



**Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert (FoGH)
Newsletter 1 Winter 2011**

From the editors

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter!
We aim to cater for a wide range of readers, so we hope there is something for everyone. We plan to include information on forthcoming events, activities for children and features about the various users of the park, its history, wildlife, plants and anything else we can think of!
Please let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter. We aim to publish once every three months, with the next issue February/March 2012.
We welcome all contributions for consideration. Please try to keep to about 300 words or less, and include your name and contact details.
All copy to editors please by January 14 2012.
Send any letters, comments or suggestions to editors@fogh.org.uk or to FoGH, 15 Dorking Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN.

Carolyn Gray & Mary Hughes

Chairman's letter

This is the second letter as chairman for the park Friends. It is I am sure you understand, difficult to come to grips with and satisfy the requirements of such a diverse group. However, as a committee, I think we now have a broad cross section of park users involved, they will ensure each interest group is fully represented. After what I can only state as being perceived as a slow start, the last meeting on 5th Oct was very productive.

- 96 people have expressed an interest or joined
- FoGH Facebook has over 200 followers
- we are working on a constitution
- links have been formed with local associations and park users
- FoGH has joined the Tunbridge Wells Town Forum
- Several events are planned or under serious discussion

We do though need Friends to become involved in whatever way they can, be it large or small. If you have a skill or are just enthusiastic, please help however you can. That way the group and parks will thrive.
So to close, the setting up of the Friends group is to be seen as a long term project: it is for our children and their children's children to enjoy what we will hopefully leave behind. If we are slow to get off the ground sorry, but it does though allow the committee a measured approach in setting out the long-term strategy for FoGH.

Paul Lambert

Forthcoming events

**Wed 30 November 10 am - 2
Coppicing and Hedging**

Kent High Weald Partnership volunteer day. Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance to continue the coppice cycle re-established in Hilbert woods over 5 years ago.
The hazel re-growth is now being cut, to be used within the woodlands and elsewhere for hedge laying and habitat creation.

**Sunday 11 December 2- 4 pm
Christmas Get-Together**

At Grosvenor Bowls Pavilion. Pop in for a chat, mince pies and carols from our friends in CREATE.
Panini on the Park will be open for hot drinks.

**Sat 17 December from 10 am
Camden Road Street Market**

Lots of Christmas fun with stalls and entertainment
Children's Activities by CREATE

**Sat 28 January 10 am - 12
Open Day**

At St Barnabas School Hall. Come along and let us know how you would like to help and your interests in the park. Let us know your skills, so we can put you to use!
Ideas very welcome.
By this stage we SHOULD know the results of the Heritage Lottery Bid.

Watch out for further details on www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert
www.fogh.org.uk

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise CREATE presents:

Saturday 3 December 7 PM "It's a Wonderful Life"

St Barnabas School Hall. Free Tickets: book in advance,
bring food & drink to share afterwards

"Christmas Concert"

Friday 9 December 7:30 PM, St Thomas's Church, Groombridge
also **Saturday 10 December 7:30 PM** St Barnabas Church, followed
by refreshments. Tickets £5

To Book Tickets: 07966 190428 daveprodick@hotmail.com
www.camdenroad.org

Panini on the Park



Open 7 days
a week

winter 10:30 - 4 PM
(weather permitting)
for hot & cold drinks, light
refreshments

www.paninionthepark.co.uk

Update from the Parks Department

Welcome to the first update from the Parks team at the Council and what an exciting future we can expect for the park! As most of you know, we have submitted a Heritage Lottery Bid to make improvements to the park. I know from the consultation exercise that this caused some concern, many of you fearing that we would change the character of the park. Let me put your minds at rest; it is not our intention to make major changes to the layout of the park, but to improve what we already have. I'm afraid it will be a while before we know if the bid was successful, however I'm confident we submitted a strong bid and the feedback from HLF has been very positive.

We should hear if we have succeeded in January, by which time we will have appointed a landscape architect and project manager to take us through to the second round bid and completion of the project. I'm afraid it's a lengthy process but a necessary one. During this process, there will be further opportunities for you to comment on the proposals for the park as the plans develop and I would urge you to take the time to visit the park and take a look. We and the Friends will make sure you have plenty of warning of any future consultation.

I am always happy to discuss any questions you have about the bid or the park so please don't hesitate to make contact, you can call me on 01892 554031 or peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC

History of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

Our park is full of history, which we will explore in more detail in future editions.



The Grosvenor Recreation Ground to the west was Tunbridge Wells' first public park. It was opened in 1889 on the site of the former Calverley Water Works, engineered by William Hilbert. In 1931 William

Hilbert's grandson, Councillor E. J. Strange, bought the "Charity Farm" lands to the north east, and presented them to the council. He requested they be named "Hilbert Recreation Grounds" after his mother, Lydia.

This land also includes the "Hilbert Recreation Ground Allotments".

The original Farmhouse, now called "Packs in the Woods" is privately owned.

View from the allotments.

The allotments share nature and wildlife with the park.

Allotment holder Ian Hunter says,



"The allotments are popular with the deer who enjoy strawberry leaves and the fresh young shoots of fruit trees and raspberries. The squirrel has taken to planting acorns amongst my potatoes. The tree cover at the edge of the plots is visited by both native and migrant birds, with cross bills and redpolls noted last year."

There is one community allotment plot run by Transition Tunbridge Wells, where they spotted a Humming-bird Hawk-moth on their plot last year.

If you would like to join their work group, look at [Http://ttwells.ning.com/](http://ttwells.ning.com/)

Art in the Park

TWBC have secured funding to commission 3 pieces of art on the cycle way/footpath linking the town centre to North Farm; one at Jack's Wood Spring (at the start of cycle path), one at North Farm and one on the Grassy Knoll: the new grassed, raised area between Grosvenor Bridge and The Lake.

The Grosvenor Bridge artwork will be a permanent, significant feature, visible from both the bridge and the lake area. It will be based on two themes:

Philanthropy (since both Grosvenor and Hilbert were donated by wealthy philanthropists to improve the health and well-being of the local people)

Water (due to the proximity of the lake and Jack's Wood Spring).

£24,000 will be available for each artwork.

A shortlist of 6 artists will be made by 14 November (following submissions of interest in early November).

Detailed proposals will be available for consultation with FoGH during January and February. The successful artist will be required to engage with the community in developing the artwork.

Further details will be in the next newsletter.



Meet the Lazy dog walkers of Grosvenor Park!



This 11-strong group meet to exercise their dogs, allowing them to play together and get used to interacting with other dogs. It also means the owners have a chance to chat!

They arrange their meetings via their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/#!/groups/222577761189

Photographic Competition Winter in the Park

a photograph taken in or of the park during winter.



Entries to be e-mailed to

comp@fogh.org.uk or posted to FoGH, 15 Dorking Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN, before 14 January 2012.

To be judged at the Open Day: the winner will be published in the Spring newsletter. For terms and conditions, see

www.fogh.org.uk

Ever wondered about the football in the park? Read on.....



The West Kent Sunday League was formed in 1967, as a Sunday morning Association Football (Soccer) league for adults (over 16 years). In the 2011 - 2012 season there are 49 clubs fielding a total of 61 teams every Sunday, with around 2000 registered players.

Fully affiliated to the Kent County Football Association, the league is open to clubs within a 20 mile radius of Tonbridge. Most clubs are based in and around Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Paddock Wood and Crowborough, with several clubs from each town, as well as in the surrounding villages.

The more distant clubs include Biggin Hill, Cranbrook Town (based in Benenden), Dormansland Rockets, Green Street Blues (based in Orpington) and Her Majesty's Prison at Blantyre House near Goudhurst.

There are 6 divisions, with between 6 and 12 teams in the divisions.

The following teams use the Hilbert playing fields as their home ground::

The Palace FC (in Division Four), Black Horse (TW) (in Division Five) and King William IV FC (in Division Six).

For more information, see <http://www.wksl.org.uk/index.htm>

Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve

A haven for wildlife in the heart of town



One of the lesser known charms of the Grosvenor and Hilbert Park is the Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve. Officially designated as an LNR in 2000, the reserve forms the northern most point of the park, and includes over 5 hectares of ancient woodland, wildflower grassland, and iron-rich streams. The Kent High Weald Partnership manages the conservation interest of Hilbert Woods LNR on behalf of TWBC. Every year, KHWP organises and leads over 100 days of volunteer work on the reserve, helping to take care of its special habitats and important wildlife.



A key management activity that volunteers have helped to realise over the past decade is the re-introduction of coppicing to Roundabout Woods (with the boardwalk). Hazel trees are cut down to their base on a 6-year cycle. Poles (the larger, straighter growth) are then used as stakes for hedgelaying projects, whilst the brash (thin and leafy branches) are stacked and staked to make habitat piles. These piles create a useful new home for small mammals and invertebrates, and help to protect the growing coppice stools from browsing by the local urban deer population!

Hilbert Woods LNR is well worth a visit throughout the year. Surfaced paths lead into the woodland, with wooden boardwalks and steps helping to keep the wetter areas accessible to all. Veteran oak trees, tall alders and shimmering silver birch feature throughout the woods, and create a colourful backdrop to any nature

exploration.

Further information, including a map of Hilbert Woods LNR, is available from the nature reserve pages of the Kent High Weald Partnership website www.khwp.org.uk

Jane Frostick - Countryside Officer (Greenspaces) KHWP

Children's Activity

Leaves are falling everywhere. Here are some trees that are found in the Park. Oak, hawthorn, hornbeam, birch, hazel, ash, horse chestnut, rowan, and alder

Can you match the leaf to the tree?



Answers
1 hawthorn
2 ash
3 hazel
4 oak
5 alder
6 birch
7 horse chestnut
8 rowan
9 hornbeam

Have a walk in the Park: can you find these trees?

Find some leaves, make a collage and share your photos on

www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert

National Tree Week

26 November - 4 December

The UK's largest tree celebration, launching the start of the winter tree planting season.



If you have room in your garden, why not plant a small tree?

See The Tree Council website for advice.

www.treecouncil.org.uk/communityaction/national-tree-week

Make the most of the season by walking around the woods and seeing what you can find

Share your photos on

www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert

FoGH Contact Details

Paul Lambert (Chairman)

Jane Melville (Secretary)

Facebook

Website

Editors:

15 Dorking Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN

To join, email the Secretary on Friendsghrp@aol.com

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www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert

www.FoGH.org.uk

editors@FoGH.org.uk

Other Contacts & Useful Information

TWBC Parks Service

01892 554031

Mobile Security Service

07920 534369

Toilets: Opening Hours

7am - 6pm