



FRIENDS OF EATON PARK

Dear Friends,

It's been three months since our last newsletter, and what three months it has been! In the spring newsletter I set out our plans for the year, how naïve that list looks now. We would have been doing our first rooftop tour of the summer last Sunday, and hosting monthly community cycles. Instead we have postponed our AGM indefinitely, postponed the scheduled tree walk, the rooftop tours, the cycle rides ...

But staying positive...

Thanks to everyone who came and supported our glowride event, run in conjunction with Pushing Ahead and Cycling UK, and supported by the cafe. It was a really enjoyable evening, with lots of families taking advantage of the free lighting and hot chocolates!



We ran our first (and turns out only!) community bike ride on March 14th, with 12 people enjoying a ride from the park into the city and onto the Lakenham Way and then onto Marston Lane before rejoining Bluebell and coming back to the Park. The coffee and cake stop along the way was a highlight! It was great fun and we will be rescheduling these as soon as government advice allows.



During these challenging times the park has proven itself to be such a valuable lifeline for people in our city, a place to come and commune with the season, get exercise, and finally to socialise at a distance.



Kathy Veronica Thanks Eaton Park, you are my daily therapy for well being and exercise. 🍀🍀

Like · Reply · Message · 9w

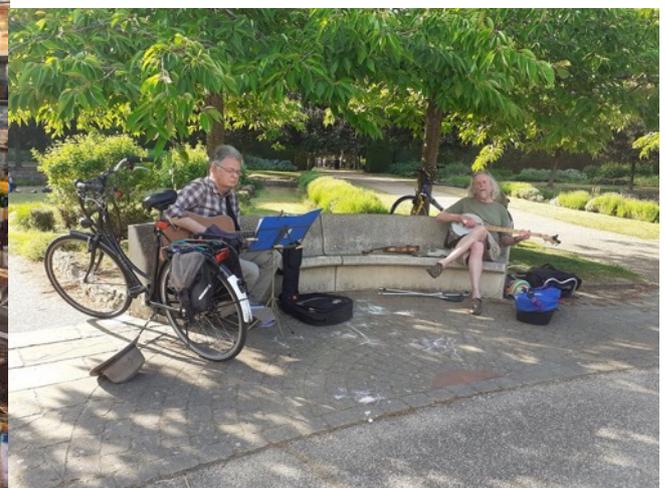


Emma Pike Kathy Veronica just what I was going to say

Like · Reply · Message · 9w



The café has reopened with a carefully monitored one way system, and is doing great business. If you do go in, have a look at the great selection of dog portraits on display, by talented local artist Sharon Fielding.



Liked by laurenwainwright1990 and 311 others

eatonparkcafe Open again!
Day 1 nearly complete and we're really rather pleased.

We've repainted the walls, varnished the floor and shifted things around to serve all your takeaway treats.

2 queues, 2 bars and 1 new central shop selling some essentials and some luxuries...local meats, breads and cheeses, wine, fresh veg and delicious things from the kitchen.

Thrilled to be back!

Pete and Dave from the Ceilidh Band, their first public performance since lockdown, playing super coolly under the cherry trees a few days ago.

We have continued to have committee meetings, the first by email conversation, and more recently by Zoom, a technology that has become increasingly familiar to a lot of us over the last months. Six of the eight committee members were able to meet this way, and it was good to see familiar faces and to hear how everyone has been contributing to the park. The gardening group have been active...

Several members of the team have been hard at work using heavy cans of mostly pond water to try to keep the trees in the orchard (and others giving cause for concern) a much-needed drink. The beds around the bandstand, lily and boat pond and raised beds in the cafe have done surprisingly well in the drought - thanks to the waterers and weeders. Our choice of plants has worked out well too. See the scarlet geums in the bandstand area.

We felt it's quite difficult with the way we work, using tools etc to effectively sanitise and social distance so for the time being we plan to work individually or in pairs when the need arises. This may change in the months ahead as we are gradually un-locked!



