

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Summer has finally arrived and we are getting ready for a busy season ahead. There is plenty to do in the park and gardens and the education team have a packed schedule with lots of summer holiday activities.



Gatton Country Fair

On Sunday 3rd July we have our annual Gatton Country Fair from 12-5pm. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and is always a great day out for the whole family. We will have plenty of countryside, nature and wildlife stalls on the parterre as well as children's activities, food stalls and a Pimms bar. Out in the park we will have a Newfoundland dog rescue display, pony rides and punting along the Serpentine.

We have our Fun Dog Show with classes including 'Waggiest Tail', 'Most Like Owner' and 'Child Handler'. We will also be holding a Fun Bake Off competition for children (Age classes: Up to 7 years, 8 to 11 years, 12-16 years). Enter your best homemade cupcake by 1pm for judging. We will also have a 'Decorate a Biscuit' and 'Create a Vegetable Animal' competition on the day.

The Gatton Trust

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

Events

Tel: 01737 649068
email: events@gatton-park.org.uk

Education

Tel: 01737 649066
Fax: 01737 649067
email: education@gatton-park.org.uk

Harvest Mice

We started our harvest mouse (*Micromys minutus*) release project earlier in the year. Harvest mice are thought to be in decline and are listed as a BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) Species which means they are under threat and require conservation action. Our breeding pairs have been busy and we are delighted that our first three releases of the young harvest mice went well.

A feeding platform has been constructed with a motion sensor camera. The mice are fed at irregular intervals to prevent them becoming dependent on the food but it allows us to monitor if the mice are still around. They have regularly been seen on the table and appear to be doing well. There are also signs they may be breeding.



Loveworks tour

We were pleased to welcome the Loveworks Cuppa Tea Club to Gatton Park on 26th May. The Cuppa Tea Club is a monthly social event for elderly residents in the local area and was set up to help overcome loneliness in later life.



After sandwiches, cake and of course a cup of tea the group had buggy tours around the park led by our two volunteer guides, David and Geoff. The group had lovely weather and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get out and see the park and gardens. We are hoping to arrange another date in 2017.



Goodbye and thank you

Adrian Smart has been the chair of our board of trustees since the start of the Gatton Trust (and previously the Gatton Park Education Trust). He has decided to step down at the end of August.

We are truly grateful for all of his support of the charity over the last 20 years.

Adrian (far right) pictured at our Parterre opening,

Forthcoming Adult Events [Book online: www.gattonpark.com](http://www.gattonpark.com)

Sun 3rd July Gatton Country Fair

A great day out for all the family. Country crafts and demonstrations, children's activities, fun dog show, gardens and grounds open.
12 noon – 5pm
Cost: Adults £5 children free

Sun 7th August Gardens and Grounds Open

The Great Jelly Baby Free Art Hunt. Explore the grounds to find your hidden golden jelly baby to claim your free art. In conjunction with Art Matters.
Park also open as usual open day.
1pm – 5pm
Cost: Adults £4 Children free

Wed 13th – Fri 15th July Sun 17th & Mon 18th July Mon 8th – Fri 12th August Tea in the Japanese Garden

Why not treat your friends and family to morning or afternoon tea in our Japanese tea house? Surrounded by nature, enjoy exclusive use of the garden for a cream tea or variety of cakes, tea and coffee. Buggy ride included! Morning & afternoon slots available. Max 6 adults per group.
Adults £10 per person.
Children £5 each. (£40 min charge).
£10 Deposit required to reserve booking

Sun 4th September Gardens and Grounds Open

Special 2 for 1 entry for members of the Surrey Hills Society. 1pm – 5pm
Cost: Adults £4 Children free

Thu 8th September Heritage Day Tours

10 am, 12pm and 2pm Meet at St. Andrew's Church lych gate.
Free. Advance booking only:
Tel. 01737 649068

Sat 10th September Landscape iPad Drawing Workshop

A one day landscape iPad drawing workshop, led by local iPad artist Andy Maitland. The workshop is suitable for beginners with an understanding of using an iPad. Light refreshments and lunch included.
10:30am - 4:30pm. Cost: Adults £70

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

'Capability' Brown Celebrations

To celebrate the tercentenary of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birth, who landscaped the estate at Gatton Park, we have many activities happening throughout the summer. We are also welcoming several local groups for visits to the park .



