

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN 2013

ABOUT US

The Friends group aims to support our big, beautiful park; its habitats, historic buildings, flora and fauna, as well as its many human visitors. New members are always very welcome. If you are interested, check our new website at www.fbc.org.uk. We are local residents and park users from all the areas around the park boundary and beyond. All those who support the park are welcome to attend our meetings – the content varies: we may have guests to talk with us, or there may be issues of concern or funding possibilities to discuss. If you're not a meetings person, but are into helping in a community café, or engineering, or practical conservation, there may be volunteering opportunities for you in the park. We hope to see you there!

SATURDAY MORNING COMMUNITY CAFÉ AT THE DYNAMO HOUSE

Call in for a sit down, cuppa and chat – freshly brewed tea and coffee with excellent home-made cakes – on **Saturdays from 10 am – 12 noon and on event days**. Access is via a flat path from the Winding Engine House car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village - if you're not into climbing the hills of Bestwood! Contact Gill at gillian.costello@ntlworld.com if you would like to help with the café – we do need more volunteers. It is run jointly by the Friends group and Bestwood Village WI, with net profits going to benefit the park.

BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE

The Winding Engine House dates back to 1876, the heyday of Victorian industrial engineering. It's **open for drop-in visitors to tour the building from 10.00 am to 12 noon on Saturdays until the end of October**. Entry is **free**, with **free** car parking nearby. However, if you have a group that would like to visit at another time the Volunteers who look after the building welcome your interest and may well be able to book you in by arrangement with the new **Heritage Development Officers** – see below. The House closes otherwise over the winter to give time for essential maintenance by the volunteers.

HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS AT THE DYNAMO HOUSE

Our Heritage Development Officers, **Adele Williams and David Amos** are based at the Dynamo House, next door to the Winding Engine House. They started work earlier this year and are funded for two years by the Heritage Lottery Fund

to encourage more volunteers and community events locally around park history.

Whether you'd like to join the volunteer engineer team, book a separate group tour of the Engine House, have memories of the old colliery days, or ideas for events in the park, they would love to hear from you.

- ▶ Contact them on **0115 976 2422** or email adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk, or david.amos@nottsc.gov.uk.

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ **Individuals:** two teams of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers work regularly with the Rangers in the County Council area of the park – on **Mondays and on the third Sunday** of each month. If you're interested to get involved in practical conservation contact **Sue McDonald** on **0115 975 3782, or 07500 106567, or email sue.mcdonald@nottsc.gov.uk**.
- ▶ **Gedling Borough Council** manages the south eastern area of the park, and organises volunteer conservation days there; let their **Jane Richardson** know of your interest in conservation volunteering. Call Jane at **0115 901 3963** or email jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk. See over page for 2 events.
- ▶ **Companies:** if your company would like to organise a separate volunteer work session in the park on a particular project, again contact **Sue or Jane as above**.

SCHOOLS AND CHILDRENS GROUP VISITS

- ▶ Various school and children's groups come to the park to enable the children to experience and learn about the natural world. If your group or school is interested, contact **Sue McDonald**. Sue is based in the classroom close to Alexandra Lodge: see paragraph above for her contact details.



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Autumn park events



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AUTUMN 2013 PARK EVENTS

Below are brief notes - for full details, click on the **events brochure** at <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/countryside/countryparks/bestwood/>

MONTHLY HEALTH WALKS – gentle **free** 90-minute guided walks on a Wednesday morning from **10.30 am**. Autumn **Wednesday dates are: 18 September, 16 October, 20 November and 18 December**. For more information contact **Sue McDonald**, contact details as on page one.

NORDIC WALKING – to enquire about brisk guided Nordic walks in the park, contact Glynis Jones at walkingwithpoles@sky.com or call 07889 038495.

YOUNG WILD THINGS – The Wild Things Ecological Education Collective, a not-for-profit organisation, provides young people with the chance to get involved in the natural world of the park in guided tailored activities: everything from **Teddy Bears Picnics** for school years 1 and 2, to **Wild Wood Adventure** days for years 4, 5 and 6, and **Forest School** for year 4 upwards offering school groups a programme of weekly two-hour sessions. Contact www.wildthings.org.uk or phone **0845 458 4727**.

ARBORETUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS VOLUNTEER DAYS – **Wednesday 2 October** for bulb planting in the lawns, and **Wednesday 6 November** for leaves and brambles clearance of the Japanese Gardens. Both events start at 10 am. Tools are provided. Bring a picnic if you plan to stay over lunch. For more details call Jane at **0115 901 3963** or email jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk.

NATIONAL FUNGUS DAY – **free** event – **Sunday 13 October, from 10.30 am to 4 pm at the Dynamo House**. Come along to celebrate the day with the **Notts Fungi Group**. They'll have an exhibition in the Dynamo House, with activities for children. Guided forays will walk into the park at 11 am and at 2 pm and the Dynamo House community café will be open for refreshments.

SWEAT LODGES – **Sunday 20 October, Sunday 24 November, and Winter Solstice on Saturday 21 December, all 10.30 am to 4 pm**: time to cleanse and connect with natural healing under a covered willow dome. A charge applies to these events. For details call **Jason Sewell at 0115 956 9603, or email Jason@turtlelodgehealing.co.uk**.

THE BIG DRAW – **draw tomorrow** – **Saturday 26 October, a free** event – **10 am to 4 pm** at the Dynamo House. Join **professional artist Sandy Bywater** to be encouraged to draw, make or create your own tomorrow. The Dynamo House community café will be open too, of course.

HEDGE LAYING WEEKEND – **Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October, 10 am – 3 pm** - a comprehensive weekend course covering everything about this ancient craft from traditions to tools and techniques. There is a charge of £50 for this event, prebooking and prepayment are essential – call **01623 821323** to book.

NATURAL HISTORY WALK – **Sunday 3 November, 10 am – 12 noon**. Meet at the Winding Engine House car park for this **free** walk guided by a Ranger to enjoy autumn's special flora and fauna.

HEDGE LAYING TASTER SESSIONS – **Sunday 17 November and Saturday 7 December, 10 am – 3 pm**. One-day sessions giving basic information on this ancient craft, suitable for beginners or improvers. There is a charge of £25 for this event, prebooking and prepayment are essential – please call **01623 821323**.

CHRISTMAS PAST – **Tuesday 17 December, 10.30 am – 12 noon**. Do you remember the Christmas stockings of the past? Gather round the tree at the Dynamo House for a mince pie and a look back at how Christmas used to be. This is a **free** event but phone **Adele or David on 0115 976 2422** to book your place and make sure you get a mince pie!

Contact: gillian.costello@ntlworld.com if you have queries on this newsletter



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