



Winter Newsletter | December 2019



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Our thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue.

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Design: Clare Thornhill
www.flidesignltd.com
Photography: TBC
Print: Ipswich School

Please let us know what you think of our newsletter and if you have anything you would like included in the next issue call the Reg Driver Centre: **01473 433980** or visit us online at: www.focp.org.uk



Welcome

While the weather this autumn has been rather damp and dreary, the colours in Christchurch Park have been marvellous and seem to have extended longer than normal.

The outdoors in general can lift spirits and there can be no doubting that the park plays a tremendously important part in so many people's lives. We are celebrating it throughout this autumn/winter edition of the Friends of Christchurch Park Newsletter and perhaps this is most apparent with the return of 'our' tawny owl. She has brought considerable joy to very many and has been attracting the crowds and made it into the national news.

While it's difficult to quantify the considerable benefits – both mental and physical – of places such as Christchurch Park, some economists have recently had a go at doing just this. In a recent article in The Times the benefits provided by outdoor spaces globally have been estimated at a little under £5 trillion, according to researchers from Griffiths University in Queensland. All the more reason for treasuring what we have in Christchurch Park and looking after every square metre of it for our own well-being as well of that of generations to come.

In this autumn/winter edition of the Friends of Christchurch Park news we look back at some of the events we have supported and the enjoyment they have brought to friends and members of the public alike.

This summer's Brass on the Grass concerts were a huge success with many hundreds attending the free concerts in the Arboretum on Sunday afternoons in July and August.



While we only managed to put on one bat walk this autumn it was packed and those who went on it were treated to a wonderful evening where the stars of the show could often be heard – with the help of some clever devices – if not always seen.

The bird walk, too, showed just how much the park is a centre for birdlife in the area.

The more observant of you will have noticed that we have switched off the Friends' website and this needs an explanation. The old website was causing a few technical issues to our friends at the Council and so we have decided to give it a bit of a refresh while sorting these out. But, rest assured, we are keeping much of the excellent information that was on the old site. We are hoping that the new site will go live in the new year.

While on matters digital, friends might be interested to know that it is possible to receive your copy of this newsletter via email rather than a hard copy through the letterbox. I appreciate that for many members hard copies are just what they want. So I ought to make it clear that there is no plan to stop printing them. But if you would like to move across to receiving the newsletter digitally, do please email Robert Fairchild, Membership Secretary at robert.fairchild@ntlworld.com. At the moment just over a third of members

receive a digital copy and just under around a quarter are posted rather than delivered. Moving to a digital edition does help us keep our costs down and also enables us to do our bit for the environment, so do please give this some thought.

At one of our recent committee meetings we agreed to spend some of the Friends' funds on three projects in the park – some new bat boxes, some equipment in the new outdoor gym (which we will be reporting on in full in our next edition) and a significant amount of wildflower seeds to help create habitat rich meadow areas. As always, we are keen for more people to join the committee and help us allocate our funds, so if you would like to come along to future committee meetings do please let us know.

We are delighted to receive a contribution to the newsletter from one of our most recent corporate members, the Jaffa Running Club, and Alison Beech's article shows how jogging – in the park – is one of the best ways not only of getting fit physically, but also gives a real boost to overall wellbeing.

