



Park News

July 2023



THE ANCIENT NATIONAL GAME OF STOOLBALL: "It is probable that cricket is derived from the woman's game of Stoolball, or 'juts,' now being revived by ladies' clubs composed of the principal county families in Sussex. Our illustration represents a match recently played in Horsham Park, the seat of R. H. Hurst, Esq., between the Horsham Park Eleven and the Foresters, who won by 136 runs. A large gathering of the nobility and gentry from the surrounding neighbourhood assembled to witness the progress of the exciting match"

Stoolball in Horsham Park, with kind permission of Horsham Museum and Art Gallery.

Celebrating 100 years of Horsham Park

To celebrate the park's 100th anniversary, the Friends of Horsham Park and Friends of Horsham Museum are planning a joint project to research and write a book in time for the centenary. The park is a community asset and we want this to be a community project, reflecting the interests and experiences of Horsham residents.

We will mix archive material with people's memories and photos. Read on to find out how you can get involved.

In 2028 we will be celebrating 100 years of public ownership of Horsham Park. In 1928 the first section was purchased from the Hurst family "to keep and preserve the open space for the benefit, enjoyment and recreation of the Town and Parish of Horsham forever." We are all thankful for the Council's foresight in purchasing the park – imagine getting through Covid without it or not having this wonderful greenspace at the heart of our town!

The park has a fascinating history, which provides glimpses into societal changes over the last 100 years. However, this history is not fully documented, much is anecdotal and most is tucked away in archives or in residents' memories.

The initial plan for the book is to cover:

- A historical perspective on who owned the land, the enclosure of Horsham common, the sale and gift of the park to Horsham Urban District Council. This will also include the history of Park House and its buildings.
- The landscape, pond, gardens and trees - how these have been shaped by events, hurricanes and changing tastes
- The changing recreational use of the park over the decades – from stoolball to skateparks
- The gardeners, people and organisations who have had an impact on the park we enjoy today
- Imagining the future - aspirations for the park for the next 100 years.

How you can get involved

We are looking for people and local organisations who would like to get involved in helping us collate material and shape the book. There are lots of ways you can get involved:

- Share your memories and photos;
- Research Horsham Museum's archive – we are looking for 1-2 people to help with this. They will be trained in how to search the database and retrieve information that may be of interest.
- Assist with researching the Council archives housed at West Sussex Record Office, Chichester (we've made a start on this!)
- Research the Hurst family archives and estate papers also housed at West Sussex Record Office, Chichester.
- We have a couple of writers on board, but there will be opportunities to join the team and, working with an editor, write a chapter of the book.

If you would like to share your memories or get involved, please contact Sally Sanderson, Chair Friends of Horsham Park at chair@friendsofhorshampark.co.uk or Paul French, Chair Friends of Horsham Museum.

