

Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (FoGH)



Newsletter 8 Autumn 2013



Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid submitted!

The Heritage Lottery Parks for People funding bid has been completed and submitted to the lottery board for review and assessment. The outcome will be known in December 2013.



people spaces places

allen scott LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



LOTTERY FUNDED



There has been a huge level of community interest to get to this point:

- ☐ Over 1,100 responses received to a questionnaire survey in January 2013
- ☐ 25 schools consulted: over 200 children and young people gave their views
- ☐ Over 250 people viewed the proposals for the Park at the Funday on May Day
- ☐ A further 100 people attended other exhibitions in June
- ☐ More than 50 people commented on the proposals online



Consultation was carried out with community groups and local organisations and the comments were used to refine the proposals. One change is to extend the front of the Pavilion, enlarging the community room. A full time Community Engagement Officer is proposed instead of two part time posts.



The other proposals are largely unchanged:

- ☐ Improvements to the Lake and restored grottoes;
- ☐ Wetland area: improved access and new planting with Bedgebury National Pinetum
- ☐ Signage, entrance, path and access improvements, with a new bridge across the stream
- ☐ Improved horticulture and woodland management and creation of community orchard
- ☐ A new teen zone next to the existing skate park and the play area will be improved

The physical improvements will be supplemented by a five year programme of events and activities. If the bid is successful, further planning work will start in January 2014 with

physical works starting in Autumn 2014 and taking up to 18 months. This is an exciting time, so let's hope for a positive announcement before Christmas!

Adrian Spray, Project Coordinator, CFP

See www.fogh.org.uk for more information on the HLF bid

Chairman's Letter

The summer holidays are racing past and all too soon the days will become cooler and shorter. We did at last have very hot weather in June and July, which accelerated the wildlife into the activity that had been on hold during the bitterly cold spring months. The Park has reflected the national trends of birds raising later and smaller broods of young, I can only hope that the winter to come will be less severe for their survival.



Meanwhile there has been lots to do in the Park and Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) have been busy in the Local Nature Reserve within the Park, helping native plants from being overrun by non-native species. Two days clearing cherry laurel and Himalayan balsam opened up glades for birds and insects.

KHWP also held a very popular bat-watch for children which really captivated the audience and produced some interesting records. The National Play Day in August had lots of activities for all ages and everyone could have something to take home that they had made. Working with KHWP is always most rewarding and it's good to meet new people at their action days.

Busking in the Park has been well received and interest has developed over the events, although the weather has not been so kind. We miss the old bandstand that used to be in the Park and we will investigate the possibility of a small covered performing space near the site for small events and to support local talent.

Lastly, the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund has now been submitted. Much has been written and discussed and the lengthy and detailed plan is full of exciting and innovative ideas for users of all ages. I would like to offer our warm thanks to Adrian Spray and his team at Community First Project for their time and care in preparing a document that reflects so many of our aspirations here at the Park.

Liz Edwards

Update from the Parks Department

The application for HLF grant funding has been submitted and now we wait for a decision. We cannot guarantee success, but the project team has put together a robust bid and we are all quietly confident. We must keep our fingers crossed until December! Thanks to Adrian Spray and the Community First Partnership team for their hard work and to the design teams of David Allan and Mike Kaner for inspiring designs for the Pavilion and Park.



Many of you will have noticed the silver bollards at some key entrances to the Park; these are people counters recording the number of visitors to the Park. As part of the HLF bid, it is a requirement to provide information on park usage over the next five years, including visitor numbers.

Anyone who has a plot at Hilbert Rec allotments will be relieved to know we now have the funding to replace the water pipe and supply. The work will start very soon and should last for two weeks. As the pipe runs along the footpath, we had to apply to KCC for permission to close the path for the duration of the work.

During the last few weeks of hot weather, we have received a number of calls about using disposable barbecues in our parks. Naturally, we don't want to spoil anyone's fun but we do ask that common sense is used and a few simple rules are followed.

- Use a wire frame or bricks on a level site to support your barbecue; not the wooden furniture.
- Don't leave a lit barbecue unattended
- Make sure it is fully extinguished before throwing away.
- Use the litter bins provided for all your rubbish.

If you have any questions about the HLF bid or other areas of the Park please contact the Parks team on 01892 554031 or peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk **Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC**

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise

See the CREATE website www.camdenroad.org for details of the Autumn events



CREATE Community Choir A FUN informal choir for those who enjoy singing, with no auditions: just turn up and join in!

Rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.15pm

at the Church of Christ, Commercial Road, off Camden Road
A voluntary donation of around £3 a week helps to cover costs.

For further information contact choir@camdenroad.org

At the
Bowls Pavilion
Open 7 days a
week



10:30 - 4 PM
(weather permitting)
for hot & cold drinks, light
refreshments
www.paninionthepark.co.uk

Member's Barbecue



(This being a barbecue the Members held, as opposed to barbecuing members!!)
It's quite nice, now that the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park has been established for two years, to be able to write:

On Saturday 15th June we held the **second annual** barbecue for Members.

It was a sunny afternoon, but with quite a breeze blowing across to the Pavilion. We had a pleasing mix of Friends come to enjoy burgers, hotdogs and various vegetarian specials. There were a variety of desserts, but Gordon's strawberry meringues were particularly popular! It was good to chat about local activities and hear everyone's news.

Our insurance covers all sorts of small scale events within the Park, so if there is something you would like to organise, just let us know at editors@fogh.org.uk and the committee can help. **Carolyn T Gray**

Open Afternoon 3 August

Some 80+ people came to our open event held on Saturday afternoon at the Bowls Pavilion. The aim was to update park users on current activities and future plans.

There was a final opportunity to view the Heritage Lottery Fund proposals before the bid was submitted. Phillip Whitbourn had a display of information on the history of the Park. On the natural history side, we were pleased to welcome the RSPB with information and practical advice on the birds in the Park and Liz Edwards had photos of the local wild life. Gordon McKee of the Lazy Dog Walkers brought photos of various dogs seen in the Park.

Kent High Weald Partnership (who manage Hilbert Local Nature Reserve on behalf of TWBC) provided craft activities for children. For those wanting more of a work out, Grosvenor Bowls Club ran a popular 'have-a-go' session, loved by kids!

We would like to thank those that came and hope they found it interesting and worthwhile. **Chris Hughes**



Busking in a Gazebo

After the successful Queen's Diamond Jubilee Picnic in 2012, we discussed running more music events in the Park with Dan Littlechild of Acoustic Valium Project (AVP).

In Edwardian times, the Park had a popular bandstand, with concerts during both evenings and weekends. In World War Two we gained a 'British Restaurant' which became the Satellite club/youth centre, with various musical events. Since the loss of that building, we have become less of a music Park, with Calverley Grounds and the Pantiles being the focus for town outdoor music events.

FoGH bought a gazebo last year for cover at other events, so it seemed a good plan to use it as a temporary bandstand, and bring outdoor music back to this end of the town.

We have had three Sunday afternoons of acoustic music, and all very different... On June 9th the weather was decidedly cool, and we were thankful to all who turned up. The afternoon kicked off with Henry Willard, a regular performer with AVP. Next up Freedom Leveller (Roger) and then Kay Hazelden. Two young bands then performed 'unplugged' – Prophets and Seers, and Say You Surrender.



On July 14th we were mid-heatwave, with most of the audience sitting in the shade of the trees, and the performers needing lots of water, and finishing with ice creams! Sadly, two of the booked acts couldn't make it, but IsseyCee and Simon Smith took turns to sing and play and filled the time slots between them.

On August 18th the weather again played a major part... David Warren started the afternoon in light shade. Alice Barnard came to sing 'here comes the sun', and so it did, but by the time her set ended and we welcomed Henry Willard back, showers frightened off most of the audience. Luckily the showers were short-lived, and a new audience gathered for the rest of his performance.



AVP raise money for many charities, and the money collected was shared with the acts and FoGH for 2014 events. Thanks to Dan for his time, to all the acts, particularly those who put their share of donations back into the bucket. While our Family Day in 2013 was very successful, the costs for 2014 are likely to be higher. This problem affected other town events, so we are working hard to get as much money as possible for insurance and licensing costs. We have looked into grants and funding, if anyone has any bright ideas please let us know! editors@fogh.org.uk

We hope to run the acoustic events again next summer, but this will depend on the HLF bid and any work that may be happening in the Park.

Carolyn T Gray

National Play Day: Celebrating Playful Places in Green Spaces

The view from the eyes of a FoGH committee member.

The first Wednesday in August is 'National Play Day' and on this day, Kent High Weald Partnership come to play in the Park.

I had fun last year with a table of FoGH information, so had no qualms about volunteering again this year. Other committee members joined me and we talked to visitors to the event, and handed out free goodies donated to us by 'Fields in Trust'. Our lower football pitch is a dedicated King George V field, protected as a green space, part of 'Fields in Trust'.

A variety of people had come along to the Playday, including newcomers to the area, or grandparents child-minding, so it was good to meet some new faces. It was also good to catch up with friends who had come along to join in the activities. We may not have played too much, but being part of FoGH offers the chance to meet some interesting people and share our love of the Park.



Carolyn T Gray



From a KHWP volunteer

This years National Play Day was on Wednesday August 7th and proved popular with all those that came along. A wide range of activities were on offer, with face painting and arts and crafts stalls kept busy throughout the day.

There was a chance to get close to nature with bug hunting in the long grass, making bug hotels and wand whittling. Sports enthusiasts were not forgotten with bows and arrows (making and shooting), tug of war, penalty shoot outs and flower pot stilt walking.



Chris Hughes



My National Play Day

I was a big bad wolf and roared at people at the fun day. I listened to stories, made a wooden sign for my bedroom, played football, flew a kite, had a picnic and ran around with my friends. I had a good day in the Park.

Ben Melville 3 years

Kids Go Batty? 31st July

It was a warm summer evening and as the light began to fade, a group of very excited children (and adults) gathered in the Park for the 'Kids Go Batty' event, led by Saul and Cally from the Kent High Weald Partnership. We began with a game: one child was a 'bat'; blindfolded, they tried to catch other children – 'moths' – using only voices as guides, to illustrate bats using echo location to find prey and avoid obstacles in the dark. At the craft table, the children made pairs of bat ears to wear, but not to scale, as a human size bat would have ears as long as their body, which would have proved quite unwieldy in the woods later on!



Now we were ready to find some real bats; Saul and Cally handed out identification booklets and 'bat detectors', with ultrasonic sensors for the high frequency bat sounds outside the range of normal hearing. Each bat species has a different frequency and we could hear and identify the bats.

The still, calm conditions allowed the bats and insects that they feed on to fly: the previous night had been wet so the bats would be hungry. Soon, our detectors starting beeping and buzzing and we saw the first bats of the evening.

Common and Soprano pipistrelles are both 'urban bats' probably roosting in and around older houses. We admired their acrobatics as they looped and turned through small spaces between the trees and could hear them zeroing in on their prey and eating it. As it got darker, the bats came closer to us, feeding on the insects attracted by the carbon dioxide in our breath. We picked up the sounds from a Noctule bat and soon spotted them in the dark flying very high and fast over the open areas of the park. The UK's biggest bat, it would still fit in the palm of your hand.

It was a great result and when asked what they had learnt about bats from the evening, I was pleased that my son piped up with 'Bats fly in the dark', so he took home some of the information shared that evening.

UK bat species are in decline and although the bats themselves are protected by EU law, it is essential that we also protect their habitats and that of the insects that they feed on if we are to save them.

See the links below for more information on bat conservation and bat related events:

Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk Kent High Weald Partnership www.khwp.org.uk

Daniel Marsh

Woodland Walk 4th August: a magical mini-beast tour

Dr Ian Beavis is an amazing font of all mini-beast knowledge, suddenly swinging into action and pulling out a huge net from nowhere to catch a butterfly. We saw how the yarrow plant provided a handy "table" for insects to sit on, learned which berries are poisonous, and saw how the meadow plants were teeming with wildlife, such as the red-tailed bumblebee.



Then we headed into Roundabout Woods. I loved the coppice and the woodland steps, bridges and boardwalks adding a taste of jungle adventure. One intriguing find was the rare wood horsetail, a plant which looks like a bottlebrush. And I was astonished when Ian suddenly picked up a leaf to inspect it for caterpillar tracks. He not only sees so many things others don't, but has a wonderful way of describing them.

His capture of a meadow grasshopper was another revelation – "The trick is to hold it gently by one wing and one leg" he explained. Other sights included a conehead cricket, a soldier beetle and a hornet hoverfly, while the end of the walk yielded an oak apple – a mysterious phenomenon where a wasp lays eggs in a leaf bud which then produces a fruit-like body that provides food.

From now on, I will be walking through the Park with my eyes wide open – but I am sworn to secrecy as to where you can find the deadly hemlock!

© **Sarah Bond**

A Batty Bat Night 22nd August

We met at the Hilbert Road entrance for an adventure into the mysterious world of bats. Sarah and Cally from Kent High Weald Partnership led the expedition, armed with bat detectors and useful facts about these fascinating mammals.

Once in the woods, the bat detectors went into action and there they were, flying around looking for insects. We saw pipistrelle bats, the most common bat in Kent and the smallest. They weigh no more than a 2p coin, are about the size of a woman's thumb, but eat 3,000 insects a night!



On through the woods, needing our torches as it was getting darker, we saw and heard the bats. Out into the open above the wetland area, suddenly there were quite a few, once again catching the insects. There are 18 species of bat in the UK, with noctule, soprano pipistrelles and pipistrelles found in the Park. Bats and their habitats are protected, but sadly, the population is in decline.

Bats are unable to fly from the ground; if you find one there, do not pick it up with your bare hand, put on a glove or cover your hand in some way and call the Bat Helpline (0845 1300 228)

Thank you Sarah and Cally for a great evening.

Jane Melville

Early History of Dorking Road and The Boundary Wall

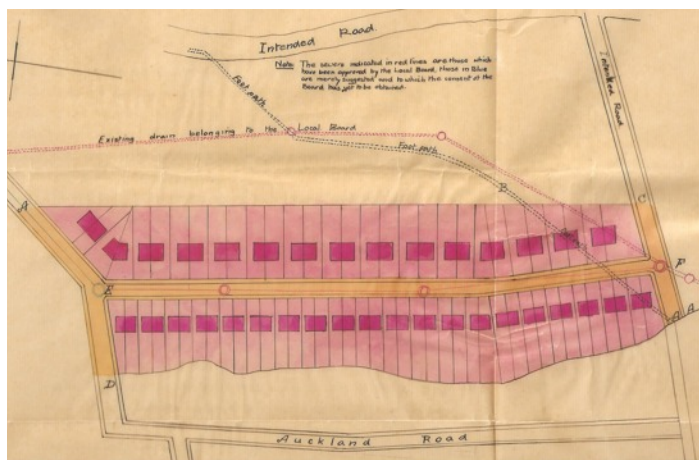
When work began on the boundary wall, we wanted to find out how old it was. I'm lucky enough to have the deeds to my house at 15 Dorking Road, and I found a mine of information about the development of the road.

The land that would become Dorking Road (approximately 6 ½ acres) originally formed part of Lipscombes Farm. The farm was owned by John Beanes Charity, which was for "the benefit of Protestant Dissenting Ministers at Guildford and Dorking and of poor inhabitants of Guildford and Dorking and elsewhere in the county of Surrey". The land was known as the Dorking Charity Estate, giving rise to the name of Dorking Road and also the name used for the allotments on King George V Hill: Charity Farm Allotments.

The land was sold in 1888 for £2500 to Frederick James Castle of Southborough. A restrictive covenant specified that no more than 40 houses should be built on the west (or evens) side of the road and no more than 30 houses on the east (or odds) side. This was nearly followed (38 houses on the evens: 29 on the odds) but they are not the neat semi-detached houses on the plan! They were built at different times, in a variety of styles, some semi-detached and some detached! The wide variety of house styles gives Dorking Road a unique character.

Following the death of Frederick Castle in 1897, 19 plots of land on the odds side were left to his wife, Kate Castle. Houses had been built on only 3 of these plots.

