

# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 6

Spring 2007

Well, spring has really sprung in Hampden Park with the crocus and then the daffodils. What a show they made, and most noticeably in the area that the Friends cleared of scrub last spring which has exposed the dormant bulbs to give us such a splendid display this year.



Woodland clearance started by the Friends and completed by EBC this Spring

Lots of work has been going on via your committee with the collation and publication of the results of the survey conducted in our last newsletter.

How can we thank everyone for the fabulous response we had to the survey we sent out in the autumn? We had over a 20% response – the envy of any market survey company anywhere. We have published the results on the back page of this newsletter and it shows without reservation how everyone has the interests of the park at heart.

Over 40% of our members are families using the children's play area and 35% want to help with future projects in the park. We are currently in discussion with the Parks Department at EBC as to where and how we can work together to improve our Park.

The next Friends and Parks Dept. community project is under planting in the Arboretum. This area depicts trees through the ages. The main trees have been planted, the beech hedge is in and the new leaflet which will be used by local educational groups and others is being prepared. Watch this space and local papers for dates when you can help planting.

### AGM

Despite an incredibly cold evening, and the heating in the Community centre being broken, there was a remarkable turnout of members for which thank you all very much. You came and stayed, despite the cold.

The constitution was changed insofar as one month's notice in future is to be given to the Hon. Secretary of nominations for the committee to enable preparation of the necessary voting forms.

Chris Hookham stood down as Chairman. He took the post for an initial 6 months at the inauguration of the Friends and, here he was 2 years later.....



Chris Hookham (left) with Treasurer Bob Jones (centre) and Social Secretary John Moore (standing) at the AGM

A great vote of thanks was given to Chris for all the groundwork he has put in, and he has agreed to continue as a committee member to work on planning and environmental issues bringing all his knowledge to benefit our endeavours. A very big thank you to Chris for this ongoing commitment.

In his place Sandy Boyce-Sharpe was nominated and unanimously voted in as Chairman of the Friends.

Names of all the committee are listed on the back page of this newsletter. But, I am very sorry to have to advise you that John Bradley, our Hon. Secretary since the Friends were set up, has had to resign since the AGM due to ill health. We wish him a speedy recovery. We therefore have a vacancy for Hon. Secretary and if anyone out there would like to volunteer please do get in touch.

However, I am delighted to announce that Lindsey Gwynne has come forward following the meeting and volunteered to be the minute secretary for the committee, a very valuable role. Thanks very much Lindsey. She was formally co opted at the first committee meeting.

### **What did our Chairman have to tell us at the AGM?**

Chris reminded everyone of the achievements of their committee over the year including the guide; the water garden planting; the undergrowth and sapling clearance; the arboretum; the café border planting; the planning issues; the work of the Community Payback teams; the bus shelter restoration; the benches maintenance. We had the treasure hunt in May which succeeded despite the storm part way through, and the various social evenings including quiz, speakers, etc. We have successfully applied for a grant to replace the park map sign opposite the café and hopefully you'll see this erected very soon.

One of the 'bad news' items Chris had for us was that although the Heritage Lottery Fund pre-application bid had been approved, he had been told that a decision re funding could be 8 years off.



Water Garden area planted 2006

Many of the improvements the Friends sought for Hampden Park have been put into the lottery bid rather than pursued through other funding sources so most of the work we desire has been put on the back burner. At the same time, the Council financial input into the lottery bid, estimated at £120,000, has to be freshly applied for each year. Sourcing local sponsorship may well be an option to be pursued.

Due to the time scales suggested we are pursuing meetings with EBC to urge a fresh approach to the lake repairs and several other issues including traffic calming, path and road repairs and fencing, etc. We have had promises that measures will be put in place to improve the water quality of the lake until such time as full funding for renovation is available. The Trees Section and Parks Depts. are preparing Management Plans for their sectors which will be the first such plans for any Eastbourne park and are an essential part of the lottery bid.

### **Lottery bid**

The Council Parks Dept is still preparing the documentation for the Heritage Lottery Bid but luckily some work has taken place in the

park this Spring including the dredging of the feeder stream silt bed (near Decoy Drive).



Feeder Stream and Silt Trap with Sussex Fencing  
Spoil spread on the grass to dry (no smell !)

### **Park Code**

We are hopeful of introducing a Park Code with codes of behaviour rather more like the countryside code than formal by-laws. At present no rules are posted in the park and we hope publishing these will encourage respect and better use of our park facilities.

### **Membership**

Our membership secretary was delighted to be able to advise that following the invitation in our autumn newsletter, delivered for the first time to every house in the roads surrounding the park, our membership has now increased to over 180.

### **MENCAP**

A team from MENCAP is getting involved with our Park. They have arranged with the Parks Department to weed and look after the Sensory Garden in the Park.

### **Community Pay Back Team**

The main thrust of the team this year is to try to break the back of litter in the Park which as we all know is an ongoing problem and I am delighted to be able to advise you that the Probation Service has confirmed that they will be in attendance at the Park every week for the foreseeable future.

Your committee has asked me to request that we all do our part this year with regard to the litter problem. Can I ask all our members, if you live near the park or when you visit the park, if you see litter could you help by putting it in the bins or in a carrier bag and taking it home? Thanks.

### **Local Companies backing the Friends**

Your committee has also had successful talks with Sainsbury's, the David Lloyd Centre, Loyds Lanes and the new Surgery who will all be doing their bit to help keep us spic and span. You may have noticed that Sainsbury's have already changed some of their bags to bio-degradable material which is a great step forward.

### **Police**

Don't forget, the police want to keep a log of everything untoward that happens in the park. If you see any incident, even if not important enough to involve the police, please call them on 0845 6070 999 and leave a message for PCSO Adam Cox who is our community bobby.

### **What do we hope to do this year?**

John Moore introduced a great social diary for 2007. This started with a Quiz evening on 9<sup>th</sup> March which was a great success, but for the rest of the year, please make a note of the following dates:

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**Art Demonstration**

By Nick Englefield – local artist entry £2

Nick will paint a scene from the park during the evening whilst giving us a talk

**17 August 2007**

**Flower Arranging**

**26 October 2007 Talk on the use of Herbs**

– Medicinal and Culinary

All these social events will start at 7.30 and aim to finish at 10pm. They will include light refreshments and be held at the Hampden Park Community Centre in Brodrick Road.  
**Book through John on 01323 503179.**

## Response to the Survey as reported to the AGM

Do you agree the park is an essential asset to be preserved	100% yes
Do you agree with the work the Friends are doing?	100% yes
Do you support the lottery bid to achieve the restoration and improvement of the lake and park?	100% yes
Would you accept the temporary closure of the Decoy Drive entrance and the lake area for maybe up to three months to facilitate the lake works?	97% yes
Would you tolerate dredged silt ( <i>with the possible potential smell</i> ) being stored near the lake, for a few weeks only, to drain before removal? ( <i>This would greatly reduce disposal costs</i> )	100% yes
Are you current users of the park?	95% yes
Would you use the park more if the lake, etc., was improved?	66% yes
Do you use the children's play area?	42% yes
Would you like to help with any planting or clearance projects?	35% yes
Are you happy with the "wild" state of the park woodland and the limited access to these areas? ( <i>NB This is intended to benefit wildlife habitat</i> ).	95% yes
Do you feel that the playing fields and Sports Park should be more integrated into the ornamental park, i.e. with better landscaping?	58% yes

### New Committee elected at AGM

Chairman – Sandy Boyce-Sharpe	Committee:	Chris Hookham
Hon. Secretary – vacant		John Moore
Hon. Treasurer – Bob Jones		Bryan Renn
Minute Secretary – Lindsey Gwynne		Joyce Webb

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## Friends of the Hampden Park

Membership Application Form

Fee £2 per person

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact details for The Friends of the Hampden Park

Please return this completed form to

1 Walnut Tree Walk, BN20 9BP or

Telephone 07802 884088 or

email: [friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk)