

Friends of Grosvenor & Hilbert Park (FoGH)



Newsletter 16 Autumn 2015



picture courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum



Meet the new Community Engagement Officer – see page 4



A Load of Horsing around!

On Saturday 11th July the Working Horse Trust brought four of their heavy horses to the Park for the day. They were here to move four large pieces of timber into the recently planted Community Orchard to create seating. Drew, the grey Shire, and Monty, the roan Ardennes, came along for people to meet and pet them!



Drew loves the attention

Families got up close to the horses, with Working Horse Trust members on hand to explain about the horses, the work of the Trust and to answer any questions. The Trust used their Ardennes heavy horse Hamish to move the wood, each journey accompanied by a troop of followers.

We admired the skill and patience of the volunteers as they worked with the horses. Each of the 4 large logs was first moved onto a trailer, with Hamish providing the power to roll the timber up the ramp. He made easy work of pulling the trailer up the slope into the orchard. It was a glimpse into the non-mechanised past, when things happened at a more considered pace. Once all 4 logs were in the orchard, Ellie-May made some final position adjustments.



A log arrives in the orchard

The Working Horse Trust is a locally based charity, run mainly by volunteers to preserve and promote traditional breeds of heavy working horses. Heavy horses are endangered, and

breeding, along with training horses and handlers, is an important aspect of their work. This event is one of many in which the Trust shows, works and promotes heavy horses in south-east England (<http://theworkinghorsetrust.org/events>).



KHWP woodland crafts

Also on hand were Kent High Weald Partnership with woodland activities, while the Rendezvous Restaurant offered a BBQ for any who were hungry. FoGH had an information stand and sold locally grown cherries and apple juice from Pippins Farm in Pembury. All donations received on the day were given to the Working Horse Trust to support their work.



Hamish has a break



The log drops into position

The event was organised by FoGH, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It would have been easy to put in off the shelf seating, but we wanted to use wood felled in the Park. As the area where the orchard is sited used to be farmland, it was appropriate to use heavy horses to move the timber, as it would have happened in the past. It was a great day, thoroughly enjoyed by the hundreds who came along.

Chris & Mary Hughes



Crowds gather to see the horses



Hamish at work



Ellie-May shows her paces



The FoGH stand



Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to give a warm welcome to Steff D'Agorne, our new Community Engagement Officer. She started at the end of July, catching up on two months without a CEO. In addition, the playground contractors failed to deliver a working facility for the summer holiday season. She has stepped up to the challenge brilliantly, with activities throughout August at very short notice. Steff has reignited volunteer activities with fresh energy. There have been all kinds of tasks, from sowing wildflowers in the orchard, to removing foreign plants that could choke native species; never a dull moment.



We've had some very well attended events, with the highlight for me being the Heavy Horse Day on 11th July. The weather was perfect and families came along all day to see these magnificent horses working in the traditional way. The Working Horse Trust were as enthusiastic as we were and they will definitely return for a future event. KHWP held their National Playday in similarly perfect conditions and the day was topped off by a surprise visit from our local firefighting team with their fire engine. My grateful thanks to the Kent Fire Brigade.

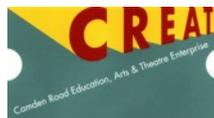
This autumn through to spring 2016 sees the last major phases of the landscaping work carried out. The Marnock Lake should be refilled, once the pumping equipment for the grottoes has been finally completed and tested. Repairs to the brickwork are improving the appearance. The planting, based on Robert Marnock's original designs, will include rhododendron, azalea, camellia, viburnum and philadelphus, with smaller shrubs, ground cover and ferns. We will all be glad to see the Lake returned to its former inhabitants.

I do hope everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy the Park this summer, even if there have been more areas out of bounds than initially planned. Despite the dryness in June and July, it still looks wonderfully green as autumn approaches and there are all sorts of fruits and seeds maturing. I wish everyone a fruitful season ahead and hope there is something in our future events that appeals to you.

