

## **FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007**

Welcome to the first Friends of Catton Park newsletter for 2007! We hope you find it informative and enjoy reading it. Please pass it on to friends and neighbours when you have finished reading it.

### ***WORK IN THE PARK – Update from Ken Leggett***

It will be obvious that there is much still to do in the coming months. The main activity since the last Newsletter has been Matt Caley, the Park Warden with the help of local volunteers, planting 14 standard trees (Black Pine, Scots Pine, Wellingtonia & Blue Atlas Cedar) and about 1,000 'whips' (Planted Oak, Sweet Chestnut, Ash, Field Maple, Lime & Hazel) in the western woodlands.

We hope that the main north/south track and the west/east path with compacted surfaces suitable for wheelchair users will be completed by the late Spring together with entrances from Church Street and Spixworth Road. The restoration of the pond in the north west woodland is a bigger job than originally envisaged. As an interim measure the Park Warden with volunteers will put up a post and wire fence during April and May

The South Lodge entrance will be resurfaced and will be out of use for car parking for several weeks. A notice will be on the main gates advising the work programme before the work starts.

Obviously there is some re-seeding to be done adjacent to the paths in the western park area and elsewhere. Later on the picnic/dog free area in the south west corner will be fenced and the South Lodge gates will be refurbished.

We hope to provide dog-poo bins shortly with waste bins, benches and sign boards in due course. The intention is still for the Park to be formally opened to the Public in the summer/early autumn 2007.

If you have any questions about the Park please contact Ken Leggett (01603 408823) or Matt Caley (07786 338749). If you would like to be involved in the volunteer days please get in touch with Matt.



### **EVENTS**



#### ***EASTER EGG HUNT***

Join the Friends on Saturday 7 April for an Easter Egg hunt in Catton Park. Tickets, price £1.50 per child (plus accompanying adult) are available from The Little House Dental Practice, 75 Spixworth Road, telephone 01603 415760 or 07786 338 749. Tickets are available until 2 April. The Hunt starts at 10 am at the South Lodge on Oak Lane.

#### ***EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK***

On Sunday 6 May why not join us for an early morning bird walk? We will be starting at 7:30 am at South Lodge. Please note that the car parking area may not be available if work is going on (as reported elsewhere in the newsletter). The cost will be £2 for non-members, free for Friends. Steve Spawls will lead the walk – for more information call Steve on 488299.



## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS



### **AGM REPORT**

For those unable to attend, we had a successful AGM. Approximately 60 people attended, including several who were not previously members. We now have 83 membership cards issued, including 140 adults and a dozen children.

We had reports on the past year's activities and membership. The Treasurer reported over £1,100 in the bank and we announced that some of this would be spent on some equipment for use by volunteers in the Park and on one or two benches for the Park.

Mr Rob Coleman gave an illustrated and interesting talk on his work as Learning Officer for Sheringham Park for the National Trust.

Ken Leggett and Matt Caley (Warden) gave a brief report on their activities, noting particularly work on the main path from the Oak Lane Gates to the Church Street entrance and work to lay out the car park by the gates more formally in the next two months.

New members were elected to the Committee to replace some of our original colleagues who had resigned. The Committee now consists of the following members:

Chairman	Stephen Osborn	(tel 426189)		
Secretary	Gill Renouf	(tel 484073)		
Treasurer	David Taylor			
	Brigit Chisholm	Ann Chandler	Rob Hemmens	
	Barry Palmer	Stephen Spawls	Betty Wise	
(Coopted)	Ken Leggett	Matt Caley		

The subscription rates for the coming year remain unchanged.

The Friends would like to thank Catton Park Trust for allowing us to organise events in the Park.

### **WEBSITE**

We are working with Catton Park Trust to develop a new website for Catton Park. The Friends will have their own pages – if there is anything you would like to see included please let us know! In the meantime there is information about the park on the Old Catton village website – [www.oldcatton.com](http://www.oldcatton.com)

### **FRIENDS' BRIEFINGS**

Are you interested in joining the Friends? Are there further aspects of the work that you would like to be explained through future Friends' Newsletters or meetings? There is a lot happening, but if you have issues that need to be raised or would like more information about the Friends, please contact Stephen Osborn on 426189 or Gill Renouf on 484073.

