Ecology Study'.

8th September Peter Birchall talking on wildlife ponds and what we can all do.

24th November William Pratt, St Mary's Church Archivist, 'The birth of a suburb'

November date to be confirmed – further bluebell dells to be planted in the park by the schoolchildren

UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, THESE TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL OPENING 7 FOR 7.15 START. REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED SORRY SOME DATES NOT FINALISED BEFORE GOING TO PRINT. MORE NFORMATON AT THE AGM

Volunteer Gang The latest work of the volunteer gang has been helping the children with their bluebell planting. If anyone would like to put their name

forward to help with tasks like this or litter picking; making a few cakes; helping at member's evening, etc., please do get in touch and you will be contacted by phone or email.

Improvements to Park Paths Thanks to the jolly hard work of committee member Hugh Ball we have been successful in gaining a Heritage Lottery grant for replacing and repairing a number of the paths in the park. I have offered him everyone's sincere thanks for the hours he put in. In addition, our local Ward Councillors have offered some matched funding from the Devolved Wards grant. Work is expected to commence soon.

War Memorial In our last newsletter we asked for help in contacting anyone involved with the war memorial in the park as we wished to put in hand restoration work.



I am delighted to advise you that one of our members came forth with an offer we couldn't refuse. Serenity Funeral Services have undertaken the complete restoration free of charge. This has now been completed and a service of rededication is being planned in the near future. More information when known.

Meanwhile, would any relatives of those commemorated please get in touch with the Friends or Serenity as we would wish them to be honoured guests at this event.

Rats You will all be aware there is an active, cheeky and fast growing rat population in the park. Can we please ask everyone not to feed any of the wildlife in the park for the foreseeable future so that we can remove the 'free food' source. Our native wildlife can exist very well on the natural resources that our bio-diverse park offers. If you have a rat problem call the Environment Agency on **01323 415372**.

Litter We all know that discarded fast food containers and scraps of unwanted food look awful, but they also contribute to the problem above. Please encourage everyone to use the waste bins in the park which are regularly emptied. We have undertaken a survey of needs with

our Councillors and more general and dog waste bins are being provided in the near future.

Geocache The Friends are right up there with the latest technology with this new outdoor pastime and will be placing their own Geocache in the park. Geocaching, is a new worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. A Geocacher can place a cache anywhere in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share its existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS unit can then try to locate the Geocache.!



Encourage everyone to use the bins

Friends of the Hampden Park

Nomination form for committee of the Friends at 2009 AGM

Chairman – Treasurer – Secretary – Membership Secretary – Social Secretary
Committee Member

PLEASE CIRCLE THE POSITION NOMINATION IS FOR

Nominee's name (printed please) _____

Nominee's signature _____

Nominated by _____

Nominator's contact details – email or phone _____

Seconded by _____

All nominations to be returned by 1st February 2009

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ANYONE NOMINATED HAS AGREED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION

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

Old Rifle Range As you probably know, one target for arson during the summer was the old rifle range buildings. EBC are now to demolish them. A small committee is to be formed to collate suggestions for future uses of the area. If you have any ideas please, do let us know and we'll pass them on to the committee and they will be put forward for consideration.

Our own Archivist

One of our members is undertaking, during his weekly research of the newspaper archives, to look out references from years gone by to Hampden Park. He has already been able to provide clippings about items like Lady Willingdon offering to donate a lion cub in 1913 (which was eventually refused), the story of a Mayor's party which was a 'Fairy Forest of Delight' (1902) with the park covered in electric lights hung from trees and lake fencing,

and "moving pictures" being shown on a screen outdoors (obviously cutting edge events of the time). Stories of a band stand; a peacock plus an aviary; and the fact that in those days there were six full time gardeners. I'm putting them all in a presentation folder for you to peruse at our meetings.

Ratton School The Friends have been approached by Ratton School to work with them to help and assist with an after-school science club which will be studying the ecology of the park. It will commence in the spring and we have asked the students to do a presentation for us in June and show us what they did

Benches

I'm delighted to hear that Parks & Gardens Dept will again be accepting dedicated benches, subject to contract, so for those who have been contacting me please be advised & contact EBC.

From all of us, a very **Merry Christmas**

NOMINATION FORM FOR AGM 3RD FEBRUARY 2009

After nearly four years on the committee our current Treasurer Bob Jones has decided to step down and we thank him for all his work during that time. Luckily, Hugh Ball has offered to be nominated for the post of Treasurer at the AGM for which we are very grateful.

We have been lucky enough to co-opt a long term member, Peter Birchall, on to the committee this year and he is willing to stand but we have been working with three short on the committee and would seriously welcome a Social Secretary to brighten our ideas.

Your current committee is willing to re stand : Lindsey Gwynne as Hon. Secretary, Carol Hunter as Membership Secretary and Bryan Renn, Chris Hookham, Hugh Ball and Peter Birchall on the committee. I too am happy to stand again. If you want us that is.

I can't thank them enough this year for getting stuck in at fetes; bird watches; planting; refreshments; meetings; correspondence; record keeping; planning; seeking sponsorship; all the usual plethora of committee work. I couldn't do it without their wholehearted support

If you think you'd like to join us, help bring to fruition the Friends aims to preserve and enhance the quality of the parkland and open spaces of Hampden Park for the enjoyment and benefit of park users, please step up and join us.

Many thanks

Sandy

CHAIRMAN