

NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Hampden Park

Issue 9

Spring 2008

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM. It was a wonderful, lively debate on where we go from here now that there is no lottery money – the unanimous decision was FORWARD !

AGM

I was thrilled to be re-elected your Chairman again, together with the full committee from last year. Thank you all very much.

We had distinguished visitors like our MP and local Councillors (all now members), the sports clubs and local businesses were represented, but the Parks Dept. didn't join us, though I had hoped they'd bring us news on Decoy Pond.

We had the formal business of agreeing the accounts and giving a vote of thanks to your hard working committee. I would again like to thank my committee for their support. Details on page 3.



Busy AGM

I took the opportunity of reminding the members of our achievements in 2007.

We worked with the Parks Dept. and achieved: the dredging of the pond feeder stream and planting of the wildflower meadow; the Arboretum and the bluebells; and the long awaited traffic calming. We paid for the new sign and had the great garden bird survey; and won our Community Action Award from South & South East in Bloom, thanks mainly to the sterling work of our *Volunteer Gang*.



Great Garden Bird Survey

But, on the down side there was also the loss of all hope of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. So much of our wish list had been pinned on that; but the membership was stoic and felt this was a challenge, not a problem.

Working together with sports clubs

We welcomed the sports clubs and local businesses to our AGM and we are delighted that so many of them were able to send representatives. One of the ideas that came out of that is an initiative to have regular meetings to assess shared problems and potential answers to questions like vandalism, sewage

ingress, planning threats, litter, etc. The first of these meetings is to take place shortly, with Councillors eager to participate.

Police

Although at the last moment the police were unable to attend the AGM, we have been in correspondence since and the Friends have been invited to join the local force for an Environmental Survey of the park just after Easter.

Decoy Pond

The work of the consultants in analysing the silt in the pond is well under way and their results and recommendations for its future should be presented to the Council at the end of March. Following that we hope to have meetings where the way forward can be clarified.

Nesting Boxes



Nesting boxes being given to Parks Officer

The bird nesting boxes made last year by students at St Andrews School in the Meads have been safely put up in the park by EBC.

Bluebells

You will remember that 180 pupils of Parkland Infant School came to the park

in the autumn with teachers, parents and grandparents to plant over 500 bluebells – well I've been advised by the park contractors they are coming up! They should be in flower in April. Not only that, the contractors have offered to contribute some bulbs or plants this autumn, and EBC Parks Dept. had promised to match fund our efforts so the park should be more colourful than ever by 2009. None of this could have been achieved without help from our *Volunteer Gang*. Lets hope we can get even more schools involved this year.

Website

Thanks go to Ratton School who have taken on the task of designing a website for the Friends. It is being constructed now and we look forward to being able to give you more information in the next newsletter. If you have ideas on what you would like us to include on our web please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Volunteer Gang

For those who don't know, these are Members of the Friends (and often partners, husbands, wives and children) who come out to help with specific events or challenges. Not everyone is available every time, some can help with teas or cakes, some with spades and forks, some only on weekdays some only at weekends. All help is welcome. If you would like to be part of the *GANG* please let me know (see page 3) and we'll call you as needed.

Diary Dates

Friends, and particularly *Volunteer Gang* please, we need your help again, but anyone can come and join in the fun.

4th April – Sixty children from Parkland Infant School will be planting snowdrops they have been growing in pots over the winter. We'll be meeting at 9.30 at the water garden (to the rear of the war memorial). *Volunteer Gang*, and anyone at all who can help with spades, forks, etc., to come please.

17th May – The Rugby Club, in conjunction with the RAF, are holding a Fun Day in the park with a Chinook helicopter flying in and lots of entertainment for all the family. Watch the local press for more news but *Volunteer Gang*, please get in touch if you are free at all that day. We've been invited to help in various ways.

12th-13th July – there is a Motor Show in Hampden Park and the Sports Park.

We have plans to have two members' evenings this year and have invited Dr Surtees from the Eastbourne Local History Society, and the RSPB to talk about wildlife gardening. More news when the dates are confirmed.

Traffic Calming

I hope you have all noticed the work – well you couldn't miss it could you? It's been going on for weeks but is due to be completed by Easter and will hopefully make our park a safer place for our elderly, disabled and children.



Traffic calming under way

It's unfortunate that the budget available through Parks & Gardens has only made one hump and two sets of speed cushions possible, but white paint will supplement the work they assure me. We hope so. Let's all monitor how well it slows everything down.

At the AGM you voted in your committee for 2008

Chairman	Sandy Boyce-Sharpe
Treasurer	Bob Jones
Secretary	Lindsey Gwynne
Membership Secretary	Carol Hunter
Committee	Hugh Ball
	Bryan Renn

Anyone who would like to help by joining the committee, please let us know.

If you would like to help in any capacity by being on the *Volunteer Gang* list we would love to hear from you. There is no firm commitment. We just email or ring you if something comes up and you join the *Gang* if you can.

Please return this slip with your contact details using the form overleaf and give us some idea of when you might be available.

Many thanks

Street lighting in the park

We were alerted by one of the sports clubs to a number of street lights being out. With the help of the police and our Councillors we have ensured that it has been prioritised. The problem apparently was vandalism, not of the bulbs but of the cabling actually in the posts and underground. I'm sure we all feel we would like to meet the people concerned and tell them of our disappointment that they can't find other ways of expressing themselves.

Suggestion of new play area

A suggestion at our AGM was not unique but a follow up of national press coverage of a playground, not for the children this time, but for OAPs. We'll see what we can do. Please let us have your comments.

SIMALTO

An initiative from EBC is to allocate £10,000 to each ward at the discretion of the local Councillors. I am sure they will have many demands on this money. We hope some of it may back our initiatives.

Revised Park Guide

The revised version of the guide we launched in 2006 is in preparation as I write and should be ready soon after Easter. Also, the new sign for the Arboretum and History Garden that the Friends funded should also be ready. In addition we funded preparation of material for students and it is hoped we will have this available to be down loaded from the EBC website and our own when it comes on line.

Membership Drive

The best publicity is word of mouth and we have been delighted with residents contacting us supporting the work we do and offering their help. But more always welcome. My wish is that almost every house around the park be a member of the Friends and then we can be sure we reflect their wishes when we negotiate the various initiatives with EBC. Please encourage your neighbours to join us. Membership application form below.

Sorry I can't answer each individual letter but please keep sending them.

Friends of the Hampden Park

Membership Application Form

Fee £2 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____ Able to help: Yes/No Weekday/Weekend

Email address: _____

Contact Details for the Friends of the Hampden Park
Please return this form to

The Chairman and Editor Sandy Boyce-Sharpe
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