

Hertsmere's & Parks Community News

Countryside
Management
Service



Issue 33 - Autumn/Winter 2014



Women on the move

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parks@hertsmere.gov.uk

Parks News



IMPORTANT NEWS

Email alerts to replace newsletter

This will be the last printed copy of the Parks Newsletter. We are currently finalising plans for our residents to receive updates and newsletters from us through our new e-alert system. This will enable you to receive emails with news about the council services which interest you the most. If you would like to receive the Parks Newsletter online please email us at corporate.communications@hertsmere.gov.uk to subscribe.

Performances in the park

We're hoping to install a modern performance shelter in Oakmere Park. The aim is for the shelter to become a shaded focal point for visitors, a meet and greet area, an outdoor classroom for local schools and a stage for performances.

We have consulted with local park users during the summer and now have a preferred design and location. The next step is to apply for planning permission and if successful we can start to plan an installation date and opening event.

The preferred shelter to be located close to Salisbury Close car park will be similar to the photo shown, made from a steel frame with a special fabric roof (the same which is used on the O2 arena) and will be on a slightly raised paved stage and contain seating.



'Honey, I'm home!'

Since April, two hives have been accommodating thousands of bees on the rooftop of the Civic Offices.

Beekeeper Andy Chittenden said 'Thanks to some clever planting by our Parks department around the Civic Offices there are lots of bee-friendly flowers like marigolds, petunias, cannas and a 'raspberry ripple' geranium to provide a close source of nectar for the bees.'

The bees can however travel up to a mile and a half for a good nectar source. The Italian cross honey bees are known for their calm nature making them safe to work with. Our 'Hertsmere' bees live for around six weeks in summer and three to six months in winter, when they have less work to do. The queen in each hive lives up to three years in comparison and lays up to 1,000 eggs a day in high summer!

These buzzing insects not only provide honey which is extracted twice a year, they also transfer pollen from flower to flower helping plants to reproduce.



Green flag celebrations

The Parks team and representatives from our ground maintenance contractor John O'Conner celebrated our continued success at the Hertfordshire Green Flag awards in Broxbourne this August.

Having retained six flags; one in Borehamwood (Aberford Park), two in Potters Bar (Oakmere Park and Parkfield) and three in Bushey (King George Recreation Ground, the Rose Garden and Fishers Field Nature Reserve), Parks Manager David Smith said, 'We are so proud of our Green Flags and couldn't do it without the hard work and dedication of our amazing team, contractors, Hertsmere Leisure which manages our parks events and especially the community groups involved.'



Community News



We Move, She Moves thrives in the local parks!

The council's Sport England-funded We Move, She Moves project aimed at getting more females active has taken the parks by storm! There have been buggy bootcamps, ladies only bootcamps, boxercise, yoga and beginners running sessions.

Since the park sessions began in April there have been over 1,100 attendances across all the sessions.

The buggy bootcamps in the mornings have been a

great success seeing lots of mums and babies getting active. The most popular sessions have been the yoga at the Bushey Rose Garden, which saw over 40 ladies coming each week through the summer.

We want to keep the sessions going for as long as possible in the parks but as winter is on its way we have secured some indoor venues to continue the sessions. To find out about all these sessions and other We Move, She Move sessions visit the website www.wemoveshemoves.com

Tennis

Monica and Rafa from **Independent Tennis** are in their third year running mini tennis sessions for children every Saturday from 10am in Meadow Park, Bushey – all equipment provided:

- 10-10.30am - free trial session
- 10.30-11.30am - £5 per session
- Individuals on request

They are also very excited as their partnership with 'Give It Your Max' will provide a taste of tennis to several schools in Borehamwood. If you would like your school to participate, please get in touch:

 www.facebook.com/independenttennis

<http://www.independenttennis.co.uk>

Tel Rafa on 07762 786 820



Fashion and Street Dance classes

Also part of 'We Move, She Moves' is a street dance and fashion session which happens every Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm at the Hertswood Centre, Borehamwood.

This FREE female-only project is the chance for teenage girls to learn a short street dance routine each week and pick up some creative and fashion styling tips including:

- Nail art and designing your own set of nails
- The latest clothing, styling, hair and make-up techniques
- Learning how to customise your clothes to make them stand out



Parish News

Apple Day 2014

Apple Day is an established event celebrating the apple.