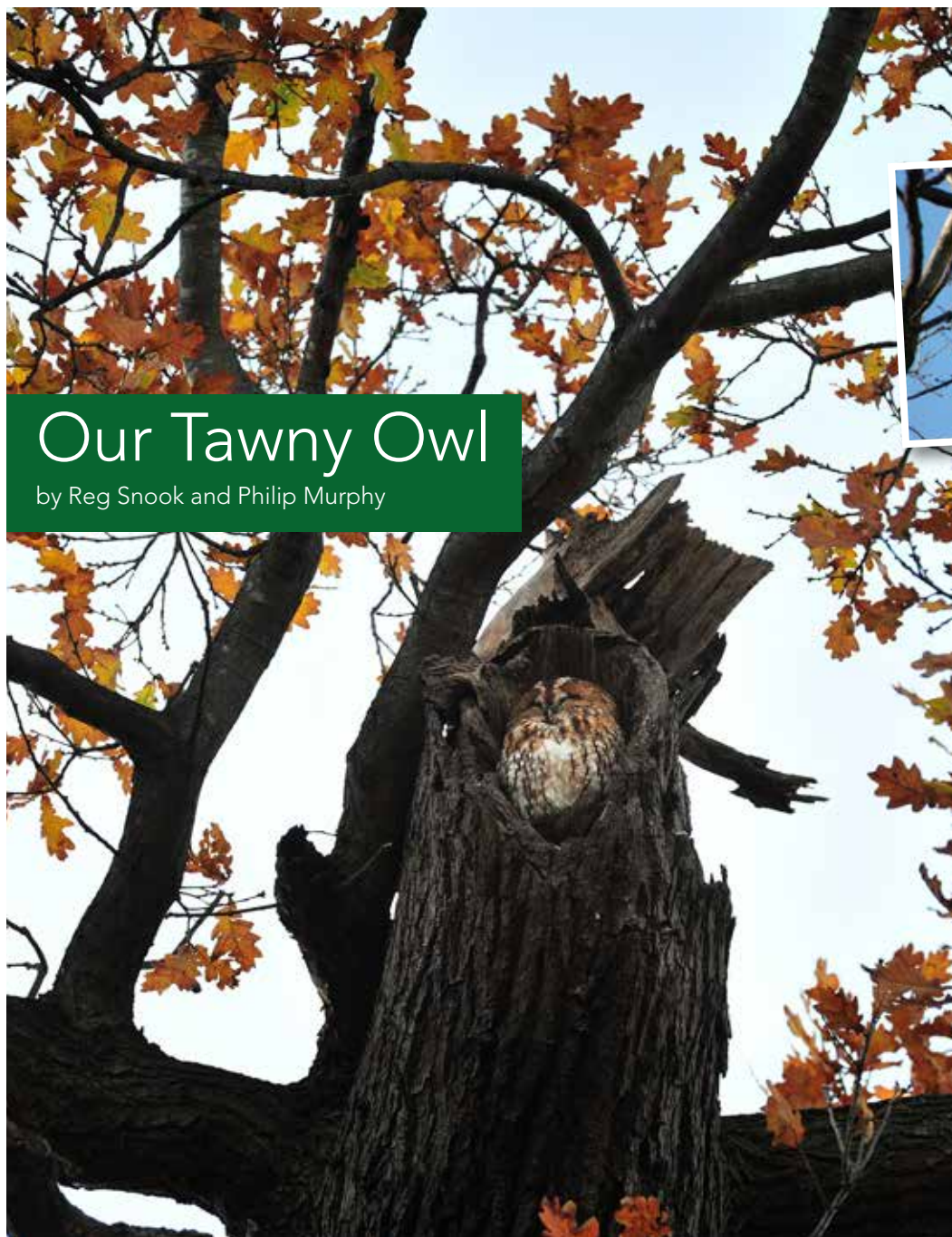
Finally, as December is upon us can I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Gray
 Chair – Friends of Christchurch Park



Our Tawny Owl

by Reg Snook and Philip Murphy



© EADT/SARAH BROWN

How absolutely amazing that a tawny owl should be back on exactly the same perch that Mabel had occupied so frequently in broad daylight, mainly in the autumn and winter months, between September 2008 and August 2017.

Such behaviour for a tawny owl is distinctly atypical as this species will normally roost during the daytime in dense cover.

Whether or not this recently-discovered owl is Mabel we shall obviously never know. However, if it is Mabel, where has she been since she was last sighted in August 2017? And if it is one of Mabel's offspring, which has it chosen to adopt such very unusual behaviour?

So – is it Mabel? Can you spot the difference?

Experts seem to be divided about whether the owl is in fact Mabel. Perhaps jumping to conclusions, the *Evening Star* ran a competition to name the 'new' owl and readers chose Matilda.

So, can you spot the difference? Here are two photographs, one taken by the Chair of Christchurch Park back in autumn 2008 when the tawny owl first appeared in the park and one taken recently by *East Anglian Daily Times* photographer Sarah Brown.

And a few thoughts for her fans

With Matilda (or is it Mabel?) making it into the national press, it is not surprising that significant numbers of people have gathered around the base of the tree in which she sits. We would urge her admirers to be quiet so as not to disturb her. She is a wild bird after all and it would be a real tragedy if she decided to move on because of the noise around her.

Happy Christmas from Mabel?

For anyone searching for a Christmas present this year, don't forget that there is a book on 'our' owl you can purchase at the Reg Driver Centre. *Portrait of an Owl* is written and illustrated by Reg Snook.

Portrait of an Owl,
by Reg Snook.

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Recent Friend's Events

Brass on the Grass – July & August 2019

This summer's Brass on the Grass concerts pulled in the crowds just as they have done every year.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Woodcock and Son, Gotelee Solicitors, Woodbridge Antiques Centre and The Greyhound without whose support we could not stage these very popular events. Can we also say a big thank you to all the Park Team



from Ipswich Borough Council who helped set up the events and clear away afterwards.

BAT WALK REPORT: Christchurch Park 20th September 2019

by Mark Smith & Sue Hooton, Suffolk Bat Group

Since our first bat walk for the Friends of Christchurch Park way back in 2013, we've always had sustained interest in this type of event and the booking system for places via Reg Driver Centre ensures everyone has a chance to hear the bats on detectors provided by the Suffolk Bat Group on the night. This is necessary as before this, over 100 people turned up the 2014 bat walk!

This was our tenth bat walk over 7 years and, despite a short period for promotion, the event was fully booked and the Suffolk Bat Group members met lots of new and eager faces as well as those who have enjoyed the

experience before. The weather was dry and calm so good conditions for bats foraging for insects around the park

Sue Hooton, Chair of Suffolk Bat Group, gave an introductory talk before we set off around the park to see what bats we could find although before she had finished and detectors handed out, a Noctule was heard on Chris' bat detector, which was already switched on. A chatty six year old seemed to particularly keen to find bats so we set off, with Bat Group members answering lots of questions about these intriguing creatures.

Both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats were busy feeding on mosquitoes over our heads most of the way around to the Wilderness pond. Here Mark thought he spotted a Daubenton's bat flying close to the water surface and everyone was able to study the hunting techniques of the Pipistrelles as they pursued prey around the trees. We turned off our bat detectors and listened to the silence for a few minutes before switching them on again to tune into the echolocation calls of the many bats flying around the Park. When we got to the Round Pond, Sue Hooton shone a strong lamp over the water and we watched an amazing display of bats looping around and making feeding buzzes whenever they homed in on an insect. The newly installed fountain had stopped for the night although the two beams of light in the centre of the pond provided unexpected glimpse views of Pipistrelles flying through them. It is reassuring to see that the rest of the pond was dark and the bats were able to feed unaffected by the additional light.

Having seen/heard four species of bats, we hoped to add to the list and Mark was chuffed to hear the rarer Nathusius' Pipistrelle hunting over the Round pond! This Pipistrelle is slightly larger than its relatives and has been found to migrate from Eastern Europe to the UK in the Spring and back again in the Autumn. We have also recorded this species in Christchurch Park in May (back in 2014), so it may be breeding locally or travelling further north we just don't know enough about this species of bat yet. While watching the bats in the torchlight, we noticed one flying like a little hovercraft over the water – and then another – confirming the

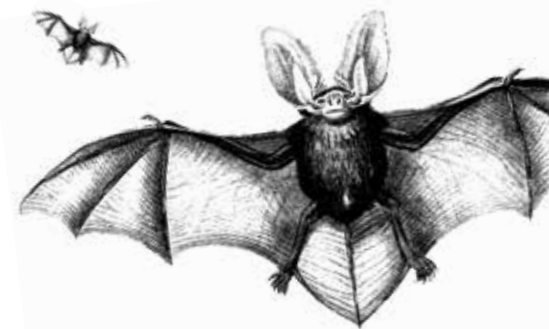
Daubenton's bats were feeding on the Round Pond too!

As Mark and Sue were both recording sound files from their bat detectors, analysis of these the following day revealed that another Myotis species of bat – probably Natterer's – though without seeing the bat it is difficult to confirm this.

It is always a pleasure to show Christchurch Park's bats to so many interested people and we hope that over the years we have enthused lots of people about bats and they have returned home with a little more understanding of these wonderful creatures.

The number of different bats found in Christchurch Park is at least five (potentially six) now, out of the thirteen species found in Suffolk, and these records will help keep the Suffolk Bat Atlas updated. The management of the trees and ponds in the park is obviously good for bats and maybe more bat species can be added to this total in the future.

Thanks to staff at the Reg Driver visitor centre



Autumn Bird Walk in The Park

Saturday 26th October

by Richard Stewart

Probably the weather forecast of wind and cloud, followed by rain, reduced numbers, with just six turning up on our Autumn bird walk.

However, under the expert leadership of Philip Murphy we had already seen or heard ten species before leaving the Reg Driver Centre, namely a high flying sparrowhawk, two Canada Geese planing down to the Wilderness pond, black headed and herring gulls, carrion crows, jay, magpie, woodpigeon, plus calling jackdaw and green woodpecker.

Jays featured several times on the walk but mostly their bright colours were lost in the cloud. Philip pointed out the 'jizz' factors

helping to identify bird species and we soon added collared dove, wren and robin to our list, plus moorhen and the spectacular hooded merganser on the Wilderness pond. The latter is an escaped bird but still fascinating to watch as it hunted underwater.

Martin in our group had a fine eye for finding camouflaged birds throughout the walk, the first being a cormorant halfway up an oak

bordering the pond. Mallard were 'bobbing' in early courtship and Philip commented on ducklings being produced in December two years ago. Just one mandarin was visible but recently Philip has counted an incredible park record of thirty three on one visit.

Then came the welcome call of a song thrush, two more cormorants flying over plus the soft call of a goldcrest and louder great tit. A mammal was next, or at least an earth dug by a fox on the edge of Snow Hill, close to the woodland. A great spotted woodpecker was then heard and a heron flew over, then further up a goldcrest was actually seen plus blackbird and, by the tennis courts, blue tit and dunnock.

