



Skylarks

Summer is well and truly with us and all the latest news from the Friends of the Wick Country Park is here to keep you up-to-date with current and future events.

Message from the Chair

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying the summer. Here at the Wick Country Park we have been busy, three successful events so far and more to come!

In June we held the biggest event on our calendar, 'Paws in the Park'. The weather was not kind to us but we still had 550 people through the gate, all of the 8 dog classes were well entered and our new judge did an excellent job of trying to select the best of so many fine dogs. I just want to say thanks to all who came along and supported us in the rain, our spirits were not dampened and we had a thoroughly good time. A date for your diaries, next year's 'Paws' is already scheduled for Sunday, 10th June 2012.

A further two events were held in July, our second Skylarks 3k Race and then the Crickets & Dragonflies Walk. Both were successful and well attended, we even had sunshine for the nice afternoon walk in the park!

Reviews on all the events are featured in the following pages of the newsletter, especially an excellent article written by Trudie on the activities at Paws in the Park.

Please do not forget our next events in the next couple of months. Firstly there will be our second biggest event of the year, Nature Quest on Sunday 7th August and then the Kite Festival on Sunday 18th September, looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Eileen – Chairperson



Please do not forget.....

It is Nature Quest on Sunday 7th August!!!



Nature Quest

**A free family day at the Wick Country Park
Tresco Way, Wickford on Sunday 7th
August, 11.00am to 4.00pm**

**There will be pond dipping along with a quiz
where you can be a nature detective,
looking around the park. Craft activities, a
bug hunt and much more. Come and join
the fun!**



There will be plenty of these in the pond!



And these too...

So get walking around the park



'PAWS IN THE PARK' – IT RAINED BUT SPIRITS WERE NOT DAMPENED!

It was a successful although rather wet **Paws in the Park** event on Sunday 12th June. The monsoon did not stop over 550 wonderful visitors from attending - with their pets of course! All breeds of dog were there to be shown and admired. As I helped out on the registration desk I took full advantage to check out the doggie entrants and found myself coining the infamous Bruce Forsyth phrase of “you’re my favourite” – they were all so lovely. Have a look at the website gallery – the pictures are there to prove it [www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/gallery].

All the class shows had a high number of entrants but the most popular categories were “Handsome Dog”, “Prettiest Bitch” and “Cutest Puppy”. Our judge did an excellent job in assessing the dogs and prizes were awarded from 6th place to 1st. Well done to all the winners listed below!

Paws in the Park 2011 Classes and Winners

Handsome Dog - Jack owned by Leeanne
Prettiest Bitch - Poppy owned by Mrs Thacker
Cutest Puppy - Rosie owned by Joe
Best Veteran - Bebe owned by Yvonne (Best in Show)
Child Handler - Jess owned by Rachel
Best Rescue - Travis owned by Alan
Scruffiest Dog - Poppy owned by Simon
Best Trick - Lili owned by Gloria



A special mention must be made to the English Springer spaniel using a rather cool pair of wheels to move around. These had been fitted by his owner to aid mobility as the dog's legs were disabled from arthritis.

Where there is a will there is a way!

The pavilion was also a popular place to hang out and not just necessarily to stay dry. The craft table offered children a great chance to get creative - the doggie face-masks being an instant hit. The tombola and book stalls proved popular and of course – most importantly - refreshments were on offer. It was a great day and thanks must also go to all the stall holders for their support and generosity in helping The Friends make “Paws in the Park” 2011 a day to be remembered. See you at Nature Quest on 7th August and the Kite Flying extravaganza on 18th September.

(Written by Trudie Crow)

MORE RAIN BUT THE RUNNERS STILL TOOK PART!



The weather again was not kind to us for the Skylarks 3k race on Wednesday 20th July; however it was an excellent turnout by the hardy athletes.

At the second Skylarks race of the year 53 runners raced around the park, including our committee member Maxine. Greg Wisken was again the first past the post with Tony Hyde (number 307) a close second.



AT LAST SUNSHINE!!

On Sunday 24th July the sun shone!! A perfect afternoon for our Crickets & Dragonflies Walk, a special one this year as we were using our newly purchased sweep nets, bug boxes and magnifying kit for the first time. An excellent turnout of all ages came along to sweep and search for these fascinating creatures and we had a thoroughly good time!

The search is on.....



Then the investigation starts.....



Events for 2011

The Friends' Committee has arranged the following events with the Wick Country Park Ranger. *For all events please meet at the Wick Pavilion.*

Wick Weeders

*2nd & 4th Monday of each month
Starting at 1.30pm*

Work Parties

These are bi-monthly on the 3rd Sunday of that month, 10am – 12noon (the date for the next one is 20th November – please note that the work party on 18th September has been cancelled).

Come and have fun and help the Ranger with improvements to the park.



Nature Quest

*Sunday 7th August
11am to 4pm*

Be a nature detective and discover some of the wild wonders of the Wick. A fun day for all the family. Explore the park and investigate the underwater world of the dipping pond. Parental supervision required.



Kite Festival

*Sunday 18th September
1pm to 4pm*

Join in the kite making competition and pick up some top flying tips. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Yuletide Ramble & AGM



*Sunday 4th December
Starting at 2pm*

Finish the year with a sociable walk around the park with the Ranger and Friends. Enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies, stay for the AGM, meet the committee and have your say about the park.

For any more info on the above please contact Nikki Gibson on 01268 734293 or email mikenikki@supanet.com. Latest information on events throughout the year can be found on our website. www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk

Membership

If you are not a member but would like to join the *Friends of the Wick Country Park* please contact Nikki on 01268 734293 or email mikenikki@supanet.com

The Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Eileen Cattell – Chairperson
Nikki Gibson – Treasurer
Christine Lee - Secretary
Peter Bates,
Trudie Crow, Maxine Crow,
Hilary Sim, Sharon Hunt.

Basildon District Council Countryside Services:

Marcus Hotten
Countryside Officer
Telephone: 01268 550088

Mark Williams
Countryside Ranger
Telephone: 01268 562921

Neighbourhood Policing Team:

Telephone: 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503