Local MP offers full support to the Park

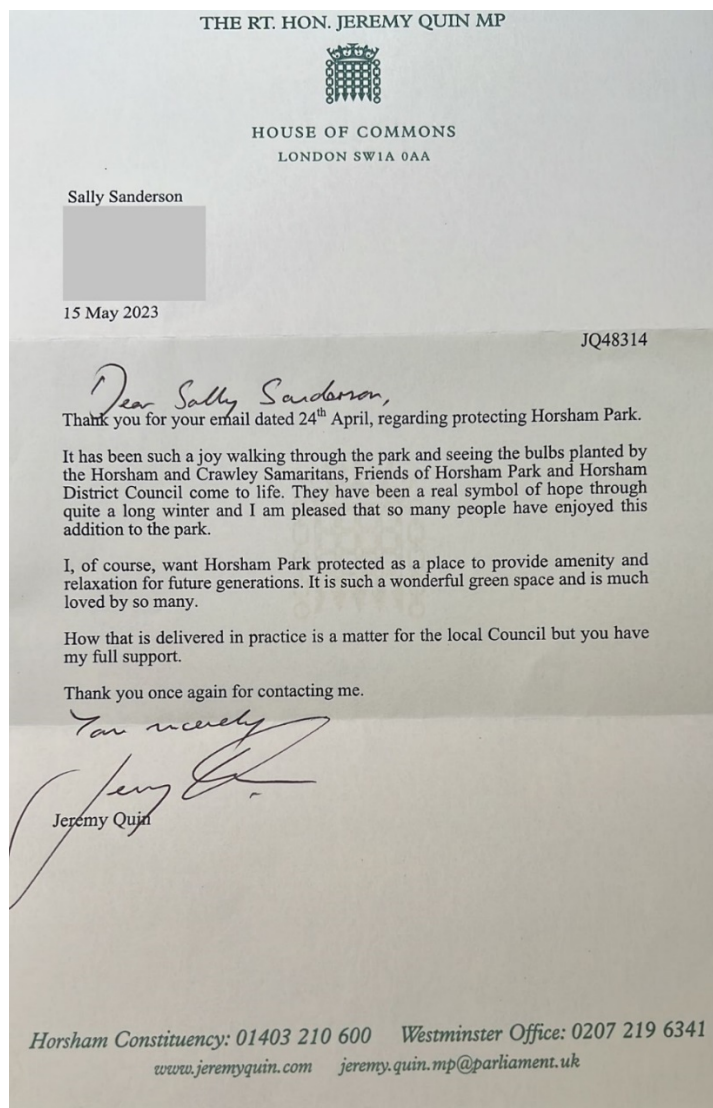
Following the pledges we received from election candidates and councillors to protect the park in perpetuity (see last month's Park News), we were delighted to receive this letter of support from Horsham's MP Jeremy Quin.



He says: *"I, of course want Horsham Park protected as a place to provide amenity and relaxation for future generations. It is such a wonderful green space and is much loved by many"*

It's so important to ensure that Horsham Park continues as a fantastic facility for residents and visitors, both now and in the future.

(Photo by Chris McAndrew)



Pond works update



The pond entrance on Sat 1 July.

As you know, works on levelling the pond viewing area and creating a new path have been paused for some time. The work was paused whilst the team looked into some hidden technical difficulties that emerged with the structural wall beneath the new platform. HDC has received advice from various specialists and now have a solution to move things forward.

We are delighted that work recommences this month and should be complete by early August. New on-site signage will keep visitors updated, as well as council comms and social media.

Your Invitation to Habitat Mapping Workshops



**Saturday 8th July, 9am - 12/12.30pm finish (approx) and,
Monday 10th July, 9am - 12/12.30pm finish (approx)**

The next phase of the Horsham Green Spaces (HGS) '**Getting Horsham Buzzing**' project involves mapping the green spaces that provide Horsham's pollinator highways.

HGS are holding two morning workshops in Horsham Park on Sat 8th and Mon 10th July to both start to map the Park's habitats and learn how to do this so that participants can use the approach to map their own green spaces such as allotments, playing fields or large gardens.

If you would like to come along on one of these dates, please email Hilary Parker, HGS co-ordinator, at horshamgreenspaces@gmail.com to reserve your space.

We will meet at the Park Barn at 9am for a briefing before heading out into the Park to look at some areas of varied habitat. You will be provided with maps, crayons and instructions. Please bring a flask of coffee / tea and bottled water.

Funday Sunday 9 July



After a three year absence, we are delighted that Funday Sunday is returning on Sunday 9 July.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Horsham, this unique family event brings together sport, arts and crafts, music, as well as local businesses and charities in one fun filled day. This extra special event celebrates 100 years of the Rotary Club of Horsham helping people in the local community.

The Friends are delighted to support the Rotary Club's event and will have a stall there. Come along and see us, and bring your friends!

Watering Wednesday – thumbs up from the Friends!



Photograph: Bloomberg/Getty Images

The Watering Wednesday campaign aims to get UK streets to look after local trees. A Guardian article reports that councils across the UK have stepped up their planting programmes as the benefits of street trees are better understood. [Read more HERE](#)

The charity [Trees for Streets](#) says “dry weather has put pressure on saplings, which need about 50 litres a week”, and is calling for more people to care for their local trees every Wednesday. See [their website](#) for great tips on tree watering.

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
- **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](#)

