



SUMMER NEWSLETTER – May 2011

Dear Friends,

We must have had one of the most beautiful springs in recent memory, with day after day of sunshine and blue skies. This wonderful weather has been enjoyed by numerous visitors to the Park – I reckon there were at least two thousand people there, making the most of the warmth and the freshness of the season, when I walked through on Maundy Thursday afternoon. As a Friends group we should be delighted that the Park is so popular, and later in this newsletter there are two pages packed with a variety of exciting summer events that we hope you will enjoy and that no doubt will bring in the crowds.

But, as Sam Pollard reminds us later in the newsletter, the sheer weight of numbers puts a huge strain on those whose job it is to keep the Park looking beautiful. Daily I am astonished (and appalled) by the mountains of rubbish that are left in the Park each evening, and hugely thankful for the extraordinary efforts of the Park staff who clean them away by the morning. When did this sort of behaviour become acceptable? What makes anyone think it is their right to toss aside anything they fancy wherever they like? As a Friends group we can despair – or we can help, by encouraging the use of bins, and by offering just a little time and effort to assist Sam's team litter pick (even more important with the imminent judging by the Green Flag panel – see overleaf). The issue of dog owners not picking up after their pets was raised at our recent AGM and it is good to hear from Sam that Parks Patrol will be clamping down on this. In our next newsletter we will look at how some other towns and cities worldwide are addressing the issue.

Later in this newsletter you can read a description of the Park some two hundred years ago when, of course, the issues facing it would have been somewhat different. Before 1895 these would have included the public's restricted access to the Park, and on 8 April I saw the unveiling at the Reg Driver Centre of the Ipswich Society's blue plaque to Felix Thornley Cobbold, whose gift of the Mansion to the Town that year complemented the Borough's purchase of the Park for the enjoyment of all. At the same event I was honoured to open the new exhibition celebrating the Cobbold family's important role in the history of Ipswich. This tremendously informative display (devised and funded by the Cobbold Family History Trust) tells the story of the family's involvement with Ipswich Town Football Club, the history of the eponymous brewery, and the tale of legendary Suffolk resident (and Park visitor) Margaret Catchpole. The beautifully illustrated interpretation panels will be with us for the next two years and are well worth a visit.

And my tip for enjoying an empty Park? Come along at 4.30am on 14 May for our Dawn Chorus Walk to experience the Park devoid of people and full of wildlife.

Richard Wilson

Green Flag judging

This year's Green Flag judging will take place on the morning of 11 May. Last year we were visited by an "undercover" judge, but this somewhat unsatisfactory arrangement (paradoxically brought about by the Park's recent successes) led to some unwelcome (and arguably unjustified) comments that garnered some equally unwelcome press coverage.

This year, for the first time, Green Flag organisers have asked to meet all those involved with the Park (something Sam Pollard has always encouraged anyway), and members of the Friends committee will be on hand to offer our perspective to the judges.

Despite the economic downturn that is making the required levels of attainment harder to achieve, local authorities still seem keen to recognize the importance of their local green space: this year has seen a record 1,370 applications for a Green Flag (although there are still only 6 winners in Suffolk). According to its website, the scheme "encourages sites to raise standards by providing welcoming, safe, well-maintained and clean parks for the communities they serve. [To secure their Green Flag, parks](#) must promote activities that are beneficial to health, provide recreational facilities that are safe and regularly maintained, have sound environmental policies in place and actively involve members of the community."

The scheme is run on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government by [Keep Britain Tidy](#), [BTCV](#) and [GreenSpace](#), so perhaps it is no surprise that the Awards have become politicized, with the Liberal Democrat Communities and Local Government Minister Andrew Stunell saying: "The seven per cent increase in community green spaces run by local people applying for an Award – added to the scheme's nine-hundred plus volunteer judges – shows that the Big Society is blooming in our parks and community gardens. The Government's continued backing of this scheme, along with the Big Tree Plant campaign to encourage tree planting, shows we are committed to the creation and preservation of quality green space, and recognize its benefits for our health and well-being."

We believe the scheme does encourage better management and maintenance of the Park, and despite the economic constraints that are making it ever harder for Sam and his team to achieve these aims, we hope that the Park will continue to apply for the Award. Indeed, we would like the Council to apply for the somewhat more stringent Heritage Award. Only 52 sites in the country hold this Award, and we believe an application in future years would see a closer partnership with the Mansion – our near (but oddly also somewhat distant) neighbour.

Richard Wilson

Mansion opening hours

Please note that as of 1 April the Mansion's new opening hours are 10am – 5pm Tuesday to Sunday. Thus it will be closed on Mondays, including all Bank Holidays.

Christchurch Park two hundred years ago

The recently opened display in the Reg Driver Centre prompted another look at Richard Cobbold's famous book *Margaret Catchpole*. This novel, based the life of Suffolk's most notorious "adventuress, chronicler and criminal", was first published in 1845 but in this extract from Chapter 18 the author is describing Christchurch Park in the 1790's. It is interesting to see what has changed – and perhaps also what hasn't – since then.

The Park at Ipswich is a beautiful place in summer: twice a week were its gates thrown open by the liberal proprietor of the domain to the inhabitants of the town, who rambled along the shady chestnut walk to its utmost bound. Many were the happy walks that infancy, delighting in the sunny flowers of the mead, took in that lovely place; and many the more tender and animating rambles which fond hearts and faithful lovers in the days of youth enjoyed. Parents and their children breaking away from the cares of business, delighted to stroll in holiday attire, and repose themselves beneath the branches of those stately trees which everywhere adorned the park. There they heard the first notes of the cuckoo; there they watched the green and spotted woodpecker; observed the busy rooks; heard the nightingales, the thrushes, and the doves, and spoke of all the innocent pleasures of nature.

The spotted fallow deer crossed their path in a long line of rapid flight, and assembled in a herd in the valley; the pheasant and the partridge roamed about in pride and beauty; whilst the hare and the rabbit, familiarized to the sound of children's voices, lifted up their long ears, or stood up on their hind legs to gaze on them as they passed.

In the winter, the stragglers in the Park were comparatively few, excepting at that period when the pond was frozen over, and became the fashionable resort for company to view the skaters; thither the young party whom Margaret had the care of resorted, to see the dexterous movements of Councillor Green, or some of his majesty's officers from the barracks. The company that day was numerous, and the scene such as it would delight thousands, even were it in the gay metropolis; it would have induced many of the fashionables to leave the warm, soft cushions by the fireside, and to wrap themselves in furs, and to put on their snow-shoes, and to enjoy the healthy, though frosty, air of Christmas.

Many in the busy town of Ipswich left their labours and their cares for a few hours' recreation; fair ladies ventured to lean upon a brother's or a lover's arm and try the slippery ice; sledges, too, were in requisition... Home they went, gratified and satisfied, talking of the frightful cracks and heavy falls, and well-contested races, which they had mightily enjoyed.

Tennis Courts

We are absolutely delighted with the Lawn Tennis Association's £142,500 grant for the complete relaying of our courts. We congratulate the Council on negotiating this real boost for the Park (at nil cost to Council Tax payers or the Park's management) that should ensure fine quality courts for years to come. There will be no charge for casual play and the Friends have been assured that two courts will be available for the public at all times, even when Ipswich Sports Club is delivering its programme of coaching. Please see Sam's page for more details.

Dawn chorus walk on Saturday 14 May at 4.30am

An early start! Join Philip Murphy for a fascinating and magical experience as the Park's bats go to sleep and its birds wake up. Learn more about birdsong and enjoy the wonderfully varied wildlife of Christchurch Park. This year we will assemble at the crossroads in the Bridle Way, where the cycle path enters the Arboretum. Members and prospective members are welcome and the event is free to all.

