



Talk from The Walk

Friends of Fishermans Walk Newsletter

March 2009

Report from your Chairman

Dear Friends

Another busy year has passed so quickly, and many thanks are due to so many people for "making it happen"- not least your hard working Committee!, Working with the invaluable support of Brian Heppenstall of the Parks and Countryside Team, they have been responsible for several successful events over the past 12 months.

These included the 95th birthday of Fisherman's Walk, which was originally planned for May, but was "washed out", and eventually rescheduled for August! This event was our most successful ever, and over 500 people came along to help us celebrate. We enjoyed live music from several local bands, and were delighted that local celebrity Tony Adams of BBC's "The One and Only" was able to come and entertain us with his Frank Sinatra tribute act.

The event coincided with the

Thank you for your support!

Your help and financial support is so much appreciated, and your membership renewal is essential to us- our only funding for organising events is from membership subscriptions and donations. Our membership has increased this

official opening of the Walk's Nature Trail, which features designs carved by artist Rachel Huggett. The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth, Cllr. Stephen Chappell and his wife, Pippa.

Our Halloween event was also a huge success and well attended, with both children and adults in amazing fancy dress costumes. Thanks especially to Connie Rothman and her storytelling team from Southbourne Library, and our local Police Officers who manned the barbecue for us.

The Christmas Event, too, proved popular, and was organized in conjunction with Churches Together in Southbourne.

Special thanks are due to our local Councillors, for

year, meaning we can hold bigger and better events for you, but PLEASE do make sure you continue your support by renewing your membership, and coming along to enjoy the results of all the hard work

their support and help at each event.

Interpretation Boards depicting wildlife at The Walk are due to be installed this year, and the original artwork will be on display at the forthcoming Members and Guests evening on Friday 20th March at the Avalon Beach Hotel, 43 Grand Avenue, Southbourne. Please come along and join us for a light buffet and glass of wine. Your invitation is enclosed.

Also, please visit our new website, www.fishermanswalk.co.uk, which we are currently developing, with our latest reports and plans-

With all good wishes

Chris Mayne

Chairman

which goes into organizing events at The Walk!

We have recently applied for additional funding from the Lottery funded Breathing Spaces, so that we can continue to improve The Walk for your enjoyment!

In this issue

The Walk's 95th party

Nature Trail

Halloween

Christmas

Information Boards

New Website

Members and Guests Evening

Overleaf...

Bluebell wood planted

Dog control

Naturewatch in The Walk

Bournemouth History Walk

Brian Heppenstall, Community Parks and Countryside Officer, writes.....

Dear FFW Member

Your support has once more made possible to enjoy yet another successful year at The Walk!

As Community Parks Officer for Bournemouth East, it has been a great pleasure to see this Open Space improving every year since the formation of the FFW. The many events that have taken place have proved very popular and extremely well organized.

The work that have taken place over the past 12 months has seen

Naturewatch

For those interested in wildlife, at this time of year watch out for birds using the bird boxes we installed in 2008– this is nest building time! From March, look out for the brown-grey Speckled Wood Butterflies, with the males locked in their graceful spiraling clashes over defence of their

the addition of the beautifully carved nature posts which have inspired interest– children particularly love to touch the shapes of the animals on the wood! The posts carry great local significance as the wood was sourced from trees felled in Queens Park– a great example of recycling!

Over 100,000 bluebell seeds have been sown over large areas in the site, although sadly we will not see the flowers for at least a couple of years. When they do flower, they will provide magnificent

territories. Also, although it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the different species of blue butterflies, watch for the Holly Blue, the first ones to appear each spring.

If you have children, they will enjoy investigating the plants around the edges of the pond from late spring onwards– they may find the skins shed by the dragonflies as

bluebell woodland which I believe will rival any other bluebell wood in the area– and attract even more visitors!

Following the improvements which have taken place, there has been a marked decrease in graffiti, and dog fouling is happening less (perhaps also because several fines have been issued for failure to “pick up”). These are positive signs that the Walk and other users are being increasingly respected.!!

they emerge from the water clinging to the grasses. (They can impress their friends by calling it by its Latin name: “*excuvia*”)

Forthcoming Event.....

I can't finish this letter without plugging the event we at the Community Parks and Countryside Team have organized on Saturday 21st March.

Why not join us for the Great Bournemouth History Walk at 10am, leaving from the car park at the South end of Alum Chine. The walk will last around 3 hours, and costs £3.00 per adult, with kids coming free!!

The walk will incorporate a hilariously informative look at the colourful cast of historical characters who have formed part of Bournemouth's past.

Should be fun!!

Thank you once more, for your support, assistance and enthusiasm for Fisherman's Walk, one of Bournemouth's most important historical Open Spaces– it is so impor-

tant to preserve, conserve, use and enjoy this lovely “breath of fresh air” at the heart of our community.

Most sincerely

BRIAN HEPPENSTALL

CPC Officer, East Bournemouth