

Hertsmere's Parks & Community News

Countryside
Management
Service



Issue 30 - Spring/Summer 2013



No
smoking
in play areas
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Parks News



Hertsmere Borough Council renews grounds maintenance contract with John O'Conner

Hertsmere Borough Council has renewed its grounds maintenance contract with John O'Conner Ltd, a Hertfordshire-based company responsible for the upkeep of many of the UK's parks, gardens and open spaces.

The seven year contract, which started on 1 March 2013 (with an extension period of two years), continues the company's long partnership with the council, and promises to provide a boost for local employment and training.

Besides offering 10 apprenticeships over the duration of the contract, John O'Conner has undertaken to help young people obtain work experience through involvement in the government's 'Extended Work Experience' programme, in partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

Matthew O'Conner, John O'Conner's Managing Director, said: "We're delighted to be renewing our partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council. As part of the new contract, we will be providing staff development through work-based diploma training at levels 2 and 3, as well as funding management training for ourselves and

our client."

To further assist John O'Conner in its role in the community, four staff will become trained members of the 'Community Safety Accreditation Scheme', giving them some limited powers to help police deal with anti-social behaviour and disorder.

John O'Conner will be introducing the latest technology to record inspections as well as developing a dedicated website for Hertsmere.

Commenting on the contract renewal, Hertsmere Borough Councillor Jean Heywood, portfolio holder for the environment, said: "We are delighted to be able to continue working with John O'Conner. We have a number of award-winning parks, areas of outstanding beauty and nature reserves and our contractors have played no small part in helping us and our army of volunteers to achieve this.

"Our continuing partnership with them to maintain and enhance our green spaces, mean that they will continue to be a source of pride and enjoyment for everyone in Hertsmere."

John O'Conner
GREENING SMARTER



Rose Garden continues to bloom

A new gardener has been appointed to ensure the Bushey Rose Garden continues to bloom and grow.

Ami Cowley joined the council in October 2012 following Paul Knott's departure last summer. Ami is excited to take over as custodian to the garden and was busy planting 'Jubilee' roses in December with volunteers to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

The garden was fortunate to receive a Highly Commended Award in the Heritage & Conservation category at the 2012 Landscape Institute Awards.

Are you a budding gardener? Ami is recruiting volunteers to help her with tasks such as dead heading, rose pruning and weeding. Do you have a few hours to spare? Please contact the Parks team for more information on 0800 731 1810.

2013 promises to be a very special year as it's the garden's centenary. A number of events are



Ami Cowley at work



Friends, volunteers, councillors and officers with the Landscape Institute Award

planned to celebrate including the **Centenary Garden Party on Sunday 30 June** featuring Watford Brass Band, stalls, children's activities and refreshments. For further details on all the events across this summer please see page 12.

The bird bath that was originally in the garden is being restored by a local stone mason and will be returning to the garden this summer. Local blacksmith, Steve Rook, is busy at his forge creating bespoke cycle racks for the garden which will feature poppy flowers in the design.

Green Flag Awards

Seven parks have been submitted for this year's Green Flag Awards.

Six parks won the award last year and the council is hoping for good news again later this year once judges have inspected the parks, with the new addition of the Furzefield (King George V Playing Field, Furzefield Woods and Lower Halfpenny Bottom Local Nature Reserve) in Potters Bar.

Last year's winners include Aberford Park in Borehamwood, King George Recreation Ground, the Bushey Rose Garden and Fishers Field in Bushey and Parkfield and Oakmere Park in Potters Bar.

The parks are judged as to whether they are welcoming, safe, secure and sustainable, having community involvement and are properly maintained.

For further details on Green Flag Awards across the country please visit www.greenflag.org.uk



Hertsmere Green Flag Award presentation last year



Furzefield improvements

A number of improvements are being carried out at the Furzefield in Potters Bar at the moment, including three new kissing gates along the wood boundary.

Additional hard surfacing leading to the gates has been installed to improve access, while the gates themselves protect the woodland from damage by motorcyclists. Further improvements to the boundary will be carried out to deal with other gaps in the tree line.

The old football post store has been removed from the football field and new benches will be fitted on the existing concrete base. A new noticeboard has been installed at the entrance to Lower Halfpenny Bottom to replace the previously damaged one.

