

Friends of Farnham Park



Nuthatch (Courtesy of Murray Nurse)

WOULD YOU DIG MORE DAFFS?

It has been suggested that March in the Park could be brightened up with some extra daffodils in the more formal areas, perhaps at entrances and around the trees in the avenue. If you'd like to help with a bulb planting extravaganza in the autumn (or if you oppose the idea) please let us know at the Members' Social Afternoon on Sunday July 13th, or grab hold of Ron anytime, anywhere.



Jay

THE FRIENDS' COMMITTEE

Chairman: Jerry Hyman	724664
j.hyman@tiscali.co.uk	
Secretary: Martin Clegg	821977
martin_clegg@btinternet.com	
Treasurer: David Havenhand	404983
d.havenhand1@ntlworld.com	
Judy Sauter (Membership)	668813
Nick Street (Publicity)	725094
Plus Helen Wilson (Events), Tim Seely, Rosemary Thomas.	
Ranger Ron Hills	Office 717047

FARNHAM PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008

Meet in the Main Car Park ('MCP') unless otherwise stated.

April 10th Thursday, 2pm MCP Go Wild in the Park.
An energetic childrens' school holiday event led by the Ranger.

May 8th Thursday, 7pm MCP Evening Tree Walk
By popular request - Almost a hundred people joined us last time (with no fatalities), but our tree expert Ranger Ron wants more. Come along, help make Ron Hills hoarse.

May 17th Saturday MCP Chalk the Park
A children-oriented event creating artwork on the path (unless wet) with help from local artists, as part of the 'Farnham creates a community arts festival'. Meet in MCP at approx 10, 11.15, 2pm, 2.45 or 3.15 for an introduction by Town Crier, Jonathan Jones, follow directions. Find out if Jeremy Hunt MP can draw ! *NB: Children must be accompanied.*

June 22nd Sunday Moth Identification and Moth Release
Fiona Hayes conducts a continuous activity event, part of an ongoing analysis of the Park's moth population. At MCP **Park Lodge** (Rangers' office), join the demonstration any time between 6.30am and 8.30am.

July 13th Sunday, 3pm FoFP Members' Social at Rowhills
An informal Sunday afternoon guided wander around Rowhills Nature Reserve, then a chance to natter with Friends over tea/coffee and biscuits. **Meet at Rowhills**, Cranmore Lane at 3pm.

September 11th Thursday, 6pm Farnham Park History Walk
Part of the Heritage Walk Season, an opportunity to learn more of the Park's fascinating past. MCP.

October 8th Wednesday An illustrated talk on Squirrels
Learn from expert **Harry Pepper** at **Rowhills**, Cranmore Lane, 7p.m. for 7.30 pm, tea & biscuits.

November 12th Wednesday, 7pm for 7.30pm. AGM at Rowhills

SUNDAY BIRD WALKS

Murray Nurse leads regular bird walks in the Park on the last Sunday of each month. The walks vary so it's best to allow a couple of hours or so, depending on the weather and birds. Meet at Nutshell Lane entrance at 8am, except for the early birds' **April 27th Dawn Chorus** walk (6am).



Great spotted woodpecker

ANGER MANAGEMENT WITH FRIENDS

Most Wednesday mornings and on frequent Sundays year-round, a disparate group may be found digging, chopping, pulling and planting in the Park. They number from 3 or 4 at a time up to a maximum of 12, invariably with at least one dog too! Ranging from young children (on Sundays) through to mid 70s, these are the Park's conservation volunteers – Ron's happy helpers!

Jobs undertaken are varied – path construction, hedge planting and maintenance, invasive weed removal, litter picking, etc. The work is not particularly heavy, although cutting some of the Ash "saplings" can help find muscles you forgot you had. It can be a bit monotonous – when you've picked up your 50th lager can for example, you'll understand what I mean – but it can be very therapeutic. Bashing down bracken and pulling Himalayan Balsam and Ragwort does wonders for the soul! You can imagine that you are getting your own back against that officious parking attendant or the Tax Man, or anyone else who has upset you (not to mention multifarious politicians on both sides of the Atlantic!). But be warned, brambles and hawthorn can fight back.

