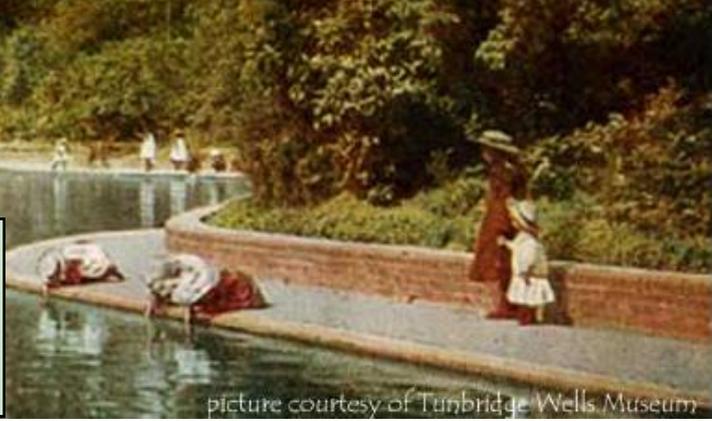


Friends of Grosvenor & Hilbert Park (FoGH)



Newsletter 14 Spring 2015



picture courtesy of Tunbridge Wells Museum

Community Orchard Planting Day

Saturday 21st February saw the first phase of community planting take place in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park's newly established orchard. Despite the early snowfall and the bitter cold, enthusiastic sponsors gathered to plant their trees. A selection of species and varieties had been chosen, with the emphasis on disease resistance and suitability for use in a



Unloading the trees

community orchard, as well as flavour. Apples (both eating and cooking), pears, plums and cherries were sourced from carefully chosen

and recommended suppliers Frank P Matthews and Brogdale (holders of the National Fruit Collection). The planting was carried out by members of the local community and was a real family affair, with children, parents and grandparents all taking part.



Olivia hands out drinks

The youngest tree planter was baby Jessica, seen here with her parents Jenny and Jonathan Heylin-Smith. Jenny commented 'We're really pleased to be given this opportunity to mark the birth of our little girl, in a Park which we are sure she will play in a lot over the coming years.' Vigorous digging helped to stave off the cold, as well as hot drinks, and 8-year-old Olivia Maltby worked hard to keep the planters well supplied with tea, coffee and hot chocolate.



Jessica with her parents



Dave & Gwen Butterworth

After each tree had been planted, the ancient blessing ceremony of wassail was performed. A song was sung to the tree and cider was poured over its roots, encouraging good growth and a good crop in Autumn. Tunbridge Wells Town Crier John Scholey was in fine voice to bless his tree, joined by three generations of his family. We look forward to seeing (and hearing) John at our Family Fun Day in his Town Crier uniform!



John Scholey & his family

Jane Dey, another local resident, said "It was a wonderful morning with such great community spirit in evidence. Thank you to the FOGH committee stalwarts who worked so hard to make it all happen, and who were on hand with advice and help".



Jane Dey



The Saunders with their tree



The Jarrett family



The Bell family plant their tree

The event was organised by the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park and Cally Fiddimore, Community Engagement Officer for the Park. The community orchard is part of the larger £2.3 million Heritage and Big Lottery funded park regeneration project. Sincere thanks to Cally, the Orchard Committee, to Roger and Celia Worraker from Capel Community Orchard and especially to FoGH chairman Liz Edwards, who has worked tirelessly to get the orchard project up and running.



Chris Hughes

Chairman's Letter

2015 is the year when nearly all of the refurbishment work funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery will take place. During the last three months there have been visible signs of the work gaining momentum. As more of the work gets under way, there should be plenty of activity in the areas around the Rochdale Road entrance, Pavilion, playground, Oast House, wetlands and the pathways through the Park. One of the final designs to be completed will be the new boardwalk through the wetlands, which will take place later in the winter to minimise the impact on the wildlife in this particular habitat.



We have had brilliant teams of volunteers, led by both Cally Fiddimore and Kent High Weald Partnership. They have already done terrific work on clearing up, coppicing, woodland boardwalk repair and preparation work for the contractors, which makes a real difference to how far the lottery money will stretch. I am really looking forward to seeing how the bulbs and wildflowers come through in the places where they have been planted and seeded. They have also helped us prepare the community orchard site, which has just been successfully planted with great enthusiasm by 25 sponsors on a splendid morning of activity. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has given their time so generously.

