



Friends of Basingbourne Park was re-launched in 2013. We are a group of local residents who are keen to see the park, which encompasses the playing field, pavilion, playground and woodland, maintained and utilised to its full potential. Since the re-launch we have held three volunteer action days, a trip to RHS Garden Wisley, and had a talk from Fleet Town Council's Conservation Advisor. There is so much more we would like to do and we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

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Heathland Clearance Day

On Saturday 15th March we had our first Action Day focused on improving the quality of the heathland and woods. Working with Fleet Town Council's Conservation Advisor, we had identified that there is a problem developing in the woodlands due to the increasing amount of holly. The holly trees have very thick foliage which blocks out light, thus preventing other plants from growing and so it gradually takes over an area. Armed with loppers, saws and a lot of enthusiasm we set about clearing the holly between the main path and the heathland.

Whilst we knew that there was a problem, it wasn't until we got down to the job and had taken out the first few trees that we really started to see

the full scale of the problem and the sheer number of saplings and small trees that were coming through. We dragged the cuttings out to the car park, from where the Council's grounds maintenance team would chip and remove it from site.

Meanwhile, the junior members of the team had been kitted out with gloves, rubbish sacks and litter pickers and had spent the morning retrieving old plastic bottles, cans and other assorted rubbish from the bushes and ditches around the site.

So many thanks to the team of Friends of Basingbourne Park volunteers and Fleet Town Council workers who helped to make this another successful action day!



Holly is invading the woodlands



The area from which holly was cleared

Renewal of Paths

Fleet Town Council have approved a substantial investment to renovate the main path through Basingbourne Park. This was one of the key priorities identified in our October meeting.

Recent Events

A new bench has been installed next to the field, for football supporters. This had also been raised as a priority by the Friends of Basingbourne Park.



Fleet Town Council's Conservation Advisor walked through the woods with us and gave insights into some of the wildlife of the park, the complexity of woodland management and the careful thought this requires. He explained the ten year site management plan and how volunteers like the Friends of Basingbourne Park can contribute to making this vision a reality. This can be achieved by participating in action days; making a really positive contribution to wildlife and the community.

Our September Action Day saw 10 sacks of rubbish removed from the woodlands. All the benches were repainted and the wood around the signal box treated. The station and springers were cleaned and paths were weeded and swept.

Our November Action Day concentrated on painting the train climbing frame, which looked much smarter with its new coat of paint. The station was also cleaned up and the rust treated. Part of the perimeter fence was treated too.

Special points of interest:

- FoBP relaunched
- FTC to renovate paths
- Holly cut back
- New bench
- Playground repaint

General Enquiries:

info@basingbournepark.org.uk

Membership Enquiries:

membership@basingbournepark.org.uk

www.basingbournepark.org.uk

Looking after Basingbourne Park

Friends of Basingbourne Park was set up in 2011, and is comprised of a group of local residents interested in supporting the regeneration of the park. We are a not for profit organisation.

Our key 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 action days and social events.

For more information on any of these please email info@basingbournepark.org.uk

Did you know you can become a member of Friends of Basingbourne Park? You will be kept up to date with all the events in the park. It costs £2.50 for an individual or £5 for a family membership per year. 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, action days and social events.

Do you have any great photos of the wildlife or signs of spring in the park and woods?

We would love to see them and display them on our website. If you'd like to share your sightings, please send them to website@basingbournepark.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events



Painting in the playground

Monday 31st March 2014 Fleet Town Council Residents Meeting 7pm at the Harlington Centre

Friends of Basingbourne Park will be displaying information about the park and their ideas before the meeting

Tuesday 1st April 2014 General Meeting 8pm at Crookham Baptist Church Hall

Meet the friends of Basingbourne Park, have a cup of tea and share ideas for how the park can be improved

Saturday 10th May 2014 Park Tidy Up 9.30am at the park pavilion

Volunteer day to pick up litter and paint the playground



Maintaining the benches