



SPRING NEWSLETTER – February 2012

Dear Friends,

“I believe that one of the most important results of the Park’s Heritage Lottery Grant was not a physical change but the establishment of the Christchurch Park Management Board.” So began last February’s FoCP newsletter. It is therefore with some regret that we announce that, as part of their policy “Taking Decision Making Closer to the People”, the Council has decided to abolish the CPMB. Whilst acknowledging the Board’s successes, the Council considered that it was not economically viable to copy the format for other parks in the town. Your committee worked hard to reverse this decision but without success. However, although we have seen the end of what some considered a model of community involvement, the Friends will invite Park Manager Sam Pollard to attend its committee meetings, are involved in the Council’s newly established Working Group on Parks and Open Spaces, and will meet with the Portfolio Holder two or three times each year to discuss specific matters of interest or concern. The role of the Friends as a conduit for information between the Council and the Park’s users will continue, and we hope that you will continue to contact us about matters that you would like to see raised with the managers who help to keep Christchurch Park the very special place it is.

Our autumn 2011 newsletter looked at the early history of the Arboretum. Although a public park for the town had first been proposed in 1848, it wasn’t until 1 March 1851 that the idea took shape with this announcement in the Ipswich Journal: “A project for establishing a place of recreation for the inhabitants of Ipswich has long been in contemplation... During this week subscriptions have been solicited, and a committee formed to carry the plans into execution. The estimated expence is £2,000 and considerably above £1,000 has been raised. The site fixed upon is the ground westward of Christ Church Park, known as Bolton. A bridle way passes through the midst, which will divide the ground appropriated to the public from that reserved for subscribers. It is proposed that the Northern extremity be opened as a playground for youth... We congratulate the town upon the fair prospect of so desirable an object being realized, and have no doubt that the further subscriptions will speedily be given.”

On the next two pages you can read the Arboretum Prospectus for yourself. Although it would be another 2 years before a free public park opened its gates, from 1851 and for 5 shillings a year – perhaps £25 in today’s money – you could have enjoyed the delights of the Arboretum. We very much hope that you consider today’s annual household subscription of £5 to the Friends of Christchurch Park good value for money, and that you will renew your subscription before 1 March (see the back page of the newsletter for full details).

Richard Wilson

IPSWICH ARBORETUM SOCIETY

PROSPECTUS

AND A

STATEMENT OF THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The formation of a place for healthful out-door recreation, accessible to all classes of the inhabitants of this rapidly increasing town, has long been needed. In the year 1848 a public meeting was convened, at which time the unanimous desire prevailed that an eligible spot might be selected, not only adapted for carrying out to the fullest extent this highly important object, but which, whilst administering to the health and rational enjoyment of the people of Ipswich, should be rendered, by its appropriation to the science of Arboriculture, not less worthy the support and patronage of the county at large.

With a view to effecting this object, a Committee was then appointed, at whose suggestion the subject was presently brought before the Town Council of this Borough. The members of the Council expressed their approval of the design, but deemed it advisable to defer any direct measures with regard to it until they could more satisfactorily ascertain what would be the probable working, in reference to this town, of a Bill then before Parliament, which, as it was believed, contemplated a provision out of the Corporate funds for such purposes as that under consideration.

At this time W.C. Fonnereau, Esq., who was contemplating the appropriation of a considerable portion of land to building purposes, consented, at the request of a few gentlemen who were unwilling to abandon a project so generally approved, to reserve, at a moderate rental, an extensive site which was considered to be eligible for their purpose. These gentlemen, having undertaken the payment of the rent, converted, at their own expense, about six acres and a half of this land into a Cricket Ground, and obtained plans for forming the remainder into an ARBORETUM.

During the present year, the space occupied by the Cricket Ground, being considered by the members of the Corporation indispensable as an adjunct to the Grammar School, was surrendered for that purpose, under the implied condition that every facility would be afforded to the projectors of the Arboretum for securing their original design.

