



Friends of Basingbourne Park



Spring 2024
Issue 23



Fly-tipping Outrage!

Do you get really angry when you read about or see fly tipping? Most of us do, but many of us don't realise that we may be unwittingly contributing to this blight if we live near our parks and green spaces! Often people see a bit of "scrub land" or "wasteland" over their fence or at the end of their road and think it's acceptable to dump garden waste and other things there. They may even feel they are entitled to do this "because most of the leaves have come from trees in the park/woods anyway". Whilst this may have been commonplace and acceptable in the 1960s and 1970s, most of these areas are now recognised as valuable green spaces to be treasured and utilised by the local community for leisure and relaxation, and as oases in our urban environments to encourage and support wildlife.



Dumped Garden Waste

So, at the Friends of Basingbourne Park, we really discourage local residents from dumping leaves, weeds and garden cuttings in the woodlands. This practice can lead to eyesores at park entrances, can introduce invasive plants and diseases into what should primarily be a natural woodland, and can encourage people to bring cars filled with green waste from further afield. Please note: you don't have a right to dump leaves from overhanging trees back into the park especially when they will also be mixed with your own garden waste and often other garden rubbish. This is considered fly tipping by the Council and could result in fines. So, we would always encourage you to compost all of your leaves and garden waste at home, which in turn will give you free, rich compost that you can re-use in your garden!

The Friends of Basingbourne Park have been clearing litter and fly-tipping from Basingbourne Park and the Wickham Woods by the Canal for over 10 years now. Initially, we removed huge amounts of waste accumulated over decades, but happily the cases of major fly tipping are few and far between, and minor incidents are becoming less frequent, as the community increasingly understands the real value of these islands of green amongst us, and recognise that they are for all of us, both to use and to care for. Please help us by ensuring that you take responsibility for all your own waste, and spread the message to neighbours, family and friends, and why not even join us for one of our conservation volunteer days!



Rubbish from the woods



Found in the woods



Children's Fun Run

A huge congratulations to all those who completed the Basingbourne Park Family Fun Run on Saturday 2nd September 2023. The run consisted of either 1km or 2km circuits of our Park and Woodlands. We had 22 children running, and with accompanying parents that meant around 35 participants in total. Everybody who participated made it back although in varying states of exhaustion and/or elation. Congratulations to everybody who took part!

Thank you to: Al Lott, Suzanne Lott, all our volunteers, everybody who donated refreshments, Councillor Steve Forster for his Hampshire County Councillor Grant which allowed us to purchase much of the equipment used on the day; James Parkes at JCR Stage Light & Sound for supplying the Race Clock and Friends of Oakley Park for sharing their experience, advice and support.



Carols in the Park 2023



We had a lovely evening of Carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies on Friday 1st December. We also shared a delicious 10th Anniversary Cake. We were joined/led by our friends from Church Crookham Baptist Church, and by a choir from Heatherside Juniors who treated us to a couple of songs from their school play.

We were even offering park grown mistletoe - thanks to Rob.

We received £131.48 in donations. A huge thanks to everybody who helped with the donations and organising the event and to everybody who came along on the night to join in!



Forthcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday 23rd March 2024

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

Bat Walk - Wednesday 10th April 2024

Meeting at the pavilion at 8pm. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a torch. You will be shown how to use the bat detectors and what type of bats you are likely to find. Then there will be a walk around the park listening for the bats.

Children's Fun Run - Saturday 7th September 2024

Complete 1, 2 or 3 laps of our course around Basingbourne Park and woods.

There will also be optional sprint races at the end.



Enquiries: info@basingbournepark.org.uk
Follow us: Twitter/X: @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 nature conservation and restoration of the park's woodlands, heathland and canal side woods.

www.basingbournepark.org.uk

We do this by liaising with the council, holding volunteer sessions and organising social events.

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.

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.