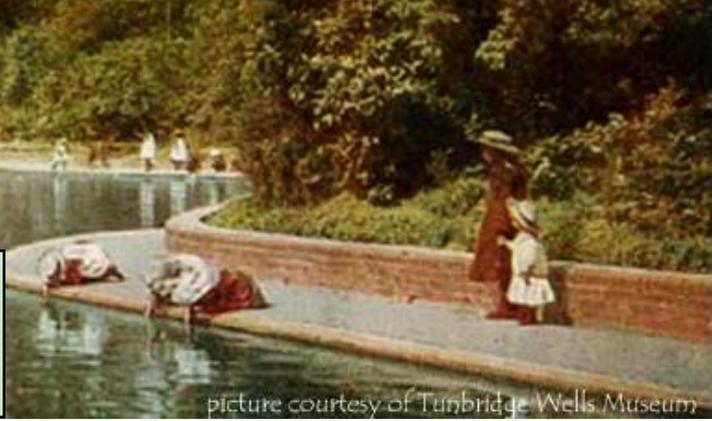




Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (FoGH)



Newsletter 12 Autumn 2014



picture courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum

125th Birthday Celebration for the Park!

Sunday 29th June saw us celebrating the Park's 125th Birthday with a community picnic. The Park opened 125 years ago on 29th June 1889 and was Tunbridge Wells' first municipal Park. According to the local press of the day it had "every facility for making the young and old happy", something as relevant today as it was then.



In keeping with a birthday party, there were games to play and plenty to eat for those that had brought a picnic. There was a display on the history of the Park, including photos of the old swimming pool, which was once sited where the children's play area is now.

To celebrate the day we had a special cake featuring the '125' logo. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to the Park and Councillor Ben Chapelard cut the cake. Ben is the great great nephew of Edward Jeffrey Strange, who donated the land now called "Hilbert Park" in memory of his mother Lydia Hilbert. There was plenty of cake, which everyone enjoyed!



Community Engagement Officer Cally Fiddimore handed out a souvenir postcard, which depicted early images of the Park along with the '125' logo. Here's to the next 125 years!

Chris Hughes

Chairman's Letter

It's beginning to feel like late summer now, with the more mellow sunshine and the beech, sycamore, oak and hazelnut trees loaded with seeds and fruits ripening early from such a good growing season. The Park has been a busy place with a succession of events, many with a wildlife emphasis, and I would like to thank all of you who have come along and supported, and of course those who have worked so hard in making them all happen.



Cally Fiddimore, our Community Engagement Officer, has been an amazing source of fresh energy and ideas and has established an active communication with the younger Park users, resulting in the popular decision to refurbish the skate board park. She has established an outdoor classroom/learning area near the skate board park at the edge of the woodland and children have been using this to build shelters and practice forest crafts. The planters we put in by the pavilion area in May have grown and flowered well, drawing many favourable comments. It has been well worth the effort and apart from a few small incidents, they have not been damaged. During the next three months we will be running a busy schedule of events before the work on the pavilion area begins in November. The initial phase of the Community Orchard, supplied as part of the lottery funded work, will be planted and we will be promoting the sponsorship of the community planted trees during this period, ready for their planting in February. Kent High Weald Partnership will be running additional days of voluntary work in Roundabout Woods as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund work. I would like to encourage people to take part, as it is very rewarding. See page 8 for a list of the activities and their website www.khwp.org.uk for more information.

In June the Heritage Lottery Fund published their report 'Public Parks under threat' in response to the annual cuts to the revenue budgets for parks since 2010, which are set to continue. With more than 75% of parks now unable to fund front-line staff, it makes for sobering reading and emphasizes the need for community groups to work together with local authorities. Rather a serious note to end my letter with, but for those who are interested, the report can be found on www.hlf.org.uk/news/Pages/StateUKParks.aspx

Liz Edwards



Kent Air Ambulance used the Park as the nearest landing site when called to an incident in Auckland Road at lunchtime on Monday 4th August. While the casualty was stabilised, the pilot took time to chat to Park users about the charity, giving children a chance to have a good look at the helicopter. The service is funded almost entirely by voluntary donations: see www.kssairambulance.org.uk/



Update from the Parks Department

The background work for the HLF Parks for People project is continuing, with the majority of the drawings signed off and work starting on more detailed drawings, so the main capital works can be tendered. We are still on schedule to appoint contractors for the pavilion and landscape work, aiming to start the capital works at the end of this year.



In the meantime we have started some advanced works in preparation for the main work.

The Sodexo compound is now clear of rubbish and the container has been cut up and removed. The preparatory work for moving the substation can now begin, starting with the ground works to install the services and the base for the new equipment. If you're looking for the Parks staff, they have temporarily relocated to the Oast House until the new compound is completed, but I'm sure you will see them around the Park.

Contractors have been on site to look at the Dripping Wells and investigate how they work; the wells have been drained and cleared of silt and debris, with initial inspections of the stonework taking place. Three of the four wells are working effectively and I'm sure we will manage to resolve the problems with the fourth.

The first tranche of tree work has taken place at the Upper Grosvenor Road entrance towards the railway bridge, mainly clearance work at this stage, although it will improve the light during the winter months. We have kept some larger sections of timber for possible use at other locations in the Park. Over the coming months we will be undertaking other tree related work in advance of the main contract and work will start on the Lake soon.

We have appointed Kent High Weald Partnership to carry out volunteer support work to Roundabout Wood and Folly Shaw for the next five years, assisting our Community Engagement Officer on a number of projects. If you wish to volunteer, please contact KHWP directly (www.khwp.org.uk) or Cally Fiddimore on 01892 554031 or cally.fiddimore@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

If you have any questions about the HLF project or any other aspect of the Park, please contact me on 01892 554031 or peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise

CREATE presents:

Heritage Open Days.....Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September

St Barnabas School 10am – 3pm. Jon Oram will launch the 'Empty Gallery', an interactive project based around WW1.

With activities, WW1 CREATE choir, displays, school archive, variety of workshops.

Watching the Living.....Friday 19th September 7.30pm

St Barnabas School Hall. New Perspectives with two Daphne Du Maurier short stories in one spine tingling drama. Tickets £9 concs £6.50 age 14+

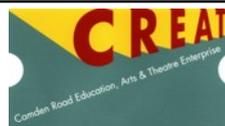
Emily Maguire.....Friday 10th October 7.30pm

St Barnabas School Hall. Winner of a BBC Folk award; said to have an 'astonishing voice', singing songs with 'beautiful melodies & lyrics'. Tickets £9 concs £6.50

Shoe Kangaroo & the Big Bad Boot.....Friday 14th November 7pm

St Barnabas School Hall - come to the island of lost shoes with clowning, mime and beautiful puppets! A show for everyone aged 4+. 45 minutes long with no interval. Tickets £6 children & concs £4

All tickets from Dave Prodrick 07966 190428 or daveprodrick@hotmail.com and see www.camdenroad.org/



At the
Bowls Pavilion

Open 7 days
a week

10:30 - 4 PM

(weather permitting)

for hot & cold drinks, light
refreshments

www.panionthepark.co.uk



Ramblings of a Merry Mum – A Fruitful Summer

This amazing summer weather means we've been in the Park enjoying picnics, playing and plenty of sunshine. We also enjoyed foraging for the produce and fruits that grow around the Park. On the pathway from Dorking Road through the allotments there's a plum tree and some of its laden branches conveniently overhang the path. These tiny gems proved a real success straight from the tree or cooked up with sugar and stirred through yoghurt. Berries of various descriptions also feature on the menu and we're enjoying a bumper crop of blackberries.



Earlier in the season we collected elderflowers and decided to make a more grown up concoction – elderflower champagne. After fermenting the mixture, we carefully bottled the brew and waited patiently for two weeks for it to mature. Unfortunately it proved incredibly explosive! One afternoon there was a sound like a gunshot followed by an explosion that rocked the house. The devastation was something to behold. Tiny shards of glass were spread everywhere, most of the bottles were totally obliterated. What we could salvage from the devastation tasted delicious, but next time we need to deal with its explosive nature!

