



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER – September 2010

Dear Friends,

In the past few years, we have been delighted to report in these pages a developing relationship between the Council, the Friends and other users of the Park which has led to enhanced facilities, a cleaner and better run Park, three consecutive Green Flag Awards, and more and more people finding the Park a haven from the outside world or a place to enjoy world-class entertainment. Thus it was even more disappointing when earlier this summer this relationship seemed to be threatened by the premature announcement that the Park's gates – as with all others in the Borough – would be left unlocked for twenty-four hours a day.

Initially this was presented as a means of providing better access to the Town's open spaces, though it soon became apparent that what lay behind the plan was a need for Parks and Open Spaces to save £600,000 over three years. This spring the Friends had helped negotiate 7am opening seven days a week throughout the year, and the storm of protest that greeted the new proposals showed that the majority of people really did not want or need any further changes. Moreover, there was huge concern that completely unregulated access would threaten the security of the Mansion, the Park and its users. Your committee had only a very short time to act, and we were delighted that in just one week, we were able to gather a petition with 485 signatures: within two days another 118 had arrived by post which would have brought the total to over 600. This petition urged the Council to reconsider its plan.

It is to the great credit of Council officers and the Portfolio Holder, Inga Lockington, that not only was the plan reconsidered but it was removed from the Draft Vision that came to the Executive on 3 August. This Vision has since been circulated for consultation, and your committee made detailed comments before the 17 September deadline. The finalised document will now come before the Executive in October. Much of what is in the Vision is vague – but the restructuring of the Park Manager's role to cover a wider area and proposals to restructure the Park Patrol Service are less so, and these will have some impact on the Park. But we are aware that money must be saved. We are pleased that Sam Pollard will take on the enhanced Manager's role, and the coming months will see additional staff moving into the Reg Driver Centre. However Park Patrol is to be managed, the Park's generally excellent cleanliness must not be compromised.

My hope is that the relationship with the Council will be strengthened by the events of this summer. The only reason there was so much outrage is because we care – and we care actually because the Council is doing a good job. We have an astonishingly beautiful, vibrant Park that we are immensely proud of. It is up to all of us to ensure that this remains so.

Richard Wilson

The Triangle



This photograph shows the official opening on 10 September of the new seating area next to Christchurch Mansion, now known as the Triangle. This has been donated by The Ipswich Society to mark its 50th anniversary with the support of the Friends of Christchurch Park who contributed £500 towards the project. The Society was keen to support Ipswich's premier park by doing something which hadn't been included in the Heritage Lottery bid, hence the hard surfacing and tables for public use (including wheelchair access). The Society's Chairman, Jack Chapman, said: "The Ipswich Society acts to promote the well-being of the town as it develops to ensure it becomes a better place to live and work. It is therefore entirely in keeping with this aim that the Society is pleased and proud to present this addition to the wonderful Christchurch Park, given to the town by past benefactors. We hope all will sit and enjoy!"

Tom Wright

On Monday 23 August a large number of friends and colleagues of gardener, Tom Wright, met at the Reg Driver Centre to celebrate his 31 years with Ipswich Parks. Ill-health last year forced an earlier retirement than we all would have liked. Tom is seen here receiving a framed photograph of him with Ipswich Town legend John Wark in front of one of Tom's many glorious carpet bedding creations in the Upper Arboretum.



Tom is seen here with David Routh, Ken Lightfoot and Richard Wilson who, along with others, represented the Friends at this event.

Tom was always happy to stop and have a chat and his willingness to engage with the public, combined with his considerable gardening skills, will be much missed. We wish him a long and

FoCP visit to Buckingham Palace and its gardens – 11 September 2010

I had a lovely day. I did not know what to expect of my visit to Buckingham Palace and its gardens when I joined 16 Friends of Christchurch Park outside the Ambassadors' entrance on a beautiful September Saturday in busy London. Following a briefing from a charming, navy-blue suited young lady, I donned my earphones, climbed the red carpeted stairs, and entered the State Apartments of the Palace to view its internal quadrangle to stirring music through the headphones. From a view of the fairly plain exterior of the Palace, I was about to enter a mind-boggling world of gilded opulence, a voyage through a feast of exquisite, Nash designed, high-ceilinged large rooms. Carpet covered much of the wooden floors but beautiful marquetry borders peeped out. We learned that Buckingham House only became a royal palace a year after George IV ascended to the throne in 1821. It was he who employed John Nash to oversee its extension and renovation.

