



Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (FoGH)



Newsletter 4 Autumn 2012

picture courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum

Lottery Bid update from The Parks Department

As many of you may know, we have succeeded in our first round Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Grosvenor and Hilbert Park. This means we can now start work on preparing our second round application. To help with this, HLF have released £148,800 for the costs in our second round application, but please remember this does not guarantee success.



What happens next?



HLF have appointed a monitoring officer, who will be our contact for the rest of the application process. We have already had an initial discussion to outline our next steps. In the round two application, we will put more detail to the plans many of you have already seen.

Although the funding is not guaranteed, in view of the money already released it is clear the HLF board supports our application. In practice, we need to make sure we don't make any significant changes to the plan we initially submitted, or start any work that could be deemed as part of the project, before funding is secured.

Over the next few weeks, we will be appointing a Landscape Architect and Project Manager, to work with us to prepare the second round bid. To do this, we need to carry out surveys in the Park, to collate information to help us determine what needs to be done, so don't be alarmed if you see people digging and probing in the Park.



Planned work

It is not possible to summarise all our plans in the space available. Here are some key elements:



Work to restore the **Dripping Wells** is a key part and we hope to refurbish them to full working order.

We plan to restore the landscape surrounding **the Lake**, repair the walls and steps, clear the island of weeds and create habitats for the wildfowl.

We propose to extend the **wetland in the 'dip'**, improving biodiversity and creating habitats for flora and fauna, improving access with a viewing platform and boardwalks.

At **the pavilion**, we plan to make small improvements to the pavilion and toilets, and add a covered space for the café.



Timescale

Unfortunately, this process takes a long time and a lot of work, but we need to be methodical to prepare a comprehensive bid. Our monitoring officer has advised that we should aim to submit our bid in August 2013, hoping for the result in December 2013.

What does this mean to you?

It is going to take some time for the Architects to prepare plans and drawings to use for consultation. These will be based on what you have already told us, but don't worry; there will still be an opportunity to have your say. Next spring, we will hold open days, so you can let us know what you think. The open days will be advertised in the Park, on our website and by FoGH, so please take the time to come along.

If you would like to know more about the project, or have a specific question I can be contacted on 01892 554031 or peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk **Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC**

Art in the Park update from Polly Vernon, Cultural Projects Manager, TW Museum & Art Gallery

We Made That is an architecture and design studio established in 2006. They propose a 'civic stoop' for the Grassy Knoll site. The community-based commission will happen in several stages. The design process will start in September, working with FoGH. Local stone will be used to create a sculpture leading skywards. In a community event, people will work with the artists to create designs to carve into the sculpture.

Chairman's letter

The Friends group was formed just over a year ago, as a consequence of the proposed HLF bid. How appropriate that a year later, we can celebrate being successful in the first stage! We will continue to work closely with TWBC on the HLF bid, and on all aspects of the Park.

Over the summer, we have continued to make plans and to promote the Park. FoGH has participated in several events: see the reports later in the newsletter. We have been planning more events for autumn and winter, which are noted in our newsletters: these will be posted up as usual within the Park.

An update on our Commemorative Tree Planting: of the six trees planted in March this year, all bar the one planted by Greg Clark MP have survived. This is surprising, as it was the largest when planted, but in October, it will be replaced by another Oak from the Park. The CREATE tree, planted in memory of John Marshall, is looking especially healthy. We have not needed to water the trees once this year, not what we expected weather wise, but good for the trees and water resources.

TWBC Parks Department are in the process of setting up an umbrella group for the Friends of parks and open spaces within the town. FoGH are pleased to be a part of this group. We see this as a way of engaging with the council and other groups actively involved in protecting our open spaces. We will be supporting and learning from each other where we can. One preliminary meeting has been held and when the group is more established, I will report back on progress.

I am pleased to see Gavin appearing in print on page 5 and hope this will become a regular feature. Please contact us with any suggestions for things you would like to see FoGH doing, ideas for events, or if there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter (contact details on page 6).

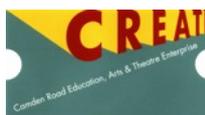
It takes time to establish this kind of group, but I hope our first year has been a good start and I commend the committee for their hard work. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

J Paul Lambert



FoGH

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise



CREATE presents:

Protest, Revolution & Change.....Saturday 8th September 7.30pm

Concert at St Thomas's Church in Groombridge Tickets £6.50

Arts & Entertainment Quiz Night.....Saturday 29th September 7.30pm

St Barnabas School Hall Teams 6/8 per table

Tickets £6.50 (including fish and chips supper) Bring your own drinks

Bowjangles Theatre in Bowlympics.....Friday 19th October 7.30pm

The Olympics encapsulated in a hilarious evening of physical musical theatre.