Planning for the Family Fun Day on Monday 4th May is already well under way. It has been a great success in previous years and the requests for us to organise it again have been very compelling. A similar array of stalls, entertainments and refreshments are being woven into this year's plans. Not all of the Park will be available due to the regeneration work and ongoing repairs on the culvert in Hilbert Woods, so please be patient with the restrictions on how we can use the space. Despite these concerns, we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on the day. The Family Fun Day is the major annual event in the Park and shows how important the space is to the surrounding community.

Liz Edwards

Camden Road Education, Arts & Theatre Enterprise

CREATE presents:

Cartoon de Salvo.....Friday 13th March 7.00pm

St Barnabas School Hall. Story-telling – including a little audience participation

Tale of the Pig.....Friday 17th April 7.00pm

St Barnabas School Hall. Romanian fairy tale meets pantomime... and more

The Boy Who Bit Picasso.....Monday 27th April 7.00 pm

St Barnabas School Hall. An interactive theatre show for everyone aged four to eight and their families.

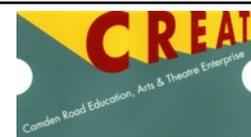
CREATE Community Choir.....Rehearsals on Thursdays at 7.15pm

Church of Christ, Commercial Road. A FUN informal choir if you enjoy singing: no auditions: turn up & join in!

Nose in a Book Night.....First Thursday of every month 8.30pm

Church of Christ, Commercial Road. An informal hour sharing & reading short pieces of writing on a theme.

For full details see the CREATE website www.camdenroad.org & Facebook www.facebook.com/createTW



Update from the Parks Department

Heritage Lottery Funded Regeneration Regular visitors to the Park will have noticed a considerable amount of work starting to take place. This forms the advanced preparation for the main landscape contract due to start in June. Please see the detailed update on page 6.

Once work starts on the Pavilion in early March, it will be screened off, but access to the play area and the path to Grosvenor Bridge will be maintained. Please take care as there will be large vehicles delivering materials. We will try to keep the toilets open as long as we can, but they will be closed during the building works. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide temporary toilets due to maintenance and hire costs.

I'm afraid this year means a considerable amount of disruption in the Park, as areas will be closed off as contractors carry out the refurbishment work. We have placed notices around the Park giving information about the works, so please take time to have a look. Please be patient as it will be worth it in the end.

Sodexo have appointed a new supervisor and we welcome Tony Reed, who will be responsible for the direct supervision of the staff. He has plenty of experience in the amenity sector and a background in sports turf. We have recently had a number of complaints about increased dog fouling around the Park. The majority of our dog walkers are responsible and clean up after their dog, but please encourage others to pick up. To help with this, we are changing the design of the dog bag dispensers to stop bags breaking off inside the machine.

Hilbert Culvert Works The bank stabilisation work is nearing completion, although during the repair work some additional work became apparent, including replacement of the culvert itself. Engineers advised the work should be carried out as soon as possible to ensure the area is safe. This means the project taking longer than anticipated and the contractors may be on site until the end of April.

As always if you have any questions or comments about the Park please get in touch on 01892 554031 or peter.every@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Peter Every - Parks & Sports Team Leader TWBC



Christmas Carols

Sunday 14th December 2014 saw our fourth carol singing event with the CREATE choir. We knew in the autumn that the Pavilion would be closed, so FoGH asked Teresa at The Black Horse in Camden Road if we could hold the event at the pub. Fortunately, the weather was dry, so the choir sang in the garden, with mulled wine and mince pies inside.

Diesel



A variety of ages came along to watch, including Diesel the dog, and it was a friendly Christmas get-together. We have our fingers crossed for a dry day in 2015, so we can have our first carols in the refurbished pavilion. **Carolyn T Gray**



Creating a Community Orchard

On January 28th, Friends group members and orchard sponsors met at the Church of Christ on Commercial Road to hear Roger and Celia Worraker tell the story of the development of Capel Community Orchard.

In 2011, the village of Five Oak Green won a Silver Gilt medal in the RHS *In Your Neighbourhood* Britain in Bloom competition. How to follow this? Celia had a 'Eureka' moment on the way home from the award ceremony and suggested planting a community orchard. This was enthusiastically received and a suitable piece of land was identified.



Capel Community Orchard 2014

As a former lecturer in fruit cultivation at Hadlow College, Roger was the ideal person to identify the best tree varieties and source the best trees.