It's important to remember a few rules when foraging. Pick only about a third of the produce available, so you leave some to grow next year. Also, never trespass and only pick on public footpaths.

Emma Westwood

Barnababies End-of-term Party in the Park

The mums and toddlers normally meet on Thursday morning at St Barnabas' Church Hall but we decided to have a picnic in the Park on Thursday 17th July for our last day of term. The weather was fine and about 20 adults with the children, prams and picnics met in the shade of the trees on the cycle track in the playground. This was the perfect place as it was shaded and a good place to watch the children playing around safely. A chance for adults to catch up in a relaxing atmosphere. I don't know why we don't do this more often because everyone enjoyed themselves!

Jane Melville

Barnababies is 90 minutes of play, craft and friendship for parents, toddlers and babies in a safe and welcoming environment. (See www.st-barnabas.info/children/barnababies/)



Britain in Bloom 'In Your Neighbourhood'



On Sunday 20th July, Julie Moford and June Griffin from the Royal Horticultural Society came to assess the flower baskets planted by local children for the Park's entry to Britain in Bloom. The baskets looked really good, thanks to the children and Gavin Wilkinson (park keeper) who has regularly watered the flowers. June and Julie fitted us into their very busy schedule and were only able to visit a small part of the Park. Liz Edwards, Chairman of the Friends group, talked about plans for the future and showed them the Marnock lake.

We look forward to hearing from the RHS in September, when they will give us feedback (and hopefully encouragement) and issue a certificate, based on how well the aims of the scheme are met.

Jane Melville

Woodland Walk



As part of "Love Parks Week", Dr Ian Beavis led a Woodland Walk on Sunday 27th July. On a lovely sunny day Ian led us through the Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve past Folly Shaw and onto the wetland area. As we went along he pointed out many of the unique features of the woods, including both the chalybeate and freshwater streams that run through the reserve.

Ian was in good form, catching a number of insects and then explaining what they were and what they were up to. As the conditions were ideal, we had the opportunity to see a good range of insects posing on the thistles and fleabane in the flower-rich grassland. Amongst them were Gatekeeper, Small Copper and Common Blue butterflies, Roesel's Bush-crickets and Red Soldier Beetles.

Chris Hughes



Roesel's bush cricket



Small Copper

National Playday



Playday is the national day for play in the UK, traditionally held on the first Wednesday in August. On Playday thousands of children and their families get out to play at hundreds of community events across the UK.

As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children's lives.

This year's event took place in the Park on Wednesday 6th August and, as in previous years, was run by Kent High Weald Partnership.

They put on an amazing array of activities including story telling, face painting, crafts, willow weaving, football, hula hooping, giant jenga and tug of war. They also provided the opportunity to build a shelter and learn the art of fire lighting, all run under the Forest Schools programme to which KHWP are accredited.

Chris Hughes, KHWP volunteer



For the third year running FoGH joined KHWP at 'National Playday' on Wednesday 6th August. We had a big box of goodies sent from 'Fields in Trust' as part of their 'Have a Field Day', now an annual reminder that our lower playing field is a protected King George V field. Jane Melville brought along scavenger and photo trails, and we soon had lots of willing participants looking in the surrounding area for such things as leaves, twigs or items coloured red (one of these proved to be someone's dyed hair!)

An impressive 33 children filled in their trails: well done to all of you! They were: Ralph, Jack, Gabriel, Alice, Beth, Madisan, Ruby, Scarlett, Jack, Clara, Alfie, Zephyr, Liberty, Rebecca, Megan, Emma, Ella-Rose, Rose, Jacob, Harrison, Bradley, Megan, Ben, Kitt, Hannah, Ariel, Nina, Orla (with the nice logo), Sofia, Emily, Thomas, Lauren and Ben. It was lovely to meet you all, admire your face-painting and willow making and read what you liked in the Park. We also spoke to a lot of adults, and collected feedback about what people like and don't like around the Park.

Carolyn T Gray



Community Engagement Officer Update (or 'Cally's Catch-Up'!)

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few months as Community Engagement Officer for the Park and love meeting all the Park's regular users and visitors. If you see me in the Park, say hello!



It has been a busy few months, with some successful events, and practical volunteering has got underway. Creepy Crawly Quest and Crafts proved very popular, with lots of interesting creatures being found such as capsids, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, butterflies and caterpillars. A jolly group of us enjoyed a fairly fruitful bat walk, with David Scully from Kent Bat Group providing lots of interesting batty facts. We saw a good number of pipestrelles, but with it being a fairly cool evening we didn't see any noctules or serotines, which we hope might be in the Park.

We are fortunate to have the funding through the lottery project to be able to put on these events, so that they are free to partake in and look forward to many more over the next couple of years. Then, after the lottery project is finished, we will be looking for ways to sustain ongoing events that continue to compliment the fantastic work that the Friends group and Kent High Weald Partnership do. If you wish to hold your own event in the Park, then feel free to get in touch.



I am pleased to report that the GH Park Volunteer Team has been born! The practical volunteers have already had a good go at bashing back the invasive Himalayan Balsam, carrying out some boardwalk repairs and opening up the outdoor classroom area, which I am pleased to see is already being used by locals for playing and building shelters. We just need to work on the litter problem. If you would like to join the volunteer team, do get in touch and keep an eye on the noticeboards for the latest task programme.



As funded by the HLF project and on top of their usual management works, Kent High Weald Partnership will be carrying out additional tasks in the Park over the next five years, with particular focus on replacing the boardwalk throughout the woodland. I will be working closely with KHWP and look forward to teaming up their volunteers and ours to achieve some valuable improvements in Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve.



I shall also be working closely with the Friends group on the Community Orchard project and we will keep you informed as and when the plans progress. Additionally, I have been consulting with local skate park users about the improvement plan for that part of the Park. Though the budget is limited for that area, we hope to make some welcomed and worthwhile improvements.

As we head into the new academic year, I shall be doing more with local schools: mini-projects, work experience and Forest School programmes. I will engage with local organisations and community groups and have already had successful events with Catch 22, Crossways Community and the local Beavers and Cubs group.



I plan to be in the Park much more when I am able to get online, but if you can't find me and wish to get hold of me, please email or find me on the usual social media sites. My email address is cally.fiddimore@tunbridgewells.gov.uk. If you are a Facebook user, it's worth liking the "GHParkHLF" page to keep updated of HLF related events and developments. You can also follow on Twitter under the same name. I am attempting to keep a blog also, which you will find at www.ghparkhlf.blogspot.com

Cally Fiddimore

Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) Works

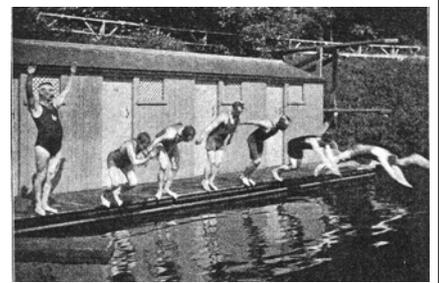
As you walk round the Park, you will notice things happening with the HLF work. Clearance of the Upper Grosvenor Road entrance area has begun, before eventual planting with an avenue of silver birch trees in front of a native hedge. Debris and silt have been removed from the Dripping Wells and work continues to get them all dripping again. The Sodexo container has gone from the park keeper's compound: they are currently working out of the Oast House and are using a temporary container in the car park up there. The next step here is to move the electricity substation before reopening the Rochdale Road entrance. There's going to be a lot happening: it's very exciting!

Mary Hughes



The Lukers: the Swimming Professor and his Daughter

In our spring newsletter I wrote about the Grosvenor outdoor swimming pool, which was open from 1865 – 1948. One very important part of the early days of the pool was the swimming instructor, Mr Luker, and his family. The title 'swimming professor' was used by coaches, many of who were self-taught, and it wasn't until 1886 that the Amateur Swimming Association was created and rules formed for teaching and competitions.



John Pearson Luker was born in 1838 in Abingdon, Berkshire. John became a professor of swimming and taught in the open rivers, the Thames and the Ock, as Abingdon had no swimming baths. It is very likely he trained Captain Matthew Webb for his 1875 swim of the English Channel. He was swimming master at Clifton House School in Oxfordshire, where he was presented with a silver cup for saving lives. John Luker moved to Tunbridge Wells in 1870, after the death of his first wife; he was married three times, and had nine children.

He was appointed swimming master to the Tunbridge Wells Bathing Association, and was always in attendance at the baths. He was awarded medals for life saving, and won various cups for swimming and diving competitions. It also appears he had 'no rival' in the 'graceful feat of the pendulum movement'.

In the 1881 census John and his family were living at 42 Quarry Road, and he was giving lessons in the open air Grosvenor Baths (this is before the Park opened in 1889). He died in 1915, and is buried in Tunbridge Wells Borough Cemetery, grave C13.

The obituary for John Pearson Luker was published in the Courier and gave the following.

"He was a highly experienced swimmer and instructed thousands in the art of swimming. Lately he had given lessons at the Tunbridge Wells open bath. His illness hastened only a fortnight ago and his death was due to influenza and pneumonia. Professor Luker's daughter Miss Annie Luker has followed in her father's footsteps and has become quite as famous as he was. He was a professor of swimming."

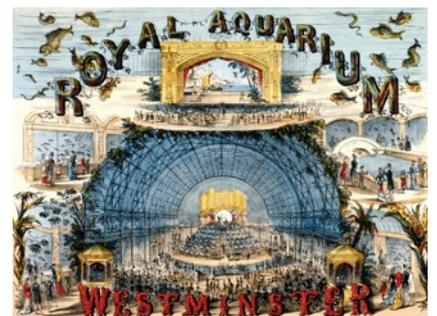


This daughter was Hagar Ann Luker, better known as Annie, who was born in 1870 in Abingdon, and who moved with her father to Quarry Road. She swam regularly in Grosvenor Baths and must have been about 16 when she entered into a professional swimming career. Annie was said to have been a regular long-distance swimmer in the River Thames, which eventually led to her appointment as 'one of the graceful swimmers' at Captain Boyton's Water Show, where she earned £1 a week. The next stage of Annie's career involved her acts at the Royal London Aquarium, also known as the Royal Aquarium Westminster. On Saturday 20th January 1894, Annie performed a high dive into the whale tank, a feat considered a great novelty for a female, and earned her a pay rise to £20 a week, in comparative spending power that is now £1,987 a week!



By June, 1894 Annie Luker was declared to be a 'Lady Diver, Champion of the World'. She had quickly become part of a twelve hour continuous show at the

Royal Aquarium which was declared to have 'The Greatest Shows and the Biggest Shillings Worth'. She shared the June 1894 billing with: a boxing kangaroo, a talking horse and performing dogs, as well as comedians, singers, acrobats, ventriloquists, conjurors and dancers. The entertainments were declared to be 'Unprecedented for Magnitude, Variety and Magnificence'. Annie dived from a height of 90 feet (over 27 metres) twice a day as part of this act and was described as 'a plucky girl', who 'flung herself from a terrific height'.



By the turn of the century, Annie's niece 'Baby May' was also a competitive swimmer.



The Royal Aquarium closed in 1903, and Annie continued to perform until its closure, although there are records of her also touring with "James Pain's Touring Fetes and Entertainments" during the 1880s and 1890s. Pain was a pyrotechnist who put on shows and displays, which mainly featured fireworks, but they would also include swimming displays. In the 1901 census Annie owned a Boarding House in Islington and gave swimming lessons in the area, but her date of death is unknown.

It seems that during late Victorian times it was still unusual for ladies to swim, and those that did often came from families of 'Swimming Professors', and of

those, Annie Luker from Tunbridge Wells was one of the more famous ones.

