

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 13

Summer 2009

Summer

And I've never seen the park so busy. The new children's play equipment seems popular with young and old, with parents joining their offspring on some of the more robust pieces.

There is a further tranche of money to come so we can look forward to an even better range of equipment very soon thanks to Government funding matched by County Council I believe.



Children and parents enjoying the new equipment

Launch of the Friends Website

I am delighted to be able to confirm that following the brilliant start the students at Ratton School were able to give us with our website we have now purchased our own domain and have a great website up and running.

Please do have a look and let us have your comments. We've tried to cover everything, even posting these newsletters, AGM minutes, etc.



New website www.friendsofhampdenpark.co.uk

Official Opening of Outdoor Bowls

Wonderful weather for the opening ceremony. The first bowl was played by MP and Friends Member Nigel Waterson, closely followed by your Chairman. I won't tell who played the best ball!



Nigel Waterson MP at the Outdoor Bowls Club opening celebration event

Ecology Project

June saw the culmination of the work committee member 'Pete the Pond' has been undertaking with students from Ratton School and their ecology project.

The students gave a PowerPoint presentation to Friends Members and parents towards the end of term wherein they showed what they had been doing and what they had learnt.



Students from Ratton School
Dipping to ascertain wildlife present

I am delighted to be able to advise that Ratton want to repeat this work next year; and Eastbourne Technology College, after having a few 'taster' visits with their ecology group, are also hoping to build this into next year's curriculum.

Social Calendar

8th September Peter Birchall talking on Wildlife Ponds, how simple it is to create one and help our endangered wildlife. St Mary's Church Hall 7pm

Volunteer Gang We have been lucky enough to receive a donation from a Member to provide colourful plants for a new Bog Garden to be sited adjacent to the recently refurbished path through Ham Shaw. Peter Birchall is leading on this project and anyone who would like to help please let us know. Date to be confirmed but it should only take a group of us a couple of hours. Join us?

26th September K9 event 11.30 – 3.30 in Hampden Park. Our local Police together with colleagues from EBC have set about arranging a great event for the park to offer interest to all residents and visitors. More particularly it is to encourage dog walkers to 'scoop the poop'. Those using the sports pitches often 'discover' dog deposits when they are playing. Not very nice for the players, young or old, or the parents who have to clean up the kit. Volunteers do clear the pitches prior to play but can't always find everything left behind.

Autumn Dates to be confirmed – see website. I am delighted to be able to announce that bluebell dells will be created again this autumn by local school children. Parkland Infant School, Hampden Park Infant School, St Andrew's School Meads and Eastbourne Technology College will all be sending students to plant up a dell. Help from any Friends very welcome. Let us know. We usual spend about an hour per event. Do bring your fork!

24th November An historical talk on how Hampden Park grew from farms and fields to the urban area it is today, once the railway started stopping there. Speaker William Pratt, St Mary's Church Archivist, title of talk 'The Birth of a Suburb' at St Mary's Church Hall, 7pm for 7.15 start.

5th February AGM of the Friends of the Hampden Park at St Mary's Church Hall in Decoy Drive commencing at 7pm.

Any suggestions for meetings or events please contact us with your ideas.



National Children's Play Day in the Park

Old Rifle Range

The first meetings have been held regarding what is to happen to the old rifle range in Hampden Park and a draft plan is being prepared that hopefully will provide seating and culture; a new ecology area for butterflies plus an area for those of us who didn't stop wanting to 'play' when we got to 14 and still enjoy a swing or seesaw; and, if possible, perhaps somewhere to rollerblade and just 'hang out'.

If you have any ideas please let us know and we'll pass them on.

ETC The Friends were invited to give a talk to the students at Eastbourne Technology College earlier this summer and, as mentioned earlier, they not only sent out a group to sample 'pond dipping' with Pete, a committee member, but plan to build this into their curriculum next year.



Headmaster Keith Pailthorpe with Chairman of the Friends and some students at Eastbourne Technology College

From your Chairman

I'm delighted that the new play equipment is proving so popular with seemingly young and old alike; and the play area is often seen full at 8 in the morning and right through till dusk.

Great honour too that out of all the parks in Eastbourne Hampden Park was chosen as the venue for the local celebration of National Children's Play Day on August 5th.

There's a new opportunity for mums with young children to get some exercise while walking with the buggy: Marie has an exercise group that meets on a Friday morning at 9.30 outside the café (babies too) and walk, movement, exercise and fun is had by all.

I'd like to commend the new website to everyone who has access. If you feel you'd like to 'save the earth' by accessing your newsletters in future via the web rather than having a printed copy, please drop us an email to the usual address (see over) and we'll undertake to email you when a new issue is posted so that you can log on and enjoy the colour version.

If you feel you'd like to be one of our Volunteer Gang that we call on from time to time to help with special projects, or would like to reaffirm your availability and interest, please get in touch in the usual way. Love to hear from you.

Sandy

Neighbourhood Panel

Your panel has been set up for some 10 months now and works closely with the Police, Eastbourne Borough Council Officers and your Borough and County Councillors.

Please use this Panel to express any concerns or praise via email hamchairman@eastbournenp.org or through the Friends address as usual and we'll pass it on. The Panel website is www.eastbournenp.org



Security

You'll be delighted to hear that throughout the summer there will be security patrols during the evenings in Eastbourne Parks funded by EBC in addition to our local Police. However, should you hear or see anything that is the result of a crime do please ring 0845 60 70 999 and register the event. If a crime is taking place naturally the normal number is 999.

Decoy Pond

I won't pretend there is any news currently on funding for renovation because there isn't. The matter is being considered seriously by the Cabinet at EBC but with all the other calls on their funding resources it is still a case of 'watch this space'.

Meantime, your committee is trying to source grants and sponsors. However, as always, suggestions and ideas are very welcome, or if you know a friendly millionaire

Friends of the Hampden Park

Application Form

Life Membership £5 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Email address: _____

Please apply for membership, reaffirm membership of the Volunteer Gang, make a donation or even pass on your comments via this form to :
the Chairman and Editor Sandy Boyce-Sharpe
Courtmead, Walnut Tree Walk, BN20 9BP
Telephone 07802 884088 or email friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk