

Dear All,

Things have been quiet for the Friends group over the summer, however the Town Council have been busy with plans for the proposed visitor centre in the park. The Greensand Trust have organised several successful summer events including the exciting Community Archaeological Dig in July, which uncovered the remains of Henry VIII's Palace.

The Greensand Trust has been busy obtaining further funding for landscape and conservation management of the park. The winter tasks for the Friends of Ampthill Park are listed opposite. If you want more information please don't hesitate to contact us (contact details are overleaf). All tasks will be supervised by one of us and we will supply tools, safety equipment and refreshments. Children over 12 are welcome but they will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The work this autumn will focus on the re-landscaping of Laurel Wood to recreate two vistas originally developed by Capability Brown, with an associated woodland coppicing programme to keep paths open and maintain the health of the woodland.

We look forward to seeing you and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support at Ampthill Park.

Bob and Lorna

### **Saturday 5th September**

- Laurel Wood ride clearance

### **Tuesday 8th September** (Greensand Trust Volunteers)

- Wet Flush clearance (Conservation work)

### **Saturday 3rd October**

- Laurel Wood margin management

### **Tuesday 6th October** (Greensand Trust Volunteers)

- Oak and birch sapling removal at Leg of Mutton Pond

### **Saturday 7th November**

- Clear new Vista at the "Standing"

### **Saturday 5th December**

- Clear new Vista at the "Standing" & a festive feast

### **Saturday 2nd January 2010**

- Coppicing of Laurel Wood

### **Saturday 6th February**

- Scrub and tree thinning in the Shelterbelt by Woburn Rd

### **Saturday 6th March**

- Thinning of birch near the wet flush

## Recent Activities in Ampthill Park

### Long grass in the Park

You may have noticed this year we have allowed the grass in some areas of the park to grow long. This is to encourage the growth of wildflowers and attract wildlife. The hay has recently been cut, bailed and removed by a local farmer.

### Bug lab

Greensand Trust's Bug Lab tour came to Ampthill Park on 4th August. 40 children accompanied by their parents spent a fun afternoon searching for bugs and doing junk modelling. It was a fantastic event and we hope to do it again next year.

### Bat Walk

On 13th August we held our annual bat walk, lead by the Bedfordshire Bat Group. The weather was ideal and we saw lots of bats and would like to thank the bat group for volunteering their help.

The Friends of Ampthill Park meet at the western car park at 10:00am and finish around 4pm. Please wear old clothes and strong (preferably steel toecap) footwear.

**Lorna Walker and Bob Holland**

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# Ampthill Great Park

## Friends of Ampthill Park

*A volunteer group run by the Greensand Trust and Ampthill Town Council to encourage local people to help look after Ampthill Great Park*

*Newsletter and Work  
Programme Autumn &  
Winter 2009/10*