This year's compartment of the woodland has been coppiced with 500 additional hazel tree whips planted and deer proof fencing has been erected.



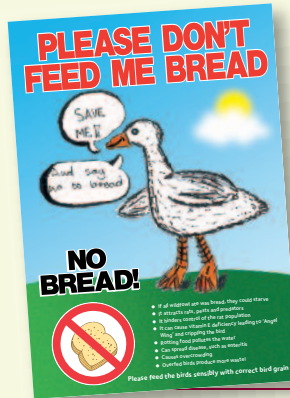
Duck poster competition

At the end of last year, the Borehamwood Four Parks Friends Association invited some local schools to help improve Aberford Park by designing posters and signs to discourage visitors from feeding bread to the wildfowl in the park.

A panel of judges enjoyed looking at all of the entries and managed to select three winners from each school, with each winning pupil receiving a certificate and a box of appropriate duck feed presented to them by the Mayor of Hertsmere, Councillor Pat Strack. The overall winning design will be used on the posters in the park from this summer.

Feeding ducks is an enjoyable experience in the park but we now know the disadvantages of

using bread to do so. The Friends have sourced a supply of healthy duck food, designed to have all the nutrients they need to stay healthy, and these can be purchased from them for £1 a box.



A new leaf

This spring we planted 67 trees in our parks and open spaces at Aberford Park, Cranborne Crescent, Furzefield, King George Recreation Ground, Maxwell Hillside Park, Meadow Park, Oakmere Park, Parkfield, Ripon Park and Tempsford Green. We look forward to these trees putting on a show of new leaves later this year.





Studio Way Woodland

The Studio Way Woodland in Borehamwood contains a large number of poplar trees, initially planted to provide screening for the old MGM studios.

Unfortunately, the majority of these trees are reaching the end of their lifespan, some are now starting to fail or cause structural damage.

Recently we had to take the decision to fell a number of these poplars whilst also carrying out some health and safety work, identified on our cyclical inspections, in the section of the woodland between Denham Way and Well End Road.

Poplar trees do not support much wildlife and the roots can be invasive and in the long term all of the poplars within the woodland will need to be removed. This method of woodland management will provide the remaining varieties of trees with space and light to regenerate and form a native tree stock supporting more wildlife.

Outdoor gym at Ripon Park

Visitors to a Borehamwood park can enjoy a new way of keeping fit in the fresh air thanks to an outdoor gym.

The fitness station at Ripon Park includes a hand bike, recumbent bike, bench, chest press and pull up bars and was installed in the spring.

The gym has been paid for by Affinity Sutton Housing Association who carried out consultation with residents and park visitors and worked in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council, who own and manage the site.

Cllr Brenda Batten, portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and Health, said: "The new outdoor gym is a fantastic addition to the park and something that should be fun to use, and keep everyone healthy and active. Let's hope that the weather cheers up soon to encourage people to use it and have fun in the fresh air!"

Kate Beeching, from Affinity Sutton, said: "We were delighted to be able to work with the council and provide something that will benefit lots of people in the area."

Outdoor gyms already exist at King George Recreation Ground and the Moatfield in Bushey, Oakmere Park in Potters Bar, and Parkfields in Elstree.

The £20,000 state-of-the-art kit is designed for adults. If in doubt about undertaking physical exercise, consult with a doctor beforehand.



Visit our new website

Our new website has been launched to make it easier for you to find the information you want about council services, including where all our beautiful parks and open spaces can be found.



www.hertsmere.gov.uk contains all the essential information you need about the range of services the council provides, along with improved online forms and a better search facility.

The layout and structure of the site has been developed to make it more user-friendly, the quality of the pictures has improved and new features, such as information feeds from our Twitter account, have been added. The improvements allow more opportunities for residents to get in touch with us at a time that is convenient to them, without having to travel to

our offices, and apply for services, report issues or pay items with just a few clicks.

The site has been developed with improved accessibility for people with visual impairments and while it has already gone live, it is work-in-progress and customer opinion is important.

You can:

- Put in your postcode and search for services near you
- Sign up to news feeds
- Find the most recently published documents
- Watch meetings as they happen live
- Complete forms online
- Share pages and content through social media tools
- And much more – log on and have a look!

