

Hertsmere's & Parks Community News

Countryside
Management
Service



Issue 32 - Spring/Summer 2014



Storms cause damage to
our parks and trees see page 2

Featuring:

We Move She Moves - page 5

Bushey Festival - page 6

Spring and summer events - page 7

parks@hertsmere.gov.uk

Parks News



Father Christmas visits Bushey Rose Garden



Father Christmas made a guest appearance at the Bushey Rose Garden in December.

As well as meeting Father Christmas, families enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas carols, a treasure hunt, tombola and refreshments. Rob Dodkin, Projects Co-ordinator at Hertsmere Leisure, said: "It was an enjoyable free family event and we hope that everyone had a fantastic festive afternoon, but also took time to explore the beautiful garden with its winter colours."

All change in parks

After working at Hertsmere for over ten years Fiona Leadley (pictured on her last day in the office) left us at the end of 2013 to take up a job in the private sector that she could get to without using the M25!



Fiona worked on numerous projects during her time at Hertsmere, most notably the project to restore Bushey Rose Garden to its former glory. Our new Parks Project Officer is Aaron Niblett, who moves into the role after working for over fifteen years as an Area Parks Officer at Hertsmere.

And we'd like to welcome Richard Rose to the team as the new Area Parks Officer.

Storm damage

Severe storms in the south east of England on Sunday 27 October caused approximately £30,000 worth of damage to trees in our parks and open spaces.

As well as those that blew over, many trees were damaged and needed work to make them safe. The final clear up took several weeks due to the wet ground making many areas inaccessible. Some parks were unscathed while others suffered damage to numerous trees; in particular Aberford Park (pictured), Leeming Park and Ripon Park in Borehamwood and King George Recreation Ground in Bushey all suffered significant damage.

We have experienced several smaller storms over the last three months and surprisingly the damage from these has been minor in comparison.

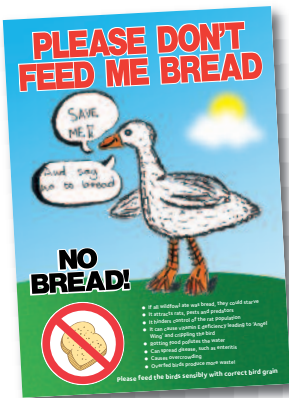
Some replacement planting will be carried out in the autumn.



Bad bread

The Friends of Four Parks Association have been working hard to educate the public to feed wild bird food to the ducks at Aberford Park rather than bread.

Bread can have a detrimental effect on the birds. It has poor nutritional value and can cause angel wing and other growth defects. It can spread disease and cause a build-up of waste in the water system.



Efforts to educate park visitors about the negative effects have previously been limited to written notices displayed on boards in the parks, so the Friends have taken a more proactive approach.

Local primary schoolchildren were invited to enter a competition to design a poster encouraging people to use wild bird food instead of bread. The winning entry was by Matthew Read of Woodlands Primary School and his posters can now be seen at four locations around the lake.

Duck food is available from the following locations for £1 a box:

- Aberford café in the park.
- Images Hairdressers, Croxdale Road.
- Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council, Fairway Avenue.



Piranha like fish found in Borehamwood lake!

In February a dead fish was found floating in the lake in Aberford Park, Borehamwood.

After a bit of research it was identified as a Silver Arowana, a carnivorous fish whose usual habitat is the Amazon river basin in South America!

It's possible that an aquarium enthusiast found the feisty fish too much to handle as they can often jump and need a strong and efficient filtration system along with a good sized tank – in the wild they can reach four feet!



The fish was reported to the Environment Agency, who monitor non-native fish as they can pose a threat to the ecology in the water system by depleting existing fish stocks, interrupting the food cycle or spreading disease.

Oakmere Park bandstand

We are currently looking at ideas for a bandstand in Oakmere Park, Potters Bar. Once installed it will be able to host a variety of events, including local bands and Christmas carol concerts. Further information will be provided in the park and on our website as the project develops.



Got an idea for a play area?