The overwhelming impression of richness and ornate artistry sticks in my mind. The huge rooms (and their upkeep), the ornate fireplaces (just think of the work), large portraits, gilt clocks of all sorts, highly decorated French furniture and beautiful large Sèvres porcelain vases. Exquisite craftsmanship was exhibited in every room; the small "Table of the Grand Commanders" (originally commissioned by Emperor Napoleon in 1806 that took 6 years to complete and which Louis XVIII later presented to George IV in 1816) moved me. Then we arrived at the Picture Gallery, which on deeper investigation revealed itself to be a collection of masterpieces. Each picture had a number which one could press on the audio machine to obtain further information. I selected Rembrandt's "The Shipbuilder and his wife" of 1633, marvelling at the delicate detail by the master. One could have spent so much more time in this gallery to fully appreciate this opportunity to see such a priceless private collection. After wandering through the bow-windowed music room and several other drawing rooms overlooking the lawns, we passed outside into the sunshine.

Following the recent rains, everything looked good in the gardens; there was a "ParkMobile" to aid those who required it. We were met by a guide who outlined some of the gardens' history, which seemed very akin to that of our own Christchurch Park – Henry VIII had used the grounds for hunting when the Park was much larger. The gardens had followed the fashion of the day with parterres then Capability Brown's more recent redesign. There is a long mature herbaceous border near the private apartments away from the eye of the nearby high-rise buildings, a lake which we did not closely investigate but also (for six days of the week at least) the constant roar of traffic and police sirens. The garden now enjoys the contemporary emphasis on benefits to wildlife and the re-use of household waste (including that of the military horses); overseeing all this are 7 full-time gardeners – but no vegetable patch. Our guide gave many interesting anecdotal stories and all too soon the tour was over.

I greatly enjoyed my visit overall but for me the Palace interiors took prime position. I now know where investitures and other State events take place, where the Royal family poses for special occasion photo shoots, and the lawns where the summer Garden Parties are held. In particular I marvelled at the exquisite workmanship from an era long gone when time was not money – well not like nowadays. Incidentally, the money made by the summer opening of the State Rooms to the public goes towards the upkeep of the private collection. An amusing anecdote to me was the concealed door used as a short cut by the Queen from her private apartments to the State Rooms. To the uninitiated it was just another huge gilded mirror on the wall set atop an ornate piece of furniture, adorned with large porcelain pieces. These we were told were suitably nailed down....

Ann Snook

Events in Christchurch Park this autumn and winter

Sunday 26 September: Bandstand Marathon 2pm – 4pm Join the Ipswich Over 50's Brass Band by the Arts and Crafts Shelter in the Upper Arboretum for an afternoon of music. For more information on this nationwide initiative, go to www.bandstandmarathon.org.uk.

Wednesday 27 October: Feed the Birds 10am – 12 noon and 1pm – 3pm Have fun making wildlife feasts to help keep your garden birds fit and healthy through the winter, and make your own feeders from recyclable materials. An IBC Ranger event, the cost is £2 per adult, £1 per child and advance booking is essential (please call 01473 433994).

Thursday 28 October: Seed Gathering Season 10am – 12 noon Join the Rangers in a stroll around the Park gathering seeds hidden in nuts, berries, haws, hips and sloes from native trees and shrubs. Then go back to the Reg Driver Centre to plant them in pots to take home. A Ranger event, details as for Wednesday 27 October.

