

Introducing the Bestwood Country Park Wildlife Group!!



Sue McDonald writes >
Thanks to those who joined us for our “inaugural meeting” which all judged to be a success with lots discussed and agreed.

✓ We will make a funding bid to support the uploading of the huge backlog of Park wildlife data we have from many sources. Jess Morton (*Wildlife Recording Team Leader*) has agreed to upload the data.

✓ We will celebrate Norman Hayes’ lifetime of wildlife recording in the Park, as well as all the other unsung heroes who let us know what they’ve seen around the Park.

✓ Gill Costello (*Friends’ Group Treasurer*) agreed to make a box and EyeSpy sheets to be sited in the Dynamo House for wildlife records submitted by Park visitors.

✓ We will discuss a ring-fenced budget within the Friends’ group accounts to support wildlife activities in the Park.

✓ In 2022 we plan to organise surveys of butterflies, moths, bats and fungi.

✓ We plan to organise a “mini bio-blitz” to gather more information about our Park wildlife.

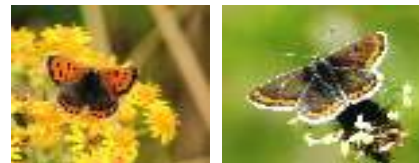
✓ We plan to continue our Park bird walks led by RSPB Conservation Officer Carl Cornish and group member Hayley Sears.

✓ We’re excited to award our annual bursary to Conor of Nottingham University. Conor will



lead us surveying for beetles and other invertebrates, looking for links between invertebrate populations and Ivermectin equine de-wormers.

✓ We will invite our horse-riding community to join us in the study.



✓ We’ve had concerns voiced that the boundaries of the new “Trees for Climate” planting have been breached by people walking in this area, potentially disturbing breeding birds and other wildlife.

Rob and Sue will contact Nick Tucker (*Woodland Creation Project Manager – Trees for Climate, Greenwood Community Forest*) to sort this.

✓ For 2023 we hope to create a series of “surveying posts” around the Park, in partnership with the RSPB, which will enable us to gather data for birds and other species more systematically.

We’re open to your ideas too!!!

We’ll next meet on Friday, 10 June 2022 at 10am - venue to be decided.

Sue McDonald is Community Liaison Officer - Green Spaces Conservation team



Huge thanks to our friends in the village at Orchard Tree Care who donated some 500 bare-rooted native trees (hawthorn, oak, hazel and holly) to us. They were accepted gratefully by the Park rangers.

These native shrubs and trees will be heeled in until the Autumn when they will be planted in the Park.

A national shortage of trees and shrubs is predicted for the Autumn so we are especially glad to receive this gift.

Thanks to Nathan and Duncan.

Urghh!

A reminder that the Mill Lakes are not for fishing, they are specifically for wildlife.

Did you know that **raw sewage** is discharged into the River Leen at times, and it flows into the Mill Lakes?

Please keep dogs out of the water for their own health, that of their owners and the health and wellbeing of our wildlife.

Wildlife photos: Hayley Sears

**DUNNER-DUNNER-DUNNER-DUNNER
DUNNER-DUNNER-DUNNER-DUNNER
- BAT NEWS!**

John Parker and his team of batmen and women have been hanging out in the Park. Their detectors have been going batty(!)

In the Winding Engine House, they recorded 31 common pipistrelle bats - and, not known to be roosting here previously, 2 brown long-eared bats. Alexandra Lodge was a known roost for brown long-eared bats 15 years ago - and the good news is, it still is! In the left loft (East), 41 calls were recorded from the warmer nights, and in the right (West) loft, 51. A lot of these calls were social calls, rather than the echolocation ones used when they are outside.

It is brilliant that we still have a healthy population of brown long-eared bats!

John and his team are hoping to return later this year, when the bats start to become more active, to do further research.

So watch this space, Bat-fans!

Sue McDonald

Go on - make a difference!

There's an abundance of wildlife in our Park. But to better protect it, we need to ensure we know what we have!



Join our wildlife recording team, collecting sightings from the Park. We have occasional social events too.



The time commitment is about 30 minutes per month. No special expertise needed. We provide the training!

Email info@fbc.org.uk

Come along to our FREE family event

The Darling Buds of May

Celebrating trees, blossom and new growth



with bug hunts, tree walks, children's crafts, plant stall, our very own songstress, Wendy and much more.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May

12 noon until 4pm

Bring a picnic from 12 noon, activities begin at 1pm.

Refreshments available in the Dynamo House Café

at the Dynamo House, Bestwood Country Park, Park Road, Bestwood, NG6 8UE

Contact greenwood@nottsc.gov.uk or 0115 9932600 for further information



LANDSCAPE of TREES & HEDGES



From kings to coal. For people. For wildlife.

Eco pupils plant trees to combat climate change

Eco Team pupils from Butler's Hill Infant School and Hawthorne Primary School took part in a tree planting event at Bestwood Country Park on Tuesday, 8th March. The event was part of Trees for Climate, a DEFRA-backed project to create new climate-combatting woodlands in England's Community Forests, which includes Nottinghamshire's Greenwood Community Forest.



The pupils from each school planted native trees such as oak, which will help to create a new 30-hectare woodland at Bestwood Country Park. Each child will receive a certificate thanking them for planting a tree to combat climate change, and also to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Butler's Hill Infant School teacher, Louise Wallis, said: "I just wanted to thank you for this morning, the children loved it, and so did we! Everyone was brilliant with helping the children plant the trees. We were thrilled to be part of such a fantastic opportunity."

Fifteen people enjoyed a great April bird walk around the Mill Lakes. 43 species were seen or heard, including kingfisher, goosander (picture) and treecreeper.



Then delicious complimentary cake and coffee in the Dynamo House café, thanks to funding from Miner2Major. The vegan fruit cake was especially popular.

Our next bird walk will be led by Carl Cornish RSPB Conservation Officer and local birder Hayley Sears.

What a... f-f-fegging day!!

The Tuesday volunteers have been working hard on seasonal Winter tasks and especially enjoyed a day out at the Mill Lakes reed bed. What a fegging day they all had!, "feg" being the detritus build-up of reed leaf litter that is removed to maintain the water table above the plants' roots.

The reed bed is divided into a mosaic of plots that are cut on a seven-year rotation, providing varying habitats for many bird species such as reed and sedge warblers, reed buntings and the occasional harvest mouse nest around the marginal areas.

Willow scrub encroachment was also knocked back to the reed boundary, stopping the succession of wet woodland development from the alder and willow carr.

Rob Wombwell, Ranger

