



## Summer Newsletter 2024



In this issue

4 Projects  
and Plans

6 Brass on the  
Grass 2024

14 Vintage  
Car Rally

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 02** Welcome
- 04** Projects and Plans
- 06** Brass on the Grass 2024
- 07** Dawn Chorus in Christchurch Park 4th May 2024
- 08** Bird Report February to May 2024
- 11** Bird Walk March 2024
- 12** "Percy Edwards of Ipswich – never 'eard of 'im'!"
- 14** Vintage Car Rally in Christchurch Park 5th May
- 15** Owls in the Park
- 16** Alert for Cat Owners - and Dogs?
- 16** Membership Matters
- 17** Friends of Christchurch Park - AGM
- 19** Membership Form
- 20** 10 Questions for Dennis Miller, new Committee Member of the Friends of Christchurch Park

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

**Editor:** John Woodcock

**Design & Print:**  
Tuddenham Press

**Photography:** Friends of Christchurch Park and library photos.

Front cover photo - The Arboretum



## Welcome

As I write this introduction to the Summer Newsletter heavy rain is pouring down more akin to the customary Spring showers; however, for our Jewel in Ipswich's Crown – Christchurch Park – this is a welcome refreshment for the thirsty vegetation.

I am delighted to report a number of real "positives" since the last update. Within these pages will be noted the excellent progress being made in regard to the tree re-planting scheme, news about plans for the Butterfly Garden, the profile for this year's ever popular, and now expanded, Brass On The Grass music events, and the inclusion of the report from what was an upbeat and very happy March AGM, graced by the presence of our much appreciated Mayoress Lynn Mortimer, and including the election of 4 new Members to the Committee; this demonstrates the determination of the Friends to play their part to the full in ensuring the progress and future well-being of Christchurch Park as we work with the IBC Parks Team.

Thanks to those who have contributed articles to this newsletter; included here is a number of articles featuring wildlife, naturally appropriate as our Park is



Mayors Walk







Below the tennis courts

after all a haven for many forms of nature. Our popular friend Reg Snook has written an account which, although not directly related to the life of the Park, nevertheless presents us with a "classic Reg Snook" for all to enjoy!

Thanks to all Members and Corporates who

have renewed their annual subscriptions, to the IBC's Park Team for their dedication, and to all who visibly or invisibly play their part in preserving and enhancing our beloved Park.

**John Woodcock**

Vice Chairman – Friends of Christchurch Park



Walk to the Arboretum

# PROJECTS AND PLANS

John Woodcock – Vice Chairman FoCP

In our last (Winter) newsletter I set out the progress of initiatives the Friends had put in motion and plans for other events through the year ahead. I am pleased to provide an update about these and also forthcoming planned projects and events.

**TREE RE-PLANTING SCHEME** Dean Welham, Tree Officer for the Park & Cemeteries, reports as follows:

"Thanks to the Friends' very generous donation this has allowed us to plant a total of 34 replacement trees in the Upper and Lower Arboretums and the wider Christchurch Park; 18 in the Upper Arboretum, 9 in the Lower Arboretum, 7 in the Park.

Hopefully these trees will all establish and flourish in their planting locations with the



Arboretum

wet spring and rain being very helpful in giving them a good start to the summer.

We will also be watering all newly planted trees as much as we can, and as with all council trees, they will be surveyed on a regular basis to check their health & condition.

The council has a general policy of replacing trees that we have to remove, subject to right tree, right place."



Re-Plant



Re-Plant

Follow us on:



@ChristchurchParkIpswich



@ChristchurchPk





Butterfly Garden

**PICNIC TABLES** The Friends are in consultation with the Parks team about the placing of two picnic tables in suitable locations as a collaboration project. Work on this is ongoing.

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN RE-PLANT** The Butterfly Garden located between the Croquet Lawn and the tennis courts, by the Dr. John Blatchley Armillary Sphere, is in need of a complete re-plant. IBC's Brian Macdonald has taken charge of the project which will involve the extensive planting of butterfly-attracting shrubs, particularly lavender bushes alongside the paths and perimeter. The estimated cost is around £400, and the Friends are in receipt of donations of £250 towards this. At a recent Committee Meeting it was agreed to meet the remaining costs from the Friends' funds.

**BIRD AND BAT WALKS** Philip Murphy has already led two Bird Walks this year (see articles within this newsletter) and has agreed to lead a further Summer Bird Walk on Saturday 10th August as well as an Autumn Birdwalk on Saturday 26th October, both starting at 8.30 a.m. from the Reg Driver Visitor Centre. The Suffolk Bat Group has once again agreed to lead two Bat Walks, Saturday 7th September, 7 pm, and Friday 20th September, 6.30 pm, meeting at the Reg Driver Centre. Booking for these popular events is essential, at the RDVC.

Brass On The Grass. These enormously popular events are planned for July and August – 6 concerts this year. See the article on Page 6 for more details.



The Friends are deeply appreciative of the skills Roger Herbert, newly elected Committee Member, has put to the organisation and administration of this year's series of Brass on The Grass concerts, an eagerly awaited annual treat and flag-waver for the Friends of Christchurch Park.

Roger, with his extensive experience in this activity elsewhere, has been able to arrange to showcase six brass bands to play as per the schedule here. Each band is being generously sponsored by the companies or individuals shown. The events are free to attend, no need to book; come along and bring a picnic, your own chairs if required, or a blanket. 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm each Sunday afternoon in the Arboretum.

### **JULY**

Sunday 21st July

**Martlesham Brass sponsored  
by Woodcock & Son**

Arboretum 2.30-4.30 pm

Sunday 28th July

**The Colchester Band sponsored  
by The Greyhound Inn, Henley Road**

### **AUGUST**

Sunday 4th August

**Ipswich Hospital Band sponsored  
by Scrutton Bland**

Sunday 11th August

**Woodbridge Excelsior Band sponsored  
by Woodbridge Antiques**

Sunday 18th August

**Suffolk Phoenix Band sponsored  
by William Coe of Coes Outfitters**

Sunday 25th August

**Stowmarket Concert Band sponsored  
by The Ipswich Society**

Follow us on:



@ChristchurchParkIpswich



@ChristchurchPk

# Dawn Chorus

in Christchurch Park 4th May 2024

A group of seventeen met the leader, Philip Murphy, at 4.30am. While we waited for everyone to arrive Blackbirds and Robins were singing loudly. Philip explained that the Robin had a larger eye compared to similar sized birds and therefore received more light which could explain its nocturnal singing.

Gulls were already calling, mainly Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and more were seen later near the top of Snow Hill. Philip commented that of all the gull species in the world none were called 'Seagull'. He also added that gulls had attempted to nest at Christchurch Mansion. Woodpigeon and Carrion Crow were calling from the Upper Arboretum and then we heard the welcome song of a Blackcap. This, like the Wren, was also heard again later on the walk. Philip successfully unlocked the park gate and then a Stock Dove was heard, a bird easily overlooked and nesting in tree holes.



For the first time I can recollect smart phones were used to quickly bring up pictures of bird species and this worked well. Great and Coal Tit were calling and Philip explained that the smaller the bird the higher its call tended to

be. Some thin strands of pink were by now in the sky and we could appreciate the bright yellows of Broom and Buttercup, flowering Chestnut 'candles' and leaves unfurling from a Copper Beech. Jay and Magpie flew across and Philip identified the high pitched call of a Goldcrest despite the clamour of territorial Canada Geese from the Wilderness Pond. Philip added that up to sixty Magpies had been counted at a roost in trees beyond the former croquet lawn.