An update on the Wildlife Rangers

As you may remember, Laura Whitfield left Suffolk a few months ago for Cumbria. Her replacement, Joe Underwood, is sadly on long-term sick leave, but Richard Sharp is stepping in to cover Ranger activities in the Park. Perhaps due to this hiatus in personnel there are fewer Ranger events than usual in Christchurch Park this year, but one event that is happening is the "Wild encounter with scales and tales" on 10 August from 10am-11.30am. Their leaflet describes this as "Not to be missed. A totally amazing experience to get up close to our native and exotic lizards, snakes and insects. Come and learn about these elusive creatures, what they like to eat, where do they live? You will be able to hold the reptiles and feel their skin on yours."

All Ranger events cost £2 for children and £4 per adult and must be paid in advance. To book your place, find out about the other Ranger events in the Town, or if you would like to help the hard-pressed Rangers as a volunteer, please telephone 01473 433993 or see their website: www.ipswich.gov.uk/rangerservices.

50 years of action for Suffolk's wildlife 1961 – 2011

To mark Suffolk Wildlife Trust's 50th year, the following wildlife celebrations are planned. For most of the events the cost is £3 per person, payable on the day, although some events are free and others require advance booking. For more information or to book, telephone 01473 890089 or visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org.

7 May, Bluebells at Arger Fen

June, birthday walks at Lackford Lakes, Foxburrow Farm, Oulton Marshes and Redgrave & Lopham Fen

4 June, coastal vegetation at Dingle Marshes

25 June, 50th Anniversary Celebration Day in Combs Wood

6 July, Nightjars and Glow Worms at Blaxhall Common

17 July, "Opera on the Fen" at Redgrave & Lopham Fen (£12.50 including a glass of wine)

1 August, Norfolk Hawker and Dragonflies of the Broads at Carlton Marshes, and Dragonflies of the Fens at Redgrave & Lopham Fen

8 October, Fungi at Captain's Wood

27 November, Starlings at Hen Reedbeds

11 December, Practical Work Party at Bradfield Woods

14 December, Gull roost at Lackford Lakes

Fireworks in the Park: your feedback is wanted

The display of Fireworks in Christchurch Park celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year. Since 1972 this has been planned and organised by 11th Ipswich Scout Group and now they are inviting the public to comment on how the event should look in the future.

As most of you will remember, in 2008 a combination of bad weather and the unrestricted movement of heavy vehicles across the grass caused considerable damage to the Park. The Council instigated an internal investigation led by John Stebbings in which the Friends and the Park Management Board played a major part. The subsequent report led to a restructuring of the event, including reducing the size of the funfair and better monitoring of vehicle movements. As a direct result of these improved protocols the event has proved much less damaging in recent years.

We understand that the Council has recently signed a new contract with the Scouts, and this year the display will take place (appropriately) on Saturday 5 November. As a committee, we would not want the Fireworks to have to leave Christchurch Park – it has become one of the fixtures in the Town's calendar – but we do want the organisers to do their best to minimize damage to the Park at that difficult time of year weather-wise, and we are generally pleased with the efforts they have made to do so in recent years. However, the online survey lists the funfair as one of the possible attractions at the event, and we are a little concerned that consumer pressure may lead to an erosion, over time, of the procedures that have been established to protect the Park.

You can help shape the future of this event by taking part in the Scouts' survey which can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/3WJH936. There is a box entitled "What improvements would you make to the event? Please leave any comments here, which haven't been covered elsewhere in the survey", and we would encourage you to use this to convey your thoughts to the Scouts. For more on the event itself, go to www.ipswichfireworks.co.uk.

Brett Fountain

As you will have seen, this winter the Brett Fountain has been covered by some rather unsightly timber protection. This was necessary to prevent any further damage after the serious problems caused by the previous winter's severely cold weather. Funds are in place (from the Council's own repair and renovations budget) for works to the Fountain and these should begin in early May (once the danger of any late frost has passed) with the removal of the timber surround. Remedial plumbing work, stone repair and cleaning will follow, with all the works due to be completed by 27 May.

We have been assured that these repairs will mean there will be no repeat of the disheartening damage to this recently-renovated Henley Road landmark.