Liz Edwards

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise

CREATE presents:



FenBoy.....Friday 16th October 7.30pm

At St Barnabas School. An odyssey with the extraordinary in the everyday
StrangeFace Theatre tell how FenBoy emerges from Earth with song & story

BOND! An Unauthorised Parody.....Friday 13th November 7.30pm

St Barnabas School - Hilarious one-man show, followed by Q&A, then a Quiz
Come in James-Bond-themed fancy dress!

Celtic Christmas Strings.....Friday 4th December 7.30pm

St Barnabas School – A Festive Feast of Harp & Guitar – get set for Christmas!

Tickets from David Prodrick on 0796 619 0428, Alison Beck on 01892 864468 or tickets@camdenroad.org
For full details see the CREATE website www.camdenroad.org & Facebook www.facebook.com/createTW

Coming Soon! table 8

From 1st October
Join Lee at **Table 8**

The new-look cafe at the Hub

*Paninis & Sandwiches
Cakes & Biscuits
Hot & Cold drinks
Daily Specials*

Open Daily 9am – 5pm

Update from the Parks Department

The HLF project is progressing well, with the Pavilion and the café completed and work starting on the Hub landscape shortly. There will be some disruption around the Pavilion while this work is being carried out, but we will try to maintain access to the café and the toilets for as long as possible. We will be displaying notices around the Park to give visitors an update on progress, so please look out for information on the notice boards.



There will be a small change to the programme, with the work at the Rochdale Road entrance brought forward to accommodate all the Hub landscape works at the same time. This will require Blakedown to relocate their compound to the Auckland Road entrance, so please take care when using this entrance.

Unfortunately the play area has taken longer than anticipated, although the contractors are working hard to re-open it, sadly it is unlikely to be completed until October. However, a lot of the new equipment is bespoke and unique to Grosvenor and Hilbert. I'm sure many of you have been watching the progress and will have noticed the new fort at the centre of the play area.

Work to the Oast House is progressing well, with additional work to the windows and weatherboard approved by HLF. Repairs to the roof will be carried out after the HLF project. Many of you will notice we now have the lower football pitch back again, the spring seems to have moved for the time being. We will keep a watch on the area: both pitches will be available to hire once the changing rooms are in use again.

We have a new Community Engagement Officer, Stephanie D'Agorne, who started in July. Steff will be based in the Pavilion with the Sodexo ground staff, so please say hello and ask about volunteering opportunities or the HLF project. In addition, you can contact me on 01892 554031 or peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC

Woodland Walk in Love Parks Week



A male Davies' Mining Bee

A small – probably because of the Mela – but enthusiastic group of seven adults and two children joined our guided nature walk on the afternoon of Sunday 19th July. We started near the community orchard, where pollinating insects were attracted to the strip of cornfield flowers dominated by Corn Marigold. Davies' Mining Bee *Colletes daviesanus*, which is quite particular in the flowers it visits, was feeding and gathering pollen from the marigolds.



A male Gatekeeper

On the wood edges and in Roundabout Wood, we looked at characteristic woodland flowering plants and ferns that grow in the Park. This included a particular Hilbert speciality, Wood Horsetail, rare in Kent and known only from a few sites in the High Weald.

In the more open grassland areas around the edge of Folly Shaw, and on the slopes of the wetland, we saw grasshoppers and crickets – including Roesel's Bush-cricket with its distinctive yellow or green U-shape on its side. Flowers like knapweed were attracting a variety of butterflies such as Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Skipper, Small Copper and Common Blue.

Dr Ian Beavis

Britain in Bloom 'In Your Neighbourhood'

Encouraged by our first entry last year, FoGH again entered this scheme, which focuses less on planting and more on local community involvement. On Wednesday 15th July, Judges Ruth Gower and Barry Newman arrived in the Park. As they only have an hour, we followed the best route to highlight what had been achieved. We started in the Orchard, explaining that the 25 fruit trees had been sponsored and planted by members of the local community.