A happy bunch, we don't do the work just to get a free cup of tea out of Waverley, but because we love the Park and want it to look its best at all times of the year. Not only that, but we are out in the fresh air with friends and keeping fit. Why not join us? Who knows what it might do for your equilibrium! - Anon.

CONSERVATION WORK PARTY - DATES

Wednesdays: April 9th, 23rd, 30th; May 7th, 14th,
June 21st, 28th; July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th;
August 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th; Sept. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Sundays: Apr 20th, May 18th, Jun 15th, Jul 13th, Aug 3rd, Sept 21st
Meet at 10 am. All tools, gloves and refreshments are provided. For insurance reasons those under 16yrs must be accompanied by an adult. Updates to times and meeting places are found on the Park notice boards, or contact the Rangers office (717047).



Little owl

FRIENDS OF EAST STREET?

We'd like to thank eagle-eyed members for letting us know of an error in the letterhead of a 'United Voice' form sent to residents' associations, mistakenly including FoFP and some other local groups in their list of 'members', rather than their list of 'invitees'. FoFP are keen to meet and support other local groups, especially where the conservation and preservation of our environment and heritage is concerned, but the specific commitment requested would have required a mandate from our membership and given the time constraints involved, an Extraordinary Meeting could not be justified. Therefore we would ask Friends that wish to register their 'East Street' views to use the various avenues already available. -Chairman

RANGER'S REPORT MARCH 08

Last year was the first year of the implementation of the new management plan and a number of key projects were undertaken. Grazing management was reintroduced into College Copse (necessary to prevent the area reverting to scrub and so losing the parkland character) but was thwarted by wet weather, vandalism and foot and mouth. The fence is now being repaired and new squeeze stiles incorporated to make more access points for deer and walkers. A small number of cattle will be used, so not as to overgraze and change its character. Keyhole views have been reinstated by felling a few trees, and the castle now sits overlooking the park as it must have done throughout the centuries. The chalk grassland area was a real picture last summer and some of the plant species which were allowed to flower included hair bells, dwarf thistle, lady's bedstraw and wild thyme. The arisings from September's cut were spread in the cow field to try to improve its diversity. Access has been improved for the less able through removal of the steps from the main path and Surrey Highways' installation of a ramp at the Stephendale Road entrance. The two bridges on the main path were near to collapse and were replaced, but not without some disruption. SCC will soon be helping with drainage work along the path and other remedial works.

In the coming year, the conversion of Park Lodge as a base for the ranger staff will be undertaken, with cedar cladding to make it more sympathetic to its setting. It will be heated by solar panels and a wood-burning stove, the wood being sourced from the coppicing and thinning in the park. The new interpretation shelter will have living roof of sedum. New information boards will be installed at Park entrances, and other interpretation projects which will commence this year include the new panels for the shelter, new leaflets, and we have also commissioned a local historian to write a more up-to-date history of the park. Elfrida Manning's history of the park has served us well, but a lot of new information has since been discovered thanks to the efforts of David Graham's archaeologists.

We are planning three new ponds for the Park over the next 6 years. Planning permission will be submitted later this year for the first two, and construction should commence in late summer and early autumn. The new ponds will provide additional habitat for the Great crested newt population and other aquatic species. The first will be designated as a dipping pond for local schools, hopefully funded through the TAG (Farnborough airport) corporate environmental funding scheme.

I would like to thank all the regular volunteers who turn out and help in the park's management, it is a really friendly group and is one of my favourite parts to managing Farnham Park. - Ron Hills, Ranger

FANCY PLAYING A ROUND?

The Golf Club and Café is being rejuvenated by its enthusiastic new manager, Greg Hutton, so do drop by, check it out and enjoy a round and/or a nice cuppa. All ages and skill levels are welcomed.