

Friends of Bestwood Country Park

www.fbc.org.uk



NEWSLETTER: WINTER 2015

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!

BESTWOOD COLLIERY WINDING ENGINE HOUSE – FREE WINTER TOURS

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 event days, with access from the **free** winding engine house car park, off Park Road, Bestwood Village, **NG6 8TQ**. **Note:** the House has previously closed from November to March, but the good news is that the volunteer engineers are continuing Saturday morning opening this 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. Why not round off your visit by calling at:

SATURDAY MORNING 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 in the Dynamo House, next door to the Winding Engine 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

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, fortnightly, 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, nearer to Arnold, and organises four annual volunteer conservation days there; let their **Jane Richardson** know of your interest in conservation volunteering. **See over for the first 2015 date**. 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.

Winter park events over page...

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WINTER 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 MINI-MINERS – the **first Saturday of each month 10 am – 1 pm** – in or outside the Dynamo House Community Café. Winter dates are:

3 January – light up winter indoors making an illuminated Victorian fireplace using LED lights, to lend a warm glow to dark winter days. Charge to cover materials is £2 for first child and £1 for siblings. For further information on all three dates please phone **Adele Williams on 0115 976 2422** or email adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk

7 February and 7 March: indoor crafting, with a small charge to cover craft materials. If we're lucky on 7 March the weather will be kind enough to play outside, so that under-5s can tunnel for coal, and the older ones can hunt for mining objects around the site.

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. Winter dates are: **21 January, 11 February, and 18 March**. For more information and to discuss any mobility concerns contact **Sue McDonald, 0115 975 3782**.

THURSDAY CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS – Winter dates for this outdoor work group are **Thursdays 15 January, 29 January, 12 February, 26 February, 12 March and 26 March**. Assemble in the classroom by Alexandra Lodges at 10 am and bring a packed lunch. Contact Sue McDonald for details beforehand, on the above number, or at sue.mcdonald@nottsc.gov.uk.

WINTER NATURAL HISTORY WALK – **Sunday 25 January, 10 am – 12 noon**. Join a ranger on a **free** guided walk around the park. Learn about the different habitats and the flora and fauna associated with the country park that make it so special. Meet at the free Winding Engine House car park. **Phone 0115 927 3674** for more details.

PHOTOGRAPHY WALK – **Saturday 7 February, from 2 pm**. **Free** walk organised by **TravelRight**. Meet at Bestwood Lodge Hotel car park, NG5 8NE, to get the best angles on winter photography in the park and maybe its arboretum and Japanese garden! For more details call Giulia on **0115 901 3818** or email giulia@ridewise.org.uk. TravelRight is at www.travelright.org.uk.

WALK IN MINERS' FOOTSTEPS – **Sunday 8 February, 10 am – 12 noon** – assemble at the Winding Engine House car park. Led by Heritage officer Adele Williams explore the colliers' pad that miners would have followed home to Redhill or Arnold. Circular walk via Bestwood Lodge and returning to the Dynamo House for delicious hot soup. There will be a charge of £2 to cover costs. For further information phone **Adele on 0115 976 2422** or email adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk.

POETRY WALK – **Saturday 21 February - from 11 am** a **free** walk organised by **TravelRight** – meet in the Winding Engine House car park NG6 8TQ. To appreciate all the heritage, woodland and open green space the park offers, join community writer **Dave Wood** for a gentle amble along its pathways, stopping at points to hear his poetry, some created especially for the area. Do feel free to bring your own poetry to share, or just listen. There will be the option of a guided talk afterwards around the Winding House and the cafe will be selling its yummy cakes, teas and coffee. **Contact Travelright on 0115 901 3818** to book or for more details.

TWO LADIES HEDGE-LAYING DAYS – **Sunday 1st and Sunday 8 March, 10 am – 3 pm**: ladies, join Community Liaison Officer Sue McDonald for a day learning basic skills relating to the ancient craft of hedge laying to celebrate International Women's Day on 1 March. Pre-booking is essential for these **free** events. For further details or to book a place call **Sue on 0115 975 3782 or 07500 106 567** or email sue.mcdonald@nottsc.gov.uk.

JAPANESE WATER GARDENS VOLUNTEER DAY – **Monday 23 March**: 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

RESCUE! – **Sunday 29 March, 12 noon – 4 pm**: Mines Rescue and Mansfield Fire Museum will be joining us for a rescue-themed afternoon; bringing mines rescue equipment and vintage fire engines. For further information please phone **0115 976 2422** or email adele.williams@nottsc.gov.uk.