



Skylarks

Spring is on the way and we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our 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 Committee

Dear Friends

Welcome to our first issue of the Skylarks newsletter in 2019. The Events Calendar is included in this edition and the committee hopes again to see you at the Wick Country Park enjoying our planned events.

Our next event is the Bird Song Walk on Sunday 8th April, closely followed by the first of the Skylarks 3K Races on Wednesday 17th April. We hope to see many of you walkers and runners having a good time.



Further news is that 8 new bat boxes have been bought, more homes for the bats that populate the park. Previously we have had evening bat walks which proved popular and hopefully we can hold more, we will keep you updated.

Our best wishes for a happy 2019, see you soon.



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

BIRD SONG WALK



Sunday 28th April

10am to 12 noon

at the Wick Country Park

Tresco Way, Wickford, SS12 9GP

Led by the Park Ranger

FREE EVENT



*For further details: email
chair@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk*

www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk

Please do not forget.....

THE SKYLARKS 3K RACE
in conjunction with Pitsea Running Club

Wednesday 17th April 2019
At 7.30pm

*"Run for the Skylarks" through the delightful
Wick Country Park, all proceeds towards the
further development of the Park.*

'The January Jaunt & AGM 2019'

Our first event of the year, the January Jaunt was an exhilarating afternoon walk round the park led by our countryside ranger, Mark Williams. It was a nice sunny day and an intrepid group of 22 walkers set out to enjoy the fresh air and Mark's guided tour.

It was a good morning for bird watching, spotted and listed were Redwing, Crow, Blackbird, Green Woodpecker, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Black Headed Gull, Canada Goose, Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Chaffinch, Herring Gull, Dunnock, Collared Dove and Song Thrush.



It was then back to the pavilion for welcome mulled wine and mince pies, followed by the AGM.

At AGM the committee reported that this time last year the future of the Friends of the Wick Country Park did not look too good however we did manage to hold most of the events, though in a reduced format to previous years. Unfortunately the events that did not take place were Paws in the Park and the Quiz Night. The events that did take place were the Bird Song Walk led by Mark, the two 3K Races organized by Peter and the Pitsea Running Club and the Nature Event with bug hunting, pond dipping and craft activities to keep our younger visitors entertained. Our final event of the year was the Kite Festival and Classic Car Display, this was co-hosted with The Essex Kite Group (EKG) and the South Eastern Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club.

All in all it was still a good year with plenty of visitors to the events so many thanks to everyone who has contributed and attended. A big thank you to the dedicated team of Wick Weeders who have spent many hours to make the pavilion garden look good, however due to events beyond our control we have had to cancel these sessions until the Spring.

To keep the success going we are appealing for more volunteers, also to join the committee to help us arrange and give new ideas for next year's events. The list of this year's events has now been finalized and is included in the newsletter. Another piece of good news is that we are continuing free membership for another year!

Mark reported that there had been some clearance round the lake, it is very wet in some areas but space has been made to let light through. The hedges have been scalloped to create a diverse habitat to support different wildlife. Additionally work has been undertaken in two of the pillboxes with some boarding being put up for the bats to creep under. The FOWCP committee have agreed to purchase some bat boxes.





WICK COUNTRY PARK EVENTS 2019



The following events for 2019 have been organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park in consultation with the Park Ranger. *All these events start at or near to the Wick Country Park Pavilion and booking is not required. Toilets, car-parking, cycle racks, and refreshments are available at all events.*

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
	<i>Usually twice each month</i>	Unfortunately, for reasons completely beyond our control, it has been necessary to CANCEL all Wick Weeders sessions at least until Spring 2019. Please check on the website for updates.
Bird Song Walk	Sunday 28th 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 17th April	7.30 pm This race is organised in conjunction with the Pitsea Running Club . Open to all runners and power walkers. Supporters welcome.
Skylarks 3K Race	Wednesday 17th 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?
Nature Day	Sunday 7th July	1 pm to 4 pm Activities will include Bug Hunting and Pond Dipping. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a lead.
Kite Festival & Classic Car Display	Sunday 8th September	12 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, please email [contact us @friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk), or see our website: www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk

Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Christine Lee - Acting Chairperson, Hazel Broomfield - Treasurer, Marie Singleton - Secretary,
Hannah Cooper - Membership Secretary, Alaric Cundy - Webmaster
Peter Bates – Skylarks 3K Race Events

Basildon Borough Council Countryside Services:

Mark Williams - Countryside Ranger. To resolve an issue go to www.basildon.gov.uk/street or customer service on 01268 533333 (option 5). Any site enquiries to 01268 206665

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503