



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

Dear Friends

Now the excitement of Christmas is over and all that is left to do is pick the remaining pine needles out of the corners of the carpet it is time to look to the future. The first thing on the horizon is the 'Weed and Clean Blitz'. In the autumn we cut down the spent perennials and cleared the whole park of litter. Volunteers helping had such a good time that they have been asking to do it again!.....yes really! So, by popular request the **Weed and Clean Blitz will take place on Monday 27th February starting with cake at 10 am.** The event will carry on all day, so stay as long as you can. Bring a picnic if you are likely to get peckish. All you need is a pair of sensible shoes, gloves, a sense of humour, a love of cake and you are ready to go! Come along, enjoy the fun and do something worthwhile to prepare our lovely park for the spring.



Have you remembered to renew your membership? If not sadly this will be your last Newsletter and no more of my jolly emails! Just £3 per household, please send your cheques to 126 Church End Lane, Runwell SS11 7DP.

Nikki, Chairperson

SOLD OUT
The Quiz Night on Friday 3rd March is 'Sold Out'!!
Due to the popularity of this event all the tables are now booked.

PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE NEXT EVENT IN THE WICK COUNTRY PARK

WEED AND CLEAN

Monday 27th February
Any time from
10.00 am until 4.00pm



The Wick Country Park,
Tresco Way, Wickford,
SS12 9GP



Free Cake and Drinks for all
Volunteers

Please come and help
Spring-clean the park

For more details phone Nikki on 01268 734293
Or website

www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk



Another date for your diaries!
Our ever popular 'Bird Song Walk' on Sunday
9th April starting at 10am. Come to see and
hear the many species of birds in the Wick
Country Park and then join us in the pavilion
for a hot drink and biscuits.

Our Next Project – The Information Board(s): Your views, please

There is a lot of information about the Park on our website at www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk but committee members have long felt that it would be useful to provide more information on site, covering things such as measured walking routes, the Park's wildlife, and the positions of dog-bins, benches and so forth – rather like information boards that can be seen at many other Country Parks and places of interest.

We would welcome your views. Do you think that such board(s) would be useful? What would you like to see on them? Please send your thoughts to Nikki on chair@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk or telephone her on 01268 734293.

'The January Jaunt & AGM 2016'

This was the first January Jaunt for the Friends of Wick Country Park. Previously there was a Yule Ramble which was held in December. However, December can be a very busy month for many so it was agreed by the Committee to move the walk to January. Calling the walk a Yule Ramble didn't seem appropriate with it being held in January therefore, the Committee agreed to re-name it a January Jaunt. Having the walk in January proved to be very successful with 18 people joining Mark the Ranger who was leading the walk. It wasn't the best of days to be out walking with the weather being pretty miserable, it was dull and drizzling. However, this did not deter the group from taking a trek around the park. It wasn't a good day for bird watching either with the visibility being so poor. However, there were still a few birds spotted including Robin, Blackbird, Dunnock, Mallard, Coot, Moorhen, Song Thrush, Black Headed Gull, Common Gull, Fieldfare, Wood Pigeon and Magpie.



Most of the group were feeling rather cold and wet by the end of the walk and were happy to get back to the Pavilion to warm up and to sample the mulled wine and tasty mince pies that were available.

The majority of the group stayed on for the AGM. As well as the usual AGM items on the agenda, Nikki who is the Chairperson read out her report for the year and did this by going through the events held in 2016 backwards! Through the year there was the Big Weed and Clean, Kite Festival, Picnic in the Park, Crickets and Dragonflies and Nature Quest. Not forgetting the Spring and Summer runs held by Pitsea Running Club, Paws in the Park and the first event of the year, Quiz Night. Wick Weeders is usually held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, dependant on weather. More volunteers are welcome to come along.

Mark the Park Ranger gave a short report on what has been happening in the Park. Unfortunately, there has been more fly tipping in the Park and there is a growing trend of cylinders being left lying around. Mark hopes to hold another litter pick whilst the vegetation is sparse. There is a possibility that the Pillboxes may be used by either the Bat Group or Butterfly Conservation Trust. One of the boxes has had hibernating Herald Moths and Peacock Butterflies in it. A new addition to the Park is Ashley, a work colleague of Mark's from Basildon Council who comes to the Park one day per week to help Mark out.

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

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: Ali Riley, Christine Lee, Peter Bates

Basildon Borough Council Countryside Services:

Mark Williams - Countryside Ranger, Telephone: 01268 562921
Rob Baker - Parks and Countryside Supervisor, Telephone: 01268 553992

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503

EVENTS PROGRAMME 2017

The following events for 2017 have been organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park in consultation with the Park Ranger. *All events start at the Wick Country Park Pavilion and, apart from the quiz night, booking is not required. Refreshments are available at all events.*

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Wick Weeders	<i>Usually the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month</i>	Starting at 1.30 pm (see the website & posters for confirmation of the dates). Equipment is provided. Help is always needed to maintain these gardens.
Weed & Clean	Monday 27th February	A Weed & Clean blitz in the park starting at 10 am until 4pm . A healthy start to the day with tea and cake and then there will be a variety of jobs on hand to suit all abilities and tastes. Refreshments will be served throughout the day, please come along for however long you can and enjoy the fun.
Quiz Night (Now sold out)	Friday 3rd March	A light hearted quiz, for tables of up to eight. At Barnhall Community Centre, Alderney Gardens, Wickford, 7.30 pm for an 8 pm start. Booking is essential – please contact Nikki, as below.
Bird Song Walk	Sunday 9th April	Starting at 10 am (two hours) . Both experienced and novice bird watchers are welcome. Last year we spotted, or heard, more than 20 species.
Skylarks 3K Race	Wednesday 19th April	7.30 pm This race is organised in conjunction with the Pitsea Running Club . Open to all runners and power walkers. Supporters welcome.
Paws in the Park	Sunday 11th June	11 am to 4 pm Our hugely popular annual fun dog show, for dogs of all types, ages and sizes is a must for all dog lovers. Keep an eye on the 'Events' web-page for details of this year's categories and side-stalls.
Nature Quest	Sunday 23rd July	11 am to 4 pm The whole family can come, be it for just a couple of hours, or for longer. Pond dipping, bug hunting and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Skylarks 3K Race	Wednesday 26th July	7.30 pm The second race this year organised in conjunction with the Pitsea Running Club . Open to all runners and power walkers - or why not just come to support?
Kite Festival & Classic Car Display	Sunday 17th September	11 am to 4 pm Another great family day out - held in conjunction with the Essex Kite Group and the South Eastern Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club . Allow at least an hour. Learn how to make and fly a kite.

For the latest information about the Country Park, the Friends group and our events, please see our website: www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk or contact Nikki Gibson on 01268 734293 or email chair@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk,