



Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (FoGH)

Newsletter 10 Spring 2014



picture courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum

Heritage Lottery Update



Celebrating in the Park 9th January!

After what seems to be a long time, we can share the exciting news that we were successful with our Heritage Lottery bid. On January 8th, HLF announced we had been awarded £2.3 million for the refurbishment of the Park. This means we can start work to restore and enhance many of the familiar features in the Park. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped build the vision of the Park and particular thanks to the Friends group, without whom this would not be possible.



What happens next?



There will be some time before you see any of the planned work taking place on the ground, but we will be putting preparations in place with a view to starting the capital works in November. In the meantime, we will be working through the process to engage the Landscape Architect and Project Coordinator again and hopefully, they should be back on board by the end of February.



The Architects will start by working on the technical designs and preparing the tender documents. Given the value of this contract, we are required to advertise all work in the Official Journal of the European Union. The tender period for the work will be from July onwards, with the aim of starting on site at the end of October or early November. The capital works are scheduled for completion in December 2015, although as yet we have not agreed the phasing of the work.



Naturally there will be considerable disruption to the Park while work takes place, with some areas closed off. I hope you will be patient and please do contact us if you have any questions.

The format for the project will stay the same, in that we will continue with the Project Board meeting on a monthly basis. The board will be made up of members of the project team and representatives from the Friends group, along with specialists when required.

One early addition will be the appointment of the HLF Community Engagement Officer, who will deliver the Action Plan for the next five years. This post will be based in the Park working alongside the regular Sodexo staff and Kent High Weald Partnership delivering volunteer activities and developing skills. We hope you will see a new face in the Park in early March.

If you have any questions or comments about the HLF project or the Park in general, you can contact me on peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or 01892 554031 **Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC**

See page 6 for a more detailed look at the planned work

John Lewis At Home Community Matters

The Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park were fortunate to be selected as one of three community groups to share £3000 from John Lewis At Home in Tunbridge Wells. Customers decided how much each nominated group would receive by using a token to vote for their chosen organisation. FoGH was up against Headway and HiKent and we were pleased to receive over 22% of the vote, giving us a sum of £668. This will go towards making our Family Fun Day our biggest and best event yet, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Park!



16/01/2014

FoGH Treasurer John Bushell (centre) was presented with the cheque on 16th January and we are very grateful to John Lewis At Home and to everyone who voted for us.

Mary Hughes

Chairman's Letter

This year was always going to be a year of celebration for the Park, as it marks 125 years since the gift of four acres of land from Alderman Stone-Wigg was inaugurated as the Grosvenor Recreation Ground, the oldest part of the Park. We could hardly have imagined a better way of marking such a milestone than having a major refurbishment and update such as the wonderful £2.3m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery allows. It underlines the value that the Park offers and ensures its continued interest and support.



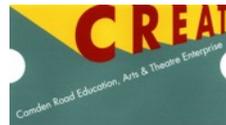
The committee has been busy working on events to celebrate the 125th anniversary, like our Family Fun Day, on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May. As before there will be games and rides for children, music, stalls from local traders and craftsmen, food stalls, our dog show and a whole variety of things to do and see.

We are also joining in with the Britain in Bloom scheme this year and want to make a difference with some ornamental planting, possibly with a '125' motive in the plan. The Park can be included in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category, which includes community participation and environmental responsibility as well as gardening achievement in the assessment. We will be holding some planting events to get things under way and it would be wonderful if as many people as possible could come and join in, both with planting and contributing ideas for planting. The heavy work of refurbishment is not expected to commence until the autumn, so there is a good opportunity to have some colourful displays throughout the year. June 29th marks the precise 125th birthday, so we are thinking about some ideas for that too. Since the Friends group formed, the response to events we have put on has been very rewarding. As ever, all these events are only made possible by the generosity of volunteers and every little bit of time helps. An hour here and there can make a huge difference to what we can all achieve together.

Liz Edwards

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise

CREATE presents:



Nose in a Book Night.....Thursday 6th March 8.30pm

At Church of Christ, Commercial Road. An informal hour of sharing & reading short pieces of writing based on a theme. Fact or fiction, prose or poetry, famous or unknown: the theme is widely applied! Theme to be announced.

Nose in a Book Night.....Thursday 3rd April 8.30pm

To be confirmed. Theme to be announced.

Sing for Your Supper.....Saturday 5th April 7.00 for 7.30pm

At Groombridge Village Hall. An evening of familiar songs, with audience participation & a ploughman's supper, in aid of Hospice in the Weald. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets £10

Bach's St Matthew Passion.....Friday 18th April 6.30pm

At Tonbridge School, with John Marshall Community Arts.

For more information & to find out about tickets, see www.boxoffice.tonbridge-school.co.uk/whats-on/music/article/date/2014/04/st-matthew-passion/

See the website www.camdenroad.org or Facebook www.facebook.com/createTW for full details of all events

At the
Bowls Pavilion

Open 7 days a
week

10:30 - 4 PM

(weather permitting)

for hot & cold drinks, light
refreshments

www.panionthepark.co.uk



Ramblings of a merry mum

Apart from the bucketfuls of rain, we have had some fine days in the Park and the weather has been fairly mild. We've all managed to get out and enjoy these cold, sunny winter's days.

The rain has changed our ramble through the Park. The football field is now off limits, as we all got far too muddy running through it. And someone left their wellington behind in the quagmire, which caused much giggling!



The festive season brought lots of friends and relatives to the house. Uncles, aunts and everyone who came over has been proudly guided round the Park by the children. There's been an excess of food (and booze for the adults) to work off, so running round the children's playground has been welcome exercise.

If you look very carefully you can just about make out the green shoots of bulbs starting to pop out from the soil, and every day is getting a little bit longer. We're now looking forward to more fun in the Park and are eagerly waiting to see just what changes will be made with the lottery money.

Emma Melville

Third Annual Carol Afternoon with CREATE

It was a dry but chilly afternoon in early December when we welcomed the CREATE choir back to the Bowls Pavilion to sing Christmas carols. They brought along song sheets for the audience to join in, and FoGH served mulled juice and mince pies. We had copies of the last newsletter and chatted to people about what was happening around the Park. There was also a lovely solo from a junior performer.



A very sociable afternoon, with many familiar faces, we'd like to thank everyone who came for their support.

Due to the proposed work schedule for the Bowls Pavilion re-vamp (part of the Heritage Lottery Fund improvements), we may be searching for a new home for the 2014 Carol Afternoon.

Carolyn T Gray

'What Next' meeting at The Allotment

Last year we held a few talks in St Barnabas School Hall, but we decided the hall was generally too big for our needs, and this year are reconvening to the pub instead! So thanks to Keith and all at The Allotment pub on St James Road, for letting us take over the conservatory on Wednesday 22nd January to chat about the Park, particularly the Heritage Lottery Fund grant.



The evening was hosted by FoGH Chairman Liz Edwards, aided by Sue Kaner and John Bushell, who have all attended the HLF Project Board meetings. We were pleased to see about forty people had come along, including our two town councillors (David Neve and Ben Chapelard), as well as Sarah Tree from KHWP.

After explaining all that has gone on, and will be going on, there were various questions and queries, which covered subjects such as preserved trees and health issues with children coming to the pond dip in open water. Also raised were concerns about lighting, the community orchard, closure times of the playground and Bowls Pavilion for work, construction traffic issues, potential to add CCTV and employing local apprentices. It was really good to see so many interested people, and to collect more feedback. It's the sort of event we will consider holding again!

Carolyn T Gray

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in the Park

In the Big Garden Birdwatch the RSPB encourages as many people as possible to spend an hour recording the number of birds in their gardens or in a local green space on a designated weekend in January. So on 26th January, a small group led by RSPB member Martin Ellis met at 9am on the Sunday morning to see what birds could be found in the Park. The heavy cloud cover made it a gloomy morning and many birds were not as active as they might have been in brighter weather. In fact, we probably heard as many species as we saw, with enthusiastic territorial singing from wrens, robins and great tits.



Nuthatches were busy investigating the crevices in the bark of the oak trees and woodpeckers were heard in Folly Shaw. A few greenfinches were on the wing and we listened to the soft piping of a small group of bullfinches foraging in the shrubby areas. There were the usual blackbirds, starlings, blue tits, wood pigeons, collared doves, carrion crows and a singleton mistle thrush flying by. It was a quiet morning for the birds and by the time our hour was up, the predicted rain had begun to settle in for the day.

Liz Edwards

Benefits of FoGH Membership

First, I wish to thank all the members of FoGH for their support and encouragement over the past two years. Without you, we could not have staged events in the Park and assisted the TWBC Parks Department in formulating the successful bid for a Heritage Lottery Grant (HLF). With the feedback from members and the close working relationship developed with the Parks Department, we have ensured that the HLF plans are in broad agreement with members' wishes. We attend Project Board meetings and see that the project proceeds as planned, in liaison with members as necessary. I am sometimes asked by members, usually on renewing their subscription, "what do I get for my £5?" Well, here is a very tangible benefit. The plans for the Park moved from initial concept to the current status because of feedback about the views and needs of Park users, which you, the FoGH members, gave us.



I should also mention the newsletter, website, lectures, walks, events, the annual Family Fun Day and the ability to fast-track concerns to the relevant authority, which come as a by-product of being a member. There is, of course, also the social side of the get-togethers like the Members BBQ.

We need your continued support and would ask you to encourage your neighbours and local friends to also support us, by becoming members and making their views known. We are listened to and we do make things happen! **John Bushell, Treasurer**

Family Fun Day

We are pleased to announce our 3rd Family Fun Day, which will be held in the Park on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May. Watch out for posters and flyers nearer the time with full details, but these are our plans so far.



2014 marks 125 years since Grosvenor Recreation Ground opened, so please come along in Victorian fancy dress to help us celebrate. We are currently looking at Victorian style attractions to entertain you.

The following regular items are confirmed: the Dog Show, live music from local acts, a beer tent and various food stalls, CREATE choir, tombola, Serv Kent Blood runners and their motorbikes, and a revamp for the railway bridge mural.

With an increase in activities three things are very important:

1 – We really need as many volunteers as possible. You only need to give us an hour of your day. It can be at 8am when we start laying out the field, during the day marshalling at the gates, or in the evening as we tidy up. Be assured we are finished by 8pm – as legally we can't tidy up after dark! For those of us that give up the full 12 hours to run the day, your one hour will be ETERNALLY appreciated. During that time, you'll meet lots of other locals, and wear a nice High Vis jacket.



2 – If you can't spare time, we are still looking for funding. We are very fortunate to have our £1,000 from The Courier Heart of the Community award, and £668 from John Lewis At Home Community Matters, but if your business would like to sponsor us, we'd welcome any more help to make it a super day.

3 – Come and have fun!

If you would like to help steward, book a stall, donate or sponsor: please contact the Secretary at 41, Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2NS or on Friendsghrp@aol.com

Carolyn T Gray

Britain in Bloom – RHS It's Your Neighbourhood scheme

The Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park have joined the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) scheme, an opportunity for smaller, volunteer-led community groups to get involved with Britain in Bloom. Groups are not judged, but visited by 'in Bloom' expert assessors, who give feedback and encouragement and issue a certificate based on how well the IYN aims are met.



