

The newsletter of the  
Friends of the Wick Country Park

[www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)



ISSUE 74 APRIL 2026



# Skylarks



## A Message from the Committee

Welcome to the latest edition of the Skylarks newsletter reporting all that has happened in the Wick Country Park last year and the plans for this year.

The Events Calendar is included in this issue and the committee hopes again to see you at the Wick Country Park enjoying the events.

Our next event will be the Spring Birdsong Walk on Sunday 26th April. On Friday 3rd July it is the Moth Night and Stargazing which is an enjoyable evening identifying the moths and stargazing through the telescope. This year hopefully it will be a fine sky to enable seeing some planets! The Autumn Walk with apple themed refreshments will be held on Sunday 25th October.

In addition to these nature events there are the Monthly Wildlife Walks led by Martin Singleton and other experts from the Wickford Wildlife Society. This is a leisurely walk looking out for the birds and other wildlife that are in the park. There is a detailed list of all recorded sightings in 2025 written by Martin included in this issue showing how wildlife diverse and wonderful our local country park has become.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



## **BIRD SONG WALK**



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Starting 9.30am

*at the Wick Country Park*

*Tresco Way, Wickford, SS12 9GP*

Meet outside the Pavilion

**FREE EVENT**

**Refreshments available after the walk**

*For further details email  
[contact\\_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)*

*[www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)*

## **Winter Walk and AGM 2026**

Our first wildlife walk of the year was the Winter Walk, held prior to the AGM. This was a short walk around the park, following a slightly different shorter route, than our monthly wildlife walks. The highlights were quite a few Redwing in the park, feeding on the berries but mainly seen in flight, also a nice Great Crested Grebe at the lake and a few birds were already starting to sort their breeding territories, especially Robin and Song Thrush. After the walk mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed and then down to business for the AGM.



Redwing



Great Crested Grebe

If you wish to read the full record of the wildlife spotted on this walk and any of Martin's wildlife reports they can be found on the Friends of the Wick Country Park website [www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)

## **Reports of Last Year's Events**

### **'The Birdsong Walk 2025'**

The annual spring Birdsong Walk in the park took place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April. The weather was sunny but quite cool with an easterly breeze. The highlights were:

- Lots of Chiffchaff and Blackcap singing
- Great views of male Kingfisher at the lake
- Wren very active in the park at the moment
- Great views of a Lesser Whitethroat
- 24 bird species seen
- A few butterflies starting to emerge
- Some nice bees and other insects in the pavilion garden

### **'The Annual Moth & Stargazing Night 2025'**

The Annual Moth & Stargazing Night was held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. It was an enjoyable evening with a good many moths attracted to the light and recorded in the annual report.

### **'The Autumn Walk'**

The Autumn Ramble took place in the park on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The weather was mild with sunny spells. The highlights were:

- A nice flock of Goldfinch feeding on the alders along the boardwalk
- A large flock of Wood Pigeon at the start of the walk perhaps showed how many really live around the park
- Plenty of Magpie in the park at the moment
- Robin very active at the moment as they sort out their winter territories
- Quite a few Redwing overhead – all on migration and none landing to feed
- A mass of berries in the park – every fruiting tree/bush has lots
- Several small butterflies flying around the treetops including a Purple Hairstreak

## Wick-ed Gardeners



The Wick-ed Gardeners were very busy throughout 2025 and the dedicated team are already working away this year to maintain the pavilion garden. If you would like to join the valued team of volunteer gardeners please come along, all are welcome, tools are available but bring your own if you prefer along with your pair of gardening gloves. Please keep an eye on the Friends of the Wick Country Park website under Latest Headlines for the date of the next session and meeting arrangements.



The Wick-ed Gardeners had very welcome help recently whereby they were joined by volunteers from the Freedom Group. The extra help was very much appreciated!



## 'Other News'



Abacus School again requested some help for their visit to the Wick Country Park on Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November. On the morning a group of 58 pupils and their teachers came to hear about the 3 pillboxes in the country park, then all wanting to see inside went into the pillbox near the pavilion two at a time! At 11am we then observed a 2 minute silence.



A very welcome and valued addition to the Wick Country Park! A defibrillator that is placed at the Playdays Nursery on the Pavilion building. They are easy to use but please have a look online to know how to use them and what to do if you need to use one. Thank you to Councillor George Jeffrey for his continued support of the Wick Country Park which is very much appreciated.

Further news is that the planting of the wildlife meadow was completed early March with 29 varieties of seed being planted. The planting session of the kind donation of bulbs from Wickford in Bloom took place on 16th October. A very much appreciated thank you to all the volunteers who came along and helped with the planting.

