



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER – October 2013

Dear Friends,

The Friends of Christchurch Park has turned fifteen years old this year. Our website proudly announces that “Since 1998, we have worked alongside the Park’s management and the local Council to preserve, protect and improve the Park as a place of historic and ecological interest, beauty, tranquility, rest and recreation. We keep our members informed of what is happening in the Park, from news of interesting wildlife activity or proposed tree works to details of the varied social and cultural events that take place here every year.” There is no doubt that we have done much to achieve these aims, but is there more we should be doing and are there better ways of doing it? We want you to help shape our future.

On these two pages you will find a short questionnaire. I know these can sometimes be a pain to complete, but we really want our members to guide the way we operate. You can return the survey either by post (details overleaf) or by dropping it into the Reg Driver Centre. We are also looking to explore digital communication in the future. We won’t be abandoning our paper newsletter (this will remain their preferred option for many) but some will chose to receive communications, including the newsletter, via email in the future. If you think you might like to be contacted in this way, please add your email address at the end of the questionnaire.

Thank you for helping to make the Friends stronger and more relevant for the next fifteen years.

Richard Wilson

FoCP Questionnaire 2013

Please answer any or all of the questions. All information will remain confidential.

How many are there in your household?

Approximately how often do you visit the Park? Daily Weekly Monthly Rarely Never

What do you use the Park for? (*circle as many as you like*)

Walking Dog Walking Events Games/Sports Wildlife Children’s Area/Play Cafe Mansion
Passing through Other (*please tell us*)

What do you particularly like/dislike about Christchurch Park?

Events this autumn and winter in the Park and at the Mansion

FoCP Bird Walks – Saturdays 16 November and 29 March at 9.30am

Isn't it so much easier when someone can tell you what that bird is over there? Even better, if they can tell you how to recognise its distinguishing features so that next time you will know it for yourself? Join our avian expert Philip Murphy for these winter and spring walks around the Park. Philip will identify all the birds that you will see and hear, and these FREE events (which are open to all) promise to be both informative and interesting. Meet at the Reg Driver Centre at 9.30am and bring binoculars if you have them. A note for your diary – next year's Dawn Chorus Walk will be on 3 May.

Margaret Catchpole and the Cobbold Family – Daily at the Reg Driver Centre, 10am to 4pm

If you haven't seen it yet, just a reminder that this fascinating display, which includes hundreds of illustrations about Suffolk legend Margaret Catchpole and the Cobbold Family (who gave the Mansion to the Town and who supplied us with beer and football) has been extended indefinitely. See the FoCP website or call 01473 252435 before your visit to check that the exhibition is available.

Annual Fireworks Display – Saturday 2 November, gates open at 6pm

This year's event features Party Spooktacular who will present "The Return of Guy Fawkes". The lantern procession, which includes fire jugglers and bands, begins at 7pm and concludes with the burning of a giant Guy Fawkes on the bonfire. There will be entertainment from BBC Radio Suffolk, Heart & Town 102, as well as a traditional funfair, with a wide range of food available, including hog roasts, hot dogs and candy floss. Discount tickets are now on sale, priced at £3 for children (ages 5 - 15 inclusive, under 5's free) and £5 for adults. See www.ipswichfireworks.co.uk for full details.

Suffolk Artists – Saturday 16 November, 11am at the Mansion

A Mansion tour with Mary Halliwell, organised by the Friends of the Ipswich Museums. Book at Mansion Reception or call 01473 433554. Tickets cost £5 (£4 FoIM members).

Squabbles and Scandals – Wednesday 11 December, 6.30pm for 7pm at the Mansion

A Friends of the Ipswich Museums illustrated talk by Marjorie Carter about the three families who once lived at the Mansion. Tickets cost £8 (FoIM members £6.50) and include a glass of wine. Book at Mansion Reception, email ericab@btinternet.com or call 01473 433554.

RSPB Walk in Christchurch Park – Tuesday 17 December, 10am

An RSPB guided bird walk around Christchurch Park. Meet at the Soane Street entrance. The walk last about 2 hours and is free to all.

