

## Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (FoGH)

Newsletter 6 Spring 2013



### Update from the Parks Department

We now only have seven months to go before we submit our second round application to HLF for funding: this may seem a long time but I can assure you we have a lot to do between now and August. Adrian Spray, our Project Co-ordinator, has provided an update on our progress to date and has mentioned the postal/online survey, which I hope you have completed, as this gives us valuable information about the Park and how you use it. This will be used by the project team to prepare the final plans for submission in August.



I should explain that the HLF signs recently been put up in the Park are a condition of our bid. We have been awarded £148, 000 to fund the development of the second round application and HLF require acknowledgement of their involvement. They have no connection with the work recently started in the Park, which is not funded by HLF.

Work has begun on the repairs to the Dorking Road boundary wall. During last year, we noted large sections of the wall beginning to give way, causing concern for us as well as residents. We commissioned a survey which indicated we needed to take urgent action to stabilise the wall. The work will involve dismantling and rebuilding some sections of wall, whilst other sections only require removal of the top few courses. We will be re-using as many of the original old bricks as we can, but inevitably we will need a number of replacements. We will try to source bricks as close as possible to the original colour and size.



Unfortunately, access to the wall is quite difficult for our contractors and I'm afraid there will be some disruption to the Park for the 4 - 6 weeks we expect the work to last. The contractors have created a small compound near the Auckland Road entrance for storage and delivery of materials and equipment and built a temporary road to allow access to the wall for their equipment. The work is being managed by our property team, but if you have any questions, you can contact me.

Elsewhere, this year sees Tunbridge Wells entering the South and South East in Bloom competition for the fourth year and hopefully building on our success of previous years. This year, we also have the honour of being invited to enter the national Britain in Bloom competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society in the Large Town category.

Community involvement is crucial to the success of the Britain in Bloom campaign and we are looking for neighbourhoods or business premises to take part in the competition, so if you would like to be involved please contact me for more information. Neighbourhoods are defined as a street or flats, a church or a project carried out in a park by volunteers. To help with your project, the Bloom committee can assist with the purchase of materials up to the value of £500.

If you have any questions or comments about the HLF project or the Park in general you can contact me on 01892 554031 or email [peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

**Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC**

### More about the boundary wall.....

The piece of land that would become Dorking Road was sold by John Beane's Charity to Frederick Castle in July 1888. A restrictive covenant stated that the purchaser should construct a brick wall at least 7 feet high along the boundary within 12 months of the purchase, so the wall would have been built 1888-1889.

John Beane's Charity was "for the benefit of Protestant dissenting ministers and and poor inhabitants in Guildford, Dorking and the county of Surrey" and owned farms in the Tunbridge Wells area, houses in Wimbledon, Wandsworth and Ealing and premises in Paddington and Kilburn.

**Mary Hughes**

## Chairman's letter

We have said farewell to 2012 and welcome to an at times wintry 2013.

TWBC and the Project team is moving forward with the HLF bid and we wait with anticipation for the detailed proposals. We are told these will be fully discussed with interested parties before moving forward. FoGH will fully support those we see as beneficial to the Park and make our views known on those we feel are not. I understand 2,500 questionnaires have been sent to local residents to give their views and Open Days to discuss the proposals will take place.



FoGH

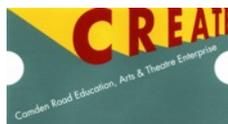
Our first 2013 event was the RSPB bird survey in the Park. Three members of the committee took shelter from the elements for an hour under the bowls club awning and recorded the birds that passed by. Even though the heavens opened up at times, for the whole hour a pied wagtail fed on what it could find on the Bowls Green. Encouraging people to visit the Park is good, but even when it's empty of people, wildlife is still around and should be encouraged. I believe one of the things the Friends should be doing is assisting in nature conservation in the Park. We would like to see members taking an active role through FoGH and helping groups already working with nature in the Park.

Our membership continues to grow, although slowly, with each event we hold yielding another few names on the list. As you will see, the events calendar for 2013 is starting to fill up. We do hope you enjoyed the 2012 ones and will feel inclined to come along to this years. A list of these is as always in the newsletter and will be publicised around the Park. We would still like to hear from anyone keen on volunteering to assist the committee with any events, especially the May 2013 Family Day: planning and running of the event. Please email [editors@fogh.org.uk](mailto:editors@fogh.org.uk) or write to 112 Auckland Road, TN1 2HT if you can spend a little time to assist.

I wish you all the best for 2013.