A public meeting was subsequently held, attended by numerous influential inhabitants of the town and other equally zealous promoters of the object, at which the following resolutions were adopted:-

That the land lying on the east and west sides of the new bridleway, and comprising all the land between the Henley road and the park of W.C. Fonnereau, Esq., to the extent of about sixteen acres, should be hired for a term of 999 years, at an annual rent of £80.

That a portion of this land should be reserved as a PUBLIC PLAY GROUND, and the remainder be enclosed and laid out as an ARBORETUM AND ORNAMENTAL PLEASURE GROUND, upon the general design furnished by Mr. Pontey. That the western portion of the Arboretum should, under certain restrictions, be open to all classes after ordinary working hours, and that the eastern side should be devoted exclusively to the use of Members of the projected Society.

That the work of laying the grounds be commenced, as soon as the subscriptions shall amount to £1,000.

That a society be formed, to be called "THE IPSWICH ARBORETUM SOCIETY", the object of which shall be the collection and scientific classification of all such species of trees and shrubs as will endure this climate.

That the Society consist of Patrons, Shareholders (the Shares being transferable), and Annual Subscribers. That the management of the Society be entrusted to a Committee, consisting of the Governors and of Twelve persons to be annually elected from the Shareholders and Subscribers.

That a holder of more than one £10 Share, subscribing 5s. annually, be a Governor of the Society, and ex-officio member of the Committee, and have free access to the Arboretum for himself, family and guests.

That a holder of one £10 share, subscribing 5s. annually, have free access to the Arboretum for himself and family, and for guests not being resident within the liberties of the town. That a holder of one £5 Share, subscribing 10s. annually, have the same privileges. That an annual Subscriber of One Guinea have free access to the Arboretum for himself and family, and for guests not being resident within the liberties of the town. That a Gentleman subscribing 10s 6d. annually have free access for himself only.

That Donors of £25 and upwards be entitled to the same privileges as Governors; and Donors of £12 12s. have equal advantages with £10 Shareholders. That a Lady subscribing 5s. annually have free access for herself only. That the price of admission for Non-subscribers be sixpence. That the price of admission for Schools be regulated by the Committee.

That the hours of opening and closing the Arboretum be regulated by the Committee. That the Arboretum be open on Sundays, at certain hours, under the regulation of the Committee.

The site chosen for the ARBORETUM is pre-eminently adapted for the purpose, covering an undulated surface of more than sixteen acres, contiguous to the beautiful park and pleasure grounds of Christ Church, and commanding, from more elevated portions, views of the richly varied scenery around it. The original estimate of the cost of its formation was about £2,500; the construction of an entrance from Fonnereau Street, and an extension, which has kindly been allowed by Mr. Fonnereau, of the ornamental water in his pleasure grounds, so as to form an additional feature of beauty and utility to the Arboretum, will probably occasion a further expenditure of from £200 to £300.

Such is a general outline of the objects of this Society, and of the manner in which, up to the present time, they have been maintained. The formation of the grounds is now far advanced, and depending only on the accession of the necessary funds for its completion. The Committee confidently hope that these will readily be supplied, believing that the gentry of Suffolk, as well as the inhabitants of its principal town, will manifest a prompt desire to support an institution which – having for its combined objects the advancement of science, the provision of an innocent and healthful relaxation for the industrial classes, and a pleasurable recreation for all – cannot fail to become an invaluable acquisition to the town, and an ornament to the county.

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Friends' events this spring

Saturday 17 March 9.30am – Spring Bird Walk with Philip Murphy

An opportunity to join our avian expert Philip Murphy to observe the varied birdlife of the Park before the trees come fully into leaf. Meet at the Reg Driver Visitor Centre and bring along binoculars if you have them.

Wednesday 28 March 7.30pm – The AGM of the Friends of Christchurch Park

This year's AGM will again be held at the Reg Driver Visitor Centre. We very much hope that you can join us to discuss what the Friends have been working on for the past year and to enjoy a glass of wine. Park manager Sam Pollard will be present to answer any questions you may have. Limited car parking will be available via the Bolton Lane entrance. Although the committee has functioned well over the past year, **we really would like new members to join us**. Duties are not onerous, but your enthusiasm and commitment to the Park would be hugely valued. If you would like to stand, please contact Ann Snook on 01473 251037.