Our scheme is to brighten up the Bowls Pavilion area and FoGH will provide the basic equipment (pots, planters, compost, seeds and plants). The community involvement starts at the Easter Eggstravaganza on 20th April, with children planting sunflowers seeds in pots, to be planted in the Park near the Bowls Pavilion when they are larger. At Plant and Play on Saturday 24th May, we invite the community to plant window box planters for the railings around the Bowling Green, as well as other types of planter. Children's Activities are included!

Come along and get involved!

Winter Storms



A first hand storm damage report came from Clifford Gray, who walked back through the Park late at night during Dec 23rd/24th. He dodged round one fallen tree on the cycle path from the zigzag railway bridge to the Auckland Road gates. It was a calm, sunny afternoon on Christmas Day, so we walked around the Park, finding several trees in different places blocking the footpaths (later cleared by Kent High Weald Partnership). It was reassuring to see the



'ghost tree' (the dead tree in the wetland) and the three mighty oaks still in place though. Water levels were high, and we realised it was definitely the end of the repairs to the 'pallet' bridge over the chalybeate spring, near the electricity substation. Very high water here meant the bridge was almost submerged, so we walked through Connaught Park estate and back into the Park over the new bridge.

Good news about the 'pallet' bridge: a temporary replacement will be built by KHWP volunteers on 26th February. After the 'What Next' meeting at The Allotment, Sarah Tree



from KHWP got agreement from Peter Every of TWBC Parks Department for the work. A new, permanent bridge is part of the HLF work.

Allotment holders also suffered damage to sheds and greenhouses as the strong winds passed through. More of the house Packs in the Woods is visible, as a large oak is down on the allotments, damaging sheds and flattening crops. A ornamental conifer fell in the bed next to the former park-keepers house.



A shame to lose trees, but Mother Nature knows what she is up to!

Carolyn T Gray

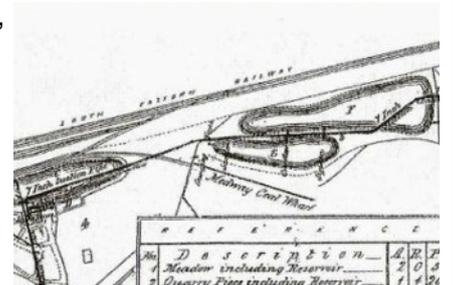
Water, water everywhere...

The extreme weather over the Christmas and New Year period helped to show all the sources of water around Grosvenor and Hilbert Park, with the 'Dripping Wells' (or grottoes) dripping incredibly well. We are really pleased that some of the HLF grant will go towards preserving the Park's watery heritage. The Dripping Wells were a water feature designed by Robert Marnock for the Park when it was opened 125 years ago in 1889. The water had been there for a long time before.... as the Jackswood Spring.



This was tapped in the 1840s by John Ward to create reservoirs, which supplied water to the new houses of Calverley Park. A map of 1849 shows The Calverley Stone Quarries, either side of 'Quarry Road', and next to them two reservoirs for the Calverley Waterworks. One reservoir was located where the new flats are now built in Medway Road, on the other side of Grosvenor Bridge. The other was where the current lake is in the Park. The water was pumped along Beulah Road, then called Hydraulic Road, to a reservoir in what is now the grounds of St James's School, on what was then called Calverley Plain.

This is the era the railway arrived in Tunbridge Wells, and the first station was here - 'Jackswood Station' - before the tunnel was made to the current 'Tunbridge Wells' station. The area developed as the Goods Station, including the Medway Coal Wharf (the council depot was built on the site, now new flats). A map of the Water works in 1857 shows a third reservoir where the swimming pool eventually was - now the area of the children's playground and hard courts. In 1865, the Local Board bought out the Private Water Company and the reservoir was turned into a swimming pool, as a new reservoir was built at Pembury.