Visit: www.hertsmere.gov.uk

Digging for prizes

Green-fingered enthusiasts have been recognised for their horticultural efforts in the first Bushey allotment competition. Three allotment holders have been awarded prizes for the condition of their plots and the quality of its produce in the competition organised by Hertsmere Borough Council.

Judge Geoff Kazer, contract manager at grounds maintenance contractor John O’Conner, visited 175 plots across all three borough council-owned sites in the town with allotments officer Jonathan Hawes. Each plot was assessed according to the condition of the plot, quality of the produce and the variety of vegetables, fruit and flowers grown.

Picking up the prize for best allotment in Merry Hill was Renate Romer, while Jaime Artime got the best allotment in Finch Lane and the best

allotment in Windmill Lane went to Madeleine McCormack. Dr McCormack was also honoured for having the best overall allotment.

Dr McCormack, who was a GP in Bushey for 25 years, has had an allotment since she retired but is giving up this year. She said: “It is great to go out on a high. It is very hard work having an allotment, but living on a busy main road, it is so nice to go up there because it is so peaceful.”

Each winner received a £20 gift voucher from Bushey Horticultural Society’s trading hut. For information about allotments go to www.hertsmere.gov.uk or call 020 8207 7497.



Winners of the Bushey allotments competition with council officers and judge Geoff Kazer

No ifs or butts, just quit

Young people put pen to paper to support a new bid which was launched on No Smoking Day in March to keep Hertsmere's play areas smoke free.

Pupils from schools in the area were invited to take part in a competition to design a poster aimed at promoting a voluntary smoking ban across all Hertsmere Borough Council-owned parks.

The winning poster, designed by Bushey Manor Junior School pupil Megan Reynolds, was unveiled at a presentation ceremony at King George Recreation Ground in Bushey attended by councillors, officers and representatives from NHS Hertfordshire. It will appear in parks across the borough with contact details for the Hertfordshire Stop Smoking Service, along with signs encouraging visitors to stub out their cigarettes when in and round play areas.

Councillor Brenda Batten, portfolio holder for leisure, culture and health said: "Our play areas are important places for children to enjoy themselves and get some exercise, which is why it's vital they stay free of cigarette fumes.

"The smoking ban is voluntary, so though our officers won't be enforcing it, we hope it will remind mums, dads and other adults, of the negative impact of smoking on their health and



the health of their children.

"We also hope it will encourage people to take pride in their neighbourhood. Discarded cigarette butts can make an area look untidy and unloved. We need people to help us keep Hertsmere beautiful, healthy and thriving."

Breathing in second-hand smoke is particularly harmful for children. It can cause an increased risk of asthma, meningitis, respiratory conditions like bronchitis, coughs and colds, and cot death.

Megan's colourful design was chosen from around 40 entries by Cllr Batten and Councillor Jean Heywood, portfolio holder for environment and transport. As her prize, Megan won an A3 copy of her poster and a family ticket to Willows Farm Village and Farm Park in Colney Heath.

Other schools who participated in the competition were Hartsbourne School in Bushey Heath, Monksmead School in Borehamwood and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School in Borehamwood.

Millbrook Road open space

Local residents were consulted about improvements to Millbrook Road open space in Bushey last year.

Improvements are now complete and include tree work to improve sight lines across the open space, bollards to prevent cars driving across it and large drifts of bulbs which will provide colour from February to May and feature daffodils and camassia. A bench will be installed shortly by the shops in Bushey Mill Lane. The improvements have been funded by a local development.

Community News

Exclusive free event for teenage girls

Want to be a part of a professional dance photo and video shoot? Want to learn new techniques in fashion styling, hair and make-up? And want to do it all for FREE? If you are female, aged 13 to 17 and live in Hertsmere then now is your chance.

What is it about?

Us Girls! is about gaining some new creative skills to help girls with their self-confidence and self-respect while providing them with some fitness, fun and practical creative skills.

Who is it for?

It is open to girls aged 13 to 17 who live in Hertsmere.

What will I learn?

A four week taster offers an introduction to each of the creative elements – fashion styling, hair techniques, makeup and learning street dance.

You will learn how to create the latest fashion look without spending a fortune, using make-up and hair styling effectively, customising clothes and learn a choreographed dance routine to music that your group chooses.