Saturday 12 May 4.30am – Dawn Chorus Walk

A very early start but well worth the effort! Join Philip Murphy for the fascinating experience of seeing the Park's bats go to sleep as its birds wake up. Learn more about birdsong and enjoy the wonderfully varied wildlife of Christchurch Park. This year we will assemble at the north end of the Bridle Way, where it meets the junction of Henley Road and Park Road. The event is free to all members and prospective members.

What's on at the Mansion?

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums' "Peep into the Past" daily short tours of the Mansion (Tuesdays to Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 2pm) recommence on 1 March. These tours are free (though donations are welcome), but are not suitable for large groups who can arrange tours via their website www.foim.org.uk or by calling the Mansion on 01473 433554. The Friends of the Museums will also be repeating two themed tours during Ip-Art week: "Portraits and Panels" at 2pm on Wednesday 4 July looks at the earliest (Tudor) images in the Mansion and "Passing the Time" at 2pm on Saturday 7 July, is a talk about some of the many clocks, mostly by local makers, in the collection.

Tuesday 28 February – Rock and Roll Memories

Based around the Mansion's 1950s and 1960s Memory Box, come and share your memories of the Coronation, the Moon Landing and the birth of Rock and Roll. "Remember When?" sessions run from 3pm to 4.30pm with tea and coffee served throughout. Cost £2.50 per session. Book your place by calling 01473 433691 or by dropping in to the Mansion.

Thursday 10 May – Wine and Talk: The Mildenhall Treasure

Officially one of the top ten treasures of the British Museum, this 1,600 year old silver Roman dinner set is an astounding example of their craftsmanship, artistic talent and wealth. For the first time since its discovery during the Second World War, the Great Dish from the dinner set will be back on display in Suffolk. This talk, which starts at 7pm, will introduce you to this magnificent object and look back at its discovery. Cost £7 per person (including glass of wine or a soft drink) and tickets can be booked at Christchurch Mansion or by calling 433691.

Autumn bird watching walk, Saturday 29 October

It was a case of quality rather than quantity for the thirty two Friends who attended this autumnal walk. The weather was grey and overcast which was not conducive to finding many of the Park's smaller bird species.

Recent reports of nuthatches in the Park had all been from the area between the Mansion and Bethesda Church, but we failed to hear or see the species at that location. The Round Pond had some black-headed gulls and a few mallard. The pace quickened at the Wilderness Pond where an immature cormorant, perched precariously at the top of a tree, was being harassed by up to six carrion crows. The cormorant successfully, and noisily, defended itself against the crows before flying down to the pond where we watched it diving for fish – it eventually flew off in the general direction of Ipswich Docks.

The cormorant was not the only highlight at the Wilderness Pond where we also located at least 15 mandarin ducks. The various ponds in the parks of Ipswich are the best sites in Suffolk for this spectacular small duck. The males were in pristine plumage, with much posturing and chasing as they sought to impress the females.

Not all of us saw the next two birds of particular interest, a sparrowhawk and a kestrel. The hawk flew south, high over the Wildlife Reserve while the kestrel was being rapidly escorted off the site by a carrion crow – to see these birds one had to be standing in the right place and at the right time, as is so often the case in birdwatching!

There was no sign of Mabel the tawny owl at her traditional roosting tree, although she had been seen there recently. A mistle thrush was perched, typically, at the top of a tall tree near to the play area and, as we have come to expect, we had several sightings of stock doves. A green woodpecker gave us excellent views as it flew over "Mabel's tree" and another was heard "yaffling" over the Park's northern boundary. Finally, as we walked back to our starting point, we had many excellent views of jays, surely one of the essential features of autumn in Christchurch Park.

Many thanks to everybody who attended this walk and for asking so many searching and stimulating questions. No birdwatching walk in Christchurch Park would be complete without Reg Snook's support and plentiful background information – many thanks to Reg, whose magnificent new painted sign, featuring the birds of the Wilderness Pond, received much praise from our group.

