

Skylarks

Come and try out the new picnic benches in the park and join us for our annual 'Paws in the Park' event in June. Read on to find out more.

April's Bird Walk

What a wonderful day awaited those who assembled for the Bird Song Walk. Before we moved off we were treated to a display by a skylark who proclaimed his territory from on high and then descended to a concrete platform a short distance away giving us a clear view of himself. The walk began with a cheerful song from a robin to be joined shortly by a blackcap and then a whitethroat that obligingly perched on a nearby fence post giving us all an excellent view. After listening to a wren, a swallow flew fleetingly across the hedgerow before a Common Lizard was spotted under a decaying log. Then followed a small brown and a speckled wood butterfly.

In all 22 species were counted, which made a fitting prelude to the excellent buffet which followed the official opening by our new chairperson. Many thanks to Christine and all who were involved in the preparation and execution of the event. I think I may safely say "A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL".

Eric Dolby
Friend of the Wick Country Park



Other species seen:

Insects

Hoverfly
Comma butterfly
Orange tip butterfly
Small white butterfly
Speckled brown butterfly

Flowers

Forget-me-not

Birds

Blackbird
Black headed gull
Canada goose
Goldfinch
Grebe
Mallard + 15 chicks
Woodpecker (heard)

New picnic benches

As a result of the Grassroots Grant that was awarded to us, five new picnic tables have now been installed in the Park. These were officially launched at a special picnic held after the bird walk on Sunday 19th April.

We hope you enjoy using them.



Work Party news

February's work party started off as a work party and ended up more of a concert party.

We were joined by two new comers, Fiona and Gill, while Christine, Nikki, Mark and I made up the remainder. We started off in fine style barrowing wood chippings on to the Pavilion garden. I even saw Nikki running with the wheel barrow. This lasted until tea break courtesy of Nikki and Christine.

Unfortunately during the tea break we had a sad interlude. A family of dog walkers had discovered a moorhen which had become the victim of some careless fisherman who had left a length of line lying around which had entangled the poor creature's legs. Our efforts to release it were of no avail and so it was painlessly dispatched.

After that unfortunate incident the production of bat boxes got under way. The first one was largely experimental, as Mark had noticed that having seen several types of box there was no fixed design. We therefore constructed a prototype, which we christened "The Wickford Pattern Bat Box". A truly unique design which in years to come will probably become a collectors' item (if it lasts long enough). At any rate it was the first of a limited edition and was duly authenticated by Gill.

Amid much laughter and fooling around we had produced an acceptable box. As I could see the ladies were well and truly into box manufacture I decided it was time for lunch so I left them to it.

Eric Dolby - Friend of the Wick Country Park

Paws in the Park

Make a date for you and your dog at
The Wick Country Park

on

Sunday 7th June

11am to 4pm

Fun Dog Show
Dog Obedience and Agility Display
Plus children's quiz, stalls, exhibits and more

Admission free

Refreshments available

Website

Don't forget to check out our website for lots of information about the park, including a list of this year's events as well as a growing gallery of photos. (See front page for web address)

Donate a prize

Once again we will be running a tombola at the Paws in the Park event in June. Do you have any small prizes that you could contribute? If so please contact Nikki on 01268 734293.

Events

The Friends' committee has arranged the following events with the Wick Country Park Ranger. *For all events please meet at the Wick Pavilion.*

Work Parties

Third Sunday of each month
10am – 12noon

Come and have fun and help the Ranger with improvements to the park.

Paws in the Park

Sunday 7th June
11am to 4pm

All dogs and responsible owners are invited to this very popular annual event.

Nature Quest

Sunday 2nd August
11am to 4pm

Be a nature detective and discover some of the wild wonders of the Wick.

Crickets & dragonflies

Sunday 16th August
2pm to 4pm

Come and search for these fascinating creatures. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs welcome on a lead.

Membership

If you are not a member but would like to join the Friends of the Wick Country Park please contact Nikki on 01268 734293 or email mikenikki@supanet.com

The Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Allison Tanner – Chairperson
Christine Lee – Vice Chairperson
Nikki Gibson – Treasurer
Tricia Marshall - Secretary
Deborah Belverstone
Eileen Cattell

Basildon District Council Countryside Services:

Marcus Hotten
Countryside Officer
Telephone: 01268 550088

Mark Williams
Countryside Ranger
Telephone: 01268 562921