

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

2013 has been a vintage year for Gatton, with the opening of the restored Pulhamite pond, a successful Country Fair, and fantastic run of 'Wilde in the Park'. As we head into the autumn we still have lots of events and activities for families, adults and children. See inside for details.



Gatton Country Fair

Enhanced by glorious weather, this was a really memorable day, with around 1,000 visitors attending! The landscape of the Park was looking particularly fine in the magnificent summer sunshine, and visitors were able to enjoy a wider range of attractions and activities than ever.

Visitors could enjoy pony rides, tractor rides, fly-fishing lessons, boating on the Serpentine, the fun dog show, Newfoundland rescue dogs, birds of prey, reptiles, ferrets, green woodworking, a coconut shy and a skittle alley.

Put on especially for children were an inflatable bungee run, bouncy slide and bouncy castle, a mini-fairground, hook a duck, pond dipping and bug hotel making. The Redstone Big Band played all afternoon and the school music teacher played piano in the hall to start things off. Families could walk around the lake and our usual volunteers were on hand in the bird hide to point out what not to miss. Lots of groups were picnicking and enjoying the sunshine and the view over the meadow and the Lake. With an afternoon like that on offer, who needs Wimbledon!

A huge thank you to the 55 - 60 volunteers, including those from Gatton Community Theatre, for helping out with the Fair. Talking to the volunteers during the day and afterwards, it seemed that everyone thoroughly enjoyed their day at Gatton.

The Gatton Trust

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Reigate,
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RH2 0TW
Registered charity: 1101467
website: www.gattonpark.com

Park and Gardens

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Education

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A Children's Journey through Runnymede

Our education team are very excited to be working on a new project over the next few months based at the National Trust's site at Runnymede. The Landscape Design Trust has developed a project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, about connecting people with the historic landscape of Runnymede and the history of our democracy. We will be working closely with our partners in this project, the National Trust, Egham Museum and Runnymede Borough Council.

Runnymede is the site on which the Magna Carta was agreed in 1215 – a charter which marked the foundations of democracy. As well as this, other significant moments in history are commemorated including memorials to President John F. Kennedy and to Commonwealth airmen and women who lost their lives during the Second World War.



Long Mede, the ancient 'meeting meadow', was once used for haymaking. It was also used by Henry VIII to observe hunting and coursing and in the 1930's a pageant about the Magna Carta was performed here.

School children and members of the public will become History Hunters. Taking part in a variety of activities and using evidence from the past, such as archive documents, plans and photographs, they will explore and discover the historic Runnymede landscape.



Forthcoming Adult Events

Thurs 12th September Heritage Day Tours

10 am/2 pm/3 pm. Meet at St. Andrew's church lych gate. Free. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649068

Sun 22nd September 'Capability' Brown's Vision for Gatton

A tour of the whole of Gatton Park to learn about Brown's vision for Gatton and how this landscape is managed today. Meet at Wray Lane car park notice board. Good level of fitness required
1 – 4pm Cost Adults £10 Children £2 includes tea/cake

Sat 5th October Screen printing

Learn this textile craft technique using your own designs. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649066
10am – 4pm Cost: £35 + materials

Sun 6th October Gardens and Grounds Open

Come and discover more about apples and orchards, with activities for all ages. Enjoy a walk around the park, free activities available for children.
1pm – 5pm Cost: Adults £4 Children free

Sat 12th October Mosaics

Design and make your first mosaic project, completing a small coaster, flower pot or mirror frame. Or for those already familiar with the technique experiment with micro mosaics using the same materials on a small scale. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649066
10am – 3pm Cost: £35 + materials

Sun 13th October Gatton Volunteer Project Day

A one day project to help make a difference in the park. All welcome any age and ability. 10am – 4pm Meet in front of Gatton Hall

Sun 20th October Introduction Pole Lathe Course

A one day course in woodturning using a pole lathe with underwoodsman John Waller in the beautiful setting of Gatton Park. Materials and tools provided. Limited to 6 places. 9:30am – 4:30pm
Course Fully Booked.

