

The Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 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 to know more please check our new website at www.fbc.org.uk, or email gillian.costello@ntlworld.com.

We are local residents and park users from all the areas around the park boundary. All are welcome to attend our meetings – the content varies: we may have speakers, or there may be issues of concern or funding possibilities to discuss. If you're not a meetings person, but are into engineering, practical conservation or even helping in a community café, there may be volunteering opportunities for you in the park. We hope to see you there!

BESTWOOD COUNTRY PARK DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) recently established the Bestwood Development Group, to help develop and define a new vision and master plan for the park, with the aim of clear continuity in the management of the site. Amongst those represented on the group are the Winding Engine House Volunteers, the Friends group, Bestwood Village Vision and environmental teaching groups, as well as NCC who chair it, and Councillors from Bestwood St Albans Parish Council, Gedling Borough Council, Ashfield District Council and Nottingham City Council.

WINDING ENGINE HOUSE OPEN FOR THE SUMMER

The Winding Engine House is open for drop-in visitors on Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays through the summer, from 10 am to 12 noon, with entry free, and free car parking nearby. However, if you have a group that would like to visit at another time the Volunteers welcome your interest and may well be able to book you in by arrangement with the new **Heritage Development Officers**:-

NEW HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS AT THE DYNAMO HOUSE

We very much welcome our two new Heritage Development Officers, **Adele Williams** and **David Amos**. Based at the Dynamo House, next door to the Winding Engine House, they are funded for two years by the Heritage Lottery Fund to encourage more volunteers and community events locally around the history of the park. If you'd like to join the volunteer engineer team, book a separate group visit to the Winding Engine House, or have ideas for events in the park, contact them on **0115 976 2422** or email adele.williams@nottscc.gov.uk, or david.amos@nottscc.gov.uk

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Individuals: two teams of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers work regularly with the Rangers – on Mondays and on the third Sunday of each month. If you're interested to get involved in practical conservation please contact **Sue McDonald** on **0115 975 3782, or 07500 106567**, or email sue.mcdonald@nottscc.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.

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.

SATURDAY MORNING CAFÉ

Dynamo House Café customers are increasing slowly but steadily. You are very welcome to call in for a sit down, a cuppa and a chat – home-made cakes are usually available too – on **Saturdays from 10 am – 12 noon**. 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 have more information.

Please note: the café also plans to be open on **Sunday 2 June**, the day of the **Big Lunch** – see over page...

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SUMMER 2013 PARK EVENTS

Below are brief notes - but for full details of ranger-led and other park events, click on the **events brochure** at

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/countryside/countryparks/bestwood/>

THE BIG LUNCH – SUNDAY 2 JUNE, 11 am – 3 pm

This event challenges its catering team to produce **1000 free lunches** for the cost of the food that the average family wastes in a year – estimated at £680. Come along and see if they can do it! More details are at www.veoliaenvironmentalservices.co.uk

MONTHLY HEALTH WALKS – gentle 90-minute walks on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 am. Summer Wednesday dates are: **19 June, 17 July, 7 August, and 18 September.**

NORDIC WALKS – one-hour brisk, invigorating walks on Saturday and Wednesday mornings. For more information and a newsletter contact walkingwithpoles@sky.com or **07889 038495.**

SWEAT LODGE SUMMER SOLSTICE – FRIDAY 21 TO SUNDAY 23 JUNE

Celebrate the summer solstice with a weekend of sweat lodges, ceremonies and healing as well as activities for children. A charge applies to this event. For details call **Jason Sewell at 0115 956 9603,** or email Jason@turtlelodgehealing.co.uk.

GODDESS CAMP – FRIDAY 19 TO SUNDAY 21 JULY

This year's Goddess Camp is a scaled-down event: after 14 years, the organisers are taking a break from running the larger community camp, so this event is aimed as organisers only. We hope to be able to bring you the customary community camp next year, where we celebrate the earth, appreciate our connection to it and explore what we can do to protect our environment. For more information, call **Margret Vince on 07890 284066 or 0115 956 8810, or email her at nottmgoddesscamp@hotmail.com.**

RANGER-LED GUIDED SUMMER WALK – SUNDAY 21 JULY, 10 AM – 12 NOON

Meet at the Winding Engine House car park for this **free guided walk** and enjoy peak summertime in the park.

DEN BUILDING – THURSDAY 25 JULY, 10.30 AM – 12.30 PM

How do animals manage to live and sleep in the woods? Pretend you are an animal and construct yourself a cosy little den out of materials found in the forest! All ages from 5 and upwards, children to be accompanied by an adult. Pre-booking and payment is essential – at a cost of £2 per child. **Call 0115 975 3782 to book.**

POND DIPPING – THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 10.30 AM – 12.30 PM

From the Winding Engine house car park, a gentle walk to Mill Lake to search for strange beasties in the water! For ages 5 and upwards, accompanied by an adult. **Pre-booking and payment is essential, details as for Den Building above.**

BESTWOOD WINDING ENGINE HOUSE STEAM HERITAGE DAY, 11 AM TO 4 PM SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

Learn about the mining heritage of the area at this **free event.** The Bestwood Colliery in its heyday employed 1,300 people, before its closure in 1971. Good music from Bestwood Black Diamonds Brass Band.

BAT NIGHT – WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER - 6 PM TO 8 PM

Meet the creatures of the night, with a slide talk and hopefully a chance to see live rescued bats up close, followed by a short night vigil to see bats hunting over Mill Lakes. Pre-booking and pre-payment are essential, at a cost of £4 per person. **Call 0115 975 3782 to book.**

RANGER-LED EVENTS:

You can contact the rangers on **0115 927 3674** for more information on any of the events above – **please note** the ranger team is small, so you may need to leave a message and your number on their answering machine. They will get back to you as soon as they can.

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

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