I must admit to encouraging Philip to comment on the exciting sex life of the dunnock but it was slightly unfortunate that,

in the middle of one of his authentic bird song imitations, Philip's performance was observed and heard by a young lad who – not knowing the circumstances – gave him 'one of those adolescent looks'.

Martin then picked out a tree climbing green woodpecker, a kestrel flew over, long tailed tits called and a goldfinch was seen on a top-most bough.

On our return to the Wilderness Pond the cormorant was perched on the fallen bough across the water, plus a late emerging terrapin. Just as I was thanking Philip for another fascinating walk a stock dove flew past, making it a total of thirty bird species. This compares favourably with the thirty three species on the earlier spring walk, when newly arrived summer migrants were also counted.



WINTERS PAST

With Christmas approaching we've asked Suffolk Archives to dig into their records to see if they could find some seasonal early images of Christchurch Park.

This coloured postcard shows a donkey pulling a snow plough near the Round Pond. It dates from the early twentieth century.

Members may be interested to learn that a new home is being built for Suffolk Archives on the Waterfront. The Hold is situated right next to the University of Suffolk and is due to open next spring.



The Suffolk Archives Foundation has recently launched their 'Make your Mark' campaign to encourage support for the project from members of the public. You can find out more at www.suffolkarchivesfoundation.org.uk.

... In a school context

by John Woodcock

I would imagine that re-unions with former school friends when over the age of 65, as I am, are not that common; and probably even less common when joined by a former school teacher.

But such was the case recently when six of us from my original school, including one surviving and still amazingly robust teacher, sat down over lunch to catch up and dust down old memories from our schooldays. It's surprising what you can mutually recall when once the rusty hinges to long-neglected doors of memory are teased open.

Reflecting quietly afterwards that evening episodes from even earlier schooling came back to mind; at four years old I attended what was then termed a nursery school a short way along Westerfield Road, where a kindly spinster introduced about a dozen of us to the rudiments of arithmetic, reading, and drawing. We all loved her and specially relished the once a week treat of an outing, warmly dressed in uniform macs, following her eagerly though the nearby gates in Bolton Lane into the Park, where Miss Cossy would lead us along footpaths that took us by the Round and Wilderness Ponds, into the woodland, regularly pointing out and naming the wildlife, trees and flowers along the way. This was

my first enchanted introduction to Christchurch Park

In a quiet interlude at my office the other day I shared these memories with my secretary Denise. Her response was intriguing. "How fortunate you are in your early positive Park experiences. I too have school memories associated with the Park but they are not quite like yours!"

In the 1960s Denise attended Bolton Lane School which was teamed with Tower Ramparts Secondary Modern School, the former catering for ages from 11, the latter from 14 upwards.

"It was the winter 'PE' regimes that got to me," she said ruefully. "The teachers split PE and Games into two; the PE part was ok, we would all get on fine with some basketball and other exercises. But try and picture this when it came to the Games: outside it's a cold and damp winter's afternoon, or there'd be frost on the ground; we were instructed to change into what was considered "appropriate attire", plimsoles, skimpy tea shirts and navy knickers,



yes – navy knickers! And that was all! Then so dressed we would walk up the road to the Westerfield Road gates into the Park. Once there we cut across to the top of the Park where there was a hockey pitch, and braving the weather - we played hockey. If it wasn't hockey it was 'cross country run' on the grass and paths around the Park! My best friend and I always came last"

"Weren't you cold?"

"Cold?! Me and my friends thought we'd freeze to death sometimes! And what made it worse was that our lady PE instructor was all snugly wrapped up in a fleece lined track suit! It was all right for her! We used to look on with envy. I just remember that scanty clothing. We must have looked a sight. On frosty days we returned to school and changed back into uniform and we'd notice that our legs were bright red with the effects of the cold. It's a wonder we didn't catch pneumonia".

"What about the spring and summer terms?" I enquired.

"We never went in the Park then as we had netball in the school precincts," replied Denise After a year or so we stopped using the Park and went up to playing fields in Henley Road. Anyway, looking at the positives, I have the Park to thank for bringing me and one of my best friends together, discovering as we did common ground in our joint distaste and endurance of the winter Park games regime; we've stayed friends ever since!"

Because of its centrality to the character and identity of Ipswich, undoubtedly most of us who have been around Ipswich for many years will doubtless have our own striking memories and tales to tell of our timeless Christchurch Park, sweet or bitter. It might be said of the Park as Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote of Nature – "Men may come, men may go, but I go on forever". We humans truly are mortal, but Nature goes on just the same.