Carolyn T Gray

Thanks to Penny Luker & Edward James Gilbert for permission to use the photos and special thanks to Edward James Gilbert for his help (see <http://allabouttunbridgewells.com>)

Mini Beasts in the Park 8th August

Young Nature Hunters and Mini beast Safaris have become one of the Museum's most popular brands. Every year, for four Thursdays in August, I lead two sessions for different age groups in each of four local open spaces – including Grosvenor and Hilbert Park. This year our visit to the Park was the first, and on a warm sunny day – perfect conditions to see a wide variety of creatures – we found 48 species in the morning and 52 in the afternoon.



Common Blue

Gatekeeper



We usually concentrate on grassland and woodland edge habitats, as these produce the largest number of finds and are easier to search. The flower-rich grassland on either side of Folly Shaw always provides a good range of species, and this year a look at the wood pasture area also proved interesting. In recent years a nice patch of late summer flowers, including fleabane and knapweed, has appeared on the slopes of the wetland, and this too proved fruitful, especially for butterflies and bees.

We saw seven species of butterflies, including both of our Blues – Common and Holly – along with characteristic summer grassland inhabitants as the Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Small Skipper. Interestingly, we saw fewer bumblebees than usual – just three individuals of two species. This has been true everywhere over the last month, and it seems the hot July weather let them end their colony cycle faster than normal. However, we did see some mining bees and a leafcutter bee visiting the fleabane.



Male Azure Damselfly

Flying over the wetland were three types of dragonfly – Azure Damselfly, Migrant Hawker and Southern Hawker.



Meadow Grasshopper

Grasshoppers and crickets were well represented, and this was a good opportunity to show how to distinguish them. Grasshoppers have quite short thick antennae, while crickets have long thread-like antennae much longer than their bodies. Our three grasshoppers come in a wide variety of colours, so you have to look at other features to identify Meadow (short wings), Common Field (long wings and hairy underneath) and Common Green (long wings but no hairs beneath).

We saw several examples of all three grasshoppers, plus three of our five crickets – Roesel's Bush-cricket (with a yellow or green U-shape on the side), Long-winged Conehead, and the less visible Oak Bush-cricket. The latter – light green and rather delicate looking – is the only member of the group found in trees, so it is not often seen at ground level.

Dr Ian Beavis



Long-winged Conehead



Oak Bush-cricket

Images of Azure Damselfly & Oak Bush-cricket courtesy of Brian Ecott from Hainault Forest: www.hainaultforest.co.uk/

Sport Report

Bowls (See www.facebook.com/GrosvenorBowls for more information)

2014 has been a fantastic year for us as a club, with fun friendlies and good competitions. Jo Cartwright got to Kent County Ladies Final, narrowly losing to a strong opponent, and unfortunately missed out on her Kent badge. I hope that more of the Grosvenor bowls ladies enter again next year. Not to be outdone, the men have also done well in the county competitions: Stuart Moaby reached the Kent quarter-final and earned his Kent badge.



At the Tunbridge Wells Tournament in August, Lionel Hanmore had a narrow win against his Grosvenor teammate Graham Bridges in the singles semi-final, before being narrowly beaten in the final by Peter Harris from Tunbridge Wells Bowls Club. Lionel also did well in the triples: his triple (with Roy Delves and Brian Howis) reached the quarter-final. The Tunbridge Wells Men's League didn't go well: we have been relegated back to Division Two, although we played well in most games.

We have gained 3 members new to the game and watching them play in my first season as captain has been brilliant. I've enjoyed watching them learn and seeing the experienced bowlers helping. I would encourage anyone who fancies having a go to come along, as you really would enjoy playing the game. Grosvenor Bowls Club has had a great season and I'm proud to have been Club Captain for 2014.

Chris Hall



Football (See www.wksl.org.uk for further information)

The West Kent Sunday Football League season began on 31st August, with pre-season friendlies played during July and August. The 2014 – 2015 season sees only one team playing in the Park, as TN1 FC, formerly The Palace, have folded. Athletico Allotment were relegated to Division 5, and the team came close to folding as well. However, essentially the same team will be playing this season, with a few new signings.

The team is now sponsored by the St John's Yard pub, so Athletico Allotment are now St Johns Yard. They are still playing in green and white hoops, with white shorts and socks.

They played four pre-season friendlies, all away fixtures, and had an encouraging start: 2 draws and 2 losses.

We won't see them playing in the Park until October, because TWBC are doing some work on the pitch, but after that, if you're in the Park at 10.30 on a Sunday morning, they'd appreciate some support!

Mary Hughes

Dogs in the Park



This is Ted. He is a rescue dog, adopted by his two dads three years ago when he was two. We're told he's a Labrador Terrier cross and he looks like a lab puppy despite his increasingly grey beard

(he gets this from his dads!).

Like many rescue dogs, Ted has issues. He was bitten by a bigger dog and can be nervous of big dogs. He used to try to attack first but with training he is much calmer. He still has his moments, but once he gets to know a dog, he can be very playful. He has met many patient dogs and owners who are now his friends.

Ted avoids the Park at busy times because too many dogs worry him, but responds to a gentle approach. He loves feeding the ducks. Generations of ducks recognise him and swim over to get fed. Ted sits quietly and watches as his dad feeds them. At home he likes to cuddle, sleep and play "where is it" games with his collection of cuddly toys.

Michael Campbell-Lenaghan

View from the Allotment

It all comes together in July and August. Having waited patiently we have bumper crops of potatoes, peas, beans, courgette, squash, tomato, beetroot, chard, perpetual spinach, and salad



crops. Despite trying to plant at varying intervals of time, so we have a constant succession not a glut, I can't help thinking it all comes at once.

The strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries were eaten by the grandchildren at their frequent visits to help/hinder us at the allotment. The black and red currants are picked and preserved as coulis or jellies.

Earlier on, it was so dry we used watering cans, but then the heavens opened, so now it's really muddy! We have planned for the winter and hopefully purple sprouting broccoli, carrots and parsnips are amongst the vegetable we shall harvest.

It never fails to amaze me how many blackberries there are on and around the allotments, nature's free gifts to us and to the wildlife.

Jane Melville

A Community Orchard for the Park



As the Heritage Lottery plans for the Park developed, a Community Orchard was suggested, to be planted beyond the top football pitch, next to Roundabout Woods. The original HLF plan (from the landscape designers) included 43 trees planted and maintained for 2 years by a contractor, but FoGH felt that this was not really a 'community scheme'. We had been inspired by a visit to Capel Community Orchard in October 2013, where the trees were sponsored, planted and maintained by the community (see left).

A group of committee members came up with an alternative plan, reducing the contractor planting to 15 semi-mature trees. These first trees have been chosen for their ornamental value as well as their fruit: 6 edible cherries, of 2 different varieties, 3 damsons, 3 crab apples and 3 black mulberries. These will form the first planting stage, hopefully in early December during National Tree Week: a group of trees with a central glade and seating, which can be used as an outdoor classroom. A wildflower meadow will be planted next to Roundabout Woods.



The second stage of development (hopefully February 2015) will be the first community planting, spreading out from the initial group of trees. There will be the opportunity to sponsor a tree, plant it at a community event and in future maintain the tree at pruning events. If anyone wants to be involved in the orchard planning, planting and management, please contact editors@FoGH.org.uk as we will need the help of some long term dedicated

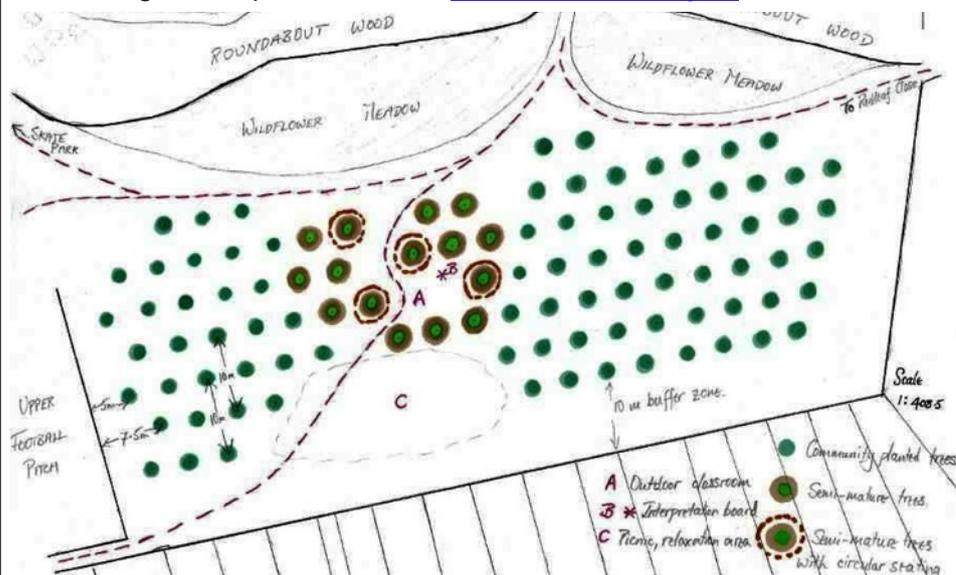
volunteers! (Support and training will be available.)

Orchard event dates and information on how to sponsor a tree will be announced in the near future. Depending on the initial take up, there will be further stages of community planting.

As the orchard develops, we will be able to watch the trees grow, mature and begin to bear fruit.

Our sincere thanks to Roger Worraker from Capel Community Orchard (former lecturer from Hadlow College and expert on fruit tree cultivation), who has been kind enough to advise us.

Mary Hughes



Dates for your Diary

Heritage Open Days St Barnabas Church.....Saturday 13th September 10am - 6pm

Extensive local history exhibitions. FoGH history display. **Sunday 14th September 1pm - 5pm**

Tours of church & mortuary chapel. 1911 Parish Census on display.

Tea & Cakes in the vestry. Free entry.



Bird, Bat & Bug House Building.....Saturday 27th September 10am – 1pm

At the Bowls Pavilion.

Drop-in bird box, bat box & bug hotel building event.

Join FoGH & KHWP making homes for wildlife.



Tipping Point.....Thursday 2nd October 10am – 3pm

KHWP Volunteer Day: meet at the Hilbert Rd gates & dress appropriately.

Clear garden fly tipping from the Redleaf Close entrance to the reserve.



Fungi Explore & Draw.....Saturday 4th October 10am – 1pm

Meet at the Bowls Pavilion.

Celebrate the Big Draw 2014 with a fungi foray with a creative twist!

We'll look for mushrooms & draw what we find! No artistic skills required.



Learn, Connect & Care.....Friday 10th October 10am – 3pm

KHWP Volunteer Day: meet by the children's play area.

On World Mental Health Day, improve mental well-being with woodcraft activities.



Clear the Floor & Spring Surprise.....Wednesday 22nd October 10am – 3pm

KHWP Volunteer Days

Meet at the Hilbert Rd gates & dress appropriately.

We'll be coppicing to let light to the woodland floor, then planting bulbs.



Woodland Adventure Day.....Tuesday 28th October 10am – 3pm

Meet in the outdoor classroom area near the skate park.

Bushcraft skills, wild art & woodland exploration day!

Come for the morning, afternoon or all day.



Children's Halloween Party.....Friday 31st October 2 – 4pm

At the Bowls Pavilion.

Bring your children along for Halloween fun!

Face painting, art & craft activities. Come in fancy dress.



Wild Child Weekend Workout.....Saturday 1st November 10.30am – 1.30pm

KHWP Volunteer Day: meet at the Hilbert Rd gates & dress appropriately.

We will be coppicing the hazel in Roundabout Wood.



Chop Chop!.....Wednesday 5th November 10am – 3pm

KHWP Volunteer Days.

Meet at the Hilbert Rd gates & dress appropriately.

We will continue the hazel coppice in Roundabout Wood.

Thursday 6th November 10am – 3pm



Chasing Waterfalls.....Thursday 20th November 10am – 3pm

KHWP Volunteer Day: meet at the Hilbert Rd gates & dress appropriately.

The stone steps in Roundabout Wood are a winter waterfall: add timber edging.



Watch out for posters or 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.

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 courtesy of Michael Cambell-Lenaghan, Cally Fiddimore, Chris Hughes, Jane Melville & Emma Westwood