On the Wilderness pond Canada Geese were guarding young, Mallard broods ranged from small bundles of fluff and for once no gulls were seen on the pond. A Grey Heron gave everyone good views as it circled several times then landed in a tall tree next to the water, high enough not to pose any threat to young birds. Thankfully it didn't land on the exposed log where a patient wait might have produced a different outcome. Little Grebe were heard and seen with Mandarin ducks also appearing. Both Mandarins and Stock Doves were very close to us and out of the water so that the rich and subtle details of their plumage could be appreciated. A Chiffchaff was heard singing its onomatopoeic name and with the addition of Moorhens a total of twenty species was seen. I added a Green Woodpecker on my way home. Unfortunately the two released Pekin Ducks were still present and both exhibited courtship behaviour leading to copulation. They are aggressive to other nesting birds so if their wings are already clipped back to prevent flight it is to be hoped that they can soon be moved to the Round Pond where such aggression shouldn't occur.

One again we are indebted to Philip for arranging the meeting and giving us the benefit of his vast range of knowledge about birds.

**Richard Stewart**



# Bird Report

FEBRUARY TO MAY 2024

By Philip Murphy

## February

Fine and calm weather witnessed groups of four and six Common Buzzards, on 1st and 12th respectively, soaring together high over the park.

On 24th, a third Little Grebe was present on Wilderness Pond together with the two which have remained at this site throughout the winter months. There were no sightings of Cormorants this month, the birds which had been present almost continuously during the winter presumably having moved on to feeding sites elsewhere – had they emptied the Round Pond of fish of the size they required?

At the month's end, Great Spotted Woodpeckers were drumming at three sites in the park, but Green Woodpeckers were conspicuous by their apparent absence. It was encouraging to locate three singing Song Thrushes at the Park on 17th.

Other reports included the year's first Lesser Black-backed Gull on 7th, Treecreeper on 17th, 15 Siskins on 4th including an immaculate male drinking from a puddle and a pre-roost gathering of 34 Magpies on 12th.

On 27th, a Chiffchaff heard calling (as opposed to singing) in the woodland adjacent to Wilderness Pond was either an overwintering bird or an early summer visitor



Little Grebe



## March

The highlights included a report early in the month which suggested that as many as three pairs of Tawny Owls could be present in the park. Equally interesting was the sight of a Woodcock in flight in the Lower Arboretum on 12th – presumably this bird had spent winter in Britain and was now on its way back to northern or eastern Europe, or even western Russia.

A pair of Little Grebes had over-wintered on Wilderness Pond but by early March a second pair was present. During the period from 4th to 13th a fifth Little Grebe was present, which resulted in some noisy squabbles but at the month's end it was considered just the two pairs were in residence. Also, by the month's end, at least five pairs of Canada Geese were on the Wilderness Pond, where on 26th a Greylag Goose was an unexpected sight. Up to 14 Mandarin Ducks were present in early March but by the month's end only about six could be located; this decrease is probably because of birds moving off to breeding sites elsewhere. An early brood of nine Mallard ducklings, accompanied by an alert adult female, was first noted on 22nd, and all nine ducklings were still present on 31st.

The now-expected spring passage of Common Buzzards over the Christchurch Park area peaked during the period from 21st to 26th when up to 20 were noted drifting high eastwards. A Red Kite flew west over Christchurch Mansion on 13th and a pair of Sparrowhawks was noted over the park on several dates.

March witnesses the initial arrival of summer-visiting warblers to the park; the first Chiffchaff was heard singing on 14th and the first Blackcap on 22nd.







Tawney Owl

It is rather worrying that there were no reports of Green Woodpeckers in the park this month.

The most delightful observation of the month was that of a Goldcrest, Britain's smallest common species of bird, bathing in the stream that flows down through the Wet Meadow area into the northern end of Wilderness Pond.

## April

The most noteworthy reports were that of a Nightingale singing from the dense hedgerow just north of Wilderness Pond, 10th, a Tawny Owl in "Mabel's" tree, 7th and four terns, either Common Terns or Arctic Terns, flying high southwards, 28th; the only previous records of terns over the park involve single Common Terns on August 30th

1979 and July 5th 2005.

