

Welcome to the Gatton Park Autumn newsletter. After another great summer where Go Green was a big success and the outdoor cinema was blessed with two moonlit nights we hope the weather stays with us for our remaining events this year. The parterre project is also underway and we recommend a visit to this stunning transformation in progress!

Parterre restoration project begins!



We are very happy to announce that work has begun on the first phase of the parterre restoration. For those of you who know Gatton you will know what a huge difference this project will make and how much of a transformation it will provide. Local contractor Will Powell has already made great progress ripping up the tarmac tennis courts and re-grading the ground. Amazingly, when the soil was pulled back you could see the grass roots from the original lawn that was buried 60 years ago when courts were installed. From here the paths will be marked out and the grass panels top-soiled and seeded, so the grass will have the autumn and spring to establish. The paths will then be laid and metal edges installed so that they match the current paths in that area. The final phase of the restoration will take place in the spring when we will be repairing the urns that run along the southern edge of the parterre. Do pay us a visit to see how we are getting on!

The Gatton Trust

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Parterre community projects

Alongside the physical work to restore the parterre and the urns we also wanted to use this as an opportunity to improve our volunteering set up and community engagement. Thanks to a grant of £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund we are looking to take on a volunteer and community project officer (see below) who will help us deliver this project. Our volunteer numbers at Gatton have grown over the last few years and we have become aware that some people who would like to volunteer with us can't at present because they have greater support needs. Our aim is to provide this support and improve and diversify our volunteer opportunities. Our other main aim is to improve access to the park by providing more events, tours and supported visits for those groups who at present can't access the park. To achieve this we will be recruiting some more volunteer tour guides to give tours of the site and bring the rich history of Gatton Park to life. We are also looking to set up a friends of Gatton Park scheme which we will be launching at this year's carol concert on the 11th December. All in all we are in for an exciting few years.

Volunteer and community project officer position available

As mentioned above we are looking to recruit a volunteer and community project officer to help us deliver all of our exciting projects and help improve our volunteering opportunities. Are you the person we are looking for? Or perhaps you know someone who might be! We are looking for someone with enthusiasm, who has great people skills and a love of the environment. This interesting job will oversee the different parts of the project which will involve establishing a friend of Gatton Park group, liaising with local community groups to develop group visits and volunteering opportunities. This position will also help out with educational visits to the park and help develop new and innovative ways to use the parterre and the park and gardens. The position is a 2 year fixed term contract and the salary will be in the region of £14,500 per annum. If you are interested contact Glyn who will send you out a full job description and an application form. The deadline for applications is 11th October 2010.

Forthcoming Adult Events

Sun 5 September Gardens and Grounds Open 1-5pm Cost: Adults £3.50 children free

Thurs 9 Sept Heritage Day Tours 10am/2pm/3pm Meet at St. Andrew's church lych gate. Free. Advance booking only.

Sat 11 September Make it, Take it – Making felt bags With artist Sonia Percival. 10 – 3.30pm. Cost £20 (with small materials charge) including lunch. Booking essential.

Sat 18 September Make it, Take it – Caning Part 1 Learn how to use cane to create the seat of a chair with Rachel Fitzhugh. 10 – 3.30pm. Cost £20 (with small materials charge) including lunch. Booking essential.

Sun 19 September Gatton Heritage Tree Walk An early autumn tour with the Landscape/Heritage Officer around the park and gardens to see some of Gatton's stunning trees. 1pm Cost £5 including tea and cake

Sat 25 September Gatton Art Club Enjoy drawing or painting at Gatton You can work in whatever medium you choose, bringing your own materials and equipment. 11.00 – 4pm. Cost £10 including lunch. Booking essential.

Sun 3 October Gardens and Grounds Open 1-5pm Cost: Adults £3.50 children free

Sat 9 October Make it, Take it – Using Natural Materials Design and make artwork using natural materials with artist Sonia Percival. 10 – 3.30pm. Cost £20 (with small materials charge) including lunch. Booking essential.

Sat 16 October Make it, Take it – Caning Part 2 Learn how to use cane to create the seat of a chair with Rachel Fitzhugh. 10 – 3.30pm. Cost £20 (with small materials charge) including lunch. Booking essential.

Sat 23 October Gatton Art Club

Sun 24 October 'Make a Difference Day' Find out what makes Volunteering at Gatton Park so satisfying. 10-1pm; 2-4pm Meet at the glasshouse (by Stables) Bring gloves, suitable footwear and lunch if staying all day.

Sat 13 November Make it, Take it – Keeping a sketchbook / journal getting your ideas in one place. With artist Sonia Percival. 10 – 3.30pm. Cost £20 (with small materials charge) including lunch.

Sat 27 November Gatton Art Club

Fri 10 December A Christmas Carol – In conjunction with the Archway Theatre Company. 8pm. Cost: £8 including mulled wine and mince pie. Booking essential

Sat 11 December Carols by Candlelight. 7pm Cost: £12 including mulled wine and mince pie

For advance booking and more information on all these activities please call us on 01737 649065 or visit our website: www.gattonpark.com

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.