In 1928, the empty plots of land were sold by Frederick Arthur Sinden, son of Kate Castle, to William, Frederick and Alfred Huggett. The Huggetts built the semi-detached houses 15 and 17 Dorking Road and sold number 15 to Mr William Lloyd in 1930.



The covenants relating to the sale of the land in July 1888 state that the purchaser should build a brick wall along the eastern boundary of the land within 12 months. The specification is that the wall should be at least 7 feet in height with 14 inch piers. The wall forms the boundary between the odd numbers in Dorking Road and the Park and stood for over 100 years!

More recently, several sections collapsed and the rest needed maintenance, leading to the work that started at the end of January. This was much more complicated than was anticipated, and a lot of hard work went into restoring the wall, so it can stand the test of time again!

The Solitary Gate

Many of you may have noticed the single gate (now with buttresses) in the boundary wall and wondered why only this property should have access to the Park.

15 Dorking Road is the lucky property and belonged to William A. Lloyd from 1930 until his death in 1979. Mr Lloyd joined the Tunbridge Wells Corporation Water Department in 1917, and was Water Distribution Superintendent for Tunbridge Wells and District from 1938 until his retirement in 1962. Whenever the fire brigade were called out, he or his deputy had to attend.

His children have vivid memories of the fire bell mounted above the stairs, which went off whenever the fire brigade went out! Attempts were made to muffle it during the night, but not very successfully! The bell was loud so Mr Lloyd could hear it from his allotment on the other side of the wall.

He got to his allotment by climbing one ladder from the garden, walking along the top of the wall, then going down another ladder. This was precarious and once the Second World War and the Blitz started, he needed a safer and quicker way back from the allotment, to reach fires caused by bombs. Tunbridge Wells was not a specific target for German bombing, but stray bombers or planes chased by the RAF caused damage. 44 bombs fell on the town one night in September 1940. Mr Lloyd had to ensure there was enough water pressure for the Fire Brigade. He was allowed to install a gate and it still remains!

Also created during the Blitz at number 15 is the air raid shelter, dug out of an existing shallow cellar by Mr Lloyd. Ray Lloyd and his sister Jenny remember nights spent sleeping down here during the war. It's currently doing duty as a wine cellar and as useful additional storage!

Along with the cellar, the gate to 15 Dorking Road remains as a reminder of World War II and the effect it had on all aspects of daily life.

Mary Hughes

Thanks to Jennie Cox and Raymond Lloyd for sharing their memories



Bats in the Park

In July, Val from the Kent Bat Group guided myself and two colleagues around Hilbert Woods as a mini training session on leading bat walks. After an initial talk about bats in general, we started our walk and immediately came across common pipistrelle. These are the commonest and smallest (3 – 8g) bat in the UK and eat tiny insects like midges. Flitting about, they were perfectly highlighted against the still darkening sky; bats generally come out for their first feed of the evening about 20 minutes after sunset.



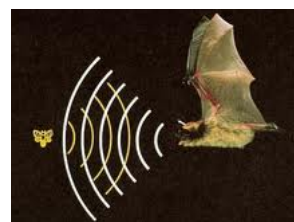
We continued our walk through the woods. Hilbert Woods are known for their insect population...perfect for bats! We stopped at every glade and walked along the woodland edge, finding common pipsitrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule.



One of our largest bats, the noctule weighs 18 – 40g and usually roosts in holes in trees, sometimes using bat boxes and buildings. Noctules often fly above tree level, diving repeatedly after insects.

Common and soprano pipistrelles were thought to be one species until the 1990s, but can be distinguished by their echolocation calls. They fly 2 – 10m above the ground, feeding in many habitats including woodland, hedgerows, farmland and urban areas, including gardens and parks. Soprano pipistrelles are bit fussier about where they feed, preferring wetter areas.

As bats search for food, they use echolocation to detect insects and obstacles; the sounds they make bounces off everything it reaches and helps the bat construct a '3D picture' of its surroundings. We used a bat detector, which amplifies the sound of the bats, in a frequency we can hear. The call of the bat is too high pitched for most of our ears, although children can often hear them.



