



**FRIENDS OF DUNORLAN PARK  
SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER**



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARK - SO FAR

All will, of course, be guided by any relevant restrictions at the time



**The Soapbox Race** is due to return on **Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>**.

The two nominated causes, Hospice in the Weald and Nourish Community Foodbank, are joined by West Kent College who provided the chassis for the soapbox carts in years one and two; the West Kent Independent State School Partnership; ambassadors Max Chilton, Rosemary Shrager and Tom Swift of Wicked Productions; and all the teams taking part, in backing the decision to proceed this year. Tickets are now available at [www.twsoapboxrace.com](http://www.twsoapboxrace.com).

**Pub in the Park** is planning on returning from **Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** this year, again organised by chef Tom Kerridge. Music acts lined up so far are British electronics group Faithless, Sophie Ellis-Bexter and former Spice Girl Melanie C. There will be the usual food and drink stalls. Tickets are now on sale at [www.pubinthepark.com](http://www.pubinthepark.com).



**Demelza Hospice for Children** is hosting a Family Fun Run on **Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>** from 10am to 3pm. There will be fun obstacles around a 2.5km course, including The Hydro Zone, Sensory Zone, Arts Zone, Music Zone and Memory Making Zone. There will also be a slip & slide, giant ball pit, musical lucky dip and much more. All obstacles have an accessible option for wheelchair and pushchair users. Tickets can be booked at [www.demelza.org.uk/little-warrior](http://www.demelza.org.uk/little-warrior). All funds raised go towards helping Demelza continue to provide specialist care and support for children with serious or terminal conditions and their loved ones across Kent, East Sussex and South East London.

**Race For Life** will take place on **Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>** for both the 3k and 5k events and start at 11am. The start line will be at the bottom of the park alongside the lake. The course is a mixture of terrain, and dogs on leads are welcome.



## LET'S WELCOME ANDY APPLETON - OUR NEW BIRD SURVEYOR

Andy has taken on the daunting task of surveying the birds in our park and, with the colder weather at the time of writing (mid-January), he's a very brave soul!

He's involved with St James' church, is a trustee for Dungeness Bird Observatory, is a member of the Kent Ornithological Society rarities committee - and he works full-time! I think you'll agree that we're very lucky to have him surveying in our park!!

Andy says: *"I have been bird-watching for many years. My first 'local' patch was Bough Beech reservoir and more recently watched the Haysden area. With lockdown in 2020, I started working from home and in September 2020 I ventured up to Dunorlan Park where I have managed to see 89 species of birds (with 87 seen in 2021). It's great to just see things like Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail or even a Kingfisher before work! I guess I would have to spend more time wandering around to see 100 species here in a year, but it might just be possible."*

The list below is a record of the birds Andy saw in February.

**Amber coloured** ones are of some conservational concern, **red** are a definite concern.

<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<b>Bullfinch</b>	Buzzard	Blackbird	Carrion Crow
Blue Tit	Collared Dove	Canadian Goose	Chaffinch	Coal Tit
<b>Dunnock</b>	Egyptian Goose	Goldfinch	<b>Greenfinch</b>	Green Woodpecker
Great Tit	<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	Great Spotted	<b>Herring Gull</b>	<b>House Sparrow</b>
Jackdaw	<b>Kingfisher</b>	Woodpigeon	<b>Kestrel</b>	Long-tailed Tit
<b>Mallard</b>	<b>Moorhen</b>	Magpie	<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	Nuthatch
Pheasant	<b>Redwing</b>	Robin	Red-legged Partridge	
<b>Starling</b>	<b>Song Thrush</b>	Lesser Black-backed gull	<b>Stock Dove</b>	
Siskin	<b>Skylark</b>	Tree Creeper	<b>Wood Pigeon</b>	Yellowhammer
Pied Wagtail				



Starling



Song Thrush



Kestrel



Kingfisher



Blue Tit



Dunnock

By the time you read this short article, I'm hoping the weather isn't similar to the photos! Just thought you might be interested to see what the lake can look like when it's really cold!

These photos were taken some time during the 1920s or early 30s.

The lake does freeze over from time to time even now, but not sufficiently, as far as I'm aware, to be able to skate on it.

The two ladies, one of whom is Anne and Ruth Marley's mum, look to be having a great time!

