



Park News

June 2023

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers



Friends' volunteers clear the pond bed

It's volunteer week 1-7 June so we want to shout out a BIG THANK YOU to the many volunteers who help to enhance, promote and protect Horsham Park.

There are now 20 volunteers who participate in our Wednesday morning group – they cut back overgrowth to keep paths accessible, litter-pick, plant, weed, prune and sow seeds so that the park beds look lovely and to provide good habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Last year they contributed 1628 hours of effort, skills and teamwork. On top of this the monthly Sunday ‘Borders’, who care for the stunning ribbon border on North Street, contributed a further 150 hours.

Our Committee work is perhaps less visible than the gardening work, but just as important. For example, they get involved in fundraising, hosting events, social media to promote the park, liaising with the Parks and Countryside team, participating in Horsham Green Spaces and the very necessary work of running our Community Interest Company. Last year they contributed over 1100 hours.

We also want to shout out the huge contribution by the Samaritans this year who created the stunning Bulbs for Lives display. Their work is so important for the community and we loved working with them on this project.

Last but not least, we know there are lots of people and groups who support the park – whether through Corporate Social Responsibility volunteering with us, or litter-picking such as the Rotary Clubs regular visits and the Strawford Centre who have now embarked on cleaning the bricks in the Maze.

We are lucky that so many people, give so willingly of their time and skills so that the park can be enjoyed by us all.

Thank you to everyone! Take a well-deserved pat on the back.



Volunteers who made the playground tunnel
(It will be covered with plant growth to form the tunnel, which will be a fun addition to the playground.)



The volunteers planted 200 snowdrops in the Park House Sensory Garden. They will plant more bulbs this autumn throughout the garden so that there will be a beautiful showing next Spring.

Protecting Horsham Park for future generations

We'd like to thank **West Sussex County Times** for publishing our 'Campaign to protect the park'. If you didn't get to see it, here's what we said:

"The Friends of Horsham Park would like to congratulate the Liberal Democrats on their election victory. As the new administration with a good majority, they now have decision-making power and can take action to protect Horsham Park in perpetuity. We look forward to working with them on this.

Our campaign to protect the park and support our greenspaces was enthusiastically greeted by local candidates from the Green Party and the Labour Party, as well as the Liberal Democrats who pledged that 'The Local Liberal Democrat Party is fully behind protecting Horsham Park in perpetuity as the heart of life in Horsham'. It is good news for Horsham that there is such widespread recognition of the importance of our greenspaces.

We've already been in touch with the new administration and are looking forward to making progress on this.



We would like to thank everyone who supported our campaign. [See full details of the pledges we received.](#)

Sally Sanderson
Chair, Friends of Horsham Park”

We all need a legal right to local nature



Everyone, everywhere, should be able to grow up, and grow old, with nature. It's been very clear over recent years how important it is for us all to spend time in nature - not least for our mental and physical health and wellbeing. But the covid pandemic highlighted the inequalities there are around how much we can all access thriving natural spaces.

To support the campaign, click on this link [Nature for Everyone](#)

South & South East in Bloom

In 2022, Horsham Park was awarded the Silver Gilt Award in the *South & South East in Bloom* competition. It's a prestigious award and it means that the park is judged to be in one of the highest categories.

South & South East in Bloom is part of *Britain in Bloom* and runs annual competitions across the counties of Kent, Surrey, East & West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, East & North Dorset and East Wiltshire.

The *In Bloom* competition is not just about flowers, but good and sustainable horticultural practice, the community's involvement, the facilities, the overall look of the park, how well it is cared for, and what is being done to keep it in pristine condition for the enjoyment of the local community. So please do your bit where possible to keep the park tidy and looking great.

Judging for the 2023 award takes place at the end of June and we hope to upgrade last year's Silver Gilt Award to Gold.



Skate Park official opening 3 June



Friends at the opening

The opening of the new skate park proved to be a highly successful day. The sun was shining, extreme sports enthusiasts and families crowded round to watch and gasp at the Team Extreme professional riders showing off their amazing jumps, grabs and spins. It was a very inclusive day with plenty of time for everyone who wanted to use the skate park and get coaching tips from the Team Extreme experts.





They then ran some mini competitions for skateboarding, scooters and BMX where riders showed off their skills, persistence and resilience. One of the loudest cheers was for one of the youngest BMX competitors who had a nasty fall on his first run but after medical attention, came back to do his second run. The Friends were proud to support the event by being one of the sponsors for the prizes.



The day showed the strength of the skate park's design since it can be enjoyed equally by all the disciplines: BMX, scooters, skateboards and in-line skates. Probably the best proof is that Team Extreme commented that it is one of the best, if not the best, skate parks in the UK. Well done to the HDC Parks and Countryside team for providing a fabulous facility for our community and a great opening event.



The Winners!

Hedgehogs in the Park

Since last year's Hedgehog Awareness Week, the park team has installed Hedgehog Highways in Horsham Park Pond's fencing to help make life a little easier for them. Have you spotted the doorways? Keep your eyes peeled next time you're in the park



Get Horsham Buzzing



As members of Horsham Green Spaces we are participating in a long term urban nature-recovery project linking the green spaces in the town via several 'pollinator flyways'. The vision is to include school fields, sports fields, allotments, cemeteries, railway lines, verges and, of course, gardens. The first stage of the project is to map existing habitats and what is using them. This will help us identify opportunities for extending the habitats appropriately to support pollinators and birds across the flyways.

A small group will be mapping Horsham Park one afternoon in June or July. The date has not been set yet, but if you fancy helping us to map it and identify the

habitat and species of flora and fauna, then please contact us at chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk.

Parkrun

Welcome back! The parkrun returned to Horsham Park in May. It's a free event every Saturday morning and welcomes all newcomers, whatever your ability. If you'd like to take part, or learn more about it, [see here](#)



Bowls Bash – great fun for all!



If you've never tried bowls, here's your chance. [Horsham Park Bowls Club](#) has a new game called *Bowls Bash* that all can play, even if you've never played bowls before.

It's a dynamic game with a fixed number of 'ends', which makes it very competitive and fun. Each game can have either 2 or 4 players,

but if you don't have a partner to play with, the club will find you one. Free help/instruction is on hand. Pay & Play (per person) 1hr £3 or 2hrs £5. Bowls Hire £1

***Bowls Bash* is every Friday & Saturday 11.00am - 1.00pm throughout the season.**

OR

If you're thinking of taking up bowls regularly, you can have 3 FREE taster sessions, with tuition, to help you decide.

Taster sessions are every Tuesday 10-12.

It's a friendly club and you're sure of a warm welcome!

Help the Friends and you could win a prize

£25,000 Jackpot every week!

Have a better chance of winning when you play the local Horsham District Community Lottery, and you will be supporting the Friends!

By signing up to the local weekly draw, you can subscribe any amount from £1 upwards. Each £1 ticket has a chance to win £25, £250, £2500, or £25000. Just match from 2 to 6 numbers to win a prize.



By selecting The Friends as your chosen good cause, 50p from each £1 ticket goes to support much-needed funds for the Friends of Horsham Park; and 10p goes to other local causes.

Why not sign up today. It's a win for the Friends and a potential bigger win for you!

Sign up
HERE

Events

- **Every Weds** 10 -11am and Friday 12-12.40pm *Walk and Talk in Horsham Park*. Meet at The Human Nature Garden
- **Every Tues & Fri** Bowls taster sessions
- **Every Fri** Bowls Bash – open to all
- **Every Sat** parkrun 9.00am
- **Sat 3 Jun** Skate Park open day
- **Sun 4 Jun** Race for Life
- **Sat 10 Jun** Midnight Walk
- **Sun 18 Jun** Circus Wonderland
- **Thu 29 Jun** Bensons Funfair (until 9 July)
- **Sun 9 Jul** Funday Sunday
- **Sat 22 Jul** Battle of the Bands (also on Sun 23rd).
- **Sat 5 Aug** Tip Top Trax DJ Session.
- **Sat 19 Aug** Fake Festival

[Click here](#) for details of all the Summer events.

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

Share this Newsletter and spread the word

Please share this newsletter with your friends and relatives, and encourage them to join the Friends of Horsham Park. [Click here to join the Friends](#)