"The Tunbridge Wells Gazette" of Friday 26th June, 1874, 140 years ago, has a report about 'The Bathing Season' and 'Open Air Swimming Baths'. This was fifteen years before Grosvenor was established as a proper public Park, with the landscaping features by Robert Marnock. The report implies that the Bathing Association are no longer in charge. Mention is made of how "winding paths flanked with rose trees, rhododendrons, &c., have taken the place of brambles and other productions peculiar to nature running wild, in fact a greater contrast could hardly be imagined, taking into consideration the nature of the ground." It's interesting to think how the area was as it evolved from countryside, to reservoirs, to baths, to a proper Park.

In 1874, the swimming pool was well established and "The depth of the bath is varied, so that the timid beginner may indulge in a "wetting," while the fearless diver may perform his varied feats to his heart's content." According to Peltons guide of 1912, the depth varied from 3 – 10 feet and the pool was about 300 feet long. The bath was supposed to be the largest and finest in the kingdom, and the water flowed constantly through it from the spring (at the westerly shallow end) and out an overflow pipe at the deep end. There were also two spring diving boards, and many changing rooms.



Courtesy of Tunbridge Wells museum

The 26th June 1874 Gazette praises Mr Adie, the lessee, and Professor Luker, the swimming master (more about the Professor in a future newsletter). "We cannot help complimenting Mr. Adie, the lessee, upon the admirable changes he has effected, in making the place not only attractive to bathers but also to the public generally as a promenade and lounge, among the pleasant walks and shrubberies, with seats and shelter from sun and rain judiciously provided."

The swimming pool remained when Grosvenor Recreation Ground opened in 1889, and carried on being used after the Monson Road indoor baths opened. A possible polio infection in 1948 saw the baths closed as a health hazard, and they were filled and levelled in 1954. The most common memories people have of the baths are dirt from the steam trains, as well as frogs and newts living in the water!

Sadly, some may think, there is no Heritage Lottery plan to reinstate the swimming pool and sunbathing area.

Carolyn T Gray

Thanks to Geoff Copus and J Kempster & Sons, Albion Road, for highlighting the newspaper cutting during the 2013 Heritage Open Days at St Barnabas Church.

Also see http://allabouttunbridgewells.com/Page_3.html



Heritage Lottery Fund Improvements

Now we can look forward to work starting later this year on the HLF refurbishment and enhancement of the Park, it seems a good time to have another look at the plans.



Lake Area

- The Lake: dredged & restored, with oxygenation pads to improve water quality
- Repairs to brick edging & refurbishment of retaining walls & steps
- Dripping Wells: restored stonework & water flow, with fernery planting as originally
- New planting in Lake area, in the style of Robert Marnock, with historic pathway views reinstated



Children's Play Areas

- Toddlers play area with grass mounds & timber play equipment
- 'Race Track' theme for existing cycle track, with chicanes and a pit stop
- 'Fantasy Play' area, with existing Fort & mound, & new wrecked timber pirate ship
- 'Challenge Play' area, with existing zip cord, new timber climbing frame, slides & swinging baskets.
- If that's not enough, a musical avenue & 'Enchanted Forest'!
- New seating areas, including the relocated timber shelter.

Teenage Zone • Parkour area by skate park: balancing & interaction structures

Pavilion

- Create a 'Hub' by enlarging the existing Bowls Pavilion
- Indoor seating for the café
- Refurbished toilets & new changing rooms
- New toilet with baby changing facilities



Paths and Entrances



- Paths & entrances improved throughout the Park
- Permanent replacement for the 'pallet' bridge
- Rochdale Road entrance reopened: electrical substation moved
- Upper Grosvenor Road entrance made more welcoming
- New lighting, steps & regraded access ramp at zigzag railway bridge
- George V gates at the Hilbert Road entrance restored & repaired



Wetland Area

- The shape will resemble the original Lower Lakes
- Boardwalk & timber viewing/dipping platforms
- Marginal aquatic planting & some specimen trees added

Local Nature Reserve

- Will continue to be managed by Kent High Weald Partnership
- Maintain & enhance woodland habitat for invertebrates
- Keep the freshwater streams in their natural state
- Encourage community involvement in the site



