

Rain stops some play at the Hogsmill Street Party

In June local residents, Hogsmill Action Group volunteers and community organisations all had a great day out at the Hogsmill Street Party. Over 300 people enjoyed strolling around the information stands, hearing about the history of the area, and finding out about local groups. Kingston Tour Guides and local historian Isobel Robinson both led walks along the Hogsmill to regale residents with stories of the scandals of the area in the mid 19th Century, when the Hogsmill was a milling river.

Many residents completed a survey about the Hogsmill Valley Walk to find out how local people and walkers would like to improve the Walk. Residents were asked about their favourite memories of the Hogsmill – as expected, many have happy memories of seeing kingfishers or herons but one lady said her happiest memory was falling in the river aged 8!



Children had a great time with local artist Stephany Gardiner, tracing the

flow of the river in chalk across the bridge. Children of all ages enjoyed the Raft Race, particularly some 'big kids' who were just as keen to see their raft win as their children!

Gwenda Mark, local artist, mum and gardener said :

Rain literally stopped play as the sunny weather unexpectedly turned into a torrential downpour! The bands and BBQ team found themselves standing in puddles, although many people stayed on to munch damp burgers with an acoustic accompaniment until it was clear the party was over.

The Party was organised by local residents living along the Hogsmill, Hogsmill Action Group volunteers and supported by the Royal Borough. Bentalls, Kingston Town Centre Management, Kingston University and Majestic Wine all generously contributed to help support the event.

The Party organisers are now recovering before planning for next year starts in January!



Progress on the Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy

The Council approved Local Area Strategies (LAS) 3 and 4, these are the detailed plans for improvements to the Hogsmill Walk earlier in the summer. Since then we have been working hard to carry out the improvements. Over the next few months walkers using the Hogsmill should notice new signage, better lighting, improved paths and the removal of graffiti. A Japanese Knotweed eradication plan should also start to reduce the amount of this invasive plant by the river.

In addition to the improvements above, the LASs outline the plans to complete the walk by the river itself. It currently deviates from the Hogsmill along two significant stretches, once in Kingston and again in Old Malden. Although it may take many years for the Walk to be completed in these areas, every opportunity to achieve this will be looked at.

For more information about the Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy and the Local Area Strategies please contact Suzanne.

Hogsmill Action Group



We've got a number of activities lined up for the autumn and winter. I do hope you can come along. Thames Water has made a generous donation to the Hogsmill Action Group activities so we will now be able to purchase new equipment and provide a hot cup of tea at every clean up, and lunch on the 10 October!

Sunday 10 October 2004

Clean Up at Lower Marsh Lane

Although this part of the Hogsmill Walk is not by the river itself, it is a well used path and links the Hogsmill Walk in Kingston to Elmbridge Meadows. As this route is well used by walkers and cyclists, it desperately needs a HAG Clean Up! Due to Thames Water's generous support we can provide lunch after the Clean Up at The Berrylands pub.

We will be meeting at 10am at the top of Lower Marsh Lane, at the junction with Villiers Avenue outside Dairy Crest.

Sunday 7 November 2004

Hogsmill Walk

This will be our second year of Hogsmill Walks, so do come and enjoy the autumn colours with friends and family. As usual, we will be meeting at 10am at Charter Quay, with a lunch break at the Hogsmill Tavern at 12.30ish. We should get to Ewell Village at around 3.30pm, although everyone is welcome to join and leave at any convenient point along the route. Stewart Cocker from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and Kingston Ecology Officer, Marie-Claire Edwards will be talking about the ecology and management of the area as we walk.

Sunday 5 December 2004

Hedgerow planting in Kingston Cemetery

Marie-Claire Edwards the Ecology Officer has been working with officers at Kingston Cemetery to improve the biodiversity of the site. Hedgerows are important for biodiversity as they provide a habitat for birds, small mammals and many different insects.

'Hedgerows' are one of the Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) in the Kingston Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

A new hedgerow is planned as part of the nature conservation measures that the cemetery is implementing. If you would like to help plant this important element of the biodiversity improvements please meet us at the main Cemetery gates on Bonner Hill Road at 10am. Your work will be appreciated by generations to come.

Please do come along to any or all of these events, and bring friends, family and colleagues!

Friends of the Hogsmill

The Friends of the Hogsmill in neighbouring Epsom & Ewell have not been inactive since the last newsletter. The group has had a presence at a number of community events within their borough resulting in the recruitment of many new members. To kick-start the fund raising for the group, on 17th August a very successful 'school bash' event was held at the Wheatsheaf Pub in Ewell Village. All admission tickets were rapidly sold, and as a result of the funds raised during the event the group are now planning to produce and distribute a quarterly Newsletter to their members.

Future events include another 'litter pick' on 2nd October to remove any unsightly litter and debris from the river and embankments. Members, and anyone else interested in participating, should meet at the Hogsmill footbridge along the footpath that connects Oakland Way, Ewell and Crosslands Road, West Ewell from 09.45am for a 10.00am start. It is planned to finish at about 2pm. Volunteers must be over 16 unless accompanied by an adult and everyone is advised to wear old clothes and sturdy footwear (or wellington boots).

Anyone who may require further information is invited to telephone the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Countryside and Community Development Team on 01372 741191, or contact the Group's Chairman, Chris Dadson, on 020 8393 4706 or log onto their website at <http://fothos.ukwildnews.co.uk>

If you would like to be kept upto date with regular news and information on the Hogsmill, or have any comments or suggestions, please contact Suzanne West on 020 8547 5347, email suzanne.west@rbk.kingston.gov.uk or write to her at the address opposite.



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