Acute Oak Decline

As if the bleeding canker and leaf mining moth now afflicting our Horse Chestnuts were not enough, a new disease is affecting Suffolk's oak trees. Acute Oak Decline (AOD), in which bacteria and the Oak Splendour Beetle (*Agrilus biguttatus*) appear to play key roles, is causing concern for arboriculturalists, local authorities and the National Trust amongst others, as affected trees can die within a few years of developing symptoms.

Nothing is yet known about the origin of the bacteria involved and there is also little understanding of how they are spread or what actually is killing the trees. Is it the bacteria, secondary girdling by a beetle, poor root health or a combination of these factors? In Suffolk, there are numerous cases of AOD causing premature deaths although Sam Pollard believes there aren't as yet any affected trees in the Park. Mature oaks (more than 50 years old) are particularly susceptible, and a typical symptom of the disease is a dark, sticky fluid bleeding from small cracks in the bark on the trunk of the tree. This stem bleeding may be extensive, with as many as 20 or more patches on an infected tree, and the canopy may become thin as the tree approaches death (which can be within four or five years of the onset of symptoms). The disease currently affects both of the UK's two native species of oak – sessile (*Quercus petraea*) and pedunculate (*Quercus robur*) – but there is concern that it will affect other species in the future (in Spain a similar condition is now reported on Holm oaks).

Gary Battell, Suffolk County Council's Woodland Advisory Officer, says we should be concerned: "At present we think we have AOD present throughout Suffolk in landscape trees and in many of our woods, however, specimens will have to be analyzed by scientists for verification of bacterial species present and indications of the presence of *Agrilus*. *Agrilus* beetle is associated with most of the symptomatic trees, and scientists and entomologists will have to establish precisely what the relationship between the bacteria and the larvae of the beetle is with regard to AOD. A major concern must be for our ancient trees in historic parks..."

The general increase in pathogens, pests and diseases in Britain appears to be largely due to the globalized market in plants and plant products, as well as to the effects of climate change. John Jackson, Director of the Royal Forestry Society says "Urgent action is not an option – it's a necessity." However, there is little that can be done until the cause and effects of such problems as AOD are better understood.

Peter Goodwin, owner of the furniture maker Titchmarsh & Goodwin in Ipswich and co-Founder and Chairman of Trustees of Woodland Heritage (which was set up by a group of traditional cabinet makers who wanted to improve the way in which trees were grown, maintained and harvested in the UK), has obtained charitable funding to support research into Acute Oak Decline. He is lobbying for increased Government action and a proper project budget for this and other diseases currently affecting Britain's trees. He told the BBC: "I have never seen anything like it [AOD]. Its spread over the last two years has been quite alarming; very little was known about the cause and the possible involvement of bacteria contributing to this disease complex; we have never had a bacterium that is capable of doing what this one is doing on oak."

How much are our trees worth?

On the facing page you can read about the latest threat to our historic oaks, and previously we have talked about the CAVAT system that has been used by our arboricultural team in the Town and which valued one London Plane tree in Berkeley Square at £750,000. But how much are our Park's trees really worth?

There are a number of different systems in use around the world to determine the value of a tree, but one of the most recent has seen visitors to the Ecology Park in Peterborough, Canada finding something a bit different – a price tag attached to each tree. Of course, this is not because the trees are for sale, but rather the tags explain the tree's approximate worth during a 50-year lifespan. According to these tags, an average tree contributes an impressive \$162,000 (£103,264) to city dwellers in that part of Ontario.

The goal of the programme (organised by Canada's Urban Forest Stewardship Network) is increasing the appreciation for urban trees and showcasing just how valuable trees are to a community. Carbon dioxide is thought to be responsible for causing about half of the so-called greenhouse effect, and parks act as carbon sinks, removing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it away. Apparently one hectare of trees and shrubs can absorb one tonne of CO₂ – equivalent to about 100 family cars – and a single tree will produce enough oxygen for 10 people. In this country, GreenSpace (previously known as the Urban Parks Forum) has said that within urban areas a 10% increase in green cover could potentially eliminate the effects of climate change on increasing surface temperatures. In an urban park such as ours, vegetation reduces daytime temperatures by 2-3°C compared with the surrounding streets and research has shown that this cooling effect can be felt up to 100 meters away. According to GreenSpace, the strategic planting of trees provides shade, acts as a wind break, generates a 10-50% saving in cooling and a 4-22% saving in heating costs, in addition to the trees' ability to lower carbon emissions by 2-3%.

