



Skylarks

A welcome Spring will soon be with us and 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.

Message from the Chair

Welcome to a new year and hopefully the weather will improve and be as kind as last year. We now have dates for all of our events so please make a note of these dates on the events list in the newsletter and we hope to see you there.

Another busy year starting with our ever popular Quiz Night, tickets go quickly so please buy early.

Spring is not far away and lots to do in the park at this time of year. Our Wick Weeders team are out twice a month to keep the pavilion garden in shape, any help would be very welcome and much appreciated.



Eileen Cattell
Chairperson



Just a little reminder.....

To renew your membership!

Many thanks to all who have renewed but just in case you have not yet done so, could you please send or deliver your membership form and money to:-

Nikki Gibson, Membership Secretary FOWCP,
126 Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford,
SS11 7DP.

Our first event of 2014 - The Quiz Night



The date: Friday 4th April 2014
The time: 7.30 for 8.00 pm prompt start
The place: Barnhall Community Social Club,
Alderney Gardens, off Brock Hill,
Wickford, SS11 7JP
The price: £5 per person

Teams of up to 8
1st and last prizes for winning teams
Bring your own food but drinks must be bought from the bar
Raffle Prizes

Contact Nikki for tickets 01268 734293
Email nikkigibson621@btinternet.com

The Sunday After.....

Yes the same weekend we have another event - the Bird Song Walk! This year something a little different too - our Park Ranger Mark Williams is otherwise engaged becoming a father for the first time but we have an excellent stand-in. Martin Singleton from the Wickford Wildlife Society is leading the walk, using his experience to guide us round the park, highlighting the morning activity of the bird life.

Yule Ramble 2013

Our last event of the year took place on a bracing day in December when an intrepid group of walkers went on the Yuletide Ramble round the park led by Park Ranger Mark. The weather stayed fine for us and we all enjoyed the fresh air and Mark's guided tour. Then it was back to the pavilion for welcome mulled wine and mince pies, followed by the AGM.



At the AGM Mark went through the Wick Country Park Management Plan highlighting the completed items - mown paths and open areas for day-to-day usage and events, improvement of the structure of the newly planted woodland area, increased number of picnic tables and benches, installation of bird and bat boxes, re-profile of lake margins and island edges to enable better foraging and feeding for the wildfowl. Other items are in progress - interpretive information placed at key features throughout the park, installation of artificial nesting chambers for birds and invertebrates along the water banks and ditches, scallop scrubland edge to create open enclave enhancing the wildlife diversity and aesthetic appeal, rotational cutting of the meadow grassland areas to provide a varied length of sward beneficial to wildlife, encourage the growth of selected tree species around the lake and its islands to enhance the marginal vegetation and to naturalise the bank.

Wick Weeders

Additional pairs of hands are always welcome in the pavilion garden at this time of year so why not come along to join the Wick Weeders - a happy group, clearing the weeds, planting and pruning, chatting and then drinking tea with a good selection of biscuits of course!



Please come and join us, the "Weeders" normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month but this can change so please check the posters in the noticeboard and pavilion or on the website for current information. The start time is 1.30pm and finish is about 4.30pm. Equipment and gloves are provided but please feel free to bring any favorites of your own. See you soon!



Wick Country Park Events

2014

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.

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

Quiz Night - Friday 4th April at Barnhall Community Centre, Alderney Gardens, Wickford, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Test your knowledge in a wide range of subjects. A fun evening. Booking is essential.

Bird Song Walk - Sunday 6th April, Starting at 9.30am. A leisurely walk, led by an experienced bird watcher, to enjoy the Park's bird life.

Skylarks 3K Race - Wednesday 23rd April, Starting at 7pm. Run or power walk the course laid out in the Park. This race is organised in conjunction with the Pitsea Running Club.

Paws in the Park - Sunday 8th June, 11am to 4pm. A very popular fun dog show, for dogs of all types, ages and sizes, their owners and all dog lovers. A family event, with doggie stalls, displays and activities.

Skylarks 3K Race - Wednesday 16th July, Starting at 7pm. Run or power walk the course laid out in the Park. Come to participate or to support others. This race is organised in conjunction with the Pitsea Running Club.

Nature Quest - Sunday 20th July, 11am to 4pm. A family day. Go pond dipping, bug hunting and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Crickets & Dragonflies - Sunday 10th August, Starting at 2pm. Led by the Park Ranger, catch and identify these creatures. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are welcome on a lead.

Kite Festival - Sunday 21st September, 11am to 4pm. A family day. This event is held in conjunction with the Essex Kite Group.

Yule 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:

Eileen Cattell - Chairperson, Nikki Gibson - Vice Chair/Membership Secretary, Dorothy Cundy - Treasurer,
Christine Lee - Secretary

Committee Members: Trudie Crow, Maxine Crow, Hilary Sim, Marie Singleton, Peter Bates, Paul Clarke, Alaric Cundy, Richard Rowsell

Basildon District 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