Saturday 30 October: Friends of Christchurch Park Bird Watching Walk 9.30am Join our expert Philip Murphy for another fascinating and informative walk. All are welcome for this FREE event. Meet at the Reg Driver Centre and bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday 6 November: Ipswich Scouts' Fireworks Display

Sunday 14 November: Remembrance Service, Cenotaph 11am

Sunday 12 December: EACH Santa Run (time tbc)

Boules in the Park – by Simon Fletcher (Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance)

On a sunny day at the end of July, the Park saw an invasion by local pétanque players attending the "Boules in the Park 2010" event organised by the Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance. Having secured funding both from the "Team Ipswich & Free Rein Sports Revenue Grants" and the "Suffolk 2012 Open Weekend", blessing was obtained from Ipswich Borough Council and the Friends of Christchurch Park to put on a boules extravaganza on the new Triangle between the Mansion café and the Round Pond. 91 one-hour slots were organised during the day while many spectators enjoyed watching some decent quality play from all involved including the complete novices, who displayed some "beginners luck" in giving the more experienced players a real run for their money. All of those involved received a "Participation Certificate" and the interest generated has led to the creation of a group of players who will be actively looking to join the Suffolk Coastal Pétanque League in time for the 2011 season which starts in late March/early April. There is still time to become part of this group as anybody is welcome, regardless of ability or previous knowledge of the game. Equipment and coaching is provided at our monthly sessions (but these will become less frequent as the bad weather draws nearer). For further details on the local pétanque scene, please e-mail Simon Fletcher on imogenlewiskira@sky.com or write to him at 18 Melville Road, Ipswich, IP4 1PN.

The Poor Old Mayors!

One of the interesting features of Christchurch Park is the Mayors' Walk in the Arboretum. This contains trees – each with its own commemorative plaque – planted by successive Mayors of Ipswich, beginning in 1886 on the 50th anniversary of the inauguration of that office.

There has recently been concern that some of these plaques were damaged or had disappeared, following which some of the loose ones were removed for safe-keeping. In these difficult times it seemed unlikely that the Council would be able to spare money to redress the situation and so it was decided to launch an appeal. Your committee supported this plan and agreed, with the approval of the Christchurch Park Management Board, to be responsible for holding such funds and to oversee the provision of replacement plaques.

The Ipswich Society, this year celebrating its Golden Jubilee, took a keen interest in this. The Mayor of the time, Alderman Lewis, had been closely involved with the formation of the Society and he (and since then all of his successors) held the office of President during their year of office. Because of this connection, the Society has now very generously made the first contribution of £1,000, which has been passed on to the Friends.

Now there will be a need to install the new plaques and also the ones that are currently in storage, and to do so firmly. To this end we make yet another appeal for volunteers to help out, confident that you will respond as you always do. Please contact the secretary (Ann Snook) for details of what will be required but it promises to be an interesting and rewarding project.

If you would like to donate to this appeal, please send a cheque (payable to the Friends of Christchurch Park), with a cover note clearly stating that the money is for the Mayors' Plaques, to: Peter Grimwade, Treasurer FoCP, 79a Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 3SB.

Ken Wilson

The Round Pond

I am sure you will have noticed the amazing amount of pondweed in the Round Pond this summer. Some of you may think this is a disaster and that before long the entire town will be covered in pondweed, as in children's tale *The Magic Porridge Pot*. This, however, could not be further from the truth.

For many years (probably over a hundred) weed growth in the Round Pond had been suppressed. Now we find that weed has entered the pond naturally, having been brought here, as seeds, on the feet of wildfowl. The bloom of pondweed acts in the same way as other green plants – it turns the carbon dioxide in the pond to oxygen. This means that now the water quality is probably the best it has been for decades. Take a closer look and you will see fish, water beetles, newts – you won't be able to get close enough to see the millions of water fleas these bigger creatures eat! So do not worry about the weed – it will be a very natural food for the ducks. Please just help us to remind others not to feed bread to the ducks, and to keep the real eyesore out of the water – litter.

Sam Pollard

“Brass on the Grass”

This year for the first time we put on five sponsored concerts on consecutive Sunday afternoons during July and August at the Arts and Crafts Shelter in the Upper Arboretum. This was our most successful season yet, with many thanks due to our Concerts Organiser Jessica Webster, who worked extremely hard to ensure that everything went well. Jessica and I attended all five concerts with additional attendance by other Committee members who helped to put out and collect the chairs, erect the gazebo and generally oversee the events to ensure their success. The weather was very kind on each occasion.

