



Friends of Basingbourne Park



Spring 2020

Issue 19



Young People Helping in the Park

Basingbourne Park has had lots of fantastic help from the local young people:

- The various sections of the Guides and Scouts regularly help with their working sessions. For example, they have built stumperies, helped opening up alternative foot paths, painted the park fences, helped install benches, cleared the ditches of logs and branches, helped clearing scrub from the heathland areas, and of course picked up litter.
- We have a young “Duke of Edinburgh” volunteer who regularly litter picks around the park and woods, particularly around the “youth” areas, like the shelter and picnic bench.



- Wonderwood Explorers meet in the woods and introduce young children to nature and the wonderful wildlife we have present in the park.
- The Fleet Wildlife Explorers held a joint volunteer session with FoBP, building two fantastic stumperies despite the mud & boggy conditions.

These are great collaborations and we are really pleased to be working with other local groups to protect the green space that we are so lucky to have in Basingbourne Park and Woods. Well done and thanks to everybody who has helped us with this wonderful teamwork.



Winter Volunteer Sessions



Many thanks to those who volunteered at our winter sessions, especially many of the North East Hampshire Ramblers Group who joined us. These concentrated on the Canalside woodland trails. Two new trails were created leading either side from the Wickham car park, meaning that one less bridge is required to get back to Basingbourne Park without getting soggy feet. There was also further clearance of the Canalside trail from Coxheath Road canal bridge.

Lots of litter and historical fly tipping were removed from the area too. but unfortunately not all of it. We're now in discussion with Fleet Town Council and Vivid Housing to try and get the remainder cleared.

Some very shiny blue beetles were spotted, thought to be Alder Leaf Beetle (*Agelastica alni*) which were considered to be extinct in Britain, but are now making a come back. Whether this is to be celebrated is debatable, as they can cause unsightly defoliation.



Alder Leaf Beetle

Hot Chocolate Mondays



Thank you to everybody from FoBP and Church Crookham Baptist Church who made Hot Chocolate Mondays a great success this year. On 8 different mornings in December, January and February, we've served up to 100 cups of hot chocolate and breakfast snacks per week. Thanks also to the Church who covered the cost of all the ingredients & consumables. We hope that everybody who indulged enjoyed their snacks!

Forthcoming Events

Bat Walk - Wednesday 18th March

Join our bat survey walk, meeting at the pavilion at 6.15pm, 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.

~~Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday 4th April~~

Children's Easter Egg hunt in the park. Collect your clue sheets from the pavilion between 2pm & 2.30pm, follow the trail and then collect your prize. (Prizes for non-chocolate eaters also available.)

Two trails: Preschoolers/Infants and Juniors.

Refreshments will be available at the finish.

FoBP Members should apply for a priority pass. More volunteer Course Stewards and Helpers still required.

Dawn Chorus Walk - Sunday 3rd May **TO BE CONFIRMED**

Join us for a Dawn Chorus Walk meeting at the pavilion at 4.30am.

To book a place email Friends of Basingbourne Park. Priority will be given to members.

Children's Fun Run - Saturday 18th July

Children's Fun Run around Basingbourne Park on Saturday 18th July 2020 at 10am. Suitable for ages 4 - 12 (Parents can run with their children) . £3 entry includes medal. Please register in advance to guarantee medal availability.

Registration opens at 9.30pm, then take part in the warm up, ready for the start at 10am. Course length options of 1km, 2km & 3km available. No dogs or pushchairs allowed on the course.

Refreshments will be available for supporters during the event. This event is weather dependent.



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.