Birds of prey were noted regularly throughout the month, including two Peregrine Falcons together on both 8th and 12th. Common Buzzards were present almost daily with a peak of five on 14th and sightings of Sparrowhawks indicated that a pair was present within the vicinity of the park.

A single Cormorant was seen frequently throughout the month although two were fishing on Round Pond, 24th. An adult Grey Heron was noted on several occasions in the area of the Wilderness Pond from 21st to the month's end.

There were only three sightings of a single Grey Wagtail. Also on a disappointing note, we could only locate two pairs of both Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush.



As in 2022 and 2023, there was no evidence of any Greenfinches being present in the park at the start of the breeding season; in addition, by the end of April, there had been no reports of any singing Chaffinches in the park (but see May report below)

## May

As we have come to expect, May produced several reports of interest. Perhaps the most unexpected is that of a Cuckoo heard calling/singing in the park on 14th; this is only one day short of 20 years since the most-recent previous record on May 15th 2004. A feature of May in recent years has been the presence of Tawny owlets in trees near the park's Westerfield Road entrance close to "Mabel's" tree; this year there were three owlets present in the last fortnight of May, which attracted a steady stream of admirers.

The two pairs of Little Grebes on Wilderness Pond had produced no juveniles by the end of May and, even more surprisingly, there had been no reports of any Moorhen chicks up to the month's end. Also on Wilderness Pond, up to nine pairs of Canada Geese were present, but only three pairs nested, and of these three, only one hatched out any goslings – initially five on 4th, these had reduced to four on 9th and these were still present, accompanied by their parents, at the month's end. Remarkably, the nine Mallard ducklings, first noted on Wilderness Pond on March 22nd, were all still present at the end of May by which time they could fly. The only other brood of Mallard ducklings that has been present so far this year initially involved eight on 1st, reducing to six on 4th, all of

which were still present at the month's end.

Only two male Mandarin Ducks, both males, were on Wilderness Pond up to 9th, but totals, still only involving males, started to increase from 10th as the birds arrived, presumably from breeding sites elsewhere, in order to moult – by the end of the month at least 12 were present. The majority of these ducks were to be found, standing on the larger branches of an Alder tree adjacent to the wooden footbridge. Also, by the end of May, there had been no sightings of female Mandarin Ducks accompanied by ducklings. Breeding birds included two pairs of both Great Spotted Woodpecker and Mistle Thrush. On 19th, two broods of fledged juvenile Coal Tits were located, but there was only one singing Chaffinch this year and only irregular sightings of Grey Wagtail. The first Swift was noted on 6th. Other sightings of birds flying over the park included six Common Buzzards, 10th, five Grey Herons heading south in a 15-minute period, 9th and a Ring-necked Parakeet, 22nd.

Many thanks to Brian Macdonald, Tony Powell, Mark Dowling and many dog-walkers for their contributions to this short article.



# Bird Walk March 2024

Philip Murphy



The weather during this walk was bright and dry, but a northerly wind greatly reduced bird song in all but the most sheltered areas.

No raptors were noted but there was a steady westerly movement of Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. On the walk down to the ponds the only singing species were Wrens, Great Tits and pleasingly, two Chiffchaffs recently arrived from their wintering areas in southern Europe or northern Africa. We had good views of two Long-tailed Tits and brief views of a Great Spotted Woodpecker in flight.

Attention at the wet meadow area just north of the Wilderness Pong switched, temporarily, away from birds as we admired some early-flowering Snake's Head Fritillaries.

As we had expected, there was plenty of activity on the Wilderness Pond. Up to five pairs of Canada Geese were, very noisily, defending their territories. The site's Little Grebes were also vociferous, but we only saw one Mandarin Duck although it was a typically-resplendent male. The highlight of the walk came right at the end with the sight at the Southern end of Wilderness Pond of a pair of Mallards accompanied by nine very young (just a few hours old?) ducklings.