The first concert by the Suffolk Concert Band conducted by Bernard Reader and sponsored by the Ipswich Society took place on the very warm Sunday of 18 July. This was the third year involving the Society's support, and in celebration of their fiftieth year they provided free wine and fruit juice from their marquee. The band chose to play in the open air due to the heat, the audience numbered around 300, the ParkMobile gave many pleasurable rides and the ice-cream vendor did a roaring trade. The audience was asked if they would sign the Friends' petition to express concern at the Council's proposal to keep the parks of Ipswich unlocked 24 hours a day – 245 signatures were obtained on the day.

Sunday 25 July again saw good weather and a large audience, with the East of England Co-op sponsoring the Ipswich and Norwich Co-op Band. Graham Chambers conducted and was informative about the music played. (Towards the end of the afternoon, perhaps due to the heat, a gentleman collapsed. An ambulance was immediately called so he was swiftly looked after by the paramedics and taken to Ipswich Hospital. I kept in touch with the Hospital and he returned home on the following Tuesday – and was actually back for the following Sunday afternoon's concert.)

On 1 August the concert by Suffolk Phoenix Brass, conducted by Keith Nice (who also was very informative about the programme of music), was sponsored by a generous Friend of Christchurch Park. The threatening weather of the morning saw the band perform from within the Shelter but conditions improved and we had a good crowd on a par with the previous weeks.

The following Sunday saw the Ipswich Hospital Band (sponsored by Scrutton Bland) conducted by Bernard Westren in place of their regular maestro Peter Gray who took over on the percussion. Unfortunately, the ParkMobile drivers could not attend, but an appeal to the audience elicited an offer from a Mr. Rosier who is willing to train as an extra driver in the future. Again, an excellent programme, and a large audience of well over 300.

The fifth and final concert featured Stacks of Sax (appearing for the eighth time) conducted by Adrian Budgen, and sponsored by the Lions Club of Ipswich. The music was enjoyed by all and the Lions representative, Mr. Ladas Doggett, told us all about the role of the Lions Club. Sadly, our sound system had been stolen during the week and I had to use my best “National Service Aldershot Square Voice” to make the announcements.

I would like to thank all our generous sponsors and the five excellent bands, Sam Pollard and his staff, the St. John Ambulance, the ice-cream suppliers, Ken and Delia for driving the ParkMobile, my friend Ken Rivers for providing a series of wonderful photographs, the attentive audiences and not least our Committee. I have really enjoyed compèring these concerts over the past eight years and look forward to next year's “Brass on the Grass”.

David Routh

It is always a pleasure to receive positive feedback...

Dear Richard,

I am writing to express my thanks for everyone involved in the Brass on the Grass concerts this summer. My husband, a neighbour and I were lucky enough to attend four Sunday afternoons and thoroughly enjoyed the delightful, relaxed atmosphere and music in the glorious surroundings of the Park – and in good weather too!

We have enjoyed a Bird Walk and a History Walk, and during the latter were able to see and appreciate all the work which has been achieved by the staff and volunteers to clear so much of the undergrowth. Christchurch Park really deserves its Green Flag and you must be so pleased with everything that has been achieved.

We are now looking forward to the visit to Buckingham Palace!

With very best wishes,

Mavis Hammond

...even letters to the local press

Sir, - As a regular member of the audience at the Summer Sunday afternoon concerts held in Christchurch Park, Ipswich, I would like to thank all that have been involved in this year's super season.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the effort that goes into organising these events, the musicians, the sponsors but particularly the "unsung heroes", namely the committee of the Friends of Christchurch Park. All of them have, for the last few years, made Sunday afternoons special again.

It therefore saddens me to hear that they had a break-in last week and their PA sound equipment was stolen. I do hope this does not deter their efforts for next summer's events.

Keep up the good work and thank you again!

David Kerridge to the East Anglian Daily Times, 17 August 2010

Update on works to the Wildlife Area

After considerable consultation we have decided to reinstate the steps through the Wildlife Area to their original position. There is a high density of tree roots in the centre of the glade which we do not want to damage when installing the new steps. Additionally, it appears that most people continue to walk this route. We are now in the process of finalising this winter's tree work programme which will include the removal or coppicing of a number of trees from around the medieval pond, in the Wildlife Reserve, surrounding the new children's orchard and in the wet meadow. We will be restocking with more appropriate trees in the Wildlife Reserve, and hedgerow fruit trees will infill the gaps around the new children's orchard which will itself be planted up with fruit trees in the New Year.

Laura Whitfield, Wildlife Ranger

What's on at the Mansion this autumn and winter?

Hawstead Panel Art Attack: daily from 2 October to 31 October 10am – 5pm Come along to Christchurch Mansion and create your very own Hawstead Panel to add to the wall. With the original 17th-century paintings as inspiration, use a range of materials to create your own masterpiece. By the end of the “Big Draw” there should be a giant panel room made up completely of your creations. Free, suitable for all ages. Drop in any time.

Pick 'n' Mix Pictures: daily from 25 to 28 October 10am – 4pm The Big Draw celebrations continue throughout half term, with a chance to take part in two very different drawing challenges: “The wrong trousers” – help to complete William Wollaston's wardrobe by adding your own fashion design to the group art work. Which outfit will he wear today? “Pick 'n' Mix Pictures” – use a viewfinder to select one thing from each painting in the Wolsey Art Gallery to include in your own picture. How will you mix it up? Free, suitable for all ages. Drop in any time.

Tudor Christmas: 12 December 10am – 4pm Join us for a fabulously festive celebration – Tudor style. Meet costumed characters and enjoy the dulcet tones of the Tudor minstrels, make your own fruity pomander and join in other craft activities, all inspired by our 16th-century ancestors. For one day only, Father Christmas will also be in the house! Suitable for all ages. Drop in any time. Tudor music and characters: free. Craft activities: £1.50 per person. Father Christmas: £2 per child (includes gift). BSL interpreter available from 10.30am – 15.30pm.

Animation Stations: 21 to 24 February 2011 Take part in a 2½hr workshop with professional animators. You'll make models, animate scenes and create a film that tells the story of Christchurch Mansion. Everyone's work will be edited onto a finished DVD for you to keep. **Cost:** £8 per child, plus £1 on the day for your own DVD copy of the finished film. 10am – 12.30pm (5-8 years), 2pm – 4.30pm (8+). These workshops are very popular, so advance **booking is essential** by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping in to Christchurch Mansion.

St. Margaret's Environment Group

For those of you particularly interested in the subjects of biodiversity and climate change (see also the article opposite), the next meeting of the St. Margaret's Environment Group on Friday 5 November will tackle the subject. Ipswich MP Ben Gummer will join the group for the discussion to be held at 7.30pm in the Gladwyn Room in the St. Margaret's Church Centre, Bolton Lane, Ipswich. This is an opportunity to encourage the UK government to keep climate change high on the national and international agenda.

Join with others from the Stop Climate Chaos coalition for the first constituency-based climate lobby of the new parliament. Thousands of people will join together nationwide to ask their Members of Parliament for more action on climate change.

This meeting will form part of the action of Tearfund and the Stop Climate Chaos coalition for *The Climate Lobby*. For more details, please contact Charles Croydon on 01473 214116.

Who's heard of the Nagoya Conference? The Natural History Museum launches "The Big Nature Debate"

According to research commissioned by the Natural History Museum, British people are worried about the drastic loss of native species, the effects of climate change on global wildlife and over-fishing. Yet 85% of those asked did not know that next month officials from 193 countries will meet in Japan to take important decisions about the future of biodiversity, which could affect how we protect, manage and make use of the planet's diversity of life for decades to come.

In the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, the Natural History Museum is launching The Big Nature Debate to get the public talking about biodiversity and the world around them. Working with International Year of Biodiversity partners the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Zoological Society of London, the debate will be a platform for information, opinion and discussion about biodiversity issues ahead of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) which is being held in Nagoya in October. While governments recognise the importance of the problem, the outcomes from the conference will also rely on ordinary people to understand the issues and help build a more sustainable society. Without this there will be little chance of long-term success.

