



Skylarks

Winter is approaching but think of that mulled wine and those mince pies in the pavilion soon. 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

After a very successful year of well supported events despite some damp days, our last of the year is the Yuletide Ramble followed by our AGM which is on the 4th December at 2pm. Please come for a ramble and join us for the meeting after and share a mince pie and mulled wine. We shall publish a list of dates for your 2012 diary in the next edition of Skylarks. Thank you to one and all who keep the pavilion garden tidy and well cared for. The trees are now shedding their leaves but there is still a lot of excellent colour around the park so worth a walk of the perimeter.



Eileen Cattell
Chairperson

Please do not forget.....

**“The Great Tree Planting” on Sunday,
20th November!**



Our application to the Woodland Trust was successful and we will soon be in possession of 105 saplings. We will welcome all the support we can get to plant the saplings. Please bring stout footwear on the day since good old Essex clay is hard on the limbs and shoes! Spades will be available but please feel free to bring your own if possible. Meet in the Pavilion at 10am.

Message from the Membership Secretary

Thank you for your support and interest in the park over the past year. I hope that you have enjoyed your membership, including the quarterly newsletter and e-mail messages. I also hope that you have been able to join us at our events such as Paws in the Park and Nature Quest. We are very grateful to all of you whether you have helped or attended an event or joined a work party or the Wick Weeders. We have had another fantastic year and we could not have done it without you. We do hope that you will continue to support the *Friends*. Please use the form enclosed to renew your membership.

Do it now before you forget!

Nikki Gibson

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Please do not forget.....

**The Yuletide Ramble & AGM on 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.



THE KITE FESTIVAL

The sky was grey and cloudy - but where was the wind? All eyes looked heavenward on the 18th September in the hope of raising a gale as it was the Friends of the Wick Country Park Kite Festival 2011.

The sun started to shine – we didn't complain – but even a *little* breeze would have been appreciated. Nevertheless it didn't stop over 200 people from visiting the park for another successful event. In actual fact the weather did not deflate the kite flyers enthusiasm and as the afternoon flew by the wind factor increased slightly.



The Essex Kite Flyers were on site to give demonstrations and tips on how to fly a kite – it's not as straightforward as one would think! There were kites of all shapes, sizes and colours – did you know you can even personalise your kite by having your favourite photographic image printed onto it?



The Pavilion was particularly busy because the craft table offered children the chance to make and decorate their own kites – all made with passion and gusto. Talking of gusto – that's exactly what we got at the end of the day – gusts of wind! The children's efforts paid off – it was quite a scene to see all the “mini-flyers” launching their “mini-kites”.

Further pictures are on the website [www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/gallery] – check out the competition winners with their fabulous prize-winning entries. Many thanks to The Essex Kite Flyers for all their invaluable help on the day. See you all next year!

(Written by Trudie Crow)

Well done Sam!!

Our lake has been in the news lately - an article was kindly sent to us by Mark Gray featuring his son Sam in the Angler's Mail and the specimen perch he caught in the lake at the Wick Country Park. Read on



Text from the Angler's Mail: “Sam Gray, 13, set about tempting a new PB perch from Wick Country Park in his home county of Essex and succeeded in style, taking several 2 to 3lb specimens topped by this 31b 6 oz cracker. Sam used a lobworm bait in the margins to tempt the fine haul of stripys”.

NATURE QUEST

It was a triumph in the rain! Nothing dampened the spirit of the day on Sunday 7th August and all our visiting families enjoyed the quiz, bug hunting, pond dipping, gluing at the craft table, holding a slow worm, having a go on the lucky dips and visiting the charity stalls.



It was a perfect opportunity to get close to nature - the children were delighted in taking home their certificates, an 'I'm a first class pond dipper' book mark and their own pompom bug. Some went home with large cuddly toys or books and some parents bought the best made bird boxes ever seen.

A wonderful day!

(Further pictures are on the website: www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/gallery)

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).

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

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.

Events for 2012

are to be announced soon and will be in the next Skylarks newsletter. Advanced info however can be given now to be put into your 2012 diaries:-

Paws in the Park

Sunday 10th June 2012
11am to 4pm

All dogs and responsible owners are invited to this very popular annual event. Fun dog show, stalls, refreshments, games, children's craft table and quiz.

Nature Quest

Sunday 5th August 2012
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.

For any more info 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