

Farah Class

Forster Memorial Park

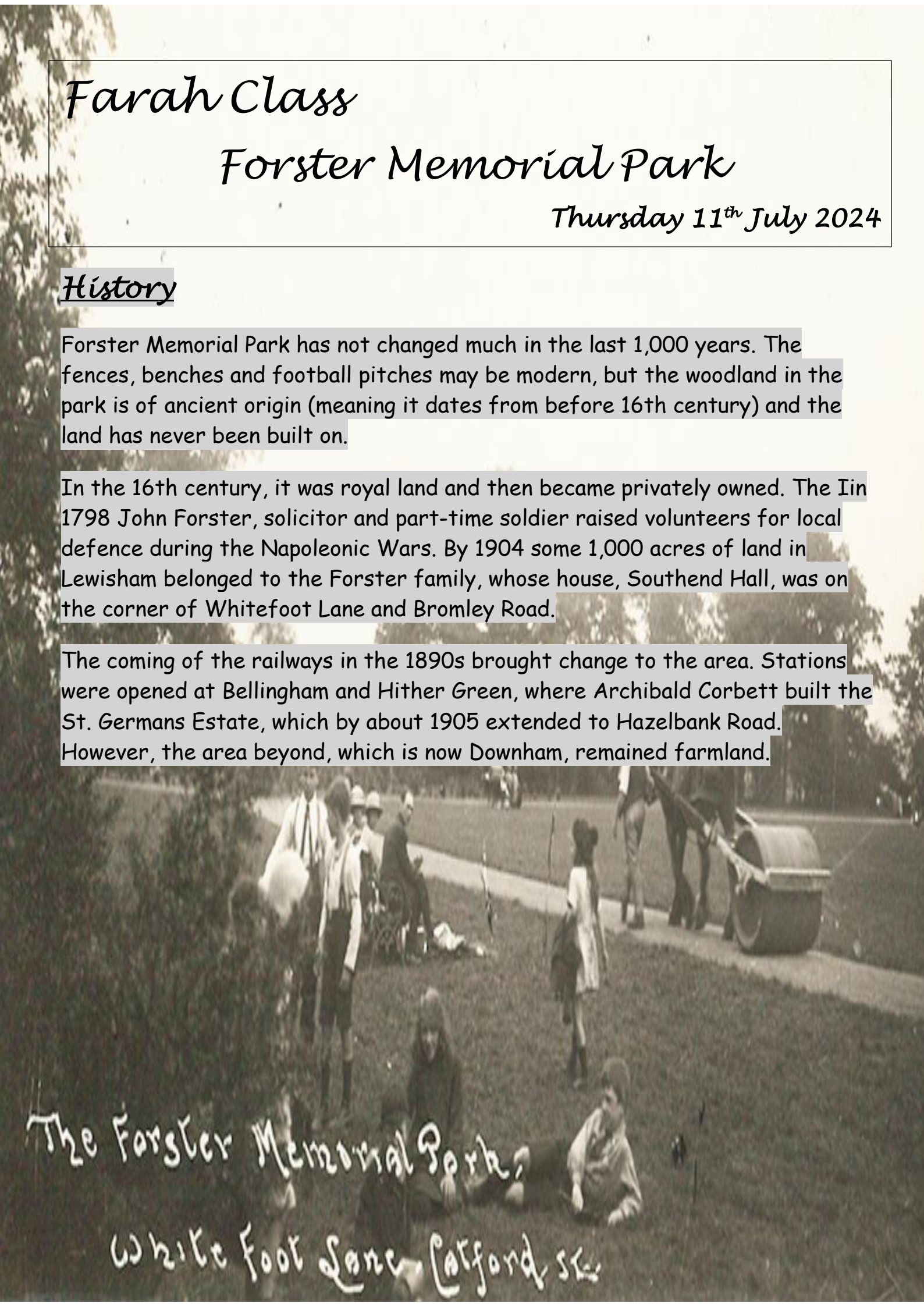
Thursday 11th July 2024

History

Forster Memorial Park has not changed much in the last 1,000 years. The fences, benches and football pitches may be modern, but the woodland in the park is of ancient origin (meaning it dates from before 16th century) and the land has never been built on.

In the 16th century, it was royal land and then became privately owned. The In 1798 John Forster, solicitor and part-time soldier raised volunteers for local defence during the Napoleonic Wars. By 1904 some 1,000 acres of land in Lewisham belonged to the Forster family, whose house, Southend Hall, was on the corner of Whitefoot Lane and Bromley Road.

The coming of the railways in the 1890s brought change to the area. Stations were opened at Bellingham and Hither Green, where Archibald Corbett built the St. Germans Estate, which by about 1905 extended to Hazelbank Road. However, the area beyond, which is now Downham, remained farmland.



The Forster Memorial Park,
White Foot Lane Catford SE.