Dr Robert Bloomfield, Director of the International Year of Biodiversity UK, said "The rapid loss of biodiversity and natural systems will affect the lives of everyone in coming decades. From our research we know that one in two people in Great Britain is really worried about the dramatic loss of nearly 500 species of plants, animals and fungi from England in the last 200 years. Two thirds of people asked would like to know more about issues such as over-fishing and the loss of biodiversity. However, species loss is only one part of the problem. The human race relies on the biodiversity of the natural world to maintain the healthy environment in which we all live. Biodiversity loss threatens the health, wealth and well-being of the world's population and will have consequences for generations to come. It is crucial that we understand the scale of the issues and as a global society respond to them while we still can. We want to get people talking about these issues and inspire them to make a difference. Very few people (12%) know there is an important meeting next month to take decisions about biodiversity. Only 13% of those surveyed could explain what biodiversity – the amazing variety of life on our planet – is, and how we benefit so much from it. With the Nagoya conference next month, The Big Nature Debate could not come at a more important time and we hope to capture the interest of as many people as possible."

Log on to www.nhm.ac.uk/bignaturedebate to quiz the experts, debate issues in forums, subscribe to the RSS feed for latest updates and get biodiversity news through the Museum's Facebook page or by following the Museum on Twitter. The site will host thought-provoking blogs from biodiversity experts and other key thinkers on subjects such as what the world might look like in 2050 or if biodiversity loss has reached a crisis point. There is also the opportunity to pose questions to a panel of scientists in The Big Nature Debate which will take place on 7 October in the Natural History Museum's Attenborough Studio and which will be streamed live at www.nhm.ac.uk/bignaturedebate.

News from Laura Whitfield, our Wildlife Ranger

Ancient Tree Survey

A number of Friends joined me in the Park on 3 September to survey the older trees in the Park. We surveyed 25 trees in total and used the Ancient Tree Hunt recording forms from the Woodland Trust. We recorded the species, condition and most importantly girth of most of the larger trees in the Park. In summary, we surveyed a selection of Oak and Sweet Chestnuts trees. A rough guide to what is classed as an ancient tree is a girth of 4.5m for an Oak and 6m for a Sweet Chestnut. Of the 25 trees surveyed, 10 Oak and 6 Sweet Chestnut trees could be classed as veterans. The largest Oak had a girth of approximately 6.5m and the largest Sweet Chestnut had a girth of approximately 7.8m. There are still a few more that need surveying and I am planning on going out into the Park on 8 October. If anyone would like to come along, I will be starting at the Reg Driver Centre at 10am. Once all the results have been collated they will be made available to the general public in the Centre. Thank you to everyone who joined me on the day, I hope you found it as interesting as I did. It's not often we get the chance to actually look at each tree in such detail!

Ipswich Traditional Orchard Project

The Ipswich Traditional Orchard Project was set up last year with a number of different aims:

1. Identify existing or derelict traditional orchards for restoration;
2. Identify new potential sites within the borough of Ipswich for orchard planting schemes;
3. Identify where all fruit trees are in order to find rare or lost varieties;
4. Re-introduce old traditional Suffolk varieties into Ipswich;
5. Increase the biodiversity of Ipswich (in particular bullfinch and other species dependent upon fruit trees);
6. Raise awareness of traditional orchards and the Ipswich Traditional Orchard Project;
7. Involve local schools, allotment holders businesses and private landowners.

The orchard that will be planted this year in the Park's Wildlife Area is part of a wider scheme to plant orchards using local fruit varieties in the Parks and Open spaces across the town. I ordered the trees just after the last newsletter was published back in June. There will be eight plums, six pears, four apples and four cobnuts. There will be two of each variety and I have made sure to have both cookers and eaters so we can get the most diversity. Some of the varieties are found in Suffolk but may not necessarily originate from the county. There aren't actually that many fruit varieties that do originate from Suffolk but we do have a lot of traditional fruit tree varieties that are grown here and in the surrounding counties.

In order to identify where all existing or derelict orchards and lone fruit trees are we have come up with the Great Fruit Tree Hunt. If you have any fruit trees in your garden or you know the location of any fruit trees, we would be extremely grateful if you could send your records in to us using the Recording Form printed opposite. Return this form to Ipswich Traditional Orchard Project, The Stable Block, Holywells Park, Cliff Lane, Ipswich, IP3 0PG. We would eventually like to be able to propagate from any lost or rare varieties and then plant them in orchards around the town. For more information about the Orchard Project and the Great Fruit Tree Hunt please go to our website: www.ipswich.gov.uk/orchard.

