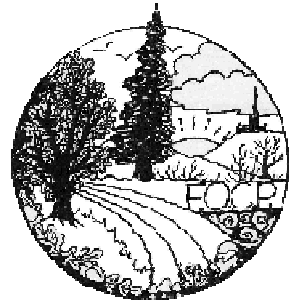


FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

Welcome to the third Friends' newsletter of 2010. In this edition you'll find a report on the Easter Egg Hunt and Dawn Chorus. There's information about our summer events and an update from Catton Park Trust. We hope you find this newsletter informative and enjoyable. For more information about the Friends or to join us please contact Steve (on 426 189) or Gill (on 484 073). Alternatively visit our website at www.cattonpark.com.



SUMMER EVENTS 2010

We were asked at the AGM if we could avoid putting on events on dates that might clash with England's matches in the World Cup. We have done this – which led to a gap in our programme for early summer. We have made up for this by arranging four events during July and August – we hope there is something for everyone!

Wild flower identification – Sunday 18 July at 2:30 pm

Would you like to know more about how to identify wild flowers? Join us to learn about plant families and then have a go at identifying flowers yourselves! Tea or coffee with scones will be available and we will be selling our own butterfly flower seed mix. The event is free to members and children; £2 for non members. Refreshments £1 per person.

'Introducing Catton Park' – walk on Sunday 25 July at 3 pm

Perhaps you are new to the area or would like to learn more about the Park. Join us for an introductory walk, led by Stephen Osborn and Matt Caley, Park Warden. Free to members and children, £2 for non-members.

Friends Barbeque in the Park – Saturday 31 July at 6:30 pm

Our popular annual barbeque has become a fixture in our programme. You are invited to join us on Saturday 31 July, in the picnic area near the main track leading from the gates in Oak Lane. Food will be served from 6:30 pm. We will provide barbeque food (vegetarian option available), salads, and soft drink.

Please purchase your tickets in advance – they will be on sale until Wednesday 28 July, priced £6 each or £4 for children aged 12 and under. Tickets are available from The Little House Dental Surgery, 75 Spixworth Road. Telephone 01603 415 760. Surgery hours are 8 am – 3:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 1 – 7 pm Thursday. Please let us know if you would like the vegetarian option when buying your tickets.



Please bring your own alcoholic drinks, dessert, cutlery and something to sit on. Please note that there are no toilets in the Park and that the picnic area is dog free.

Survey in the Park – week commencing 8 August

Last August many of you helped out with our survey of users of the Park on behalf of Catton Park Trust. The results were useful both to the Trust, and to us in planning future events. We will be repeating the survey during the second week of August – can you spare us a little time to help? Last year volunteers spent about 90 minutes at one of the entrances asking visitors a few questions. If you want to help please contact Stephen on 426189. Thank you in advance!

Friends visit to Hoveton Hall Gardens – Wednesday 11 August at 6pm

This year we are organising a visit to Hoveton Hall Gardens. You are invited to join us for a 90 minute tour of the gardens led by Mr Andrew Buxton, the owner of Hoveton Hall. After the tour you will be able to wander the gardens and enjoy a glass of wine. The plant sales area and toilets will be available to our party. We hope you will join us for what should be a very enjoyable and interesting evening.

Hoveton Hall Gardens, set on the edge of the Norfolk Broads, is a delightful 15 acre garden mixing both formal and informal planting across the seasons. The gardens include the Spider Garden, the Old Kitchen Garden, and Woodland and Water Walks.

We chose Hoveton Hall Gardens for our first event of this type because of the links to Catton Park. Andrew Buxton grew up in Catton Hall; is one of the landowners from whom Catton Park is leased and is a member of the Friends. Hoveton Hall (not open to the public) was built in the early 19th century and is attributed to Humphrey Repton. Catton Park was Repton's first commission as a landscape gardener.

Tickets, price £7, are available until Friday 6 August from Little House Dental Practice, 75 Spixworth Road, telephone 01603 415 760, during practice hours. Tickets are also available from Gill Renouf, on 01603 484 073. We will meet at the Hall (not the garden entrance) at 6pm. For further information or if you need directions please contact Gill or Ken Leggett on 01603 408 823. This event is primarily for Friends but you are very welcome to bring guests with you.

Lookout for Percy and his friends!!

On Saturday 10 July Matt, Percy the Park Keeper and Percy's friends will be taking part in the Lord Mayor's Street Procession. The float, driven by Matt, will help collect money for the civic charity. The procession has 60 – 70 floats in it, is noisy and fun! Come and support the Catton Park float!

FUTURE EVENTS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- Treasure Hunt – Sunday 12 September
- Pumpkins in the Park – Sunday 31 October
- Quiz and Chips – Saturday 22 January

More information in our next newsletter!



WEBSITE

Have you visited our website at www.cattonpark.com recently? Matt does a great job keeping it updated with our newsletters and information about our events. If there is anything you would like to see on the website please let us know.

REPORT ON SPRING EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt

It was cold. It rained hard. Despite the appalling weather over 80 children enjoyed searching for cardboard eggs in the woodland which they exchanged for a chocolate bunny. Some valiant families stayed for hot drinks and Easter themed cakes and cookies. Great fun! Many thanks to all who helped make the Hunt a success.

Dawn Chorus Walk

A group of just under twenty stalwart souls assembled at the lodge gates at 6 a.m. for our dawn chorus bird walk, under a lowering sky. Led by Ray Jones and Steve Spawls, we set off in a clockwise direction round the park. Initially, there was little to see save the usual woodpigeons. A few lonely lesser black-backed gulls passed overhead, they are the only large gulls that regularly come inland in Norfolk. However, near the picnic site Ray showed us an exquisite sight, the nest of a long-tailed tit, a little ball of lichen with a cleverly sheltered entrance. Just a little further along, we observed the nest of a carrion crow in a tall tree, one of the parents was sitting on the nest but we couldn't see which it was. Several blackcaps were singing along the western woodlands, and blackbirds and song thrushes serenaded us as we passed by the pond.



The rain started to come down as we crossed the high land and made our way back towards the lodge, but we had some good views of long-tailed tits, blue tits and robins along the woodland path, and also a clear sighting of a pair of stock doves. These doves are rare, and are often mistaken for woodpigeons, but can be distinguished by the absence of any white on their necks and wings. We rounded off the walk with sausage baps and coffee at the lodge (thank you Brigit, Barry and Gill). The gazebo came in useful as the rain, light until our return, came down heavily. You really need a sunny morning for good birdwatching, but we hadn't done too badly.

REPORT FROM CATTON PARK TRUST

Ken Leggett has kindly provided us with an update from the Trust.

At the Friends' AGM Ken outlined plans for an education building in the Park. Progress on this project, supported by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP), has continued steadily. Ken has kept in touch with the heads of local schools who are looking forward to the opening of the building

Judith Cantell, Catton Park's Landscape Architect, has welcomed the GNDP's support: "The new education pavilion will give a base for school visits, providing a classroom space and toilets. This will ensure schools can make the most of their time in the park and help the children enjoy many outside activities as possible. Some activities include pond dipping, bug hunting, and the joys of playing amongst leaves and mud, all in a controlled environment. The pavilion will also be a base for volunteers providing much needed kitchen and office facilities.

Right from the start the Trust had an aspiration to provide an education facility within the Park to help many more schools enjoy and learn from this special place. We are extremely grateful to the GNDP for helping turn this 'dream' into a reality."