Newsletter
No 31
July 1st 2017

Friends of Meadow Park

Comma

Arboretum

The Arboretum was surveyed in January and April. The saplings planted last autumn (Common Alder, Downy Birch and Sessile Oak) seem to be well established but will be monitored. The missing QR labels have been replaced. Currently we have a sponsorship scheme in place for the Arboretum as we would like to plant more trees and develop the area further.

Donations need to be in multiples of **£10.** Dedications can be made and a specific tree nominated as the focus of the donation, but the money will go into a general Arboretum fund to be used in the best way possible in that area. Download a form from the village website or request one from the Publicity Secretary or pick one up from the Parish Office.

Downy Birch

Ash keys

Sadly **Ash Dieback** is in Bunny Woods and it will not be long before it arrives in Meadow Park. Most Ash trees succumb to the disease, but about 10% of trees can survive the attack.

Shrubs and Hedges

Around 120 shrubs have been planted in the Park since Christmas. These are all native species. The shrubs are: Common Buckthorn, Alder Buckthorn, Wood Privet, Dog-wood, Hazel, Holly, Guelder Rose, Wayfaring Tree and Spindle Bush. Most of them are in the Bateman Field, along the boundary next to the road with some having been planted in Play Field. Each shrub had a plastic sleeve and matting put down in an attempt to control the grass/weeds and rabbits.

Arboretum Sponsorship

Most of the trees in the Arboretum are now well established. Originally 33 native trees were planted.

We would like to develop the Arboretum and need your help. You can sponsor a tree in multiples of £10.

Your gift is written up in our book of donations and you get a card thanking you for the sponsorship.

It is an ideal way of giving a present or commemorating a life or family event.

On-going maintenance

Thirty small Ash saplings/trees were cut back along the Bateman Field boundary (where the new shrubs are). This was to let in more light, stop overcrowding and make possible the planting of the shrubs.

Planting shrubs in Bateman Field

The hedge-laying in Bateman Field has been very successful and the new hedge looks great – it is now very green and thriving.

Hedge-laying in Bateman Field

Young People and the Park

Forest School: The log circle in the Bateman Field area has been secured with wire to ensure it remains as a circle and is not moved. Some of the branches from the tree cutting have been left for Lantern Lane pupils to build dens and make twig sculptures. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and raised some money for their school fund by selling their creations

East Leake Beavers

Donations from Beavers and Guides: Beavers donated the money they raised from the Christmas 'Lights On' village event in December. Guides donated two bat boxes which are now in situ.

Brownies: Two walks have been organized for Brownies. One was on 16th May and the next will be on 3rd July. The girls showed a great deal of interest and learned a lot about the Park and what to see in it.

Events

The Meet your Village event, **29th April,** resulted in eleven new members and some sponsorship for the Arboretum fund..

The Village Carnival, **24th June** was very successful with thirteen new members and lots of interest in the Park. A pond dipping mini beast water tray brought extra interest to the stall, particularly for the children.

New Bench

Mel Roper has collected **£104** for a new bench in Play Field. She has collection boxes in her shop (green grocers) on Main Street. Meadow Park general fund will make up the difference and the bench will be installed sometime this summer.

Willow Bed Extension

The turf over the required area has been removed. We hope to plough the area after the hay cut and prepare for the new willows in the near future.

Removing the turf mound after clearing the area for willow planting

Kingston Brook

Raw Sewage is being discharged into the Brook. The amount of discharge is increasing. It happens when the pumping station is over-loaded, usually because of heavy or sustained rain. Members of the FMP committee are talking with Severn Trent and several email exchanges and conversations have taken place. On 8th May a representative of Severn Trent met with committee members at the pumping station in the centre of the village and discussed the situation. Our Parish Council has been working hard for many years to get better provision. We are all concerned about this and something must be done.

Dates for your Diary

8th July: Butterfly and Flower Walk. **Meet at the mill-stone sculpture at 1.30 pm**. Bring your children/ grandchildren along.

20th September 2017: Closing date for entries for the **Flower and blossom competition**.

20th April 2018: Closing date for entries for the **Views** of the Park competition.

The winning entries will feature on our new notelets. Current notelets (Flowers and Views) are on sale at the Parish Office and in Mel's greengrocery**. £2 for a pack of eight.**

Butterfly and Flower Walk

Saturday 8th July

Meet at the Mill Stone Sculpture at 1.30 pm

Everyone welcome, bring your children/grandchildren along.

Views competition

We would like to print a set of notelets featuring views Meadow Park in the different seasons . We need you to go into the Park and take photographs and send them to:

meadowpark@eastleake.net

Closing date: 20th April 2018

Yellow Rattle

Flowers and Blossom competition

We would like to print a set of notelets featuring the flowers and blossom in Meadow Park. We need you to take some photographs for us. Send your entries to:

meadowpark@eastleake.net

Activity Mornings and unscheduled work 2017

As you know we have an activity morning every second Saturday in the month. However, a lot of work is done by volunteers outside of these regular working parties.

January: The shrubbery by the mill stone sculpture was cut back hard. Hedge-laying in Bateman Field continued. The Arboretum was surveyed, brash in Bateman Field was sorted and stacked, willow was cut and some shrubs planted.

February: More shrubs were planted. Some general tidying up was undertaken, especially in Bateman Field where about twenty Ash saplings/trees had been cut down to allow more light in for the oaks and shrubs planted there.

Cutting back the shrubbery

Work in the Arboretum

March: Shrubs were planted in Bateman Field. Turf removed from the willow bed extension was distributed across a wide area and Beeworld 4 was partly cleared.

April: A big effort was made to clear litter from the Park, especially from Kingston Brook. You would be amazed at what we pulled out of the Brook. The entrances to the Park were tidied up. The Blackthorn in Little Meadow was cut back.

May: The Willow Bed in Hall Field was cleared of brambles and grass. The new shrubs were inspected.

June: The new shrubs in Bateman Field had become quite overgrown so much clearing around the bases was done. Brambles were cut back. Some saplings in the Arboretum were staked. Pathways were cleared of overhanging branches and the shrubbery was weeded.

Remaining Activity Sessions for 2017

July 8th	**August (no activity day)**	**September 9th**
October 14th	**November 11th**	**December 9th**

We meet at the depot behind the Parish Office at 9.50 am the second Saturday in the month (except August). We work till noon (but there is no need to stay for the whole time). We collect tools and discuss the work to be done. All skills and abilities are needed, from the more physical cutting and digging to the lighter clipping and litter picking. There is something for everyone to do. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.