**J Paul Lambert**

## Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise



CREATE presents:

### A Nose in a Book Evening.....Saturday 20th April 7:30pm

Readings, music & improvisation on the British Isles for World Book Night

At St Barnabas School Hall

Please bring up to 3 books for the Book Swap Table

Bring a plate of food to share & a drink

Tickets are free but please book your place through Dave Proderick

07966190428 or [daveprodrick@hotmail.com](mailto:daveprodrick@hotmail.com)

More information on the website [www.camdenroad.org](http://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](http://www.panionthepark.co.uk)

## Christmas Carols

On the afternoon of Sunday 9th December we marked a year of events by holding our SECOND Christmas Get-Together. A dry, grey afternoon, but quite a crowd gathered to join in as CREATE sang carols. Inside the Bowls Pavilion, we served mulled juice and mince pies, and sold Christmas cards and the Park booklet. Raffle tickets were sold on behalf of Il Vesuvio, who were helping to raise funds for the Winter Lantern Parade. The draw was made on 16th December and raised £133.00.



The Christmas Get-Together was a lovely community event, and we would like to thank you all for coming along. If you have any ideas or would like to help us at future events (like the May 6th "Family Day") please contact [editors@fogh.org.uk](mailto:editors@fogh.org.uk)

We have had a second run of booklets printed, which can be purchased for £4.00 from Tunbridge Wells Museum, or email [history@fogh.org.uk](mailto:history@fogh.org.uk) for details of how to get a copy.

**Carolyn T Gray**

## Birdwatching in the Park



The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch began in 1979 and is the world's biggest wildlife survey, done at the end of January each year. Watch the birds in your garden or local park for 1 hour and record the highest number of each species seen at the same time.

A hardy group of three met up at the Bowls Pavilion on January 27th to count birds for an hour in the rain. The weather did not attract much activity, but we still saw a variety of birds in the shrubs: house sparrows, collared doves, wood pigeons, crows, magpies, blackbirds, robins, dunnocks (or hedge sparrows), goldfinches, starlings, blue tits and a pied wagtail. I did another bird count in my garden, where I put food out for the birds, and counted 27 species! Next year, we hope for better weather, more birds and more people!

**Liz Edwards**

## Natural History Talk

Last year when we launched our book "Grosvenor and Hilbert Park", we had a talk by Dr Philip Whitbourn on the history of the Park.

On January 30th, we were pleased to welcome Dr Ian Beavis to St Barnabas School Hall to talk to us about the other half of the book, the Natural History. Dr Beavis had a full range of pictures to illustrate his informative talk. Many of the things he talked about are included in the book, so to entice everyone to buy a copy, here are a few of the highlights – did you know???

- We have bluebells in both Folly Shaw and Roundabout Woods, and bluebells only grow in truly ancient woodlands.
- Crickets have longer antenna than grasshoppers. (We have both living in the grasslands).



- Wild garlic is also called Ramsons, and grows in damp areas (like our woods), and is the basis of the name Ramslye "the clearing where the ramsons grow"

- There is a wasp that eats spiders who live in the ground!! (in a less excited way, look up Pompilidae or spider wasps, who use a single spider as a host for feeding their larvae).

- Butterflies have "eyes" on their wings to detract predators; a bird swooping down can bite a piece of wing, but the butterfly's body stays intact, it survives and can still fly with damaged wings.

Hopefully now you will all be popping into Tunbridge Wells Museum to buy a book, and visit the Natural History Room to look at the preserved butterflies!

**Carolyn T Gray**

## HLF Parks for People Project Update



**allen scott** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



**LOTTERY FUNDED**

The Parks for People Lottery Project continues to progress well, with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the appointed consultants team busy carrying out detailed survey work of the Park and buildings. With financial support from Heritage Lottery Fund, detailed layout (topographical) drawings of the current Park landscape and buildings have been completed. Further structural, drainage and services surveys of the pavilion and Oast House are due for completion by the end of January. A hydrological survey looking at the Upper Lake, grottoes, wetland area and all watercourses and springs in the Park has commenced and initial findings provide a much better understanding of the water systems, which will inform later design work. Other landscape condition surveys continue and are being used to establish the feasibility and detailed designs based on the Round 1 masterplan.