*Thank you to Anne and Ruth for the photos.*



## CAN BIN BY THE CAFÉ

Tunbridge Wells Soroptimist Club



raises funds for



**PLEASE HELP  
FLUSH AWAY  
POVERTY**

1 in 2 people  
worldwide don't  
have somewhere  
safe, private or  
hygienic to go to  
the toilet

by collecting & recycling waste aluminium

**Please help us by depositing  
ALUMINIUM DRINKS CANS ONLY  
in this bin**

*Please use other nearby bins for all other rubbish  
Thank you!*



Members of Tunbridge Wells Soroptimist International have placed a bin outside the café in the hope that they can collect aluminium cans to raise funds for Toilet Twinning.

By collecting and recycling the cans, they can raise money to help the one in three people worldwide who do not have access to toilet facilities and, even if they do, the facilities are not private, safe or hygienic.

**Only drinks cans should be deposited in this bin - there are other bins nearby for any other rubbish. A Soroptimist member empties the bin on a regular basis.**



## FRIENDS' ORGANISED EVENTS FOR THIS YEAR

**EASTER TREE TRAIL**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>**  
2pm to 4pm  
Register at the stall adjacent to the café



**MOTH IDENTIFICATION**  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
10.30am to noon  
In Dunorlan Café



**FUNGAL FORAY**  
Details to be confirmed



**DRINKS & NIBBLES**  
**FRIDAY MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**  
6pm to 8pm  
Barnardo's, Willicombe Park, Sandhurst Road



**TREE WALK**  
**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE**  
FROM 10.30am  
Meet by Dunorlan café



**SUMMER PICNIC**  
**SUNDAY JULY 24<sup>th</sup>**  
12.30pm to 3pm  
Meet by the cedar trees opposite Pembury Road car park. Bring a picnic & Friends will supply the wine & soft drinks



**BAT WALKS**  
**THURSDAY JULY 28<sup>th</sup>**  
FROM 8.30pm  
For Friends' Members only. Meet by Dunorlan Café  
ALSO  
**THURSDAY AUGUST 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Limited numbers so book early - email [judy.guest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judy.guest@hotmail.co.uk)

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### FRIENDS OF DUNORLAN PARK'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Notice is given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF DUNORLAN PARK [registered charity 1063715/0] will be held on

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> IN DUNORLAN PARK CAFÉ AT 6.30pm**

Any nominations for the Committee, Proposed and Seconded, should be with the Chairman by Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Reports and Accounts will be available, together with the relevant documents including the Minutes of the previous AGM, for viewing at the meeting, or before the meeting on request from the Hon. Secretary.

Please come if you can - AGMs are an important part of the constitution of a charity and we are keen that as many of you as possible attend. There will be refreshments!



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

With coronavirus still affecting most of our lives, we were very sorry to have to postpone the Drinks & Nibbles party scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> January. This was particularly disappointing as we also had to cancel the 2021 event. However, we have rearranged for April 8<sup>th</sup> (see page 5), rather than wait until January 2023.

Our usual outdoor events are being planned and are listed on page 5 of this newsletter.

The project to label all 850+ trees in the park is well advanced and thanks go to the members of the Friends who took part in this project. Shortly, we will put up a large chart in the café linked to sheets which identify the trees with their English and Latin names. So, if you come across tree no 73, you can go into the café to identify it and enjoy Ian's food and drink while you are there. An event based on trees will form the basis of the Easter Tree Trail, planned for Easter Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>. February 6<sup>th</sup> marked the Queen's Platinum Anniversary, 70 years since her accession to the throne - a remarkable achievement! June 2<sup>nd</sup> will



then mark 70 years since her coronation. There will be an extended Bank Holiday from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June is designated for the Big Jubilee Lunch. TWBC are planning a big parade on 3<sup>rd</sup> June ending with a 'cultural event' on the events field of Dunorlan Park. We have decided not to try to squeeze the Friends' Summer Picnic into this already crowded weekend but to hold it in mid-July as usual.

***Peter Russell, Chair of Friends of Dunorlan Park***

### THE SNOWDROPS APPEAL WAS SUCCESSFUL, THANK YOU!

Following an appeal to Members for snowdrops, the Friends were able to donate 300 bulbs 'in the green' for planting in the park. The pictures show our wonderful band of volunteers working to plant these and new azalea and heather plants in the bed near the end of the terrace. Many thanks to those who donated and look out for a display of snowdrops next year.