After doing their sums, the Canadian price tags list oxygen generation (\$31,250), air pollution control (\$62,000), water recycling (\$37,500) and soil erosion control (\$31,250) as a tree's top contributions. However, they don't include savings associated with clean air, which substantially helps cut down on medical issues associated with pollution. (Trees absorb gases including carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide that can trigger respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis, and they also filter particles called PM10s that irritate those chronic diseases.) Additionally, trees increase property values, and we know that tree-filled parks are very positive from a mental health perspective.

So, how much are our trees worth? Well, with over four thousand trees in Christchurch Park, shall we say £434,056,000 – give or take a pound or two...

Richard Wilson

FoCP bird watching walk on Saturday 5 March

It was very encouraging and pleasing to have 20 Friends (including 6 year-old Rosalind, whose report is below) attend this late-winter walk on a cold, grey March day. We got off to a good start with excellent views of a pair of Nuthatches in the trees beside the path leading from the Soane Street entrance up to the Mansion. The Mute Swans that had been present on the Round Pond for most of the winter had departed on February 20th; however, the presence of a group of Black-headed Gulls of varying ages and plumage resulted in an interesting conversation relating to the status and migration of these small gulls.

We watched a Goldcrest, Britain's smallest bird species, flitting around in the vegetation on the edge of the newly created pond at the southern end of the Wildlife Reserve and on one of the Wilderness Pond islands, a pair of Mandarin Ducks was prospecting one of Reg Snook's purpose-built nesting boxes – we hope that they breed successfully in the box.

A Siskin, a small winter-visiting finch, was heard calling in flight and then seen perched high up in one of the trees at the northern end of the Wildlife Reserve. Other sightings in the Reserve included excellent views of a Sparrowhawk (presumably one of the pair which breeds each year at this site), two Jays, a singing Coal Tit and plenty of Reg Snook's wonderful nesting boxes!

A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen and heard flying over Snow Hill. Unfortunately, there was no sign of Mabel, the Tawny Owl, at her roosting hole; however, a pair of Stock Doves was showing keen interest in the hole although they seemed loath to enter – was Mabel out of sight further down in the hole?

On the northern side of the Park we located up to 20 Redwings which obviously wanted to forage on the grass but were prevented from doing so by several playful dogs. However, while perched up in the trees, the Redwings were clearly heard singing. These migrant thrushes will breed in Scandinavia after leaving Britain in late March or early April. Amongst the Redwings were two Mistle Thrushes which are resident in the Park.

Many thanks to everybody who attended this walk, in particular Reg Snook and Peter Scotcher for providing plenty of information relating to the Park's wildlife and all those members who informed us of the Park's history.

Philip Murphy

On the bird walk by Rosalind Payne (aged 6)

On Saturday my dad took me to my first bird walk it was great. We spotted lots of birds we saw redwings, a chaffinch, wood pigeons, long tailed tits, blue tits, a jay, Robins, Mallard and Mandarin ducks, seagulls, a sparrow hawk and some more. The people there were very nice. They taught me lots of things, they taught me about plants and animals as well as birds. The whole thing was fun. Thank-you to everyone who helped the day very very fun.

When I got home I saw a muntjac deer in my garden for the second time. On the same day I saw a jay and two Robins, they kissed. Lots of other birds are coming to my feeders. I hope everyone is at the dawn chorus walk on 14th May.

