



Friends of Basingbourne Park



Autumn 2019

Issue 18



South & South East In Bloom

Basingbourne Park has had another fantastic set of results from the RHS South & South East In Bloom awards:

- Gold Award (top level) for Friends of Basingbourne Park – Our Community
- Gold Award (top level) for Basingbourne Conservation Area (for the woods and heathland glades)
- Gold Award (top level) for Basingbourne Park (in the small parks category)
- Outstanding (top level) for Friends of Basingbourne Park – in "It's Your Neighbourhood"



These are great results. At a detailed level the marks show continued progress and improvement in both the Park and FoBP as an organisation. Well done and thanks to everybody who has helped us to this wonderful achievement again this year. Particular thanks to Will and Pauline who put so much time into preparing our portfolio, competition submissions and who host the judges each year.

Wildlife Walk with Tony Mundell



Essex Skipper (*Thymelicus lineola*)

We had another fascinating wildlife walk with local expert Tony Mundell looking at flowers, butterflies and creepy crawlies in July. It was slightly soggy at times, but we were happy to welcome some new families along.

Tony pointed out various ferns, plants and insects along the walk. Particularly notable spots along this walk were: A Raft Spider with its spiderlings, which means it is successfully breeding in our wet heath. Tony also caught an Essex Skipper which is relatively uncommon and a new spot for Basingbourne Park!

Whilst sheltering from a particularly heavy rain shower, Tony spotted a spider with very long slender legs inside the pavilion building named *Pholcus phalangoides*, it is also commonly known as the cellar spider due that being one of its frequent habitats. The fascinating behaviour that this spider displays is that it wiggles in circles to warn off predators when it is disturbed.

Summer Bat Walks

Our monthly bat surveys have identified our usual range of bats, with Noctules over the playing fields and Common Pipistrelles and Soprano Pipistrelles in the woods. We have also positively identified Daubentons bats by the canal. A sound recording of Daubentons from our April Bat walk can be heard on the website, on the 'Bats' page of the 'Wildlife' section.

Forthcoming Events

Family Bat Walk - Friday 25th October 2019

Join our family bat walk, meeting at the pavilion at 5.45pm, then then walking around the woods listening for bats. If possible, please let us know if you plan to attend - in order to provide enough bat detectors.

Bird Box Clear Out - Sunday 17th November 2019

Each year we clean out the bird boxes that are located around the woods, and have interesting stories of nests, unhatched eggs, creepy crawlies and even skeletons in them. Join us by meeting at the pavilion at 2:30pm.

Volunteer Session - Saturday 23rd November 2019

Join us for a scrub clearance on the Grange Heath. Meet at the pavilion at 9.30am.

This will include a controlled burn, so bring your lunch to cook on the bonfire.

Carols in the Park - Friday 13th December 2019

Join us for carols and festive refreshments by the pavilion at 6pm.

Volunteer Session - Saturday 4th January 2020

Join us for a scrub clearance session in the canalside woods. Meet at the pavilion at 9.30am. This will include a controlled burn, so bring your lunch to cook on the bonfire.



Enquiries: info@basingbournepark.org.uk
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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.