A History Tour of the Mansion in aid of the Mayor's Charities – Tuesday 17 December, 6.30pm to 8.30pm

The Mayor of Ipswich, Councillor Hamil Clarke MBE invites you to join him on a tour of the Mansion in aid of his chosen charities: East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), The Dame Vera Lynn Trust and Fresh Start – New Beginnings. The cost is £5 and following the tour there will be the opportunity to enjoy some festive cheer with a glass of mulled wine and mince pies. To book your place, please contact the Mayor's Office at 01473 432641 or email: mayor@ipswich.gov.uk

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members: Steph & Tim Newton, Miss Pearl Kerridge, Peter Fletcher, Margaret Bulaitis, AJ & AJ Hood

Butterflies in Christchurch Park

I must admit that the best butterfly encounter in the Park wasn't fully appreciated at the time. It was on 24 May 2009, and my wife and I were walking down through the Park from the Park Road entrance, on our way to a meeting in town. Suddenly we were aware of a wide line of butterflies heading north, with none stopping to feed. Later we discovered that this was the vanguard of the millions of painted ladies recorded all over the country, beautiful migrants from north Africa.

Recently three factors have improved butterfly habitats in the Park. The newly-created butterfly garden is in a good sunny spot and the planting is an excellent mix of nectar sources. My only addition would be more early nectar, such as aubretia and arabis. In addition the garden has a continuity of habitat through to the nearby damp meadow, with buddleia, brambles, ragwort, thistles, burdock and long grasses. Lady's smock grows in the damp meadow, one of the egg-laying plants for both green-veined whites and orange tips.



Small tortoiseshell



Peacock

Returning to the butterfly garden, we have in 2013 recorded large, small and green-veined whites, peacocks, commas, small tortoiseshells (thankfully recovering after several bad years), painted ladies, small coppers, gatekeepers and meadow browns. Close by, a path heads towards the tennis courts, a good area to find the small and usually high-flying holly blue. On the other side of the butterfly garden is the Nature Reserve which has several sunny glades ideal for the speckled wood, which prefers dappled shade.

The second factor is the leaving of swathes of long grass at the northern end of the Park. These are used for egg-laying by many of the brown butterflies of high summer: meadow browns, ringlets, gatekeepers and skippers. Yarrow grows here in abundance; a plant often visited by the small but exquisitely patterned small copper. An old log in the western corner is surrounded by nettles, the egg-laying plant of red admirals, commas and small tortoiseshells. In the Mansion garden the extensive lavender beds attract white species and the planting succession to cone flowers and Michaelmas daisies offers late summer and early autumn nectar.



Small copper



In 2012 I finally found two oaks in the Park with colonies of purple hairstreaks. This small butterfly is often overlooked as most of its life as an adult is spent high in the canopy where it feeds on honeydew, a liquid secreted by aphids. Seven extra host oaks were

found in 2013, all so far being discovered to the north of Snow Hill. Despite its July flight period coinciding with the heat wave, most evenings (when it is usually active) this summer had some degree of breeze and this species prefers still conditions. It was also difficult, with binoculars, to find good vantage points for observation close to some oaks, since they appeared to be favoured by courting couples...

Our garden along Westerfield Road is little more than a quarter of a mile from the Park and three species recorded in 2013 should also be in the Park. The first is the brimstone, the yellow "butter coloured fly" that is a harbinger of spring. The small and easily overlooked green hairstreak, which also is well-camouflaged and keeps its wings closed after landing, should also be present. The third is the grayling, a heathland specialist flying mainly in July and August. It does feed on buddleia and bramble and my wife Marie saw one near the Soane Street entrance in 2009.

In 2014 my main task will be to study the remaining Park oaks there are still many to visit and hopefully record more colonies of purple hairstreaks.

Richard Stewart, with photographs of Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Small Copper courtesy of Paul Sherman

Can you tell your ash from your elder?

More than 80% of us can't recognise an ash tree from its leaves, and only 57% of us know the shape of an oak leaf.

These are the findings of a YouGov survey commissioned this summer by the Woodland Trust. As well as being disappointed by the results, the Trust is concerned that lack of knowledge about our trees will stop us reporting tree diseases such as ash dieback or horse chestnut canker (see overleaf). This knowledge could help limit the spread of such diseases and is a part of the government's strategy on how to handle them. Austin Brady, Head of Conservation at the Woodland Trust, says: "We are calling for increased education on native trees and disease identification before it's too late, we need to learn about and love trees and woods or we risk losing them... We need the public's support to be able to spot cases of disease quickly, but at present the basic knowledge of trees isn't there. There is also a clear trend that younger people are less engaged with nature."