Most of the trees were planted in February 2012, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Sponsors from the village included local groups like the Scouts, Guides and Women's Institute, as well as local families and schools. The trees have grown on well and plenty of fruit was picked in 2014. Roger answered questions and gave us tips on the best ways to plant and manage a community orchard of this nature. Sincere thanks to Roger and Celia taking the time to share their inspiring story and expertise. **Mary Hughes**

FoGH chairman Liz Edwards welcomes us



Looking Ahead to Family Fun Day – Monday 4th May 2015

We have just started planning our fourth Family Fun Day. By May, work will be well underway with the Heritage Lottery funded renovations and the Pavilion will be closed. So we are very glad of the quite dry winter, which means the lower playing field is relatively dry at the moment, compared to last year. The current plan is to use the lower field and to extend up towards the top pitch and skate park, with the donkey rides near the Auckland Road entrance again.



The day will start at 10.30am with the dog show on the upper football pitch and the rest of the entertainment from noon onwards. Once again, we are asking for donations of tombola prizes, home-made cakes, for sponsorship and for volunteers to help on the day. You can help with setting up, stewarding, on a stall or tidying at the end of the day and even half an hour is useful! Please let us know on events@fogh.org.uk if there is any way you can help. Keep an eye out nearer the time for posters with full details on. **Carolyn T Gray**

Love Parks

FoGH have joined in with Love Parks Week for the past two years and are pleased to see LPW change to supporting parks all year and not just for one week of events in the summer! They aim to raise awareness of parks and green spaces and hope that if all park users join together, we will have a stronger voice. While the week of celebration will continue each summer, the new organisation Love Parks will support Friends groups all year and highlight issues, such as under-funding in park maintenance. Their training programmes will help equip groups to face the challenges ahead. They have a useful website www.loveparks.org.uk and are supporting a petition raised by The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (www.natfedparks.org.uk) to raise political awareness of funding issues.



Another group helping to raise awareness of green issues are The Woodland Trust, who are working hard to protect woodlands and encourage people to plant native trees. Their website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk is full of useful information and, if you're ever looking for something to do outside, see their other website www.naturedetectives.org.uk. We are lucky in the Park to have our woodlands looked after by Kent High Weald Partnership, but not all woodlands receive this care, with some under threat from development and industry. **Carolyn T Gray**



Vote for us in ASDA

The Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park have been chosen to go on the Community Life board in the Tunbridge Wells Asda in March and April, to help with the Family Fun Day. The "Chosen by You Given by Us" scheme is part of the Asda Foundation, improving life for people and communities in the UK. Customers vote for their choice of three local charities/community groups by dropping a green token into a box.

Please put your green tokens in the FoGH box, to make our fourth Family Fun Day memorable!

Community Engagement Officer Update (or 'Cally's Catch-up')

It's exciting to see things finally starting to happen in the Park. This year the lottery works become a reality and there will be plenty going on and lots of workers coming and going. I am in the Park fairly regularly, so please feel free to come and talk to me if you have any questions or concerns about the work.



Welding new ramps at the skate park

It was great to see Gravity Skateparks turn up to do the long awaited skate park refurbishments. As I write this, the majority of work is completed, but they will be returning to finish off the repairs to the existing ramps and ground.

Volunteering is going well in the Park, with a regular troop turning up on Thursdays and odd Saturdays,

plus new faces appearing frequently. We often team up with the Kent High Weald Partnership and, whatever the weather, there is fun to be had, tea to be drunk and work to be done. Volunteers have helped with the orchard, events, conservation, publicity, park maintenance, and more. We enjoyed a particularly chilly Saturday morning in January planting a hedge around the new power station fence.



Winter pruning course

If you are interested in doing some volunteering, please do get in touch. We are very welcoming and it is very flexible, with no regular commitment needed. You can find the latest volunteer programme on the noticeboards. There are also regular training opportunities available for our volunteers. We had a winter pruning course in February and there will be a coppicing course in April.

As part of my educational role, Oakley School students come out every term time Friday for work experience to help ready them for their steps after school. They do a great job helping to tidy up the Park and have "enjoyed" doing scrub

clearance, bulb planting, gardening, litter picking and much more. If you are in the Park during the day on a Friday you would be hard pressed not to hear or see them!

