



Skylarks

Spring is not too far away, we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our many planned events. 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



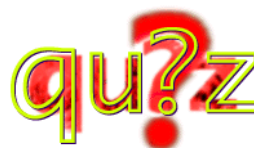
If it is not too late to say it, "Happy New Year!" The past twelve months have been such a success in the park. There has been a variety of fabulous events attracting larger numbers of people. The newly elected committee and Park Ranger are already working hard to ensure this upward trend continues. Alaric has been busy recently re-vamping the website, take a look and see what you think. Plans are in place for our first event, the fantastic fun Quiz Night. Tickets sell fast so book your table now so as not to be disappointed. Following on from the Quiz night there will be the Bird Song Walk in April. You will find a programme of all this year's events at the back of the newsletter and even more detail on the website.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership, your support means a lot to the committee, Park Ranger and me.

Nikki Gibson, Chairperson

Have you renewed your membership?

If not this will, I am afraid, be your last copy of Skylarks e-mailed to you. At only £3 per household per annum membership will ensure you do not miss any of the great events we have planned at the Wick Country Park for the coming year. To renew membership, or to introduce a new family, complete the attached form or e-mail your details to me. Money can be popped through my door or cheques sent to FOWCP c/o Nikki Gibson, 126 Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford SS11 7DP. If you have a query ring me on 01268 734293 or e-mail chair@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk



Quiz Night 6th March 7.30 pm for prompt 8 pm start at Barnhall Community Centre

Here is a chance to air those brain cells at a friendly Quiz Night. Get together your own team of 8 or less or join another table for a fun evening. All drinks to be bought at the bar at very reasonable prices. Bring your own snacks to keep your energy levels up. This is a very popular evening so don't delay in ordering your tickets. Tickets cost £5 per person and all proceeds go to enhancing the Wick Country Park.

Barnhall Community Centre is behind the parade of shops on Alderney Gardens, off Brock Hill Wickford SS11 7JP

For more information see our website
www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk

Or for tickets either e-mail Nikki on chair@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk or ring 01268 734293.

Plus another date for your diaries!!

The 'Bird Song Walk' on Sunday 12th April at 10am
Join the Ranger and team in a spring stroll around the park to spot and identify the birds in their habitats.



THE WEBSITE

The Friends of the Wick Country Park website was originally set up for us back in 2008 by former committee member Paul Clarke, aided by his son, Nick. It has served us very well ever since its original launch, in particular by alerting us to up-and-coming events and then presenting reports and 'photo galleries' after those events.

Just before Christmas, the management of the website came under the remit of the newly formed Advertising Sub-Committee and that change offered the opportunity to look at it through fresh eyes and to undertake a bit of a facelift. That work is still progressing, and at the time of writing, the website had developed a bit of a 'work in progress' look!

The first thing that stands out is that the website now has a new 'look and feel'. The background colour is a softer green, and the page-width has been adjusted to take advantage of modern wide-screen monitors. The actual content is changing virtually daily as the Review Plan is implemented bit-by-bit, and if you haven't visited www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk recently then please do so now!



(Written by Alaric Cundy)

YULE RAMBLE 2014

Our last event of 2014 was the Yule Ramble, an exhilarating afternoon walk round the park led by Countryside Ranger, Mark. The terrain was rather wet and slippery to negotiate but we made it and enjoyed the fresh air and seeing the park in the many features of it's winter role. This hardy group of ramblers then returned to the Pavilion for a warming cup of mulled wine and nourishing mince pies.



The AGM then followed to discuss the Ranger's report and Committee matters. Mark reported the good news that new cycle racks have now been placed in the picnic area close to the children's playground (see photos on the next page). Also the newly repaired noticeboard is now situated just outside the main park gates. A school group from Beauchamps School have used the pond - the feature appeared in their Newsletter. There is to be a Litter Blitz in the Lake – two people expressed an interest in doing this and he will publicise this event. Mark also advised that a new Playgroup has been set up in the Pavilion. The hours at present are 7am to 9am and 3.30pm to 6pm.

Then it was time to go home to continue the festive mood. Please do not forget to join us on Yule Ramble 2015!



NEW CYCLE RACKS



The second set of cycle racks has now been installed (thanks to Mark, Peter and Richard). These are in addition to those already in the park, plenty of room now for all those cycles. So, get on your bikes and ride over to the park to try them out!

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 - Chairperson/Membership Secretary, Richard Rowsell - Vice Chair, Dorothy Cundy - Treasurer, Marie Singleton - Secretary, Alaric Cundy - Webmaster
Committee Members: Peter Bates, Christine Lee

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





WICK COUNTRY PARK EVENTS 2015



DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<i>Usually the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month</i>	Wick Weeders	Starting at 1.30 pm (see the website & posters for confirmation of the dates). Help is always needed to maintain these gardens. Equipment is provided.
Friday 6 th March	Quiz Night	At <i>Barnhall Community Centre, Alderney Gardens, Wickford</i> , 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start. A light hearted quiz, tables of eight <i>Booking is essential – see below</i>
Sunday 12 th April	Bird Song Walk	Starting at 10 am (two hours) . Last year we spotted, or heard, a total of 27 species. Both experienced and novice bird watchers are welcome
Wednesday 22 nd April	Skylarks 3K Race	7.30 pm This race is organized in conjunction with the <i>Pitsea Running Club</i> . Open to all runners and power walkers. Or just come to support
Sunday 7 th June	Paws in the Park	11 am to 4 pm Our annual popular fun dog show, for dogs of all types, ages and sizes. A must for all dog lovers, look out for new classes this year and browse the stalls, which are mainly dog related.
Wednesday 15 th July	Skylarks 3K Race	7.30 pm Another race organised in conjunction with the <i>Pitsea Running Club</i> . Open to all runners and power walkers. Supporters welcome
Sunday 19 th July	Nature Quest	11 am to 4 pm A family day, come for just an hour, or come for longer.. Pond dipping, bug hunting and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Sunday 9 th August	Crickets & Dragonflies	Starting at 2 pm (two hours) Led by the Park Ranger, catch and identify insects found in the park, and observe the beautiful dragonflies. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are welcome on a lead.
Sunday 13 th September	Kite Festival & Classic Car Display	11 am to 4 pm A family day, come for just an hour, or come for longer. Learn how to make and fly a kite; allow at least an hour . This event is held in conjunction with the <i>Essex Kite Group</i> and the <i>South Eastern Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club</i>
Sunday 13 th December	Yule Ramble & AGM	Starting at 2 pm Finish the year with a sociable and leisurely walk of approx 1 – 1.5 hours around the park, led by the Park Ranger, then enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is then invited to the AGM.

The following events have been organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park in consultation with the Park Ranger. **With the exception of the quiz night, all events start at the Wick Country Park Pavilion and booking is not required. Refreshments are available at all events.**

For more information on these events please contact Nikki Gibson on 01268 734293 or email nikkigibson621@btinternet.com The latest information on events throughout the year can be found on our website: www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk