

Welcome to the Gatton Park Summer newsletter. As ever we have been busy in the park and gardens so do come along and see what we've been up to. We also have a full programme of events and activities for you over the coming months and we look forward to welcoming you to Gatton, hopefully in the sunshine!

Go Green at Gatton returns! Sunday 4th July 1-5pm

This year's event on the 4th July promises to be even bigger and better than last year.

We have a greater diversity of stalls with lots for families to see and do. There will be bird displays by Henfold birds of prey and Horsham working Newfoundlands will be doing rescue displays in the ponds. We have local crafts people giving displays and a chance for you to help out making a willow sculpture for the park. There will be lots of stalls with activities for children like make your own wildlife wristband. There will also be stalls providing information on local environmental issues and how you can get involved. There will also be lots of great food on offer from Mother Bhumi Bhajis to St Johns Farm Dairy Ice Cream providing something for all tastes. Hope to see you there!



The Gatton Trust

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One man went to mow

Our local farmer Bernie has just started the hay cut on the park. This is a big job and we are very grateful for his assistance with this. Taking a hay cut is an essential part of the management of our grasslands. It is this cut that removes the bulk of the grass and creates space for other plants to thrive. The display of cowslips and ox-eye daisies has been stunning this year and the good news is this will get better year on year. This cut will be followed up by grazing in the autumn with cows and sheep.



London Schools

The London Schools project has been a great success with 17 schools in all coming to Gatton through out the late winter and spring time. The programme has allowed children from inner London boroughs to learn outdoors accessing the countryside and Park in a way that they are unable to do at home. The enthusiasm of the teachers and children made working with these schools really rewarding. One of these schools, Brockley Primary School have developed the work they did at Gatton on Matisse and how he was influenced by natural forms that they now have the work on there school web site. The park has been put to use for many other subjects from team building to magical maths. Along with our regular school visits the volunteers and staff in Education have been kept busy with full bookings through to the end of term in late July.



Forthcoming Adult Events

Sun 4th July 'Go Green at Gatton' Country Fair

A great day out for all the family. Country crafts and demonstrations, children's activities, gardens and grounds open.

1-5pm Cost: Adults £4.00 children free

Sat 17th July 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. Advance booking is required.

Sun 1st August Gardens and Grounds Open

1-5pm Cost: Adults £3.50 children free

Sun 15th August 'Capability' Brown's Vision for Gatton walk

A walking talk taking in the whole of Gatton Park to learn about Brown's vision for Gatton and how this landscape is managed today. A joint tour by the Gatton Trust and The National Trust. Meet at Wray lane car park. Good level of fitness required

1-4pm Cost: Adults £10 Children £2 includes tea/cake Booking through NT Booking Line 01372220644

Sat 21st August Gatton Art Club

11.00 – 4pm. Cost £10 including lunch. Advance booking is required.

Mon 23rd – Tues 24th August Outdoor cinema by Screen on the Green

Screen on the green returns to show another great mix of classic & contemporary films under the stars.

Mon 23rd - Breakfast at Tiffany's

Tues 24th - Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark

Booking through the website: www.screenonthegreen.com

7.30pm Cost: £8.50 Refreshments available on the night

For more information on all these activities please call us on 01737 649066 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.

Bugs and Beasties

In May the children from Furzefield school came back to Gatton Park to visit the living willow sculptures that they build together with Woodfield's school. With the help of the artist Karen Lucas the children had come to the Park for several days during February and early March braving the cold snowy weather to plant the willow in the form of a spider and two beetles. The willow bugs are growing well and can be seen at the bottom of Cedar walk where the spider especially, attracts lots of attention from the school children on school trips exploring the ponds and woods.



Furzefield "bears" and the Spider in the woods.

With thanks to our sponsors, The Even Cornish Foundation, The Bellinger Donnay Charitable trust The Ernest Cook trust The Merstham Millennium Trust

Education staff and volunteers are now busy making blue peter proto type "bugs and beasties" fashion accessories for children to make on our stall for Go green at Gatton on the 4th of July.



Volunteer BBQ

On the 13th June we held our annual volunteer BBQ which 48 of our volunteers attended. This BBQ provides us with the opportunity to thank our volunteers for all their hard work throughout the year. Volunteers from all the different parts of the Trust had a chance to meet and find out what each other has been up to. Thankfully the sun shone and the chefs Bob, Gerald and Justin didn't overheat while cooking. We are all very excited at the prospect of next years BBQ being held with a view over the restored parterre. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer there is a list of opportunities on the back page and on our website.

Forthcoming Children's Events

Summer Holiday Events for Children

Sun 1 August Gardens and Grounds Open for families

Tues 3 August Start Art Pirates Ahoy! (4 – 7 years) Art activities for young children *Session 1 10 – 12 noon Session 2 1.30 – 3.30pm Cost: £5*

Wed 4 August Pond-dipping (4 – 7 years) *Session 1 10 – 12noon Session 2 1.30 – 3.30pm Cost: £5*

Fri 6 August Camp-building (8 – 12 years) Come and build a camp in the woods with your friends. *1.30 – 4pm Cost: £5*

Mon 9th August Family Treasure Hunt! (4-7 years) Follow the clues around the park. *Session 1 10 – 12noon Session 2 1.30 – 3.30pm Cost: £5*

Tues 10th August Paint and Glue (8-12 years). Nature's Playground exploring and gathering to make nests and animal collages and mobiles. *10am–2pm cost £9.*

Wed 11 August Bug Hunting. *10 – 12 noon or 1.30 – 3.30 Cost: £6 per child*

Tues 17 August Textile art school. (8-12 years). Tie dying and making felt. Create a banner using your textiles *10am – 2pm Cost: £9*

Mon 23 August Pond-dipping (4 – 7 years). *10 – 12 noon or 1.30 – 3.30 Cost: £6 per child*

Tuesday 24 August Air Raid! (8 – 12 years). WWII Drama workshop – become a child in the Second World War for a day. *10am – 3pm Cost: £10 per child*

Wed 25 August Fun with mud (4 – 7 years). What lives in the soil, mud art, build a wormery. *Session 1 10 – 12 noon Session 2 1.30 – 3.30pm Cost: £6 per child*

Thurs 26 August Bat Night (6 – 12 years). *7-9 pm Cost: £5*

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

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Hop Garden dam repairs and pleasure gardens restoration

The works to the hop garden dam that we reported on in the last newsletter have now been completed by local contractor Will Powell. As well as stopping the dam from leaking we have also managed to clear and restore the lower part of the former pleasure gardens. This area once consisted of meandering paths through open lawns punctuated by groups of ornamental trees and shrubs. This clearance work has allowed us to expose some of the original Victorian plantings which are now mature. This type of clearance is great because it provides you with an instant effect. The main areas that were once lawns will now be cultivated as different types of meadows and will be managed with different cutting regimes to provide a variety of different wildflowers. We hope to create something that is both beautiful and educational, so do come and visit to see how the project progresses.

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