## MEET OUR CAYUGA DUCKS

Thank you to Judy for the article and Andie for the photos



Have you noticed the beautiful Cayuga Ducks when you are in the park? Cayugas are an American large breed of a domesticated duck, taking their name from Lake Cayuga in New York State. It is thought they have descended from the wild black duck and were first standardised in the United Kingdom in 1901.



Look closely and you will see their lovely black plumage with a brilliant green iridescence. The pigment which covers the Cayuga feathers makes them black but the



structure of the feathers intercepts and scatters light to give the brilliant green lustre. They also have a tail curl. We can differentiate between them as they have different coloured bills. As they get over six years old, the feathers on the females change to white.

## PSPO's - Public Space Protection Orders

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021, Cabinet approved a new order for Dunorlan Park with a requirement that dogs be kept on leads in the formal areas of the park, with an area set aside for unrestricted exercise. This will now be implemented in late March or early April.

There will be appropriate signage advising dog owners which areas are suitable for off-lead exercise and where their canine companions should be kept on a lead.

There could be a presence by Enforcement Officers, particularly in the early days until the new laws are understood and complied with.

Any non-compliance could result in a fine.

The Friends of Dunorlan Park are pleased with this result as it means the resident wildlife can spend their days happily in and around the lake without fear. Also, four-legged friends can exercise with their owners in designated areas, and not have to worry about steering clear of wildlife or other possible dangers such as blue-green algae in the lake being ingested with possible serious consequences.



## DETAILS FROM MEMORIAL BENCHES IN OUR PARK

Bench donated by **Helen Bill and family** on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2002 in memory of their father **Hugh Bright**.

"In loving memory of our father **Hugh Bright** 1925 - 2001 - time to go sailing".

Bench donated by **Ivor Bramley** on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

"In memory of **Ronald Bramley** 1917 - 2004"

Bench donated by **Belinda Elkington** in November 2005.

"Dedicated to **Ivy Williams and her daughter Pamela**".

Bench donated by **Nicholas Hayes** in February 2006 in memory of **Daphne & Raymond Hayes**.

"In loving memory of our parents **Daphne & Raymond** from Nicholas & Deborah.

Bench donated by **Stephen Shepherd** in January 2006 in memory of **John Reynolds**.

"In memory of a **much-loved son-in-law**".

Two benches donated by **Royal Tunbridge Wells Senior Citizens Club** in May 2006.

"**RTW Senior Citizens Club** 1965 - 2006 Celebrating 41 years".

Bench donated by **Mrs Clarke and family** in May 2006 in memory of **James Clarke**.

"Remembering a **loving husband and father**".

Bench donated by **John Flynn** in memory of **Jean Flynn** in June 2006.

"**Jean** will always live in our hearts. Ray and family".

Bench donated by **Nell West** in memory of **Patrick Humphrey** in July 2006.

"**Patrick Humphrey** 1945 - 2006. Love always Teresa & Nell".

Bench donated by **Diane Coleman** in memory of **Valerie Anne Chapman**.

"Cherished memories of a brave amusing **loyal friend**".

Bench donated by **Betty Winchester** in February 2007 in memory of **Victor Winchester**.

"**V A Winchester** Born Tunbridge Wells 1924".

Bench donated by **members of the Hawkenbury Bowling Club** in May 2007.

"In memory of **Hawkenbury Bowling Club** 1927 - 2006".

Bench donated by **Mrs J Mailer and R W Mailer** May 2009 in memory of **Alison Jane Mailer**.

"**Alison Jane Mailer** 1969 - 2009 in loving memory".

Bench donated by **Freddie Bond** November 2012 in memory of **Potter**.

"Thank you for all **the good times**".

Bench donated by **Martin, Barbara and Chris** on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

"In loving memory of our Mother **Inge Steibel**".

Bench donated by **Jon Gully and her beloved Grandchildren Ethan & Lilah** on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in memory of **Nana Tess**.

"In memory of **Nana Tess** on behalf of her beloved Grandchildren Ethan & Lilah xx"



## BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF OUR LOVELY NEW PARK ENTRANCE

It's looking so much smarter now don't you think?



THE FINISHED PRODUCT!

