



Monthly Newsletter

February 2022

Shenley Park

Once a private Estate known as Porters Park, then a site of a Mental Hospital, Shenley Park is now a unique self-funded Park for all. The Park is steeped in history and hosts an Orchard, Meadow, Woodland walks, Historic buildings and an amazing 2 acre landscaped Walled Garden with an Amphitheatre. The Park is open all year round and is free to use as are the car parks. Events are held throughout the year; it is a perfect base for walks and has a Tea Room that is open daily from 8am.

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

What's happening in the park

PG. 3

Volunteering weekend

PG. 4

Summer events

Spring is here

Spring has arrived quickly this year it seems. We have been declaring amongst ourselves in the park team that the crocuses are out earlier than usual but in fact after looking back through photographs they have opened up in the week around the 7th Feb for the past 4 years at least.

We are enjoying what promises to be a snow free spring, birds are besting already, and our spring flowers are a welcome sight.

Do take a walk along the bridleway which runs in between the main car park and Radlett Lane as there are several crocuses and snowdrops along here.

We are quickly finishing our pruning so we can leave the birds in peace and quiet. Our staff are pruning the orchard which will be finished in a week or two.



New Hedgerow

Along the top of the orchard, you will see several canes with plastic guards around them. Inside the guards are a selection of hedging plants most suited to birds and wildlife. These trees came from the Woodland Trust as part of their aim to plant 1 million trees this year around Britain. If we had planted them as trees we would not have had enough room but planting instead as a hedgerow gives us much value as an individual tree.

The Walled Garden has enjoyed some changes too, it will be open from Easter at weekends but until then if you can visit during the week 12-4pm you can enjoy the early signs of spring in there too.

Volunteering Weekend

Cow Banks Wood



Cow Banks wood is reached by walking around the perimeter strip from the back of the stable flats. It is a small woodland that has footpaths and a bridleway running through it on which you can join up with walks to Radlett, London Colney and Colney Heath.

The woodland itself has a large amount of bramble and whilst this is good for nature we would like to clear the central area to make it accessible for park users to enjoy.

We are inviting you to come along and help cut away some bramble, plant new trees for the future and care for those trees that have been planted in recent years.

Please let us know if you can join us, we are looking for people to join us on Sun 27th Feb between 12-4pm.





Open Air Theatre and Concerts this summer

Visit our website to book for our summer shows www.shenleypark.co.uk/events

Saturday 25th June, 3pm

An afternoon of Jazz courtesy of Hertfordshire Big Band

Sunday 17th July, 7pm

Much Ado About Nothing by The Pantaloons

Saturday 6th August, 7pm

War of the Worlds by The Pantaloons

Saturday 20th August, 3pm

The Relu

Reluctant Dragon by Quantum Theatre

Greenhouse renovation and museum

Work to the remaining two greenhouses will start again once the weather improves. The lower greenhouse is in use again for the first time in 12 years which we are thankful to Derek under the guidance of Glyn for.

The large greenhouse next to the polytunnel is destined to be a museum of Shenley Park.

We have many artefacts from when the site was a mental hospital and much history also of what is what like before the hospital when it was a private country estate. We would like to be able to share these with you together with having permanent displays for all visitors to be able to see.

There is a history collection in Shenley Village Hall and this is not going to be replicated but a small specific one for Shenley Park.

Local resident Michael McEnhill has shared his memories with us from a time when he worked in the hospital gardens/greenhouses, and we will add these to our collection thanks to him.



Tennis Courts

The tennis court situation is ongoing, the subsidence in the corners of the area is very costly to fix. We are hoping to install at least one court back into Shenley Park and are awaiting news of a funding application.

We will keep you updated here in our newsletters and on our website.

Share with us

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