We have received funding from local developments to improve the play facilities in Parkfields play area in Elstree. We will be consulting with local residents over the summer. If you have any ideas for the area, please email parks.consultation@hertsmere.gov.uk

Bag it and bin it – any bin will do!

Unfortunately dog poo can be a problem in our parks and open spaces thanks to a minority of irresponsible dog walkers who can't be bothered to pick up after their pooch.

Hertsmere, along with councils across the country, work to tackle this issue with a mixture of enforcement and education. There are enough dog poo bins and litter bins out there – remember any bin will do! Don't let one or two dog walkers spoil our award-winning parks.

We will be fighting back with a new campaign in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy in the coming months, so watch this space!

Report dog poo to the council on 020 8207 7480 or report it online at www.hertsmere.gov.uk/reportit



Bootcamp

Want to spend time in the fresh air getting fit and making new friends? Fancy being shouted at by a military training instructor? If you do, then welcome to bootcamp!

Now that Spring is here it is the ideal time to get fit outdoors. Regiment fitness sessions are fun, equipment based training sessions which cater to you no matter what your shape, size or level of fitness. It's a complete workout session that will build up your stamina, strength and general fitness.

Class times and locations:

Meadow Park, Borehamwood:

- Monday: 9.30am - 10.30am
- Tuesday: 7pm - 8pm
- Saturday: 10am - 11am

The Moatfield, Bushey:

- Monday: 6pm - 7pm and 7.15pm - 8.15pm
- Wednesday 9.30am - 10.30am
- Thursday 6pm - 7pm and 7.15pm - 8.15pm

King George V Recreation Ground
behind Furzefield Leisure Centre, Potters Bar:

- Monday: 7pm - 8pm
- Wednesday: 9.30am - 10.30am
- Thursday: 7pm - 8pm

For more information please visit www.regimentfitness.co.uk

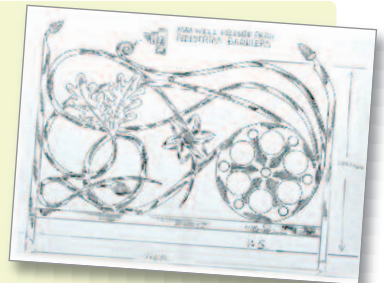


New path at Maxwell Hillside

A new footpath will be constructed through the park from the Hillside Avenue entrance through to Bullhead Road.

This work is currently being tendered and we hope construction will take place in June/July. This will mean sections of the park will be closed while the work is carried out.

As part of the project, specially designed barriers will be installed (pictured). There will also be the creation of a new wildflower meadow along with two new benches.



Community News

Bowling into 2014

Bushey Bowling Club is offering two opportunities to try lawn bowls.

On Thursday 17 April, in conjunction with the Bowls Development Association, there will be an event at the Asda car park near the Dome roundabout in Watford, and on Sunday 6 July Bushey Bowling Club is holding an Open Day at King George Recreation Ground in Bushey.

Pop along between 10am and 4pm to try this popular game and talk to a club member.

The ancient sport of lawn bowls has long been enjoyed by Bushey residents. For over a hundred years the game has been played at King George Recreation Ground – in earlier times only by gentlemen. Then seventy-six years ago the bold decision to allow ladies to play was taken... IF they were invited by a gentleman!

Things are very different now – it is a competitive, exciting and tactical sport where men and women of any age can compete on equal terms.



We move, she moves

Are you interested in taking part in a new activity? Not exercised for a while? Then find out more with our exciting new project for women and girls.

We have received funding from Sport England to deliver a three year project specially designed to help you tone up, lose weight and have fun.

The classes are taught by fitness experts and will help you to improve your health, meet new people and change your body shape. The idea is to grab a friend and try something new.

The activities, run in partnership with Hertsmere Leisure and Herts Sports Partnership, include boxercise, dance, running, bootcamp, cycling, trampolining, Zumba, self-defence and many more and will take place at the following locations:

- Oakmere Park - Tuesdays from 6 May to 22 July, 7pm to 8pm
- King George Recreation Ground - Thursdays from 8 May to 24 July, 6pm to 7pm
- Aberford Park - Thursdays from 8 May to 24 July, 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Spaces are limited so book now at www.wemoveshemoves.com or for more information contact Helen Hopkins on 020 8207 7801 or email helen.hopkins@hertsmere.gov.uk



Tennis news

3Tenn provide tennis coaching and fun development games for £3 a session on Sunday mornings in King George Recreation Ground in Bushey:

- 10am to 11am: 4 to 10 year olds
- 11am to 12pm: aged 11+

For more information contact David Shann on 07940 428310 or email david.shann@3tenn.net

Independent Tennis provide tennis coaching for five to 10 year olds on a Saturday morning in Meadow Park, Borehamwood:

- 10am to 10.30am: free trial session
- 10.30 to 11.30am: £5 per session

For more information visit www.independenttennis.co.uk



Parish News

Bushey Festival events

The Bushey Festival fortnight plans to be as booming and big as ever.

Between 5 and 20 July there will be events taking place across Bushey Village, the Rose Garden and King George Recreation Ground:

- Sunday 6: a 10k race will start at Queens School and pass through King George Recreation Ground. Also taking place the same day is the Bushey Rose Garden Festival Garden party from 2pm to 5pm.
- Thursday 10: the ever-popular Teddy Bears Picnic runs from midday till 3pm at King George Recreation Ground.
- Saturday 12: Junior Golf is on from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm at Bushey Golf and Country Club.
- Sunday 13: Bushey Rangers '6-A-Side' takes place from 10am till 2pm and 2pm till 6pm at The Moatfield in Bournehall Lane.
- Monday 14: join us in the Rose Garden for Laughter Therapy at midday and brand new to the festival is the 'Great Bushey Bake Off' between 4pm to 6pm.
- Tuesday 15: Ishin Ryu Ju Jitsu is on from 1pm to 5pm at Bushey Grove Leisure Centre.



- Sunday 20: on the last day of the festival there is the dog show at King George Recreation Ground and also The Big Bushey Bike Ride at The Moatfield from 10am till 2pm.

For further details please look out for the festival leaflet, due to arrive through your door at the beginning of June, or visit our website www.busheyfestival.org



Photography competition

During the festivities you could win one of three £50 prizes. For more information and an entry form visit www.busheymuseum.org

Improvements in Phillimore Recreation Ground

An attractive new seat funded by Hertsmere Borough Council through their Ward Improvement Initiative Scheme, will be installed this spring in Phillimore Recreation Ground in Radlett.

The seat will be placed alongside the footpath, which runs between the children's play area and the playing field. To further enhance this area, Aldenham Parish Council will also be planting six Whitebeam trees alongside the footpath.

Events News



After the amazing weather we had in 2013, the Events team are keeping everything crossed for a repeat from Mr Sunshine this year.

We have some amazing new events, as well as the annual crowd pleasers. One event we just can't wait for is **'The Rainbow Run'** on Sunday 18 May at the Furzefield Center in Potters Bar. For the first time, we have teamed up with the Peace Hospice to bring you this 5k fun run with the added bonus of being blasted with different coloured powdered paints every kilometre. Entry is only £15 with all proceeds going to the Peace Hospice, so why not get fit, have fun and do your bit for charity. Registration is at 9am.

For all amateur bakers we have another brand new event for 2014, the **'Great Bushey Bake**

Off'. Come and prove you're a better baker than Mary Berry or Paul Hollywood for your chance to win some amazing prizes. We also have a Junior Bakers competition for under 14s, again with some amazing prizes. The bake off will be held at The Rose Garden, Bushey on Monday 14 July between 4pm and 6pm.

You will be delighted to know we are continuing our **FREE Watford FC coaching sessions**. Following the success of the first year we will be running two weekly FREE coaching sessions during the summer months, returning to Ripon Park, Borehamwood. Keep checking our website www.hertsmereleisure.co.uk or our Twitter/ Facebook pages for dates, venues and times.

Diary dates

April



16 April, 12pm to 4pm, Easter egg hunt

The Moatfield, Bushey

17 April, 12pm to 4pm, Easter egg hunt

Aberford Park, Borehamwood

18 April, 12pm to 4pm, Easter egg hunt

Oakmere Park, Potters Bar

20 April, 11am to 12:30pm, Easter egg hunt

King George Recreation Ground, Bushey

May

18 May, 9am, The Rainbow Run

Furzefield Centre, Potters Bar

July

6 July, 2pm to 5pm, Garden Party

Rose Garden, Bushey



10 July, 12pm to 3pm, Teddy Bears Picnic

King George Recreation Ground, Bushey

20 July, 10:30am, Dog Show

King George Recreation Ground, Bushey

30 July, 10am to 12pm, Help Find Fuzzy Hunt

The Moatfield, Bushey

31 July, 1pm to 3pm, Help Find Fuzzy Hunt

Oakmere Park, Potters Bar

August

3 August, 10:30am, Dog Show

Aberford Park, Borehamwood

7 August, 12pm to 3pm, Teddy Bears Picnic

Oakmere Park, Potters Bar

8 August, 12pm to 3pm, Teddy Bears Picnic

Aberford Park, Borehamwood



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

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

We also offer courses in bridge for beginners, golf for beginners and improvers, pilates, tai chi and yoga.

In addition to this the following day trips and short breaks have been organised:

Two hour Thames boat cruise and free time in Windsor

Friday 25 April
Cost: £23.50

Ashdown Forest Explorer

A guided tour: inclusive of morning refreshments, lunch and afternoon cream teas
Friday 13 June
Cost: £43.50



Photo BillPP



Photo GavinJA

Waddesdon Manor

Friday 27 June
Cost: £30 or £17 for National Trust Members

Three hour cruise with cream teas on the Grand Union Canal

Thursday 10 July
Cost: £33.25

Creeks and Cockles

Southend with guided tour and lunch
Thursday 31 July
Cost: £38.50 with tour/lunch or £19 seaside only

Ightham Mote - Kent

Friday 15 August
Cost: £28.50 or £17 for National Trust Members

A day In Cambridge

Guided tour and free time
Friday 19 September
Cost: £36.50

Norfolk short break

Three nights half-board. Visiting: Ely, Royal Sandringham House, museum and gardens, the Lavender Fields, Great Yarmouth, Norwich, Bressingham and including a paddle boat cruise.

1 to 4 September
Coach pick-ups from Bushey, Borehamwood and Potters Bar
Cost: £399

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

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, visit www.hertslink.org/cms

New guide for exploring the Wall Hall Estate

This winter CMS launched a new leaflet and interpretation boards for the Wall Hall estate in Aldenham.

The leaflet provides a guide and map for three circular routes, so you can explore the countryside surrounding Wall Hall on foot, bicycle or horseback. The CMS volunteers have installed interpretation boards along the routes to provide information and draw attention to points of interest along the way.

Wall Hall is part of Hertfordshire County Council's Rural Estate and they have dedicated an additional 1.5 miles of new paths and upgraded a further 1.5 miles from footpath to bridleway, making them accessible to horse riders and cyclists. Many of these paths have been surfaced, making them suitable in all weathers.

The project is a partnership between Hertfordshire County Council and Hertsmere Borough Council and has involved local interest groups such as the Open Spaces Society, local conservation and footpath societies, bridleways trusts and cycling groups.

Councillor Harvey Cohen, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Localism at Hertsmere Borough Council, said: "It's wonderful to see the new routes completed as part of Hertsmere's original Greenways Strategy and I hope local people take advantage of them and explore the great outdoors. This is a prime example of what can be achieved on a previously developed green belt site."



The funding for the project came through a section 106 obligation relating to a development of new housing at Wall Hall.

To download the leaflet guide to the countryside around Wall Hall go to

www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/placestovisit

You can also join the CMS on a guided walk around the estate at 10.30am on Saturday 26 April. The group meet at the village green in Aldenham for a 5km (3 mile) walk. For more information on this and other guided walks, as well as countryside activities visit:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/walksandmore>

New plan for Studio Way woodland trail

The new management plan for Studio Way woodland trail, Borehamwood is almost finalised.