The taster sessions then lead to a 10-week programme which will end with a professional photo shoot and a stylised dance video shoot created by you with support and direction from the two experienced project leaders.

Where is it being held?

The Venue Leisure Centre, Elstree Way, Borehamwood

When is being held?

A 10-week creative project runs every Friday from 12 April to 21 June.

The final film and photography shoot day is on Sunday 23 June.

How much does it cost?

It is completely FREE of charge and has been funded thanks to Hertsmere Borough Council, StreetGames, Child UK and Sportivate.

Who has developed it?

Hertsmere Borough Council's Youth Projects Team in conjunction with Child UK

Who leads it?

Project leaders are Corina and Duran who between them have lots of experience in dance, dance instruction, fashion styling and creative arts.

How do I book?

Places are limited so you need to register in advance, giving your name, age, area you live in and contact number. Text or call 07832 205 787 or Tweet @Corina_Best



Bushey Community Safety Partnership



The next meeting will take place on Thursday 30 May 2013 at 7pm at Queens School Bushey, Aldenham Road, Bushey, WD233 2TY

At the meeting updates will be given from the police, fire and Community Safety Partnership. Residents will also have the opportunity to raise any local concerns they may have.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Details can be found at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/csp or call 020 8207 7801 or email partnership.support@hertsmere.gov.uk

Dog Watch

Dog walkers are needed to act as the 'eyes and ears' of their community as part of a new scheme.

Hertsmere Community Safety partnership (CSP), which includes Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire Police, is inviting volunteers to sign up to Dog Watch and help combat crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood. Fortunately, Hertsmere has a low crime rate, and to help keep it that way Dog Watch members are encouraged to report any suspicious activity they see or hear while walking their dog by calling the non-emergency number 101. In emergency situations, dial 999.

Members will be given regular updates through the police Online Watch Link (OWL) about how their information has helped improve the area and where they live. They will also be given crime prevention advice.

The next Dog Watch event is on Wednesday 28 August between 2pm and 4pm at King George Recreation Ground, King George Avenue in Bushey. Dog owners are invited to come along and talk to the local police about the scheme.

Tennis programme

The popular tennis programmes continues in Borehamwood and Bushey.

Borehamwood

Independent Tennis is offering tennis sessions at Meadow Park, Brook Road in Borehamwood.

Saturdays

12.30pm to 1pm - free trial session

1pm to 2pm - mini tennis for 10 and under (£5 a session)

2pm - individual sessions on request

Summer camps

Independent Tennis will be running post Wimbledon summer camps on 29, 30 and 31 July from 9am to 12pm at Meadow Park.

Cost: £10 per day or £25 for the week.

To sign up please contact Monica Becerra on 07702 211959, email MonProUK@aol.com or Rafa Zurita on 07762 786820, email: tenezus@gmail.com

Bushey

3Tenn is back to improve tennis skills at King George Recreation Ground, King George Avenue in Bushey.

Sunday

10am to 11am - 4 to 10 year olds

11am to 12pm - 11+ year olds

No booking required. Only £3 per session

Adult groups and individual lessons available on request.

For more information or to make a booking contact David Shann on 07940 428310, email: david.shann@3tenn.net or visit: www.3tenn.net



Hertsmere Leisure, a charitable trust, has been looking after the council's leisure centres for 10 years and recently won the contract to continue to manage them until at least 2022. Facilities include The Venue and Hertswood Centre in Borehamwood, Bushey Grove Leisure Centre in Bushey and Furze Field Centre and Wylyotts Theatre in Potters Bar. Hertsmere Leisure will also take over the management of Three Ways Community Centre in Borehamwood and Bushey Country Club and Community Centre as well as the delivery of Fifty Plus, play and park events programmes.

Fifty Plus

The Fifty Plus programme provides a wide range of recreational opportunities across Hertsmere. We have a great variety of weekly activities for you to try and enjoy including art, badminton, ballroom, Latin dance, indoor bowls, keep fit, bridge, tap dancing, table tennis, singing and Yoga. Plus we have a range of special events, quiz evenings and day trips throughout the year.

Play

We also offer a variety of play opportunities for children up to 14 years including: crèche services, run-a-round sessions, Fizzifun, swimming lessons, gymnastics courses, holiday playschemes for four to 14 years and more. See what your local Leisure Centre has to offer at www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk.