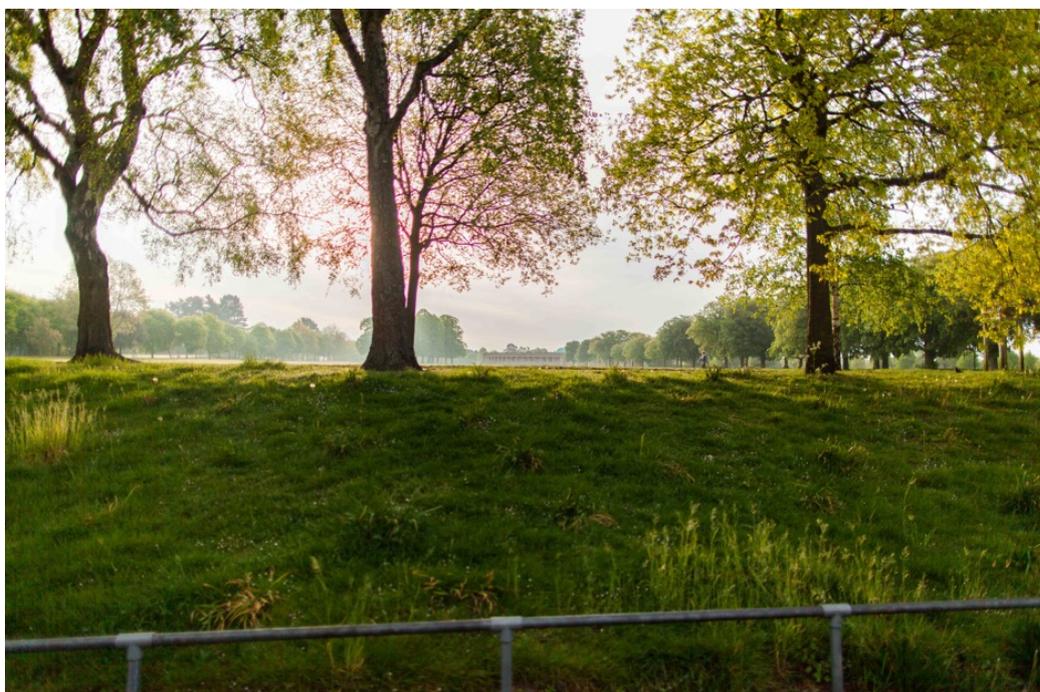
Meadow update

Eaton Park's meadow continues to develop well. Yellow rattle is thriving, alongside an increasing list of other native plant species. On a warm, sunny day you can already see tiny grass-hoppers hopping about and if you're lucky, dragon flies darting and hunting for insect prey.

The meadow is designed to be crossed and enjoyed using specially mown pathways. For various reasons a long, straight stretch of meadow– right down the middle of the main area of wild flowers – has been trampled and currently 'looks' as if it is one of these pathways.

We have recently been in touch with council officers to confirm and map out the correct mowing plan and this is now being followed. If you are in the meadow, please use the long curved pathway that runs close to North Park Woods, and not the straight stretch of flattened plants running down the centre of the meadow.

Now that it is no longer being mown, and once we have some rain, we hope that the trampled section of meadow will recover quickly. Be reassured, the Friends are monitoring the situation carefully.



A photo of the park, not of the meadow!

The view from the roof that we will hopefully be able to share in person later in the year...



The croquet club has restarted, albeit restricted, and the tennis courts have never been so well used. The park continues to thrive, and I think in fact it has never been so well used.

And finally, we thought you might enjoy this poem by Ron Nevett that appeared in the Norwich Evening News Poets' Corner in autumn 2019.

On Eaton Park

Sweet Eaton Park, I love to see
Your lesson in geometry:
Your skate park's scooped and sloping bowl,
The netted cuboid of a goal,
The prisms of your playground swings
And, crowning these Euclidean things,
Your bandstand's hemisphere of jade
Above its circled colonnade.

Sweet Eaton Park, the peacetime dream
And public unemployment scheme
Of Captain Arnold Sandys-Winsch
Who, raising each uneven inch
Of grazing land once trenched by war,
Made playing fields for rich and poor
And lined your avenues of ease
With pines and mixed deciduous trees.

Sweet Eaton Park, I hear them stir
As your habitual flaneur
And see small breezes crease and shake
The deep sky of the boating lake
And I am back there as a boy
With trimly rigged and ruddered toy
About to launch it on your wide
Platonic world to catch some tide.

Stuart, chair of the Friends of Eaton Park, June 2020