The plan will continue previous work, including the removal of mature Poplar trees on the site and management of existing and recently planted woodland. There is also a focus on making the trail more attractive to visitors by improving the entrances, clearing rubbish and old fencing and installing new noticeboards and information about the wildlife and history of the area.

There will also be 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 the Countryside Management Scheme on 01992 556612 or email: alex.laurie@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Composers Park in harmony

The Heritage Lottery funded project at Composers Park in Elstree has been progressing well over the winter.

Works have included restoration of old hedgerows, removal of scrub from the meadows to enable wildflowers to thrive and thinning of plantations to enable the remaining trees to develop into strong specimens.

A new eye-catching entrance feature to the park on Watford Road (A411) has been commissioned to provide a focus for visitors and encourage them to explore the park. Artist blacksmith, Nigel Barnett of Fransham Forge, is creating the feature, with the design incorporating images of wildlife that can be found at the park.

In the spring a new wildlife pond will be constructed to create new habitats for amphibians, such as frogs, and new interpretive materials, currently being designed will be completed by the start of summer.

Visit the CMS website to find out more about the Composers Park project and to keep up to date with news and events, go to: www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/placestovisit/composerspark/



Watling Chase Community Forest

Many of these projects are being supported by the Watling Chase Community Forest (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, 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. To view the area covered by WCCF and apply for funding, see the WCCF pages at: <http://ow.ly/p2VE2>

Parkfields Stream restoration

In Borehamwood, the plan to restore the stream through Parkfields is moving forward.

Proposals include the creation of a new channel with a natural sinuous course, gently sloping sides and a shallow 'shelf' where wetland plants can thrive. The old, straight and steep-sided concrete channel will be broken up and filled in. Some scrub will also be cut back along the nearby bank so that any excess soil from the excavation can be spread.

The new stream banks will be seeded by cutting 'green hay' from the adjacent wildflower grassland. This hay will be cut just before the grass and flowers drop their seeds to be spread on the new banks to germinate in the bare soil. The new shelf on the stream bed will be planted up with wetland plants such as iris, sedges and purple loosestrife.

The project is a partnership between Hertsmere Borough Council, the Environment Agency and CMS, who are providing advice on the selection of plant species and the restoration and aftercare of the vegetation.

Horses and hurdles

Over winter, the coppice management of the Furzefield Wood Local Nature Reserve in Potters Bar has seen a new addition to the work force in the form of Roy, a Suffolk Punch horse.

Roy has been brought in to help extract timber and coppice products (made from the cut trees) from the wood to the roadside.

Local people had an opportunity to meet Roy and watch him working in December last year when the CMS hosted an open day in the woods. During the event people also found out about the ancient craft of coppicing and its importance in conserving the wildlife of Furzefield Wood.

Hertsmere allotments

CMS volunteers have been working hard on two allotment sites in Bushey over the winter, contributing over 110 hours of volunteer time.

At Finch Lane allotments the boundary hedge has been improved by planting native trees and a small area of Hazel coppice to create new habitats for wildlife and, in time, provide a source of pea sticks and bean poles for allotment holders.

Work to improve Windmill Hill allotments for wildlife and plot holders, has seen volunteers plant a small orchard with Hertfordshire varieties of apple and plum; and install new entrance signs and allotment notice boards.

Funding for the work came from Watling Chase Community Forest (WCCF) and Hertsmere Borough Council, but would not have been possible without the support of the CMS Wednesday volunteer team.



This traditional approach to woodland management also allows the work to be done in a sensitive manner with minimal damage to the ground compared to modern mechanised forestry equipment.

Visit Furzefield Wood in the spring to see the beautiful carpets of Bluebells that thrive here thanks to the continuity of coppice management. To download a leaflet for the wood visit our website at: www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/placestovisit/furzefield/

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

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

Aaron Niblett - Parks Project Officer. Responsible for the design and management of schemes within parks and open spaces. **Ext: 5680**

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.

Any editorial enquiries should be addressed to: Gemma Paris, Parks and Amenities, Hertsmere Borough Council, Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 1WA
Telephone: 020 8207 7519
Fax: 020 8207 7499
Email: parks@hertsmere.gov.uk
www.hertsmere.gov.uk/parks

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