# Wick Country Park - Wildlife Sightings in 2025

Starting in 2020, it was decided to carry out a monthly wildlife walk in the Wick Country Park, generally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, depending on weather, holidays etc. The aims of the walk are:

1. To enjoy the park, it's wildlife and get some fresh air.
2. To record and count the wildlife we see/hear, namely: birds, butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, and anything else of note, e.g. moths and reptiles.
3. To gain a greater understanding of what wildlife lives in and/or uses the park and monitor any changes in their populations.
4. To promote the wildlife of the park to the Friends group and general public via the Website and Facebook etc.
5. To share our wildlife recordings with all relevant groups and organisations e.g. Basildon Council, all County Recorders, Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group, etc.

Each month, an email report is issued, recording the wildlife identified that month. Then at the end of the year, an annual report is issued. This report compares year to year, highlighting any noticeable differences between the years.

Below are the numbers of all the wildlife seen/heard during 2025. Too numerous to list individually but the detailed and comprehensive report can be found on the Friends of the Wick Country Park website link: [www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/PDF\\_lib/WCP\\_Wildlife\\_Sightings\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2025.pdf](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk/PDF_lib/WCP_Wildlife_Sightings_Annual_Report_2025.pdf)

## Birds 2025 – 56 Species

### Butterflies 2025 – 21 Species

### Dragonflies and Damselflies 2025 – 6 Species

### Mammals 2025 – 3 Species

### Moths 2025 – 28 Species

### Amphibians and Reptiles 2025 – 0 Species

### Invertebrates and Others 2025 – 24 Species

## Plants and Flowers – 51 Species



Common Buzzard



Common Kingfisher



Common Snipe



Common Tern



Eurasian Bullfinch



Eurasian Siskin



Northern Lapwing



Peregrin



Spotted Flycatcher



Yellowhammer



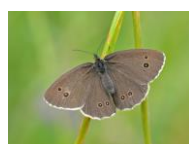
Painted Lady



Brown Argus



Essex Skipper



Ringlet



Small Copper



White-letter Hairstreak



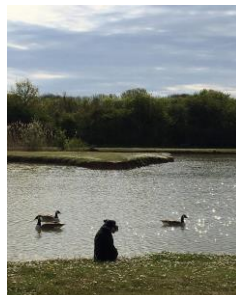
# WICK COUNTRY PARK EVENTS 2026



The following events for 2025 have been organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park.

*All these events start at or near to the **Wick Country Park Pavilion** and for most events booking is not required, please see the particular event for details. Toilets, car-parking, cycle racks, and refreshments are available at most events.*

EVENT Please click on the link for full details	DATE	DETAILS
<a href="#">Wick-ed Gardeners</a>	Next date: please see the <a href="#">News Headlines page</a>	The Wick Country Park Gardening Group - the Wick-ed Gardeners meet regularly and always welcome new volunteers. For the next date, please see the <a href="#">News Headlines page</a> . Meet outside the Pavilion. Please bring your own gardening gloves. Tools will be provided, but if you have your own favourite gardening tool/s please feel free to bring your own.
<a href="#">Monthly Wildlife Walks</a>	Dates for 2026 are all on the following Wednesdays: April 15th May 20th June 17th July 15th August 26th September 16th October 21st November 18th December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Starting at <b>10.30a.m.</b> Enjoy a sociable and leisurely walk of approx <b>1 - 1.5 hours</b> around the Park, led by Martin Singleton, and assisted by other experts from the Wickford Wildlife Society to watch and listen to the varied wildlife in the Park. If you come throughout the year you may be amazed at the changing patterns of sightings throughout the seasons. For further details and to confirm the next date, <a href="#">please contact Martin Singleton</a>
<a href="#">Spring Birdsong Walk</a>	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Start time: 09.30. Martin Singleton will lead the walk and refreshments will be provided.
<a href="#">Moth Night and Stargazing</a>	Friday 3rd July	Time 9pm till late - Moth Night and Stargazing. This is a joint event with the Wickford Wildlife Society. There will be a booking system to be opened nearer the time as numbers will be limited.
<a href="#">Autumn Walk with Apple Theme Refreshments</a>	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Time 10am - Autumn Walk round the park then back to the pavilion for apple theme refreshments.





Come along to the Wick Country Park and enjoy a walk and see the wildlife.

If you do make any good wildlife sightings, please share them by sending an email to [contact\\_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk) and we will add them to the 'Nature Notes' on the website. If you could manage a picture or two that would be even better!

**Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:**

Christine Lee - Acting Chairperson, Hazel Broomfield - Treasurer, Marie Singleton - Secretary,  
Eileen Cattell - Membership Secretary, Alaric Cundy - Webmaster  
Peter Bates - Committee Member  
Les Finn – Committee Member

 **Friends of the Wick Country Park**

**Wickford Wildlife Society website: [www.wickfordwildlife.co.uk](http://www.wickfordwildlife.co.uk)**

 **Wickford Wildlife Society**

**Wickford Wombles**

 **Wickford Wombles**

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503