Although we used bat detectors to find out the type of bat flying at Hilbert Woods, you don't need one! Go out at dusk and look skywards. Find a place that insects love to have a good chance of seeing bats. You will have more luck at woodland edges, hedgerows or over water, but try your garden first – you never know! Have a look at www.bats.org.uk for some really interesting information from the Bat Conservation Trust.

Sarah Tree, Partnership Officer (Greenspaces) KHWP

Sport Report

Grosvenor Bowls Club

Well there's not many matches left now in the season, then we are back to dark mornings and evenings and playing bowls indoors out of the cold.

On a positive note, the Club has had great success in the annual Tunbridge Wells tournament recently. Graham Bridges won both the singles competition and the pairs competition with Stuart Moaby. This is the second time Graham and Stuart have won the Pairs; a great achievement and we hope to retain these titles next year.



The Club has had a good season so far, with some new members joining, but with all good news there has to be some bad and we had a tough time in the Men's League this year. After winning promotion to Division 1 last season, we finished last this season and are relegated to Division 2, but the only way is up so hopefully we can get back to the top league again next season.

We recently had our annual coach trip to Hastings for fish and chips, crazy golf and of course a bowls match against Hastings Rosemont, which was a great day out! Our club finals day is on Sunday 1st September, so please come down and watch, hopefully the sun will stay out. Our practice nights are on Wednesday from 6pm, so please come down and have a go.

Stuart Moaby, Club Captain

Football

There have been some changes to the clubs playing in the Park. The bottom football pitch is no longer playable (because of the water feature!), so only the top football pitch will be used. Both teams with Hilbert as their home pitch are playing in Division 4, which could make for some interesting fixtures! The first match on 1 September sees the teams playing each other..... See www.wksl.org.uk for more information.



Athletico Allotment FC were formerly sponsored by The Black Horse on Camden Road, but are now sponsored by The Allotment pub. They will be playing in green and white hoops (similar to Celtic).

TN1 FC, formerly The Palace, are sponsored by Anthony Crossley, who runs an IT company. The team will be playing in dark blue with white trim and a Hospice in the Weald logo. They have new faces and feel that this season will be successful.

Royal Tunbridge Wells Ladies & Girls no longer play in the Park; Cadogan Playing Field, St Johns Road if you want to catch them.

Mary Hughes

Hilbert Woods draft management plan

As you walk through one of the nature reserves or green spaces of Tunbridge Wells, you may wonder who decides what, when and how work needs doing. Mostly, it will be as the result of a management plan. As Greenspaces Officer at Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP), one of my jobs is to write and implement the management plan for Hilbert Woods. Here's how...



One of the first steps is to decide the focus; at sites managed by KHWP the broad brush strokes are wildlife and community. The reserve is split up into general habitat types with accepted practices of management. Examples at Hilbert Woods are wood pasture, woodland edge, chalybeate stream and hazel coppice. As a result of the HLF bid, there have been several surveys of the Park. The results have been combined with existing data including flora, fauna, archaeology, hydrology, visitor and volunteer information. All this helps in the decision making process of how to manage the site.

Standard habitat management is adapted depending on any special species present on your site. Hilbert has a spectacular number of insects due to the amount of wet decaying wood, and one objective is to create a careful balance of shade and light to stop boggy areas from drying out too much. After deciding the objectives and how to reach them, you draw up a table of activities and list when and how often they should be performed. This table covers the lifetime of the plan, which at Hilbert Woods is 5 years. This is a good length of time to evaluate your management and see if you need to make any changes.

The management plan for Hilbert Woods expires this year and the new draft plan is well underway.

Sarah Tree, Partnership Officer (Greenspaces) KHWP

View from the Allotment

Despite the spring freeze, mother nature has done her stuff and crops are abundant. They may have started late, but with water and sun they fulfilled their promise and we have a glut of lettuce, beans and courgettes, with Elephant garlic drying in our conservatory.



Our patch is a good 200 meters from the nearest water butt, and thanks to some mindless idiot, our 1200 litre tank was emptied one night. So most mornings, at about 7am, you will see a couple of geriatrics slogging up and down the hill with 10 litres (10 kilos) of water in each hand. We need about 80 litres a day and it is hard work.