Events in the parks

Look out for one of our events in a park near you! Bring your family and enjoy all the fun of play days, music events and festivals, Easter egg hunts, dog shows and more.

For more details about Fifty Plus, Play and Events in the parks visit www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk or contact the Community Team on 020 8236 3106.



Our new Motivate4 Memberships help you to be more active. Every time you take part in an activity we reward you with points for you to save up and cash in to pay for an activity.

FREE to residents of Hertsmere, as well as rewarding you with points, our Bronze Motivate4 Memberships allow you to book activities in advance, gain free spectator entry and obtain discount at Wylyotts Theatre, Potters Bar.

To find out more about what Hertsmere Leisure has to offer you, visit www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk, email web.comments@hertsmereleisure.co.uk, or phone 020 8236 3100.



fifty⁵⁰plus

Fifty Plus are hosting various trips from May to October 2013. To book your place, please call: 01707 645005

Life and Death: Pompeii and Herculaneum

Thursday 23 May
Cost: £27

The Beechwood Beauty Boat Trip and Guided Tour - in Maidenhead

Thursday 6 June
Cost: £36.50

The Secret Gardens of Sandwich in Kent

Thursday 27 June
Cost: £25.50

Hythe - Oh I do like to be beside the seaside' - in Kent

Friday 19 July
Cost: £20



Hidden London and the Regents Canal

Friday 2 August
Narrow Boat Cruise and Guided Tour
Cost: £33

Royal Tunbridge Wells Spa Town

Thursday 22 August
Guided Walk and Steam Tour
Cost: £ (tba)

Short Break to South Wales

Tuesday 11 to Thursday 14 September
Cost: £389



Royal Albert Hall - Combined Hall and Albert Memorial Tour

Friday 20 September
Cost: £27

The Olympic Legacy

Friday 11 October
With guided tour and carvery
Cost: £39.50

Forthcoming Events



Can't think what to do at the weekend? Want ideas for summer? Well look no further! We have a packed events calendar to entertain all ages. Charges apply at some events. For a full list and further details on each event please visit: www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk and click 'park events' or contact Hertsmere Leisure, on 020 8236 3100. Keep checking the website as more dates are to be added...

May

Monday 13 May - Laughter Club

From 12pm to 1pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Release anxieties and worries by performing laughter techniques.

June

Monday 10 June - Laughter Club

From 12pm to 1pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Release anxieties and worries by performing laughter techniques.

Sunday 30 June - Centenary Garden Party

From 2pm to 5pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Join us to celebrate 100 years of the garden.
Part of the Bushey Festival.

July

Wednesday 3 July - Laughter Club

From 12pm to 2pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Release anxieties and worries by performing laughter techniques. Part of the Bushey Festival.

Saturday 6 July - Bug Hunt

From 2pm to 4pm
Go bug hunting with our conservation expert.
Meet outside Aberford Community Centre. Organised by Borehamwood Four Parks Friends Association.
For further details please contact Simon Braidman on 020 8386 2502 or simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk



Sunday 7 July - Dog Show

King George Recreation Ground, King George Avenue, Bushey.
Bookings from 10.30am. Pedigree and novelty classes.
Entry forms can be obtained on the day. Charges apply. Part of the Bushey Festival.

Sunday 7 July - Bushey Bowling Club Family Day

Visit: www.busheyfestival.org.uk for further details.

Monday 8 July - Laughter Club

From 12pm to 2pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Part of the Bushey Festival.

Thursday 11 July - Teddy Bears' Picnic

From 12pm to 3pm
King George Recreation Ground, King George Avenue, Bushey.
Best dress teddy competition, mini fun fair and much more! Part of the Bushey Festival.



Friday 12 July - Tea, Talk & Tour

Starts at 2.30pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Join the Friends of the Rose Garden for a guided walk of the garden followed by high tea. Tickets must be booked in advance through the Bushey Festival Box Office. Visit: www.busheyfestival.org.uk
Part of the Bushey Festival.

Saturday 13 July - Rotary Club Fun Day

From 1pm to 5pm
Oakmere Park, High Street, Potters Bar.

Sunday 14 July - Bushey Marathon

11am start
Visit www.busheyfestival.org.uk for further details.
Part of the Bushey Festival.

