



## News from the Committee

On the whole, it's been a pleasant summer (when it finally arrived) and it looks like we will be enjoying a last blast of warm weather before the autumn chill creeps into the air. Just after we sent out our Summer update, loads of volunteers re-planted the baskets around the playground and bowls green railings. Another group of volunteers have been watering these through the months, and they have provided a blast of summer colours, even when the sun hasn't shone. The park has retained its Green Flag status, and we are waiting for the results of this year's In Bloom Judging.

Keeping our Park beautiful

We have had lots of reports come through to us via email, social media, face-to-face interactions, and messages passed on to our park keeper, Tony about various issues in the Park. I'd like to thank everyone who has reached out with feedback. As Chair, I've spent time liaising with the council and the Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) to address maintenance issues brought to our attention.

We have communicated all current concerns to the appropriate teams, and plans are in place to tackle them as we move into autumn, a time that minimises disruption to wildlife. Upcoming actions include several KHWP (Kent High Weald Partnership) workdays to tidy the wetlands, a weed clearance operation in Marnock Lake organised by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC), and efforts to tackle invasive species like Himalayan balsam and sallow. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us maintain the park, so please continue to share any issues or suggestions you have.

Events in the Park

Looking back over the past few months, we have held several fun and informative events over the summer, a tree walk, bat walks, moth mornings and of course the regular maintenance activities of the green team, like orchard pruning. As summer fades, FoGH is looking forward to our Autumn and Winter events programme. There's pond dipping, Halloween crafts, a fungal foray, a quiz night... And of course Apple Day.

We're looking forward to seeing you over the next few months.

*Carolyn Gray/FoGH Chair - September 2024*

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## Some Upcoming Events

**Christmas Wreath Workshop : Sat 30th November : 10.30 am to 12.30 pm : The Hub**

Get into the festive spirit and join us for a Christmas wreath-making workshop in the Hub. This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

**TW Christmas Tree Festival : Fri 6th December - Sun 8th December : From 11am to 6pm (3pm Sun) : King Charles the Martyr**

Not a FoGH event and not even in the park! This annual event is a display of Christmas trees, decorated by local charities and similar organisations, at King Charles the Martyr Church in London Road. Support your Friends Group and Volunteers

**Santa in the City : Sat 7th December : 2.00 pm : The Hub**

A festive 3k fun run around the park to kick off Christmas. This is a ticketed event. See the website for details.

**Christmas Carols : Sun 8th December : 2.00-3.30 pm : The Hub**

FoGH invite you to join us for this seasonal celebration at the Hub. Refreshments available - mulled wine, fruit juice & mince pies.

**KHWP Tree Planting : Tue 10th December : Hilbert Gates / The Oast**

The Kent High Weald Partnership with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council are planting trees across the Borough. Some are coming to Grosvenor and Hilbert Park.

**KHWP Tree Planting : Tue 17th December : Hilbert Gates / The Oast**

The Kent High Weald Partnership with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council are planting trees across the Borough. Some are coming to Grosvenor and Hilbert Park.

**Apple Howling with Iron Spring Morris : Sat 4th January 2025 : 2:00 - 3:00 pm : Hilbert Gates / The Oast**

Join us as we start the year with Iron Spring Morris as we scare bad spirits from the orchard. We'll start at the Oast where there will be refreshments and dancing, then process to the orchard where we gather to frighten any malignant spirits. Remember to bring pots and pans, whistles and drums to make as much noise as possible.

**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



**Orchard Activities: Pruning : Sun 2nd February 2025 : am & pm sessions : The Community Orchard**

FoGH volunteers will be working in the orchard to keep everything tidy. We will concentrate on pruning the trees at this event.

**FoGH Dog Show : Sat 26th April 2025 : 10:00 am - 12.00 pm : Lower Football Pitch / Event Field**

Join us for our occasional celebration of all things canine!

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

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