Philip Murphy

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

M. John Clayton, Andy & Fiona Bowles, Lois & Peter Brooks, Julian & Liz Campbell, Madeleine Kerry, Tim & Naomi Gornall, Ms Hilary Anderson & Dr David Samways, Helen Clough, Edward & Claire Croome, Michael & Anne Reeder, Isabel Clover, Graham & Elaine Dowe, Neil & Joyce Salmon, Kathie Reynolds, Sally Fisher, Paul Sherman, Tracey & Paul Skirrow, Richard & Jean Attenborrow, Matt Savidge, Jane Allard, Stan Gaskin and Nigel & Carolyne Stock.

Do you think this painting of Christchurch Park is by Gainsborough?



In our 2009 spring newsletter, we reported that a fine painting of Christchurch Park had appeared for sale at Sotheby's the previous December. Listed as "English School" and entitled *View of Ipswich from the Grounds of Christchurch Mansion*, it was very similar to a picture by Paul Sandby (1731-1809) that currently hangs in the Mansion (but on loan from the National Maritime Museum). With an estimate of £10,000 to £15,000 we explored with the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service the possibility of purchasing the painting for the town, but the final hammer price reached £50,000 (£67,250 with commission) and the painting went to Philip Mould, the Antiques Roadshow expert and a dealer in London.

A little later, Mr Mould announced that he had unearthed an early Thomas Gainsborough which dated from the mid to late 1740's when the artist would have been in his teens or early twenties: "It has been the most thrilling experience piecing together its forgotten history and a further reminder of how great a British artist Gainsborough was at a young age." Mould was convinced by some Gainsborough trademarks in the painting, one being the similarity of the couple in the foreground to a Gainsborough drawing in the Louvre.

After Mr Mould's announcement in 2009, the then Director of Sudbury's Gainsborough House Museum, Diane Perkins, agreed that the work was by Gainsborough and hoped that the Museum would raise Mould's asking price of £750,000 which he felt reflected the picture's rarity and importance. Others, however, are not so confident in the attribution. Local historian Dr John Blatchly is concerned that the Mansion's west facing oriel windows were not added until after the date Mould assigns to the picture. Hugh Belsey, noted Gainsborough expert and former Director of the Gainsborough House Museum, has grave worries about its authenticity. The Sudbury Museum has not so far purchased the painting.

Research before the auction revealed that the oil had apparently been sold in 1824 for the sum of £43 1s by the Pall Mall auction house of Evans (lot 378) when it was described as "A fine performance" by Gainsborough. The painting came from the estate of the late George Richard Savage Nassau (1756-1823), a keen art and book collector with a particular interest

in the county of Suffolk, whose father, The Hon. Richard Savage Nassau MP (1723-1780), lived at Easton near Wickham Market and was a patron of Gainsborough's.

If this painting is by Gainsborough, it would have been one of four by him in the 1824 sale, which also included a number of his drawings. But in a coincidence that cannot as yet be explained, the Mansion's watercolour version of *View of Ipswich* by Sandby (later to be one of Gainsborough's pall-bearers) was sold by Nassau in the very same sale (lot 303). Is it possible (as Mould suggests) that Nassau, with his interest both in watercolours and in the topography of Suffolk, commissioned Sandby to make a version of Gainsborough's picture? Or could both paintings in fact be by Sandby? Might the couple in the foreground have been overpainted? At the 1824 sale, the painting was bought by Michael Mucklow Zachary, a well-known collector, but at Zachary's own estate sale at Phillips on 31 May 1828, the picture was still attributed to Gainsborough but described as *A View of Harwich, from the Collection of Nassau, esq.* To further muddy the waters, a Christie's stencil on the stretcher shows that the picture, when consigned by a Mr Selwyn-Payne of Cheltenham to a sale in London in July 1890, was called simply *View of a Town*, and attributed to "Old Crome" – John Crome (1768-1821), one of the founders of the Norwich School. The picture failed to sell.