Sunday 21 July - Family Fun Day

From 12pm to 5pm
King George Recreation Ground, King George Avenue,
Bushey.

August

Every Thursday - 1, 8, 15 & 22 August - Story Telling

10:30am
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Discover magical stories of the garden with story teller
Pauline Collins.

Wednesday 7 August - National Play Day

Oakmere Park, High Street, Potters Bar.

Saturday 10 August - Guided Walk of Woodcock Hill, Borehamwood

From 2pm to 4pm
Join our conservation expert for a guided walk on
fungi and anything else. Meet at Carrington Avenue
entrance. Organised by Borehamwood Four Parks
Friends Association. For further details please contact
Simon Braidman on 020 8386 2502 or
simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk

Monday 12 August - Laughter Club

From 12pm to 1pm
The Bushey Rose Garden, High Street, Bushey.
Release anxieties and worries by performing laughter
techniques.

Saturday 24 August - Family Fun Day

From 12pm to 5pm
Aberford Park, off Brook Road, Borehamwood.

September

Thursday 5 September - Bat & Night Wildlife Walk

From 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Aberford Park, off Brook Road, Borehamwood.
Discover the bats and night creatures of the park with
our conservation expert. Organised by Borehamwood
Four Parks Friends Association. For further details
please contact Simon Braidman on 020 8386 2502 or
simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk

October

Sunday 6 October - Borehamwood Wildlife Walk

From 10.30am to 12.30pm

Join our conservation expert on a guided walk of
Borehamwood's Green Belt. Meet at the corner of
Allerton Road and Rossington Avenue. Organised by
Borehamwood Four Parks Friends Association. For
further details please contact Simon Braidman on
020 8386 2502 or simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk

Shenley Park events

Sunday 14 July - 'Treasure Island'

by the Cambridge Touring Theatre

Saturday 27 July - 'Midsummer Night's Dream'

by the Pantaloons

Sunday 4 August - Music to Watch the Flowers By.

An all day picnic music concert with family
entertainment

Sunday 20 October - Apple Day in the Walled Garden

All events take place in the Walled
Garden. Charges apply. For further
details on times and charges please
visit www.shenleypark.co.uk,
email: info@shenleypark.co.uk or call 01923 852629.
Find us at Shenley Park, Shenley, Herts, WD7 9DW



Bushey Festival celebrates anniversaries

This year sees a number of anniversaries coming
together at this summer's Bushey Festival. The festival
itself is 30 years old, the Bushey Rose Garden - scene
of several events - is 100 years old and Bushey
Museum is 20 years old. The result is a packed
programme of arts, cultural and sporting events,
together with many opportunities just to have fun.
Park events are listed opposite.

Other highlights include:

- "Any Questions?" Live broadcast by the BBC, Friday
12 July, 6.30pm - Bushey Academy, London Road.
- Bushey Museum Celebration Fun Day, Saturday 6
July, 11am-4pm - Bushey Museum, Rudolph Road.
- Gala Concert, Saturday 13 July, 7.30pm -
St Margaret's School, Merry Hill Road.
- Bushey Museum Exhibition "Celebration"
throughout the Festival.

For further details see the festival leaflet, available
from late May or the website:
www.bushefestival.org.uk

Countryside Management Service news



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

Volunteer task round up

The CMS practical conservation volunteers have been busy throughout Hertsmere during last autumn and winter, a period that is normally marked by a variety of woodland and vegetation management tasks. Total volunteer time spent on activity in Hertsmere between November 2012 and February 2013 has amounted to more than 300 hours!

Notable works in the borough over the last few months have included enhancements at Finch Lane allotments (see below).

The Wednesday Volunteers also completed two sessions at Maxwell Hillside Park in Borehamwood cutting back invasive vegetation such as scrub and bramble as well as planting hedging; all part of the park's wider improvement programme.

Further voluntary time was spent clearing scrub at The Moatfield in Bushey and erection of deer

fencing around areas of coppiced hazel at Furze Field Wood in Potters Bar. As well as this volunteers have also been busy maintaining and enhancing access along sections of Rights of Way throughout the borough at sites such as footpath 53 in north Borehamwood and Footpath 5 through Aldenham Country Park.

