

Skylarks

Thank you for your membership over the past year.
Join us for our last event for 2009, the Yuletide Ramble, and please continue to support your local park in 2010 – don't forget to renew your membership!

Yuletide Greetings from The Chair

It's that time of year again already, mince pies have been in the shops since Easter it seems, and a new year is fast approaching. Things have been busy at your local country park, with our yearly events getting more and more popular as word spreads near and far. So, why not take advantage of the 'quieter' months. Winter is a lovely time to enjoy the park and to see some of our seasonal visitors – and there's more of a chance to actually view them with less leaves on the trees! Of course, one way to learn more about the park in winter is to join us on our Yuletide Ramble with Mark Williams, our Park Ranger. This year, this free event will be on 6th December starting at 2pm at the Pavilion. Why not join us afterwards for some mince pies and mulled wine at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Come along, meet the Committee, find out what we've been up to over the past 12 months and discover our plans for the future. In the meantime, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year, and I look forward to welcoming you to our AGM.

Allison Tanner
Chairperson

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last AGM – 7th Dec. 2008 (please see attached)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairperson's report
5. Treasurer's/membership report
6. Ranger's report
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Committee Members
9. Any other business



Message from the Membership Secretary

Thank you for your support and interest in the park over the past year. I hope that you have enjoyed your membership, including the quarterly newsletter and e-mail messages. I also hope that you have been able to join us at our events such as Paws in the Park and Nature Quest. We are very grateful to all of you whether you have helped or attended an event or joined a work party or the Wick Weeders. We have had another fantastic year and we could not have done it without you.

We do hope that you will continue to support the *Friends*. Please use the form enclosed to renew your membership. Do it now before you forget!

Nikki Gibson
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Yuletide Ramble

Join the *Friends* for a festive stroll around the park
on

Sunday 6th December

starting at the Pavilion at 2pm



followed by the

Mulled wine AGM Mince pies

All members are welcome to attend this short meeting.

Officers and Committee members will be elected for the coming year. If you would like to become a Committee member or officer please forward names in advance to Membership Secretary, 126 Church End Lane, Wickford SS11 7DP or email mikenikki@supanet.com
You can also put forward nominations at the meeting.

Kite Festival 2009

On Sunday 20th September 2009, the Kite Festival took place in the park. The day went very well, there was lots of activity and everyone taking part enjoyed themselves. We had the 'professionals' demonstrating their skills, the sun shone for them but it was a calm day and a stronger wind was really needed. However our younger members inside the Pavilion excelled making their own kites on the craft table and they all flew admirably.

Two members of the Basildon Council Education Team came to run the kite building activity. They were constantly occupied and many children stayed for the kite competition at the end. There were three categories of age-related competition and prizes were given to the most creative and also for flying ability. We all agreed though that every kite made that afternoon was a winner!

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits were provided by the *Friends* to keep all refreshed.

Christine Lee
Vice Chairperson



Children show off their kites for the kite competition (left) and see how well they fly (above).



Note from the Editor

As a former Chairperson and editor of 'Skylarks' it is with more than a little sadness that I will be bidding a fond farewell to the *Friends'* Committee at the coming AGM. I have been involved with the *Friends* since before the Committee was formerly constituted and things have come a long way since then: membership continues to grow every year, Paws in the Park has become a popular annual event, we have a notice board thanks to money raised and picnic benches thanks to a successful grant application, to name just a few things.

Please continue to support the Committee by renewing your membership and by attending and lending a hand at events. You could even join the Committee – they're a very friendly bunch!

As for me, I am off to pastures new (well Suffolk to be precise), but will renew my membership so that I can keep up-to-date with all that's happening and will no doubt be back from time to time. Keep up the good work!

With very best wishes.

Deborah Key, neé Belverstone



The Friends' Committee wishes all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Events

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

Wick Weeders

2nd & 4th Monday of each month
Starting at 1.30pm

Work Parties

Third Sunday of each month
10am – 12noon

Come and have fun and help the Ranger with improvements to the park. **Please note there will not be a work party on 20th December.**



Yuletide Ramble

Sunday 6 December
Starting at 2pm

Finish the year with a sociable walk round the park with the Ranger and *Friends*. Enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies, stay for the AGM, meet the committee and have your say about the park.

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
Eileen Cattell
Deborah Key



Basildon District Council Countryside Services:

Marcus Hotten
Countryside Officer
Telephone: 01268 550088

Mark Williams
Countryside Ranger
Telephone: 01268 562921