A number of scholars have suggested identities for the two figures in the Louvre drawing, and thus by extension the couple here. John Hayes, in his catalogue of Gainsborough's drawings, says that they might be the artist and Margaret, his future wife. Less probable if the painting is by Gainsborough is the later inscription on the drawing that the couple are "Paul Sandby and his wife" as Sandby didn't marry until 1757. Nonetheless, this suggestion is very curious given the ties that otherwise seem to bind these two artists to the painting.

Whatever the attribution, both this and the Sandby are fine depictions of the Park in the nineteenth century. Notable features include the brick wall running across the painting which then marked the edge of the Park. It is not easy to identify the four churches in the town as the artist may have "moved" them to fit the view and perhaps to ensure that the setting sun catches the faces of the towers. However, the churches (from left to right) would appear to be St Clement's (or possibly St Margaret's), St Stephen's (with the shorter tower), St Lawrence (the tallest tower) and St Mary le Tower (prior to the erection of its spire in the 1860s). On the horizon can be seen the windmills at Stoke, one of which would later be painted by John Constable. The Round Pond looks remarkably similar today.

Mr Mould admits that the picture's earliest history remains a mystery, but backs up his attribution to Gainsborough by asserting an important link with the Mansion, then home to the Fonnereau family. William Windham (1750-1810) who lived at Felbrigg Hall said that Gainsborough's "earliest supporter" had been one "Mr. Fonnereau", who had lent him £300. Apparently Gainsborough voted against "his patron's interest in a Parliamentary election", despite the loan, and then deliberately kept himself drunk so that "he might not relent of his ingratitude". William Whitley first recorded this story in his 1915 biography of Gainsborough but was sceptical of Windham's tale. Nonetheless, "Mr Fonnereau" was Thomas Fonnereau (1699-1779) who owned the Mansion and was elected MP for Sudbury in the elections of 1741, 1747 and 1754. For the story to be true, Gainsborough (too young in 1741 and 1747) must have failed to vote in 1754, though by then he was permanently living in Ipswich. But if both Mould and Windham are right, then the presence of the Park and the Mansion in one of Gainsborough's earliest commissions would suggest that they played an important role in the fledgling career of one of Britain's greatest artists.

But why not decide for yourself? Sandby's landscape can currently be seen on the ground floor of the Mansion and the *View of Ipswich* is on loan to the Gainsborough House Museum.

Richard Wilson

Ark Refreshments

One of the results of the Park's Heritage Lottery funding was the building of the Ark, the refreshment and toilet block in the Lower Arboretum. Finding commercial operators to run this facility at a profit has proved difficult, and the building has not been as successful as no doubt the bid's managers hoped.

The Papworth Trust has now stepped in to provide refreshment provision on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 2pm and 3pm and on a Friday morning between 10.30am and 12am. Clients of the Trust have the opportunity to run a real enterprise as well as receiving support with their money handling and customer service skills, whilst Park users can enjoy refreshments in this lovely part of the Park

We encourage Friends to make use of the Ark over the coming months.

***Margaret Catchpole* – Eastern Angles at Bentwaters from 23 June - 8 July**

Celebrating 250 years since the birth of Suffolk's legendary criminal and adventuress, this play mixes myth and reality to explore the remarkable life and times of a woman who saved a child from drowning in the Round Pond only to be later sentenced to death (twice) before being transported to Australia. The Friends of the Ipswich Museums are linking a tour/talk about her before three matinee performances (1pm on Sunday 24 June, Tuesday 26 June and Sunday 8 July) and one 5pm show (Friday 29 June). Although information about the production is not yet available online, theatre group Eastern Angles will soon be announcing its publicity and ticket sales details (www.easternangles.co.uk) and will provide a shuttle bus to take visitors from the Mansion to the performances at Bentwaters.

More Park events this spring

Friday 13 April – Creepy Crawlies Creature Feature

At the Reg Driver Visitor Centre. More information will be available soon.

Sunday 6 May – The 42nd Ipswich to Felixstowe Historic Vehicle Run

The premier road run in East Anglia. Over 500 vehicles including cars, lorries, motorcycles, buses and military vehicles will gather in Christchurch Park ready to depart at 11.30am. A magnificent spectacle - and free to visit or watch either in the Park or en route.

