



# Friends of Basingbourne Park



Summer 2017

Issue 11



## Easter Egg Hunt



It was a beautiful day, with clear blue skies and sunshine for our third and most successful Easter Egg Hunt to date. We gave out over 200 Easter Eggs to children who completed the trail. Donations collected from the "hex bug" challenge, and from cakes and refreshments raised a further £514.20 all of which will go directly towards our Fund for new Play Equipment, taking the current total to £2,468.



The Busy Woods

This was our most ambitious event to date, as we decided to run two trails this year. The shorter route for pre-school & infant school aged children had them following clues to find numbered Easter Eggs, whilst a slightly longer and more challenging route had our older participants searching for Easter Bunnies with letters, which were then rearranged into a phrase. The trails crossed the sports field, through sun dappled woodlands and beside our heathland areas, and ended at the Guides Hall where the participants collected their prizes of Easter Eggs or Jelly Bunnies. There was squash, hot drinks and cakes to help recovery, along with colouring and craft activities and a "hex bug" challenge.

Junior Trail Clue

The play park was festooned with bunting and was bustling with activity for a couple of hours after the formal hunt finished. Photos of the Easter Egg Hunt can be seen on the website.



Some of the Eggs Given Out

A huge thank you to everybody who came along to participate, and also to all of our volunteers and contributors who helped to make this a hugely successful event. Particular thanks to the Guides for the use of their Hall and gazebo.



A Full Playground



Woodland Walk

## Woodland Walk Grant

We are pleased to announce we have received a grant of £1,000 from TAG (Farnborough Airport) to support our woodland trail improvements.

This will be put towards building the foot bridges required to cross the streams.

The foot bridges are currently being designed and the Army have offered to install them.

## Local Flooding Talk

At our general meeting on 25th April, we had a presentation from Susanna Hope (Hart District Council's floods expert) and Neil Landricombe (from the Environment Agency). Susanna explained about the different types of flooding that can occur and who is responsible for the potential sources. She displayed a map showing the areas of Fleet that are prone to flooding.

She went through the events of 26th August 2015 when 20 houses in the area were flooded internally and many more were otherwise affected. 51mm of rain fell that day (almost a month's worth) and 63% of this fell within 1 hour. Although 183 sandbags were issued, this was too slow to help many people as the water rose and fell so rapidly.

A big cause of flooding in our area has been found to be caused by rivers and streams being "piped" often reducing the flow rate or causing a bottle neck in situations where flow increases. On 26th August 2016, the culvert taking the stream under the Canal became blocked under the Canal, preventing the unprecedented rainfall from draining quickly away, and hence backing up water as far as Basingbourne Park. The "Sandy Lane Ditch" is the one that goes through Basingbourne Park. Since the flooding in 2015 a new "Trash Screen" has been installed which catches debris before it can get stuck under the canal in the culverts. This is much easier and safer to clear out than the culverts.

One way to be better prepared if this situation were to occur again is to set up a "Flood Action Group". These would feed into Fleet Town Council's "Community Emergency Plan". FoBP have volunteers to represent us on FTC's Planning Group. FTC also forward Severe Weather Warnings to FoBP members so that the pipes and culverts in the park area can be checked and cleared of debris ahead of the event. Contact FoBP if you want more information or to get involved.

Susanna is preparing a "Strategic Flood Risk Assessment" for the area. This will be used by the local councils (among other bodies) when proposing new housing and other plans. The best way we can help with this is always to report flooding when it happens with photographs if possible.

If your property is prone to flooding, one of the best way to be forewarned is to sign up to the Met Office's Heavy Rainfall Alerts.

If your garden floods never lift a foul water manhole to clear your flooding as this runs through relatively narrow pipes and adding a lot of extra water may cause foul water flooding inside someone else's property.

If roads are flooded this is generally Hampshire County Council's responsibility and can easily be reported on their "fix my street" website. Information about issues reported in this way are often copied to Susanna for information as well.

After their talk, the opportunity was then taken, whilst the refreshments were served, to look at some maps of the area with Susanna and Neil. Any areas known to members as prone to flooding were marked on the maps.

## Playground Grant

We are pleased to announce a grant of £1,000 towards new play equipment from John Bennison, our Church Crookham & Ewshot County Councillor.