Typically, the adult female Mallard was constantly alert and, at first sign of any potential danger, a call from this excellent mother would result in the ducklings hurrying towards her for safety.

Many thanks to all who attended and contributed significantly to the success of this short walk despite the less-than-ideal conditions.

**Editor's Note** Philip maintained throughout, as he always does, an absorbing narrative sharing fascinating insights into the life of some of the birds we encountered. I can't let this article go without recounting a touching cameo he shared with us while we were looking at the long tailed tits he spotted. He told us that a group (RSPB?) caught and ringed a family of 12 long tailed tits in Felixstowe. Philip explained that this species were staunchly family orientated as demonstrated when some weeks later 12 long tailed tits were caught and studied 60 miles away near Mundesley in north east Norfolk, and it was discovered to be this same family! Now that's family loyalty!





# "Percy Edwards of Ipswich



We are sitting around a table in a garden surrounded by woods in the Loire Valley. It is a hot day in early June but luckily the trees by the pond in this garden provide a welcome shade. It is Pierre's garden. Pierre without doubt loves birds as much as I do. Two nightingales are singing. The cuckoo is monotonously calling a few hundred metres away. I can't see the cuckoo but I am lucky enough to see a black woodpecker flapping its way across the garden. Pierre's lawn looks like a ploughed field. The wild boar, whose snouts seemed to have been designed by Ransomes and Rapiers of Ipswich, have evidently been very busy.

"Another olive, my friend" asks Pierre "and a drop more wine?". The wine, clear and cool, comes from Sancerre, about 40 km away from the little village where Pierre lives. The sun is now right overhead and it is very hot. Even the nightingales have given up on their duet. I suppose they will start up again when the sun sinks in the west and

then they will sing all through the night. However, the cuckoo can still be heard in the distance. You can't call it singing but it's calling 'cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo' – will it ever stop? I can imitate this bird – 'cuckoo, cuckoo'. This is easy. I can see Pierre is getting a little curious by me imitating 'Percy Edwards'. Shall I tell him who Percy was? No, too complicated so I won't. Percy lived in Ipswich many moons ago, was a wonderful imitator of birds and became nationally famous because of this skill. I used to see Percy out and about. He too loved his birds. He was often to be heard on the radio, warbling away with the birds that he had seen around Ipswich. Percy mimicked animals as well and he is probably best remembered for being 'Psyche', George Coles' pet dog on the radio programme "A life of Bliss".

Continuously, the cuckoo carries on calling 'cuckoo, cuckoo' and Percy, sorry me,



Cuckoo



# – never 'eard of' 'im'!"



The lawn post-wild boar!

responds with a 'cuckoo, cuckoo'. But, wait, the cuckoo is getting nearer. Crikey, it thinks I am a rival cuckoo. I mimic again 'cuckoo'. "Oh, shut up, please. I can't enjoy my wine with you cuckooing all the time," says Pierre. So this Englishman abroad ceases his calling but the cuckoo is still getting nearer. It is very close. Just another call. So one more 'cuckoo, cuckoo' back. "Sacre bleu, mon ami". Pierre looks amazed as a pale grey shape appears from the sunlight and perches on a bough above our heads, so amazingly close. I tried to repeat my wonderful impersonation of this bird but I could only croak a rather horrible 'cuckoo'. I wasn't a cuckoo, only a six foot Englishman trying to be both clever and annoying but really living in cloud-cuckoo land! The cuckoo did a smart about turn and disappeared into the shadows of the neighbouring wood. Amazing, I thought, that cuckoo understands English.

Pierre stared at me. Was it admiration in his



Wild boar

eyes? I don't think so and I smiled. "What about me whistling like a nightingale?" I ventured. Pierre got up and walked back to his house. "I think we should open another bottle," he responded. "Percy Edwards, Percy Edwards? Never 'eard of 'im."

**Reg Snook**

# VINTAGE CAR RALLY

## in Christchurch Park 5th May



The annual Ipswich to Felixstowe Historic Vehicle Rally, features up to five hundred vehicles of all which are over 30 years old. They begin their journey to Felixstowe at Christchurch Park in Ipswich, traveling the ten miles to Felixstowe's promenade where the vehicles are displayed for much of the afternoon.

Typically held on the first Sunday in May, the rally is organised by the Ipswich Transport Museum with assistance from volunteers. The Mayor of Felixstowe usually leads the procession as a passenger in one of the historic vehicles. The event is possible, thanks to the commitment of the museum's volunteers and the whole-hearted participation of vehicle owners, many of whom travel some distance at their own expense.

Vehicles assemble in Christchurch Park from 8:30 to 10:30 am and begin departure for Felixstowe



at 11:00 am. They are displayed along the promenade from around 12:00 pm onwards.

**For more information, please visit the Ipswich Transport Museum's website at <https://www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk/>.**

**Peter Mann**

Follow us on:



@ChristchurchParkIpswich



@ChristchurchPk



# OWLS IN THE PARK



Photos by Paul Sherman

Peter Mann who is a newly joined FoCP Committee Member and who has for some years run the Friends of Christchurch Park website was in contact with Paul Sherman, a well-known local photographer and received his permission to report as follows in our newsletter.

Paul has been studying wildlife in Christchurch Park for many years and has captured numerous images of generations of owls born in the park. His latest sighting, on Sunday, May 26, included three young tawny owls.

Paul observed that each new brood of owlets is born in the same tree near the Westerfield

Road entrance, distinguished by a wooden owl carving. He noted, "I believe this brood was born in the same tree. They then moved to an adjacent tree and will probably relocate to another tree at some stage."

In recent years, a tawny owl named Mabel gained considerable local attention and even inspired a book by Suffolk artist and friend of Christchurch Park Reg Snook. A few years later, another owl appeared in the same spot, believed to be one of Mabel's chicks, later named Matilda by Ipswich Star readers. Last year, new owls were spotted, leading some to think they were Matilda's offspring.

# Alert for Cat Owners – and Dogs?

If you have been avoiding the news recently, you may have missed the new rules that came into force June 10 requiring all cats aged 20 weeks and above to be microchipped.

Pet owners have a 21 day grace period after the rules come into effect, but after July 1 you could be fined up to £500 if your cat is not chipped.

Dogs are already required to be microchipped from eight weeks. It is a good idea, as collars can get lost or be



removed, how these two did it, we don't know; so much for bells alerting the birds.

**Rowell Bell**

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

For the new FoCP year starting March 2024 we are pleased to report that Membership numbers are holding up well with a number of new members joining including 4 new Lifetime Members.

**Corporate Members include as below:**

Christchurch Dental  
Christchurch Solicitors  
Gilmour Piper and Associates  
Hightop Window Cleaners  
Ipswich and Suffolk Club  
Ipswich Jaffa  
Ipswich School  
Nicolas Jacob Architects  
Orwell Vets  
Scrutton Bland  
The Cobbold Family Trust  
The Greyhound Inn  
W.D. Coe Ltd  
Woodbridge Antiques  
Woodcock & Son Estate Agents

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions from Members are now due, £10 for each Member or household, £25 for Corporates. Please note the Membership Form towards the rear of the newsletter.

**NOTE – a number of Members have either let their subscription remain unpaid or have not updated their contribution to the recent level of £10 set 2 years ago. To remain as Members for a further year please top up and adjust your level of contribution.**

Follow us on:



@ChristchurchParkIpswich



@ChristchurchPk



# Friends of Christchurch Park - AGM

## 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION by ACTING CHAIRMAN

John Woodcock welcomed the committee, FOCP members, and guests, including The Mayoress, Lyn Mortimer, to the 2024 AGM of FOCP.