Do we love or hate it? We love the food and persuade ourselves that the work is healthy. Maybe we should remember that Benedictine monks used to say "Laborare est Orare" (to work is to pray)...

Now that is a good motto.

Alastair Melville

Dogs in the Park

Scamp is my dog and best friend. He is a rescue dog from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home (they called him Bow Wow!)



As to what type of dog he is, no-one really knows, but there is almost certainly Terrier in him. I do not know how old he is, but he may be about 5.

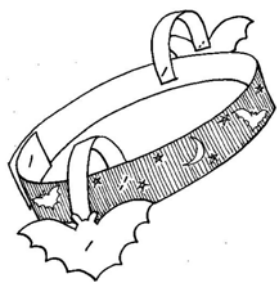
When we first met, he was very shy, timid and lacked confidence. However, he soon realised that his life had changed for the better and I have been thanked by him many times by his devotion.

Scamp is an intelligent dog, much admired and loved. He obeys most command (except 'drop the ball'), he doesn't steal, chew things or get into fights.

I have taught him to collect my post; he runs downstairs, collects an envelope, races back up, drops it, un-chewed, at my feet, before going for the next! He is a smashing little dog and I love him to bits.

Gordon McKee

Children's Activity



There's a lot about bats in this edition and Halloween will be here soon, so why not make a **Bat Hat!**

You will need:

- one piece of card or stiff paper 65 cm long, 3 cm wide
- two pieces of paper 30cm. long, 1cm. wide
- two paper bats, cut out & coloured, or in black paper

Decorate the wide band and staple it to fit your head.

Staple the bats to one end of the shorter pieces of paper, then staple the other end to the head band.



Bat image for you to copy

You could have more bats, or one bat and one insect.

Have a hat competition among your friends. Who can make the best bat hat?

With thanks to the Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Heritage Open Day St Barnabas Church..... Saturday 14th September 10 - 6pm
Sunday 15th September 1 - 5pm

Extensive exhibitions on the history of the church, parish, school & the town in general. FoGH display.
 Tours of church & mortuary chapel .1911 Parish Census on display
 Tea & Cakes in the vestry



Heritage Open Day walk.....Sunday September 15th 2.30 - 4pm

A walk through the Park led by Dr Ian Beavis.
 Explore the origins, history & natural features of the Park
 Meet at the Hilbert Road gates TN2 3SE
 Booking recommended by email editors@fogh.org.uk



Bird, Bat & Bug House Building..... Saturday 19th October 10am – 1pm

Bowls Pavilion
 Drop-in bird box, bat box & bug hotel building event
 Join FoGH & KHWP to make homes for our wildlife to put up in the Park



Create a Woodland Pasture.....Wednesday 23rd October 10am

Kent High Weald Partnership volunteer day
 Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action
 We will be tree thinning & grass cutting in Appledore Wood
 Wear appropriate clothing & footwear.



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

Bowls Pavilion
 Bring your children along to have fun for Halloween!
 Face painting, art & craft activities. Come in fancy dress.
 Try our spooky Halloween snacks!



The Crimean War & The Balaklava Chargers.....Wednesday 13th November 7.30pm

St Barnabas School Hall, Quarry Road
 Talk by local military historian Mike Hinton about the Crimean War
 One of the Chargers lived in Rochdale Road, right by the Park gates!
 Refreshments available for a small fee



Wild Around the Edges.....Thursday 21st November 10am

KHWP volunteer day
 Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action
 clearing scrub from flower-rich grassland at the woodland edges
 Wear appropriate clothing & footwear.



Watch out for posters or further details on our website www.fogh.org.uk
 Facebook www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert or Twitter twitter.com/FofGH

FoGH Contact Details

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 Jane Melville (Secretary) Friendsghrp@aol.com
 Website www.FoGH.org.uk
 Facebook www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert
 Twitter twitter.com/FofGH

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.

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editors@FoGH.org.uk
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 Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN

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 Barnet, Sarah Bond, Jo Cartwright, Carolyn T Gray, Chris Hughes, Gordon McKee & Daniel Marsh,