The results show that older people are more likely to have much better knowledge of trees. 23% of those aged 55 and over can recognise an ash leaf compared to just 10% of 18-24 year-olds, and 68% of 55 and overs can recognise an oak leaf compared to 39% of the 18-24's. For years there has been concern about the amount of time that young people spend outdoors, and so perhaps these results are only to be expected. Less than 10% of British young people apparently spend time playing in natural places such as parks, woodlands, countryside and heaths compared to 40% of adults when they were young, and this could be compounded by proposals to cut environmental education in the future.

You might want to address this yourself by taking Simon King's tree identification quiz which can be found at www.loveitorloseit.org.uk/tree-id. The Friends are working to update our Tree Trail leaflet which we hope to have available next spring.

Richard Wilson

Horse chestnuts – update

Our horse chestnut trees that are infested with the foliage damaging leaf miner insect are not at greater risk from bleeding canker disease. These are the recent findings of a ten-year study by scientists at the Forest Research's Centre for Forestry and Climate Change.

Until 2002, horse chestnuts had been thought to be disease-free trees – hence their prevalence in parks such as ours. But the dual threats of the leaf miner, that causes the unsightly damage to foliage, and bleeding canker, manifest by dark sticky liquid oozing from the bark of the tree, have severely affected our stock. Until now it had been thought that damage from the insect led to more susceptibility to the disease by weakening the trees, but encouragingly this has turned out to be a myth according to one of the report's co-authors, Dr Nigel Shaw: "What we found was that the leaf miner seems to have no impact on horse chestnuts, even though it can make the foliage look very unsightly. The damage comes too late in the season to have any major effect on the tree." This is good news for Christchurch Park, as although the leaf miner damage doesn't look good, it is the canker that appears to be the much more serious threat.

Bleeding canker disease has been reported in the UK for decades, but recently there has been a surge in the number of cases. It is responsible so far for the death or felling of 27% of the nation's red-flowered horse chestnut trees and 11% of the white-flowered variety. One positive for our Park is that younger trees (10-30 years old) seem to be much more susceptible, whereas more mature specimens have more ability to survive the threat. On the downside, as the report's authors state, "the rate at which the disease has spread through the horse chestnut populations has shown no sign of slowing down in recent years, and it is still too early to say how many trees will be killed eventually and how many might survive."

Report from our Tree Officer

With the rapid approach of the ever-popular Christchurch Park Fireworks event, the IBC arboricultural team have been focusing their attentions on any essential tree works necessary within the Park, in order to reduce any considered risk of branch, or indeed complete tree failure.

The team have recently had to fell two trees in very poor condition that had been noted during an earlier inspection. These particular trees (horse chestnut No. 1071 and Norway maple No. 596) had been subject to an earlier planning notification ref IP/10/00896/CALF and had received a formal grant of consent, approving the works.

In addition to this, some minor dead wooding has been carried out to a large turkey oak and some sweet chestnuts. These are located close to high target areas/frequently used pathways, and therefore considered essential for health and safety of the public, thus exempt from the application/notification process.

If there are any concerns regarding trees, or works to trees within the Park, please do not hesitate to contact me, or come in to the Reg Driver Visitor Centre and meet me in person. I will try to answer or rectify any problems where possible.

Steve Leech, Tree Officer IBC, tel 01473 433534, email Steve.Leech@ipswich.gov.uk

Make hay while the sun shines

It is always interesting to see what other councils and park managers are doing, and with the excellent weather this summer, St Edmundsbury Borough Council has been making the most of its grasslands.

Some Friends of Christchurch Park were a little uncertain when Ipswich Borough Council moved to a regime of mowing that meant areas of grass in the Park were allowed to grow longer in the summer months. This method of grass management is known to boost biodiversity, as well as having a visual appeal that many find attractive (though it must be said, some don't...). This year, St Edmundsbury Parks have managed to take 600 bales of hay off its 30 acres of grassland in its country parks. Like our council, St Edmundsbury are working to maintain their meadows in a more sustainable way, and they have gone even further by using a drum mower to cut the hay and then finding a local contractor to bale it. They are storing 300 bales and have sold the rest to local equestrian centres.



Sheep may safely have grazed when Robert Burrows painted this picture of the Park in the nineteenth century, but will we see them returning to the Park in the future?

St Edmundsbury's meadows are about five years old and they have looked to eliminate unwanted species such as ragwort without the use of chemicals but by hand pulling and cutting. Their grasslands are comprised of the following species: Cocksfoot, Yorkshire Fog, Crested Dogstail, Italian Rye Grass, Brown Top, Rough and Smooth Meadow, Chewings and Red Fescue, Small Cats Tail, Timothy, Common Foxtail and Sweet Vernal Grass. Rather than mowing all their areas of long grass, they also leave certain areas in alternate years to provide food and shelter for the meadow fauna.

They are even thinking of introducing a small flock of sheep to their parks in the winter months. Now wouldn't that be a bucolic sight for Ipswich's commuters and Park visitors!

Richard Wilson

“Batting” for Christchurch Park

The Bat Walk in our Park on the evening of 6 September turned out to be one of the most successful natural history events that we have staged. Not only had the Walk been posted on the Park's noticeboards but it was also publicised in the local newspaper, therefore we had bat enthusiasts come along from far and wide. Such is the appeal of bats that of the 48 watchers (and listeners) at least two were ‘Goths’! Luckily, no one came dressed as Batman or Robin... It was really encouraging to find over a dozen children willing to learn more about these flying mammals.

The leaders of this expedition were Mark Smith and Sue Hooten of the Suffolk Bat Group which is affiliated to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Before the warm evening became too dark, Mark briefed us about what bats are, their breeding habits and what species we were likely to see in Christchurch Park. Bat detectors were handed out and also a leaflet on bats produced by the Bat Conservation Trust – a brilliant gesture by the leaders.

Most of those present had not used detectors before. Bats are not blind but at night they hunt by sonar, and bat detectors turn sound we cannot hear into sound we can. As they fly they make shouting sounds, the returning echoes giving information about anything that is ahead of them including the size and shape of an insect. This system of finding prey is called echolocation. Humans can only hear these sounds by using a bat detector. Most people can hear sounds up to 20 kHz in frequency/pitch (though we lose higher pitch hearing as we grow older) but bats echolocate at frequencies higher than this, so their calls are usually beyond our hearing. Bat detectors therefore help us listen into sounds that we are not normally aware of, and let us know when bats are flying around that we cannot see.

After Mark and Sue's introduction, the walk started at 8.15pm from the Reg Driver Centre whereupon we heard the first sounds of Pipistrelles. We progressed northward to the ice-cream parlour area, crossing to the path near the children's play area and then down to the Round Pond. So far, the only bats detected on this route were Britain's smallest bats, the Pipistrelle. It had been a pretty normal bat-hunt but suddenly it changed to an evening of sheer delight and amazement, one of which even excited our leaders. As we gathered around the pond, our torches lighting up the surface of the water; the bat detectors went berserk with the air filled with the clicking sound of bats. The onlookers were obviously thrilled, especially so the youngsters who were enthralled by seeing bats so close that they could almost be touched. They were flying close to the water with fluttering wings catching insects that were hatching from the pond. At the time we assumed these were Daubenton's bats, but in fact later analysis of the recorded bat clicks showed that this was a display of an extremely rare bat species – Nathusius' Pipistrelle (see opposite page).

Speaking personally, I am not a great bat enthusiast but I was amazed by this display of bats at the Round Pond and I can fully understand why people are enthralled by these winged mammals. This was probably one of the most exciting wildlife walks that I have been on. My thanks go to Mark Smith and Sue Hooten whose preparation was thorough and their dedication for the protection of bats plain to see. My thanks also go to Peter Grimwade, Deputy Chairman of the Friends of Christchurch Park, for organising this quite brilliant meeting. Watch out for a repeat of this bat walk in late summer of next year.

More information about bats can be obtained from www.bats.org.uk.

Reg Snook

Rare bat discovered on our FoCP Bat Walk

Following our Bat Walk on the 6 September, Sue Hooten, Chair of the Suffolk Bat Group and co-leader on the night sent us this update:

“I have finished checking the sound recordings from the FoCP bat walk a few weeks ago, led by Mark Smith, and agreed with him that I would let you know the exciting news!

As we thought on the night, we heard both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats in the Park but the really exciting news is that we also recorded Nathusius' Pipistrelles too! This is a new record for Suffolk, and the Suffolk Bat Group bat atlas for Suffolk (produced in 2012 with help from Suffolk Biological Records Centre) has only 4 other such dots on the map!

