

## SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

### FROZEN 'CROP' CIRCLES

There was a frost after the last grass cut of the year which emphasised the mower's path.



Photo. Sue Fasquelle

The clump of beeches in the background was planted by the Trees for Lewes group in 1988, following the devastation to many trees in Lewes by the great storm in 1987. This was with permission of the Baxter's Print Works who owned the field, There were originally 21 trees planted as saplings. When Baxter's Field Company brought the field in 2003, the clump was reduced with permission of the LDC Tree Officer and now makes a handsome balance to the larger beech on the eastern boundary.

### WILL IT SNOW?

If it does, we know what fun can be had in the field. Please help to keep this a great place to be. Our trees, bushes, banks and fencing all need to be protected. Glass is very dangerous in snow. No dogs & please and take all your litter home. Please do not slide down the two entry pathways which will be salted as soon as possible and do not climb the railings nor lift children over them. We need everyone to participate in keeping Baxter's a safe but exciting place to be.



Photo FW

One of our snow laden hawthorns  
2 years ago.

There are daffodils planted all along the Bradford Rd bank. These are particularly vulnerable to damage by sledges .

With push and puff you can still get a good run down the slope without going off the bank.

### BOOKING SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year, weather wise, has been very kind to us as only two out of 23 bookings had to be cancelled because of rain. We, as always, are very grateful for these bookings, which helped us so much towards the cost of maintaining and making safe a considerable amount of fencing in need of repair.

I received many lovely comments and thanks for such a lovely facility, which I passed on to the Company. This makes worthwhile all the care and hard work that goes into maintaining and making safe the field for the equal enjoyment of everybody in the community and the wider public.

The importance of this was reported on the main news very recently. A study had been undertaken which proved that open green spaces and parks were of more benefit to the mental health and well being of a community than any other facility. Wishing you a very Happy Christmas & New Year and lots of lovely times in the 'Field'.  
Sheila Kent

Best wishes to Ian & Brigid Wells as they move to their new home in Greyfriars after many years at Cherry Trees near the field to which they have given much support.

## NORTHERN BOUNDARY

"We are preparing a further update on the Northern Boundary issue and this will be released via our website. For those members/wider supporters who do not have access to the internet or email, we will arrange for paper copies to be provided separately.

Thank you for your continued support"

Trustees and Directors Baxter's Field Company

### MAINTENANCE REPORT

Thank you to all the volunteers who turn up on our monthly maintenance Sunday mornings and work hard to keep Baxter's Field safe, litter free and developing.

At present, caution needs to be exercised when entering the Field from Paddock Lane because the top part of the path is slippery in wet weather, especially when wearing some types of shoe soles and you may have noticed that the guard rail, now more than 10 years old, is rotting and needs replacing. When funds allow, we shall replace it but in the meantime, please take extra care.

The major expenditure this year has been on the eastern boundary which is now safe from horse incursions and is being re planted with native shrubs this autumn. If you have any useful seedlings of native hedge plants - hawthorn, holly, beech, sloes etc. do pot them up and bring them to a monthly work day (9am -12.30 on the first Sunday of each month starting 2016 Feb 7th).

We have cleared the brambles and strimmed the tennis courts' western bank several times this year but we need more volunteers to make a concerted effort to clear and cultivate the bank for reseeding, as the first stage in restoring the tennis courts.

You may have noticed the 'ploughed field' grass cut in November which seems to have been the result of a faulty mower, cutting one level of grass very short and the other side hardly at all. Winter should level it out.

Finally, on a festive note, you may have noticed that Baxter's Field under snow features on the latest SASBAH charity card drawn by Lyndsey Smith. If you want to have a look, the card is being sold from Lewes House on School Hill, complete with the little ginger cat, Tom, sitting on the knee of one of the sledgers. It is currently the banner on her Face Book page, too! Liz Thomas

Enclosed with the newsletter is a piece of creative writing - one volunteer's perspective and response to criminal damage that occurred. First published in NEW PATHWAYS: A PSYCHOGEOGRAPHY OF LEWES, REFRAME, October 2015 Online at: <http://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/newpathways>

We are very grateful to all volunteers who have painted the fence and done much other work.

Also enclosed - the Minutes of the 2014-2015 AGM.

### PLAYING IN THE FIELD

- a four acre site.  
There is plenty of space for many activities to take place at the same time or often you can have the whole area to yourself.

Here Katya is practising baseball with her Mum, Pam.

Send in your photos for our gallery.



Photo. FW

### THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS.

YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS VITAL & GREATLY APPRECIATED. Our fund raising event on August Bank Holiday Saturday was a wonderful collective effort and we raised just over £1000. Make a note now to be around next year - August 27<sup>th</sup> Sat 2016. B IN BAXTER'S AND C.....

### MEMBERSHIP

of Baxter's Field is free and numbers are rising. Membership forms are available on line from the Registered Office - address on the back of this card. All members sign to agree not to do anything to harm the field.