Daffodils

With spring (surely?) just around the corner, and the Park's daffodils currently sticking their noses through the snow, here are ten things you may or may not know about this popular and delightful plant: 1. Prince Charles is paid one daffodil a year as rent for the untenanted land of the Scilly Isles. 2. The daffodil is March's birth flower. 3. Its Latin name, narcissus, comes from the Greek word narkoa meaning "numb" because of its supposed narcotic properties. 4. Its bulbs contain galanthamine, a drug used to treat Alzheimers. 5. They also contain calcium oxalate crystals, a skin irritant and one of the major constituents of human kidney stones. 6. Daffodils are thought to originate from western Europe and the Middle East. 7. There are more than 1,800 varieties of narcissus listed by the RHS. 8. Daffodils share 35% of their DNA with humans. 9. Roman soldiers took daffodil bulbs to the battlefield to eat if they were mortally wounded for a quick death. 10. Medieval Arabs used juice taken from daffodil bulbs as a cure for baldness.

BBC Stargazing Star Party, hosted by the Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich) on Monday, 16 January

This was the second year that the BBC has run a live series of programmes under the banner of "Stargazing". This year they were from the 16 to 19 January and perhaps you were able to watch some of them. Some weeks before Christmas I received a phone call from the BBC asking if we could host one of many events taking place across the country to be advertised on the Stargazing website, and as early as 24 November I attended a meeting with Sam Pollard and Madeline Forrester from the BBC to make the arrangements for the event. As with our regular outreach Star Party meetings in the Park, we would be hosting the event with the Park's Rangers helping to look after the public.

Our Star Parties have now become a regular part of the yearly activities in Christchurch Park and the aim of the BBC programmes was to encourage members of the public to take a look at the night sky under the guidance of local experts. Being an official BBC Stargazing site we had access to a selection of various observing packs that were being issued for distribution to the visitors and which included a large banner emblazoned with the word "Stargazing" and the BBC2 logo. Paul Whiting volunteered to set the up the OASI exhibition and to give talks in the Reg Driver Centre (which turned out to be extremely popular).

In all, about twenty members of the OASI brought along an impressive array of telescopes including a 400mm dobsonian, a 150mm refractor and the now ubiquitous green laser pointers. The evening was split over 3 locations in a very dark Park with telescopes set up outside the Reg Driver Centre, near to the ice cream kiosk (the busiest location, with visitors queuing up to have a view through our equipment) and at the top of the hill, our usual Star Party site. This area gives the best uninterrupted view of the sky as it is away from trees and is also the furthest point from the surrounding street lights. Sam Pollard and the Park staff had organised many activities to entertain the children, including simulating meteors hitting the moon, star patterns on umbrellas, and an outside candle model of Orion.

It was estimated that over 300 visitors came to the event, which delighted Sam Pollard and showed just how popular astronomy is becoming. The bonus was the weather, which gave clear skies all evening. The principle objects observed were Jupiter, M42 (the Orion Nebulae) and M45 (Pleiades star cluster). Early visitors were also able see Venus. Well done to one of our members, Ben Jarvis, in getting one of his images displayed on the Wednesday night programme. The BBC's Stargazing website is still available for viewing and includes a Star and Moon Guide, planetary activity cards and audio guides to the night sky. The website address is: www.bbc.co.uk/tv/features/stargazing

Roy Gooding (Honorary Secretary OASI) email roy.e.gooding@btinternet.com

FoCP Membership Renewal – subscriptions due by 1 March 2012

Please may we remind members that annual subscriptions (£5 per household) are due by 1 March. We prefer all members to pay by Standing Order as this reduces our costs. If you already pay by Standing Order then NO FURTHER ACTION is required. If not, please return the completed Standing Order Authority AND the Membership Form (on the last page of this newsletter) to Robert Fairchild. (Please call Robert on 254255 if you are unsure whether you already pay by Standing Order.) Of course, we still welcome payment by cash or cheque and if this is your preferred method of payment, please include the completed Membership Form ONLY with your payment and send it to Robert before 1 March. Thank you for your continuing support of the Friends.