## 2 APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from FOCP committee members, Robert Fairchild and Annabel Fields. Apologies also from Peter Gray, Erica & Terry Burrows, Councillors Inga & Tim Lockington and Cllr Carol Jones. Additionally, Anthony Cobbold had forwarded apologies, via Rowell Bell.

## 3 APPROVAL of MINUTES 2023

The minutes were approved, Proposer: Rowell Bell Seconded : Paul Horne

## 4 MATTERS ARISING

None to discuss.

## 5 CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW of 2023-2024

Acting Chairman, John Woodcock, reviewed the year for FOCP, following Peter Gray's resignation in 2023. The loss of such an enthusiastic chair was a hard act to follow. He has now been made a life member to mark his contribution. Since the pandemic many similar organisations had struggled, but FOCP membership has held up. In line with the constitution £5,000 has been donated towards replacement trees. Other notable contributions were the gift of a tree in memory of Russell Reeve, a long term sponsor of Brass on the Grass and an

information board for the Ice House - the erstwhile 'Cinderella' of the park, plus a detailed information board for the Wollemi Pine. It was hoped, in conjunction with IBC to install a picnic table in the park. Suggestions for the siting of this would be welcomed. In addition the usual bird and bat walks had taken place and a new co-ordinator for the flagship Brass on the Grass concerts had been found. Social media was active with over 7,000 FaceBook followers. Thanks were made to committee members who had made valuable contributions, including Peter Gray, Robert Fairchild- FOCPs longest serving member, Paul Horne, Annabel Fields, Jessica Webster, (former treasurer and for managing newsletter distribution). Peter Mann (web-master) and Sylvia Patsalides (minutes secretary) were also mentioned plus a thanks to Rowell Bell for all his 'behind the scenes' assistance. The contributors to the newsletter, including Philip Murphy for leading bird walks and Richard Stewart for follow up articles were thanked as well. Relationships with the IBC parks team continued to flourish and four new committee members were to be welcomed. The Chairman position was still vacant. The offer of free FOCP publications from Reg Snook and David Miller to attendees was made to the floor.

## 6 TREASURERS REPORT

Independent Examiner Rowell Bell, made mention of significant changes to expenses. Newsletter costs had risen as Tuddenham



Press were now graphic designers as well as printers, following the withdrawal of free design, from Clare Thornhill, who was finding it impossible to manage as now located in the West Indies. The negotiation of a reduced public liability policy premium has been arranged by John Woodcock. Approval of accounts was finalised as follows:- Proposed Mavis Hammond seconded JoAnne Bell

## 7 BRASS on the GRASS

Roger Herbert, organiser for the 2024 series gave a condensed update. Thanks went to Peter Gray for assistance with the handover. and the support received from John Woodcock. Risk assessments had already been submitted to the council. This year there would be six concerts featuring Martlesham Brass, Ipswich Hospital Band, Stowmarket Concert Band, Colchester Band, Woodbridge Excelsior Band and Suffolk Phoenix Brass. There are still two bands without a sponsor. Roger Herbert asked the attendees about sponsoring a band.

## 8 NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with the constitution the committee resigned en-bloc. Robert Fairchild had previously sent apologies and confirmed his intention to continue as membership secretary. John Woodcock confirmed he would continue as Vice Chair Paul Horne would continue as committee member. Annabel Fields would continue as Treasurer Jessica Webster would continue as committee member Proposed JoAnne Bell Seconded Reg Snook Nominations for new committee members to be voted on had been received as follows" Roger Herbert proposed Rowell Bell seconded Sylvia Patsalides Peter Mann proposed Sylvia Patsalides seconded Rowell Bell Richard Hudson proposed John Woodcock seconded JoAnne Bell Dennis Miller proposed Paul Horne seconded Rowell Bell The new members were welcomed to the committee. A show of hands confirmed all the above.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jean Hill - drain covers blocked with soil.