## AN UPDATE FROM KASIA AT TWBC

**The Monday Volunteers** are meeting nearly every week now. The Winter weather has been very good, saving rain for other days of the week! Over the Winter months volunteers completed clearance of grass from the Hawkenbury path edges (still a little bit left to do though!), maintenance of the bee-friendly planters and bee border, removal of brambles, laurel and shrubs pruning in the large shrub beds near the public toilet building. We are now looking forward to the Spring and have a long list of tasks already planned for this season, including replanting of the Azalea bed at the end of the terrace and planting of snowdrops donated by the Friends. If you would like to join the group, contact Kasia on [kasia.olszewska@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:kasia.olszewska@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

**The Oaks College** students continue to work in the park on Thursday mornings. Clearance of the bed by the Halls Hole Road car park is progressing well. We anticipate to replant this garden by the end of March, with a selection of shrubs chosen together with the students.

**The Heritage fence** is located at the old entrance to the Dunorlan mansion, just off Pembury Road, and has now been refurbished (see photos above). This project was undertaken by TWBC and the residents of the properties adjacent to the park, as part of the fencing belongs to them. The works have been completed to a very good standard by specialist carpenters at Dolmen Conservation & Joinery. As you can see from the photos, completed restoration makes a big difference to the appearance of the entrance of our historic park.

Dunorlan Park has been entered into the **South & South East in Bloom** competition 2022, together with other parks and open spaces of Tunbridge Wells. **Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom** is taking place this year and is open to residents, businesses, community groups and schools in the town. The Launch of RTW in Bloom will be on Friday and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April on the Precinct outside Boots. **Open Gardens tour 2022**, organised by RTW in Bloom team in support of Hospice in the Weald, is scheduled for Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> with 11 gardens taking part, including our own Chairman! Visit [www.royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk](http://www.royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk) for more details.



**HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR PARK?  
A LITTLE QUIZ TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE.....**

All answers available in the park or on our website  
Answers at the bottom.

1. When was the Friends of Dunorlan Park launched as a charity?
2. Which year did English Heritage grant Dunorlan Park Grade II listing status?
3. Who designed the fountain?
4. In whose memory was the summerhouse erected?
5. What is Pulhamite?
6. What is the Terrace's balustrade made from?
7. What is the dragon's name, in the children's play area?
8. When was the Dancing Girl stolen from the Grecian Temple?
9. When was the Friends of Dunorlan Park registered as a charity?
10. How many acres is the park, including the 6 acre lake?



1. October 1996 2. 2002 3. James Pulham 4. Peter Reynolds 5. Artificial rock  
6. Bath Yellow Stone 7. Duncan 8. 2006 9. July 1997 10. 78 acres

## FRIENDS OF DUNORLAN PARK 2021 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Thank you to our Treasure John Davies for an exacting rundown of the year's figures

	2021	2020	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Membership	2,313	2,215	98
Donations/arrears	1,291	347	944
Amazon	6.45		6
Just Giving	487		487
Events proceeds	52		52
Will donations		1,375	-1,375
Round Table			0
Other	27	322	-296
Gift Aid	1,821		1821
Interest received	1.24	7.84	-7
Sale bird seed	2,722	2,274	449
<b>Total income</b>	<b>8,720</b>	<b>6541</b>	<b>2,179</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Members' events	119	3365	246
RHS Subscription	110	110	0
Website/Publicity	262	112	-150
Grain/packaging	883	613	-270
Postage/Newsletter	262	552	290
Tree labelling	183		-183
Projects	8,281	4,460	-3,821
Bluebells	745		-745
Volunteers/other	388	318	-71
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>11,232</b>	<b>6,529</b>	<b>-4,703</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-2,512</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-2,524</b>

Opening bank            13,991.02            13,979.81

Closing bank            11,478.67            13,991.02

Just Giving was a one-off fundraiser to cover the amount promised by parkrun towards the cost of the drinking dispenser.

Gift Aid covers the three calendar years to the end of December 2019.

Spending on projects covered the drinking water dispenser, revetment works around the lake, reed clearance and new fencing round the dipping pond.

**Our Chairman's comment:** The deficit of income over expenditure is due to the Friends spending over £8,000 on projects in the park in 2021. It is, of course, our job to spend Members' money wisely on projects rather than accumulate money in the bank.

*giftaid it*  
 Make your gift  
 go even further

If you are a UK Income Tax payer, the Friends can claim 25% from HMRC on any membership fee or donation you make. This means for every £10 you give, the tax man will pay the Friends another £2.50.  
 If you haven't already completed a Gift Aid form, please contact Jenny, the Friends' Membership Secretary at [dunorlanfriends@gmail.com](mailto:dunorlanfriends@gmail.com) or call 01892 531830

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**All details correct at the time of going to print!**  
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