Rose *Souvenir d'Anne Frank* planted in the Peace Garden

On Friday 27 January, Holocaust Memorial Day, a rose *Souvenir d'Anne Frank* was planted in the Peace Garden in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The event was led by Val Ross from The Anne Frank Trust and attended by Councillor Roger Fern, Deputy Mayor, pupils and teachers from Castle Hill Primary School and many others.

Councillor Fern, quoting Edmund Burke, addressed the children directly and stressed the importance of tolerance but also of not standing back in the face of intolerance: "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." The children then read out thought-provoking messages to Anne that they had written.

The Anne Frank rose was sourced by theatre company *Ensemble* from Japan where it was cultivated from a plant originally sent to a young Japanese girl, Michiko Otsuki, by Anne Frank's father Otto. The rose blooms in every Japanese city, including the Peace Gardens at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where it is regarded as a symbol of peace.

Interweaving Anne's own words from her famous diary with live music from a classical piano trio, *Ensemble's* new theatre and music piece, also called *Souvenir d'Anne Frank*, tells the extraordinary story of the rose and will be at New Wolsey Theatre at 7.45pm on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 March. The production infuses music with poetry, performance and song to tell the moving story of Anne's days in hiding and the surprising and inspiring story of the rose.

We are delighted to offer members two premium tickets for the price of one (that's two tickets for £15) to see *Souvenir d'Anne Frank*. Friends can secure this offer by calling the New Wolsey Box Office on 01473 295900 and quoting "Tudor Mansion".



Head Gardener David Horne plants the *Souvenir d'Anne Frank* rose in the Peace Garden, watched by Councillors, Val Ross from The Anne Frank Trust, Friends of Christchurch Park and children from Castle Hill Primary School.

Christchurch Park opening hours in 2012

The Park opens at 7am every day. The Bolton Lane gates are unlocked first and closed last with the Arboretum gates being locked 15 minutes before all the other gates. Closing times vary seasonally through the year, as listed below:

Month	Date	Locking starts	Locking finishes
February	12	17:15	17:30
	26	17:45	18:00
March	11	18:15	18:30
	25	19:30	19:45
April	8	19:45	20:00
	22	20:15	20:30
May	6	20:45	21:00
	20	21:00	21:15
until			
August	12	20:45	21:00
	26	20:15	20:30
September	9	19:45	20:00
	23	19:15	19:30
October	7	18:45	19:00
	21	18:15	18:30
	28	16:15	16:30 until 27 January 2013

Our first publication: *Portrait of a Park* by Reg Snook

The launch last autumn of *Portrait of a Park* by Reg Snook was a phenomenal success. A total of 165 members took up our offer of a free copy, but we still made nearly £1,000 for Park projects on the first print run of 500 copies and we are now well through the second run of 400 more. The Friends would like to thank Reg and Ann Snook for bringing this project to fruition and for working so hard to promote both the book and the Park. We were delighted to see in the latest Ipswich Society Newsletter the following review by Richard Attenborrow:

As a user of Christchurch Park for more than 30 years, I was really pleased to see that this book has been published. When I've walked through the park on the way to work, or gone on my Sunday morning run, I've often paused to read Reg's wildlife jottings on the notice board next to the visitor centre. These are so entertaining and informative that the idea of gathering them together in book form can only be a good one.

Whatever the subject matter, he always strikes a chord and brings back a memory of some of the wonderful wildlife we've seen and also some that's been lost. He's not the only one to miss the Spotted Flycatchers, Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers and Hawfinches of yesteryear, but he does tell us about the many wildlife wonders still left to us. Mabel the Tawny Owl, of course, gets an article to herself, as do those gaudy Chinese intruders, the Mandarin Ducks.

Whether you're a wildlife enthusiast or just enjoy walking in the park, I can guarantee you'll find something to interest you in this fascinating and beautifully illustrated publication.

Sam's Notes

Once again I am writing with snow on the ground outside my office. Lovely to see it and have fun sliding everywhere! Although I have to say that we seem to have coped pretty well across Suffolk this year. This is also true of the Park, where we have managed to clear a route through most of the Park (especially on the slopes).