There will be many unusual varieties of apple to try and buy on this great family day out. Plus apple juice demonstrations, craft stalls, home-made refreshments, apple games and bouncy castles. Would you like a stall on Apple Day? We request that every stall has an apple theme or runs an apple activity – contact the Park office for more information:

www.shenleypark.co.uk

Email: info@shenleypark.co.uk

Tel: 01923 852629

Sunday 19 October, 12pm - 5pm in a marquee in The Walled Garden, Shenley Park, Radlett Lane, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9DW

£2 per adult, 3-16 years 50p (must be accompanied by an adult), children under 3's free.



Events News

Here's a selection of news from recent events:

Easter Egg Hunts took place across the borough and special prizes were given to children who designed the best egg. A mini fun fair, bouncy castle, sweet shop and magician were also there to make the day special, plus there were guest appearances from Micky Mouse, Peppa Pig and Leo the Lion.



Funding for Hertsmere Leisure has been achieved from Street Games UK to continue and develop **Free Watford FC coaching sessions** held in the parks. £4,500 per year over a three-year period has been allotted for this successful project. Hertsmere Leisure, Affinity Sutton and Watford FC are moving this session onto the Multi Use Games Area at Hertswood during the winter months.



The Rose Garden

The Rose Garden was abuzz with events this summer. New this year was **Bushey's Big Bake Off** sponsored by Jamie Oliver Magazine who sent prizes for the winning cake. The event was well received and will be added to the 2015 schedule.

Laughter Therapy and **Story Telling** continued and **Unsigned and Unplugged** returned for a second year with our events co-ordinator being interviewed by local radio as well as being featured in the Watford observer.

Teddy Bear Picnics

were held in August Oakmere park and Aberford Park.

Jazz in the Park fell on one of the hottest days of the year in King George Recreation ground and was full to bursting



point. Four jazz musicians played a tribute show for the late Tommy Whittle who had recently died. A small crowd gathered to watch the musicians perform but hundreds of families enjoyed the music as it echoed around the park.

2014 was the first year we have tried **Movies in the Park**. Positive feedback was received from those attending and we hope to be able to improve on this for next summer.



The Fifty Plus team runs a host of weekly activities for the over 50's including art, badminton, bowls, bridge, dancing, exercise classes, falls prevention classes, music, quiz nights, scrabble, singing, table tennis, yoga and Zumba Gold. There is something to suit everyone!

In addition the following day trips have been organised. All prices are inclusive of entrance fees and coach travel. Coach pick up points are Bushey, Borehamwood and Potters Bar.

Oxford University Museum of Natural History and free time in city centre

Founded in 1860 as the centre of scientific study at the University of Oxford, the Museum of Natural History now holds the University's

Date for your Diary: Santa Claus is coming to town

He's making a list, and checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty or nice, yes you got it - Santa Claus is coming to The Rose Garden. Organised by Friends of the Rose Garden in partnership with Hertsmere Leisure, Watford brass band will be performing, refreshments will be available and there will also be a treasure hunt. So bring along your little ones on Sunday 14 December 2-4pm for a meet and greet with the bearded legend himself.

We are always adding new events so please keep checking our website www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk



internationally significant collections of geological and zoological specimens.

Thursday 26 March 2015 - Price: £19

Rotherhithe - Guided tour with Diane Burstein

Visiting Southwark Cathedral for morning coffee/tea before touring the 13th century cathedral. After lunch, touring Rotherhithe with our blue badge guide and finishing the day visiting the Brunel Museum.

Wednesday 29 April 2015 - Price: £28

Borde Hill Garden and head gardener's tour - West Sussex

Described as one of the country's truly great gardens by Country Life Magazine, Borde Hill is nestled in 200 acres of English heritage listed Sussex parkland and woodland.

Thursday 14 May 2015 - Price: £29.50

For more information please contact the Fifty Plus Team on 01707 645005

Countryside Management Service news



The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC) and other local authorities across Hertfordshire helping communities to care for and enjoy the environment. For more information, visit www.hertslink.org/cms

Scene Change at Studio Way Woodland Trail

Work has now begun on improvements at Studio Way Woodland Trail, as identified in the new management plan.

Recently CMS volunteers and local people joined forces to begin management of recently planted woodland by clearing rubbish and old fencing. There are also plans to make the trail more attractive to visitors by improving the entrances and footpaths, and providing information about the wildlife and history of the area. Work will also continue on the gradual removal of mature Poplar trees on the site.