Judges Ruth Gower & Barry Newman

We looked at the Bee Pollination Project planted nearby and the work to replace the board walk in Roundabout Wood, done by volunteers. Then it was off to the hedge planting by the electricity station and the herb and wildlife friendly beds by the Bowls Green. The judges do not provide any feedback or score at this stage, so we will have to wait until later in the year. They did comment that it was a shame that the longer grass had been cut back, as this is great habitat.

Chris Hughes

National Play Day

On Wednesday August 5th the Park hosted National Play Day, which celebrates the right of children to play, with events held across the UK. The free event was run by Kent High Weald Partnership, with



Crowds at the fire engine



support from FoGH, and was a roaring success, with over 600 people attending. The many activities on offer included face painting, bug hunting, willow weaving, a mud kitchen and storytelling, and were enjoyed by all the children who took part.



At the Play Day

There was a surprise visit from Kent Fire Service, when they called in to show a delighted audience around the fire engine and explain how everything worked. It has been great to see this event grow in popularity and we all look forward to it again next year.

Stephanie Johnson (Trainee CEO) & Chris Hughes

Summer Events in the Park

The climbing wall



As a consolation for playground users (currently closed for the Heritage Lottery Funded regeneration work), Community Engagement Officer Stephanie D'Agorne arranged a variety of HLF sponsored events for the summer. 7th August saw the arrival of the climbing wall by the skate park and an archery event on the lower football field. These proved a real challenge to participants both young and old and were thoroughly enjoyed.

Quantum Theatre group were welcomed on 12th August and performed the Tales of Peter Rabbit to an audience of over 300. The setting on the lower field next to the allotments helped the children imagine Mr McGregor's garden and they really enjoyed the play, with its colourful costumes, masks and music. Even the adults got into the spirit and joined in!

Other events included Woodland Crafts, Circus Skills, Forest Fun Day, Skateboard Coaching, Football Training and Bird Box Building.

Stephanie Johnson (Trainee CEO)

Tales of Peter Rabbit



Skateboard coaching



Meet the new HLF Community Engagement Officer

As the new CEO of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park I would like to say a big warm hello to everyone who reads this newsletter! It is with great pleasure that I take up the position of HLF Community Engagement Officer, and I certainly have big boots to fill.



Steff on the rocks!

My name is Stephanie D'Agorne (Steff) and I am an outdoorsy enthusiastic person. In my spare time I enjoy doing a wide variety of activities, from testing out the local pubs in Hastings where I live, to climbing the rock faces at High Rocks, to sitting in a lovely quiet room sewing. I grew up on the South coast of Devon, and ended up at university in Sussex.

I won't bore you all with my long list of previous jobs, but I will just touch on the most recent one in Vancouver, Canada. I worked as a restoration technician for a year, improving the river edges, the highlights of which were watching beavers swimming in tranquil streams, as well as counting spawning salmon making their way up river.



At work in Canada

I have been working in conservation since I graduated over four years ago, but have never had the opportunity to get my teeth into a project, as I have been given here. I am very excited about getting to know everyone in and around the Park and I hope to encourage many more people to get involved!

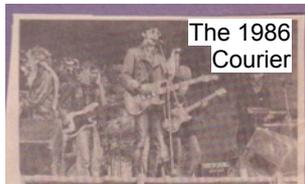
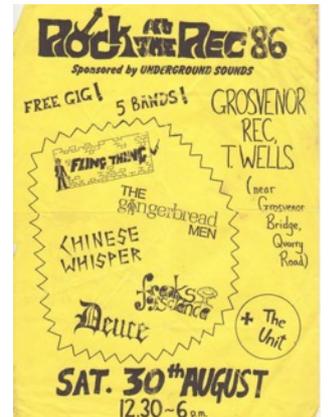
I will be getting the regular Thursday conservation volunteer team back up, and hopefully engage a few more volunteers to join in. Please email me if you are interested in joining this team or to find out more at steff.dagorne@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



Hopefully you will get to meet me out and about in the Park soon, and if you do, please feel free to come up and say hello, I promise I won't bite!

Rock at the Rec

We have enjoyed four years of a stage and music in the Park on our Family Fun Days. But this hasn't been the first time that live music has had a place in the Park. We have discussed in history articles before about the music in the Satellite Club, and the old bandstand. During the 1980s there was also an annual event 'Rock At The Rec'.



The 1986 Courier

These free events were organised by Steve Perfect, who ran Tunbridge Wells Community Association in Goods Station Road (near the former Railway Inn). Apparently the events didn't have a lot of council support... and suffered from problems, such as people trying to steal the borrowed equipment, and noise issues.

The event made the front page of The Courier on Friday 30th August 1985, when 30 local residents complained about noise, and only 150 mainly young people went. One performer, Pat Pope, was quoted as saying he didn't think the music was that loud. Now a successful photographer, I asked Pat how he felt now about the events, and he said "Rock at the Rec was never very well attended but great fun to be part of. A lot of those connected went on to be somehow involved in music. Fun times indeed."

I spoke to John Neller, who was in the band 'Freaks of Science' when they played at the 1986 'Rock at the Rec'. He remembers the stage was made from scaffolding, and was set up on the slopes of what we now call The Wetlands. The stage had its back towards the playground/bowling green, and faced outwards to the natural amphitheatre of the dip, then much drier.



Crowds at the event in 1986



Music on the scaffolding stage

This event was sponsored by the shop Underground Sounds, which at that time was at 108-110 St James' Road (later JB's Music Store, and now flats). John says the event wasn't very well advertised, but about 600 people went to watch. Other people's memories include a craft fair there one year, and everyone bringing along their own food and drink.

Carolyn T Gray

Photos and cuttings courtesy of John Neller.

Heritage Lottery Funded Regeneration Update

Works are in full swing, with the three main contracts running alongside each other. We understand this is causing disruption, but please bear with us whilst construction works are underway. These are the largest scale works the Park has ever seen. The original works to create the Park as we now know it were phased over 47 years, with Grosvenor Recreation Ground opened in 1889 and Hilbert Recreation Ground added in 1936.

The HLF project will see £2.9 million invested across the full area of the Park. This is a complex and challenging project, with detailed design work, competitive tendering processes and phasing the works to allow public access. The various stages need to be delivered at the right seasons and with the least impact on wildlife.

All the works have now been competitively tendered, complying with the requirements of TWBC and the Heritage and Big Lottery Funds. The project is within budget and is on course to be completed in Spring 2016.



The current works include:

Pavilion and Oast House – The Pavilion has been refurbished and extended, with folding windows and glazing, timber cladding, roof feature and CCTV. Work was delayed by the discovery of inadequate foundations (it was built on made-up ground and ‘town ash’). The windows and glazing were ordered before work started, but delivered 12 weeks late. Due to the flexibility of building contractor, Bolt & Heeks, the building was finished only 4 weeks behind schedule.

There will be a café all year round and improved facilities for bowls and community use, accommodating up to 60 people. The Pavilion will be open in September, despite ongoing landscape works, phased to allow use of the café and toilets. Volunteer facilities are being added to the Oast House, which will still be used as changing rooms. This will be completed soon after the Pavilion is finished.

Play Area – Refurbishment and extension of the play area is progressing well, despite some delays, with some materials stuck in Calais. Additional excavation was needed to remove rotten timber and bigger concrete foundations than expected. Some timber retaining walls and other structures in poor condition had to be replaced instead of repaired. Despite detailed survey work, the full condition of items was not known until excavation started. We had to remove an extra 100 tonnes of concrete and spoil from the play area.



Agreeing these extra works with HLF and then getting them carried out has taken longer than we would have liked. This meant that the play area has remained closed over the Summer period, but the scale of works meant that partial opening was not practical.

The hand-made and crafted play castle is now taking shape and its full scale is becoming apparent. This new feature, along with the new climbing wood, balance beams and hand carved wooden features, will make this a unique and exciting play area, probably the best in Tunbridge Wells.

Landscape Works – The electricity sub-station has been relocated and new utilities laid. The Marnock Lake has been de-silted, with around 225 tonnes of silt removed. The new pump and aeration systems to the Grottoes are nearing completion and will improve and maintain water quality in future. In the Lake area, the retaining walls are being replaced, and foundations for new steps and a re-graded access path have been completed. After planting with rhododendrons and other shrubs, this area will re-open in late autumn.

Landscape and access works around the Oast House are ahead of schedule and will be completed by the end of the summer and then the area will be planted. Works to Upper Grosvenor Road have begun, after clearance work over winter, timed to have the least impact on nesting birds and wildlife.



Once works in the Marnock Lake area and around the Pavilion are completed, work in the Wetland will start, with larger areas of open water created and boardwalk and viewing platforms built.



As works progress, we will endeavour to keep as much of the Park open as possible. Look out for further notices and updates on site.

Adrian Spray, Project Co-ordinator, Community First Partnership

Under the Boardwalk by KHWP

We have had a busy summer making headway on the Heritage Lottery Funded funded boardwalk replacement in Hilbert Woods. And I am pleased to report that we have made excellent progress. Thanks go to AXA PPP Healthcare, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Democratic Services Team, a group of Skinners School lads, and our faithful team of volunteers. We have completed half of the boardwalk through the woods, including new handrail down the stone steps.

This work is set to continue this autumn/winter, with more tasks planned. If you would like to get involved and help build some boardwalk, please feel free to get in touch with the Kent High Weald Partnership on 01580 212972 or just come along to one of our task days. Further information can be found on our website

www.khwp.org.uk and on page 8 of this newsletter.

Cally Fiddimore



Volunteers at work



Reporting Issues and Incidents in the Park

In view of some recent instances of vandalism, it seemed appropriate to clarify who to contact about similar issues in the Park.



Police 101 non-urgent crime reporting & anti-social behaviour.

Please report vandalism, nuisance behaviour and any disturbances using this number. This may be an answering service, but please report it, because your call and the incident will be logged. This makes the police (in particular the St James's Neighbourhood Policing Team) aware of any pattern, so they can respond as appropriate. If the police don't know there's an issue, they can't do anything to stop it happening again!



Graffiti on the Oast House

TWBC Parks Service 01892 554031 Please use this number during office hours for general issues in the Park, including vandalism of public property, fly tipping, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles. You can also contact them with any questions or comments about the Park or Heritage Lottery regeneration.

Parks Out-of-Hours Service 07920 534369 available Evenings & Weekends (see notices for times)

Contact point to report problems (such as broken equipment or overflowing bins) outside normal working hours. They also monitor, record and report any problems and issues.

Mary Hughes

Of course, any emergency should be reported directly to the correct service by dialling 999.

Sport Report

Bowls (See www.facebook.com/GrosvenorBowls/)

We are now well over half way through the outdoor bowls season. We have played 16 friendly matches against other local teams, winning 9 and losing 7. After a bad start in the Tunbridge Wells Men's league (6-0 losses in the first two matches) we did improve and steadily picked up points over the following weeks. The league has now finished and we ended up fifth out of eight in Division 2.

In June Stuart Moaby and Graham Bridges played for Kent in a county friendly at Croydon against Surrey. Stuart was presented with his county badge as it was the first time he had represented the county. Several Grosvenor bowlers took part in the Tunbridge Wells Bowls Tournament in August and Graham Bridges won the singles, beating John Dalton from Crawley in the final.

TWBC have provided a portacabin for our bowls gear, so we have used the green for league games and competitions. However, with the clubhouse unavailable, we have had to make serious changes to our fixture list – playing most of our matches away. Luckily teams were very accommodating in allowing us to rearrange matches.

We normally have a practice night on Wednesdays 6pm to 8pm (unless there is a match on). Members of the public are very welcome to come along and have a go.

All you need is flat shoes.

Graham Bridges, Club Captain

Football (See www.wksl.org.uk/ & www.forestersfc.com/)

St John's Yard FC play in green and white hoops on the lower football pitch, in Division Four of the West Kent Sunday Football League. The team have played 3 pre-season matches, losing all of them. However, their opponents were all from higher divisions and the games helped new players to integrate with the team. The season proper starts in September and the team would appreciate your support!

In addition, junior teams from Tunbridge Wells Foresters FC (U16, U15, U14 and U13) will continue to play in the Park.

Mary Hughes



Home match on the Bowling Green



Graham Bridges won the Singles



St John's Yard in action

Dogs in the Park



Buster

Buster is a 5 year-old Golden Working Cocker Spaniel, living near the Park with his family of four. He was one of nine pups from a breeder in Chichester, but spent his early years in

London until his family moved to Tunbridge Wells.

He is one of the noisier local canine residents, fanatical about having his ball thrown. He runs furiously back and forth, until he gets so hot he'll plunge into the smelly bog for a cool down.

The kids run shouting wildly the "mucky monster is coming to get us" as he chases them shaking his filthy coat. We make him rinse in the cool clean stream.

At home, he loves to sleep, carry shoes around in his mouth, and then sleep a bit more, in his bed or a sunny patch somewhere. That's until the postman, delivery guy, or anyone visiting arrives at the front door and then he definitely wakes up. Who needs a doorbell when you have Buster?!

Amy Kewell

View from the Allotment

Now is the time of the harvest - lettuce, potatoes, beetroot, perpetual spinach, spinach, onions, shallots, dwarf and runner beans, yellow and green courgette, peas, fruits – strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, red and blackcurrants, it is wonderful

We used seed tapes for the children to plant and it has worked, no waste of seeds and their produce of carrots, lettuce and parsnips are growing.

In my last article I mentioned squash and we have masses growing, but my labels have disappeared and with the squashes are courgettes. The yellow ones are easy to see but at times I find large green courgettes hidden amongst the squash plants!

The runner and dwarf beans have thrived in the wet weather, but we have been beaned out this year! Fortunately our neighbours have loved the abundant crop, although it's a shame they all come during the summer holiday.

Jane Melville



Squash, beans & courgettes

Fungi in the Park

The toadstools and mushrooms we think of as fungi are the fruiting bodies of a network of long-lived underground fungal threads called hyphae. These combine to form a mycelium, an expanding mass of branching hyphae. Fungi mostly feed on dead organic matter, by using enzymes to dissolve it. Woods and meadows are the best place to find them, with over 80% of fungi associated with trees. They are common in woodlands, feeding on rotting wood and leaf litter. The fruiting bodies above ground ripen and release spores, which become new fungal threads below the surface if they find a favourable habitat.

In November 2014, Bryan Bullen (a warden with Kent Wildlife Trust and fungi expert) led a Fungal Foray through the Park. A variety of species were found and we can take a closer look at some of them below.



Fungal Foray 2014



Fly Agaric



Part of a Clouded Funnel fairy ring

Fly Agaric is the classic scarlet white-spotted toadstool from fairy stories. This poisonous fungi was traditionally used as an insecticide, by breaking up the 10 – 20 cm diameter cap and sprinkling it into saucers of milk. Some species form 'fairy rings', where the fruiting bodies come up on the outside of the mycelium, showing its size. One of these is the Clouded Funnel, a cloudy grey mushroom with a cap up to 20 cm across.

Sheathed Woodtuft are 3 – 8 cm in diameter and are found throughout the year, often in large tufts on stumps of dead trees. The orange – brown colour varies depending on how damp they are. One of the last fungi to attack rotting wood is Candlesnuff Fungus, a small upright fungi found in groups. It is bioluminescent, which shows in really dark places, as phosphorus reacts with oxygen and other chemicals in the fungus.



Sheathed Woodtuft



Candlesnuff Fungus



Golden Waxcap



Parrot Waxcap

Waxcap mushrooms are often called 'jewels of grassland', with their unmistakable pinks, greens, purples and yellows. They are found on unimproved grassland and feed on decaying matter beneath the surface. Last autumn Golden and Parrot Waxcaps were found in the Park. Parrot Waxcaps are so-called because of their green caps, with shades of yellow, orange or purple, fading to yellow. They are thought to be as colourful as parrots.

These are just a few of the fungi found in the Park, so have a look during the autumn.

Mary Hughes

Warning – all of these fungi are toxic to a greater or lesser degree and should not be touched or picked

Dates for your Diary

- Heritage Open Days St Barnabas Church**.....Saturday 12th September 10am - 6pm
 Extensive local history exhibitions. FoGH history display
 Sunday 13th September 1pm - 5pm
 Tours of church & mortuary chapel. 1911 Parish Census on display
 Tea & Cakes in the vestry. Free entry
 
- Why conifers? Planting the Wetland**.....Wednesday 16th September 7.30pm
 Talk by David Scully at the Bowls Pavilion
 Learn about the project & the trees to be planted
 Find out about Bedgebury, their work & the partnership for this planting
 
- Apple Day on World Mental Health Day**.....Saturday 10th October 10.30am – 3pm
 Join FoGH & KHWP by the skate park for activities & games
 We'll be making juice with our apple press
 There'll be lots of fruity fun to be had!
  
- HLF Boardwalk Repair Volunteer Days**.....Thursday 15th October 10am – 3pm
 Run by the Kent High Weald Partnership
 Meet at the Hilbert Road gates & dress appropriately
 Wednesday 21st October 10am – 3pm
- Bird, Bat & Bug House Building**.....Saturday 24th October 10am – 1pm
 At the Bowls Pavilion.
 Drop-in bird box, bat box & bug hotel building event.
 Join FoGH & KHWP making homes for wildlife.
 
- Children's Halloween Party**.....Friday 30th October 2 – 4pm
 Halloween Fun at the Bowls Pavilion!
 Face painting, art & craft activities. Come in fancy dress.

- Woodland Edge Management**.....Thursday 19th November 10am – 3pm
 Kent High Weald Partnership volunteer days
 Meet at the Hilbert Road gates & dress appropriately
 Thursday 3rd December 10am – 3pm
- Tree Planting**.....Saturday 5th December 2pm
 The start of the Bedgebury wetland planting scheme
 Join local dignitaries as the first tree goes in

- Christmas Carols**.....Saturday 5th December 2 – 3.30pm
 At the Bowls Pavilion.
 Join us and the CREATE Choir for Christmas carols
 
- Coppice & be Merry!**.....Thursday 10th December 10am – 3pm
 Join KHWP for hazel coppicing, wreath making & mince pies!
 Meet at the Hilbert Road gates & dress appropriately

- Community Orchard Tree Planting**.....Saturday 12th December Details TBC
 26 more trees go in: the second phase of the community planting
 Weather-dependent: wear appropriate clothing & footwear
 
- TWBC Volunteer Days** Meet outside the Oast House.....Every Thursday 10am — 3pm

Watch out for posters & see 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, Dorking Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN
 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
 Out of Hours Service 07920 534369
 Toilets: Opening Hours 7am - 6pm

Photos & images courtesy of Dr Ian Beavis, Jo Cartwright, Steff D'Agorne, Chris Hughes, Amy Kewell, Jane Melville, Stuart Moaby John Neller, Playsafe Playgrounds & the Working Horse Trust.