



Skylarks

Winter is fast approaching but we are already planning next year's events to keep you entertained in the Wick Country Park. All the latest news from the Friends of the Wick Country Park is here to keep you up-to-date with all that is happening in the park.

A Message from the Chair

Hello everyone, since I last wrote this column we have had our Annual Kite Festival which was another terrific achievement with our biggest attendance yet. Thank you to all involved - the volunteers, the Kite and Classic car clubs, the ranger Mark, the visitors and all the children. A special thank you to those of you who took the trouble to contact me to say how much you had enjoyed the day. It gives the hardworking committee such a lift to see families having such a good time in our lovely park and it makes it all worthwhile.

A very successful year has flown by and the committee is already discussing, planning and booking next year's events. We are full of enthusiasm and new ideas so keep track of happenings in the park by renewing your membership.

Without the same family appeal of other events, but just as important, we have our Yuletide Ramble followed by the AGM on Sunday 14th December at 2pm. Starting at the Pavilion the Ranger will lead a walk round the park and with his expert eyes and ears he will be able to point out the changes the winter season has brought. After the walk there is a chance to warm up with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie at the Annual General Meeting. Officers and committee members will be elected for the coming year so if you are interested in putting your name forward do let me know.

Finally on behalf of the Ranger and committee I would like to wish you all a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Nikki Gibson, Acting Chair

Please do not forget:-

Sunday 14th December: the Yuletide Ramble at 2pm, followed by the AGM, with mince pies and hot mulled wine!

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.



Our last event of 2014 but our list of events for 2015 will be published soon!!

The Friends of the Wick Country Park are moving into the Twenty First Century!



We tried to ignore it, we said it would never catch on, we were too old to learn, but finally we succumbed and the Friends of the Wick Country Park has its own Facebook page! Click on the link on our website or Google 'Friends of the Wick Country Park' and click 'like' to spread the word.

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of last AGM – 7th Dec 2013
 3. Matters arising
 4. Chairperson's report/membership report
 5. Treasurer's report
 6. Rangers report
 7. Election of Officers
 8. Election of Committee Members
 9. Any other business
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Time to Renew your Membership!

It is only a £3 annual fee for all the family, but so easy to forget. So do it now before the rush of Christmas is upon us. Better still encourage friends or relatives to join. A membership form is attached, cash through my letterbox, cheque through the post, in person at the AGM I don't mind how you do it. Our membership numbers is one way we can gauge our success so is very important to us. I trust you will continue to enjoy the Skylarks newsletters and the e-mails which keep you up to date with what is happening in the park.

Nikki Gibson
Membership Secretary
126 Church End Lane
Runwell
SS11 7DP



Membership 2015

Friends of the Wick Country Park

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone no: _____

Email: _____

Household £3

Membership runs until December 2015

Please send cheques made payable to 'Friends of the Wick Country Park' to
Nikki Gibson 126 Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford, Essex SS11 7DP
Nikkigibson621@btinternet.com 01268 734293

THE KITE FESTIVAL 2014

The weather was bright and breezy and so were all the volunteers who gathered in the Pavilion to prepare for The Kite Festival 2014. Some were new to the event and were clearly a little anxious about their role. But Colin from the Essex Kite Group (who is an amazing 94 years old) soon put them at their ease as he showed them all the clever knots and techniques for making the kites. We were soon busy with hordes of children eager to make, decorate, and fly their kites. Mini competitions took place every hour and prizes were freely given.



For the children who wanted to be even more creative there was plenty of glue, pens, paper and materials for making glorious collages.



While outside Craig had arrived with friends and cars from the South Eastern Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club. The polished paint work and sparkling chrome was a sight to see. Then looking into the sky was the amazing spectacle of so many big kites. Galloping horses, seahorses, footballers and even Batman hovered over the park. Tea and coffee was flowing, Mike had the busy car park under control so what could go wrong? Well nothing for a long time.....but then disaster struck one of the big kites as it plummeted towards the lake. It landed on one of the islands and had to be rescued by canoe. Quite an exciting diversion! But then a more serious issue raised its head, we were running out of kite making material! Excited families continued to arrive eager to take part in this free event. Anxious not to disappoint anyone, Richard rushed off on a mercy mission to get more kites and save the reputation of the FOWCP! A cheer went up as he rushed back with his purchases and the production line opened again. We reckon about 160 kites were made during the day. Forty kites were kindly donated by the Kite Club and the rest were provided by the FOWCP from our funds.

After the event it was wonderful to see on Facebook, Streetlife and by e-mail how much everyone had enjoyed the event, it made it all worthwhile.

Jackie wrote:

"I just want to say that this was the first time we had visited the park. It was brilliant seeing all the amazing kites and classic cars. It was really good fun for the children to make their own. It was a very friendly atmosphere and you can tell everyone had worked very hard to make it a good day. So thank you to everyone involved."

(Written by Nikki Gibson)

WICKFORD WILDLIFE SOCIETY



If you are interested in learning about local wildlife there are also very informative events organized by the Wickford Wildlife Society and the next one is an indoor meeting on Wednesday, 12th November. Details are as follows:-

Tracks and Identification Talk - Paul Mayne will help us read the signs in the mud and snow, as well as the fur, feathers and droppings we often come across.

All indoor meetings are held at Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church Hall, 61 London Road, Wickford, SS12 0AW
Start 8 pm - Doors Open at 7.45 pm

Refreshments available
Admission: Non members £2.00 Members £1.00

Full details can be found on the website:

www.wickfordwildlife.co.uk

Wick Country Park Events 2014

Events are organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park in consultation with the Park Ranger. With the year almost over, we have just two left on the list.

Wick Weeders - Usually the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, starting at 1.30pm (see website & posters). (The next dates are 10th November, 24th November and 8th December). Come and help us to keep the Pavilion Garden looking spick and span. All are welcome, no special skills required.

Yuletide Ramble & AGM - Sunday 14th December, Starting at 2pm. Finish the year with a sociable walk round the park led by the Park Ranger, and then enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is then invited to the AGM.

For any more information on these events please contact Nikki Gibson on 01268 734293, email nikkigibson621@btinternet.com or Christine Lee on 01268 571302, email clee@btinternet.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 nikkigibson621@btinternet.com

The Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Nikki Gibson - Acting Chair/Membership Secretary, Dorothy Cundy - Treasurer, Christine Lee - Secretary
Committee Members: Marie Singleton, Peter Bates, Paul Clarke, Alaric Cundy, Richard Rowsell

Basildon Borough Council Countryside Services:

Mark Williams - Countryside Ranger, Telephone: 01268 562921
Steve Prewer - Manager of Countryside Operations and Development, Telephone 01268 465380

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503