Winter has been a bit quieter for events in the Park owing to the weather, but a few hardy souls did come out for our Woodland Adventure Day just before Christmas. We warmed ourselves by a campfire with marshmallows, between bouts of shelter building, fire lighting, reindeer making and animal track hunting.

Our Community Orchard events have also been hugely successful as you can see on the front page. I am delighted that we have the orchard as it will make a fantastic resource for fun events, education and a welcome and pleasant space to relax



It's a reindeer!

We are now in the process of planning the interpretation for the Park and I am looking for stories about the people of the park – historical or present. If you know of any interesting people, events, or even myths about Grosvenor and Hilbert Park, I would love to hear them. Please contact me via the Friends group or on cally.fiddimore@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Cally Fiddimore

Follow me and the HLF project on Facebook "GHParkHLF" and read my blog www.ghparkhf.blogspot.com



LOTTERY FUNDED



Hedge planting by the power station fence.



Woodland Adventure Day

Ramblings of a Merry Mum

Park life is fairly subdued at this time of year, but still lots of fun. There's the occasional foray through the drizzle to feed the poor ducks. Then there's the huddling in the playground trying to shelter from the elements while entertaining the children. Then there are the muddy expeditions, where the main aim is to squelch through as much mud and make as much mess as possible. And finally there are the glorious crisp, clear, sunny days (this winter was the sunniest in the past 86 years), kitted out in hats, gloves, scarves and very warm clothes to keep out the cold.

It now feels like the worst of the winter is over, the hours of sunlight are a little longer, the crocuses are starting to surface and the Park make-over is in full swing. We can't wait to see what this year will bring. **Emma Melville**

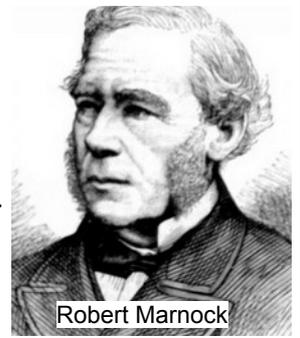


Ben & Tessa

Robert Marnock

We have written much in newsletter history about water in the Park and anyone who has our book "Grosvenor and Hilbert Park" by Philip Whitbourn and Ian Beavis will know about landscape designer Robert Marnock. In this history piece we'll try and bring you a few things you may not already know. The design of Grosvenor Recreation Ground was one of Marnock's last works; he knew Alderman John Stone-Wigg, who gave the land for the Park.

Robert Marnock was born on 23rd March 1800, as a small hamlet outside Kintore, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, called Kinnellar. He was the third of nine children, and his father Peter Marnock was a crofter. The area is typically Scottish highlands – stone, conifers and wide green spaces, an influence on Marnock's later work.



Robert Marnock



Bretton Hall

In 1825 he was working in the kitchen garden, at Bretton Hall, Yorkshire (since 1977 Yorkshire Sculpture Park: the mansion was formerly part of the University of Leeds). He was employed by Colonel Thomas Beaumont and his wife Diana Beaumont, a keen plantswoman. Marnock became head gardener and many improvements were made at Bretton. The Scottish botanist and landscape designer J. C. Loudon visited Bretton and, after Diana Beaumont's death in 1831, Loudon encouraged Marnock to move from Bretton to improve himself.

Marnock entered a competition to design Sheffield Botanical Gardens in 1834 and was taken on as the curator. He developed the garden in the Gardenesque style but Sheffield Botanical Garden had financial difficulties after opening. Marnock moved to London, and was in business as a nurseryman in Hackney before applying to design the Royal Botanic Society's garden, at the Inner Circle of Regent's Park. He was the gardens curator from 1839 to 1863, and lived with his family in Marylebone.



Sheffield Botanical Gardens



Floricultural Magazine

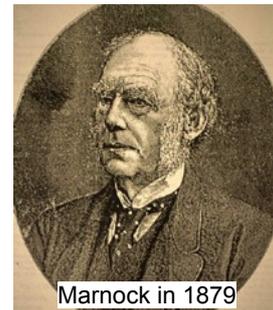
He founded the monthly 'Floricultural Magazine and Miscellany of Gardening' and edited it from 1836 to 1842. Some volumes can be read online at <https://books.google.com> and we enjoyed the 'Monthly Operations' (page 275 Volume 1) and how to grow pineapples in the 'Pine House'. From 1845 he edited the weekly 'United Gardeners and Land Stewards Journal' and he contributed to Richard Deakin's 'Florigraphia Britannica' published in 1837.