This will go into our fund for Over 8's Playground which currently stands at £2468.



Site for the Over 8's Playground

## International Dawn Chorus Day



Nuthatch with Young

Rob Brook from the North East Hants RSPB group led our Dawn Chorus Walk, held as part of International Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday 7th May. After meeting at the pavilion at 4.30am, the group walked through the woods listening for birds and then trying to spot them. Twelve different types of birds were positively identified. Highlights included a Jay pretending to be a Tawny Owl, two Mallards in the stream and a Nuthatch with chicks in one of the nest boxes.

## Tesco's Bags of Help initiative

# TESCO Bags of Help

Our Over 8's Playground Project has been shortlisted for a public vote in Tesco's Bags of Help initiative. Please vote for us to win the top prize in store. The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive up to £4,000. You can vote in Tesco stores during the months of July and August to help us secure a Tesco Bags of Help grant.

The stores including our project in their vote are:

- Tesco, Aldershot
- Tesco Express, Reading Road South, Fleet
- Tesco Express, Ancells Farm
- Tesco Express, Ashvale
- Tesco Express, Cove Road, Farnborough
- Tesco Express, Hale
- Tesco Express, Ridgeway Road, Farnham

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction. It's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. If you are not offered one, PLEASE DO ASK, as we understand that they sometimes run low and don't always volunteer them. Then place your token in the slot for the "Friends of Basingbourne Park: Over Eights Play Equipment Fund" in the voting box.

## FleeT-Rex Explorers Build Stumperies



A Stumpery

About 20 Explorer Scouts and Leaders turned out on an overcast evening with the constant threat of rain, to help with the latest Friends of Basingbourne Park conservation project.

Tooled up with spades, forks, wheel barrows and the occasional saw, they set about building Basingbourne Park's first "stumperies". These are basically a collection of dead and fallen wood standing upright in holes (roughly ½ metre deep) and provide a habitat for beetle larvae and other "mini-beasts".

Stag beetles can take 5 years to reach maturity, so we don't expect to be inundated with creepy crawlies immediately. Hopefully, the stumperies will help maintain the biodiversity in the park, support the food chain for larger birds and animals, and reduce the chances of the fallen wood from ending up in the stream. Many thanks to the FleeT-Rex Explorers for their fantastic support and hard work.

## Hart Lottery



Friends of Basingbourne Park have joined Hart Lottery as a way of fundraising for our projects. If you like a flutter then your £1 gives us 50p and you a chance of winning £25,000, so please give it a go if you would like.

## Bat Surveys



June Bat Survey

We held bat surveys in April, May and June. The first two surveys suffered from the damp weather and there were a few isolated spots along the Greenways to Fairmile path, and then some consistent activity along the main ditch near the pavilion and car park. The positive identifications were pipistrelles.

We had a glorious evening for our June Bat Survey. On the main playing field we soon saw 3 Noctules all flying at once. Their calls were around 19kHz but varying up to 30 kHz as they swooped around looking for the insects.

We could also detect a Pipistrelle at around 48kHz further into the trees. Following this bat we went over the bridge towards the heathland. Along the trees by the heathland bench we could see 3 Pipistrelles flying around.

A few other sporadic spots were made around the rest of the park. As we returned to the main playing field the Noctules were still flying over.

## Forthcoming Events

### Bat Survey

Thursday 20th July 2017

Our monthly bat survey for July will start at 9:00pm, meeting at the Pavilion. Our best time for seeing bats is between Sunset at 9:07pm and dusk at 9:50pm

We will show you how to use our detectors and what type of bats you are likely to find, then walk around the woods listening for bats.



The Big Lunch 2016

### The Big Lunch

Saturday 22nd July 2017

Come and join us for a picnic and fun activities in the park as part of The Big Lunch initiative.

Gather from 12 noon with your picnic, rug or chairs and umbrella. Cakes and hot drinks will be available. Children can take part in the quiz trail and there will be fun games and races for all ages.



Enquiries: [info@basingbournepark.org.uk](mailto:info@basingbournepark.org.uk)

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

[www.basingbournepark.org.uk](http://www.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, 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 action days and social events.

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