

Friends of Princes Park Eastbourne

Newsletter Summer/Autumn2007



The floral garden showing the newly refurbished borders.

A Big Thank-you!

At our recent AGM, the group was presented with a cheque for £30 from Maggie Kahal. This very generous gift was a share of the proceeds from sponsorship for the Beachy Head Marathon, which Maggie completed recently. Maggie has also completed a trek along the Inca trail in Peru, in aid of Scope and is planning another sponsored trip to the Sahara Desert, next year. Maggie and her family love living beside the park and she wishes to thank the group for all the work it has done to improve the park, and also the members who have sponsored her.

Annual Park Audit

Once a year, the park undergoes an 'audit', that is, a check over to see what is right and wrong with the park and what needs to be addressed, both urgently and in the long term. This October, representatives from the Borough Council and Friend of Princes Park, took a circular walk round the whole area and noted various things. A full report of the audit will be included in the AGM to be held soon.

Here are some of the points raised:

- The children's playground and paddling pool is in need of refurbishment
- Restoration work has gone well.
- More benches will be provided where possible
- Some of the shrub beds need thinning
- Retaining and preserving the Holm Oak is important
- Improved lighting, fencing and cctv are desirable
- Continued improvements to the main gate are planned.



Feeding the Swans

We're all familiar with the tradition of taking along old (or possibly new) loaves of bread to the pond, to feed the many birds that rest there. For its size, the pond in Princes park is home to quite a large gathering of swans and other birds, particularly Canada Geese and Seagulls.

White bread is not particularly good for swans and ducks, but the number of mouths to feed means that park users can continue to do this without worrying too much. However, according to the Swan Sanctuary, wheat, wild bird seed, cheap cornflakes and peas are also good. Cooked vegetables provide a good supplement during the winter months, while bread will fill the birds up.

Our next Events

We are having a Christmas Fayre, in the form of a craft/table sale, with added Christmas attractions! This will be on November 25th (Sunday), between 10.00am and 2.00pm, at Eastbourne United AFC clubhouse.

Following this, we are going to be singing Christmas carols with the Salvation Army, at the main park gates, on Saturday 15th December at 4.00pm.