Amongst other works during the 1870s, Marnock designed the gardens at Dunorlan, then a private house, and Alexandra Park in Hastings, both of which have been restored with Heritage Lottery funding. He lived at Braeside, Rusthall (now a Bed and Breakfast) for about five years (approx 1872 -1877), extending the house and redesigning the garden. Several of his



Dunorlan Park

gardens used the artificial rock Pulhamite to create grottos, follies and ferneries.



Marnock in 1879

On 17th October 1838, Marnock married Anne Hobson, daughter of the Reverend Benjamin Hobson at the Independent Chapel, Welford. Robert and Ann had at least 5 children, 3 of whom survived until adulthood. Ann died in 1885 in Hastings from congestion of the lungs. Marnock spent his latter days with his daughters Rebecca and Anne, at Oxford and Cambridge Mansions, Marylebone, London. The three of them went on walking holidays in Scotland, and Marnock was designing gardens until the end of his life. Marnock died on 16th November 1889 in London and was cremated in Woking, with his ashes buried in his wife's grave at Kensal Green on 21st November 1889.

As a garden designer, Marnock was considered to be the best exponent of the Gardenesque style. The main characteristic of this style is trees, shrubs and plants positioned to display each plant to its full potential in scattered planting. His interpretation used carefully placed trees in open grass areas, long structured views, well-sited mounds as viewpoints, and 'natural' landscapes with flowing contours. In our Park, the landscaping of the Lake, including the Dripping Wells, the island and the curving paths, are all Marnock's original design. His work can also be seen in the sinuous paths around the wetland (formerly 2 lower lakes, filled in during 1934).



Lower lakes

During the 19th century, Robert Marnock was popular and well-respected, celebrated as an outstanding horticulturist and garden designer. An 1889 obituary described him as "a fine type of the true gardener". It's a privilege for Grosvenor and Hilbert Park to be associated with him.

Carolyn T Gray and Mary Hughes

Our great thanks to Kay Keeton, tour guide at Sheffield Botanical Gardens, for sharing her research.

Heritage Lottery Funded Regeneration Update

The Grosvenor and Hilbert Park Lottery Project is gaining momentum and reaching an exciting point, with work already beginning to make a difference.

Over the last few weeks silt has been removed from the Marnock Lake, after lowering water levels and re-homing the two large fish in the lake. Nearly 180 tonnes of silt has been removed from two thirds of the Lake and a second phase of desilting will shortly remove a further 50 tonnes. A pump system to the Grottoes will restore these historic dripping wells to their former glory. The specialist contractor is installing a pump system to circulate water around the Lake, which will maintain improved water quality.



The area by the Pavilion has also seen a transformation, with the former maintenance area cleared and opened up and trenching works for utilities. UK Power Network will move the electricity sub-station to its new location, to open up the historic Rochdale Road entrance. These advance works allow the building contractor, Bolt & Heeks, to start in early March. The Pavilion will be extended and modernised, providing improved café facilities, a community space and facilities for Grosvenor Bowls Club. The Oast House will be refurbished to provide better facilities to support events, volunteer activities and use as sports changing.

The Play and Landscape contracts are now in the process of being Tendered, so the best contractors can be appointed. The play area improvements will be completed for the summer holidays, whilst the landscape works will commence in May 2015 and continue until April 2016. Throughout this period the Park will remain open, although some areas will be temporarily closed whilst works are being carried out.

The main landscape contract includes improvements to the lower wetlands, including re-profiling this area and the creation of seasonal pools, with a boardwalk providing better access for visitors. In partnership with Bedgebury Pinetum, specimen trees will be planted on some areas of the slopes of the wetland. This will take place in Autumn 2015 to minimise the impact on wildlife. Other works include entrance improvements, footpath re-surfacing, a new bridge across the brook below the wetland area, new planting throughout the Park, including trees and shrubs and new signage and interpretation.



Once the contractors are appointed, we will be able to confirm in more detail which areas of the Park will be affected and when. Information will be made available on the noticeboards and online.

