

**BAXTER'S FIELD NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2018
HAPPY SPRING**



Our welsh daffodils have survived the cold weather - frosts and snow. - They are flowering now on the field bank along Bradford Road.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
June 14 Thursday 7.30pm Christ Church
Hall Fitzjohn Road.**

We have opted for an evening meeting this year in the hope it will help more people to come and not lose a weekend afternoon. The Annual Report, Agenda, mins of the last AGM and notes on the proposed new constitution will be sent to you in May.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE NOW!

WHAT'S HAS BEEN GOING ON IN THE FIELD?

It snowed and gave the children a few days of fun. It was lovely to hear and see them enjoying themselves. In the end, tobogganing was taking place on frozen grass!



TREE WORK

The vandalised horse chestnut has had two major branches reduced as they have been identified, by our tree surgeon, as the ones most likely to fall first. When the leaves open, hopefully the reduction will not be too obvious.



Bonny's Wood arborist cutting the branch.

The bark of the trunk round the back has regrown to cover a hole where canker was evident and there are signs that bark is beginning to form on the front

scar which still looks so glaringly awful. It has a long way to go but it is a hopeful sign.

The small beeches to the NW have been crown lifted to 3m. This is to inhibit tree climbing and branch breakage. Brushwood has been left for habitats and any suitable wood logged up and sold for field funds. Many thanks to energetic haulers and choppers. There are still logs available. Stock up now for next winter!



Left. Christine Newman standing on the air raid shelter a vent in the snow of 1963 & right, hauling logs out of our store in the shelter - maintenance Sunday work 2018

Photos: Snow scene - Sue Fasquelle.
Daffodils/logging /Christine 2018 - FW
Christine 1963 - Colin Newman

Newsletter compiled by Fran Whittle

Regular maintenance mornings continue with a few loyal workers but more help is needed. Next date – Sunday April 8th 2018 9am to 12.30 weather permitting. and usually first Sunday morning of each month.
GREAT GREEN GYM.

PROJECTS

FENCING AROUND TREES

Our insurers are expecting the horse chestnut and the big beech which lost a huge branch last year, to be fenced for safety reasons. The fence at the end of the bowling green has also collapsed – a combination of rotting of main posts and vandalism. We are reusing fencing from the northern boundary plus some new top-up and work will start soon. *Help will be needed to carry in supplies - can you help at short notice? 01273 472251*

THE MAIN ENTRANCE

As many of you will know the entrance surface has deteriorated to a point whereby it is becoming dangerous to enter there especially on wet days. We continue to try and get ESCC to take responsibility for the amount of water which pours into the field at that point from the road.

The Lottery Fund has awarded us £10,000 for the gate work so thank you to them and all who play the lottery. **The Yorkshire Building Society** has given us £1600 and **Lewes Town Council** £750. We are so grateful for this support. Renewing the copse fencing and gates in that area will also be done along with the handrail down the main path. Recycled plastic wood will be used (the copse bridge is made of this material and shows no sign of deterioration).

NEW PICNIC BENCH

A second bench has been gifted and ordered and will be installed shortly. We also plan to place a picnic table suitable for wheelchair air users near the bench at the corner of the western flat area as soon as funds are available.

SECOND NOTICE BOARD

To be placed at the lower entrance. It is to be made out of recycled materials.

BAXTER'S FIELD is to be named as a designated green space in the new Lewes Neighbourhood Plan.

FUNDRAISING

Despite the grants we have received, which are for specific projects, we still need to raise funds for on-going annual expenses such as the grass cutting - £1000, annual insurance - £900, unexpected tree work - the clearance of the fallen beech branch cost £702.

We are very grateful for those of you who have arranged standing orders and who give generously to the field.

The following fund raising events are being organised.

April 8th. Sunday morning 9am BOOK SALE at the lower gate. Time to turn out any books you can donate.

May 13th. Sunday morning 9am JUMBLE SALE at the lower gate. Time to spring clean and give us all your unwanted jumble.

June 10th Sunday from 11am PLANT STALL at Waterloo Bonfire Society Fete in the Paddock. Start growing for us!

July 8th Sunday morning 9am CAKE AND EDIBLES STALL at the lower gate.

Sept 2nd Sunday 9am JAMS & JELLIES many made from our own field fruits plus some of your own **& GARDEN PRODUCE**

Stalls at Baxter's gate subject to weather conditions and may be postponed to the following week.

BOOKS and JUMBLE can be delivered to 17 Bradford Rd from now on. Please let us know promises for the other, later stalls.

If you can help set up, sell or clear away please let us know 01273 472251

CO-OP LOCAL CAUSES- we have already received £265. If you are **CO-OP** members please choose us as your local cause and we will receive 1% of your spend until Oct 2018.

ACTIVITY TASTER SESSIONS - if you are part of a sports/activity organisation and want to offer a session etc in the field please contact us.- cricket, stoolball, badminton, croquet, five aside football, archery, athletics, keep fit etc. You could give people a chance to try out and then play your own game for spectators. We will do all the publicity and organisation. baxtersfield@yahoo.co.uk
01273 472251

Bark chips desperately needed. Can you collect from Stonegate?

