

# Newsletter

## March 2016



### Editorial

At the AGM in March the following members were elected to the committee and subsequently adopted the roles below.

- John Bruce - Events team
- Sylvia Chubbs - Membership secretary
- Sarah Coulbert - Social Media
- Susan Folkes - Web master (chairman)
- Paula Murphy - Treasurer
- Ian Pannett - Conservation Working Party co-ordinator
- Tony Ruffle - Membership team

Following our volunteer meeting last year, Ros Martin was co-opted as a member of the events team

We would like to thank John Bruce, Neil Cook, Marcus Jordan, Sally Morris, Fred O-Hare, Ian Pannett, Ted Putland, Jennie Randall and Tony Ruffle for leading walks in the Park this year; Marian Clarke and Margaret Harrington for their help on our event evenings and our stand at the May Fayre; and Chrissie Hudson for her contribution in publishing our events on the Bromley website.

It is with sadness that we hear of the death of Jim Macey who passed away last month. On the committee from 2005-2008, he was the first secretary of our Friends group. We offer condolences to his family.

Our management team has undergone major changes over the last year. Ros and John have very effectively shared the task of producing a varied and interesting schedule of walks and talks. We have had to rotate the role of secretary. Due to lack of manpower we were unable to produce a newsletter in September.

We are always looking for people who can share their skills by volunteering on the work days or in managing our group activities. Brawn or brain, if you feel you have something to contribute please talk to a member of the committee or contact us.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter, by supplying articles, photos, proof-reading or just ideas and encouragement. Without them we wouldn't have a newsletter. Can I hear anyone saying "I could do better than that"? If you would like to jump in and help with getting news out to our members by newsletter, Facebook, Twitter or anything else then please get in touch.

If anyone would like to respond to this or any other article please feel free to contact us on email at [jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk) or use the contact details at the end of the newsletter.

*Susan Folkes, Chairman*

### Membership

Some of you may have noticed that we have had a few blips with our membership records this year. I think we are back to a complete set of records and we apologise for any inconvenience. If you hear of anyone who should be getting this newsletter or the monthly event notifications but isn't then please notify us using the contact details at the end.

At the end of 2015 we had around 175 households and 277 members. About 70% members are on email and this saves us a considerable amount on postage but increases the workload as we need to produce all our communications in both digital and hard-copy formats. A number of our tasks increasingly need the use of technology and we always need members on the committee who are adept at using the computer.

This year we have had a dozen new members already largely due to a sterling membership drive by Jean Archer. Please encourage a friend to come along to one of our events and join. If everyone introduces a friend we'll double our membership and increase our influence!

### What the Conservation Work Party have been doing

*by Ian Pannett*

On a grey raw Monday morning in early February I received a message from Sue Holland, our work party supervisor, that she was unable to join us for our work day in the park. Not only did we have to alter our planned tasks for the morning but I had to announce to the many hardy souls who turned out that there would be no tea break! Along with

any materials and equipment we may need, Sue brings two large flasks of hot water for tea and coffee. Even though we resigned ourselves to a morning without a hot drink everyone valiantly got on with the work (we do enjoy it really). Later on I heard that Paul, (one of our newer recruits) offered to provide refreshments and had cycled home on his bike. He returned by car and proceeded to set up a picnic table with nice china mugs (not our usual plastic ones), tea, coffee and a tin of biscuits all in time for the 11.30 break. Thank you Paul, much appreciated.



*Tea courtesy of Paul du Pressis, photo by Ian Pannett*

Jobs completed last summer included repairing and painting the tables in the picnic area. The St. James's School entrance notice board support posts were reinforced and painted. The Tent Peg Lane board was painted and a bench repaired and board walk wire replaced on the gun site meadow. In the autumn, vegetation and over hanging branches were again removed at meadow entrances to allow access for the hay cutting tractor. We continued removing saplings from the gun site and scrub clearing from meadow edges. The annual grass cutting of Nick's Glade was completed by hand as there is no access by tractor, done at the end of October in glorious warm sunshine. During the winter we have coppiced hawthorn in Thornet Wood using the material for stakes and bindings. Some of this is being used for a perimeter fence after clearing the "island" in Thornet Wood car park. We were asked to reduce the height of vegetation to allow better sighting of parked cars as there have been thefts from vehicle break-ins. We have continued to cut away overhanging branches from paths, digging out vegetation from ditches and ponds - so you can see we do earn our tea break!



*Bromley Countryside Volunteers having a break from hedgelaying*

*Sandy Backus, chairman of the Devon Rural Skills Trust, said: "The wildlife in a raddled old hedge with everything falling out is non-existent, so every time you lay a hedge you are creating a better environment for wildlife."*

*More than 600 species of plant, 1,500 of insects, 20 mammals, and 65 species of birds, many of them declining farmland species with few other places to shelter or nest, have been recorded living or feeding in hedgerows. Hedges survive today largely as a refuge for wildlife and is the main reason they continue to be laid.*

You may have noticed the major hedgelaying task which has been completed over the last few weeks alongside Bob's Land. This hedge was really overgrown and the last time it was laid was in the opposite direction. Apparently hedges are best laid from right to left (does this mean you must be right-handed to be a hedge layer?). As there is a nasty barbed wire fence on the other side, the hedge had to be carefully dismantled and relaid from the Park side. This job



was largely done by the Bromley Countryside Volunteers with a little help from our Friends. And doesn't it look good! In no time at all new growth will be seen and the hedge will again be a haven for wildlife.

## Jennie's Jottings

*by Jennie Randall*

### Jennie's pond

Jennie's pond, which the Friends created in 2014, has proved to be remarkably successful in helping to alleviate the water-logging of Bob's Land in winter months. However, in times of extremely heavy rainfall even this pond reaches full capacity and is in danger of over-flowing. In order to remedy this, the Friends are now giving consideration to having a proper drainage channel dug to act as an overflow. At the same time, we will also arrange to have the level of the path directly adjacent to the pond raised slightly to prevent water settling there. We are awaiting quotes on this.



*Jennie's pond - much reduced flooding - 5 Mar 2016*



*Alan's new sign*

Also on the subject of Jennie's pond, Alan Saban has now carved a beautiful sign for it, complete with the Friends emblem flower of chicory. Do go and take a look! For those new to the park, Jennie's pond is the second pond along the path from Blackbrook Lane car park. We were pleased to see frogspawn in the pond this week and just missed a photo of a very fat frog.

### Tent Peg Lane Car Park

For several years the increase in commuter car parking in Tent Peg Lane car park has been a cause of concern and many complaints to the Friends, the Site Manager and the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Cllr. Colin Smith. Due to the proximity of Tent Peg to Petts Wood railway station commuters have availed themselves of the opportunity to park free of charge throughout the day. This significantly reduces the availability of parking space for genuine park users, for whom the car park was provided in the first place! On many occasions, there are no spaces left at all and this has caused great inconvenience both to park users and to members of the work party.

Toby Smith, the Enforcement Manager at Bromley has been tasked with finding a solution. Subject to consultation with other park users he is proposing that the car park at Tent Peg Lane only will be closed from dusk until 9.00 or 9.30 am when the main body of commuters will have found somewhere else to park. Genuine park users will be able to park in Blackbrook Lane or Thornet Wood car parks. Toby has already asked their contractors to fill the potholes in these car parks. To minimise the impact on our volunteers he has suggested that we hold a key to the gate so that can let ourselves in. We hope that this will be resolved in the next 6-8 weeks after consultation has taken place.

Also on the subject of Tent Peg Lane car park, minor subsidence near the entrance has been reported to Bromley Council. As a result, it is now on their list of works to be repaired although no date for this work has been given.

### Replacement Picnic Bench

The Friends work party will soon be installing a second picnic table on the Gun Site in the area beyond the formal picnic area. We are just waiting for it to be delivered. This has been funded by a grant from the WIG (Woodland Improvement Grant) applied for by Bromley Council. The new picnic table will be a welcome replacement for a previous one on the site which was sadly destroyed by fire in 2012. It will provide a useful additional picnic place for everyone but dog-walkers in particular as dogs are not permitted in the hedged picnic area.

## Jubilee Country Park Butterflies 2015

*by Tony Ruffle*

We continued to walk the Jubilee Country Transect and return each week's result to Butterfly Conservation.

