

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 7

Autumn 2007

STOP PRESS - FRIENDS WIN AWARD

YOU, yes **you**, the Friends of Hampden Park have received a Community Action Award from the judges of South & South East in Bloom, presented to the Hampden Park in Bloom committee at the recent award ceremony when they received a Silver and best in their silver category. We helped them when the judges came round by preparing some information for them on our work in the park, a guide and a couple of our recent newsletters, then accompanied them in a walk around the park explaining the different aspects. The judges were so impressed by our work and our park that they have given us our own certificate and I was surprised and thrilled to be asked to accept this, on your behalf, at the Eastbourne in Bloom awards ceremony on 11 September at the Town Hall. Congratulations to the 'In Bloom' team for their well deserved silver award. And a big Hurrah for us !!

Lottery Bid

Despite the Heritage Lottery Fund trying to catch us out by bringing forward the closing date for preliminary entries, the Friends collaborated with the Parks Dept. and EBC managed to pull the stops out and get the application in in time. We've been told the result will be out very soon. AND, we've committed the Friends to lots of help so you've been warned! Even if successful this is only the preliminary bid to assist with funding to put the full bid together, employing specialist consultants, etc.

To this end, and thinking positively, I have set up another meeting with EBC to convey to them YOUR priorities for our formal full blown bid. Of course now I need your help with the answers. See the back page.

On the back page is a résumé of some of the proposed items for inclusion in the main bid. What I would like you to do is prioritise them for us by circling the number 1-5, with 1 as your lowest priority and 5 the highest. This will help tremendously in ensuring sufficient funding is given to YOUR priorities and, even if our bid is unsuccessful (I didn't say that !), the priority list contributed to by YOU will form the basis of talks with EBC so that we can emphasize what you want.

A new wildflower meadow for the park

The Environment Agency have said that there was nothing found in the analysis of the silt from the feeder stream to necessitate its removal from the park so it will now form the basis of a new wild flower meadow between the feeder stream and the new ranch fencing; it will be seeded this autumn.



Silt spread between feeder stream and ranch fencing to be planted as wild flower meadow

The Arboretum

The Friends were delighted to be involved in under planting the trees with shrubs and bulbs, planted in specific areas to display the century in which they were introduced into this country. More planting is planned for October.

The Friends managed to source a grant to finance: the purchase of the trees; professional laying of the path; a coloured leaflet (similar to our park Guide); some educational material (for the school groups that we hope will come); and a descriptive sign similar to our new one photographed below. The Parks Dept. assure us all this will be ready in the spring.



Friends doing some under planting

BUT, that isn't the end of planting. More is planned for this coming October, not only in the Arboretum but also creating a Bluebell Dell. Your committee has purchased some native English Bluebell bulbs and EBC have given us permission to create the Dell.

Also, we are working on an idea to get local schoolchildren involved in the planting of plants in the park. So 'watch this space'!



Some Committee with new signboard

New Sign

The Friends have replaced the park sign

board that was destroyed by vandalism a couple of years or so ago and it went proudly on display this August.

New idea

Everyone has an opinion as to which area of the park they would like improved don't they? There isn't the funding, say the EBC, so another initiative of your committee is the idea of getting a regular weekday group together to work with the Council and their contractors to enhance various parts of the park. We're not looking for EBC funding; we'll do the work as we would in our own garden IF we get the necessary permissions and help. What a difference say 10 of us could make blitzing an area for 3-4 hours one day a week, perhaps the 'Monday Gang', starting maybe in the memorial area.



Possible area for Friends to help

If you would be interested in joining the volunteer group and haven't already put your name on our 'available volunteer list' please get in touch.

Member's initiative

A member of the Friends has come forward with an idea: a commercial product for silt-busting. We have asked EBC to trial it to see if it will work on our lake. We'll let you know.

Planning

We have just been advised that the Rugby Club have requested planning permission for more lighting for their pitches in the park. Your committee will endeavour to find out

more detail but if any members have points they would like raised please do get in touch.