The Surrey Gardens Trust

The Surrey Gardens Trust are holding a 'Capability' Brown study day at Gatton Park on Tuesday 12th July 9:30am – 4pm. Brenda Lewis will talk about the 'History of Gatton Park' as well as her role in advising on the Historic Restoration Management Plan, Steffie Shields will discuss her upcoming book *Moving Heaven & Earth: Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape* and Louise Miller, Gatton Park Chief Executive, will speak about 'Gatton Park: Present and Future'. There will also be guided tours of the grounds.

Cost: £22 for Surrey Garden Trust members (£25 for non-members). Includes tea, coffee and refreshments upon arrival, lunch with glass of wine, lectures, guided tours and afternoon tea and cake. Enquiries to: Sheri Sticpewich on Sticpewich@btinternet.com or 01483 201048

Picnic with the Past

Fancy meeting the great landscape architect 'Capability' Brown? Over the August Bank Holiday weekend we are celebrating 'Capability' Brown with a special family event 'Picnic with the Past'. We will have costumed characters of 'Capability' Brown and the Colebrooke family to interact with. Bring along a picnic and enjoy the stunning Brown views.

You can enjoy Georgian pastimes and a children's dressing up corner. This event is in collaboration with Gatton Community Theatre. Light refreshments will be available to purchase. Georgian Fancy Dress is welcome.

Sunday 28th and Monday 29th August 12pm-4pm
Cost: Adults £8 Children free Pay in advance via our website or on the day (no credit/debit cards facilities available on day).



Forthcoming Children's Events [Book online: www.gattonpark.com](http://www.gattonpark.com)

Monday 25th July Pond-dipping (4 - 7 yrs)

Explore the animal life in Gatton's ponds.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Mon 1st August Pirate Adventure (4 – 7 yrs)

Games, crafts and trails as you join the Gatton Pirate Crew!
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Thurs 4th August Rainforest Art (4 – 7 yrs)

Create a rainforest scene using lots of art techniques.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Mon 8th August Wizard Trail (4 – 7 yrs)

Follow the challenges around the park to complete your wizard training.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Tues 9th August All about Bees (4 – 7 yrs)

Discover more about Gatton's bees from our bee keepers. There will be honey tasting, crafts and outdoor activities.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Thurs 11th August Wizard Challenge (8+ yrs)

Complete the physical and mental challenges as you find your way around Gatton Park and become a young wizard!
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Tues 16th August Bug Hunting (4 – 7 yrs)

Go in search of beetles, ladybirds and other bugs in the meadows and woods.
10am – 12 noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

Thurs 18th August Bat Night (6+ years)

Watch bats flying over the ponds and learn lots about these amazing creatures.
7pm – 9pm Cost: £7 per child

Mon 22th August Junk Model - Space (4 – 7 yrs)

Build your own amazing rockets, space stations or flying saucers from junk! 10am – 11.30am or 1.30pm – 3pm
Cost: £7 per child

Thur 25th August Art in the Landscape (8+ yrs)

Enjoy time drawing and painting outside at Gatton with helpful advice from our tutor.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £7 per child

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

Volunteering at Gatton Park

Corporate Volunteering

Teams of corporate volunteers are really important to get big projects complete as they are able to make a significant impact in one day. We really appreciate the extra people power available when we get these larger groups.

In May we welcomed a group from Canon UK Ltd, Reigate. They were lucky with the weather and spent the afternoon clearing the Japanese Garden. The group worked hard on reducing the amount of bamboo which can be invasive and take over whole areas.



We also had a group from Pfizer UK Ltd, Tadworth in June who have helped us prepare and tidy our gardens so they are looking their best for our Gatton Country Fair.

For info on how your company could volunteer contact us on volunteering@gatton-park.org.uk

Growing Together

Our Growing Together project sponsored by the Morrisons Foundation is going well. This pilot programme to develop a plant nursery to be run with groups of vulnerable adults started back in March. The team have been working hard and the whole group is pleased to see the results already. The lettuce plants are looking particularly impressive. We are planning to have a stall to sell some of our produce at the Gatton Country Fair with more information about the project on display.



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 other 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 management of the woodland and grassland, 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.

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

At Gatton Park we want our volunteering to be flexible so we will endeavour to fit your schedule.

If you have a **skill** which you think might be of use to us then please get in touch.

We offer **corporate volunteering**. Please get in touch for more information or a leaflet.

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