

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 18

Summer 2011

Well we did it! The works to the pond were completed prior to our celebration event, the sun shone and approx. 150 people attended. A great time was had by all with, conducted walks around the pond to explain all the works; children's treasure hunt; celebratory cake; a balloon race, and the winning balloon reached Holland!!!



Deputy Mayor cutting the ribbon at celebration event

We are delighted that our Pond Appeal, together with a donation from the Hampden Park Councillors Devolved Ward Grant, enabled us to finance the necessary work to the northern outlet stream to create pools and cascades, project managed by Eastbourne Borough Council Parks and Gar-dens team through the pond main contractors.

The Friends have had busy weekends this summer, with the BMX consultation event, a conducted walk by Tim Whelan, Arboricultural Officer for EBC, National Play Day, and the, Dog Show.



Calendar for 2012 Once again this year the Friends are producing a calendar and these are ready for sale now at £5 each. Suitable size envelopes can be provided.

Thank you to everyone who sent us photographs. We were spoilt for choice this year but have selected the one below by Andrew Hepinstall, one of our members, for the front cover. If you wish to order please get in touch with one of the committee, email or post your order to the usual address on the back page.



Andrew Hepinstall

St Wilfrid's

I'm sure everyone will be pleased to see that St Wilfrid's have started work on their new site at the Cross Levels Way boundary of the park. Their ecologists have had a major task catching the common lizards and slow worms on the land to be developed and at the last count there were in excess of 400 trapped and relocated. The Hospice have asked that we convey their apologies to everyone for the potential traffic disruption on Broadwater Way whilst the work is in progress. They will be diverting overhead power cables underground; getting mains gas on to the site; digging out foundations and creating earth embankments around the site, to provide privacy

BMX

The Friends formed a Steering Group some little while ago which includes local Councillors and a representative from the YMCA. The object is to endeavour to reinstate the BMX track at the Cross Levels Way side of Hampden Park. It will be necessary to source grant funding for the equipment but, in the meantime, we need to know what the young people would like and how much it will cost.; then we'll know how much money we need. Consultations have taken place via a survey and a demonstration day on 23rd July which showcased potential equipment. The land is owned by the County Council, Eastbourne Borough Council will need to give planning permission, and we need to find the money, so there is still a long way to go — but we've started.



The youngsters weren't able to actually use the ramps but couldn't resist posing for this shot on one they particularly favoured. Grateful thanks go to Tesco, Network Rail and the local Eastbourne Homes Area Panel for their sponsor-ship towards this project.

Committee

We are sorry to advise that our Treasurer Hugh Ball has resigned from the committee but want to thank him for all the sterling work he has put in, particularly associated with grant sourcing.

However, we are delighted to announce that Sam Chapman of Paperlane in the Village, has been persuaded to join the Friends Committee and, has agreed to take on the role of Hon. Treasurer.

Crime

I'm delighted to report that, thanks to our Neighbourhood Police team, year on year crime is down in the whole of the Hampden Park area but, once again, we have had a spate of vandalism in the park. Don't forget if you do see anything the Crimestoppers No is 0800 555 111, it is free and can be anonymous. The new non emergency Police no. is 101, but if you see a crime in progress, the number to call is still 999.



Volunteers in Sainsbury's Foyer

The Friends Awareness Day

You'll remember Sainsbury's were good enough to allow us to have a stand in the foyer of the Hampden Park store on 11th June. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered to help. We had the opportunity of talking to hundreds of residents and explain the works being undertaken in the park renovating the pond.

Eastbourne Borough Council

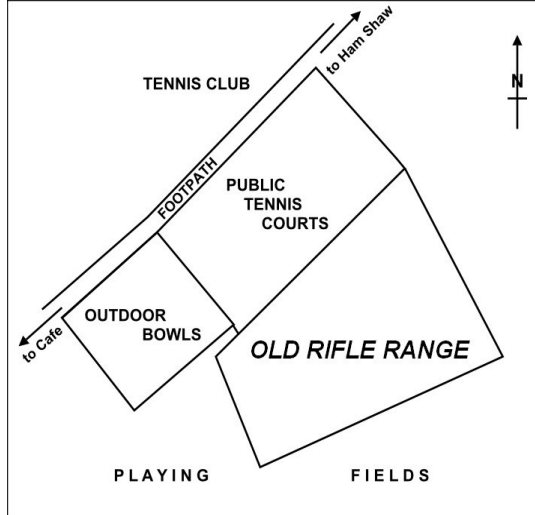
There have been interpretation boards in place adjacent to the pond explaining the works be-ing carried out. The Parks and Gardens team have asked me to confirm they are only too pleased to answer any queries anyone may have regarding the park and invite you to con-tact them on 01323 410000.

Green Credentials

If any of you are happy to access your newsletters via our website please advise the Friends by email friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk We'd like to save printing and reduce our car-bon footprint. And, on the web you will see it in colour of course! If you continue to have hard copy could you help by passing it on when you've finished with it please?

Your opinions please?

The Friends are also looking into the potential redevelopment of the old rifle range in the park, situated behind the public tennis courts. The area is approx. 1.5 acres and has a rather magnificent brick wall at the end that used to be behind the butts. We have had a number of ideas put forward but we would like to seek your ideas and opinions to progress this initiative



SURVEY ON THE OPINION OF FRIENDS AND RESIDENTS ON FUTURE USE OF THE AREA KNOWN AS THE OLD RIFLE RANGE IN HAMPDEN PARK

- Are you a current park user..... Yes/No
- Do you have family/children who use the park Yes/No
- Do you agree the area detailed is in need of attention to make better use of it Yes/No
- Do you think you and your family would use this area of the park Yes/No

Current proposals

- Family area for children to picnic and play, with seating and/or low walls..... Yes/No
- Covered seating for use by everyone in inclement weather Yes/No
- Plants to encourage butterflies, etc Yes No
- Sculpture park for potential use by local artists Yes/No
- Earth stage in front of wall potentially for plays / schools / Shakespeare group / other... Yes/No
- Firm flat area for temporary seating to view above Yes/No
- Tarmac skating area for roller blade use etc. (could double for seating as above). Yes/No
- Adult outdoor exercise equipment Yes/No
- Path through area with wildflower planting linking through to Ham Shaw Yes/No

Your Suggestions (please complete details overleaf, write clearly, use separate page if this is insufficient space or email) _____

Social Diary

Please let us have your ideas for social events you'd like in the 2012 social diary

30 September—Talk on Bats by Jenny Clark. It has been found there is a thriving bat population in the park and hopefully we may be able to arrange a walk, experts with sound equipment, etc., later this month. Talk will be in St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive

4 November—Quiz Night being run by commit-tee member William Pratt in St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive 7pm. Charge will be £10 for a team of 4. Please register your team with William on 07803072883. Numbers limited.

11 November—Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in Hampden Park (opposite children's play area). Assemble 10.45 please.

3 February 2012 — Friends of the Hampden Park AGM commencing 7pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive. We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

Competition

We now have 3 islands on Decoy Pond and the Friends are launching a competition to name them. Entry forms will be in the local paper or online at the Friends website, details below.

Volunteer Gang

The Friends have always been lucky enough to have a group of volunteers they can call on to assist with various initiatives. This is a mes-sage for everyone who is interested in helping physically in the park by planting areas of new Oak woodland for future generations to enjoy. Over the years our old Oak woodland has succumbed to Ash and Sycamore incursion and it is planned that EBC's Arboricultural team will clear various areas within the woodland. The Friends Volunteer Gang will then assist them replanting with native Oak saplings that are being cultivated locally at present.

Details are still to be finalised but this is planned for February 2012 and if anyone is interested please contact us in the usual way

Membership Application Form Life Membership £5

PLEASE ALSO USE THIS FORM IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE A MESSAGE

Name:

Address:

Tel No:

Email address:

Interested in joining the Volunteer Gang

Comments :

.....

To apply for membership, make a donation, pass on your comments or indicate if you would be available for our volunteer gang please use this form.

Send (with cheque payable to the 'Friends of the Hampden Park' if appropriate) to :
the Chairman and Editor, Courtmead, Walnut Tree Walk, BN20 9BP

Telephone 07802 884088 or email friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk

www.thefriendsofthehampdenpark.co.uk