In September the annual Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) re-visited walk was held at Studio Way. Local people were joined by film experts and enthusiasts to explore the location of the former MGM studios. Over the years many famous films and TV series were made here, including; *Ivanhoe* 1953, *The Dirty Dozen* 1967; *2001, A Space Odyssey*, 1970 and *The Prisoner* 1967-8. 2014 marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of MGM, one of the largest and most glamorous of



Hollywood's film studios. Importantly it is also the 70th anniversary of MGM purchasing their British Studios in Borehamwood in 1944. During the walk people also had the opportunity to find out more about plans to commemorate the film heritage of the area.

There will also be further opportunities for local people to help make improvements to the site. If you would like to find out more about the project and get involved, please contact Alex Laurie at CMS on 01992 556612 or email alex.laurie@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Walks & More

Interested in guided walks and countryside events?

- Find out more about coppice woodlands; the products it produces; the wildlife it helps conserve and meet the heavy horses helping with this vital work. Saturday 24th January, time tbc at Furze Field Wood, Potters Bar.
- Countryside on Your Doorstep, Tykeswater and beyond, a 4 mile walk exploring some of Borehamwood's greenspaces and surrounding countryside. Join us on Sunday 8th March 2015 at 2pm. Meet outside the Aberford Park Café.

Visit www.hertsdirect.org/walksandmore for further details and other events.

Access Improvements at Woodhall Spinney, Shenley

Access through Woodhall Spinney, Shenley has recently been improved thanks to a partnership project between CMS, HBC and Hertfordshire County Council.

Contractors working on site during September have surfaced the path through the Spinney, including construction of a new ditch crossing and new access structures from Woodhall Lane. Trees have also been trimmed back to improve access for visitors, whilst taking into account the wildlife value of the woodland.

The path, which is a public Right of Way, has recently been upgraded to Bridleway status to enable horse and bicycle access. This multi-user route through the Spinney will provide the missing link in a non-motorised transport route running from the north of Borehamwood to Shenley Village, Shenley Park and beyond. The route is part of waymarked circular walk no. 2, of the Shenley Walks, that starts from the Shenley Park Orchard Tea Room.



CMS Volunteer Update

Over the spring and summer CMS conservation volunteers have again been busy across the green spaces of Hertsmere. At this time of year much of the work involves improving access and information for visitors and park users.

In July the volunteers spent two days at Composers Park, Elstree installing welcome signs at the entrances and new benches in several locations in the park, which is characterised by its extensive wildflower meadows. Similar work took place at Woodhall Spinney in Shenley, an interesting and atmospheric site that contains remnants of ancient woodland.



During August the Wednesday volunteers and local people teamed up on a task at Studio Way Woodland Trail in Borehamwood to begin a programme of management on the site. The work involved dismantling old fencing that was erected some years ago to protect newly planted trees from damage by rabbits. The fencing worked well and the trees are now well grown and healthy. Our next task here will be to begin management of the young woodland by selectively thinning some trees to allow others to develop a full canopy and allow more light to reach the woodland floor to benefit spring flowers.

As well as all this, the volunteers have also carried out maintenance work and enhancements to Rights of Way around Cowley Hill to the north of Borehamwood. This involved cutting back vegetation overhanging paths and waymark posts, and fixing wire mesh to wooden bridges, making them less slippery in wet conditions.

If you would like to find out more about any of the project work mentioned here or would like to volunteer some of your time to worthwhile environmental projects, contact us on 01992 588433 or email northeast.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk

FREE Hertfordshire Health Walks may help save your life

Did you know government guidance based Department of Health statistics suggest that an adult undertaking 150 minutes of moderate activity per week can reduce their chance of dying by up to 35%; reduce their risk of Alzheimer's disease by 60%; reduce their likelihood of hip fracture by up to 68%; and that walking is a fantastic and a simple way to achieve this.

Hertfordshire Health Walks currently run eight free walks in Hertsmere each week, at Borehamwood, Bushey, Radlett and Potters Bar. Led by trained and dedicated volunteer leaders, they help everyone get outdoors, get more active and reap the benefits. The shortest walks, known as `1st STEPS` last 20-30 minutes and are on level ground. The longest `Grade 4` walks can be up to 90 minutes in length and may involve inclines and stiles.



Our Borehamwood 1st STEPS walk meets at 10.30 every Wednesday outside Mirzan Restaurant, 134 Aycliffe Road, WD23 4NT. Graham, who is semi-retired and has recently had a knee replacement, commented that 'new starters are surprised Hertfordshire Health Walks are free and how well organised they are.'

Ex-Royal Marines Commando Malcolm added that although he: "always kept fit" joining Hertfordshire Health Walks has "taken a little bit off the stomach".

For more information visit www.hertfordshirehealthwalks.org or call Matt Green on 01992 588433.