Compared to 2014 more Speckled Wood and Gatekeeper were seen whilst Meadow Brown and Ringlet were less prolific. We reported 11 Holly Blue against none in the previous year.

The last 2 summers have been good for Brimstone but poor for Purple Hairstreak.

It is difficult to report on trends as the numbers of most species can vary dramatically from year to year. As an example we recorded 677 Meadow Brown in 2006, 647 in 2015 but 1570 in 2012.

## Jubilee Country Park Small Mammal Report

*by Marcus Jordan*

The refugias laid down at Jubilee Country Park are randomly checked during the course of the year, it was found that five species were seen on a regular basis, together with two species of reptile.

wood mouse  
bank vole  
short-tailed field vole  
pygmy shrew  
common shrew  
slow worm  
common lizard



*Leaders Small Mammal Walk 15 Nov 2015*

For the small mammal exercise twenty traps were laid out in Thornet Wood and the adjacent meadow with the following results: 9 wood mice, 1 bank vole and 1 weasel.

## What's On - to September 2016

This year Ros and John took on the not trivial task of plotting the walks and talks programme. The events have been well attended. Both afternoon sessions attracted around 35 people. Because of the increasing costs of the venue and the speakers, this year we have had to ask for donations and are grateful for the response we've had. £3 is not a lot to ask for the quality of speakers we are attracting and a contribution to the costs of refreshments is also welcome. Our Social afternoon in January was boosted by the late addition of a talk by Jennie Randall on the history of the park. This was well received and everyone enjoyed the cakes made and donated by our army of bakers. Thank you everyone who baked cakes!

As we enter the balmy days of spring and summer we hope the walks will also be well attended. Please come. Most walk leaders are eager to share their knowledge and give their time for free and it is very discouraging to have walkers numbering in single figures. In the survey, there was an overwhelming request for the bird walk but the last one we organised was very poorly attended. As an innovation this year we are adding a nature walk led by a number of people who know about birds, butterflies and flowers so there should be something for everyone. Check the latest Events List included here.

Any future additions are published on posters, on Tony's monthly update and on the web-site. Where possible they will also be included in the Gazette, Newshopper and the Bromley website.

## Social Media March 2016

*by Sarah Coulbert and Susan Folkes*

After a tentative 'foot in the water' in 2014, last year we attended a training course funded by the Friend's Forum to set up and grow our Facebook presence.

Now, all new events and workdays are published and we eagerly await feedback from those who attended. The advantages of becoming our Facebook friend is that these entries can form automatic reminders for you. However, it is possible to view photos, news and upcoming events without joining Facebook by accessing our page at <https://www.facebook.com/jubileecountrypark/>. Go on, if you're reading this online - try it now and like us!

In the 28 days up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 30 People saw our updates and events on our Facebook and we now have 37 'likes' from people watching our page. Please help us make it 100!

We have seen walkers and community groups link to the GPS location for Jubilee Country Park and for those non-members who do find us on Facebook we clearly display a 'Sign Up' link that directs people to the "Join Us" part of our website.

We also have a "Facebook group" for the Friends of Jubilee Country Park who are also Facebook users with 8 members currently. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1457255954536705>

On the website we continue to have steady usage. If you have a Facebook account you can join the Jubilee Country Park group from the link on the front page of our website.

Part of our photo album is now on Flickr at Jubilee Country Park.

Please let us have your thoughts for improvements, your photos, feedback on any of the walks led by volunteers from the Friends, stories about the history of the Park, or any local events you may like to publish.

## Fund Raising

Websters Social Stationers, Petts Wood were great supporters of the Friends and raised hundreds of pounds for us through the sale of my two books, Jubilee Country Park – Its History and Heritage and Not Forgotten – The Crooked Billet. Sadly, Websters closed last year but its replacement, WH Smiths Local, Petts Wood, have kindly agreed to carry on the tradition and continue to stock my books as part of their commitment to help the local community. Hopefully the Friends can support them too.

*by Jennie Randall*

Following the success of the sale of plants at the May Fayre we will be repeating the exercise this year. I have recently taken delivery of the popular "Fire Queen" geraniums and spent many happy hours potting them up. I have given the little ones a good talking to and settled them into their new environment to watch them grow. Other varieties will be delivered this month. Enclosed is a brochure showing all my plants on offer. These are not all - there will be other mystery plants available from Alan Saban, Ian Pannett and possibly others. If you would like to avoid disappointment then you can pre-order from me using the contact details below.