St Barnabas School Hall Tickets £8 concessions £6

Big Draw Art Event.....Saturday 27th Oct 10am - 3pm

Come & try a variety of different art activities for an hour or the day

St Barnabas School Hall Free event but donations welcome.

Wanted: Artists to give some time to help with this event: please contact Dave Prodrick

Nose in a Book evening.....Saturday 27th Oct 7.30pm

Come along for an evening of Readings, Music and Improvisation

St Barnabas School Hall Bring your own snacks and drinks – Free Tickets, booking needed

'There was an old lady who swallowed a fly'....Friday 16th November 7pm

From The Peoples Theatre St Barnabas School Hall A musical for the whole family All tickets £6

For tickets or information on any of the above, please contact Dave Prodrick

07966190428 or daveprodrick@hotmail.com

If anyone knows of a source of funding for this year's Lantern Parade, please contact Dave

Give to CREATE via the Green Token scheme in John Lewis at home, Tunbridge Wells

At the
Bowls Pavilion



Open 7 days a
week

10:30 - 4 PM
(weather permitting)

for hot & cold drinks, light
refreshments

www.paninionthepark.co.uk

The Big Toddle, Thursday 21st June 2012



This charity fund raiser for Barnados was arranged by local resident Amy Harker, in association with Little Dish. An annual mini sponsored walk, the under 5s were asked to dress as Superheroes this year. Despite the cloudy, and finally rainy, weather, several toddlers, friends and family came along to the children's playground. Before the walk, there was dancing with Tiny Dancers and Angelina Ballerina Dance. Mabel the Cow then led the walk around the cycle-track, before a final round of dancing and bubble-blowing. It has to be said that 'rain stopped play', but everyone that came enjoyed themselves.

Carolyn T Gray

National Playday 1st August



Set up 25 years ago in London to promote play and playgrounds, National Playdays are now well established, with over 850 events held last year across the UK, on the first Wednesday in August. As in previous years, this year's free event was run by Kent High Weald Partnership (who manage the Local Nature Reserve) and provided a host of activities for the many children who came along on the day.

There was the opportunity to take part in a number of woodland activities from KHWP – including wand whittling, willow weaving, bow and arrow making, and constructing bug hotels.

The arts and craft on offer included face-painting and various other creative activities. The bug hunting proved popular and found a good number of small frogs, as well as bugs. If you wondered what happened to the tadpoles seen earlier this year in the wetland area, many are alive and well, now frogs living in the long grass!



The event was also supported by the Rotary Club of Tunbridge Wells, who ran the football activity and gave a helping hand with a number of other activities.

At KHWP's, invitation, FoGH took part, having a stall and handing out a park trail, free badges, stickers and newsletters. Also helping out on the stall was Catherine, a fellow Park-Friend, and local Blue Badge Guide. Between us, we were able to cover the history part of the Park, and promote the Friends group to families. It also gave us the chance to chat to those there and hear other people's views on the Park, and Tunbridge Wells.

Despite the weather taking a turn for the worse towards the end of the day, everyone enjoyed themselves and expressed their thanks for all the work put in. **Carolyn T Gray & Chris Hughes (KHWP volunteer)**

Orienteering Have a Go Day Saturday 16th June

The Saxon's Orienteering Club held one of their Have a Go Days in the park. Several people turned up to try one of the two courses around the park, a simple circular route or a more complicated "Butterfly" (think of the shapes of a butterfly's wings...). The orienteering was timed, but was not intended to be a race; it's actually a good way to explore corners of the Park you may normally miss.



Thanks to SOC and Dr Ian Beavis, we have the leaflet and maps of a permanent orienteering course that was set up by Ken Hale for SOC in 1992. Some of these 22 posts still exist in the Park; they are simple wooden posts with a letter and a number. The numbers are marked on the map, and then you would choose a course (short, medium or longer) and when you found the correct numbered post, write the letter on the control card. The posts are all in the section of the Park to the east of the Auckland Road entrance, a couple are very obvious if you are walking about.

It seemed like a good history task to try and find all the posts, especially after SOC said they would like to start re-using the course. Armed with the map on a clipboard, a pen, camera and trainers I set off in a logical route. Some posts were easy to find, but none of the numbers on the map matched the numbers on the posts in those locations. A few posts were there but had lost their numbers.

Over 20 years, the Park has changed in a couple of places, with the new cycle path to Connaught Park altering the line of path and fence, and the allotments extending into the parkland. Parts of the Park were also overgrown, and brambles are in full-growth: the posts could have been there but I wasn't dressed for finding them! Due to the fact parts of the woods are still very wet, there were 3 I didn't try to find! Out of the 19 others, I found 9, so about half the posts are still there.

