

Hogsmill supporters breach the Borough border!

The Kingston HAGs and the Friends of Hogsmill from Epsom and Ewell met recently to enjoy a walk along the Hogsmill river. Many also brought friends and family to see how much the river and the surrounding areas has improved in the past year as the result of the regular river clean ups. Marie-Claire Edwards, Kingston's Ecology Officer led the walkers through Kingston and highlighted the diversity of flora that can found in an urban centre. Stewart Cocker, Countryside and Community Development Manager at Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, took over the reins at the borough border and led the walkers through the more rural stretch of the river corridor.



Suzanne West, Kingston's Local Agenda 21 Officer, said 'I'm very pleased that we are now working closely with Epsom and Ewell to encourage more residents in both boroughs to actively enjoy the river and surrounding areas. Most people here today have helped clear up the river in the last year or so, and its great to see them bring friends and family along to see the difference it's made'.

All change at the Hogsmill News!

Apologies for the delay in this edition of the Hogsmill news. Hogsmill Valley Walk Strategy Co-ordinator, Emma Lamey, moved onto new pastures earlier in the year. Local Agenda 21 Officer, Suzanne West, has taken over the co-ordination of the project and will now produce the Hogsmill News. If you have an article, poem or picture that you would like to submit for publication please contact Suzanne!

Hogsmill Birthday Bash

The Hogsmill Action Group project celebrated its 1st birthday in style back in January! Over 40 volunteers turned up over the two days to collect litter and flytipping from the banks and paths along the river in Kingston and Old Malden. The groups worked hard in the winter sunshine, removing litter and flytipping, including several car parts, a vacuum cleaner and six car tyres.

It wasn't all work though - the Hogsmill Tavern in Old Malden kindly provided a very welcome lunch for the volunteers on Sunday, which was a wonderful opportunity to defrost frozen feet and enjoy getting to know other HAGs.

The HAG project also spread across the border into Ewell! A group of volunteers led by the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Rangers worked along the Epsom and Ewell stretch of the river over the weekend. Read about how their work is developing over the page!

Hogsmill Street Party

Sunday 27 June

Local residents, HAGs and community groups will be 'celebrating the Hogsmill' on 27 June by holding a Street Party on Knight's Park Bridge. From 2pm there will be a several walks and talks running so anyone interested in the local area around the river in Kingston will be able to find out more about the history and how the river has changed. Children will be able to find out about the history and nature of the river by taking part in creating a chalk drawing of the river. Later in the day there will be a barbeque and the opportunity to hear local bands, relax with friends and enjoy meeting new people in the local area.

Bat and Glow Worm Walk

Thursday 1 July

Join Marie-Claire again to look for bats and glow worms along the Hogsmill and Bonesgate river corridor. Meet where the Hogsmill goes under the Kingston Road (A240) in Epsom and Ewell, by Tolworth Court Farm at 9pm.

Friends On The Other Side Of The River

For those of us who attended, no one will forget the major litter pick of the Hogsmill that took place at the end of January this year! From amidst the many skip loads of rubbish that were retrieved from the river arose the "Friends of the Hogsmill", a willing band of Hogsmill enthusiasts with a love for wildlife and a desire to protect one of Epsom and Ewell's most valuable open spaces.

The group got off to a very strong start after its first meeting at the end of March. They have clearly defined their role as a pressure group for nature conservation and have already participated in another litter pick which took place in April. However, not content with just picking litter, the Friends, working closely with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Countryside and Community Development Team, intend to undertake wildlife surveys and practical conservation tasks on the Hogsmill and create a newsletter in the not too distant future. Ever willing to embrace the world of modern technology, the Friends have even created their own website. This contains details about the Friends as well as information about the Hogsmill's wildlife and history and up and coming events. There is even a mailing list that can be subscribed to. To find out more please log onto <http://fothos.ukwildnews.co.uk/>.

Litter is never far from the Friends' minds however, and they will again help organise a large scale clean-up of the Hogsmill in October. This event will also be the launch pad for a major recruitment drive, where the Friends will go all out to promote themselves.

With so many proactive and enthusiastic people at the helm, the Friends of the Hogsmill is showing all the signs of being a positive force for nature conservation in Epsom and Ewell. If you would like any further information about the group then please contact its Chairman, Chris Dadson, on 02083934706 or log onto the website!

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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