Community Orchard

- Near Roundabout Woods beyond the top football pitch
- Individuals & organisations can sponsor trees & take part in their maintenance

Mary Hughes

Sport Report Football

Unfortunately, there is not much to report as virtually all matches in the West Kent Sunday Football League have been called off in 2014, due to waterlogged pitches! Athleticco Allotment and TN1 FC have not played since Christmas, but here is the Division Four table. (See www.wksl.org.uk)

West Kent Sunday League Division Four including Sunday 9th February

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Tonbridge Six in One Res	10	8	0	2	44	19	25	24
2	Brown Trout	10	7	0	3	37	25	12	21
3	King William IV	10	6	0	4	51	21	30	18
4	The Boars	8	5	1	2	34	23	11	16
5	Cassidy's Phoenix	7	4	0	3	22	21	1	12
6	Langton Green	10	3	1	6	23	37	-14	10
7	TN1 FC	9	2	3	4	22	36	-14	9
8	Green Lane Reserves	7	2	2	3	15	29	-14	8
9	Royal Oak	6	2	0	4	16	27	-11	6
10	Athletico Allotment	9	0	1	8	10	36	-26	1

Athletico Allotment (playing in green and white hoops) continue to prop up the table, with just one point from their first league match. They did get through to the 2nd round of the Intermediate Cup, but lost 9 – 2 to Royal Oak.

TN1 FC (navy blue with a white trim) are doing slightly better, with a 3 – 1 victory at Tonbridge Six in One Reserves in November, but lost the next two games. We can only hope that there is some letup in the weather, so the football season can resume!

Mary Hughes

Work on the Electricity Substation by the Park

In early December, the first of two new transformers was delivered to the substation near the zigzag railway bridge. The transformers are 'large pieces of equipment designed to step down the power which enters a substation. They are being fitted at the site as part of a £5.2 million investment project to meet growing demand'. The photograph to the right shows the substation from the railway bridge.



'The 34-tonne transformer, crane and other equipment was delivered across the main Hastings to Charing Cross railway line' (from Upper Grosvenor Road) 'on consecutive nights, while trains were not operating. A second transformer will be delivered to the substation in February, then further work will take place inside the site to test, connect and make the equipment live.'

'The substation in Tunbridge Wells receives electricity at 132,000 volts and converts it to 33,000 and 11,000 volts for distribution across the area. Both deliveries are part of the ongoing refurbishment of the substation in Tunbridge Wells which serves a large area. The projects started in 2010 and will continue until 2016.'



Local residents may remember the controversy in 2006, when it was proposed that a permanent road should be built through the Park to deliver new transformers to the substation. Concerted pressure was put on the council and EDF to find an alternative. People power won the day!

Mary Hughes

information from UK Power Networks press release 6 December 2013

View from the Allotment



This is an important time for allotment holders.

Despite the fact only a few crops are in the ground, beds have to be dug or forked and weeds removed. Ideally, the soil should be left in clods to

be broken down by the winter frosts. But this year, instead of frosts we have had relentless rain. Beds have been flattened down and by late January there had still been no change in the weather.

Conditions normally even themselves out so it could well be that there is a drought in February and March, allowing new potatoes to be planted earlier than usual and the first new potatoes to be tasted in late May. I personally love the taste of Maris Bard. We usually plant 5 or 6 varieties of potatoes to cover early and main crop, but sadly last year we had a poor crop on our double allotment.

Harvesting now are leeks, Jerusalem Artichokes, Swiss chard, Perpetual Spinach and soon to pick, Purple Sprouting Broccoli.

Guy Faulkner

Dogs in the Park

Nuala is a pedigree Wheaten Terrier but after winning 'Scruffiest Dog' at the last FOGH Dog show, she may be a disgrace to her breed!



She behaves like a cat at home: she loves being stroked and tries to climb into our laps and curl up, though she is Labrador-size. She is often found lying on her back, paws in the air, waiting for a tummy rub!

