



# Friends of Basingbourne Park



## Newsletter

Winter 2022/23

Issue 22

---

### Carols in the Park



It was great to see over 40 people come along to the park and enjoy the Christmas Carols, mulled wine and mince pies, despite the freezing conditions. The pavilion and playground was lit up and decorated with bunting and colourful lights. The service was led by Church Crookham Baptist Church. The plentiful hot drinks and festive nibbles went down well in the chilly weather. Thank you to everyone who attended.

### Young People Volunteering



Over the week of 4th July, the young people from our community came together for a number of projects in the park and woodlands, including cleaning graffiti, litter picking, planting & weeding, ditch clearing, stumpery building, scrub clearing,



balsam bashing, play equipment painting and litter picking. We were supported in this by Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Boys Brigade, so thanks to all the young people who turned out to help maintain and improve our park! We also continue to have Duke Of Edinburgh volunteers who regularly litter pick in the park. At the older end of the spectrum of “young people” helping out in the park, we also held a couple of FoBP volunteer days to give the park a bit of a tidy up ahead of the Summer Holidays!

Basingbourne Park was entered by Fleet Town Council in South & South East in Bloom for 2022. The awards recognise that while gardening, planting and creating attractive places is important, it is as much about caring for our environment and wishing to see community and community volunteers becoming involved in caring for their place.

We are very pleased to announce that Basingbourne Park won Gold Awards in both the 'Small Park' and 'Conservation' categories.

### Bat Walks

Every month we invite you to join our bat survey walk, meeting at the pavilion and then walking around the woods listening for bats. We had to cancel our last bat survey of the year, but throughout this year we've confirmed a continued presence of Common and Soprano Pipistrelles throughout the park, along with frequent sightings of Noctule, and also Daubentons at the canalside woods. We will resume our surveys again in March or April and would welcome you accompanying us to watch and learn more about these fascinating creatures and their behaviour.



### Forthcoming Events

#### Conservation Volunteer Session - Saturday 11th February 2023

A volunteer session on Saturday 11th February, meeting at 10am at the Pavilion.

This session will involve cutting scrub, which is vital to keep the heathland open and free of trees. Bring your lunch to cook on the open fire from the controlled burn of cuttings.

#### AGM - Saturday 4th March 2023

Join us for our review of the year and Annual General Meeting, starting at 2pm at the Pavilion.

#### Park Spring Clean - Saturday 25th March 2023

Join us at 10am to help give the playground a spring clean and tidy away any litter.

#### Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday 2nd April 2023

Join us at 2pm for our annual children's easter egg trail through the park and woodland.



Friends of Basingbourne Park

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

Follow us: Twitter: @FOBP1

Facebook: @BasingbournePark

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.

[www.basingbournepark.org.uk](http://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.