

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: WINTER 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. 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 evening of each month at 7.30 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 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. Over the winter it's closed to drop-in visitors for essential maintenance. However if your group would like to visit meanwhile 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 detail are below – please get in touch.

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 in 2013 and are funded for two years by the Heritage Lottery Fund

to encourage more volunteers and community events locally around park 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.

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ **Individuals:** two 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**. Sue is organising extra monthly volunteer days on a Thursday.
- ▶ **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**, details as above.

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WINTER 2014 PARK EVENTS

Below are brief notes only - 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** from the Winding Engine House car park. Winter Wednesday dates are: **15 January, 12 February, and 19 March**. For more information contact **Sue McDonald**, contact details as on page one.

NORDIC WALKING – to enquire about brisk guided Nordic walks in the park, 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**.

SWEAT LODGES – **Saturday 25 January, Saturday 22 February, and Spring equinox on Saturday 22 March, 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**.

ARBORETUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS VOLUNTEER DAYS – **Wed 26**

February and Wed 19 March - volunteers are invited to help with two maintenance sessions in the gardens this spring, clearing litter, leaves and brambles to keep the garden design clear. They usually run from 10 am. For more details call Jane Richardson at **0115 901 3963 or email jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk**.

HEDGE LAYING TASTER – **Sunday 16 February, 10 am – 3 pm** - a basic guide to the ancient craft of hedge laying, suitable for beginners or improvers. There is a charge of £25 for this event, prebooking and prepayment are essential – call **01623 821323** to book.

LADIES HEDGE LAYING DAY – **Sunday 9 March 10 am – 3 pm** – for this **free** event ladies are invited to join Community Liaison Officer Sue McDonald for a day to learn the basic skills of this craft and to celebrate International Women's Day. **Pre-booking is essential – call Sue on 0115 975 3782**.

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WALK – **Thursday 13 March 11 am – 4.30 pm** – a **free** event lead by David Amos, Heritage Development Officer, and Jeff Smith of the East Midlands group of the Railway and Canal Historical Society. This walk of approx 5 miles starts at Bulwell tram/train station and ends at Hucknall tram/train station, taking in a tour of the Winding Engine House. Donations to Friends of Bestwood Winding Engine House. **To book, contact david.amos@nottsc.gov.uk or call 0115 976 2422**.

RAMBLE IN THE WOODS – **Saturday 22 March** – 10.15 am from the Dynamo House. The **Save Sherwood Forest Campaign's** annual ramble is very welcome to Bestwood this year - our park lands are one of the southernmost remnants of Sherwood Forest. The Dynamo House Café will be open as usual. This **free** event is planned to coincide with World Forests Day, and to feature poetry and music from local people.

NATURAL HISTORY WALK - **Sunday 30 March, 10 am – 12 noon**. Meet at the Winding Engine House car park for this **free** walk guided by a Ranger to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring in our park. Call the **Rangers on 0115 927 3674** for details.

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

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