Mon 28th Oct – Fri 1st Nov Autumn Ramble Week

Park and gardens open to see the beautiful autumn colours. Light refreshments available. Open daily from 12noon – 4pm Cost: Adults £4

Sun 27th Oct Gatton Ghost stories (Families and over 7 years)

A guide will lead you around the Ghostly Gatton Park to hear some spooky stories to scare your socks off! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649066
Tours start at 5 pm, 6 pm, 7pm and 8pm. Cost: £6 per person
First tour for younger children – it will get spookier the later you come!

Sat 9th Nov Multi-media Textiles

Work with your own memorabilia to combine and create a piece of artwork that is a personal treasure. Play with colour, texture and simple sewing techniques. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649066
10am – 3pm Cost: £35 + materials

Sat 23rd Nov Rag Wreath Making

Create your own shabby chic wreath using reclaimed and recycled materials. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649066
10am – 3pm Cost £35

Sat 30th Nov Family Christmas Decoration Making

Come along for an afternoon of creating Christmas wreaths and other decorations from the natural materials of Gatton Park. Advance booking only: Tel: 01737 649066
10am – 12.30pm or 1.30 pm – 4pm
Cost: £8 for adults, £5 for children

Would you like to receive mailings about our events and activities? Please send your postal and email address to us and tell us whether you would like information on adult or children's courses, or both.

Wilde In the Park

Across two weeks of beautiful summer evenings in July this year, Gatton Park was transported to a world of fantastic fairy stories where animals, plants and inanimate objects talked, and where puffed up premiers, dodgy dealers, cheeky children, a socially responsible statue, three exceedingly seedy old hags and a bird with a killer crush stalked the grounds. Not our usual sort of visitors, but members of the cast of Gatton Community Theatre's **Wilde in the Park**, who were performing some of Oscar Wilde's short fairy stories.

However, these fairy tales contained no fairies, and were written, Wilde said, "Not for children, but for childlike people from eighteen to eighty!" The park was especially lit and the newly restored Pulhamite pond and parterre formed the perfect backdrop to the stories. The large cast of over 50 people of all ages, with a further 20 members of the PATH Choir, were all drawn from the local community, as were the more than 50 backstage helpers.



A tribute to Pat Pay

In June we had the very sad news that Pat Pay had passed away. It was her initial enthusiasm and vision for the potential of Gatton that started off the restoration of the estate. Pat was the engine at the start of the restoration, steering the process through those early challenges. Many a less determined person would probably have given up, but she persevered, and opened the eyes of others to what a magical place Gatton is. During her time as Landscape/Heritage Officer she began by overseeing the restoration of the rock garden. Pat, along with some newly recruited volunteers, excavated the rock garden site using mainly hand tools, and bit by bit they uncovered the beautiful rock garden that we have today. This was followed by the Japanese garden which had been almost completely lost. It was restored as part of the 'Lost Gardens' TV series, presented by Monty Don. While the viewer may have thought Monty had worked his magic, the reality was that Pat and the Gatton volunteers had been at the heart of the process ensuring it all went smoothly. After this she continued to oversee further improvements in the park, such as the restoration of the Dry Arch in 2003 and the Discover Gatton project in 2007. She always championed Gatton wherever she went and never lost faith that the restoration was a just cause. The beautiful park that we enjoy today is her legacy and for that we are eternally grateful.

Forthcoming Children's Events advanced booking on 01737 649066 required

Sun 6th Oct Gardens and Grounds Open

Park and gardens open all afternoon, bird hide open, free guided tours and free activities for children. 1pm – 5pm Cost: Adults £4 children free—no booking required

Sun 27th Oct Gatton Ghost stories (Families and over 7 years)

A guide will lead you around the Ghostly Gatton Park to hear some spooky stories to scare your socks off! All children must be accompanied by an adult. Tours start at 5 pm, 6 pm, 7pm and 8pm. Cost: £6 per person First tour for younger children – it will get spookier the later you come!

Wed 30th Oct All about Owls

Find out about these birds of the night through games, art and trails.

10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Cost: £6 per child (4-7 years)

Fri 1st Nov Toddler Tales and Trails

Enjoy the story of Room on the Broom and go for a walk around the park to bring the story to life. Return to create artwork linked to the story.