The Nathusius' Pips were feeding over the Round Pond in the Park with the other two types of Pipistrelles in an amazing display of feeding and it may be worth looking for them next year over the Wilderness Pond too. Here is some information about Nathusius' Pipistrelle from the Bat Conservation Trust:

Nathusius' Pipistrelle is a rare bat in the UK, though records have increased in recent years. It is a migratory species, and most bats are encountered in autumn, although some do remain all year and breed in the UK. It is similar in appearance to, but slightly larger than, the much more commonly found Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, and the fur on its back is longer, sometimes giving a shaggy appearance. In continental Europe, Nathusius' Pipistrelle migrates south west across Europe in late autumn and winter before returning to eastern Europe the following spring. In the UK it appears that a small summer breeding population is supplemented by migratory individuals during the winter.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle was only discovered in Suffolk in 2005 at two separate locations and may be more far more widespread than these records suggest... The majority of Nathusius' Pipistrelle roosts are located close to large freshwater lakes, and this species also forages near rivers, canals, lakes and waterlogged areas, as well as in woodland rides and edges. The flight is rapid – slightly faster than that of Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, although it is not quite as manoeuvrable, and its insect prey are caught on the wing, by 'aerial hawking'.

I hope you are not too disappointed that we did not record Daubenton's bats after all [which we had discovered on a previous FoCP Bat Walk led by then Wildlife Ranger Laura Whitfield]. The bats we all watched in the torch beams were feeding above the water, not across the surface which would have indicated Daubenton's, but we may have more luck another time!”

We plan to put a recording of the Nathusius' Pipistrelles on the FoCP website, and if you would like to know more about our bats, the Suffolk Bat Group's website is:

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/species/species-projects-and-groups/suffolk-bat-group

Our thanks again go to Mark Smith and Sue Hooten, and to all members of the Friends who came along for this memorable Bat Walk.

Richard Wilson

Report on our summer 2013 Brass on the Grass concerts

This summer marked our tenth series of summer brass band concerts in the Arboretum. Three excellent free concerts were arranged thanks to the splendid work done by our new concerts' organiser Paul Buckley. In comparison to last year's generally miserable conditions (and the almost unprecedented cancellation of the concert sponsored by the Ipswich Society), the weather this season for all three events was very good, which really helped to bring in the crowds.

It was the Ipswich Society led by their Chairman John Norman who sponsored our first concert on 21 July, and they generously provided free wine and other refreshments to our guests. All enjoyed an afternoon of music provided by stalwarts of our Brass on the Grass concerts, Stacks of Sax under their leader Adrian Budgen. Our new Park Manager Alan Gilbert arranged for Trevor and another Alan to help put up the gazebo (which helped shelter our ice cream lady and her assistant from the warm sun), and to assist in setting out the chairs. Some of these chairs had been recently painted and so very unfortunately two visitors took home a different sort of memory of the event! Alternative chairs were sourced for the following week...

The second concert was kindly sponsored by a generous Friend of Christchurch Park, Russell Reeve. It featured Suffolk Phoenix Brass under their very informative conductor Keith Nice. Again the weather was kind and we had numbers in excess of 300. Our final concert featured the excellent Ipswich Hospital Band under their musical director Peter Gray, sponsored by our loyal Corporate Friends, Scrutton Bland. The audience numbered over 350, the ParkMobile gave numerous rides and, with perfect weather, the ice creams sold out for the third consecutive Sunday.

Our thanks go to our sponsors, the bands, our ParkMobile drivers Ken, Delia and Richard, and of course, our audience members. I have thoroughly enjoyed being MC at every concert we have held over the years, and we now look forward to our second decade of Brass on the Grass concerts.

David Routh

IBC puts its foot down on dog mess

Ipswich Borough Council has begun to prosecute dog owners who fail to pick up after their pets. Using the message "Clean up or pay up", the Council's enforcement team now has the power to issue a fixed penalty notice of £50, which can escalate to a fine of up to £1,000 if miscreants are taken to court.

This is what happened to one Ipswich man this summer who ended up paying £850 for his lack of consideration. There are plenty of dog bins in Christchurch Park and no excuse not to clean up dog mess.

The Council wants your help in protecting the environment, so if you see someone failing to pick up after their dog in Christchurch Park or anywhere else in the town, you can report it online at www.ipswich.gov.uk/report or by telephoning the Cleaner Ipswich Hotline on 01473 433000.