Litter is always a problem and although we have local businesses helping, and we have the probation service Community Payback Team working in the park every Monday afternoon, yet we still don't seem to be keeping on top of it. Therefore we wondered if we could call on the Friends again? If you are going for a walk through the park, could you help by taking a plastic bag and just picking up any litter you see as you go, and putting it in a bin? To assist we have asked EBC for more bins at exits but probably won't see them till the end of the financial year.

Diary dates

Some changes to your diary dates please. The talk on herbs planned for October has been changed to a presentation by Kim Parks from the RSPB on **Friday 19th October 2007**. There will be slides and a talk specifically about the species that can be found in Hampden Park. Please note, this will start at 7.30 prompt and will be held at St Mary's Church Hall in Decoy Drive. There will be refreshments provided and it should last approx. 90 minutes. Entry is free: all welcome but donations gratefully received.

Please also take this as advance notice that the AGM will be held on Friday **1st February 2008** at St Mary's Church Hall. Nominations for the committee should be sent in to the address on the back page by 1st January '08.

Committee

The Art Demonstration we had in May was a great success. Congratulations to all involved. However, our social secretary left the committee at that time and the August Flower Arranging evening had to be cancelled. We do hope everyone received advice or saw the notice. If anyone would like to join us and take on this very useful role, helping to set up around three events a year, please do get in touch with us.

Thanks are due to Valerie Shahiow who has come forward to join the committee as Membership Secretary.

Website Ditto - if anyone would like to come forward to set up a website for the Friends we would love to hear from you.

New Seat A new style park bench is being trialled in the park, facing the lake and opposite the café. If you have tried it out us know what you think.



The new seat with an old one in the background

Membership Our membership is now approaching 250 and we are an environmental group to be listened to. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join. It is YOUR park and this is the group to ensure your voice is heard. A membership form is on the back page.

Update They had the finance agreed but, due to having to prepare the lottery bid, management plans and new contracts EBC haven't, as yet, been able to progress the installation of traffic calming measures or get a comprehensive analysis of the lake silt. But these and other improvements are promised before the end of this financial year.

However, the £80,000 refurbishment of the footbridge to Elm Grove Field (by the scout hut) will start this month.

FRIENDS PRIORITIES FOR HAMPDEN PARK

Here is a selection of the items for which EBC have requested lottery funding.
Help us guide prioritising the spending by telling us what is important to YOU.

Dredge and reconstruct lake and adjacent feed channel	1	2	3	4	5
Speed control humps, disabled crossings and new pavements	1	2	3	4	5
Toilets in children's play area	1	2	3	4	5
New equipment for children's play area	1	2	3	4	5
Field boundary improvements to hedges, trees and ditches	1	2	3	4	5
Information boards around the park & directional signs	1	2	3	4	5
Publicity leaflets and educational material	1	2	3	4	5
Park entrance enhancements i.e. posts and bollards	1	2	3	4	5
Improvements to lake perimeter path to enable wheelchair access	1	2	3	4	5
Rustic fencing around parts of the lake and children's play area	1	2	3	4	5
Renewal of Sussex style fencing in other parts of the park	1	2	3	4	5
Cycle/footpath from Cross Levels Way to Bowls Club	1	2	3	4	5
Rose arbour replacement 90m along length of the dam	1	2	3	4	5
Ramp and bridge between Elm Grove Field and Ham Shaw	1	2	3	4	5
Re-landscaping of old rifle range and restoration of flint bldg.	1	2	3	4	5
Renovation of original wrought iron gates at Kings Drive	1	2	3	4	5
Remodelling of café exterior and flower beds	1	2	3	4	5
Heritage style street lighting	1	2	3	4	5
New BMX equipment to Cross Levels Way	1	2	3	4	5
Modernisation of café toilets	1	2	3	4	5
Restoration of Edwardian urinal (and possible relocation)	1	2	3	4	5
Drainage improvements to fields	1	2	3	4	5
Vegetation clearance and enhancement	1	2	3	4	5
New picnic tables	1	2	3	4	5
A programme of guided tours during and after restoration	1	2	3	4	5

Please circle your priority with **1 as low and 5 as high** priority and send to address below

Friends of the Hampden Park

Fee £2 per person

Membership Application Form and/or survey returned from:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____ Email address _____

I would like to have my name put on the volunteer list please _____ yes/no

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
Contact details for Editor and Chairman as above