The Park as seen from the 1930s

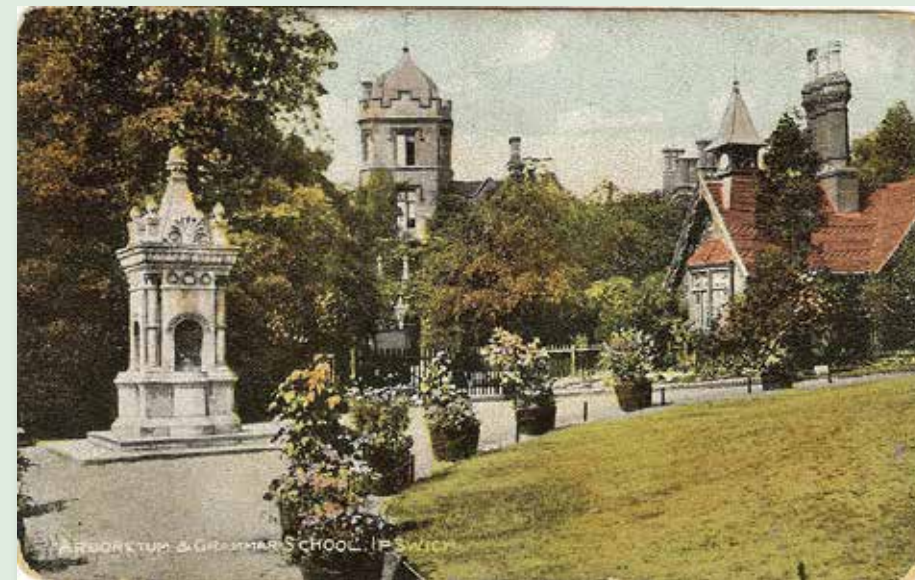
by Paul Horne

I recently picked up a copy of a guide to Felixstowe published in 1931 – one of a series of Ward Lock's holiday guides. The second hand bookshop contained the whole set of books mainly of coastal holiday destinations. Flicking through the guide I noticed that it also contained guides to places of local interest, which obviously included Ipswich.

The guide contains instructions with journey planners for many modes of transport including rail, steam ship and a winding route for the motorist to take to Felixstowe. All this is interesting but perhaps not something relevant to this newsletter. Of more relevance is the author's description of Ipswich and its "many desirable amenities, especially in its fine public parks". A section entitled "A Stroll round Ipswich" ends with a description of the "most picturesque of the public resorts of Ipswich – Christchurch Park". After a brief history of Holy Trinity Priory and Henry VIII's dissolution of the priory, it follows the tenants and owners through the years. Until finally Felix Cobbold purchased the mansion and gave it to the town, on condition the park was bought and preserved too. This act probably saved the park, as the edges of the estate were already being sold off with developments in Park Road and Bolton Lane.

Returning to the guide book, a trail through the park includes references to many places still familiar to us today, including the Round Pond and Wilderness Pond and the cenotaph, commemorating the dead of just the first world war at that point of course. What is also mentioned is a bandstand en route between the Round Pond and the Wilderness Pond. There is a sketch map showing Ipswich town centre and the lower end of the park, with the bandstand on the main north south roadway, as it is called in the guide. The Westerfield Road bowling green is approximately parallel to the bandstand located on the brow of the hill.

There are a few words on the Lower Arboretum with its "modern landscape gardening" and tennis courts and croquet lawn. Interesting to note that you had to leave the park by the Fonnereau Road gate and then enter the Arboretum via



an adjoining gate. A reminder that these were once set aside from the general park user. Leaving the Lower Arboretum at the top gate the route takes visitors into Bridle Lane and into the Upper Arboretum, which was summed up strangely in just four words "an ideally peaceful spot". Maybe the author was limited by a word count or maybe it was as my mother remembered it in the 1940s a place where children were expected to walk quietly and not enjoy the grounds like they can now.