*by Susan Folkes*

## Friends Survey – A Big Thank you

*by John Bruce*

John Bruce and Ros Martin would like to give a big thank you to all members who completed the recent short survey. So far we have received nearly 90 questionnaires – 63 online and 24 on paper. This is an excellent response and one that is likely to fairly represent the views of the members.

By the time of the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> March I will have analysed the results and will present the findings there.


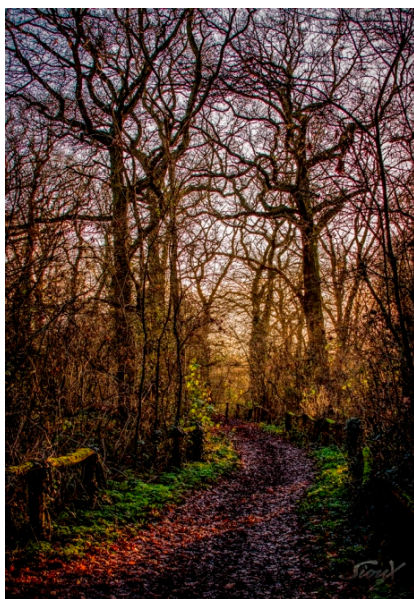
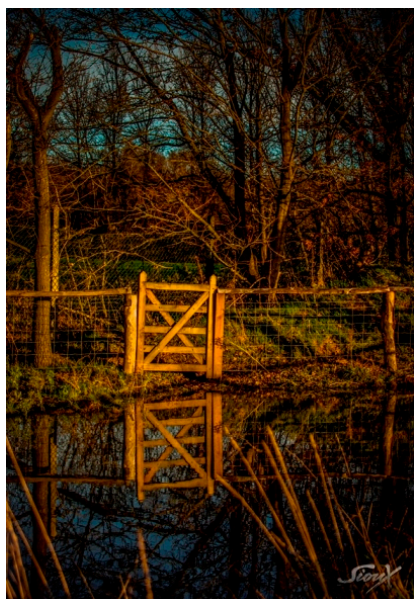



First indications are that the walks and talks that have been organised in the past are very popular, and members want them to continue. Favourite subjects for walks and talks are wild birds, flowers and trees, insects and butterflies and local history. Members have also suggested a number of new ideas that will keep us busy for a year or two.

As far as projects are concerned there is a lot of support for a specially designed wheelchair walk. This will require a lot of thought and work so we would welcome any members volunteering to help. Do let any member of the committee know if you would like to join the project group.



## Some images received over the year

if you have any images you'd like to share please send them to our email address. To see other images see our Flickr gallery "Jubilee Country Park".

		
<i>by Sioux Gijzen 10 Jan 2016</i>	<i>by Sioux Gijzen 10 Jan 2016</i>	<i>Rays pond by Sioux Gijzen 10 Jan 2016</i>
		
<i>Heron by Ian Pannett 29 Feb 2016</i>	<i>One of Jubilee's snowmen before it melted by Hugh Stewart 18 Jan 2016</i>	<i>Very wet vole on the small mammal walk 15 Nov 2015</i>

## A Slice of History

The Friends were recently contacted by Linda-Jane Peters (nee Doyle) who was born in 1948 and lived until 1971 at 42 Crest View Drive, Petts Wood. Linda-Jane has sent us some wonderful photographs of the local area and shared with us some of her recollections of the area that was later to become Jubilee Country Park...

"I am now 67 and living in Sheffield on the edge of the Peak District. Thornet Wood ( I never knew it had a name) was my playground as a child, where picking cobnuts, blackberries and wild flowers together with walks after school with our neighbour, Daphne Mason and their dog Toby, filled some of my happiest moments. From that small woodland and the three bridges walk to Tongs Farm and Chislehurst, I acquired a deep love of nature that has never left me and nourished my art when in later years I became an artist and art teacher. Indeed, a secret reason for choosing my current home was that it backed on to Sheffield's Ecclesall Woods just as my old home had done on Crest View Drive.

