

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN 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 ON SATURDAYS

Jointly with Bestwood Village WI we run a café serving hot and cold drinks and home made cakes every Saturday morning in the Dynamo House next door to the Winding Engine House – for café details please see over.

BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE – FREE TOURS

The Winding Engine House and its mighty machinery date back to 1876, the heyday of Victorian industrial engineering. It's open **every Saturday from 10 am – 12 noon for drop-in visitors and tours**, as well as on event days. **Note:** the House has previously closed from November to March, but the good news is that the volunteer engineers will continue Saturday morning opening this autumn and winter, good health and weather permitting! 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 – see contact details 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@nottsc.gov.uk, or david.amos@nottsc.gov.uk.

NATURE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ **Individuals:** three teams of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers work regularly, weekly and fortnightly, 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, nearer to Arnold, 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.

Autumn park events over page...

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AUTUMN 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 ►



COMMUNITY CAFÉ AT THE DYNAMO HOUSE

Call in for a sit down, cuppa and friendly welcome from the café volunteers – freshly brewed tea and coffee with excellent home-made cakes – on **Saturdays from 10 am – 1 pm**. Access: on foot via any of the park entrances, or via a flat path from the **free** Winding Engine House car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village. If you would like to volunteer your help with the café, contact Gill at gillian.costello@ntlworld.com.

MONTHLY MINI-MINERS – on the **first Saturday of each month from 10 am – 12 noon free** - outside the Dynamo House Community Cafe: Autumn dates are **4 October, 1 November and 6 December**. Under 5s can tunnel for coal, and the older ones can hunt for mining objects around the site.

AND ...

THE BIG DRAW – **free** workshop event that will run alongside Mini Miners on **Saturday 4 October** and continue until 4 pm. Lots of fun with poppy-based drawings and seed balls made of clay and soil to get messy with. Let your artwork decorate Bestwood's own 'Future Fields' exhibition in the Dynamo House. It's possible there'll be a second **DRAW** on **Saturday 18 October**. Call 0115 975 3782 or 0115 976 2422 for information.

MONTHLY HEALTH WALKS – gentle **free** 90-minute guided walks on a **Wednesday morning from 10.30 am** from the Winding Engine House car park. Autumn Wednesday dates are: **15 October, 19 November, and 17 December**. For more information and to discuss any mobility concerns contact **Sue McDonald, 0115 975 3782**.

NORDIC WALKING – for details on these one-hour invigorating guided walks throughout the autumn, and for current timings, contact qualified 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 with the chance to get involved in the natural world of the park in guided tailored activities, offering school groups a programme of weekly two-hour sessions. Contact www.wildthings.org.uk or phone **0845 458 4727**.

AUTUMN NATURAL HISTORY WALK – **Sunday 19 October 10 am – 12 noon** – enjoy this interesting **free** ranger-led walk which will highlight some of the many different habitats and autumn flora, fauna and fungi that flourish in the park. Meet at the Winding Engine House car park. **Phone 0115 927 3674 for details**.

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN TRAIL – self-led walks on **two Saturdays: 25 October and 1 November**. Buy a trail leaflet (50p) from the Dynamo House café counter, and search for spooky pumpkins hidden in the park. Solve the riddle and bag yourself a sweet reward! For details phone **0115 975 3782**.

GHOSTLY TALES AND WINTER ALES – **Friday 7 November from 7pm at the Dynamo House**. Enjoy warming winter ale whilst listening to ghostly tales of our mining past in the candlelit Dynamo House. Entry charges are: £5 with a voucher for ale, £2 without. Contact Adele Williams: **0115 976 2422** or adele.williams@nottscc.gov.uk.

LIGHT UP WINTER CHRISTMAS CRAFTS – **Saturday 6 December from 10 am – 1 pm** at the Dynamo House. Make an illuminated Victorian fireplace to light up the dark afternoons, along with other crafts. Fireplace activity suitable for age 5+. Charge: £2 per child. Contact **Adele Williams, as above**.

CHRISTMAS PAST – **Wednesday 10 December, 2pm – 4 pm**. Gather around the tree in the Dynamo House for a mince pie and look back at how Christmas used to be. To book your place contact Adele Williams as above, or david.amos@nottscc.gov.uk on the same number.