Alongside these works, the team has been carrying out historical research working with Dr Ian Beavis at Tunbridge Wells Museum. Historic mapping has been reviewed to establish the development of Grosvenor Recreation Ground and the later addition of Hilbert Recreation Ground. This further historical research will provide a better understanding of the current landscape and options for restoration. The team has found one historic image of Grosvenor Park, which shows the Upper Lake, although the precise date is not known. We'd like help trying to find any further historic images of the Park and any photos from the post-war period. If you can help please contact me (details below).

As well as the topographical, hydrological and historical surveys, the views of Park users and local people are very important in developing the proposals. If successful, the funding from Heritage Lottery Fund will allow physical works to be carried out to restore and enhance the Park, employ additional parks staff and provide more events and activities.

In addition to the recent questionnaire survey, the project team is also talking directly to user groups, local community groups, schools and other organisations about how the Park is currently used and how it could be used in the future. If you would like to be involved in these discussions, we'd like to hear from you.

The revised and updated proposals for Grosvenor and Hilbert Park will be unveiled in May 2013 at the Family Day and will go on display at other venues at this time.

For more information about the Parks for People Project, please contact Adrian Spray from CFP on 01562 887884 or [adrian@cfpuk.co.uk](mailto:adrian@cfpuk.co.uk) or Peter Every, TWBC Parks & Sports Team Leader on 01892 554031 or [peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

**Adrian Spray, Project Coordinator, CFP**

## Art in the Park: "Grosvenor Rocks"

### Update from the Artists

We have responded to comments with regards to the name and terminology and now call the artwork "Grosvenor Rocks", which will receive "temporary, then carved adornments". This is influenced by the more organic form that we have now taken.

Stone for Grosvenor Rocks is being sourced from a local Lambs Philpots Quarry near West Hoathly. In early February, the project team went to select the raw stone to be used. This will be prepared by quarry stone masons WT Lamb & Sons and site stone masons Southern Stone (who were recently awarded a conservation award by The Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society).

We have also selected the carvers, who will be carving the adornments on site. This work will be carried out by experienced letter cutter Bridget Powell, assisted by Amelia Morrison, a recent young graduate from the Building Crafts College, in a pairing especially for this project. More detail on Bridget Powell's previous work can be found here: [www.bridgetjpowell.co.uk/](http://www.bridgetjpowell.co.uk/)

Arrival, installation, unveiling and carving will take place in early April. Dates and events will be promoted nearer the time in the Park and through Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery. See the project blog at <http://grosvenorrocks.wordpress.com/> for more information.

**Oliver Goodhall, We Made That**

### Quarry Visit

Within the plans for the Art in the Park was a strong community involvement, including a visit to the quarry, which was scheduled for December 2012. However, the endless rain over the Christmas period altered this, and a small group finally met at Lambs Philpot Quarry at the beginning of February.

A drive down an unmade road near the pretty village of West Hoathly, near East Grinstead, brought us to the entrance of the sandstone quarry. Paul South of Lambs Quarry greeted myself, Oliver Goodhall from We Made That, David Scully (Landscape and Biodiversity Officer at TWBC), Frances Lord (who has taken over at Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery from Polly Harknett and Suzie Plumb), and Tunbridge Wells photographer Chris Cassidy. With us came the quarry's guard dog: a cute little dog in a high-vis jacket, who walked about in the mud and puddles without a care in the world! Sturdy wellies were the order of the day, as many parts of the quarry floor were flooded.



Luckily though, despite being cold, the rain held off until our drive home. Issued with high-vis jackets we walked down the steep path to the quarry where a variety of machines and equipment sat in the gooey sandstone mud! I was trying to imagine what our local quarry, where St Barnabas Church now stands, would have looked like. At Lambs, cut rock in many sizes lines the track through the quarry. Varying in colour, some feature very obvious layers of deposits, including the small stones that are in the layers at Wellington Rocks; also rings caused by carbon deposits being magnetically attracted to a central core.

The "Grosvenor Rocks" installation on the grassy knoll will be made of sandstone forms with York stone steps. Due to the issues of transporting the stone to the site, it will be coming in a total of nine pieces. We walked around, as best we could, and found one rock piece which will be ideal for the small seat. Oliver was pleased with how the dimpled top caught small pools of water, adding to our water connection.



We also saw several rocks that could be shaped slightly to join into the larger piece of the artwork. David Scully was concerned that we should choose rock which is strong enough to stand the test of time, and will not flake or crack. After walking around the quarry floor, we went to look at the York stone, and the carving workshops. York stone will make sturdier steps than sandstone, and in Tunbridge Wells it has been used as some of the paving in..... York Road.



Welcoming mugs of tea and coffee and a large tin of chocolate biscuits were on offer at the office area, as we looked at the history of the quarry, and discussed delivery time scales. Hopefully the rocks can be in place in April, when everyone will be welcomed to the Community Carving Day. This will be your chance to write in chalk on the rock, for future carving by Bridget Powell and Amelia Morrison. So now is the time to think what you would like to say; sandstone was formed millions of years ago, this is your chance to make a mark for the future.

**Carolyn T Gray**

Photos courtesy of Chris Cassidy & Carolyn T Gray: see more at [www.anke.tw/anke/2013/02/art-quarry-stone.html](http://www.anke.tw/anke/2013/02/art-quarry-stone.html)

## John Boxall: A Balaklava Charger

Heritage Open days are held annually in September, and St Barnabas Church has thrown open its doors for several years, displaying a wide range of local history collected by historian Geoff Copus. In 2012 the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park joined in. Lots of people who visited had grown up in the area, and had memories of the open air swimming pool and the Satellite Club.

Also in attendance were long established undertakers "Kempsters" from Albion Road, who brought their old ledger books. I was looking through them, and Mr Kempster directed me to the excerpt about Henry (often known as John) Boxall who died in 1914 aged 83.

Aged 21, he had fought in the Battle of Balaclava, and was present at the Charge of the Light Brigade. During this he was unhorsed, and then stabbed while lying on the ground. He was taken prisoner and spent seven months living on black bread and water. A later newspaper report, folded inside the ledger, says Mr Boxall was crippled for life after this.

Records show he worked as a gardener, although he also received assistance from "Light Brigade Relief Fund", before retiring to Tunbridge Wells. Because his death coincided with the outbreak of World War One, the War Office refused a request for a military funeral. However, the coffin, draped with a union jack, was carried in a glass hearse through streets lined with people, and he was buried in his uniform from Balaclava.

The house he lived in during the 1901 and 1911 census, and recorded in the ledger, was 63 Rochdale Road, which is right by the entrance to the park and the electricity substation. The current resident, Nikki Pearson, was able to take this photo of the current view over the park, from the house.



The view in Edwardian times would have been slightly different. The Bowls club was established in 1912, and the current pavilion dates from the 1970s; before the bowls green this was the children's play area. The current children's play area is built on the former swimming pool, which would have been in active use during Mr Boxall's life time. Over the other side of the railway line, the new houses in Hasletts

Close are built on the former Haslett's Nursery Gardens.

Geoff Copus put the Friends group in touch with Mike Hinton, (descendent of a Crimean War veteran) who is giving a talk on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm, St Barnabas School Hall.

"The Balaclava Charges and Tunbridge Wells (and a bit more)" should be an interesting talk, so please come along, and invite your friends and family.

**Carolyn T Gray**

## From Jubilee Picnic to Family Day

Last year's Jubilee Picnic was such a success we have decided to hold another day this year. We have chosen Bank Holiday Monday 6th May, purely because there are no other Tunbridge Wells big events planned that day – so we hope as many people as possible can come along.

We have already started booking stalls, Teresa from the Savoury Kitchen will be back again with cupcakes and savouries, a booking form has come from Pulpito Tapas Bar in Camden Road, as well as Panini on the Park bringing their hot dog stand to the field! We also have bookings from craft traders and charities selling second hand goods – so please bring along plenty of money. If you know anyone who would like a stall, please contact us at [editors@FoGH.org.uk](mailto:editors@FoGH.org.uk) We can taking bookings until mid April.



We are organising a tombola, so let us know if you have anything you would like to donate. Dan Littlechild will be returning with music from the Acoustic Valium Project, and the Park's "Lazy Dog Walkers" are organising the Dog Show, which will start at noon.

Some news from those who featured at last year's event: the band Insomnia won Compaid's Got Talent back in September 2012, and recently featured in the Courier. Overspray have continued to be supported by Town and Country - did you see their "Snow White" mural for the Assembly Hall's pantomime? We really hope we can "showcase" some more artists and musicians this year, and look forward to seeing everyone in the Park on Monday 6th May!

By the way, we also booked the only day of lovely, warm sunshine due for 2013. Should it fail to turn up, please bring an umbrella!

**Carolyn T Gray**

## Sport Report

**Football:** It has been a hard season for teams in the West Kent Sunday Football League, with poor weather forcing postponements. See the website [www.wksl.org.uk](http://www.wksl.org.uk) for more information.

