



Charity No.: 1154998

[www.friendsofbroomhill.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbroomhill.org.uk)

President:  
Odette Buchanan  
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10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

Dear Friends,

Hope you are all well and enjoying the lovely sunshine. Since this is the first Newsletter since the AGM firstly thanks to all of you who attended and voted in the Committee for this 2019-20 year: The following committee members have been appointed as officers \*May Draper, Chair, \*Andrew Millsom, Treasurer, \*David Park, Secretary. Other committee members are \*Peter Clarke, \*Sue Fletcher (membership Secretary) \*Andrew Ford, \*Danielle Haughey (Publicity, Webmaster and Facebook), Jean Park (Minutes Secretary) and \*Colin Pearson. Those starred are Trustees + myself.

We were delighted to welcome Danielle as our new member. She has been a regular volunteer over the past year in the Orchard path-clearing. In addition to her passion for the park, Danielle has extensive IT skills. This has resulted in our website being totally refreshed and we now have active Face Book, Instagram and Twitter accounts. By engaging in these popular communication networks many people can now follow our progress and add their own comments. So, next time someone in the street nearly bumps into you don't tut – they may be following us on Face Book!

Building on last year's successes with the Old Orchard, this coming year looks as if it is going to be even busier. Sue tells me that volunteers have clocked up an amazing 820 hours since 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. All the views are now open and the paths marked out. They will now be concentrating on keeping footpaths free of fallen trees, cutting back overhanging branches and clearing nettles for safe and easy access. Volunteers have also recently assisted with clearing footpath RR4, which was very overgrown. The students from Abbey Court have continued to be helpful too. They attend for their Work Experience module and it is a pleasure to see the progress they are making in not only handling and using gardening tools but enjoying being in the open air and gaining in confidence.

David spent many happy hours putting all the inscriptions on the bricks you and other donors bought. These have now been delivered and have been safely stored ready to be displayed when the best way to do this has been decided. (As you may remember, it had been our intention to lay them along the paths but on second thoughts we realised that this would not be practicable – they would soon become muddy and defaced. If you have any ideas, do let David know - 01634 718972 or email [davidpark1999@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidpark1999@yahoo.co.uk) – we will be discussing this in the near future.)

Another way you may be able to help – we still need a small, free-standing petrol chipper so we can spread chippings on the paths to aid grip when wet. Perhaps you know a tree surgeon that may have a surplus of wood chippings we could use? In either case, again contact David. Thanks.

Also don't forget you're always welcome Thursday mornings at 10 am – 12 noon for work in the Orchard and park Task Days will recommence on 1<sup>st</sup> September – and thereafter through to

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April on the first Sunday of the month (Except January), again 10 am – noon. Save money on gym fees – get free exercise in genial company and open air.

It was a shame that due to other commitments the Funday had to be cancelled but our colleagues in the Council's Greenspaces department have arranged two events for August: a Minibeast Safari on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a Bat Walk on 29<sup>th</sup>. As soon as they went on line they sold out!! SO watch the FOB website as folk often sign up for these things and then drop out. Anyway, we hope to run more bat Walks this year and will circulate details to FOB members first.

That reminds me – did you notice we now have a new Membership Secretary: Sue Fletcher? She's looking forward to receiving the subs from the very small number of you that seem to have forgotten to renew for 2019-20. It's still only £5 each; a form is attached and don't forget to sign the Gift Aid section – since my last newsletter we have been able to claim back £4049.42 from HMRC!! This is the tax that each of you would have paid on your donations to the Orchard purchase, membership and other donations. This is a really great contribution to our funds.

The police and Community Warden regularly visit the park but missed some unwanted visitors in the Old Orchard – 2 miscreants had erected a tent in there! Once the police and CW were alerted action was swift and decisive; they were soon dealt with and their paraphernalia confiscated. This was because an FOB member rang 101 and alerted the Council on 01634 333333. (Mon – Fri 9 – 5) PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN when visiting the park or walking through the Old Orchard – make those 2 calls as soon as you notice anything untoward. There's no way of keeping the park safe 24/7 but your eyes and ears can get things sorted.

Enjoy the summer holidays  
Best wishes from Friends of Broomhill

Odette Buchanan  
President

Enc: membership form