



# Skylarks

Summer has arrived and all the latest news from the Friends of the Wick Country Park is here to keep you up to date with current and future events.

## A Message from the Committee

Dear Friends

This edition of the Skylarks newsletter contains good news and unfortunately bad news. The enjoyable part first of course, the two events that were recently held in the Park, the Bird Song Walk and the April Skylarks 3K race, were as always successful and reports of these are included in the newsletter. Fine weather was welcome for both which is always appreciated for walking and running.

Further good news is that we will be holding the second and July Skylarks Race - a 3K race around the Park for the serious club runners, casual runners, joggers and walkers too.

Now the bad news, unfortunately we have had to cancel this year's Nature Day on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July – it is with great regret that we have had to cancel but we just do not have enough volunteers to organise and run it. We do apologise for any disappointment we may have caused.

We do hope to see you in July for a summer run, jog or walk around the park.....



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

***FRIENDS OF THE WICK  
COUNTRY PARK***  
*in conjunction with Pitsea Running Club*  
**THE SKYLARKS 3K RACE**  
**WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 2019 at 7.30pm**

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

**Entry: £3.00**  
*[UKA Affiliated runners = £1.00]  
(17 and under free)*

**ENTRIES ON THE DAY ONLY**

*Refreshments available*

*Further information: 01268 916289  
e-mail: [linda\\_peterbates@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:linda_peterbates@tinyworld.co.uk)  
[www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)*

*“Run for the Skylarks” through the delightful  
Wick Country Park: all proceeds to the further  
development of the Park”*



## 'The Bird Song Walk 2019'

The annual Bird Song Walk was held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019. There was only a small band of people who turned out for the event, perhaps it was the poor weather forecast or the lure of the bright lights of London for the Marathon, that may have influenced the attendance.

However, Mark Williams the Park Ranger was our guide, and after introducing himself to the group, we set off from the pavilion heading towards the boardwalk. As we were walking along a large flock of **Feral Pigeons** flew overhead, a **Great Tit** was calling, and the unmistakable song of a **Robin** was also heard.



There were a few **Woodpigeons** flying around and our first **Blackcap** of the day was singing in the hedgerow. As we walked along the boardwalk at least two **Wrens** were calling, and another **Robin** was in full voice. As we came out at the other side of the boardwalk the distinctive call of the **Chiffchaff** could be heard and eventually it was briefly seen at the top of a small tree. As we headed towards the bridge, a few **House Sparrows** were heard and then seen chattering away in the brambles. Proceeding along the path a little **Blue Tit** was spotted, always a favourite bird. As we approached the bridge a **Common Whitethroat** was seen carrying out its display flight. A couple of lovely **Goldfinches** flew into the top of a tree and a **Lesser Whitethroat** was heard but proved to be elusive and did not show itself. A female **Blackcap** was seen here and despite its name the female actually has a brown cap. Tearing ourselves away from this productive area, we headed towards the lake and a **Magpie** (as the rhyme goes, one for sorrow) landed close by on the grass.



Around the lake area we saw **Black Headed Gulls**, a group of **Canada Geese**, a couple of **Coots**, **Mallards** and **Tufted Ducks** and one solitary **Moorhen**. We then headed around the Pavilion side of the lake and joined the path again. As we approached the second Pillbox, we noticed another **Magpie** (two for Joy) which was perched on the top of the Kestrel box, perhaps it was planning on using it to build a nest in. Around the Pillbox area, a couple of lovely **Long Tailed Tits** were chattering away at a **Magpie** (3 for a girl) in the hedges, they are such fabulous little birds. A **Chaffinch** also made a brief appearance here. As we skirted around the other side of the lake several **Reed Warblers** were singing away, obviously in the reed bed. At least 4 or 5 were heard so there is a decent population here.

We headed back towards the pavilion just in time as it started to rain. When we arrived at the pavilion hot drinks and biscuits were awaiting which were most welcome. A good morning walk with 22 species seen/heard including 5 warbler species!

### **Bird List:**

Feral Pigeon	A flock of around 15 were seen at the beginning of the walk
Great Tit	Around 3 or 4 heard singing at various places
Robin	At least 10 heard during the walk
Woodpigeon	6 to 10 birds flying around the park
Blackcap	Around 6 birds heard, one female seen
Wren	At least 2 at the boardwalk, and others heard on the walk
Chiffchaff	Around 5 or 6 heard with one seen briefly
House Sparrow	3 or 4 birds heard / seen
Blue Tit	Only 1 seen but at least 10 or more heard
Common Whitethroat	1 singing and displaying near the bridge gave good views
Goldfinch	2 landed near the bridge for all to see, several others heard/seen on the walk
Lesser Whitethroat	1 singing near the bridge, possibly one more further down the hedgerow
Magpie	3 or 4 in various areas of the park
Black Headed Gull	A couple flying around the lake
Canada Geese	Around 6 at the lake
Coot	2 at the lake
Mallard	2 at the lake
Tufted Duck	2 at the lake
Moorhen	Just one at the lake
Long Tailed Tits	At least 2 chattering at a Magpie near the Pillbox
Chaffinch	Surprisingly just one near the Pillbox
Reed Warbler	5 or 6 singing in the lake reedbed

(Written by Marie Singleton)

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## **'The Skylarks 3K Race April 2019'**

It was a fine evening for the runners and supporters at the first Skylarks 3K Race of the year, an excellent total of 73 runners taking part.



Many thanks to Peter Bates and his team for the excellent organisation, also to all the hardy runners taking part and the supporters cheering them on.

The winners of the race are listed below - the overall winner was Crispen Bloomfield who broke his own course record with a time of 9 minutes and 32 seconds! Everyone enjoyed the evening and I hope you will be able to support the next Skylarks 3K event on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30 p.m. Looking forward to another great turnout, inspiring evening and fine weather.

First Man – Crispen Bloomfield in 9:32

First Lady – Alexa Joel in 12:04

First Boy – Oscar Farley in 11:54

First Girl – Olivia Forrest in 12:55

\*\*\* Please do not forget our next Skylarks 3K Run on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm \*\*\*



# 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
<b>Wick Weeders</b>	<b>Usually twice each month</b>	Starting at <b>1.30 pm</b> Details: For up and coming sessions please go to the website <a href="http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/Wick_Weeders.shtml">http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/Wick_Weeders.shtml</a> or email <a href="mailto:contact_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk">contact_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk</a> Equipment and refreshments are provided. Help is always needed to maintain these gardens.
<b>Skylarks 3K Race</b>	<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b> The second race this year organised in conjunction with the <b>Pitsea Running Club</b> . Open to all runners and power walkers - or why not just come to support?
<b>Nature Day</b>	<b>CANCELLED</b>	
<b>Kite Festival &amp; Classic Car Display</b>	<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>12 am to 4 pm</b> Another great family day out - held in conjunction with the <b>Essex Kite Group</b> and the <b>South Eastern Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club</b> . <b>Allow at least an hour.</b> 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](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)**

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### 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](http://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