But outside, Nuala is all Terrier and loves to chase things, running full speed down into the orange muddy wetland area of the Park. She runs about getting muddier and muddier, totally focused on the birds she's chasing but never catches, completely oblivious to anyone else!

Nuala wanders slowly through the woods scanning for squirrels, stopping often to drink from puddles, sniff and look around. In the blink of an eye she's gone into the trees, reappearing later somewhere completely different. It's impossible to take her for a 'quick walk'!!

Jacquie Sykes

Children's Activity

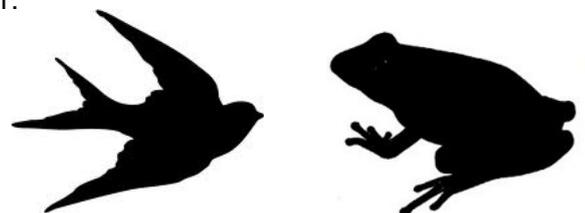
In Victorian times, when the Park began 125 years ago in 1889, silhouette portraits were popular. They cost less than photographs, which were a new invention. The dark image is usually shown on a light background, like the example on the right.



To make your own silhouette, you will need white and black paper, scissors, glue and a pencil. Choose something to make into a silhouette: use books, photographs or magazines for inspiration. For a traditional silhouette, try a profile photo of a family member.

Here's how to do it:

1. Draw or trace the outline carefully onto white paper
2. Cut it out and place it flat on to black paper
3. Draw around the edge onto the black paper, then cut it out
4. Stick the black shape onto white paper with glue



Here are some examples of creatures you may see in the Park: try drawing one of those!

Dates for your Diary

Chop Chop.....Saturday 15th March 10am – 3pm

Kent High Weald Partnership volunteer day

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action
Thinning trees & tackling brambles to let light onto the woodland floor
Wear appropriate clothing & footwear.



Easter Sunday Sunrise Celebration.....Easter Sunday April 20th 8am

Meet at the Auckland Road gates for a 30 – 45 minute service
Followed by a cooked breakfast at Church of Christ, Commercial Road
www.twchurchofchrist.wordpress.com



Easter Eggstravaganza!.....Easter Sunday April 20th 2 – 4pm

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance
Best-Dressed Egg & Egg Rolling Competitions
To join in, hard boil 2 eggs, decorate & dress one of them
We will also sow sunflower seeds to plant in the Park for Britain in Bloom



Family Fun Day.....Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 11am – 6pm

Come to our 125th Birthday Party
Please dress as a Victorian to help us celebrate.
Lots of attractions this year, starting with the Dog Show at 11am.
For further details, please contact any of us in the panel below.



FoGH Annual General Meeting.....Saturday 17th May 10.30am

At St Barnabas School Hall, Quarry Road
This is your chance to help shape the future of the Friends group
Only paid up members can vote; please contact the Secretary (details below).



Plant & Play for Britain in BloomSaturday 24th May 2 – 4pm

Let's brighten up the Bowls Pavilion area!
We are joining the *RHS It's Your Neighbourhood* campaign
Come along to help us plant, with activities for children
Tools, plants & equipment provided: wear appropriate clothing & footwear



Himalayan Horror.....Wednesday 28th May 10am – 3pm

KHWP volunteer day

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a day of practical action
Removing invasive Himalayan balsam before it shades our native wildflowers
Wear appropriate clothing & footwear.



KHWP Volunteer Special.....Thursday 5th June 10am – 3pm

Meet at the Hilbert Road entrance for a 'Have A Go' day
Featuring various tasks in the Reserve, with a free BBQ!
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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To join, contact the Secretary on Friendsghrp@aol.com
or at 41, Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2NS

The Editors (Carolyn T 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 Barnet, Carolyn T Gray, Chris Hughes, Jane Melville, Vikki Osborne, Jacque Sykes,