**The Palace FC** play in Division Three, on the lower pitch, in blue and white striped shirts. The team was formed in 2011 and won promotion from Division Four in their first season. Going up a division has been a difficult transition, and the team are yet to win their first game, with six draws and four losses to date. There have been team changes due to injuries and player movements and The Palace are currently 9th out of 10 teams, with 6 points.



**Chris Lucas & Mary Hughes**



**The Black Horse** play in Division Five, on the top pitch, in black and red striped shirts. We kicked off the season on 2nd September with a 5 - 2 win, then won the next 3 games. The Junior Trophy is in group stages and we have progressed into the semi finals of this cup. We are also into the 3rd round of the Junior Cup, due to a team dropping out. The Black Horse are currently 2nd, on 14 points. It has been an enjoyable season so far, continually interrupted by the weather, but it has been the same for all the other clubs.

**Tony Vanns**

## Amphibians in the Park



One of the first signs of spring is the appearance of frogs at their breeding grounds. They start congregating on the first mild days of the year, which in some seasons may be in February and in others not until March. Males arrive first to await the females, setting up a chorus of calls. There has always been a population of frogs in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park, but in recent years the shallow pools in the wetland area in the hollow beneath the railway bridge have developed into a perfect spot for frogs to breed, and they have been assembling in enormous numbers.

Shallow bodies of water like this offer very favourable conditions because there are no fish – and few large insect predators – present to feed on eggs and tadpoles. Frogs are known to travel long distances – up to a kilometre – in search of new breeding sites, so it is not surprising that they have so readily taken advantage of this relatively new habitat.

Once the frogs have paired and spawned, they disperse all over the Park and the adjacent allotment areas, and no doubt into neighbouring gardens too. Once the next generation have completed their transformation from the tadpole state, they too disperse, taking about two or three years to reach maturity.

On the Museum's mini beast safaris, particularly when it has been raining, large numbers of young frogs are often spotted hopping through the long grass on the eastern side of Folly Shaw, the smaller of the Park's two woods. Often large adult frogs are found there too, causing great excitement. These adults occur in a range of colours, from light brown to more greenish, and it may seem that more than one species is involved; but they all belong to one variable species, the Common Frog.



The second amphibian recorded in the Park is the Smooth Newt, the commonest of Britain's three species.

These also gather in breeding ponds in the spring, but much less conspicuously than frogs. The males develop a conspicuous crest along their back in the breeding season, using it in a courtship display to attract the females. Smooth newts lay their eggs individually on the leaves of aquatic plants or other objects. Their young have external feathery gills and are known as efts.

It is possible that other amphibians – and reptiles – might live in the Park or colonise in the future. Palmate newts often coexist with smooth newts and could have been overlooked.

In several open spaces in Tunbridge Wells – including the two Commons and Dunorlan Park – toads occur together with frogs, easily distinguishable even when very small on account of their lumpy rather than smooth skin. Toads prefer larger bodies of water with plant growth in and around the edges: the current wetland is probably too small, while the lake is lacking in marginal vegetation.



As for reptiles, the one to look out for would be the grass snake – olive green with a yellow collar. These often occur in wetland areas, and can swim very effectively, so the Park might well be a suitable home.

**Dr Ian Beavis**

Images courtesy of Dr Ian Beavis and Brian Ecott at [www.hainaultforest.co.uk](http://www.hainaultforest.co.uk)

## A calendar for 2014

It's not a wildly original idea, but we decided to collect a year's worth of Park photos to make a calendar for 2014. Realising we needed to print and make them available for purchase before the end of December 2013, we started with a request for "Autumn Colour" photos in November 2012, and a range of entries can be viewed on the website Gallery page.



FoGH



December's theme was "Christmas", with the chance to include the Carols with CREATE afternoon, or take some props to the Park for an artistic shot.

Our hope had been for snow, but days of rain meant the January theme was "Water".. For February we invite photos of "Activity", prompted by the works in the Park, but this could be football, skating, cycling, dog walking, jogging – or anything you can think of! In March we hope for better weather and anything with a "Spring" theme is welcome.

For future themes look out for posters in the Park and details on Facebook.

All we ask is that the photo is taken within the Park: how you interpret the theme is up to you. The point of the collection is to have your views of the Park. Post on the Facebook page or email to [comp@fogh.org.uk](mailto:comp@fogh.org.uk) Prints can be posted to the editors address on the back page.

We hope to display some of the photos at upcoming events as a taster of the 2014 calendar...

