



October News 2022

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Friends Vacancy



The Friends committee is looking for a new secretary. We meet once a month on a Weds evening. The role involves:

1. To take and circulate minutes of meetings
2. Circulate meeting agendas and papers seven days ahead of meetings
3. Arrange venue and refreshments for the AGM (this year already organised)
4. Provide support for wider communication / promotional activities such as newsletter, website and social media
5. Liaise with the Chair / Treasurer to ensure good coordination

If you have a passion for the park and would like to know more, **please contact Sally Sanderson at chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk**

Your chance to win cash & support the Park

Join our Horsham District Community Lottery for as little as £1 per week and you could win the £25,000 jackpot! At the same time, you'll be supporting the Park because 50p of your £1 goes directly to the Park and a further 10p goes to other good causes in Horsham. **Good luck!**



BUY TICKETS

Horsham Park wins In Bloom Award



Felicity and Hilary, two of our regulars at the Wednesday morning gardening group, representing the Friends at the Awards.

We're delighted that the Park and everyone who helps to make it such a special place has been recognised with two more awards. The trophy cabinet is bulging! Hats off to all the volunteers and HDC Parks and Countryside Team.

After a gap of many years, this was our second year entering the Large Park award. We won Silver Gilt again but this time we were only one mark off Gold! How frustrating but that makes us all the more determined to get there next year. It's always useful to get the insights of an expert outsider and the judge's comments give us, HDC and others involved, some helpful things to work towards to make the park even lovelier and a fantastic asset for the community.

In the It's Your Neighbourhood category – we won 'Thriving' again (Level 4/5) but we've come a long way since our first entry 3 years ago when we were at Level 2 'Improving'. This award relates directly to the work of the Friends and we were recognised as 'a very well structured and active group... with a strong record of engagement with schools and other charities'. Our focus on pollinator-friendly planting, sustainable gardening and our informative website were also listed as

achievements. Development tips include being more ambitious on our composting given the number of beds we look after and addressing the recent vandalism at Poets' Corner.

Friends' Spotlight

This month it's the Friends' Newsletter editor Steve Sandham



How long have you lived in Horsham, why you moved here, what your job is?

I've lived in Horsham for almost a year, after moving from Teddington in South West London. Originally from the North of England, I've been in London for over half my life. I finally decided to move out to gain more space and be closer to the countryside. I'd never been to Horsham, but found a house I liked and then quickly researched the area. It looked good and I'm delighted to say it has not disappointed. The market town is charming, just the right size, and there's easy access to the countryside. There's a great train service so family and friends can come and visit, and it's easy to get to the coast; or London if ever I have a hankering.

I'm retired from full-time work, which gives me plenty of time for the Friends, and I find that my previous experience as a trustee of Friends of Richmond Park comes in very handy.

How often are you in Horsham Park?

I'm in the park 4 or 5 days a week, either walking or cycling through it; or other times I might be doing something with the Friends, like taking part in our recent litter pick. The park is a good place to meet up and enjoy a stroll and perhaps have a coffee. I recently joined the Horsham Park Bowls Club, which I've found surprisingly great fun.

What's your favourite spot in the Park?

I don't have a favourite spot, but there are parts of the park which I particularly enjoy, according to my mood. I like the Sensory Garden which is always good for some quiet contemplation, the perimeter path is an interesting walk, or run if you feel

inclined, and the pond area is a tranquil spot to spend some time. I should of course mention the bowls club, a peaceful oasis to enjoy a competitive game!

What's your best memory of the Park?

As a relative newcomer, I'm still building my memories of the park, but one of my most memorable times was Christmas Day having a walk in the park with my son and daughter who I don't see often enough, and thinking about my other daughter who lives in South Africa.

What do you enjoy about being involved in the Friends? What do you think our biggest achievement/s have been?

I love working with the Friends committee and together making things happen. They are a great bunch of very capable people with a passion for the park and a keenness to get things done. I enjoy editing the monthly newsletter which is always great fun and hopefully keeps everyone informed about what's happening.

The Friends' team has made valuable contributions to help improve the park for visitors to enjoy. Some that stand out are the transformation of the Park House Sensory Garden and many enhancements to the park in general. As a result, the park has been recognised through a number of awards such as the Green Flag 2020, 2021 & 2022, the South & South East 'In Bloom' Silver Gilt Award 2021 & 2022 and now the prestigious Fields in Trust Award, nominating Horsham Park as one of the nation's favourite local parks.

If you could change or add one thing in the Park, what would it be?

The Park has so much to offer with an unrivalled set of different activities for people to take part in. I would like to add even more trees to benefit the wildlife and make for a more attractive environment.

What would you like the Park to look like in 10 years' time? And what needs to happen for that to be a reality?

As I said earlier, I'd like there to be more trees in the Park to provide shade and interest, and to increase wildlife habitat. I'd also like to see the pond area further developed with more landscaping. I notice that there's been some great clearance works recently by Green Gym and Friends volunteers and now the pond is much more visible.

I hope that the proposed Percy Shelley Memorial will have been installed in the park - a memorial to Horsham's most famous son - a focal point for visitors to appreciate and residents to be proud of.

All of these developments will depend on the continued great work of the HDC team, in collaboration with the Friends and the Shelley Memorial Project, and of course a substantial amount of money!

What would you say to any other Friends thinking about getting more involved?

I'd say don't think twice about it. As a recent joiner I can testify that you would thoroughly enjoy working with the Friends and together making a difference.

Litter pick 17 September



We had another successful litter pick session on Saturday 17 September. In just one hour the volunteers collected 16 bags of litter and our good friends at Parkrun collected a further 3 bags. Well done to everyone involved! Watch out for the next one, we always need more volunteers.

Silt Mound

In July we explained about the large mound of earth close to the pond area which is the silt that was dredged from the pond last year. The park team has now removed the top vegetation, grading the material and as spread it out slightly to the north and east. They're trying not to take it too far to reduce the impact on the park. Some of the silt will also be used to fill in the holes in the copse where the old tree stump was. The plan is to integrate it into the park, not really create a mound, so it should just disappear once it's greened up. There are crowd control barriers with signs on to ask people not to walk on it, but it will not be fenced off completely.

Upcoming Events

1. **Sat 26 Nov. Annual Quiz** at Trinity Church Hall Horsham. This is always one of the highlights of our year and our main fundraiser. Save the date and start getting a team of up to 6 people together. With spot prizes as well as overall winners, we try to make sure there is something for everyone to enjoy – not just those addicted to quizzing.
Tickets will soon be available - watch out for the special invitation.

Volunteering Opportunities

- **Ribbon Border Volunteer group – every 2nd Sunday**
The RBV group meets every second Sunday in the month at 10am by the entrance to the North Street carpark, everyone welcome.
For more information please contact David at david.hide1@btinternet.com
- **Gardening and Conservation group – every Wednesday**
“The Wednesday Morning Group” meets at 9.30am at the Jubilee car park next to the entrance sign to the Human Nature Garden. Their main tasks are planting and pruning and generally making improvements to the park’s appearance for all to enjoy. All tools provided.
Please contact Sally at chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk
- **Helping at events – as required**
We need Friends to help out at events we hold in the Park. It may be just for a couple of hours occasionally, or as a one off. It can be great fun. Any help is much appreciated.
Please contact Sally at chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk

Join the Friends of Horsham Park

Become a member – It’s free to join!

[Click here to join the Friends](#)