The unveiling of the British Korean Veterans Association's new plaque in Christchurch Park on 26 February

On Thursday 9 September 2010 at the Reg Driver Centre in Christchurch Park a meeting was held to discuss the plans for all those organisations involved in the forthcoming Armistice Day Parade. I sat next to John Juby, Chairman of the local branch of the British Korean Veterans Association (who had fought in Korea for a year from September 1951), and mentioned that as they were commemorating the 60th year since the start of that war during 1950, why didn't their Committee organise a plaque for their wonderful Fir tree situated between the Wilderness Pond and the Cenotaph? John replied that the original planted Oak tree (1989) had been vandalised and the plaque stolen, and then a small replacement Oak had also died. He was totally unaware that a memorial tree still existed in the Park.

Following the meeting, I took John to see the magnificent Fir tree. He remained somewhat unconvinced, so we arranged to meet Sam Pollard, the Manager of the Park, in October to examine the Tree Register in his office. This confirmed that during 1991 a third tree had been planted, a Grand Fir (*Abies grandes*).

John took this news back to his Committee and they decided to invest in a new plaque which bears the following inscription:

**BKVA
TO COMMEMORATE THOSE WHO SERVED IN
KOREAN WAR
1950 – 1953
REMEMBERED ON THE 60th ANNIVERSARY 2010**

As the plaque arrived too late to arrange the dedication after the Armistice Parade it was decided to delay until the New Year.

So it was that the new plaque was unveiled beneath the Fir tree in Christchurch Park at 11am on Saturday 26 February 2011 by the Deputy Mayor of Ipswich, Councillor David Goldsmith, supported by his wife Sue. Despite the bad weather, over 50 people were present including 18 veterans. A lone piper, Mr Benson Langley of the Harwich British Legion Pipe Band, played the Lament, with Geoff Grimley carrying the Veterans' Standard. Branch Padre, the Reverend John Waller of Waldringfield, conducted the Service and Doug Storey of the Boys Brigade rendered the Last Post. Charles Bull, a naval veteran, introduced John Juby, who gave a brief account of the event and thanked the Friends of Christchurch Park and the Park Manager and his staff for all their help. After the Service, he welcomed those present to join him for refreshments in the Mansion Tea Rooms, which many did.

Mr Bull, an 81 year-old Ipswich resident who was a member of the Navy from the age of 17, fought in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951 and was on the first ship that went into Japan during the conflict. He told the Evening Star: "The Koreans never forgot what the British troops went through out there and those poor devils in the Army went through hell. It is an important part of history and I think its right to remember it."

David Routh

Friends of Christchurch Park “Brass on the Grass” concerts

We do hope that you will be able to attend one or more of our Brass on the Grass concerts that this summer will feature four of the best bands in East Anglia. These hugely popular concerts take place on Sunday afternoons by the Arts and Crafts Shelter in the Arboretum and although we provide some seating, you are encouraged to bring your own chairs/rugs and of course a picnic or other refreshments. The ParkMobile will be giving free rides around the Park and an ice-cream van will be in attendance. All concerts run for two hours, beginning at 2.30pm, and are completely FREE. Once again, we are extremely grateful to our sponsors who make these concerts possible and to our retiring concerts organiser Jessica Webster who has ensured the success of these events in recent years.

17 July **Phoenix Brass** sponsored by a generous Friend of Christchurch Park
24 July **The Ipswich and Norwich Co-op Band** sponsored by The Ipswich Society
31 July **Stacks of Sax** sponsored by The Lions Club of Ipswich
7 August **The Ipswich Hospital Band** sponsored by Scrutton Bland

Forthcoming events

Information and booking: for Park events (P) contact the Reg Driver Centre (01473 252435), for Mansion events (M) telephone 01473 433554, and for Ip-Art events (Ip) see www.ip-art.com or call 01473 433100.