Volunteers are also helping to deliver many elements of the project. For information about how to get involved, please contact Cally Fiddimore, Community Engagement Officer on cally.fiddimore@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



allen scott LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



LOTTERY FUNDED



Adrian Spray,
Project Coordinator,
Community First
Partnership

Sport Report

Football (See www.wksl.org.uk)

Hilbert Park's football team St John's Yard play in green and white hoops and are continuing with a good run of form. Some inevitable winter postponements and the Christmas period means they have played just 6 matches since mid-November. Their only loss came on 7th December, when they were knocked out of the WKSFL Junior Cup 4 – 6 by Langton Green, who play in Division Four.

St John's Yard have an unbeaten record so far in 2015, starting with a 4-all draw at Insulators Reserves, but the following week beat Insulators 6 – 1 at Hilbert (pictured on the right). 25th January saw a home draw against Ticehurst Village Club (honours even at 2 – 2), then a successful February sees them placed at 4th in the table. A 4 – 0 victory against Hadlow United was followed by a 2 – 5 win against Tonbridge Casuals. After going 2 goals behind in the first half, St John's Yard scored 3 times in the first 6 minutes of the second half! As I write, they are currently 6th, but with 8 matches still to go, there's all to play for! Dan Hunter remains the leading goalscorer, with 24 so far.



Park users may have noticed a different team playing on the top football pitch during February: Tornados FC are temporarily playing at Hilbert instead of their usual pitch at Cadogan (off St John's Road). They seem to like it here, winning 7 – 1 against Hadlow United and 4 – 2 against The Bell Golden Green. Tornados play in blue.

If you're interested in watching some football, games start at 10:30 on Sunday mornings on the top pitch and the teams would appreciate your support!

Mary Hughes

Dogs in the Park



Bryn

This is Bryn. He is a four year old English Springer Spaniel. In this photo he is black and white, however, as a true Spaniel, he spends most of his time covered in mud, more black and brown and very wet! This is mostly due to his slight puddle/anything wet addiction. Bryn enjoys long

bike rides (because walking is far too slow) and playing with his tennis ball come rain or shine.

When Bryn was two years old, he started entering local shows and collected an array of rosettes. He has done especially well in the 'waggiest tail' classes and last year in the Dog Show at the FoGH Family Fun Day, he came second in waggiest tail.

When Bryn was three he started dog agility, but was constantly let down by his Mum who cannot remember where they are going! So Bryn started Flyball, joining the Underdogs team, and has just gained his 'Flyball Dog' certificate for 200 points!

Abbey Rance

View from the Allotment

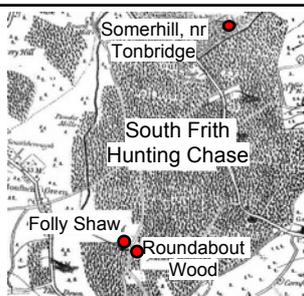
Now is the time to consider whether to keep the allotment or not, weighing up the time and effort against the produce after the hard work. It is good to get fresh vegetables and fruit, so on careful consideration, we have

decided to keep the allotment. We will major on perpetual spinach, beans, chard, squash and, to keep my brother in law Guy happy, varieties of potatoes.

Last year we grew a squash called Bon Bon: it kept really well, was very popular with all the family and a useful winter vegetable. It's good for stews, soups, risotto and roasted. The soft fruit is very welcome and when the strawberries, raspberries, red and black currants are ripe, we expect the grandchildren to visit!

At present, we have artichokes, leeks, parsnip, chard, and perpetual spinach and, amazingly, we are still eating autumn broccoli. We look forward to the purple sprouting broccoli, which we share with the pigeons!

Here's to 2015, whatever the weather! **Jane Melville**



Ancient woodland in the Park

Within the Park lies Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR), consisting of two areas of ancient woodland, Roundabout Woods (with the boardwalk) and Folly Shaw. To be classed as ancient woodland, an area must have had woodland cover since 1600. Hilbert Woods in Tudor times was part of South Frith Hunting Chase, which stretched to Tonbridge. Historic maps show the extent of the woodland and the slow change to farmland.

Remnants like Hilbert Woods were left as part of the farms, managed for their timber products. Poles from hazel coppice were used for fencing and standard oak trees for occasional major building works. Features that show the way woodland was used in past centuries, like charcoal hearths and medieval boundary banks, are preserved within ancient woodlands.