I grew up with many wartime anecdotes from my parents, aunts and uncles who had lived through it in Petts Wood. My father was in a reserved occupation as a transport manager up in the City of London and one morning set off to work to the station. During the day there had been a raid and a bomb had fallen in the road on the corner of Crest View

Drive. In the evening, returning in the dark in a pea-souper fog, he fell down into the crater and arrived eventually at the front door covered in thick clay. With extreme difficulty Mum cleaned his suit, etc., so that it was fit for work the next day. The following morning he set off to work carefully avoiding the hole in the ground. That day, unbeknownst to him, the crater was filled and the gas board opened another pit on the opposite side of the road to repair the gas main. Yes, same fog that night, he carefully skirted the supposed crater and fell down the gas main hole! My mother was convinced he had fallen down the new hole deliberately and it was something he never lived down.



*" We played on the Gun Site although strictly forbidden to do so and I remember soggy flooded passages leading inside the gun emplacements".*

Uncle Bill spent his war as a soldier on Salisbury Plain and never saw active service overseas, so when he came to stay on leave and the big guns opened up blowing our French doors open during a family meal, everyone carried on eating their dinner, however, no sign of Billy! He was under the table. Again, he never lived down this episode!



*Marjorie Doyle holding my sister Jeanne and our neighbour Daphne Mason, residents of 40 and 42 Crest View Drive circa 1938/9*

My parents had watched dog fights taking place in the skies above the house. One day Mum saw a German plane flying very low across the roof tops below the radar, she could clearly see the pilot's face. Later, she learnt that he had bombed a school playground killing a large number of the children who were outside playing.

The night of the bombing of the Crooked Billet my parents had intended to go there, my sister Jeanne became ill that day with Scarlet Fever, so they changed their plan and stayed home, they heard the rocket fall. It was a lucky escape without which I wouldn't be here.

My parents always knew when a raid was coming because long before the warning siren went off the cat would crawl on its belly under the sideboard! I still remember the air raid sirens being tested long after the war. Although I was born in 1948, I can recall the frightening wail of the siren.

One day I hope to come and have a wander around Petts Wood again though I know it has changed enormously in the intervening years. I have many happy memories of my childhood, schooldays, and student life in Petts Wood and the people who made them.

*by Linda-Jane Peters*

If you'd like to find out more about the history of Jubilee Country Park I will be leading an additional walk, included to the enclosed Events List, on Sunday 10th April starting at 10am at Tent Peg Lane car park. This is a repeat of previous walks that I've given. It is a gentle stroll of less than 2 miles.

*by Jennie Randall*

## **Finally - Spring Cleaning? - A message from Cllr Smith:**

I just wondered/it crossed my mind ... with the 'Spring cleaning' season upon us once again (and the inevitable queues at Waldo Road about to sprout for the seasonal two or three weeks that it does each year) whether it might possibly be of interest to you/your residents to remind people of the Council's webcam facility at Waldo Road tip?

[http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/531/civic\\_amenity\\_and\\_recycling\\_sites/81/waldo\\_road\\_reuse\\_and\\_recycling\\_centre](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/531/civic_amenity_and_recycling_sites/81/waldo_road_reuse_and_recycling_centre)

Clearly anything which might save a wasted journey or time stuck in a queue being a good thing all round.

## **Contacts**

web address: [www.jubileecountrypark.btck.co.uk](http://www.jubileecountrypark.btck.co.uk)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jubileecountrypark/>  
email: [jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk)  
write to: Susan Folkes, 41 Lovelace Avenue, Bromley, BR2 8DG  
phone: Ian Pannett, 07976 409743

*The Committee - Friends of Jubilee Country Park*

*March 2016*



**Friends of Jubilee Country Park**  
**Financial Accounts 2015**

Balance as at 7 Jan 2015 **£2,041.51**

Money In:

Book Sales (Crooked Billet)	313.50
Book Sales (General)	14.00
Book Sales (Jubilee Park)	60.00
Donations	945.24
Fridge Magnets / Bookmarks / Pens	54.60
Jam Sales	26.04
LBB Survey	100.00
May Fayre Sales	173.70
Pens	22.00
Plants	133.00
Subscriptions	825.00
Subscriptions 2016	120.00
Subscriptions 2017	5.00
	<b>£2,792.08</b>

