

# Friends of Bestwood Country Park

[www.fbc.org.uk](http://www.fbc.org.uk)



## NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2015 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 list**, or scan ►



**DYNAMO HOUSE CAFÉ AND MINI-MINERS** – Dynamo House café is open 10 am – 1 pm on **Saturdays** and Bank Holiday Mondays all year, and - for June, July and August only - will also open on **Sunday afternoons**, volunteers permitting, **from 2 pm – 4 pm**. **Mini Miners** events are on the **first Saturday of each month 10 am – 1 pm** – inside with children's crafts or activities outside the Community Café if weather permits.

Spring dates are: **4 April, 2 May and 6 June**.

**MONTHLY HEALTH WALKS** – gentle **free** 90-minute guided walks on a **Wednesday morning from 10.30 am** from the Winding Engine House **free** car park. Spring dates are: **29 April, 20 May and 17 June**. For more information and to discuss any mobility concerns contact **Sue McDonald**, **0115 975 3782**, or [sue.mcdonald@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcdonald@nottscc.gov.uk)

**THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS** – Spring dates for this conservation work group are **Thursdays 23 April, 21 May, and 18 June**. Assemble in the classroom by Alexandra Lodges at 10 am and bring a packed lunch. Contact: **Sue** as above.

**BOARD GAMES AFTERNOONS AT DYNAMO HOUSE** – first Wednesday of each month from **from 1.30 – 3.30 pm** – a warm welcome and hot drinks are guaranteed for these **free** events, although the full café will not be open. Bring your favourite game! Spring dates are **1 April, 6 May and 3 June**. Contact:

**Adele Williams** at **0115 976 2422** or email [adele.williams@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:adele.williams@nottscc.gov.uk).

**SAVE SHERWOOD FOREST CAMPAIGN RAMBLE** – **Saturday 11 April, assemble 10.15 am** outside the Dynamo House. This is a relaxed, buggy-friendly ramble lasting about 40 minutes, to celebrate our commitment to Nottingham's green spaces and raise the need for better resourcing of Bestwood Country Park. Recover in the café afterwards! Visit the campaign website – [www.savesherwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.savesherwoodforest.org.uk).

**WORLD CHALLENGE EVENT** – **Saturday 18 April** – will be using the park as a venue. The event will start early! The café will open at 10 as usual, but hours may be extended if necessary, volunteers permitting.

Check [www.world-challenge.co.uk](http://www.world-challenge.co.uk) or Facebook for information and registration details.

**JAPANESE WATER GARDENS VOLUNTEER DAY** – **Monday 20 April** - assemble at 10 am in Bestwood Lodge Hotel car park to help the Gedling ranger team look after the gardens and clear them of winter debris. For details contact **Jane Richardson** at **0115 901 3963** or email [jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk)

**ALL IN THE APRIL EVENING** – **Friday 24 April** – song recital by Katharine Dryden (mezzo-soprano) with Paul Ricard (piano) at the Dynamo House, kindly provided in aid of the Friends of Bestwood Country Park. Tickets are £5. **Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start**. For more information and tickets contact **Adele** as above.

**CANARY HUNT – HELP!** – **Saturday 25 April, 10 am – 2 pm**, from the Winding Engine House. Help find the missing pit canaries, and earn a treat if you do! Learn how important the little yellow birds were to the miners. More details: **Adele** as above. The Dynamo House café volunteers hope to extend to café hours to cater for hungry hunters. Travel and tourism students from **Central College Nottingham** will also be in the park for a visitor survey.

**RADIO NOTTINGHAM'S BIG DAY OUT** – **Sunday 26 April**. The park will feature in Radio Nottingham's coverage and promotion of local attractions to visit. Lots of other attractions will be free that day, as our park always is! The **Café and the Winding Engine House** will be open **10 am – 12 noon**.

**BESTWOOD'S SINGING SONGBIRDS** – **Sunday 10 May, 6 am – 8 am**. Listen to our feathered friends as they sing out their nesting territories in the park. Binoculars not essential but please bring them if you have them. Meet at the Winding Engine House. Tea and toast will be available in the Dynamo House afterwards. Pre-booking is essential **Phone Sue to book – details above**. **Tickets: adults £4, children £2**.

**BEASTIES OF BESTWOOD** – **Saturday 20 June, 11 am – 3 pm**. **Free** fun day organised by the RSPCA with NCC Countryside Services to promote wildlife and the park. The café volunteers hope to stay open to cover the event. Contact **Sue** or **Adele** for further details.

**Details on Friends group and volunteering contacts over page...**

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## NEWSLETTER

### 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](http://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!

### BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE

The Winding Engine House and its mighty machinery dates 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 Bank Holiday Mondays and event days, with access from the **free** winding engine house car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village, **NG6 8TQ**. 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 Officer – see contact details below. Why not round off your visit by calling at:

### DYNAMO HOUSE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Friends group and Bestwood Village WI jointly run a café serving hot and cold drinks and home made cakes every Saturday morning 10 am – 1 pm in the Dynamo House, next door to the Winding Engine House, and in June on Sunday afternoons from 2 pm – 4 pm. Call in for a sit down, cuppa and friendly welcome from the café volunteers – freshly brewed tea and coffee with excellent home-made cakes. Access: on foot via any of the park entrances, or via a flat path from the **free** Winding Engine House car park. Contact: to join the volunteer café team:

[gillian.costello@ntlworld.com](mailto:gillian.costello@ntlworld.com)

### EXPLORE OUR HERITAGE AT THE DYNAMO HOUSE

Our Heritage Development Officer, **Adele Williams**, is based at the Dynamo House, next door to the Winding Engine House. Adele's aims to encourage more volunteers and community events locally around the park's long history, whether in mining or as a royal park back into medieval times. 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 elsewhere in the park, she would love to hear from you.

► Contact: **0115 976 2422** or email [adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk).

### NATURE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

- **Individuals:** three teams of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers work regularly - weekly, fortnightly, and monthly - with the Rangers in the County Council area of the park. Contact: **Sue McDonald on 0115 975 3782, or 07500 106567, or email [sue.mcdonald@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.mcdonald@nottsc.gov.uk)**.
- **Gedling Borough Council** manages the south eastern area of the park and organises four annual volunteer conservation days there; to let them know of your interest in conservation volunteering there. Contact: Jane at **0115 901 3963** or email [jane.richardson@gedling.gov.uk](mailto: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.
- For two opportunities for forest school children's education in the park visit [www.wildthings.org.uk](http://www.wildthings.org.uk), phone 0845 4584727; email [jackieadams@intotheforest.org.uk](mailto:jackieadams@intotheforest.org.uk), phone 07792 808024.

### QUERIES

- For queries on this newsletter or if you would like your event to be included in it, contact [gillian.costello@ntlworld.com](mailto:gillian.costello@ntlworld.com) or use the contact form at [www.fbc.org.uk](http://www.fbc.org.uk)