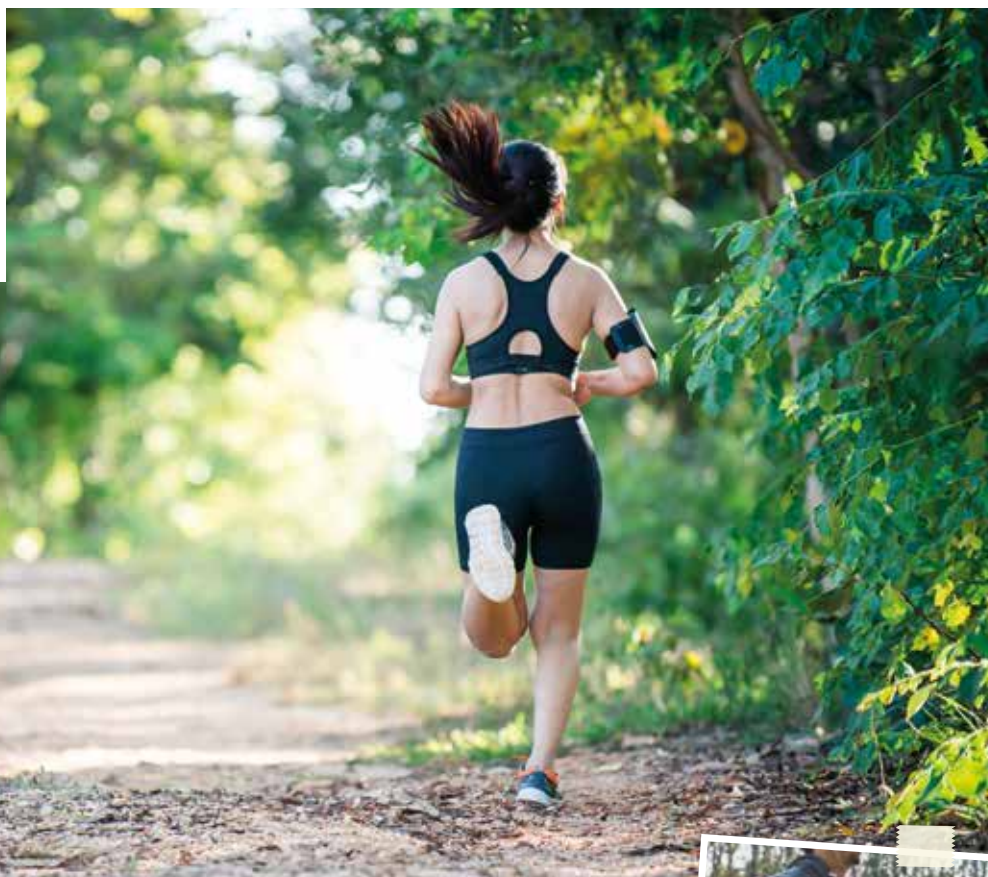
Although not recorded in the Felixstowe guide the Lower Arboretum was bought by the

Borough for £1,568 and the Upper Arboretum was acquired six years later at a cost of £8,500.

The guide book gives a glimpse of the world of the 1930s with an array of interesting adverts and intricate details of routes for the relatively new fangled motor car. Ipswich also offered open air bathing at Stoke (for men only) and at the end of Portman's Walk. Yet despite the 87 years that have passed Christchurch Park has remained the jewel in the town.

A JOG IN THE PARK

by Alison Beech



The benefits of physical exercise for the body are well-recognised, but there is growing evidence that it can also improve mental well-being.

GP practices are being encouraged to develop closer links with their local parkrun to become certified 'parkrun practices', and health care practitioners are now signposting patients and carers to parkrun. The focus is particularly on those who are the least active and have long-term health conditions. In the local area there are several parkruns, including a junior parkrun every Sunday morning in Christchurch Park. Ipswich parkrun's primary base is Chantry Park but in the winter months it moves to Christchurch Park to allow the ground at Chantry to recover.



So what are the positive impacts on physical and mental well-being gained from running or jogging? It can help with cardiac rehab, blood pressure improvement, or supporting weight loss. Running with others helps to reduce social isolation and being in green space and fresh air can enhance mood and support mental health issues. Running and jogging are not only for the fast. You can start by gentle walking, build up to a brisker pace and occasional jog while you improve your fitness and stamina until you're ready to jog for longer. Don't forget to check with your GP before starting if you've been inactive for some time.

Ipswich Jaffa Running Club (Jaffa is an acronym for Jogging and Fitness for All) was established in 1977 and now has around 300 senior members and 90 juniors.

We welcome members of all abilities from 8 years old and there is no upper age limit! We meet on Monday evenings at Northgate Sports Centre and offer a number of both structured and informal running groups during the week. Park users will see us on Saturday mornings for our weekly coaching at 8am and in the summer months we hold a hills session there every Thursday and also hold two or three Monday park sessions. The club members love the park and we know our members value the open space, the fresh air, the trees and variety of spaces. In January and September the club holds popular beginners' courses which last for 10 weeks and lead on to a 5 week Improver course.

For more information about the club visit our website www.ipswichjaffa.org.uk or see our Facebook page



PARK PATROL

Ipswich Borough Council's Park Patrol has taken up residence in The Ark just up the hill from the Wilderness Pond. Here Park Patrol's Jack Taylor explains more about this really important service.

The origins of Park Patrol can be traced back to park wardens and it is a continually evolving department based in Christchurch Park; its role changes with the demand of the times. Once purely litter pickers, Park Patrol now undertake a plethora of additional duties to help make the parks and open spaces of Ipswich far safer and enjoyable for all users.