If you are interested in joining the Wednesday Volunteer team and contributing to the diverse range of environmental project work, please contact CMS at: northeast.cms@hertscc.gov.uk



Hedge planting at Maxwell Hill Park

Finch Lane Allotments

Over the winter months the CMS Wednesday Volunteer group has braved the snow, wind and rain to bring improvements to Finch Lane Allotments in Bushey. Spending over 90 hours of time at the site they have planted 100 native trees such as hazel, field maple, hawthorn and spindle, created a dead hedge to secure the boundary, scrub management and installed new entrance signs and allotment notice boards.

Contractors were called in to undertake larger scale tree management works and to create a

wildlife pond, which has significantly improved the site for both the wildlife and allotment holders. Funding for the project was committed by the council and Watling Chase Community Forest but would not have been possible without many hours of hard work by the CMS Wednesday Volunteers.

Walks and More

Interested in guided walks and countryside activities? See the Walks and More website for details of events in your local area and further afield. www.hertsdirect.org/walksandmore



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 or promote enjoyment of the WCCF area.

Projects need to be of public benefit, be appropriate to the ecology, landscape or archaeology of the area and can be up to half of the agreed costs, to a maximum of £2,000. To view the area covered by WCCF and apply for funding, see the WCCF pages at: www.hertslink.org/cms/watchascomfor/

In Harmony - securing a place for people and wildlife at Composers Park

Composers Park will be singing a new tune thanks to a grant which will allow improvements works. CMS in partnership with the council has secured a grant of £56,300 from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) with a further £5,000 contributed by the council for an exciting project to deliver a programme of improvements at the site near Elstree. Local councillors Morris Bright and Derek Gunasekera, have also contributed £2,000 of their Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme (WIIS) funding towards the project.

The project will give the site a much needed conservation boost and bring back the colourful wildflower meadows, hedgerows and areas of scrub and trees. The aim is to provide an attractive, accessible and welcoming green space for the local community to come and learn about their local heritage through interpretation, enjoyment and engagement. Plans include new interpretive materials, a programme of events and volunteer opportunities, challenging natural play equipment, restoration of old hedgerows, removal of invading scrub from the wildflower rich grassland, construction of a wildlife pond and habitat improvements to the areas of mature scrub with trees to benefit birds and small mammals. Work is due to start now, running through to June 2014.

Thirskcliffe Nature Park - getting better for people and for nature

A project at Thirskcliffe Park in Borehamwood is continuing with the aim of rejuvenating the park to provide benefits for people and wildlife. Plans for improvement drawn up by CMS and the council are currently being implemented.

Comparing aerial photos from the 1970s with recent pictures shows that the area of grass in the park has shrunk by more than half over the last 40 years: that's 2.2 hectares, or an area equivalent to four and a half football pitches of wildflower meadow lost to bramble and scrub.

Recently existing paths and steps have been restored to make the park easier for people to get around. Later in the year much of the bramble and scrub will be removed to return the meadow to its former glory.

In the future the meadows will be managed by taking a hay cut, enabling wildflowers to reappear. A wildflower meadow in summer is a wonderful thing: colourful, fragrant and alive with butterflies. Make sure you take the time to visit the park in July and appreciate its natural beauty.



Thirskcliffe park in winter

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 and allotments. **Ext: 3950**

Francesca Turze - Area Parks Officer. Responsible for maintenance and development of Borehamwood, Bushey, Elstree and Shenley parks and open spaces. **Ext: 3920**

Aaron Niblett - Area Parks Officer. Responsible for maintenance and development of Borehamwood, Potters Bar, Ridge and South Mimms parks and open spaces. **Ext: 3820**

Fiona Leadley - Landscape Design Officer.
Responsible for the design and management of schemes within parks and open spaces. **Ext: 5680**

Gill Clare - Administration Assistant. Responsible for parks administration. **Ext: 5701**

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Featuring community safety, youth projects, sport and museums: 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

Aldwyck Housing Association: 01582 869101

Motorcycle Hotline:
(to report nuisance motorcycles) CARM 020 8207 7553

Countryside Management Service: 01462 459395

Aldenham Parish Council: 01923 856433

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council: 020 8207 1382

Ridge Parish Council: ridgeparish@live.co.uk

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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