I had a pleasant walk, as it was one of the few sunny mornings in early summer; the grasshoppers, butterflies and blackberries were all out, and sometimes we just take our normal route around the Park for granted. Let's hope we can get a permanent course re-instated in the Park, even if we don't all want to run around clipping maps at control points, just picking three different posts to walk to might make a change to your day.



Carolyn T Gray

What happened after the Jubilee Picnic in the Park?

We tidied up the bunting, tables and gazebos, but many more exciting things have happened since we all left the park on Monday 4th June.

In brief, here is news from some who were there on the day.



Teresa at The Black Horse pub was inspired to take on the lease of 120 Camden Road. Called The Savoury Kitchen, she now has a permanent place to sell her pies, scotch eggs and cheese straws. Also selling cakes, coffees and packed lunches, it's worth popping in everyday to see what's new.

The Axel Beharrell Band performed at Local and Live in the Pantiles on Sunday 26th August, as well as getting a place at the arts competition Fusion at The Forum... on the same evening! On Monday 27th August Nick Numas, Elite Street Dance, was at the Fusion Talent Contest at the Assembly Hall.

On Friday 7th September, both Insomnia and Jake Dalyanci will be in Compaid's Got Talent at Trinity Theatre. This features young talent from the local community competing for a cash prize and mentoring support. Our loyalties will be divided.

We will post any news on the website, and in the next newsletter.

Overspray were supported by Town and Country to make another mural at Dunorlan Park over the weekend of the Olympic and Mela Celebrations.

Carl Abrams brought the Mid Kent Metals sponsored SERV Kent Suzuki V-Strom bike to the Picnic, where a new sponsor stepped up, Marc Tough of Temple Knight PLC. A new SERV Kent bike, "Husky" a Husqvarna Nuda 900, is now on the roads; additional thanks to Lloyds TSB, Freestyle Bikes Marks Cross, Island Marketing and fund rising by James Burroughs.

Angela at ChezJJ is starting to organise this year's Camden Road Christmas Market! The Guild would like to involve the whole community, and are looking for stall holders and bands. Email at camdenroadtwells@yahoo.co.uk or see Angela



Carolyn T Gray

Sport Report Grosvenor Bowls Club

This season has, so far, been an exciting and challenging one for Grosvenor Bowls Club. We had a few matches specially arranged to celebrate the Centenary Year of our club.

In late May, a coach load of bowlers travelled to Windsor to play a friendly match against the Royal Household Bowls Club. The setting was stunning, as was the weather, and the company was excellent – a good time had by all.



And in June, we welcomed a team from the Kent County Bowls Association, headed by President Mick Collins, to our green. He was very complimentary of the way we have survived for 100 years, pulling together as a relatively small club in recent times. We are very proud of Grosvenor Bowls Club, but it's nice to hear it from somebody else!

July, unfortunately, brought a very wet day for our Centenary Invitation game, in which several local clubs fielded teams of three players against us. We were very appreciative that everyone played on through the rain and it was wonderful to hear all the lively banter on the green amongst friends, old and new.

These matches were in addition to our usual fixtures against local clubs. The majority of our matches are mixed Friendlies against local clubs. The weather has been a constant adversary and we have lost several matches to rain this season. Fortunately, we have made the most of the games we have played, and have loved bowling out in the fresh air!

On 18 August, 2 of our bowlers won the pairs competition in the Tunbridge Wells Bowls Tournament. Stuart Moaby and Graham Bridges finished victors after a close match, against a pair from Tunbridge Wells Bowls Club.

The Men's League is competitive and there are 3 leagues, each of 6 local teams. Each year the top two sides are promoted and the bottom two sides are relegated so it's very competitive and very close! Our team had a strong finish to their season, and are in with a good chance of being promoted!

We are glad to welcome anyone who would like to have a go at bowls to our Wednesday practice nights from 6pm, until the end of September.



Jo Cartwright - Club Captain

Meet the Park Keeper



Hello everyone, my name is Gavin Wilkinson. I am employed by Horticultural Services by Sodexo as the Park Keeper for Grosvenor and Hilbert Park.

I am delighted to have been asked to add my bit to the newsletter, and for this opportunity to introduce myself to the park users that don't know me very well, and would like to find out more about who is looking after this wonderfully diverse park.

I learned my trade at Brinsbury College in West Sussex: an 18 month course for Sports Groundsmanship Management. During the course I did work experience at Selhurst Park, home to Crystal Palace FC. After my work experience ended, I was asked to stay on for the rest of the year: of course, I jumped at the chance! I later moved on to Cottesmore Golf Club, working on two 18-hole courses, which was a fantastic leaning experience. I have also worked as Team Leader at Mannings Heath Golf and Country Club; this refined my gardening skills and introduced me to site management.

