

Friends of Stratton Park

'a greener space for everyone'



Issue 5 June 2012

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Wildflower Update

Meadow Flowers in Dellwood Walk

Originally we were going to leave an oval section of the grass in the middle of Dellwood Walk uncut to see what grew if not cut back every month. Unfortunately the area was rotavated rather than left reserved and several of the plants we could see struggling in this area were minced before they got going. However, many wild flowers are very robust and several of them have bounced back in the last 2 months. Having departed from the original plan we have tried to make the best of the circumstances by adding some plug plants to get a little flower later this year – mainly birds foot trefoil, and marjoram. In the Autumn we will seed the area with meadow wildflower seed, some of which will flower next year and the rest hopefully the year after.

Dellwood hedgerow

Weather prevented some work on the hedgerow in April - but we did get some replacement shrubs planted - they have survived well in all the rain! This Autumn we will survey the gaps and plant more shrubs to fill in.

This Autumn we also want to get control of the hedgerow bottom – after strimming this year's growth at the end of October we have a whole schedule of **spring bulbs** to be planted here along with some **perennial plants** which have been grown on to full maturity so that they can be planted out and make an impact next summer - greater and lesser knapweed, mallow and campion. We are keeping a list of the wildflower species as they appear and flower. So far we have logged the following: snowdrops, celandines, cowslips, bluebells, white campion, mignonette, speedwell, herb Robert, meadow cranesbill, dovesfoot cranesbill, garlic mustard. More details and illustrations of our wildflower stock are on our website. This is a good start but we need many more, sometimes there is just one example of a wildflower and we would like to see it scattered all along the hedge.

Holy Ghost hedgerow, beside the tennis court, is also due for a major upgrade this Autumn - with more hazel and hawthorn shrubs added to those planted in March – especially at the eastern end.

On the south side of the hedgerow line we want to seed the strip at the base of the hedgerow with appropriate seed and add some plug plants which we have been growing on so that they get a good start and flower next year.

Again we have a log of the flowers which appear at the base of this hedge - just go to our website for more details.



Jubilee Festival Day at the Village Hall

We hope you came to the Village Hall on Saturday 2nd June for the Festival - the weather was lovely and people had a great time – everyone who came is asking that it happens again next year.

Friends of Stratton Park had a plant stall which did exceedingly well – we took £160, most of which will go towards buying the bulbs for planting in the Autumn. We will get lots of winter aconites for planting in the Lime Walk and many more croci for planting by Cambrian Close.

Next year we want to do it all again - and this time we need more green fingered members to propagate garden plants ready for sale. That's what we did this year – so the cost of the items sold was virtually nil - and all the paying customers got good garden plants at knocked down prices!

Trees in the Park

On the continuing saga of trees in the Park there are 3 bits of news ...

Lime Walk

Recently several trees on the Lime Walk were felled – this leaves a small ‘dell’ in the avenue from the Pavilion to the cross-walk but not a complete break as there are trees on both sides of the path at this point. The trees involved have died or are dying from contamination of the ground - does anyone remember when a car was driven into the tree area and set alight, some years ago? – this is the consequence. Because the land is contaminated we cannot plant anything else at this point for many years.

Cherries by the car park

By the entrance to the large car park several of the wild cherry trees have reached the end of their natural lives (they suffered from being planted very close together) and have been felled. This gap will open up the canopy and give an opportunity for the remaining trees to get a little more light but also provides an opportunity for us to plant some shrubbery at this point - lower growing bushes which flower and berry such as hazel, hawthorn, elder, guelder rose, spindle tree and wayfarer tree. Again we have illustrated the types of planting on the website. This project is scheduled for winter 2013.

Norway Maples by Cambrian Close

If you have a Norway Maple planted immediately to the south of you on Cambrian Close and it seriously shades your house and garden you can apply to the council to have the tree trimmed back to let in more light. There is a form on which this can be claimed (and accompanying explanatory notes) available from BDBC – please let me know if you would like to apply.

Seed and Plug Plant Team - any volunteers?

