



News from the Committee

I'm writing this in mid-February, and although things aren't generally feeling very spring-like, there are catkins and tree buds visible around the park, and bulbs pushing their shoots through the soil. I was pleased, when walking around the park this morning, to see the culvert in Roundabout Woods cleared and the stream flowing. The bulk of repair work around Marnock Lake is now completed and areas replanted with a berry-bearing native mix: Guelder Rose, Dog Rose, Hawthorn, Quickthorn and Elder. Hopefully these will grow quickly and blend in with the existing greenery.

Other positive news includes two well-attended tree-planting sessions with Kent High Weald Partnership near the skate park. Thanks to members of the orchard committee, additional trees have been planted in the orchard, and winter pruning has taken place.

FoGH took part in lots of Christmas/ midwinter events, and you can find photos of them all on our Facebook and Instagram pages. There were also extra events in the park such as the Santa in the City Run, Churches Nativity Trail, and Winter Lantern Parade. It's great to see other organisations using the park.

FoGH has a few events already arranged for 2025. Up next is our AGM, which we are combining with a beer tasting (courtesy of our sponsors Pig and Porter Brewery) and an illustrated talk on the History of Beer, by Jeremy Kimmel. Our popular Dog Show will be held at the end of April, and we have a host of natural history events through the summer.

This will be my last Newsletter as Chair, and I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone for your support during the past four years.

Carolyn Gray/FoGH Chair - February 2025

Some Upcoming Events

FoGH Dog Show : Sat 26th April : 10:00 am - 12:00 pm : Lower Football Pitch / Event Field

Join us for our occasional celebration of all things canine!

Pond Dipping : Sat 10th May : 10:30 am - 12:30 pm : The Hub / Wetlands

Join us for a pond dipping session in the wetlands. Discover the creatures that live in the Park's water habitats with local expert Martin Sutton. This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

Bee Walk : Sat 17th May : The Hub

Celebrate World Bee Day and go for a stroll around the Park identifying and learning about bees. In this walk, led by local naturalist and insect expert Dr Ian Beavis, you'll discover the huge range of bees and other flying insects in our Park. This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

Bat Walk : Tue 27th May : 8:00 - 9:30 pm : The Hub

Take a twilight stroll around the Park and look for some of our local, more timid, residents. We'll meet at the Hub for an introductory talk and then set off with bat detectors for a walk around the Park. This event will be led by David Scully of the Kent Bat Group. This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

Moth Identification Morning : Sat 21st June : 10:30 am - 12:30 pm : The Hub

Drop in to the Hub to see what night-flying insects Dr Ian Beavis can identify from the overnight moth trap.

Moth Identification Morning : Sun 17th August : 10:30 am - 12:30 pm : The Hub

Drop in to the Hub to see what night-flying insects Dr Ian Beavis can identify from the overnight moth trap.

Moth Identification Morning : Sat 20th September : 10:30 am - 12:30 pm : The Hub

Drop in to the Hub to see what night-flying insects Dr Ian Beavis can identify from the overnight moth trap.

Pond Dipping : Sun 21st September : 2:00 - 4:00 pm : The Hub / Wetlands

Join us for a pond dipping session in the wetlands. Discover the creatures that live in the Park's water habitats with local expert Martin Sutton. This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all events

Ticketed Events: FoGH members get exclusive access to tickets before they go on general release

Event details are provisional: date and times can change, events might be cancelled.

For more information about any event please check our website, emails, posters or social media