An average day for a Patrol Officer would involve:

- Investigating and clearing fly tipped waste within the boundaries of parks and open spaces. Any incriminating documents linking the waste to the tipper are evidenced and relayed to the Borough's Waste Enforcement department for swift investigation and prosecution.
- The enforcing of criminal law and the park's byelaws – Park Patrol work tirelessly with many other departments and bodies to deal with all issues negatively affecting our green spaces. Unfortunately, the secluded nature of some parks can attract such issues as anti-social behaviour, drug use, drug dealing and vandalism. Park Patrol, now operating with stab vests, body worn cameras and police-grade communications, actively engage and deter offenders causing alarm in the parks.
- Recording and sharing the information gathered from offences with relevant organisations helps accelerate the processes required to pinpoint and tackle all of the aforementioned issues, making Park Patrol an extremely valuable source of intelligence.
- Removing waste from the parks. Similar to how Park Patrol has evolved through the years, so has litter. From commercial waste being fly tipped into parks and drug paraphernalia being discarded in bushes to deceased wildlife, graffiti and broken bottles – Park Patrol are actively on the lookout to remove any offensive and harmful substances that may infect the parks.
- Moving on encampments and assisting homeless. Working with Housing Options, Ipswich Borough Council's Rough Sleeper Project Manager and other partners, Park Patrol attempt to assist the homeless of Ipswich move out of the parks and into more suitable accommodation. This is achieved via information sharing, engagement and referrals. In the event of an illegal encampment, Park Patrol teams up with Private Sector Housing to engage and remove any unauthorised encampment sites from IBC land.



With the addition of locking and unlocking parks and toilets, engaging with the public and answering enquires, assisting with small and large-scale events, performing minor repairs and conducting thousands of health and safety inspections per year, it really wouldn't be an understatement to refer to Park Patrol as the "Jack of all trades" of parks.

Always something to look forward to ...

by Reg Snook

The now newly-named *Suffolk Bird Group*, formerly the Suffolk Ornithologists Group, has for a couple of years been encouraging people, not just birders, to participate in a project called 'save our swifts'. Swifts are a feature of our summers but are, like many species, in decline. Therefore, the SBG are inviting interested folk to attach swift boxes to their properties. So far so good. More and more swifts are using these nest boxes and the outlook is that the swift decline, at least in this area, has been halted. Birders get very sentimental about swifts. We eagerly await their arrival from their winter quarters over Africa (I say over Africa because, of course, swifts are forever on the wing except for the incubation of eggs and the

feeding of young. Swifts, particularly, the ones I monitor arrive back here precisely on the same date each year and depart on the same date as well. I wish that I was as punctual as swifts. We are all aware of swifts screaming as they dash between chimney pots in our towns and villages. They are a creature of summer. We must not lose them and I for one eagerly look forward to May 7th next year.

I have asked this question before "what is it about waxwings?" Why do birders go 'bonkers' over this winter visitor? It is autumn and already the question is being asked "will it be a waxwing winter?" So what is it about the waxwing? Well, its Latin name for a start – *bombicilla garrulus*. I am sure that if I had a name like that people would be queuing up to take



"More and more swifts are using these nest boxes and the outlook is that the swift decline, at least in this area, has been halted."

a peak at me. (Come to think about it, some people do seem to stare at me). There is no doubt that the waxwing is a smart bird, about 18 cms long, buff brown with a crest on its head but it gets its name from the unusually waxy looking tips of its secondary feathers. But just what is a 'waxwing winter'? A waxwing winter is when thousands of these beautiful birds descend on Great Britain to feed mainly on Rowan berries and the berries of ornamental shrubs and just where do we find these berries? In supermarket car parks, hospital car parks and gardens where there has been planting of such trees. The necessity to gorge on these berries means that waxwings can be viewed

at very close quarters. Another factor is that waxwings breed in Finland. Therefore, a Tesco car park is probably the first time that these birds come into contact with homo sapiens. Last year, Dales Road and Bixley Road played host to a couple of dozen waxwings. You could easily tell their whereabouts by the number of 'anoraks' standing by the roadside. The local newspaper displayed this phenomenon on its pages – the waxwings, I mean, not the anoraks.

To sum up, two iconic birds, one a master of the air that is forever on the move, the other a beautiful and obliging bird both of which are always a major 'tick' for idiots like me.



Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk

by Max Stocker, Ipswich Borough Council



The unique Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk exhibition is now on at Ipswich's Christchurch Mansion and is attracting an audience from all over the world!

This fusion of renowned artists and unseen personal treasures maps the journey of a Suffolk schoolboy to global superstar.

Curated by his father, John Sheeran, and organised by Ipswich Borough Council, Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk opened to coincide with his four homecoming concerts in Ipswich to end the record-breaking Divide tour.

A portrait of Ed by artist Colin Davidson is now in the National Portrait Gallery – its sister portrait is the centrepiece of this exhibition, along with other paintings and sketches, and is joined by stunning photographs by Mark Surridge.

