



Friends of Basingbourne Park



Autumn 2018

Issue 15



South & South East In Bloom



Basingbourne Park entered South & South East In Bloom for the second time. Friends of Basingbourne Park as a group retained its top level 'Outstanding' classification in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" Category. This year we also entered FoBP in the slightly different "Our Community" category and secured a 'Silver Gilt' classification, which is a great first result for a first attempt.

Basingbourne park was also entered by Fleet Town Council in the "Small Parks" and "Small Conservation Area" categories. Last year we secured Silver Gilt grading with our first entry, so we are thrilled that this year we've improved to the top, 'Gold' level classification in both categories.

Entering S&SE In Bloom is really useful for us as the judges have a great wealth of experience and provide ideas and suggestions for improvements, explaining what other similar groups & parks are doing elsewhere in the region. They are also a fresh set of eyes who point out issues which we may not have noticed or have just got used to. The judging gives both FoBP and FTC a focus to make improvements and a deadline to work towards. So a huge thanks to Will and Pauline for pulling together our submission and hosting the judges this year, and to all of you who have contributed to the group and the park in the last 12 months to make these possible. Thanks to Ben from FTC and all the Grounds Maintenance team for their work too.

5th Birthday Survey

Friends of Basingbourne Park is now 5 years old. Look out for the posters around the park to see some of the great things we've achieved. Hopefully we've contributed to the wellbeing of all our members and park users along the way. Help us make our second half decade even better than the first. Let us know what's important to you by completing our survey at:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SGLLFHZ



Installation of New Playground for Over 8's

After three years of fundraising we have achieved our target for the new playground for Over 8's. Thank you to everyone for your fantastic support! The playground equipment provider Caloo was selected. The installation started on Monday 5th November and will take about a month. Keep an eye on the website and Twitter feed to watch the progress of the build.



Basingstoke Canal Society Talk & AGM



Our Annual General Meeting was held at Crookham Baptist Church Hall with guest speaker Ken Sankey, a Basingstoke Canal Society volunteer and the skipper of the Society's John Pinkerton II canal trip boat.

Ken provided an interesting review of the history of the Canal, of more recent developments and of the challenges faced for the future. He was keen to emphasise that the Canal will not "always be there" without community support, and funding cuts

at the owning Councils mean it is probably at its greatest threat since it was reopened in the 80s.

You can do your bit to demonstrate your support by following their Facebook page, their Twitter feed, becoming a Basingstoke Canal Society Friend (for free), or even better still by becoming a Basingstoke Canal Society Member.

Every trip on one of the boats or visit to the canal visitor centre also gets logged as a "use" of the canal.

Many thanks to Ken for his very interesting and informative talk.

An amendment to the constitution was also presented and agreed. This was a small wording change to the description of the area which the group covers which should help with future projects.

Opportunity was given to those members present to select their priorities for the next projects.

Volunteer Scrub Clearing

Thank you to our volunteers who turned out on Sunday 4th November to clear silver birch, pine & oak from the heath. They made fantastic progress and afterwards enjoyed a well deserved lunch cooked on the fire from the controlled burn of the cut materials.



The Big Lunch

Our Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 8th July, an event inspired by the Eden Project's Big Lunch Initiative. We were joined by Crookham Baptist Church who brought along equipment for games to play. We had shelters to picnic under providing much needed shade in the beautiful sunshine. In the pavilion there was plenty of cakes and drinks for everyone. Lots of people came to enjoy their picnics and activities such as the impromptu games of football and rounders.



New Springer Installed

A new 4-way springer has been installed in the younger children's playground. Thanks to the 101st Scout Group from Quetta Park who donated the springer (which they inherited with their new Scout Hut) and to Fleet Town Council for arranging its installation.



Family Bat Walk



A huge thanks to Chris Doubell from the Hampshire Bat Group who led our Family Bat Walk and brought some rescue bats along to see at close hand. He explained the anatomy of a bat, how bats find their food, how the detectors work and what types of bats we were likely to find. Unfortunately, due to the recent weather, there very few wild bats flying around, but the rescue bats made the whole evening worthwhile.

Heathland Interpretation Board

Thanks to a grant from Hampshire & IoW Community Foundation's 'Orchid Environmental Fund', we have been able to install an interpretation board in the main heathland. This explains a little about what you are likely to see and also what rare plants & animals you could find if you look a little harder.



Forthcoming Events

Christmas Carols in the Park

6pm on Friday 14th December 2018

Join us for Christmas Carols in the Park; the 5th Birthday of Friends of Basingbourne Park and the Official Opening of the new Over 8's Playground.

Music will be lead by musicians from Crookham Baptist Church and will include a performance by a local Soloist.

This event is suitable for all the family and includes festive refreshments. Wrap up and bring a torch.

Volunteer Scrub Clearing

10am—3pm on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th January 2019

Help clear the heathland at our volunteer days. This will involve scrub clearance, clearing rhododendron & silver birch from the edges of the heath, and will include a controlled burn of the cut materials (bring your lunch to cook).

Meet at 10am at the pavilion wearing old clothes and sensible shoes. If you arrive later, please find us in the main Heathland, we will be there until approximately 3pm. We appreciate any time that you have to spare – even if it is just for the odd hour or so.



Musical Concert

March 2019

Join us for a fundraising concert from Evoc Chamber Music Group.



Enquiries: info@basingbournepark.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@FOBP1](https://twitter.com/FOBP1)

www.basingbournepark.org.uk

Membership of Friends of Basingbourne Park costs £2.50 for an individual or £5 for a family membership per year. Members are kept up to date with all the events in the park. We are a not for profit organisation. The membership fees are used to cover our modest overheads and administration costs and provide insurance cover for working parties, volunteer days and social events.

Friends of Basingbourne Park is a not-for-profit organisation set up in 2011 by a group of local residents keen to support the regeneration of the park.

Our areas of interest represent the wide variety of areas within the park and include improving the children's play area, reinvigorating the pavilion, and protecting and improving the environmental aspects of the park including the lowland heath areas.

We do this by liaising with the council, holding volunteer sessions and organising social events.

We have talks about the woodland and its wildlife, remove invasive plants from the heathland, clear away litter, raise funds for improvements to the park and paint the playground equipment. There is so much more we would like to do and we welcome anyone who would like to help us achieve this.