Clare Hammond - bandstand (Arts & Craft Shelter) looking shabby

Cllr Oliver Holmes - subject of 'desire lines' across grassed areas and whether anything could be done to reduce unsightly bare earth.

All of these points were to be taken up by Nick Wilcox, new parks manager.

Nick Cater - FireWork Display no longer payment on the gate by cash. It was explained that this was not an IBC event. Details of the organisers were sourced and supplied.

John Woodcock - Expressed thanks for help and continuing good relations with Nick Wilcox, Dean Welham, Jo Nolan and the team at RDVC.

Following the formal part of the meeting, concluded at 19.40, there was a break for drinks and nibbles and then the evening continued with an informative and witty talk by Reg Snook recounting his days as a Wildlife Inspector, and presented The Mayoress, Lyn Mortimer with a picture of tawny owl.



The meeting closed at 20.45



# 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](mailto: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 Avenue, 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)

## Personal Details

Name

Address

Postcode

Email  Tel

## 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

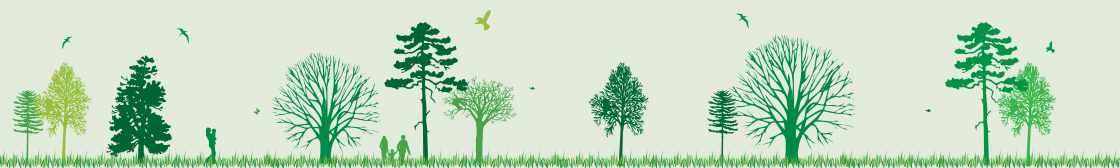
Account name to be debited

Bank and Branch

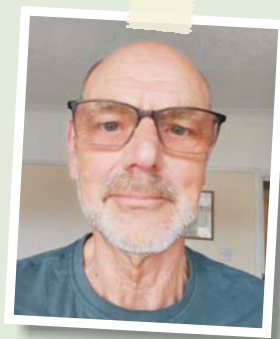
Account number  Sort code

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

Signed  Date



# 10 Questions for Dennis Miller, new Committee Member of the Friends of Christchurch Park



- 1. What is or has been your occupation?** I am retired now but for most of my 40 years of working life I have been a self employed accountant working with business people and private individuals; I still do work for some special clients.
- 2. What is your involvement or connection with the Park up to the present?** I have lived the majority of my life near the Park; I went to Ipswich School and regularly walked across it then - and have done over many years.
- 3. What is your favourite part of the Park?** I specially like the area around the War Memorial and the nearby Wilderness Pond.
- 4. How do you see your role in helping promote the interests of the Park?** I would like to help increase awareness of the ongoing part that the Friends play in working to improve the facilities and well-being of the Park.
- 5. What would you like to see in the way of improvements in the Park?** I feel the one-time Croquet Lawn is an under-used asset; I would like to see it brought into a use that realises its full potential as a real attraction to visitors to the Park
- 6. What is your favourite hobby?** I enjoy working as a volunteer warden with visitors to Orford Ness. I find gardening also a real therapy.
- 7. If you read books what sort do you prefer?** Just what takes my fancy mostly, though I like "series" books; recently I have been reading the "Slow Horses" series by Mick Herron.
- 8. Who is your favourite historical character?** Nelson Mandela
- 9. If you'd had the chance of a different career in life what would it have been?** My father was an accountant so I guess I was somewhat predisposed to that work. But I thoroughly enjoyed accountancy, the people I worked with, the friends that I made through it. So – no, I wouldn't have changed.
- 10. What has been the greatest lesson you have learned in life?** I learned early in life the value of being able to laugh at oneself, not take myself too seriously; also the use of humour to soften some of life's difficult situations.

**by John Woodcock, Vice Chairman FoCP**

