

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

The park and gardens are now showing the signs of autumn with the leaves turning colour and the fungi are appearing across the park. We are holding our Autumn Ramble Week from Monday 27th to Friday 31st October so make sure you visit us for a chance to see the spectacular autumn colours yourself (details in events section on page 3).



We've been thinking about the smaller inhabitants of Gatton Park—the insects! Bug hotels are a great way to encourage children to think about insects and the important role they play in our ecosystem. Together with a group from Canon we have created an area to be used by the education team that includes four bug hotels. As well as creating some young insect enthusiasts hopefully we can also encourage some children to make their own smaller bug hotels at home.

The bug hotels are located in Cedar Walk which is used frequently by the education team and is also the next project area we will be working on. Currently Cedar Walk gets very muddy and so we will be laying a new path which will be usable throughout the year. This will also complete the walk all around the lake to be enjoyed on our open days.



The Gatton Trust

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

Park and Gardens

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

Education

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

Canon Woodworking Day

For Gatton Park encouraging corporate volunteering is an increasingly important way of gaining support. One company who works with us to create one-off volunteer opportunities for their staff is Canon. As part of Canon's Environmental Week a small team from Gatton Park visited Canon UK's Headquarters in Reigate on the 21st October. A group of Canon's employees got the chance to try out different woodworking activities. This included making mini hurdles using willow weaving techniques, making wooden beetle mallets and lastly using a shaving horse to create a round (also known as a billet) which is then turned on a pole lathe to create rolling pins and dibbers.



Kate, the park warden, commented "everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and luckily the marquee stayed standing throughout the day even with the strong winds from the tail-end of Hurricane Gonzalo!!"

Please get in contact if your organisation would be interested in supporting us in this way or via corporate sponsorship.



Grazing in the park

The beginning of September marked the arrival of our sheep. The group of 15 black welsh mountain sheep, on loan from the National Trust, will be with us over the winter. Kate, the park warden, with some of our volunteers have the daily duty of checking the sheep. The sheep are full of character and the lambs are particularly adventurous and friendly!

Gatton Ghost Stories

Our Gatton Ghost Stories event is happening again this year on **Sunday 26th October**. Brave visitors will be led around Ghostly Gatton Park with a guide to hear some spooky stories. There are tours at 5pm, 6pm, 7pm and 8pm with the first tour for younger children and getting scarier throughout the evening.



Other activities include biscuit decorating and will you be fearless enough to try our Halloween feely boxes?

Why not come along in your best Halloween costume? Cost £6 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 01737 649 066 or email education@gatton-park.org.uk to book a place on a tour.

Forthcoming Adult Events

Mon 27th October – Fri 31st October

Autumn Ramble Week

Park and gardens open to see the beautiful autumn colours.

Light refreshments available.

Open daily from 12noon – 4pm

Cost: Adults £4

Sat 8th November Upcycle clothing - make your own unique skirt

Customise a skirt using patch, stitch and textile collage techniques.

10am – 3pm Cost: £35

(materials cost for skirt template if you don't have an old skirt £12)

Sat 22nd November Rag Wreath Making

Create your own shabby chic wreath from reclaimed material

10 am - 3 pm Cost: £35 including all materials

Sat 29th November Family Christmas Decoration Making

Come along for an afternoon of creating Christmas wreaths and other decorations from the natural materials of Gatton Park.

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 email address to us and tell us whether you would like information on adult or children's courses, or both.

News from the Education Team

Orchard Project

After the planting of the orchard over the autumn, winter and spring of 2012/13, this autumn will mark the start of our first large education project with the orchard. Schools, local groups and members of the public will have the opportunity to visit and learn about orchards.

We held our apples and orchard open day at the beginning of October which allowed members of the public to visit and enjoy the orchard as well as get involved with other activities including apple tasting, apple juicing demonstration, apple prints and making apple crumble. We will also be encouraging other local community groups to use the park. This will include

visits from local family support groups.



In November the orchard will be used for school visits focussing on the importance of orchards for food and wildlife. The visiting local primary schools will also create a giant fruit structure from willow with an artist. Pupils from the Royal Alexandra & Albert School will be researching historic orchards and will then be involved in designing interpretation boards for the Gatton Park orchard.



Forthcoming Children's Events

Sun 26th October 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 29th October Batty Adventures (4-7years)

Discover more about these creatures of the night through games, art and trails.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £6 per child

Sat 29th 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 30th November and Sun 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 13th December Christmas Crafts (4-7yrs)

Get the glitter out! Christmas decorations for younger children.
10am – 12noon or 1.30pm – 3.30pm Cost: £6 per child

Fri 19th December Toddler Tales and Trails (2 – 4 yrs)

Enjoy the story of The Gruffalo's Child 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

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



Wildlife Surveys

Several of the volunteers have been working with Kate, our park warden, on wildlife surveys. These have included a butterfly and dragonfly survey as well as moth trapping. As expected there was a drop in species numbers for the recent September survey although they still saw a Small Copper butterfly as pictured above. Kate is hoping to run some small mammal surveys later in the year. Next year surveys will include birds, butterflies, moths and dragonflies. If you are interested in helping next year, then please get in touch.



Open Air Cinema

The Luna Cinema group bought their open air cinema back to Gatton Park again this year. With a sold-out show on 19th September, Dirty Dancing was shown on the big screen. The weather was perfect for the screening and everyone seemed to have a fantastic time.

The logistics of stewarding 600 people and their vehicles onto the Park was certainly not an easy challenge. However with the help of a team of volunteers we got everyone safely parked and ready for the big showing. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped us take on the challenge!!



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

Camping & BBQ

On 29th August some of the staff and volunteers from Gatton Park got the chance to camp out in the park. They were luckily enough to see a barn owl and little owl. They also had a early morning wake-up call from the tawny owls.



Maternity Cover

Whilst Fern is on Maternity leave, Emily will be covering the role of Volunteer and Community Project Officer. Emily had previously taken on an internship as Volunteer Coordinator at an RSPB reserve as well as a role in community fundraising and working at a cat rescue sanctuary. Emily is looking forward to getting to know the fantastic team of volunteers and getting stuck in with the different events.

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 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.

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 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