Fairy Tale Treasure Hunt

At the end of spring **Gatton Community Theatre** (GCT) held their "Fairy Tale Treasure Hunt". It was a lovely sunny day and well attended with over 600 people coming to enjoy the Park and join in on the Treasure Hunt. Families followed a trail setting them on a walk through Gatton Hall and out into the neighbouring gardens to find clues to many of the traditional fairy tales that children, parents and grandchildren have enjoyed listening to and telling over the years. Children and adults alike had great fun meeting fairy tale characters and stealing "gold" coins from the thief hiding in the rock garden. To finish, tea and cake available in the Hall at the end of the walk was a welcome addition. Many thanks go to the GCT members and Gatton volunteers who worked so hard to make the day a success and fun for all.



Busy Summer term

Our School programmes were fully booked throughout the summer term with children coming from many different schools to enjoy outdoor learning at Gatton. For older primary school children Maths, Maps, Matisse and Monet became fun. For younger visitors, Gatton's Chief Bear, Edward, seen on good authority fishing down by the lake by several reception children this summer, has been very busy. He has organised over 15 Teddy Bears' Picnics this term taking visiting Teddies for their picnic while their young owners spend the morning learning about the park with Gatton Education Staff and Volunteers. Woodfield and Furzefield School also returned to visit the living willow sculptures that they started in the winter to find the willow sprouting and growing well in the summer warmth. London school children have also continued to enjoy the park during the summer as the London Schools Project has been able to take up few spaces that came available in July as the term neared completion.



Forthcoming Children's Events

Sun 5 September Gardens and Grounds Open for families

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Half Term Events for Children

Tues 26 October Paint and Glue - Bats and Beasties (8-12)years.

Celebrating dark nights making your own beastie 10 -2pm Cost:£9

Wed 27 October Hibernating Animals. Find out how animals prepare for winter through games, activities and art. 10-12 noon or 1.30-3.30pm. Cost:£5

Thurs 28 October Start Art – Haunted Houses (4-7years). Create your own haunted houses and spooky characters to live in it. 10-12 noon or 1.30-3.30pm. Cost:£6

Sun 5 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 party crown. 1-3pm £3.50 per child (adults free). Tea and cake available to purchase

Sat 11 December Paint and Glue – Christmas (8-12 years). Make it, paint it, stick it, draw it and then cover it in glitter! 10-2pm. Cost: £9

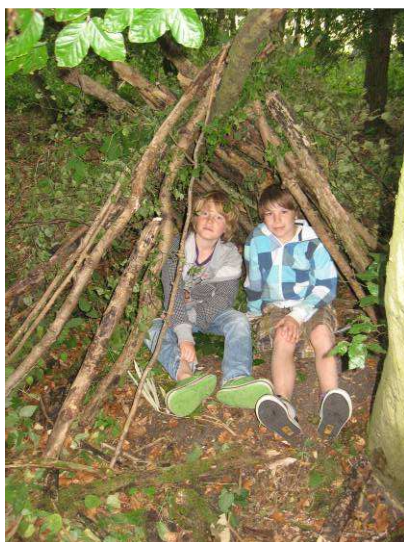
Sun 12 December Start Art – Christmas (4-7years). 10-12 noon or 1.30-3.30pm. Cost:£6

For more information on all these activities please call us on 01737 649066 or visit our website: www.gattonpark.com

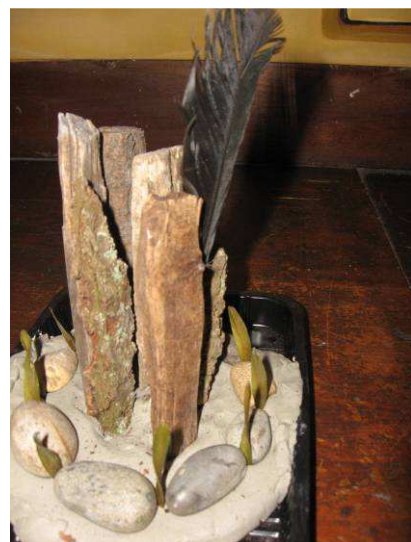
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Summer holidays



We have had a busy time with two on going programmes running side by side this summer. We have had both our usual summer day programmes for children including camp building and art and craft days and it is with thanks to our sponsors, The Netherby Trust, The Four Winds and The Henry Smith Charity that we have run a second year of "Explore and Create" which has provided environmental activities such as pond dipping and bug hunting mixed in with art and creative activities for local children and families that otherwise would not be free to get out and about for fun and activities during the holidays. Almost every day has been busy with children engaged in an activity of some kind and some of the art work has shown up some real talent among our local youngsters.



Volunteer opportunities at Gatton Park

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 and 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

Kitchen Garden Volunteer:

Get involved in a project to restore the areas of the walled kitchen gardens. The first part of this project aims to reinstate an area of kitchen garden for use by the children of the RAA School. This will involve laying out paths and beds in which we intend to grow a variety of different fruits, vegetables and herbs. We also intend to establish an orchard to complement the small orchard that we already have. With this opportunity you have the option to either work on the gardens, in a small group, or alongside the teachers working with the children. It would be great if you have any food growing experience though this is not essential.

Animal Care Assistant:

Help us with the management of the animals that we keep in the park. You will be working with our staff to help with the management of our chickens, pigs, goats and ornamental birds. If you have a preference to work with one particular type of

animal this can also be facilitated. No experience is required as training will be given, but if you do have experience it would be very useful.

Can you help the Education Team?

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

- Helping with or leading groups of children on in- 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 anytime 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