Countryside on Your Doorstep

Over the coming months CMS are developing a series of walking routes incorporating parks and open spaces around Borehamwood and Elstree, and venturing out into the rolling countryside beyond.

The walks will be depicted on illustrated maps, waymarked to ensure they are easy to follow and hopefully will give people the confidence to explore further afield. There will be a choice of walks, from short loops around Composers Park in Elstree and Parkfields on the edge of Borehamwood, to a 4 mile walk taking in the parks and open spaces along Tykeswater Brook and visiting the countryside out towards Shenley.



Watling Chase Community Forest (WCCF)

Many of these projects are being supported by the WCCF Small Projects Fund administered by CMS.

The fund is a valuable means of stimulating small-scale projects and is awarded to schemes that involve the local community; improve the natural environment and promote enjoyment of the WCCF area.

Projects need to be of public benefit, be appropriate to the ecology, landscape and archaeology of the area and can be up to 50% of the agreed costs, to a maximum of £2,000. For more information contact Tony Bradford on 01992 588433 or email tony.bradford@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Footpath at Maxwell Hillside Park

Construction works are currently underway on a new surfaced footpath through a section of Maxwell Hillside Park in Borehamwood.

CMS, in partnership with HBC are creating a new path linking site entrances on Bullhead Road with Hillside Avenue through an area that is often wet and muddy during the winter months. New feature barriers will also be installed at the site entrances, crafted from forged steel by a local blacksmith. The barriers will make reference to Maxwell Hillside Park's location next-door to the famous Elstree Studios.

While construction works are on going the southern part of the park will remain temporarily closed. The aim is to have the works completed and the site re-opened by the end of October.



Coppicing at Furzefield Wood

The important woodland management at Furzefield Wood Local Nature Reserve, Potters Bar will continue again this year with the next area of the woodland in the 8 year coppice cycle being cut.

Work will commence in October and continue till the end of February. As with recent years the work will be undertaken by a local coppice worker, who harvests the hazel to make coppice products such as bean and pea sticks, hedge stakes and binders and charcoal.

Heavy horses will also be used to help extract the timber and coppice products out of the wood to the roadside. This traditional approach allows the work to be done with minimal amount of ground disturbance and damage to the wood.

Contact details:



The Parks and Amenities team

We manage and maintain all council-owned parks in the borough with active involvement of the local community through Friends groups and planting days.

Freephone helpline

(office hours only): 0800 731 1810

Out of hours/24 hour

emergency 020 8207 2277/0845 300 0021

Steve Burton - Head of Street Scene **Ext: 5242**

David Smith - Parks and Amenities Manager.

Responsible for the coordination and senior management of all the maintenance work carried out within the borough. **Ext: 3880**

Jonathan Hawes - Cemetery & Technical Officer.

Responsible for the management and development of Allum Lane Cemetery, allotments and Bushey Rose Garden. **Ext: 3950**

Francesca Fitch - Area Parks Officer. Responsible for maintenance and development of all parks and open spaces. **Ext: 3920**

Richard Rose - Area Parks Officer. Responsible for maintenance and development of all parks and open spaces. **Ext: 5680**

Aaron Niblett - Parks Project Officer. Responsible for the design and management of schemes within parks and open spaces. **Ext: 3820**

Gill Clare - Office Administrator. Responsible for parks administration. **Ext: 5701**

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Featuring community safety, youth projects, sports, museums, grants and Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme. **020 8207 7801**

Hertsmere Leisure



Leisure centres, events, play schemes and Fifty Plus: **020 8236 3100**

Visit: www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk

Useful numbers

Street Scene:

(refuse collection, recycling and street cleansing) **020 8207 7480**

Hertfordshire Highways:

(Hertfordshire Highways is responsible for maintaining all trees on the public highway verge) **0300 123 4047**

Hertfordshire Police:

Non-emergency: 101
Emergency: 999

Affinity Sutton Homes: 020 8235 7000

Alldwyck Housing Association: 01582 869101

Motorcycle Hotline:

(to report nuisance motorcycles) CARM **020 8207 7553**

Countryside Management Service: 01992 588433

Aldenham Parish Council: 01923 856433

Elstree & Borehamwood

Town Council: 020 8207 1382

Shenley Parish Council: 01923 855865

South Mimms Parish Council: 020 8360 9223

Aldenham Country Park: 020 8953 9602

Shenley Park Trust: 01923 852629

This newsletter is published by Hertsmere Borough Council's Parks and Amenities team.

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