If anyone would like further information on any of the wildlife projects currently ongoing in the Park please do get in touch by emailing me at laura.whitfield@ipswich.gov.uk or by telephoning (01473) 433993.

RECORDING FORM

CONTACT DETAILS

Name of contact/owner

Address

Post Code

Tel

Email

Address or location of tree if different

Post Code

Grid Ref *(if known)*

Date of survey / /

IF AN ORCHARD *(more than 5 trees)*

Acres / ha

How many trees

Average tree height

ABOUT THE TREE

What variety

Approximate diameter *(in ft or m)*

How old *(approx years)*

Is it an: eater cooker both

Other information

(if more than one tree, record additional information here or use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

PRIVATE – not visible from public access

(owner's permission required to measure the tree)

PRIVATE – visible from public access

(owner's permission required)

PUBLIC – open access *(i.e. public park)*

PUBLIC – partial access *(i.e. next to footpath or road)*

PUBLIC – restricted access *(i.e. National Trust property)*

IS THE TREE

Standing

Fallen

Dead

Alive

Unsure

LOCATION

Field

Private Park

Common/Heath

Moorland

Public Park

Orchard

Garden

Churchyard

Avenue

River/Canal Bank

Hedgerow

Highway/Railway

Bridlepath/Footpath

Village Park

Woodland

Other

Additional comments on location

Are you recording as part of an organisation,
if so, which one?

Thank you



Sam's Notes

Well hasn't it been a busy summer? I would love to say that it has all been really fun and exciting but these words would be somewhat inappropriate in the present climate. Within the Parks & Open Spaces department we have had to restructure – a “belt tightening” operation. This is a tricky situation to be in as we want to maintain our parks to a very high standard but make some savings along the way. We have created a Vision to take the department forward and hopefully many of you will have seen this and commented on it before it comes before the Executive in October. The Vision itself is based, in large part, on how we already operate within Christchurch Park – working with the Friends, using a Management Board, utilising volunteers, winning a Green Flag, etc. There will also be some changes – although the Council hasn't yet decided what all these will be. Councillor Inga Lockington, the Portfolio Holder, has agreed however that we will not be leaving Christchurch (and other parks) unlocked 24 hours a day.

Back now to the events of the summer. I hope that many of you were able to enjoy something in Christchurch Park whether it was a small show or one of the larger events. I understand that not everyone would have positive things to say about all the concerts at the end of July – but we are able to take lessons from this and apply them to our future events. One particular series that has been blessed by the weather and good attendance is the Friends' “Brass on the Grass” concerts. I am particularly pleased about this, as it is encouraging more use of the Upper Arboretum around the restored Arts and Crafts Shelter.

Many of you will have noticed our Horse Chestnuts once again showing signs of suffering. Those of you in Westerfield Road around 4.30pm on 14 September will also have seen the end result of this suffering – two branches dropping onto a neighbouring parked car. The cause of the problem is twofold – a leaf miner and ‘bleeding canker’. The larvae of the *Cameraria ohridella* moth mine into leaves and turn them prematurely brown. This will obviously affect the tree's ability to maintain growth and may result in parts of the tree dying. Bleeding canker can be much more severe and is known to kill off trees. Working together these pests/diseases are causing a lot of damage and there is no known control. Obviously we are keeping a close eye on all of our trees. Whenever a tree shows signs of decay we will work to make it safe.

Don't forget we have one last blast of Brass at the Bandstand Marathon held this forthcoming Sunday 26 September in the Upper Arboretum from 2pm-4pm. Do come along and support this nationwide event.

Sam Pollard

Park Road Borders – Help!

Volunteers from the Friends of Christchurch Park have worked very hard to keep the Park Road borders looking good this summer. But now we need your help! More hands (including possibly some younger ones...) are required if we are to maintain these borders. We have just been given some money by the committee and will have some new shrubs which we will be planting out between **10am–12noon on Monday 4 October** (we meet regularly on the first Monday of each month during the warmer months). If you can spare even just a little time, then please do join us for some fun and rewarding gardening. You can just turn up on the day, or for more details, please call Ann Snook on 01473 251037.

