

FoHP Newsletter

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Friends of Henrietta Park. We hope this will keep you informed of the activities in the park present and future. It is a great pleasure to see the excellent work that the council have done this last Autumn and Winter after a difficult previous 12 months, and we hope that our contributions working with the council can enhance the Park and the Local community.

AGM, 7 Feb, Kaposvar Room, Guildhall: Summary

- Thanks were given to our Councillors Peter Turner and Lizzie Gladwyn for organising the room.
- **Green Flag:** As Jane Robson (BANES) was unavoidably detained her talk on the Green Flag status was given by Mayveen Blackwell. This outlined the requirements of the Status - a busy park used by a wide range of people with community activities throughout the year, with volunteer contributions in kind and time being recorded. A detailed report was submitted with supporting material being supplied by FoHP Members. Also the parks department included an encouraging list of present and ongoing improvements.
- **Membership:** we now have 68 members
- **Finance:** we have a kitty of £1164.63
- **Web Site and Media:** Our web address is www.henriettapark.org and the Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofhenriettapark/>. The current site is being redesigned by David Robinson and will be ready soon. As well as the constitution and minutes, we have records of the history of the park, notes on the wildlife and plants and now a list of the birds of the park with photos and links to their songs.
- **Procedures:** If you see anything untoward going on in the Park there is a procedures page on the web site giving links to the relevant people to inform.
- **Election of Officers:** all the current members of the committee were re-elected, Ian Herve was elected Membership Secretary, and Erica Timothy, who has been surveying the trees elected without portfolio.

Next AGM : Tuesday 6 Feb 2018

Liaison: Summary, Mayveen Blackwell

Following much neglect and a bad atmosphere between BANES Parks Dept and local residents, FoHP started anew with one Liaison Committee member providing the single friendly channel of communication. The Parks Dept admitted mistakes had been made and we have achieved many improvements.

- Mark Cassidy outlined his proposals to improve the Memorial Garden and we are pleased that the first stage are going ahead. Meanwhile the winter planting there appeared and the gardeners are pruning plants on pergolas.
- Two places where park boundary hedges have gaps are going to be remedied, and one has already had a temporary fence put in place.



- We have applied for Green Flag Status.
- The railings around the garden have been partly stripped and painting will continue in April. A new notice has been designed and installed for the gate.
- The broken seat will be repaired and an extra new one installed.
- There will be some major pruning and FoHP have offered volunteers to help, strictly as the gardeners may allow
- FoHP would like to move and restore the memorial stone, find or replace the sundial, and restore the old drinking fountain.

Meanwhile, regular litter picking goes ahead. We also have started two Stick Stacks : everyone can pick up sticks to add. The stack will provide insect habitat.

We hope to continue in partnership with BANES to improve our well-loved park.

Tree Work: Alastair and the tree gang have been busy. Last year, of course, the Tree of Heaven had to come down, and the removal of the stump is causing some difficulty as it is filled with concrete. But they have put in several ties in the Horse Chestnut avenue and taken out much dead wood in the Lime trees. Alastair is off at the moment with a neck injury and we hope he recovers soon.

Activities

- **Litter Picking:** The monthly litter pick has taken place with great effect and we shall be reviewing the frequency as the seasons progress
- **Stick Collecting:** has been successful. Here is the stack.



Events:

- **Avon Wildlife** are able to offer us a Family Wildlife Day provisionally on **Sunday, May 7**. This is still being organised but we hope it will involve making bee hotels and bird boxes, finding out what wildlife is in the park, bird song, bats if we stay late enough; opportunities to collect, draw and paint, and of course we will have a refreshment tent for which we hope people will make cakes.
- **Sunday Kubb:** This will restart in April when the weather gets better. Practice makes perfect.....

Wildlife Lists: Monthly Bird lists have been kept since September. If anyone would like to contribute to these at the moment just mail hen3ryford@googlemail.com. We hope to have a form for entering your birds on the web site soon.

Tree Survey: Winter and work have called a temporary halt to this project. Erica Timothy has been surveying tree height, diameter at breast height, crown diameter and condition, as much has changed since the last survey. Digitised maps are being produced and we are about 1/3 of the way through the park. The council will be undertaking a survey this year and we hope to cooperate with them.

Park Objects: We have two objects in the Park which we would like to track down and if anyone has photographs of them or knows their whereabouts do let us know. These, together with the Tablet commemorating Forester's donation of the Park to the Council are objects we would like to restore

- The Memorial Garden used to have a sundial. We only have a blurred photograph of it and the council are searching for it, but it has been many years since it has been seen. If anyone has a decent photograph please contact David Carr.

- Similarly the Drinking fountain on the wall by the public toilets had a fine gargoyle, possibly in metal and now long since gone. We have a photograph but no knowledge of its location.



Notices: We have been allowed to put up 5 notices at the entrances to the park to advertise the FoHP. If anyone could cut 4 pieces of plywood to A4 size, HF would be very grateful as he does not have these facilities. But do coordinate before hand with HF (hen3ryford@googlemail.com), as we only need 4 !

Drone Flight: On the website there is access to a video from a drone, by Ben Goodman. Not quite up to the standards of the BBC Natural History unit but it was the first attempt. This is how it was done : The dog is to illustrate scale.



Date for the Diary : Sunday 7 May Avon Wildlife Activity Day: Bring the family for an hour or so and bring the neighbours for a social day out with a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

In conclusion: It has been a busy and successful 6 months and our main achievement has been to establish a good working relationship with the council. We have also begun to develop more of a community round the park with a few basic tasks. Now we need to concentrate on community activities.

Do encourage your neighbours to join in and with an annual contribution they get to vote at the AGM :

Send a suggested minimum of £5 with the contact details to

iancritchley@googlemail.com

And thanks to you all for your support.

FoHP