Park History Walks (P) These free, 90-minute walks are at 10.30am on 7 June, 5 July, 2 August and 6 September. Please book in advance at the Reg Driver Centre

“Peep into the Past” (M) Free, short guided tours of the Mansion, daily Tuesday to Saturday at 11am, Sundays at 2pm. No booking required. The Friends of Ipswich Museums can also offer longer, private guided tours of the Mansion at a cost of £4 per head (see their website: www.foim.org.uk)

19 May – Out of the Box: Animals in Art (M) Take a closer look at animals that have been depicted by artists ranging from 19th-century horse racing prints to Maggi Hambling’s Rosie the Rhino. There is no need to book for this free event, just drop in to the Mansion any time from 2pm – 4pm

19 May to 9 October – Frederick Ashton at the Mansion (Ip) Frederick Ashton, Founder Choreographer of The Royal Ballet, was proud of his roots in Yaxley. This Royal Opera House exhibition celebrates his Suffolk links, his career with The Royal Ballet and the influence of his native countryside on his ballets. Two displays of costumes will be exhibited including his production of *Cinderella*, with costumes worn by Margot Fonteyn, Robert Helpmann and Ashton himself and nine costumes from *Tales of Beatrix Potter*. An accompanying Ashton Trail leaflet highlights places associated with Ashton’s life and work. Daily 10am – 5pm, admission free

21 and 22 May – Ipswich Food and Drink Festival This event has been cancelled

21 and 22 May – Astronomy in the Park (P) Join the Orwell Astronomical Society from 11am – 4pm to observe the sun. If this weekend is cloudy this free event will be postponed to the following weekend (28-29 May)

31 May to 3 June – Tudor Tales (M) Join our colourful storyteller in the Mansion’s fantastic Tudor room. You will feel like you have gone back in time as you are zipped away from the 21st century to the

tremendous Tudors; you will be amazed! Then get creative and design your own coat of arms and turn it into a card for someone special in your family. What would you like on your coat of arms - a bird, a cat, jousting knights? It's your choice! Daily at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 14.30pm and 15.30pm, coat of arms activity between 10.30pm and 14.30pm. Cost for storytelling £1, card activity £1.50

18 June – Suffolk Pride This event has been cancelled

2 July – Global Rhythm (Ip) A colourful and exciting celebration of cultures with art, live entertainment and food from across the world. Showcasing music and dance from South America and the Caribbean to Africa and beyond, the festival spirit will certainly be in the summer air. Noon, tickets free

2 July – Last Night of the Proms with Katherine Jenkins (Ip) Join one of Britain's best known singers supported by a special guest artist (tba) for this picnic concert in the Park. Gates open 5.30pm, concert begins 7.30pm. Tickets adults £32.50/£20 (also available from the Regent Box Office)

3 July – Ipswich Music Day (Ip) Celebrating its 20th birthday, Ipswich Music Day is one of the country's largest free one-day music events, featuring at least 6 stages. Last year saw nearly 40,000 enjoy the day, one of the highlights of the Ip-art Festival. Time 12am – 8pm

4 July – Madame Butterfly screened live from the Royal Opera House (Ip) Gates open 6.30pm for curtain up at 7.30pm. The BP Summer Big Screens are the perfect way to introduce friends and family to world-class opera and ballet. Come early to get a good spot and relax into the festival feel. Tickets free

6 July – The Canterbury Tales (Ip) Critically acclaimed open-air theatre company The Pantaloons bring Chaucer's pilgrims to the Mansion lawn in this adaptation of the medieval classic with a contemporary twist. "Witty, energetic and original" The Guardian. Tickets £7.50/£5.50

8 July – Dirty Dancing (12A) (Ip) Gates open 7pm, screening at dusk. All tickets purchased before 5pm on the day £4, on the gate £7.50/£5.50. "No glass to be brought into the arena except champagne"(!)

9 July – Toy Story 3 (U) (Ip) Gates open 9.30am, screening at 10am. Tickets before the day £3 pp or £10 family ticket (max. 2 adults + 3 children or 1 + 4). On the day all tickets £3. Early booking advised

9 July – Send in the Clowns (Ip) 5pm at the Mansion, Garden Opera presents an opera double bill of I Pagliacci by Leoncavallo and The Impresario by Mozart. Tickets £20/£15 Bring a chair, rug and a picnic

9 July – Club Classics Summer Party (Ip) Gates open 4.40pm, event starts at 6.30pm. Billy Ocean, Jocelyn Brown, Soul II Soul and the Gibson Brothers live in the Park. Early booking advised, tickets in advance £30/£20, on the night £40/£20