Here in the west of Basingstoke we have a team of ladies and gentlemen from several conservation groups (including Stratton Park, Old Down and Kempshott Group) who help to collect wild flower seed, or clean and prepare it for use, and/or grow the seed into plug plants)

The team is now 12 strong and looking for a few more volunteers – would you like to join in, either seed cleaning which can be done in your own time at home, or (especially any green fingered members) in plug plant propagating for which a little space in your greenhouse is needed.. The team makes a really important contribution to wildlife enrichment in Basingstoke – if you have a few hours spare at home could you help?



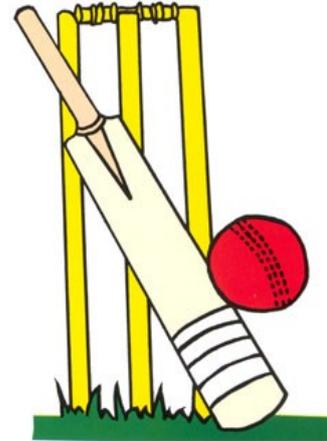
Sports Facilities in Stratton Park

Cricket

We have one of only 2 public cricket pitches in Basingstoke on our door step - but we do not have a cricket team of our own!

Occasionally we have a school cricket match in the afternoons. Teams in the North Hampshire cricket leagues use the cricket pitch some Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the season - but on Sundays it is not used at all - how about starting a cricket team of our own?

If you used to play and would like to support a local team or would like to get your sons or daughters (or grandsons or granddaughters) playing please get in touch. and we can get things rolling.....



Tennis

Totally Tennis will be in residence again this summer (if we get any!) But outside of their tennis coaching times the courts are still free for anyone to use them. (See back page for details)

TotallyTennis brings you something New! – Cardio Tennis

What is Cardio Tennis? Its a series of tennis-based drills and activities played to up-tempo music on a tennis court. It does not require tennis skills, but is all about keeping your heart rate up, burning calories and having fun. Whether the ball goes in or out is irrelevant as the main purpose is to get fit and have fun.

Taster session : 7pm – 8pm Tuesday 26th June

Simply turn up and join in for FREE – at the Stratton Park tennis courts.

Sessions will then continue every Tuesday evening 7pm – 8pm and Saturday morning 11am – 12noon to 1st Sept For just £2.00 per session.



Silver Servers Group

A group of ladies and gentlemen meet on a Wednesdays and Fridays 1.30pm – 3.00pm for a sociable round of tennis and would be delighted if any other senior citizens would like to join them. No one pretends to be Rafa Nadal but the gentle exercise is great for getting the joints working and keeping hand/ eye coordination in trim.

Teen Tennis

We would like to see more local teenagers – 11 - 15 yrs using the tennis courts after school and in the holidays all year round. We have a supply of tennis racquets and balls - all we need is someone to operate the equipment loan-out. Any offers?



Increase your wildlife know how!

Is anyone interested in learning more about wildlife around Basingstoke by going on a course.

Basingstoke Council is organising training courses for those interested in learning more about aspects of our wildlife: - for free.

These training sessions usually run for one day at weekends and so far they are planning :

Identifying wild flowers - **Sunday 22nd July, 9.30am to 4 pm**

Identifying and surveying birds – no date yet

Identifying trees – probably in the winter time.

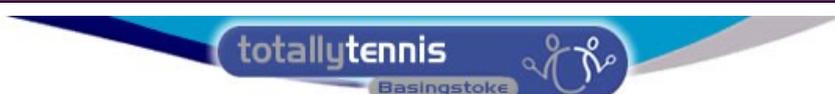


Totally Tennis - In the Park

Totally Tennis will be operating their **tennis coaching sessions** in the park again this summer .

Starting 2nd April through to October they will have control of the 6 courts.

Outside of these hours the courts are free for other users.



For further information or to book a place contact Totally Tennis 01256 358816

Meanwhile, there are coaching opportunities and social tennis sessions at various time during the week to suit all levels and ages. For more details of Totally Tennis coaching check their website at www.totallytennis.co.uk/

Check out our Website:
www.friendsofstrattonpark.org.uk

- Read all the news and events going on in the area.
- Contact us with your views and questions.
- Find out what the projects are on the Green Space page.
- Tell us about the History of the park

Or You can contact us :

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Friends of Stratton Park is supported by and works with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to enhance the ecological and amenity value of this green space.