Our Corporate Members

Woodcock & Son

Estate Agents

16 Arcade Street, Ipswich, IP1 1EP

01473 233355

www.woodcockandson.co.uk

(contact John Woodcock)

Ipswich School

Henley Road, Ipswich, IP1 3SG

01473 408300

www.ipswich.suffolk.sch.uk

(contact Peter Gray)

Gilmour Piper and Associates

Osteopathy & Integrated Healthcare

10 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich, IP1 3JP

01473 217592

www.gilmourpiper.co.uk

Scrutton Bland

Accountants

Sanderson House

Museum Street, Ipswich, IP1 1HE

01473 259201

www.scruttonbland.co.uk

(contact John Pickering)

Orwell Veterinary Group

Berners House Surgery

56 Berners Street, Ipswich, IP1 3LU

01473 257557

www.orwellvets.co.uk

(contact Charles Bagnall)

Hightop

Domestic & Commercial Window Cleaning

PO Box 612, Ipswich, IP2 8WZ

01473 231232

www.hightop.co.uk

(contact Neil Ayers)

Thornbank Residential Home

6 Westerfield Road, Ipswich, IP4 2UJ

01473 253346

www.greensleeves.org.uk/carehomes/thornbank

(contact Cathy Greef)

W.D. Coe Limited

20-28 Norwich Road

Ipswich IP1 2NG

01473 256061

www.coes.co.uk

(contact William Coe)

The Will Shop

21 High Street

Ipswich IP1 3QH

01473 233110

www.thewillshop.com

(contact Adam Muldoon)

Kerseys Solicitors

32 Lloyds Avenue

Ipswich IP1 3HD

01473 213311

www.kerseys-law.co.uk

(contact Anthony Wooding)

Christchurch Dental

69 Fonnereau Road

Ipswich IP1 3JN

01473 250977

www.christchurchdental.co.uk

(contact Derek van Staden)

The Greyhound Public House

9 Henley Road

Ipswich IP1 3SE

01473 252862

www.thegreyhoundipswich.co.uk

(contact Dan Lightfoot)

Lattice Lodge Guest House

499 Woodbridge Road

Ipswich, IP4 4EP

01473 712474

www.latticelodge.co.uk

(contacts Mosaic Williams and Martin Pike)

David Miller Fitness

68 Edinburgh Gardens

Claydon, IP6 0DU

07528 713047

(contact David Miller)

Park Manager's Report

The Reg Driver Visitor Centre has recently had its exterior decorated. A programme of works to decorate the exterior of other buildings within the Park is currently underway, and the toilet block near the kiosk is currently closed while we repaint the building. With regard to events, the Half Marathon that started and finished in the Park was a resounding success and we are now making preparations for the Fireworks event on 2 November and the Remembrance Sunday parade and service on 10 November.

The summer bedding display near the Henley Road entrance will now be replaced with the spring bedding display plants. The carpet bedding has now been removed with the plants being over-wintered by Suffolk New College at Chantry Park Nursery. These plants can then be used again next year helping to reduce the cost for new plants. A Norway maple tree along the path to the kiosk from the RDVC was felled as it was diseased, and the ever-further leaning stump at the north end of the Wilderness Pond had to be removed due to disease and possible danger to the public.



We now have two new benches in the Park. One was donated by the Ipswich Society in memory of their former Chairman and great supporter of the FoCP Brass on the Grass concerts Jack Chapman. This has been placed in the Lower Arboretum by the tennis courts overlooking Snow Hill. Another bench has been donated by the family of a very popular volunteer David Fletcher who worked with our team in the Park. This can be found up the hill from the Reg Driver Centre towards the kiosk.

We have had a rough sleeper in the Park, a 29 year-old Latvian lady. The Streetlink team visited her several times, also arranging for a doctor to check on her. She was eventually taken into care with the intention of returning her to her home country with the aid of the Latvian Embassy.



This year the Park won its sixth consecutive Green Flag award. Shown here are some of our team with three FoCP committee members. We are in the process of acting upon the Green Flag judges' comments in preparation for our next application.

Finally, we are working on a proposal from the Friends to position a permanent table tennis table in the Park. The project is being led by Nicola Johnson and currently some preferred locations are being considered along with various types of table.

Alan Gilbert, Area Supervisor, tel 01473 432473, email alan.gilbert@ipswich.gov.uk