

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 15

Summer 2010

Outcome of AGM We had a wonderful turnout at the AGM and thank you all very much for coming. I'm delighted to advise that the whole committee were pleased to stand again and were voted in unanimously. I was also delighted to be asked to stand again as your Chairman, a role I was very pleased to accept, particularly as we are so much nearer achieving our goal of renovation of the Decoy Pond than ever before.

Decoy Pond - Work started on spending the Ratton Ward Devolved Grant money allocated for improving the Decoy Pond. Some of the trees on the perimeter have had their crowns raised and the understory has been cleared to improve the wonderful views across the pond from different locations.



Improved open vistas around the pond

Work is still progressing with the Friends Community Spaces Grant application. There are just some final points that need clarification before the documents can be submitted. More news soon.

However, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who completed the survey form, whether it was at our table in the park on a Sunday morning, via the web, through the local paper or by personal contact.



Completing park survey

These hundreds of responses enabled us to complete a document to back up our lottery application showing how wonderfully behind the Friends initiatives you all are so, many thanks.

Bog Garden - One of our members kindly donated £200 for plants to create a bog garden and committee member Pete the Pond has planted it. See below



We decided to plant this alongside one of the new paths the Friends funded last year (the raised one through Ham Shaw) and we hope everyone will enjoy this colourful walk through the wood. When planting it up Pete also created small covered twig mounds to provide homes for frogs and newts, etc., who will enjoy the boggy area. Perhaps sometime we may be able to create small ponds to further improve the biodiversity.

New Sensory Garden - Your committee has been successful in gaining another grant, this time from Action Earth. This grant is to be used for perennial bedding plants for the new Sensory Garden. The sensory garden is a renaming of the area that used to be called the water garden. The fountain is long gone and has been replaced by the wonderful



Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria arucana*). Planting is to be completed by a volunteer group from Linden Court Day Centre on Thursday 26th May and the gardens will be officially opened at 3pm

by the Worshipful the Mayor Cllr. Carolyn Heaps. Everyone welcome.

Members' Talks - Simon Hurt gave a talk to a packed audience on 30th April giving everyone an insight into life in Hampden Park over the last hundred years, illustrated with copies of some rare maps and documents depicting our rural past.

Social Calendar - please note these diary dates or check out the website for more detail.

26th May Official opening of the new Sensory Garden - see above.

20th June Members Day (visitors and guests welcome). Meet on the grass behind the Rugby Club between 2-4. Bring your picnic and blanket and enjoy an hour or two listening to the music.

26th July Official opening of the new children's play area extension. It may not be possible for the new equipment to have been delivered and erected, but the enlarged play area should be ready.

4th August National Play Day. All children, babies to 18year olds, welcome to come and enjoy the various activities being provided from 1-4pm

7th August The Eastbourne Dog Show opening at 11am (promoting responsible dog ownership) will be held in the park. A fun day for all the family and, of course, the dogs! Agility; obedience; police dog demonstration; dog training club demonstration; PDSA pet checks; micro chipping and lots more in the area behind the Rugby Club. Lots of classes in which to enter your dog. For more information contact Sue Criddle, the Dog Welfare Officer for Eastbourne Borough

Council on 01323 415380 or view on www.eastbourne.gov.uk/dogs.

3rd September Your committee have decided to hold a Wine Tasting Evening at the St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive commencing 7pm. Limited numbers I'm afraid so, if you are interested in joining the wine tasting and donating to the Friends, please call 07802 884088 to book your place.

29th October there will be a Quiz Night This will be held at St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive. Entry 7pm please with the Quiz to start at 7.30. Please bring your own juice, wine or beer (tea and coffee will be provided as will nibbles). There will be a raffle and prizes for the winning teams. Cost will be £10 for a team of 4. Register early as places limited. Please email or phone as usual.

Calendar – Presents problems solved! The Friends have produced a Calendar for 2011 (with help from a member) which will be available from the end of July at a cost of £4.99 each.



Cover page of the Friends
2011 Calendar

Limited number printed so if you wish to place an order for family friends or presents, please contact the editor as per the details overleaf.

From your Chairman

For those of you unable to attend the AGM I'm delighted to confirm your committee for 2010/1011 is :

Hon Secretary: Lindsey Gwynne

Hon Treasurer: Hugh Ball

Membership Secretary: Carol Hunter

Newsletter Distribution: Rosey Smith

Committee: Bryan Renn; Christopher Hookham; Peter Birchall; William Pratt; Chez Akchich

I would like to apologize to everyone who has offered help working as volunteers with the Friends. Unfortunately, due to health and safety, insurance and litigation, it has not been possible to agree any work in this public park, owned by the local authority, up to this present time (except for 'one off' specific projects) but we are still hoping to be able to utilise our volunteer gang and we'll be in touch.

I would also like to thank all of you who write to me so regularly (and for the cheques). Unfortunately it is not always possible to answer each letter individually but it is a wonderful way for me to keep up with what is happening, things you may have seen that I have missed, and your welcome comments on how the park has improved over the years and what you'd like us to be working towards. Keep them coming.

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us on 26th May when the Mayor comes to officially open the new Sensory Garden and perhaps for a cup of tea in the café afterwards. This garden I hope will become a centre piece of the park with the babbling brooks, the wind in the bamboo, the colourful and scented planting and the birds enjoying the seed heads.

Look forward to meeting up with you all again soon, if not in May then at one of our other events.

Best regards

Sandy

Awareness Day at Sainsbury's - a great day was had at Sainsbury's in April when committee members and volunteers had the opportunity of chatting to hundreds of people, explaining to residents from all over Eastbourne the work undertaken by the Friends, grants achieved, projects we had funded and our aims for the Decoy Pond. There were display panels with photographs of even, projects and all we've managed to achieve to date.



Pete and two volunteers at Sainsbury's Day

Launch of Pond Appeal - NatWest Bank have opened a Hampden Park Pond Appeal account for us. Anyone wishing to donate only need to go to any counter clerk in Eastbourne and they will know just what to do to put your donation in this account. Alternatively there are collection boxes out and about in Hampden Park.

Easter Egg Hunt – the Egg Hunt held on Bank Holiday Sunday, and arranged by Andy Holter, raised hundreds for St Wilfred's Hospice. Well done to Andy and his team for all the hard work



Andy Holter with our new MP Stephen Lloyd

Friends of the Hampden Park

Application Form

Life Membership £5 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email address: _____

Please apply for membership, purchase a calendar for 2011, make a donation or even pass on your comments using this form and send (with cheque if appropriate) to :
 the Chairman and Editor, Sandy Boyce-Sharpe
 Courtmead, Walnut Tree Walk, BN20 9BP
 Telephone 07802 884088 or email friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk