

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 14

Friends of the Hampden Park

Winter 2009/10

**Wonderful News** An early Christmas Present. All members will join the committee in celebrating the news. David Tutt, Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council, has advised that finance is to be made available in the next budget for work towards renovation and restoration of the lake in the park known as Decoy Pond. We will have a Swan Lake again.



December in Hampden Park

We invited the Cabinet of Eastbourne Borough Council to visit the park one late summer evening and see for themselves the state of the Decoy Pond, how shallow it is, and listen to a presentation regarding the pollution level and the urgent need for investment to reinstate it.

In addition, the Councillors of the Ratton Ward have offered to donate some of their Devolved Ward Grant monies to addressing the filtering and decontamination of water entering the park from their ward.

We have been working towards this for almost five years. Our thanks go out to all those who have helped make it happen.

In addition, it was confirmed that further expenditure had been agreed for the children's play area. It is planned that this is completed before children's school summer holidays commence and will include enlarging the area. Provisional official opening date is in the social calendar on page 3.

Your Committee is continuing to source grant funding and donations to supplement the above initiatives, and to this end, we are to launch an appeal to the whole of Eastbourne to contribute to the essential work needed to turn our polluted pond back into a swan friendly lake. A dedicated bank account is to be opened at NatWest Bank and everyone can donate directly to this appeal at any branch in the town. Please help! If you have fund raising ideas or can offer help towards money for this work please do contact us in the usual way.



Children and parents enjoying the new equipment

**Launch of the Friends Website** The number of hits on our website has been very rewarding and we are grateful to those members who have contacted us to advise they are happy to help 'save a tree' by accessing their newsletter this way in future, instead of having a printed copy delivered. Thank you. We would ask everyone with an email address and web access to please let us know if they are also happy to do this?

### **K9 Dog Day in the Park**

Great day in the park for everyone on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September when people from all over Eastbourne came to see what was happening, enjoy the stalls run by local sports clubs and groups, and find out the winner of the poster competition. Well done everyone. Diary date for next year Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August when there will be competitions, demonstrations and even more to make it a great family day out.



Police Dog and young admirer at the K9 event

**Memorial Service** The Friends were delighted when Fr Robin Tree from St Mary's advised them that it was intended to hold a remembrance service at the memorial in the park that had been restored and rededicated earlier this

year. Chris Rollanson, the Chairman of the Eastbourne Royal Sussex Association, arranged for the Standard to be paraded on the day, and agreed to give the exhortation. County Cllr. Michael Thompson read the prayer and Rev James Vines was the bugler.



Memorial Service 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Some 140 people attended and wreaths were laid by students and cadets from ETC; Councillors and veterans representatives; Friends members and park users. A very moving occasion. This is now to become an annual event at the memorial at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of 11<sup>th</sup>. For more details see our website.

**New use for old Rifle Range site** Unfortunately nothing has progressed as yet on this. It has been advised the whole area needs to have drainage installed (it is subject to water logging). But in the meantime plans are in hand to arrange drawings, permissions and funding.

**Bluebells** This year children planted 2,000 bulbs in the park creating new bluebell dells. The bulbs were sponsored by Wyevale, the park

contractors, and Eastbourne Borough Council Parks & Gardens Dept. Many thanks to each.

The whole of Parkland Infant School came one morning; one year from Hampden Park Infant School; students from ETC; and more from St Andrews in the Meads. For more information and photographs please see our website.



Some of the young bluebell planters

## Social Calendar

We have a lot of things planned for 2010 so please note these diary dates or check out the website for more detail.

**5<sup>th</sup> February** AGM of the Friends (see the back page for more details).

**10<sup>th</sup> March** RSPB Walk in the Park Everyone invited to join in the walk commencing at 10am, meeting opposite the Lakeside Café.

**20<sup>th</sup> March** Promotional Day for the Friends being held at Sainsbury's, 11am – 4pm in the Foyer. Helpers please?

**30<sup>th</sup> April** "A Short History of the Hampden Park Area" by Simon Hurt describing the historical rural land use and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century urban development of the Hampden Park area

**26<sup>th</sup> May** Provisional date for official opening of the new Sensory Garden

**20<sup>th</sup> June** Party in the Park. Bring your picnic and blanket to the park and enjoy an hour or so of brass band music.

**26<sup>th</sup> July** Official opening of the new children's play area extension.

**7<sup>th</sup> August** K9 Dog Fun Day

**3<sup>rd</sup> September** Eastbourne Borough Council Officer to give the Friends an update on the pond work in the park.

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## From your Chairman

*I'm more than delighted to be able to bring you the news that after all our efforts we have finally been advised that EBC will invest in the commencement of renovation and restoration of the Decoy Pond. It won't cover all the work necessary but what a wonderful Christmas present and great start to 2010 and the critical renovation necessary. The Friends are still sourcing monies from everywhere and will keep you apprised of any news as we get it.*

*I do hope you enjoy the proposals for the social calendar for 2010. If anyone has ideas or suggestions that they would like us to explore please contact us as usual.*

*One thing we have planned is a Promotional Day for the Friends, and Sainsbury's have kindly offered us their foyer to hand out leaflets and apprise the community of our aims and what we have achieved so far. If anyone feels they can offer an hour or two during the day we'd appreciate your help. The committee can't man all the hours so, help, please? Contact me at the address overleaf.*

*Another innovation for the Friends is a Party in the Park on 20<sup>th</sup> June when we plan to have a band to entertain you for an hour or so in the afternoon. We invite you all to bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy meeting other members on this great social occasion.*

*Sandy*

**29<sup>th</sup> October** there will be a Quiz Night with questions of general knowledge plus special topic: Hampden Park.

All members' meetings are held in St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, unless stated differently.

**Official Friends Polo Shirt** We've sourced a company that will produce official Friends of the Hampden Park polo shirts at a cost of £7.95 plus p&p



Hugh and Pete modelling the polo shirts

To order yours please contact Sign of the Times on 01249 814899 or visit [www.scottcalne.co.uk](http://www.scottcalne.co.uk).

**AGM** This is your formal notice as members of the Friends that the date of the sixth Annual General Meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 7pm for 7.15 start, when the Accounts will be submitted together with a Chairman's Report and election of officers and committee.

I am delighted to advise you all your present committee are willing to stand again for 2010. If anyone feels they would like to contribute to the work we do for the Friends, can help with fund raising, social events or suggestions for sponsorship, we would be delighted to have your help. There are always lots of things to do and the more hands the lighter the work. Please contact us at the address below as usual and thank you for your support.

**Walk in the park** One of your committee has designed a walk in the park with information about the different areas. This will shortly be available on our website. Enjoy a walk finding areas that perhaps you didn't know.

## 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](mailto:friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk)