



Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (FoGH)



Newsletter 3 Summer 2012

picture courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum

Commemorative Tree Planting

Saturday 10th March to celebrate the setup of the Friends group.

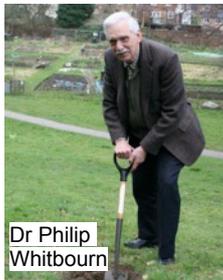
This event was in two stages, the first with Greg Clark MP, our new patron, who had prior commitments later in the morning. After he planted an Oak tree, we showed him how the park and its facilities are used and appreciated, though the time was tight. We had a route with stops and a brief talk on each part and aim to turn this into a leaflet. We hope Greg enjoyed the time as much as we all did!



Greg Clark MP

In the second stage, the other trees were planted near the Oast House:

- Jane Melville (FOGH Secretary), celebrating FoGH inauguration - Royal Oak
- grown from acorns gathered on a royal estate
- St Barnabas' school children - Beech
- St James' school children - Silver Birch
- Dr Philip Whitbourn OBE on his 80th birthday - Hornbeam
- Dave Prodrick from CREATE - Oak
- in memory of John Marshall



Dr Philip Whitbourn

As the last tree went in, CREATE sang What a Wonderful World, one of the songs John was keen on singing, which was poignant for the choir. His was a good soul that will be missed by many.

The children from both schools and all tree planters excelled themselves!

Once established, the oaks will grow into large trees 20-40 m high and the other trees will provide variety in that area of the park. Now we have had lots of rain to bed them in!

J Paul Lambert

Chairman's letter

Hello again to you all, you will notice I have been handed the poisoned chalice this quarter, as this whole page is mine, thank you the news team. Lots to report on since the spring newsletter.



FoGH

We are especially pleased to announce that Greg Clark, MP for Tunbridge Wells, has kindly agreed to become patron of FoGH, despite the pull on his limited time.

Our first AGM was held on Saturday 5th May 2012 at St Barnabas' School Hall. The minutes have been sent to all Friends, in these we placed on record our thanks to the steering committee for the work they have done and the council for its support. I would like to thank you all who have joined as a Friend. We do though need more, so any friends or family, please encourage them to join.

The FoGH constitution was accepted, so we are now an official group. Also thank you for extending my tenure as Chairman and welcome to Liz Edwards as deputy Chairman. Jane Melville remains as Secretary and John Bushell as Treasurer.

Three successful events have been held so far this year.

Saturday 10th March: commemorative trees were planted by the Oast House and we thank Gavin Wilkinson from Sodexo for attending to them for us since their planting.

Easter Sunday April 8th: the Easter Egg Rolling was a great success : we hope this will be an annual event

Monday 4th June: Jubilee Picnic in the Park - well what a wonderful event, it exceeded our wildest dreams. The organisation team excelled themselves and the committee kept things running smoothly. The weather was better than predicted. Thank you to everyone involved in making this event such a resounding success.

A question that was raised at the AGM and has also been asked by ourselves at meetings: is what are the benefits of being a member of FoGH? As a committee we have up until now concentrated on getting the Friends group up and running. Over this next year we need to look at what FoGH can do in the future. What does the park need from a support group? To answer this we do need your input.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

J Paul Lambert

Update from the Parks Department

The time is fast approaching when we will hear if we have been successful with our first round HLF application bid. We should hear by the 29th June and if successful, we will start work immediately on the second round application. To many this does seem a long drawn out process, with long periods of time when nothing seems to happen, but please be patient. Developing the second round application means we will start to see a more detailed plan, incorporating many of the ideas you have put forward. Unfortunately, because of the bid we are unable to make any significant changes to the park, as this may jeopardise the application.

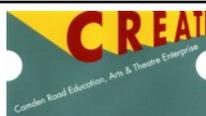


Some of you may have noticed signs asking for visitors to control dogs in the park. We are aware that the majority of our regular dog walkers are responsible and, of course, we welcome four legged and two legged friends. Unfortunately, we have had one or two complaints about visitors who do not have control over their dogs and consequently spoiling the enjoyment of the park for others. I would ask if you see any persistent offenders to contact the Parks Team.

On a more positive note we welcome a new addition to our family of Friends, with the formation of the Friends of Calverley Grounds. With the formation of this group, we now have five groups plus two residents associations. We feel it is important for you to be in contact with each other, therefore at some point in the future we intend to hold a Friends forum, where all our groups can come together to discuss park related issues.

As always if you have anything you would like to ask the parks team, we can be contacted via email peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or on 01892 554031. **Peter Every**

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise



CREATE presents:

Summer Concert & Party 2012..... Saturday 14th July 7.00
on Bastille Day, a concert of words & music based on Revolution & Change
St Barnabas School Hall Tickets £5
(including party food -- bring your own drinks)

To Book Tickets: 07966190428 or daveprodrick@hotmail.com
More information on the website www.camdenroad.org

Open 7 days
a week

10:30 - 4 PM
(weather
permitting)

for hot & cold drinks, light
refreshments

www.paninionthepark.co.uk



Easter Egg Competition 2012

We would like to thank everyone who came to our first ever Easter Egg Competition on Sunday 8th April. There was a competition to see who could roll their egg furthest down the slope near the Oast House and the decorated eggs were judged by local resident Jane Dey.



The winners received large chocolate eggs, and there were mini eggs for everyone. The score-board numbered 55 entrants, so we were incredibly pleased with the turnout, and the high standard of decorated eggs.

Our thanks to David and Laura Hollins for all their hard work organising this event.

Further ideas suggested for next year include an Easter Bonnet competition, or an Easter Egg treasure hunt through the woods.



Carolyn T Gray

Walk in the Woods

In the National Tree Council's Walk in the Woods month, Dr Ian Beavis led a walk in Hilbert Woods on Sunday 20th May.

These ancient woodlands are remnants of the forest that once covered the UK, shown by indicator plants like bluebells, wood anemones and ramsons (wild garlic). Roundabout Woods are wet woodland (hence the boardwalk!) with springs and a stream, composed of hazel coppice with oak standards.

The more central Folly Shaw is mixed woodland, with an iron-rich chalybeate stream, whose rust-red water looks polluted, but is very pure. The open, unimproved grassland between the stream and the cycle path supports many insects. Both areas of woodland are now linked by Appledore Wood, planted in late 2007.

Our thanks to Dr Beavis for an enjoyable and informative walk.



Mary Hughes

News Updates

Water in the Park

The area of the Park, Camden Rd and the old Goods Station was originally wooded, with the Jack's Wood Spring noted on early maps. When the Calverley Estate was being built in early Victorian times, the stone from here was used, hence the name Quarry Road.



The spring was tapped, and became Calverley Waterworks. Following the Goods Station being established by the railway line, houses, shops, schools and the church were all built for the growing population. Grosvenor Recreation Ground was opened in 1889 on the site of the former Waterworks, for the local people to be able to walk in the fresh air. The reservoir remained as the Calverley swimming baths, a deep pool with no shallow end, which was closed in 1948. The pool was filled in after the Second World War: the children's play area and basketball court are on the site.

Landscape designer Robert Marnock used the water in the Park to create the Dripping Wells and the lake we still have today: also two lower lakes with a weir and bridge, in the area now termed "The Wetlands". The spring feeding the dripping wells, the existing lake and the wetlands, running into the stream, is a chalybeate, or iron-rich spring, which causes the orange colour as the iron oxidises. The other stream, running through Roundabout Woods by the boardwalk does not originate from a chalybeate spring, so the water is clear.



With water being so important in the Park, we were pleased to show "Water in the Wells" around. Leader Michael Holman explained his thoughts about setting up the group:

"Having been born in Pembury Hospital and brought up in and around Tunbridge Wells, the town was always just 'The Wells' to me, never 'Tunbridge Wells'. Now, having returned to The Wells after spending all my professional life in Leeds, I look round, and am struck by the fact that we still like to call ourselves a spa town, but with very little justification. One by one the water features have vanished. What you are doing in Hilbert Park is actively putting some of the best ones back! Hats off to you! Upgrading the water features in your lovely park is something the Water in The Wells Working Group is anxious to promote in any way we can."



Michael is more than happy to speak to anyone who would like to support the work of "Water in the Wells" on michaeldexholman@googlemail

There are plans to improve our own wetlands area and restore the lake in the Heritage Lottery Fund bid. However, should we fail in the second bid, we may need a more community led approach to improving our water features.

Tunbridge Wells in Bloom

We offer support to Tunbridge Wells in Bloom, and we hope, with the Council's help, to plant more flowers in the park for next year. Your suggestions about where to plant them and, of course, your help would be very welcome! Any ideas to editors@fogh.org.uk

Civic Society Award

The landscaping by the Grosvenor Bridge won a Commendation in Community Contribution award at the annual Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society Awards, so well done to Fairview Homes. This area helps to lead out of the park and onto the new path past the flats, to Goods Station Road.



Camden Road Guild

Camden Road served the local community with all their daily shopping needs, in a time before cars, fridges and supermarkets. The photo shows Rabson's Stationers in Edwardian times: the shop is now Illuminations.. FoGH are please to support the formation of the Camden Road Guild, and their work to smarten up the shop fronts and get the community involved in the life of the road. We have enjoyed working with them for the Jubilee, and hope to do more events together.

The Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park do not stand alone, we are part of the history and ongoing development of the whole of Tunbridge Wells. **Carolyn T Gray**

Our thanks to Keith Hetherington for the photo of Calverley swimming baths, Tunbridge Wells Museum for the Picture of the Lakes, Chris Hughes for his photos of the wetland and Grassy Knoll, and Fred Scales for the photo of Rabson's stationers.

Royal Visit Thursday 31st May

Royal Tunbridge Wells was graced with a Royal Visit on Thursday 31st May, which made for a rather extended Diamond Jubilee weekend!

The Earl and Countess of Wessex visited the Pantiles, King Charles the Martyr church, and attended a lunch at the Brew House Hotel. The lunch was a chance for the Royals to meet local community groups, and our Chairman Paul Lambert, attended to represent the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park.

Paul said *"it was indeed an honour for FoGH to be given this opportunity to meet The Earl and Countess. They met about 30 people representing various organisations in the town. We were split into six groups of similar interests; ours could be classed as being park/open spaces. During their walk around I was able to give a brief talk to the Countess of Wessex on what our group was about before she had to move on to the next group. Very soon they left for the next part of what must have been a gruelling tour, leaving us to relax and enjoy a buffet lunch whilst we talked about the visit & also swapped tales about our various organisations activities."*

We had all briefed Paul to invite them to our Picnic on Monday, and sell them a FoGH badge, but sadly the opportunity didn't arise, so that's one for another year!

Carolyn T Gray



The Diamond Jubilee Picnic in the Park



Come rain or shine, it was all set to go ahead on Monday 4th June, noon to six pm. The day dawned grey and damp and we could only hope that things would brighten up. After a hectic morning of hard preparation work, the stage was set, the food stalls and traders were in place and everything was just about ready.....

Planning had started in The Allotment pub in February, and we put in a bid for a Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Celebrate Grant and for funding from The Linda Hogan Trust. The main problem was that none of us had done anything like this before! Fortunately, we always had the support of ChezJJ, The Black Horse pub and CREATE. Dan Littlechild from Acoustic Valium gave brilliant help with the bands, PA and his knowledge. Sodexo, park contractors to the Council, and in particular our park keeper Gavin, gave unstinting support.

The Dog Show at 1230 on the upper football pitch was very well attended, with about 40 dogs entered, watched by a large crowd. Councillor Ben Chapelard and Adam from Wag N Wash in Silverdale Road judged. The winners received rosettes, which they proudly wore for the rest of the day.

- Waggiest Tail:** 1 Archie 2 Pippin 3 Cooper
Scrufts Award: 1Tilly 3 Ben 3 Bruce
Most Obedient: 1Jack 2 Bailey 3 Pip
Best Trick: 1 Indiana 2 Scamp 3 Milo
Jubilee Judges Award: 1 Archie 2 Pepper 3 Zac
Best in Show: 1 Ebony 2 Kaiser 3 Dylan



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Marshall



Grosvenor Bowls Club ran another Open Day, and the bouncy castles from "Bounce the Party" proved very popular. St Philip's Scouting group provided a tent for wet weather. Honnington Events came with their "Bowl for a Pig" game – brilliant as we have both a Bowls Club and Pig's Hill! Shops from Camden Road included Fantastical Furniture and Precious Bundles. CREATE ran the incredible Story Telling Tent.





Local drumming band Bloco Fogo got the party started at 1:30, when they paraded from the Hilbert Road gates to the main performance area. Chairman J Paul Lambert then officially opened the event and introduced our guest of honour, 99 year old Joyce Funnell, who has lived locally her whole life. Emails to The Courier had helped us to find our oldest resident. Paul presented her with a bunch of flowers from The Flower Basket in Camden Road.



Music and entertainment followed with the Create Choir, street dancer Nick Numass, with the crowd joining in with some dancing, a gymnastics display from NDGA gym and dancing from Flamenco Mosaico.



Bands performing were The Shutdown, Alex Beharrell, Imperfection Perfection, Revelations and Insomnia. Two young magicians, Jake Dalyanci and Joe Mason walked around entertaining the crowd with tricks.

Tiger Inline Hockey ran "Beat the Goalie". Friend of the Park, Carl Abrams brought his "ServKent" charity bike, a hit with the younger members of the crowd. We had stalls from the TW Vegan Group, Recall Theatre Studio, and the Fire Brigade, until they received an emergency call-out! Giving away free day passes to St John's Sports Centre was "Tommy the Trainer".

ChezJJ provided French food, strawberries and cream, as well as cupcakes. Ross Campbell Fish and Chips (based on Tuesdays evening at the Royal Oak, Hawkenbury) had a long queue of hungry picnickers. The Black Horse pub ran a beer tent and also sold Teresa's home made pies. Panini on the Park were open as usual and ran a hot-dog stall on the football pitch.



Another part of the Jubilee has been the amazing artwork created on the zig-zag railway bridge, by local street artists Dave Eagles and Josh, from The Overspray Gallery in Camden Road.



The day ended with our raffle, drawn by Councillor David Neve. First prize went to Friend of the Park, Ros Styles, who won a £150 Hamper of cosmetics from Mavala UK. The footstool from Chairs and Upholstery Shop was won by India and Sarah Greene. Our thanks to all who gave prizes and to all those who bought tickets, joined the Friends group and made donations.

We were completely amazed by the number of visitors and the positive feedback. The committee hope we created something enjoyable for all. We want this to be the Park for everyone and we hope that the picnic opened up the Park to people who may not have visited before: please spread the word to all those you know – there is a Park hidden here amongst all the houses and trees!

Carolyn T Gray

Our thanks to Chris Hughes, Dave Barnett and Carolyn T Gray for the photos

Volunteering with the Kent High Weald Partnership

I became a volunteer as my house backs onto Hilbert Park and I was keen to become involved with the park, but wanted to do something practical. I found out that the partnership manages Hilbert Local Nature Reserve and had an ongoing volunteer programme and I could simply turn up and join in with. So around 6 years ago I turned up, joined in and am now a "regular" with the partnership.

The KHWP volunteers meet every Wednesday and undertake a wide variety of tasks in and around the Tunbridge Wells area. Tasks vary from coppicing and board walk installation at Hilbert LNR to collecting seed at Barnett's Wood or working at Oakley School and Pepenbury as part of the Food 4 Thought programme. We maintain the rare lowland heath habitat at Cinderhill Woods in Matfield.



All the tools and training we need are provided and there are always members of the KHWP present to ensure all goes well on the day. Each week brings a different task and a different location but as the KHWP publish a six month events guide, we always know ahead of time where we will be working. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided each week and whilst we usually bring our own lunch, we do have the odd barbeque (or jacket potatoes) to celebrate special occasions.

My fellow volunteers are a mixed bunch, covering a wide age range from late teens to those that have retired, and it's not just men, as we also have a number of ladies that enjoy the day's task. What we all have in common is an interest in the environment, want to do something practical to help out and the fact that we can have a great day out is a bonus!

For more information on KHWP, the nature reserves they manage and the volunteer programme, see the website www.khwp.org.uk

Chris Hughes



Chris cutting down a tree!

Sport Report

Football: Here are end-of-season report for the teams playing in the park. See the West Kent Sunday Football League website www.wksl.org.uk for further information.

The Palace FC (playing in blue and white striped shirts)

The Palace completed the season as runners up in Division 4, gaining promotion to Division 3. We reached the semi final of the league cup only to lose against a team from 3 leagues above! Achieving this in our debut season was outstanding. We are now establishing ourselves and hope to continue our great progress next season, making The Palace a team to be proud of. (A new team will be placed in a WKSFL Division appropriate to the history and experience of the players).

Chris Lucas

Black Horse (playing in black and red striped shirts)

We finished the season 8th in Division 5, the same as last season, with an incredible goal difference of 0! After a good start, the hard ground led to a few injuries (mainly ankles and knees), resulting in a weakened team in mid-season. It picked up in the New Year, with players returning from injuries, but we ran out of games by the end of February. We got to the semi-final of the Spring Cup, losing on a rain-soaked Wednesday evening to a Division 2 side 9 -0. Although not a hugely successful season, it was still an enjoyable one.

Tony Vanns

King William IV FC (playing in green and black)

King William IV FC finished the season in 4th position in Division 6 after their first season. We won 11 of 20 games and drew 3, scoring 62 goals in total. The top of the table was very tight and the first season has been very successful. Pre-season training starts in June and players are being signed. If you are interested, contact Jordan Angus on 07734 691455 or see our website www.KingWilliamivfc.co.uk

Sarah Angus



King William IV 4 - 1
Crowborough Town Vets



Bowls: Grosvenor Bowls Club held our Open Day on May 6th and despite the bad weather, a few brave souls still ventured down to have a go! They were revived with tea and biscuits and several have expressed an interest in coming back! We enjoyed introducing new people to our sport.

The Bowls Club is in its centenary year and we will be playing some special matches to celebrate, against the Royal Household at Windsor, and against a Kent County Bowling Association team on our green. If you would like to have a go, please join us at any of our Wednesday evening practice nights from 6pm – simply wear flat-soled shoes! Or speak to Captain Jo Cartwright (01892) 539312 to arrange a time.

For more information see our website www.grosvenorbowls.co.uk

and also Facebook www.facebook.com/GrosvenorBowls

Jo Cartwright

Bees in the Park

Around 75 different species of bee, including eight of Britain's bumblebees, are found in the park and associated allotments.

Buff-tailed Bumblebee



Like honeybees – which also use the park – bumblebees are social insects, living in colonies above or below ground, depending on the species. Colonies are founded in the spring by queens which have slept through the winter: these are the large bumblebees that we see out and about very early in the year. Once they have found a suitable home, they start to rear large numbers of smaller workers. These are the bumblebees that we see at work through the rest of the year, gathering nectar and pollen to feed an increasing number of young. As summer progresses, a new generation of queens is produced along with males. These pair off, and at the end of the year the fertilised queens go into hibernation to start the cycle off again next year.

Although many bumblebees are suffering severely from habitat loss, six species are still widespread, due partly to their ability to use food resources in urban parks and gardens. All of these – the White-tailed, Buff-tailed, Red-tailed, Garden and Early Bumblebees; and the all brown Common Carder Bee – are common in Grosvenor and Hilbert. Recently, they have been joined by the Tree Bumblebee, which has spread to Britain from across the Channel as the climate changes. This is not a threat to native species, as they have always coexisted further south. Tree Bumblebees are easily recognised by their unique combination of an overall brown colouration and a white tail. The rare Heathland Bumblebee has also been recorded in the park, using other flowers before heather comes into bloom.

Red-tailed Bumblebee



Honeybees and bumblebees share the park with many species of solitary bees. These bees do not live in colonies; each female makes its own individual nest and stocks it with nectar and pollen for its young. Nest burrows may be in soil, rotten wood or pre-existing beetle holes in dead timber or fencing. The park has a number of nationally scarce solitary bees, including the red-banded *Andrena labiata*, which is adapted to the declining habitat of flower-rich grassland.



Andrena labiata

At a time when the conservation of bees has become a major public issue, due to their vital importance in pollinating wild and cultivated plants, it is good that Grosvenor and Hilbert Park is a significant stronghold for these insects.

Dr Ian Beavis

View from the Allotment

A year of change, a warm early winter, but cold and wet spring. What to plant when?

Allotments are now invited into Tunbridge Wells in Bloom. So it's Extra Sunflowers, some Dahlias and a second late planting of soft vegetables to compensate for late frosts. Then we have the council's threat to

double rents next year. Forget the stability of the seasons, do you bite the bullet and pay or walk away from years of work?

Ian Hunter



Art in the Park Update

In Newsletter 2 Spring 2012, we gave details of the 3 short-listed artworks for The Grassy Knoll by Grosvenor Bridge. The consultation was extended until the end of March 2012, as models were displayed at the Gateway in the town centre. The final selection was to be ratified by the Council in mid-May. Unfortunately, the change in leadership at the Council following the election has delayed this process. We will let you know of any developments via the website.

Mary Hughes



Children's Activity: Thank You Card for a teacher

We have several butterflies that visit Hilbert woods in the summer. The most popular are Speckled Wood and Purple Hairstreak. On the woodland edges you will find Comma, Holly Blue and Orange Tip. Make an end of term card with paper and paint, using the patterns on the butterflies. Paint half a butterfly with very wet paint, then fold and press, to make a mirror image. Here are some photos and examples to give you ideas:



Comma



Purple
Hairstreak



Orange
Tip

Dates for your diary

Big Toddle for Barnado's.....Thursday June 21st 2.30pm

Under 5s 'mini' sponsored walk for toddlers (minimum amount £2)

Children can dress up as their favourite superhero

Afterwards, a picnic (bring your own food) with fun and activities

To register see Facebook: Tunbridge Wells Big Toddle with Little Dish

www.facebook.com/groups/328779277182083/ for the latest news & how to join in

or email Amy@littledish.co.uk Sponsored by Little Dish.



Auction, Raffle and Quiz Night.....Sunday July 1st 7.30pm

The Black Horse, Camden Road

to raise funds for the Camden Road Guild

and CCTV for the lower end of Camden Road and Quarry Road.

Many excellent Auction lots provided by the traders of Camden Road.



National Play Day.....Wednesday August 1st 10 - 2pm

Kent High Weald Partnership

Celebrate and Play!

In Olympic year, celebrate the right to play outdoors with a host of really wild activities.

On the top football pitch near the skate park. See the website www.khwp.org.uk



Young Nature Hunters & Mini Beast Safari.....Thursday August 30th 10 - 4pm

For children under 6 Young Nature Hunters 10-11am or 11.30am-12.30pm.

Children 6 years & over Afternoon Mini Beast Safaris 2.30-4pm,

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery for more details & to book your place

Sessions are free: advance booking essential via The Museum on 01892 554171

or museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



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

A walk through the park led by Dr Ian Beavis.

Explore the origins and history of the park

See how the natural features are a refuge for plants and animals.

Book through The Museum on 01892 554171

or museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



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

Paul Lambert (Chairman)

jpaul Lambert@btopenworld.com

Jane Melville (Secretary)

Friendsghrp@aol.com

Website

www.FoGH.org.uk

Facebook

www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert

Twitter

twitter.com/FofGH

Editors:
editors@FoGH.org.uk

15 Dorking Road,
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN

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