



Park Life

News from the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park



News from the Committee

Welcome to the last Park Update of the year - where did it all go?!

Looking back, we had a busy time with some 30 or so events/activities going on in the Park over the year. It takes a lot of hard work from the FoGH Committee, in planning, organising and managing each event, so it's great when we see people enjoying themselves at them. It seems an appropriate time to let you know how our current project to extend the wildflower meadow in the orchard is progressing. After removing as much grass and thatch as possible, we planted yellow rattle. This weakens the grass by feeding off the roots and reducing its growth and it is doing its job well. This means we can now think about sowing wildflower seeds. This will take place over the next few months and, fingers crossed, we will start to see some lovely wildflowers appearing during next year.

This means that we have been thinking about our next fund-raising project, and we have come up with two new ones. The first is to repaint the graphics on the ground in the children's playground. This is now 10 years old, and after a lot of wear and tear is looking very tired. Rather than just repaint it, we have been discussing options with the Parks Team to create graphics reflecting some historical aspect of the Park. Ideas include the 'lost' swimming pool, the remnants of which still lie under the playground.

The second is to refresh some of the interpretation boards around the Park and install additional ones, where the swimming pool and bandstand once were. These will link in with our online Discovery Trail, which provides a self-guided tour around the Park.

We are always grateful for all the donations we receive at our events, as they help to cover the running costs. For 2026 any money left over we get will go towards the children's playground graphics and interpretation board projects. It was encouraging to see that the Park once again retained its Green Flag and Green Heritage Site awards. In addition, the Park was awarded Gold in the RHS In Bloom competition. Not to be outdone, FoGH were once again given an Outstanding rating in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood category. These awards really underscore all the time and effort that everyone puts into the Park, so thank you to everyone that has been involved.

Finally, can I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Chris Hughes/FoGH Chair - December 2025

Some Upcoming Events

Kent High Weald Volunteer Day: Appledore Wood : Wed 28th January : 10:00 am - 3:00 pm : Hilbert Gates / The Oast

Kent High Weald run regular volunteer days to help preserve the high standard of the park's natural resources. Help KHWP thin out the trees in Appledore Wood

Orchard Activities: Pruning : Sun 1st February : am & pm sessions : The Community Orchard

FoGH volunteers will be working in the orchard to keep everything tidy. We will concentrate on pruning the apple and pear trees at this event.

Tunbridge Wells Lantern Parade : Sat 7th February : The Hub

Not a FoGH event, but the annual lantern parade finishes in the park.

FoGH Quiz with Fish & Chips : Sat 28th February : 7:00 for 7:30 start : The Hub

Join the Friends for a light hearted and fun evening of quizzing with a fish and chips supper thrown in! This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

AGM + Talk : Thu 19th March : 6.30 pm : The Hub

Join us for our annual AGM. With talk by Martin Barrett on Bees, Hornets and the Asian Hornet threat.

FoGH Dog Show : Sat 25th April : 10:00 am - 12.00 pm : Lower Football Pitch / Event Field

Join us for our occasional celebration of all things canine!

Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all events

Ticketed Events: FoGH members get exclusive access to tickets before they go on general release

Event details are provisional: date and times can change, events might be cancelled.

For more information about any event please check our website, emails, posters or social media