

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

Friends of the Hampden Park

Winter 2007/08

**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU from your Chairman and all the committee**

**AGM Reminder** It is 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30 at St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive.

## **Lake**

The big event since our last newsletter is the Heritage Lottery Fund refusing the application by EBC for a grant. So much we hoped for has been *on hold* awaiting lottery funding. Oh, and a search of the records show its name is Decoy Pond, not lake as we've been calling it.

## **Lottery Bid**

The letter from Heritage lottery stated : *'Much of the proposed work, such as the educational report, market research and historical survey, represent the very earliest stages in project development. Further stages of planning, research and consultation would have to be undertaken before Eastbourne Borough Council could develop a masterplan for the park. It is, therefore, felt that the outputs from this work would not be sufficiently well developed to inform a full bid within the Parks for People programme timetable.*

*The nature of the proposed planning work is such that the outputs are unlikely to constitute useful, stand alone documents.*

*The checklist at the end of the application form states that applicants should send briefs (detailed*

*descriptions) for each item of planning work. The short descriptions of the work that were supplied with your application were not full briefs and lacked sufficient detail to provide confidence in the quality of the proposed work.'* They then said sorry but hoped this explanation helpful!

We have had subsequent meetings with EBC and can advise they have stated they are not in a position to fund the necessary officer time to prepare a full bid without this interim grant so a further application will not be forthcoming.

EBC have also advised us that the £120,000 they had had to guarantee to Heritage Lottery Fund as their contribution is not available either. We did ask, as you might have guessed !!!!

Those of you who were at the public meetings 3 years ago will know that Gareth Williams, Head of the Parks Department, stated that a lottery bid was essential *'to save the lake'* which was then in urgent need of refurbishment. For EBC to be eligible to put in a bid it was necessary to form a Friends group. That's how it all began. As the bid has been turned down I thought it only fair to ask Gareth to come back to our AGM and tell us where we are going now. I invited him and he accepted.

You may remember that Chris Hookham advised you in his report to last year's AGM that we had been in negotiation with EBC, and seen approved funding for traffic calming and lake silt analysis.

Unfortunately neither has happened yet.

**BUT** in December the Parks Department did invite consultants to quote for analysis of the silt and put forward proposals for the lake. Gareth should be able to tell us on 1<sup>st</sup> February which consultant has been successful and perhaps how it will be funded.

### **Traffic Calming**

The good news I have to report is that I met representatives from the EBC Highways Department on site and Phase 1 of traffic calming has been agreed. Work should be completed hopefully before Easter. It is aimed to slow traffic near the children's play area, the café, and the entrances to the park plus emphasising the 15mph speed limit. All to remind motorists IT IS A PARK.

### **Bluebell Dell**

Following our approach to schools in Hampden Park an enthusiastic response we received from Tim Mehmet, Headmaster of Parkland Infant School

He was so keen on the idea that he didn't just send a class to plant a few bulbs, he arranged for the whole school, all 180 pupils, plus all the teachers, helpers, parents, grandparents, friends, etc., to walk to the park after assembly, carrying their little trowels. I am sure you all saw the newspaper coverage of the planting.

In turn the *Friends Volunteer Gang* turned out in force and were aided by the Mayor, local Councillors, Andy the Park Warden, and Darren & Lawrence from the parks contractors (who brought bigger tools to lend everyone).



Children hard at work planting

We closed the road, welcomed the children and friends, divided up the 500 bluebell bulbs to be planted near the path to the tennis courts and just let them go. You should have seen them.

Everyone who was able to be there couldn't help but enjoy the morning. The sun shone, children's voices were ringing with laughter; there was plenty of chattering; the *Friends Volunteer Gang* helped dig the harder parts of the ground; even our Councillors with spades and forks joined in the fun. Here's hoping all the bulbs come up.

The Friends also provided the school with a winter project. We gave them 100 snowdrop bulbs to grow on in school this term and, when they come back in the spring to see how the bluebells are doing, they are going to plant out the snowdrops. What a great way to get the children involved in plants, proud of their park and protective of the environment they've helped create.

### **CAFÉ**

Not such good news at the café I'm afraid. The flower beds around the newly extended frontage have been vandalised yet again and the plants uprooted (not

the first time). We extend our sympathy to the owners. Police Sgt. Keith Wells of the Neighbourhood Specialist Team has been invited, and agreed, to attend our AGM. We can all take the opportunity to chat to him there about our concerns.



New café seating area and vandalised flower beds

**RSPB**

On 19<sup>th</sup> October the talk we had by Kim Parks was very well attended and a great evening. Despite the fact Kim's stock of new photos seemed to have been lost in the postal problems we had

at that time, he searched his archives and found a truly interesting stock of pictures depicting the birds that could be found in Hampden Park.



Kim presenting his slides to enthusiastic members

We have linked up with Ian Muldoon, the local RSPB organiser, and arranged two events for Spring 2008. The first is **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January** for the Great Garden Bird Survey which the RSPB organise nationally each year. Members are all invited to come and join in the fun

**NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION OF COMMITTEE  
OF FRIENDS OF THE HAMPDENPARK AT THE  
AGM FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2008**

**Nomination for Chairman** .....

**Nomination for Hon Secretary** .....

**Nomination for Hon Treasurer** .....

**Nominations for Committee**.....

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PLEASE ENSURE YOU GET THE AGREEMENT OF YOUR NOMINEE PRIOR TO PROPOSING THEM AND PRINT THEIR NAME SO THAT IT CAN BE READ EASILY CUT OFF THIS PART OF THE NEWSLETTER, COMPLETE OVERLEAF AND FORWARD PLEASE

We will assemble on the grass opposite the café at 10.45 and the survey will be conducted from 11-12noon. RSPB will bring along binoculars and telescopes for the public to borrow together with recording slips, etc. Following this they have offered a short conducted walk (weather permitting) for those who would like to join them.

The second event planned is a Walk which will take place on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** at 10am, again meeting opposite the café in the park. All are welcome. If you have somewhere you could put up a poster to promote this please pick one up at the AGM.

### Friends Initiative

One of the tasks undertaken this last month is the reinstatement of the testimonial plaque for the tree commemorating forces personnel lost in WWII. It is sited near the war memorial on the path towards the water garden. Thanks Chris.

### Survey

Thanks to all of you who completed the survey in the last newsletter. If you remember, this listed the items in the EBC lottery bid and asked you to indicate the most important to you. We had a tremendous response again and your top four priorities were:

- 1 The lake
- 2 Speed reduction
- 3 Toilets in children's area
- 4 Play equipment for children

The Friends offer to find funding for the toilets was refused. EBC advise they have no finance to maintain them even if we restored / repaired / gave them free. How sad. The traffic calming Phase 1 is to happen. A play equipment bid is in for this year. BUT the lake??

### Thank you

Thank you for the letters and notes that you have sent, encouraging the Friends and offering help. They are appreciated and I'm sorry I cannot answer them all.

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## NOMINATION FORM COMPLETED BY

Proposed by (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by (please print name) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

ONLY FORMS FULLY COMPLETED BOTH SIDES AND SIGNED CAN BE COUNTED

Please return this completed nomination form to:  
Chairman and Editor Sandy Boyce-Sharpe  
1 Walnut Tree Walk, BN20 9BP or  
Telephone 07802 884088 or  
email: [friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:friendsofhampdenpark@hotmail.co.uk)