Hilbert Woods today



Fungi in Hilbert Woods

Thick layers of leaf litter build up on the woodland floor, home to many invertebrates, which are food for mini-hunters like centipedes and spiders, which are in turn eaten by birds and small mammals. Rotting tree trunks and branches are colonised by more invertebrates, living in networks of tunnels, with no sign of their presence except small surface holes. The rotting wood is decomposed by many different types of fungi, mostly unseen until they fruit.

Developing over such long timescales, ancient woodlands have unique groups of plants and animals dependent on the stable conditions. Many of the plant species don't colonise new areas easily, so are called 'indicator species' as they show that an area has always been wooded. These include bluebells, wood anemone, wood sorrel and ramsons, all found in Hilbert Woods.



English bluebell



Spanish bluebell



hybrid bluebell

You'll see these appearing in spring. Sadly, you may also see hybrid bluebells (a cross between Spanish and English bluebells), which out-compete the native species.



opposite-leaved golden saxifrage

The streams which run through both woodland areas add to the diversity of plant life, with wetland species like opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, as well as ferns and mosses. These areas of wet woodland have a vast range of insect species, including some unusual flies. Roundabout Woods has the more unusual wood horsetail and broad-leaved helleborine, a type of orchid. Moss and lichen on tree bark provide microhabitat for small invertebrates.

Woods planted today will not become ancient woods in 400 years' time, because soils have been modified by agriculture or industry. In addition, they can't be colonised by species in the same way due to fragmented modern habitats. Ancient woodland covers only around 2 per cent of the land area of the UK, and needs protection. For more information, see www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

Mary Hughes

Dates for your Diary

Community Planting Day.....Saturday 21st March 10am – 1pm

Meet by the Bowling Green to give the rose beds a makeover

Part of the *RHS It's Your Neighbourhood* campaign

Tools, plants & equipment provided: wear appropriate clothing & footwear



Round in Circles.....Wednesday 25th March 10am – 3pm

KHWP Volunteer Day: meet at the Hilbert Rd gates & dress appropriately

We'll be controlling invasive species

Also opening up the circular walk through Roundabout Wood



Easter Sunday Sunrise Celebration.....Easter Sunday 5th April 8am

Meet at the Auckland Road gates for a 30 – 45 minute service

Followed by a cooked breakfast at Church of Christ, Commercial Road



Easter Egg Hunt.....Easter Sunday 5th April 2.30 – 3.30pm

Meet at the Hilbert Road gates

Come & hunt for Easter Eggs in the Park!



Learn How to Coppice.....Thursday April 2nd 10am – 3pm

Meet at the Oast House: free training day for volunteers

Tea & coffee provided: Wear suitable clothing & bring lunch



Create a Nature Diary.....Thursday April 9th 10am – 3pm

BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Cally Fiddimore on 07917 643961

Using Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve as Inspiration



Family Volunteer Day.....Thursday 16th April 10am – 1pm

Meet at the Oast House & wear appropriate clothing & footwear

We will build a hibernaculum & there will be froggy fun for the kids



Bird Walk.....Sunday April 26th 8 – 10am

Join us for a bird walk & survey in the Park & Local Nature Reserve

Learn some survey skills or just come along for the walk



Family Fun Day.....Monday 4th May 12pm – 6pm

Lots of attractions this year, starting with the Dog Show at 10.30am

The event will be opened at 12.15pm by Mayor Julian Stanyer,

as well as the Town Crier & TS Brilliant Sea Cadet Band



FoGH Annual General Meeting.....Friday 22nd May 7.00pm

Venue TBC: please look out for posters nearer the time

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)



Kent High Weald Partnership run **Volunteer Task Days** on some Wednesdays,

Thursdays or Saturdays in the Park: see their website www.khwp.org.uk/



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

FoGH Contact Details

Liz Edwards (Chairman)

chair@fogh.org.uk

Jane Melville (Secretary)

Friendsghrp@aol.com

Website

www.FoGH.org.uk

Facebook

www.facebook.com/GrosvenorHilbert

Twitter

twitter.com/FofGH

Editors:

editors@FoGH.org.uk

15 Dorking Road,

Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LN

To join, contact the Secretary on Friendsghrp@aol.com

or at 41, Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2NS

Family Fun Day stalls: events@fogh.org.uk

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 & images courtesy of Dave Barnett, Cally Fiddimore, Chris Hughes, Emma Melville, Jane Melville, Friends of Sheffield Botanical Gardens, Friends of Dunorlan Park, Abbey Rance & Tunbridge Wells Museum