



Park Life

News from the Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park



News from the Committee

Welcome to the first report of 2026. Spring is in the air!

It's great to see Mother Nature wake up and start to show us what we've been missing over the winter. The bulbs and crocuses have sprung to life and provide welcome colour in the park. The baskets by the Hub and Bowling Green are in full flower, providing a lovely splash of colour as well.

As a group we have been busy since the start of the New Year, with several events having taken place. At the start of the year, we had our annual Apple Howling and later in January we held a Bird Walk around the Park, led by Andy Appleton. This was to link up with the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. This was quickly followed by the Winter Pruning in the Community Orchard and a Fish & Chip Quiz Night at the end of February. The Committee have spent quite a lot of time planning events for the rest of the year, including many of your favourites, plus a few new ones as well. I would once again like to thank the Committee for all the time and effort they put into planning and organising the events. And of course, running the events themselves!

Several of our long-term projects are now starting to come to fruition. In April we will be sowing seed in the orchard to extend the wildflower meadow area. On the same day we will be holding our first ever 'Blossom Celebration' which is very exciting! It's inspired by the celebrations held in Japan every year to mark the cherry blossoms.

In addition, we have worked with the Parks Department to agree new playground graphics, replacing the existing one that is now very faded. Taking inspiration from the history of the park, it will represent the swimming pool that was here for some 80 years, the remains of which lie beneath the playground!

In Tribute - John Scholey (1948 - 2025)

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of John in December 2025. John was a well-known local figure in Tunbridge Wells as Town Crier, a dedicated Morris Dancer and a member of the FoGH committee, before poor health forced him to stand down. He was a supporter of FoGH from the start, opening our May Family Fun Days in his role as Town Crier. He planted a tree in the Community Orchard, and supported Apple Day and Apple Howling as part of the Iron Spring Morris. Several of us attended his memorial at Salomons in mid-January and, true to John's ethos, it was a celebration of his life, with everyone present joining in a final Morris dance. It was quite a sight to behold.

Chris Hughes/FoGH Chair - March 2026

Some Upcoming Events

FoGH Dog Show : Sat 25th April : 10:00 - 11.30 am : Lower Football Pitch / Event Field

Join us for our occasional celebration of the wonderful dogs that use our park!

Classes for: Best Young Dog Handler, Cutest Puppy, Golden Oldies, Best Trick, Waggiest Tail, Most Obedient, plus Best in Show. Registration from 9.30 am

Pond Dipping : Sun 10th May : 10.30-12.30 pm : The Hub / Wetlands

Join us for a pond dipping session in the wetlands. Discover the creatures that live in the Park's water habitats with local expert Martin Sutton. Drop in session

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