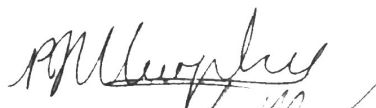
Money Out:

Event Costs	40.00
Hall Hire	280.50
Mobile Phone Costs	10.00
Pen Costs	28.93
Projector	329.99
Provisions	168.59
Speakers	326.76
Stationery	16.48
Tools+Equipment	98.52
	<b>£1,299.77</b>


Balance as at 7 Jan 2016 **£3,533.82**

Signatures:

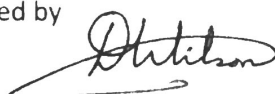
Treasurer



Chairman



Accounts examined by



## Friends of Jubilee Country Park – Plants for Sale from May 2016

**Salvia 'SEASCAPE'**



Annual supplied in 4 inch pots £2.00

This Salvia comes in cool shades of blue and is great for attracting bees & butterflies to the garden all summer long. They have fantastic all weather tolerance.

**Height** 35-40cm (15-18in)  
**Spread** 20-25cm  
**Flowering** May to First Frost  
**Planting Position** Full sun to partial shade

**Geranium 'FIRE QUEEN'**



Annual, supplied in 3 inch pots £1.50

Geranium Fire Queen is a timeless Bedding Plant variety. With it's attention grabbing vivid red flowers set against luscious green foliage, it is sure to enchant the Summer through, until the first frosts in the Autumn

**Height** Approximately 30cm (12in)  
**Spread** Approximately 25cm  
**Flowering** June to October  
**Planting Position** Full sun

**Geranium Trailing Red**



Annual supplied in 5 inch pots £5.00

These deep scarlet blooms contrast beautifully with the luscious dark green foliage and will bloom continuously from May until the first frosts. Trailing up 80cm, they will provide you with a striking display in your baskets and garden planters

**Trail:** Approximately 80cm  
**Spread:** 10-15cm  
**Flowering:** May to first frost  
**Planting position:** Full sun to partial shade

**Geranium White Ivy**

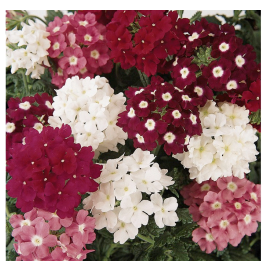


Annual supplied in 5 inch pots £5.00

This Trailing Geranium is a beauty with its tumbling mass of pristine white blossoms and dark green ivy-shaped leaves. Geranium White Ivy is an excellent performer with good all weather tolerance.

**Trail:** Approximately 80cm  
**Spread:** 10-15cm  
**Flowering:** May to first frost  
**Planting position:** Full sun to partial shade

**Verbena Glory Days**



Annual supplied in 4 inch pots £2.00

A Popular Compact Variety - tried and tested old classic, Verbena Glory Days will produce an abundance of vibrant red, pink and white blooms all Summer long. Compact in habit, these large flowered plants are easy-to-grow and are reassuringly resilient making it an excellent component to your borders, beds or patio pot displays!

**Height:** 20-25cm  
**Spread:** 15-20 cm  
**Flowering:** May to first frost  
**Planting position:** Full sun to partial shade

Contact Susan Folkes on 077 3970 9383 or email [jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jubileecountrypark@yahoo.co.uk)

*All profits go toward supporting the work of the Friends of Jubilee Country Park*

**Friends of Jubilee Country Park**



**DISCOVER**

# **JUBILEE COUNTRY PARK**

## **Its History and Heritage**

*by Jennie Randall*

**In 60 pages you will take a journey through time from the Bronze Age to 2012.**



**This book is a compilation of**

- stories
- anecdotes
- drawings
- photographs (many previously unpublished)
- newspaper accounts and
- extracts from a wide variety of sources

**All have contributed to the fascinating history and heritage of this beautiful Local Nature Reserve.**

**Only £5.00**

**from Petts Wood Library  
W H Smiths, Petts Wood  
Southborough Library  
Bromley Local Studies Library,  
Beeche Visitor Centre, High Elms  
Beckenham Books**

**All profits will go towards the work of the Friends of Jubilee Country Park  
find out more about the Friends at our website [www.jubileecountrypark.btck.co.uk](http://www.jubileecountrypark.btck.co.uk)**