10am – 11.30am or 1.30pm – 3pm

Cost: £6 per child (2 – 4 years)

Sat 30th November Family Christmas Decoration Making

Come along for an afternoon of creating Christmas wreaths and other decorations from the natural materials of Gatton Park. 10 – 12.30 or 1.30 – 4pm Cost: £8 for adults, £5 for children

Sun 1st and Sat 7th December Santa's Grotto

Enjoy a golf buggy ride to Santa in his grotto, explore the grounds following a trail of clues and then return to Gatton Hall to make a Christmas decoration. 1pm – 3pm Cost: £5 per child. Tea and cake available to purchase. .

Sat 14th Dec Christmas Craft.

A glue and glitter extravaganza making Christmas decorations. 10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £6 per child (4-7 years)

Advanced booking for all these events required. Tel: 01737 649066.

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Volunteering at Gatton Park



**Pat Blunt -
Volunteer Park Assistant**

Full of enthusiasm and energy, Pat joined us as a volunteer in June this year. She had quit her long term job working for a large pharmaceutical company as it was desk-bound and she'd always wanted to spend more time outdoors and being more active. New to volunteering, she wanted to do something constructive and worthwhile.

She looked at a few places locally, but liked Gatton's choice of volunteering opportunities.

Pat could see from our website that there is plenty of scope to try out a variety of activities and to get involved in different areas.

She says she likes the fact that volunteers at Gatton work in an environment that is individual and unusual and are not part of a big organisation; she feels that things here are much more relaxed and that they benefit from a laid-back atmosphere. Gatton is a lovely unexpected corner of Reigate, and Pat enjoys the exercise, the fresh air and just being out of doors so much of the time.

She believes in what the charity is doing and feels that it is really important to protect the amazing diversity of plant and insect species and to foster and develop all the different habitats there are in the park.

She has gained companionship and feels she has learnt a lot since she joined us. She gets to spend lovely days in the countryside, surrounded by beautiful scenery, and enjoys it all whatever the weather throws at us!

Gatton goes to the Movies!



This year we had two successful cinema nights in partnership with The Luna Cinema. First up we had the *Goonies* which was screened in July for which we had a good attendance. This was followed by *Les Miserables* which was shown in August. This was a record breaking screening for us with around 500 people attending. The parterre is a wonderful setting for this event and this year we were also blessed with two warm summer evenings. The Luna Cinema will be returning again next year so keep an eye on our website early next year for details.

And of course a massive thank you to everyone for all your passion, enthusiasm and pride for Gatton Park!!

Current Volunteering opportunities

The volunteers at Gatton make it what it is. If you would like to get involved there are many different ways you can help out.

Garden Restoration & Maintenance:

Since 1996, the garden restoration volunteers have brought back to life the rock and water garden, the Japanese garden and areas of parkland. These areas need continuing development and maintenance. You don't have to be a gardener to help us but any experience would be useful.

Parkland Management Assistant:

Come and help the Park Warden with the maintenance and development of the park. Work involves hands on woodland and grassland management, habitat creation and surveying.

Estate Tour Guides:

Gatton Park has a rich heritage that we are keen to share with as many people as possible. This opportunity provides you with the chance to develop tours around the park and gardens by using the resources of our recently developed archive. If you have a passion for history and a natural flair for talking to groups, Gatton Park provides a wonderful setting for you to develop your interests. Basic training in how to use the archive and deliver park and garden tours will be given.

Kitchen Garden Maintenance:

An area of kitchen garden has been reinstated by volunteers, for use mainly by the children of the RAA School. You could work in the allotments preparing them for winter or alongside teachers working with children. It would be great if you have any gardening/food growing experience, though this is not essential.

Can you help the Education Team?

We need help on a wide range of tasks. These include:

- Office Manager: look after the office when staff are out with school groups. Manning the phone, taking bookings, giving info on events, checking emails
- Helping with or leading groups of children on indoor and outdoor studies and activities.
- Administrative help, such as computer work and promotional mailings
- "Blue Peter" volunteers: cutting, sticking, colouring, laminating – to prepare for children's activities.
- Helping out at special events or with weekend activities.
- Marketing or assisting with fundraising.

We are happy for volunteers to come any time during the week that fits in with your schedule.

If you would like more information on our volunteering opportunities please call or email us. Our contact details are on the front page