

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: SPRING 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 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 practical 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 – 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 and chosen charities. **From May and over the summer**, if volunteers are willing and able, we hope to open **until 1 pm on Saturdays, and from 2 pm – 4 pm on Sundays for June, July and August**.

BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE RE-OPENS

The Winding Engine House dates back to 1876, the heyday of Victorian industrial engineering. It re-opens on **Easter Saturday, 19 April from 10 am – 12 noon** for drop-in visitors and tours and will be open every Saturday and Bank Holiday Mondays over the spring, as well as on some 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 detail are below.

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@nottsc.gov.uk, or david.amos@nottsc.gov.uk.

PRACTICAL 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@nottsc.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.

Spring park events over page



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SPRING 2014 PARK EVENTS

Below are brief notes only - for full details, location map, directions, car parking and accessibility information click on the Notts County Council [events brochure](#)

MONTHLY HEALTH WALKS – gentle **free** 90-minute guided walks on a **Wednesday morning from 10.30 am** from the Winding Engine House car park. Spring Wednesday dates are: **23 April, 21 May, 18 June**. For more information and to discuss any mobility concerns contact **Sue McDonald, 0115 975 3872**.

MONTHLY MINI-MINERS – on the **first Saturday of each month** from 10 am – 12 noon at the Dynamo House: spring dates are **5 April, 3 May and 7 June**. This **free** activity will see the under 5s tunnelling for coal and the older ones hunting for mining objects around the site. Free car parking at the Winding Engine House car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village.

NORDIC WALKING – for details on invigorating guided Nordic walks in the park, call Glynis on **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**.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AND BREAKFAST – **Sunday 20 April from 5.30 am**. Join the congregation from Bestwood's six churches for this dawn service in the woods – you need to be there very early for the sunrise! Afterwards join the group for breakfast at Emmanuel Church Hall. Please **book your breakfast in advance**, and note there's a small charge for breakfast. Call **0115 920 8879** or **0115 955 0423** to book or for more details.

SWEAT LODGES – **Saturday 26 April, and Saturday 21 June - the summer equinox, both 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@turtlodgehealing.co.uk.

SPRING BIRD WALK – **Saturday 26 April 9 am – 11 am**, from the Winding Engine House car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village. Local birdwatcher Terry Adams leads this **free** walk to look for resident and migrant birds in the park, hopefully including Mill Lakes. After the walk the Dynamo House café will be open until 12 noon for a sit down, cuppa and cake. Sorry, no dogs are allowed on the walk, and it is unsuitable for wheelchair users. Contact Gary Joynt **to book on 01623 821336** or email gary.joynt@nottscc.gov.uk.

MINING MEMORABILIA DAY – **Sunday 27 April 10 am – 2 pm at the Dynamo House**. Bring your own mining memorabilia along, and see the mining heritage display. Winding Engine House tours will be available, and the community café will be open. For details call **David Amos on 0115 967 2422**.

SINGING SONGBIRDS – **Sunday 11 May, 6 am – 8 am**, guided walk from the Winding Engine House car park to listen out for the early morning chorus. There's a charge of £4 for adults and £2 for children, which includes parking and tea and toast afterwards in the Dynamo House. Not suitable for wheelchair users. **Pre-booking is essential** – call **0115 975 3782**.

FEED A THOUSAND CHALLENGE – **Sunday 18 May, 11 am – 3 pm**. Organised by a partnership of Notts County Council and Veolia Environmental Services, this **free** event will show how 1000 people can be fed on the average amount of food a family wastes in a year - £680! There will be entertainment on site and the Black Diamonds Brass Band will perform too. The Dynamo House community café will be open.

DH LAWRENCE'S 'ODOUR OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS' – **Thursday 5 June, 10.30 am – 2.30 pm** at the Dynamo House – a film show and readings in partnership with the DH Lawrence Society. For booking and more details, call David Amos on **0115 967 2422**.

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

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