

# NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 16

Winter 2010/11

**Decoy Pond** – In 2005 when the Friends were formed the prime aim was for the pond to be restored. Money wasn't available. As you may know, following a visit from the whole EBC cabinet to the park in September 2009, to see for themselves what needed to be done, a grant was agreed of £60,000 towards the work from the 2009-2010 budget. Meantime, your committee had independently been making approaches to the Lottery for some funding. At Christmas 2009 we were advised we had passed Phase 1. But there was still Phase 2. This called for close working with EBC Parks & Gardens Department as EBC are the land owners and responsible for any contracts and works undertaken. Phase 2 of the lottery application was finally ready and submitted in November 2010. Each month since we have been hoping that the Panel that decides lottery approvals would have our application before them and, finally, on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 we heard that they had sat and our bid had been approved but it had to go forward to the Grand Lottery. We have now heard officially. **WE'VE GOT IT APPROVED!!!**

***WE DID IT!  
We got our  
lottery bid  
approved!  
£49,999***

Well, with funding secure plus the Council contribution, work can commence. Contractors are already in place to start the arboricultural work. The purpose of this will be to reduce the shading and leaf fall into the pond and to thin the existing canopy to allow increased sunlight into the site. They will remove fallen trees from island margins and lying in the water, and all this will be under the guidance of a Supervising Officer. Trees creating wildlife cover on island margins with the natural form of their branches are to remain. Internal to the island some trees will be removed to thin the vegetation cover. Checks for nesting sites will be undertaken prior to any removal. Small amounts of brushwood are to be burnt in situ within the thinned area and other timber removed or habitat piled. EBC plan to have a temporary interpretation board sited opposite the café to explain to everyone what is happening and hopefully leaflets too. How exciting that work is starting, at last. Well done the Friends for their perseverance and faith and EBC for their confidence, help and input.

## Bulbs for the park

About 300 children from local schools have once again helped us to plant bluebells in the park.



Students from Eastbourne Academy after planting their bluebells

This year the drifts have been planted in the wooded area between the café and the rugby club. Many thanks for donations towards the bulbs from Wyevale Contractors, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hampden Park in Bloom and Friends.

**More bulbs** – Sovereign Rotary Club donated hundreds of crocus bulbs to the Friends and their Chairman helped plant them in late autumn. This is planned to be the first of a new series of large crocus beds near the war memorial.



**Scoop the Poop** – at the beginning of October, volunteers from organisations within the park assisted Community Enforcement Officer Emma Jordan in a plain-clothed operation to observe whether dog owners were responsibly clearing up after their pets when walking them in the park. Fixed penalty notices will be given to offenders and another operation is planned for the spring.

**New Sensory Garden** – EBC have invested in all manner of perfumed and colourful plants to enhance the change-over of the old Water Garden into a new Sensory Garden.



The Mayor opening the sensory garden

The Friends sourced a grant from Action Earth, and a volunteer group from Linden Court Day Centre helped with the planting. The new Sensory Gardens was officially opened by the Worshipful the Mayor Cllr. Carolyn Heaps. We hope you all enjoy the garden; please tell us.

**Calendar** – Thanks to Hon.Sec.Lindsey for organising, and everyone for buying our lovely Hampden Park calendars. They sold out well before Christmas. If you have any good quality photos of the park that you would like considered for this year's calendar please let us know.

**More signage for the park** – Map boards have been installed at the Park Ave. and Rosebery Ave. entrances to the park, thanks to sponsorship by local firm Veritek Global. All four main approaches to the park now have maps and one has also kindly been placed at Hampden Park Station by Southern.



Veritek Global MD Jim Edgar  
who sponsored two Map Signs

Attractive directional ‘finger posts’ have also been positioned around the park for the convenience of visitors who are not familiar with the surroundings.



Karl Beck of TEVA UK who sponsored the finger post signs throughout the park

Sponsorship of this is thanks to TEVA UK on Hampden Park Trading Estate.

**Pond Appeal - NatWest Bank** opened a Hampden Park Pond Appeal account for us and approx £1,300 has already been donated. Anyone wishing to donate only need to go to a counter clerk at any NatWest in Eastbourne and mention the Pond Appeal Account. Also, there are collection boxes in many shops in Hampden Park to collect loose change. Every little helps!

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### From your Chairman

*I've delayed and delayed this newsletter until I had the result of our lottery bid. We have it. Isn't it staggering that, after all these years, we may actually be on the brink of getting the pond dredged, having the periphery restored and marginal plants introduced again. The overhanging trees will be managed and the reed beds cultivated and increased to ensure that there is greater biodiversity.*

*Once again we will see damsel flies and dragon flies, there will be frogs, newts, toads, etc., and we'll be able to get our swans back from their prolonged holiday from our polluted pond.*

*I can't thank my colleague Hon. Treasurer Hugh Ball enough, on your behalf, for the work he has done towards the Lottery bid. But it will all be worth it when we see the work commenced on the pond. That doesn't mean it will all look wonderful immediately but, hey, now we stand a chance*

*To increase all our knowledge of our park you'll see we are introducing bats into our ever expanding social diary this year with a walk and a talk. I can advise that there have been a number of different species identified near the pond and particularly in the fields surrounding the acres that are going to house the new St Wilfred's Hospice when it is built. Although the Friends have been trying for years to save these acres as green open spaces for the enjoyment of everyone, if there is to be development on that land we couldn't think of a more worthwhile use for it than as a new hospice, and we welcome St Wilfred's who will soon become our new neighbours.*

*Sandy*

**Social Events** – September and October saw diversions from the Friends' usual style of social events, when a Wine Tasting Evening and a Quiz Night were held at St Mary's Church Hall.



Quiz winning team 'Socks' won a meal kindly donated by The David Lloyd Club

Both events were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by Friends and their guests. Prizes were donated by Sainsbury's; Tesco; Second Hand Rose; Butterflies; the David Lloyd Club and the Rugby Club. Many thanks everyone.

**AGM** – The Friends' AGM will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 7.00pm at St Mary's Church hall, Decoy Drive.

**30 January** RSPB Great Garden Bird Watch – meet 10.45 am opposite café

**9 February** - 10am RSPB 'Walk in the Park' Meet outside the café.

**29 April** – Wine tasting evening

**July** – Informative Ecology Walk t.b.c.

**6 August** Eastbourne Dog Show

**27 September** – Walk with Bats in the Park – 6pm outside café

**30 September** – Talk on bats 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall

**4 November** – Friends Quiz in Church Hall starting 7pm

**11 November** – Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. Assemble at 10.45

**For full and up-to-date information all year round on our social events please check out the Friends website [www.friendsofthehampdenpark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthehampdenpark.co.uk)**

## Friends of the Hampden Park

Application Form

Life Membership £5 per person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply for membership, make a donation or even pass on your comments using this form and send (with cheque if appropriate) to :  
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