

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2015 - PARK EVENTS



BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE – open every **Saturday from 10 am – 12 noon for drop-in visitors and free guided tours**, with access from the **free** winding engine house car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village, **NG6 8TQ**, as well as on foot / cycle from all park gates. Contact **Sue McDonald**, on **0115 975 3782 or email sue.mcdonald@nottscc.gov.uk** to book group visits at other times.

DYNAMO HOUSE COMMUNITY CAFÉ – open every **Saturday from 10 am – 1 pm**, in the **Dynamo House, next door to the Engine House**, and for June July and August on **Sunday afternoons from 2pm – 4 pm**: jointly run by volunteers from Friends group and Bestwood Village WI, providing hot and cold drinks, and delicious cakes.

BOARD GAMES AFTERNOONS at Dynamo House – every first Wednesday afternoon of most months - but not in August, so Summer dates are **1 July and 5 September from 1.30 – 3.30 pm** – a warm welcome and hot drink are guaranteed for this **free** event, although the full café will not be open. Contact – **Sue**.

THURSDAY CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS – this group's summer dates are **2, 16 and 30 July; 13 and 27 August; and 10 and 24 September**. Contact **Sue** beforehand if you plan to attend. Assemble in the classroom by Alexandra Lodges at 10 am and bring a packed lunch.

MINI MINERS – **Saturday 4 July 10 am -1 pm, Saturday 1 August and Saturday 5 September**. Children's activities - either inside the Dynamo House or outdoors, depending on the weather. The Dynamo House café will be open throughout each session. Contact **Sue** with any queries.

STEAMPUNK DAY – **Saturday 5 September**. Join in the splendid fun at the first ever **Bestwood Steampunk Picnic** on **from 1pm until 4pm**. Bring your own picnic and blanket and enjoy brass band entertainment, steampunk crafts, winding engine house tours and much more. Peruse and purchase from the steampunk stalls, learn more about the artistic splendour of the 'Imaginarium' and enjoy some delightful cake from the vintage café. Mystified? Check <http://www.ministryofpeculiaroccurrences.com/what-is-steampunk>.

Contact for more details: Sue

WEDNESDAY HEALTH WALKS – Assemble at 10.30 am in the Winding Engine House car park. Summer dates are: **15 July and 16 September**: long proven to be one of the best forms of exercise to improve body and mind, these invigorating yet gentle **free** 90-minute ranger-led walks are designed to do both. For further information and to check mobility concerns, contact **Sue**.

KNIT & NATTER – **Wednesdays - 15 July, 19 August and 16 September - 1.30pm to 3pm**: **free** monthly events organised by Bestwood Village WI, usually on the third Wednesday of the month. Bring along your knitting or crochet and a willingness to learn. Needles, hooks and wool are available to have a go with. All abilities catered for, including beginners. Light refreshments are available.

FRIENDS OF BCP MEETINGS – **Thursday 16 July and Thursday 17 September, from 7.30 pm at Bestwood Lodge Hotel**. Come along to hear all the latest news on the park. All who support the park are welcome to our friendly informal meetings - especially new members. **Interested in volunteering in the park? We need you!** Please use our website contact form to get details or see the contact details over page.

Above are brief notes only - for 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 here ►



Member of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum

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ABOUT US

The Friends group aims to support our big, beautiful park: its habitats, historic buildings, and wildlife, 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 informal 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, nature conservation or maintaining the Japanese Gardens**, 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 with 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**. For group visits at other times contact **Sue McDonald: on 0115 975 3782 or 07500 106567, email sue.mcdonald@nottscc.gov.uk**. Why not round off your visit by calling at:

THE DYNAMO HOUSE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Friends group and Bestwood Village WI jointly run a community café **every Saturday morning 10 am – 1 pm** in the Dynamo House, next door to the Winding Engine House, and in **June, July and August 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.

NATURE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ **Individuals:** three teams of enthusiastic practical conservation volunteers work regularly – weekly on Mondays, fortnightly on Thursdays, and monthly on Sundays - with the Rangers in the County Council area of the park. Contact: **Sue, as above**.
- ▶ **Gedling Borough Council** manages the south eastern area of the park and organises 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**.
- ▶ **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**.
- ▶ For two opportunities for forest school children's education outdoors in the park visit www.wildthings.org.uk, phone **0845 4584727**: or email jackieadams@intotheforest.org.uk, phone **07792 808024**.

QUERIES? contact gillian.costello@ntlworld.com or use the contact form at www.fbc.org.uk

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