10 July – Indian Summer Mela (Ip) From 12pm to 6pm, enjoy this rich and exciting expression of South Asian culture including Yoga and Bollywood workshops and an Indian food village. Free

10 July – Peter Andre (Ip) Plus supporting artists (tba). Concert starts 7.30pm. Tickets £33/£22

21 July – Geology Walk (P) Organised by the Ipswich Society, starting at 6pm. £2 per person

24 July – Boules in the Park Contact imogenlewiskira@sky.com for details

25 September – Half Marathon To book or for more information see www.ipswichhalfmarathon.co.uk

Sam's Notes

In my last notes I was talking about ice and mud underfoot. Now I sit here and the temperature outside is 24 degrees Celsius and it is still April! We have gone through a long period of very little rain and above seasonal temperatures, which bring about lots of other problems. Obviously the dry weather means that we have to consider watering – especially our newly planted trees many of which are in our new orchard. It will be great to watch as this site develops over the next few years and in the future there may even be the opportunity to engage in a little scrumping as well!

However, the biggest issue of late has been both a good and bad thing for the Park. The wonderful weather over Easter has brought thousands of people out. It has been an absolute pleasure seeing the Park this well used – and cared for by the majority of those users. Unfortunately, there has also been an increase in the amount of litter that is being left lying around. It is obvious that this is a big issue for all of you as well, going by the feedback we have had. So how do we deal with this? Well our Parks Patrol staff have recently been restructured and are now being trained to hand out litter and dog fouling fines. This is something that we will be promoting through the summer and looking to enforce. Any help that can be given by the Friends reporting repeat offenders would be appreciated as this will allow our Patrol staff to be in the right places at the right times.

Now onto some more positive changes.....um, starting with a negative: all this lovely weather and no tennis courts to play on! But by the time you read this we should have painted the lines and surface of the courts and they should be available to play once again. We really hope that you enjoy the new surfaces and perhaps you will also be able to make use of the coaching sessions that will take place at various times (see the new panel by the Ark toilets). Some of the sessions will be free, some charged, but there will always be at least two courts available for free play. Just one note to add – if the weather gets too hot this summer we may have to close the courts for a short time. This is because the surface is not properly cured until it has gone through a complete winter and any hot weather this year may soften it, causing damage.

Planning is underway for the butterfly/sensory garden. This project now involves the Papworth Trust and students from Ipswich School. It seems that the Papworth Trust are hoping to assist us with some funding and practical help. Ipswich School have a group of students who come along to the Park regularly to carry out practical tasks and this group is now coming up with some designs for the layout of the garden. I will be able to give you more information on this as the project progresses.

Last time you were made aware that Kathryn Jenkins will be joining us for the “Last night of the Proms”. Other musical nights planned including Club Classics and Peter Andre during the Ip-Art fortnight. Tickets are available from the IBC Box Office and further details can be found either on their website www.ip-art.com or by popping in to the Visitor Centre.

I am continuing to send some of you Reg Snooks' wildlife notes, via email, with any other relevant Park information. If you would like to join these lucky few then please send me your email address mentioning “Christchurch Park News” to sam.pollard@ipswich.gov.uk.

I hope that you all enjoy the Park this summer!

Sam Pollard

Membership

We warmly welcome the following new Friends
who bring the current number of members to 317 households

Linda Ward, Peter Stockdale, Judy Terry
John & Erika Bulow-Osborne, Jennifer Hawkins, Mrs Janet Johnson
Paul & Rachel Field, Miss Sheila Piper, Lynne Hodgson & Family

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)

Scrutton Bland

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

Orwell Veterinary Group

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

W.D Coe Limited

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

The Will Shop

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

Kerseys Solicitors

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

Christchurch Dental

69 Fonnereau Road
Ipswich IP1 3JN
01473 250977
www.christchurchdental.co.uk
(FoCP contact Derek van Staden)

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(To year ending AGM - March 2012)

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