

# Skylarks

Thank you for your membership over the past year.

Join us for our last event for 2008 – the Yuletide Ramble – and please continue to support your local park in 2009.

## Join the Canine Ramble

Some of you might be interested in a walk I am planning with the **Canine Ramblers** around the Wick Country Park on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December** starting from outside the Pavilion at 10.30am.

**Please** could all dog owners joining us keep their dogs on a lead and under control whilst on this walk, as some of the dogs are nervous of strange dogs and people. Also if there are a large number of dogs it is less intimidating to other Park users. Of course I know you will all bring 'poo bags' to clear up after your four-legged friends.

After the walk the Pavilion will be open for anyone who would like a warming cup of tea or coffee, and you never know there may be some mince pies left. Please leave a donation for the refreshments.

If you would like further information about the walk, or the Canine Ramblers, please contact me on 01268 459675.

**Gill Beck**  
Friend of the Wick Country Park

## Yuletide Ramble and AGM

Join the Friends for a festive stroll around the park on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December starting at the Pavilion at 2pm.

After the walk there's a chance to warm up in the Pavilion with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie at the Annual General Meeting. All members are welcome to attend this short meeting.

Officers and committee members will be elected for the coming year. So if you would like to become a committee member or officer please forward names in advance to the Secretary, 14 Toppesfield Avenue, Wickford or email [triciamarshall@talktalk.net](mailto:triciamarshall@talktalk.net)  
You can also put forward nominations at the meeting.

## From the Membership Secretary

I trust you have enjoyed the quarterly newsletter Skylarks and the e-mail messages. Many of you have said how much all the family have appreciated the Walks, the Paws in the Park and Nature Quest events. We are grateful to all of you, who have helped or attended an event or work party, we could not have done it without you.

Although we are not primarily a moneymaking group we have accrued some finances that we will use for the benefit of the Park. Already we have purchased a cabinet notice board, which you will see shortly in the car park. This will enable us to keep all visitors aware of happenings and sightings in the park. We will also be buying additional software to make our website easier to maintain.

If we are lucky with our grant application we will be developing a new picnic area. So you can see we have been busy working to promote the park for people to enjoy the wildlife.

Thank you for your support and interest in the park over the past year. Please use the form enclosed to renew your membership. Do it now before you forget!

**Nikki Gibson**  
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last AGM – 9th Dec. 2007 (please see attached)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairperson's report
5. Treasurer's/membership report
6. Ranger's report
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Committee Members
9. Any other business



# Your suggestions needed...

Have you ever seen an unusual species of animal or plant in the Park? If you have, you will know that it is not always easy to describe exactly where you saw the species within the park's 50 acres. Well here is a project that might overcome this problem. The idea is to give names to specific parts of the park, such as ponds, bridges, etc. Steve Prewer, the Open Spaces Manager for Basildon District Council, has welcomed the idea, and is looking forward to seeing what suggestions are forthcoming from members of the Friends. So put your thinking caps on and have a look at the plan of the park below. Eight locations have been numbered. Can you suggest any names for one of more of these ponds, bridges, etc.?

Please forward your suggestions to the Secretary, 14 Toppesfield Avenue, Wickford or email [triciamarshall@talktalk.net](mailto:triciamarshall@talktalk.net) by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

## KEY

- 1 – the pond by the Pavilion
- 2 – the bridge over the brook by the alder carr
- 3 – the wide bridge over the brook
- 4 – the large meadow to the east of the brook
- 5 – the bridge over the brook by the large oak tree
- 6 – the pond
- 7 – the enclosed copse
- 8 – the enclosed copse



## Events

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

### Work Parties

*Third Sunday of each month  
10am – 12noon*

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

### Yuletide Ramble

*Sunday 7 December  
Starting at 2pm*

Finish the year with a sociable walk round 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 Friends' committee wishes all members a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!**

### 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](mailto:mikenikki@supanet.com)

## The Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Deborah Belverstone - Chairperson  
Nikki Gibson – Treasurer  
Tricia Marshall - Secretary  
Allison Tanner  
Maureen Bradford

Contact Deborah on 01268 572732 or email [dbelverstone@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dbelverstone@yahoo.co.uk)

## Basildon District Council Countryside Services:

Marcus Hotten  
Countryside Officer  
Telephone: 01268 550088

Mark Williams  
Countryside Ranger  
Telephone: 01268 562921