

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2014

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 website at www.fbc.org.uk, and use our contact form to ask for more details. We are local residents and park users from all the areas around the park boundary and beyond. All who support the park are welcome to attend our meetings. We meet usually on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm in Bestwood Lodge Hotel. 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 nature conservation**, there may be volunteering opportunities for you in the park. We hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY CAFÉ AT THE DYNAMO HOUSE - OPEN LONGER

Call in for a sit down, cuppa and chat – freshly brewed tea and coffee with excellent home-made cakes – on **Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm, and on event days**. As a trial run we are open also on **Sunday afternoons in June, July and August, from 2 pm – 4 pm**. Access: on foot via any of the park entrances, or a flat path from the free Winding Engine House car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village. If you would like to help with the café, contact Gill at gillian.costello@ntlworld.com. Our chosen charity morning for the summer will be on **Saturday September 27th, for Macmillan Cancer Care**.

BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE – FREE TOURS

The Winding Engine House dates back to 1876, the heyday of Victorian industrial engineering. It's open **every Saturday morning from 10 am – 12 noon** and August Bank Holiday Monday for drop-in visitors and tours, as well as on event days. However if your group would like to visit at other times the volunteers who look after the building welcome your interest and may well be able to book you in by arrangement with our Heritage Development Officers – their contact details are below.

EXPLORE OUR MINING HERITAGE 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 are funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to encourage more volunteers and community events locally around the park's mining 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@nottscc.gov.uk, or david.amos@nottscc.gov.uk.

NATURE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ **Individuals:** three teams of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers work regularly, weekly and monthly, with the Rangers in the County Council area of the park. If you're interested to get involved in practical conservation 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 four annual 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**, details as above.

HEALTH WALKS – gentle **free** 90-minute guided walks on **Wednesdays from 10.30 am** from the Winding Engine House car park. Summer Wednesday dates are **16 July and 17 September**. For more details and to discuss any mobility concerns contact **Sue McDonald, 0115 975 3872**.

Other Summer park events over page...

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SUMMER 2014 PARK EVENTS

Below are brief notes only - for full details, location map, directions, car parking and

access information click on the Notts County Council website
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/countryside/countryparks/bestwood/>
and scroll down to click on the **events guide**, or scan ►



MONTHLY MINI-MINERS – on the **first Saturday of each month from 10 am – 12 noon** outside the Dynamo House Community Café : summer dates are **5 July, 2 August and 6 September**. Under 5s will tunnel for coal, and the older ones can hunt for mining objects around the site.

NORDIC WALKING – for details on these invigorating guided walks, contact walk leader Richard at richardmorris159@hotmail.com or call **07794 403859**.

YOUNG WILD THINGS – The Wild Things Ecological Education Collective, a not-for-profit organisation provides young people of all ages with the chance to get involved in the natural world of the park in guided age-tailored activities. Contact www.wildthings.org.uk or phone **0845 458 4727**.

NOTTINGHAM GODDESS CAMPS - open to all who celebrate our connection to the Earth. There are **two family camps: from July 18 to 20 and July 25 to 27**; and from **noon on Monday 21 to noon on Friday 25th July**. Charges apply – for more details and to book contact **Margret on 0115 956 8810 / 07773 591097, or email: nottmgoddesscamp@hotmail.com**. Please note no dogs!

SUMMER NATURAL HISTORY WALK – **Sunday 20 July 10 am – 12 noon** – enjoy this interesting **free** ranger-led walk which will highlight some of the many different habitats and flora and fauna that flourish in the park at mid-summer. Meet at the Winding Engine House car park. **Phone 0115 927 3674 for details**.

MINERS AND MUSIC – **Sunday 27 July, 2 pm – 5 pm** - explore the rich musical heritage of mining communities, featuring the Bestwood Black Diamonds Brass band and the Bestwood Male Voice Choir. Enjoy the music, and then have a go yourself with a brass instrument!

THWACK! MINING COMMUNITIES AT PLAY – **Sunday 17 August, 12 noon – 4 pm** at the Winding Engine House. Sport and traditional street games flourished in days when we all played outside until teatime. This event is a celebration of this mining community heritage with activities for children, traditional sweetshop, and of course the Dynamo House café will be open with drinks and delicious cakes.

BAT NIGHT - **Wednesday 3rd September, from 6:30pm in the Dynamo House**. Lynn Victor from Notts Wildlife Trust will talk (and bring a live specimen if able) followed by a bat spotting session at the lakes.

STEAM HERITAGE DAY – **Sunday 7 September, 11 am – 4 pm**, gives youngsters a chance to experience 'living steam' in action on or around various engines, listen to the miniature fairground organ, take a pony ride, enjoy a free tour of the Winding Engine House, then sit down and recover in the Dynamo House café!

BESTWOOD VILLAGE POPPY WALK – **Saturday 13 September, 2 pm – 5 pm** – a thoughtful walk, and a traditional 1914 tea courtesy of Bestwood Village WI, with a performance by actor Becky Matter, who will share hidden stories of Gedling Armed Forces families, village life and loss during the Great War. A small charge will apply for the tea. **Booking is essential – call Gedling Borough Council on 0115 901 3715**. Wear robust footwear and come suitably dressed for the weather.

THE WIND UP MINING HERITAGE BUS TOUR – **Sunday 21 September, 10 am – 5pm** – leaving from the **DH Lawrence Heritage Centre, Eastwood**, the tour will call at Brinsley Headstocks, Pleasley Colliery site Clipstone Headstocks, Papplewick Pumping Station (the old Linby Colliery Robey winding engine in steam), and finally at Bestwood Winding Engine House then returning to Eastwood. **Places are limited and advanced booking essential**. Call **0115 976 2422** or email david.amos@nottscc.gov.uk to book or ask for more details.

SWAN CANARIES THEATRE - **Saturday 27th September**. Performance in the Dynamo House by the **Arletty Theatre Company**, based on the World War I Munitions Factory disaster in Long Eaton. For details of timings, charge and how to book call **0115 976 2422**. Places are limited.