Membership

We warmly welcome the following new Friends (bringing the number of members to 308 households) including our new Corporate Member, Kerseys Solicitors

Dr. Anthony D. Michael, Tim & Elaine Haigh, Abi, Michael & Ben Joachim, Buzz, Polly & Guy Rodwell, Brenda Perkins, Beverley & Ian Freeston, Brian & Dorothy Jacobs, Edward & Maureen Finch, Mrs. P. A. Peterson, Adrian Bullard, Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Howard, Stephen & Lucy Miller, M. R. Morgan & Helen Northover, Chris Payne, Mr. & Mrs. M. H. Reeve, Kenneth & Kathleen Bloom, Brian Freed, Rachel Sawyers, Linda Ward

Corporate Members

Woodcock & Son

(Estate Agents)
16 Arcade Street
Ipswich IP1 1EP
01473 233355
www.woodcockandson.co.uk
(FoCP contact John Woodcock)

Ipswich School

Henley Road
Ipswich IP1 3SG
01473 408300
www.ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk
(FoCP contact Peter Gray)

Gilmour Piper and Associates

(Osteopathy & Integrated Healthcare)
10 Fonnereau Road
Ipswich IP1 3JP
01473 217592
www.gilmourpiper.co.uk
(FoCP contact Andrew Gilmour)

W.D. Coe Ltd.

20-28 Norwich Road
Ipswich IP1 2NG
01473 256061
www.coes.co.uk
(FoCP contact William Coe)

Orwell Veterinary Group

Berners House Surgery
56 Berners Street
Ipswich IP1 3LU
01473 257557
www.orwellvets.co.uk
(FoCP contact Charles Bagnall)

The Will Shop

84 Berners Street
Ipswich IP1 3LU
01473 233110
www.thewillshop.com
(FoCP contact Adam Muldoon)

Scrutton Bland

(Accountants)
Sanderson House
Museum Street
Ipswich IP1 1HE
01473 259201
www.scruttonbland.co.uk
(FoCP contact John Pickering)

Kerseys Solicitors

32 Lloyds Avenue
Ipswich IP1 3HD
01473 213311
www.kerseys-law.co.uk
(FoCP contact Anthony Wooding)

Articles for our next newsletter

The next newsletter will be sent to all our members in the spring. We are always delighted to receive articles and letters for publication, and anyone wishing to contribute should write to Richard Wilson either by post or email (see overleaf for details). We reserve the right to edit all submitted material. The deadline for contributions is 1 March 2011.

FoCP COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 2010/11

(To year ending AGM – March 2011)

Chairman and
Vice-Chair of the Park
Management Board:

Richard Wilson, 50 Westerfield Road, Ipswich, IP4 2UT
Phone: 01473 230105
Email: redgar_wilson@hotmail.com

Deputy Chairman
and Treasurer:

Peter Grimwade, 79a Henley Road, Ipswich, IP1 3SB
Phone: 01473 257016
Email: peter@brockpool.co.uk

Secretary:

Ann Snook, 5 Manor Road, Ipswich, IP4 2UX
Phone: 01473 251037
Email: ann.snook@virgin.net

Membership Secretary:

Robert Fairchild, 10 June Avenue, Ipswich, IP1 4LT
Phone: 01473 254255
Email: robert.fairchild@ntlworld.com

Committee Member:

Ian Hatton, 12B Fonnereau Road, Ipswich, IP1 3JP
Phone: 01473 288538
Email: ianandfran@btinternet.com

ParkMobile:

Ken Lightfoot, 30 Ivry Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QW
Phone: 01473 251749

Events/Meetings:

David Routh, 62 High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QS
Phone: 01473 255680

Committee Member
and Member of the
Park Management Board

Peter Howard-Dobson, 52 Westerfield Rd, Ipswich, IP4 2UT
Phone: 01473 210494
Email: peter@hdhq.co.uk

ParkMobile Bookings

Please note our new ParkMobile arrangements: for all enquiries and bookings please contact the Reg Driver Centre on 01473 252435.