John Sheeran has also collected a lifetime's collection of family items – self-portraits by Ed, personal paintings, sculptures, school reports, favourite guitars, awards and much more – most never seen in public before.

HE SAID: "ED HAS A DEEP AFFECTION FOR THE LANDSCAPE AND ITS PEOPLE. THIS EXHIBITION REFLECTS THAT – ITS TITLE IS 'MADE IN SUFFOLK', WHICH HE WAS."

A digital collection of photographs features Ed's appearances in the park at Ipswich Music Day among other pictures of his early days in Ipswich.

Among the first visitors were fans from Australia and Russia and others came from Holland and Germany and, of course, from all over Suffolk and Ipswich.

The exhibition is designed to appeal to a wide audience of all ages and backgrounds and families took advantage of the beautiful surroundings to take a walk and enjoy a picnic before going into the Wolsey Art Gallery.

Accompanying the exhibition is a unique shop selling exclusive Ed Sheeran memorabilia, including a book written by John Sheeran and jewellery designed by Ed's mother, Imogen.

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Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk is on at the Mansion until 3rd May 2020. Ed Sheeran: Made in Suffolk is sponsored by Aspall, the Suffolk cyder and vinegar maker.

Photos: Top: Nicole Drury,
far left: Mark Surridge, left: Jen O'Neill.

Photos supplied by Ipswich Borough Council.

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Nicholas Jacob Architects

Orwell Vets

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New members

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Roger Day and Grant Filshill

Karam Chaudry

Wendy and John Lewis

Brian Morris

Moir & David Podd

Hugh and Sue Rowland

Joyce and Graham Jarrett

Glenis Moxon

Steven and Sally-Anne Trett

Ipswich Jaffa

Cameron Salter

Jean qbe Christopher Niall

Peter Thompson

R Charles

Liz and Jim Henderson

Membership Form

Membership costs £10 per household per year, or £100 for lifetime membership.
Subscriptions by cheque, cash or Standing Order are due each year on 1st March.

- If you already pay by continuous Standing Order, no further action is required.
- If you would like to pay by Standing Order, please send the completed Standing Order Authority (below) to Robert Fairchild. For questions about Standing Orders please call Robert on 01473 254255, or email robert.fairchild@ntlworld.com
- We also accept payment by cash or cheque. In this case, please send the completed form and payment to **Robert Fairchild 17 Henley Ave, Ipswich IP1 6RN**
- We now also have the option of Lifetime Membership for a one off payment of £100.

How to Pay

Please tick method of payment and complete the details below:

☐ Standing Order ☐ Cheque ☐ Cash ☐ Direct Bank Transfer
(please use your name as the reference)

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Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Standing Order Mandate

Account to be credited: Friends of Christchurch Park Amount: £10.00

Bank: Lloyds Bank, Cornhill, Ipswich Account No: 02952840 Sort Code: 30-94-55

Account name to be debited _____

Bank and Branch _____

Account number _____ Sort code _____

Please pay Friends of Christchurch Park immediately and then on 1st March each year.

Signed _____ Date _____



Ten Questions ... for Jack Taylor from Park Patrol

1. What is your favourite part of the park?

The Arboretum – It harbours some of the most beautiful trees in the world and the flower beds are extremely well kept.

2. What is the best part of your job?

Receiving compliments from the public – they really do have the power to turn a bad day into a good day.

3. What is the most difficult part of your job?

The workload. As a town, we are extremely lucky to have so many greenspaces – having said that, they do keep me very busy.

4. What is the most unusual incident you have had to deal with in the park?

"I wonder how many pastries can anyone fit in this toilet" (For some reason a member of the public had decided to cram an awful lot of pastries down a public toilet!).

5. What is the one most useful thing users of the park can do to help you?

It would help massively if the public can continue ringing in any issues they spot in the parks. Although the team and I have a fair few eyes between us, it always helps to have more on the lookout. The telephone number is 01473 432132.



6. How do you relax?

If I'm not in a green space or a gym, you'll find me reclined with some good company and a tea.

7. If you could meet anyone in the world - dead or alive – who would it be?

Edward Teach.

8. What is your favourite film?

Gladiator – hands down.

9. If you could change one thing in the park, what would it be?

I would like to see the round pond filled with exotic and beautiful fish.

10. What three words best describe you?

Sapient – Affable – Hirsute.



Bat Walks over matter

for taking bookings for the bat walks and Peter, Chris, Tarra and Emma for their input on the night.

It also was great to hear that the Friends of Christchurch Park have decided to fund more bat boxes to boost the number of roosting locations in the park and give the bats more choice of safe places to live in throughout the seasons. Our fingers are firmly crossed for a few more species of bats taking up residence and hopefully we can record them on next year's bat walks!

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Anyone wanting to learn more about bats
can check out Suffolk Bat Group website
www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/suffolkbatgroup
or visit our Facebook page for events and
batty activities.