July 2014 Newsletter





Who are the friends of Ancells Farm?

Friends of Ancells Farm in Fleet, Hampshire, was founded in December 2010 by local residents who were concerned about the condition of the children's play park. Working with the newly-formed Fleet Town Council, we created a new play area for children that was safe, fun and accessible.

Since then we have planted hundreds of saplings around the Park. In conjunction with Fleet Town Council and Hart FC we have also brought the football pitch back into use and renovated the sports pavilion.

We also organise community events like picnics, pub quizzes and carol singing at Christmas.

We couldn't have done it without the help of our local community, who have worked together to make Ancells Park one of the most popular parks in Fleet.

We are proud to be the first ever recipients of the Fleet and Church Crookham in Bloom & Fleet Town Council's Chairman's Cup for Parks in 2012 and have also won their Pegasus Cup in 2013.

We also hold Level 4 (Thriving) award from the Royal Horticultural Society's It's Your Neighbourhood campaign, which supports local community groups in greening their local environment.

We choose our projects based on our vision and on our project criteria. Friends of Ancells Farm projects must benefit the local community, provide maximum impact for our efforts, promote community spirit, have longevity And be fun!

Forthcoming events

Please come and join in the fun!

- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Quiz Night
- Environment & Faith Festival
- Skittles night with Fish and Chip Supper
- Children's Halloween
 Party
- Carol Singing around our Christmas tree

 For more information please visit us at www.ancellsfarm.org.uk, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter

Fly Tipping

Friends of Ancells Farm are committed to the enhancement and care of all our green spaces. This has been possible by the efforts of all our members. However to sustain our much valued flora and fauna we require the help of our whole community.

Whilst many may have heard the term "fly tipping" and with this brings to mind the dumping of old mattresses and refrigerators, it may surprise you to read that the dumping of garden waste is also classified as "fly tipping" and is in fact illegal. Part from the legality issues our main concern with this type of dumping is the harm that arises to our local environment. You might ask "how can the dumping of grass cuttings and old pot plants in a woodland area be harmful?"

Well the answer is that the dumping of garden waste can damage and suffocate wild flowers and young saplings. It can introduce invasive plants that can encroach and take over the delicate ecosystem inherent in our woodland and hedge-rows. It can also provide a breeding ground for vermin and pests.

We urge residents to dispose of their garden waste responsibly. Either through your own composting or by using the Councils amenities.

Hart District Council will provided sacks and bins for residents to dispose of their garden waste. A link to more information on the Council's website can be found here <u>www.hart.goc.uk/garden-waste</u>, Alternatively, it can be taken to the local recycling centres. Our nearest centres are in Hartley Wintney or Farnborough.



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More flowers in the park

We've been having a look round our park this summer and despite the fantastic planting we've done over the past 3 years, it is still looking all rather green. Whilst green is an excellent start, we're thinking of ways that we can plan some planted areas to add some flowers, flowering shrubs & other colours to the park.

We are currently looking for people

who are skilled in garden planning to help us work out some planting plans.

Once we have these, we can start to cost up some possible designs and look for grants to fund this project .

Can you help? Or do you know someone who can? Contact us now . E-mail <u>committee@ancellsfarm.org.uk</u>

Bike Racks

We are currently working with Fleet Town Council and Hart District Council to secure funding for bike racks within the park.

This will help insure that there is somewhere safe and secure for park users to leave their bikes and scooters and will also promote our commitment to sustainable, healthy and fun transport to and from the park.





Our Woodland

Our park has some beautiful old woodland at the far end. It is rarely used and under-valued.

Our aim is to try and open up access and awareness of our woods to make them become an integral and much loved part of our park.

If you know anything about woodland, or have an interest in helping with this goal please contact us. E-mail <u>committee@ancellsfarm.org.uk</u>

Hedgebog Street Around Fleet

Hedgehogs travel up to one mile each night looking for food and to find mates. Friends of Ancells Farm have started Hedgehog Street Around Fleet to try to improve the lives of our local hedgehogs. All you need to do to join in is to create small gaps at the base your garden fence or hedge (ask your neighbours first!). They need to be about 15cm in height and width. If people across Fleet all do this, then it will create a network of routes for hedgehogs to roam and will hopefully keep them safe from the roads and help them find food.

Friends of Ancells Farm, working to better your community www.ancellsfarm.org.uk

To Join Friends of Ancells Farm please e-mail membership@ancellsfarm.org.uk