## View from the Allotment

The snow and cold will, I hope, have decimated the slug population and broken the clay down to a fine tilth. Sensible gardeners are keeping warm and reading seed catalogues. We now want some drier, warmer weather, so the ground warms up for planting and sowing.

I am scratching around for space to chit my seed potatoes, and hoping my overwintered Broad Beans will not spring into growth too quickly. Last year they were so keen that late frosts took most of the crop.

There were some very nice looking buds on the rhubarb before the snow, so I am hoping for early pie and custard! The Penstemon cuttings taken for the seed swop are looking cold but healthy in my little greenhouse.

Please look out part-used packets of seed, as germination is good in the second year and even after five years or more. Start collecting and planting extra cuttings and seedlings for our allotment-inspired Plant and Seed Swop Sunday 21st April 2pm at the Bowls Pavillion

*Ian Hunter*

## Dogs in the Park

Ollie is a handsome cocker spaniel. He'll be 7 years old this year and can often be found in the Park, playing with toys, barking and finding people to make a fuss of him! He's a lovely dog and luckily his owner, Jane, lets me borrow him on a regular basis.

He loves people, tennis balls, footballs, shiny things, carrier bags, snow, and all squeaky toys, including ones belonging to other dogs! Ollie is a gifted footballer and likes to nutmeg anyone playing with him, by putting the ball through their legs and then following it through himself!

Ollie can be wary of bigger dogs (small dog syndrome!) but is a fan of little dogs – daschunds, in particular. He is a real character and a pleasure to take for walks, apart from when he rolls in fox poo or wades around in muddy water!

Ollie's friendly to all people and often looks a bit baffled if someone walks by without stopping to stroke him – so if you see him out and he's not covered in mud, then say hello!

*Ollie's biggest fan (Jo Cartwright)*



## Children's Activity

Spring is coming, and the signs are all around us, no matter how cold it may feel at the moment! Plants, birds and animals are all getting ready for the new season. As you walk around the Park, look out for the first signs of Spring. Here are some things you may see:



1. Frogspawn in the wetland and the grottoes
2. Emerging bumblebee queens will have slept during winter
3. Blackthorn blossom appears before the leaves come out
4. Brimstone butterflies hibernate over winter and come out on warm days.
5. *Salix caprea* (pussy willow) flowers are a valuable early source of pollen and nectar

Images courtesy of Dr Ian Beavis and Brian Ecott at [www.hainaultforest.co.uk](http://www.hainaultforest.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

### Let the Sunshine Through.....Wednesday 27th February 10am

#### KHWP volunteer day

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action, clearing brambles & small trees encroaching on flower-rich grassland. Wear appropriate clothing & footwear



### The Balaklava Chargers & Tunbridge Wells.....Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm

St Barnabas School Hall, Quarry Road

Talk by local expert Mike Hinton about The Charge of the Light Brigade  
One of the "Chargers" lived in Rochdale Road, right by the Park gates!  
Refreshments available for a small donation



### Community Carving Event.....TBA: Early April

On the Grassy Knoll near Grosvenor Bridge  
Come and make your mark on the artwork, Grosvenor Rocks!  
Watch out for posters & information on the website & Facebook



### Plant and Seed Swop.....Sunday 21st April 2pm

At the Bowls Pavilion, Grosvenor Park  
Old seed still comes up! Please take cuttings now to bring and swop  
Please LABEL! Any seeds or growing material can be swapped



### FoGH Family Day.....Monday 6th May from 12pm

Due to popular demand: another day of Entertainment in the Park!  
Dog Show, music, dance demonstrations, tombola and food stalls.  
HLF proposals to be unveiled!

Please contact [editors@FoGH.org.uk](mailto:editors@FoGH.org.uk) if you want to be involved.

Start telling everyone about it: have a stall, help us or just come & enjoy the day!



### FoGH Annual General Meeting.....Saturday 18th May 10.30am

At St Barnabas School Hall, Quarry Road

This is your chance to help shape the future of FoGH

Only paid up members can vote; please contact the Secretary (details below).



### Busk in a Gazebo.....Sunday 9th June 2pm

Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

An afternoon of acoustic mellow music

Watch out for posters & information on the website & Facebook



### Members BBQ.....Saturday 15th June 5 - 8pm

At the Bowls Pavilion Watch out for further details

Watch out for Posters and further details on our website [www.fogh.org.uk](http://www.fogh.org.uk)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert](https://www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert) or Twitter [twitter.com/FofGH](https://twitter.com/FofGH)

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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 Dave Barnett, Carolyn T Gray & Chris Hughes