



Inside this issue:

Bat Hunt	1
Renewal of Paths	1
Recent Events	1
Who we are	2
Become a member	2
Forthcoming Events	2

Bat Hunt

On Saturday 17th May we had our first Bat Hunt. As we aim to improve the park and surrounding woodland for both its human and animal users, we need to identify the wildlife that inhabits the area. So we thought it might be fun to try and find out what bats are living in the Basingbourne park area. Hart District Council rangers agreed that we could borrow their bat detectors. We know of some 7 different species of bat which inhabit the Hart area, and each of these bat species use different frequencies—so the challenge is not only to be at the right place to hear them, but to have your detector on the right frequency as well. 20 individuals gathered at the pavilion in Basingbourne Park, just as the sun was going down. The warm weather was a good sign, as the midges and insects would be out in numbers, and this should in turn attract the bats. There was a quick intro to

bat sounds and the detectors and we were off. The plan was to start in the playing field, then slowly make our way in a circuit through the woods, meeting up again back at the field. A few bats were witnessed, with one at the end of Greenways (possibly Serotine), and then a pair in the heathland clearing (possibly Noctules but again not confirmed).

The field slopes down to a small bridge over the stream where the main path crosses into the woods and runs along beside the stream in both directions. Standing on this slope, bat sounds started to emerge with greater frequency. The Dabentum makes a machine-gun style sound and we witnessed several flying down the pathway some 8-10 feet in the air, conducting some amazing aerobatics. This was joined by Serotines, and a Pippistrelle (the most common).



Preparing to hunt for Bats

One member commented that it “was amazing to get an early warning that the bat was coming by the detector, then to see it as well was the icing on the cake”. We stayed there for some 40 minutes watching the fantastic aerial display being given by the bats.

We are now looking at ways to get our own bat detectors in order to do more bat walks.

Renewal of Paths

Fleet Town Council have approved a substantial investment to renovate the main path through Basingbourne Park. This will hopefully be done over the summer. The worst areas which concern local people have been noted.

Recent Events

Many thanks to the Lions and the Elvetham Hotel who have donated 20 chairs for the Pavilion. This will allow us to run smaller meetings and other events in the Pavilion.



Our May action day saw the playground cleaned and weeds, which were encroaching on the paved areas, cleared. Friends of Basingbourne Park volunteers supported by members of the Girl Guides cleared 12 bags of litter from the woods. The guides hosted a community coffee morning at the guide hall in Basingbourne park which served welcome refreshments and delicious cakes. We even generated a small profit to go towards Girl Guides fund raising.

A small group of volunteers and enthusiastic children also held a painting session in May. The level crossing barrier and the train climbing frame were painted (in the correct colours and paints this time) and look much smarter.

We held an action day in June concentrating on painting the playground equipment. The station building, game board frames, signal and buffers are all now smartly painted and rust free.

Many thanks to all who helped!

Special points of interest:

- Bat Hunt
- FTC to renovate paths
- Pavilion Chairs
- Playground repaint

Friends of Basingbourne Park

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 re-launched in 2013). We are a group of local residents who are keen to support 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.

Since the re-launch we have had talks about the woodland and its wildlife, removed some invasive plants from the heathland, cleared away lots of litter and painted some of the playground. There is so much more we would like to do and we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

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

Saturday 13th September 2014

Scrub clearance and litter pick 9.30am at the park pavilion

Volunteer day to clear holly, rhododendron and other invasive plants from the heathland

Saturday 18th October 2014

Scrub clearance and litter pick 9.30am at the park pavilion

Volunteer day to clear holly, rhododendron and other invasive plants from the heathland



Litter Pick



The painted Train Climbing Frame