The support I receive from my company, and the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert has been brilliant. I believe that FoGH is one of the most positive things to happen to the Park in my time here. It gives the local Park users an opportunity to put their views and ideas across. FoGH have put time and effort into organising events, like the Jubilee Picnic in the Park. I was surprised and delighted by how many people came along for that day and by how many people were visiting the Park for the first time. In my opinion, FoGH are doing an excellent job of raising the profile of the Park.

I'd like to end by saying thank you to all the Park users that help me out: you're all stars! Feel free to come up and speak to me any time.



Gavin Wilkinson

View from the Allotment

Despite a year of confusing weather that has been great for slugs, snails and weeds, I am digging



potatoes, not a bad harvest. The runner beans are providing a small, tasty crop; the sweet peas are flourishing and the sunflowers are trying to

make a show. The weather, a visit from thieves and the threat of a massive rent increase has dampened some people's enthusiasm.

I have just set strawberry runners into small pots for more plants next year, always an optimist! I must weed the leeks they are looking good and are welcome crop in deepest winter. The green house has been wrapped in plastic, following a massive loss of glass, and has yielded a one pound beef steak tomato. If it was easy it would not be fun!

Ian Hunter

Dogs in the Park

Milo is a rescue dog from Last Chance. He learnt some antisocial behaviour as a puppy and young dog, spent time as a stray and also in at least two dogs' homes.



We haven't been able to get him not to see other dogs as something to catch, so he is a bit unpopular in the Park! There have been times when I have nearly given up on him, but he is such a sweet, clever dog, I have stuck by him.

Our proudest moment was when he won 3rd Prize for Best Trick at the Dog Show in the Park on 4 June, for balancing a biscuit on his nose and catching it. We nearly didn't come, but he performed with other dogs distracting him and no bloodshed!

He has started work on new tricks for the next Dog Show, hoping to achieve 1st next time!

Christine Newman

Children's Activity

As summer turns to autumn, fruit and nuts are ripening and can be seen in the Park.

Can you identify those shown in the pictures below? Do you know which trees or plants the fruit and nuts come from? Next time you're out in the Park, look for them: can you see any birds or animals picking and eating them!



1 Rowan berries 2 Acorns 3 Hawthorn berries 4 Hazel nuts 5 Blackberries 6 Scots pine cones

Images courtesy of Brian Ecott at www.hainaultforest.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Heritage Open Days St Barnabas Church.....Saturday 8th September 10 - 6pm
Sunday 9th September 1 - 5pm

Exhibition on the history of the church, parish, school & the town in general. FoGH display.

Guided tours, 1911 Parish Census on display

Tea & Cakes in the vestry



Heritage Open Day walk.....Sunday September 9th 2.30 - 4pm

A walk through the park led by Dr Ian Beavis.

Explore the origins, history & natural features of the park

Booking essential on 01892 544429 or

www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/hod011520e



Members Bring and Share Barbeque.....Sunday 30th September 2pm

Bowls Pavilion

Bring salads, desserts & drinks to share.

There will a charge for the barbequed food.



The History of Grosvenor & Hilbert Park.....Details to be confirmed

Talk by Dr Philip Whitbourn OBE

Children's Halloween Party.....Details to be confirmed

Bring your children along to have fun for Halloween!

Party games Halloween snacks

Come in fancy dress. Best carved pumpkin competition



Coppicing: Roundabout Woods.....Wednesday 14th November 10am

Kent High Weald Partnership volunteer day

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action

We continue to re-establish the coppice cycle in Roundabout Woods.

Wear appropriate clothing & footwear.



Coppicing: Folly Shaw.....Wednesday 28th November 10am

KHWP volunteer day

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action

We will be coppicing trees in Folly Shaw to increase light levels

Wear appropriate clothing & footwear.



Watch out for further details on our website www.fogh.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert or Twitter twitter.com/FofGH

FoGH Contact Details

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

or at 41, Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2NS

The Editors (Carolyn Gray & Mary Hughes) welcome all contributions for consideration.

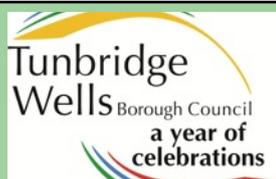
Please try to keep to about 300 words or less, and include your name and contact details.

Editors:

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Our sincere thanks to
Tunbridge Wells Borough
Council for all their support in
printing and collating hard
copies of this Newsletter



Other Contacts & Useful Information

TWBC Parks Service 01892 554031

Mobile Security Service 07920 534369

Toilets: Opening Hours 7am - 6pm

Photos in this newsletter courtesy of Dave Barnet, Jo Cartwright, Peter Every, Carolyn T Gray & Chris Hughes