The snow has highlighted something that is sadly becoming a problem once again in this Park – dog poo! Christchurch has, in recent years, been a very clean Park and I would like to keep it that way - I am sure that this gets thumbs up from the all of the Friends. So what do are we doing about the problem? The previous newsletter announced that the Park is now being patrolled and offenders can be issued with fixed penalty notices. This has been on the way for some time, and I am pleased to say that we will be having a high profile launch in March with our patrol staff handing out fines for littering and dog fouling from then onwards. The fines are aimed to be a deterrent and will be given out to those who continue to disregard the bylaws. We will, however, need your help with this. So if there are places where fouling is particularly bad, please do not hesitate to let us know.

On a more positive note, we are installing a new 'healthy route' around the Park in March. This Park Run is one of five that we are unveiling across the town this year. The route in Christchurch is 2.5km long and uses the existing path system. Way markers will guide the route and distance markers will allow runners/walkers to keep note of how far they have gone. Everyone can use the course, and it will be promoted through doctors' surgeries, health centres and gyms.

For those of you who walk through the Lower Arboretum you may have noticed work starting on the Butterfly/Sensory garden. Students from Ipswich School have been digging out the foundations for the footpath and soon will be helping to bed in the plants. Students have in fact been involved in every stage so far, including the design. Funding for this project is coming from the Friends and grants received through The Papworth Trust.

2012 is a special year for events. This year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Ipswich's celebrations will include activities in the Park. Oh, and there's a sporting event taking place this year that you may have heard of... Obviously, we are very proud to be hosting one of the major Olympic torch events on the 5 July. This will be amidst the Ip-art festival, which is sure to be a very busy period. We will have more news on all these events at the Visitor Centre and, of course, on the Friends' website.

Please don't forget that if there is anything you want to ask about the Park or indeed any park in Ipswich, you can contact us via email at parcs.services@ipswich.gov.uk or on 01473 252435.

Sam Pollard, Park Manager



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

(contact Andrew Gilmour)

Scrutton Bland

Accountants

Sanderson House

Museum Street

Ipswich IP1 1HE

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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)

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)

Christchurch Park Boules Club

c/o Suffolk Coastal Petanque Alliance

18 Melville Road

Ipswich IP4 1PN

www.suffolkcoastalpetanque.blogspot.com

(contact Simon Fletcher)

Lattice Lodge Guest House

499 Woodbridge Road

Ipswich IP4 4EP

01473 712474

www.latticelodge.co.uk

(contacts [Mosaic Williams and Martin Pike](#))

Membership Subscriptions – IMPORTANT

All subscriptions to the Friends of Christchurch Park (£5 per household) are due annually on 1 March. To help reduce our administration costs, we would prefer all members to pay by continuous Standing Order. **IF YOU ALREADY PAY BY STANDING ORDER, THEN NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED.** If not, please send the completed Standing Order Authority **AND** the Membership Form (at the bottom of the page) to Robert Fairchild.

Please call Robert on 01473 254255 if you are in any doubt as to whether you already pay by Standing Order.

We appreciate that Standing Orders are not always suitable and we still welcome payment by cash or cheque. Please include just the completed Membership Form with your payment and send to Robert Fairchild at the address below before 1 March.

STANDING ORDER AUTHORITY

Account to be credited:	Friends of Christchurch Park
Bank:	Lloyds Bank, Cornhill, Ipswich
Account Number: 02952840	Sort Code: 30-94-55

Account name to be debited:

Bank and Branch:

Amount: £5.00 (five pounds)

Please pay to the Friends of Christchurch Park annually on the 1st March until further notice

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(detach here)***** (detach here)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I have enclosed a new Standing Order Authority

Please find enclosed a cheque for £5 made payable to Friends of Christchurch Park

Please find enclosed a cash payment of £5

(Please tick as appropriate)

Name(s):

Address and Postcode:

Please send this form to Robert Fairchild, 10 June Avenue, Ipswich, IP1 4LT

www.focp.org.uk