



Skylarks

Summer is well and truly with us and all the latest news from the Friends of the Wick Country Park is here to keep you up-to-date with all that is happening in the park.

Message from the Chair

Hello, I'm Nikki the new Acting Chair; you may know me better as the Membership Secretary and the person who sends all the e-mail reminders of events in our wonderful park.

There have been some changes in the committee and we would like to say a fond farewell and a big thank you to Eileen, Max and Trudie for all their hard work over the past few years. We look forward to seeing you in the park enjoying future events. Other changes in the committee include a new Advertising sub-committee, Peter has agreed to be the Archivist, and we are delighted Chris will continue as Skylarks' Editor. We are also grateful to Sarah for managing our new Facebook Page and helping us to get to grips with the world of social media.

We had a new and improved Nature Quest this year which was a stunning success with 100 children taking part in eight challenges. Even the thunderstorm at the end of the day could not dampen anyone's spirits!

The next great event is the Kite Festival, I'll be there so do come up and say hello.

Nikki
Acting-Chair/ Membership Secretary



Great news we are now on Facebook - please go in and take a look and see some lovely photos of the park. Could you please then 'like' and 'share' the page therefore spreading the word about our park, many thanks to you all

PLEASE COME ALONG TO THE NEXT EVENT IN THE WICK COUNTRY PARK

'THE KITE FESTIVAL'



Come and have a fun day, make a kite and pick up some flying tips from the experts

- Free event – no booking required
- Competitions – Best Decorated & Best Flyer
- Refreshments available
- Meet at the pavilion
- Parental supervision required for children

Sunday 21st September, 11am to 4pm
The Wick Country Park, Tresco Way Wickford
SS12 9GP

Admission Free

Refreshments available

For full details see our website

www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk



See you there!

PAWS IN THE PARK 2014

You may wonder what is barking-ly loud, has hundreds of legs and all types of fur? You'd be right if you guessed The Paws in the Park event at The Wick Country Park on Sunday 8 June.

All the Friends hoped the good weather of the week would last...and it did! A glorious day helped bring in over 600 visitors to enjoy the dog show, dog display team, stalls and activities.

The Friends arrived early to set up. Marquees now hold no fear and with good team effort assembly time now comes in at under half an hour! There were 4 tents to put up for reception, registration, plants and books as well as the doggy obstacle course; the arena and parking to organise; tombola; craft stall plus the vital tea, coffee and biscuits for the refreshment area – not forgetting water bowls for the very thirsty dogs of course.

Stallholders arrived on time and as the crowds started to gather the classes filled up extremely quickly. As usual the kick off class for “most handsome dog” was oversubscribed. Always popular, the doggie contestants showing off in this class are always seen as a great start to the event.

There are such a mix of breeds to be seen – including Italian Spinone, English Springer Spaniel and Canadian Huskies. All that was missing was a French poodle!

Another popular class is “cutest puppy” which never fails in drawing “ooohhs” and “aahhs” from the audience. A case of David and Goliath, it was amusing to see the very tiny Chihuahua pup lined up beside the 10-month old St. Bernard which was almost the size of a small horse!

Halfway through the day Billericay Dog Display Team gave a fantastic demonstration of dog obedience and tricks. Spectators were amazed by the range of hand signals, whistles and secret code words which ensured the dogs did as they were told and behaved - always with wagging tails of course. Plus seeing an Alsatian take a drink from a bottle using a straw is quite extraordinary!

The hardest class to judge must be “Best Rescue”. The owners are asked by the judge to give a brief overview of the dog's background and how the dog came to be rescued. These stories are naturally upsetting but to see the dogs now happy and trusting after lots of care is very uplifting. Both dogs and owners are ALL winners.

Our judge did an excellent job in assessing the dogs and colourful rosettes were awarded from 6th place to 1st. Well done to all the winners listed below and a special mention to Jodie who brought along Jet for the fourth year in a row to finally win “Scruffiest Dog” and ultimately “best in show”.

It was a great day and thanks go to all the stall holders for their support and generosity in helping FOWCP make “Paws in the Park” 2014 another great event. Check out the pictures at www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk



See you at the Kite Flying extravaganza on Sunday 21st September.

Paws in the Park 2014 Classes and Winners

Handsome Dog – Dexter owned by Fay
Best Veteran – Ellie owned by Julie
Prettiest Bitch – Coco owned by Keely
Child Handler – Woody owned by Marley
Cutest Puppy – Elsie owned by Isabel
Best Rescue – Charlie owned by Charley
Scruffiest Dog – Jet owned by Jodie (Also Best in Class)
Best Trick – Lilly owned by Glo

(Written by Trudie Crow)

NATURE QUEST 2014

My first Nature Quest

I went to Nature Quest with my mummy and my brother, he is 2 and I am 5. I met Granny there and helped hand out their bright yellow jackets; Grandpa gave me a really big sticker which said I was a Nature Detective. My first challenge was to catch four fish with a rod and hook. It was easy-peasy and I wrote their names down myself.

I liked making the weather chart best, because I like colouring and it was fun. You can see a picture of all the people making them but you can't see me and Daniel. The pond dipping was fun too, but mummy thought Daniel was going to fall in the water. I caught two types of snail and a tadpole which had actually got legs! Can you see me in the photo?

I made a candle out of bees wax and I could answer the questions about bees all by myself. Actually I guessed one of the answers. I gave my lovely candle to my teacher because I am not going to be in her class any more.

The Willow-man helped me make a star shape. You can see a photo of him helping a little girl. Granny said she would like it for her Christmas tree. I thought the grass-fishing was hard (bug hunting) because I only had a little net and only found a ladybird with 6 spots. Next time I hope I get one of the big nets.

With the Guides I made a bird with ribbon legs and button feet and I also saw a real Guide tent. A man gave me a balloon which looked like a mouse which he could make jump, but mine burst into pieces.

Daniel and I ran around looking for all the bird pictures and the last thing I did was plant a seed. My pot tipped up inside Granny's bag but she put it together again. I watered it like the man said but it hasn't grown yet.

I liked Nature Quest and I want to come again next year.

Christopher (with a bit of help from Granny)! (Nikki Gibson)



CRICKETS & DRAGONFLIES 2014

Hurricane Bertha was forecast but in the end the weather was kind to us and an intrepid team of walkers went into the park to investigate which crickets and dragonflies would be venturing out to appear in our sweep nets. Success, a variety was found including Roesel's Bush Cricket, Field Grasshopper, Meadow Grasshopper, Mirid & Capsid Bugs, Harvester Aracnids, Garden Spider, Woolly Bear Caterpillar, Dung Fly, Strawberry Spider and Gall Wasps. As you can see by these photos there were happy people plus dog May who enjoyed herself too, more photos can be found on the website.



SKYLARKS 3K RACE ON 16th JULY 2014

It was another great evening for the Skylarks 3k race at The Wick Country Park, with nearly 60 runners again, all of whom seemed to enjoy the event - and raising almost £80 for The Friends. Many thanks to all the helpers without your help the race wouldn't have been the undoubted success that it was. The full result sheet is on the website, prize places as follows: -

First Man - Crispian Bloomfield in 10:01

First Lady - Sarah Jeffery in 12:07

First Boy - Joe Payne in 12:09

First Girl - Chloe Nation in 14:39

A special prize also went to Freddie Taiani age 9 who completed the course in 13:52



(Written and event organised by Peter Bates)

Wick Country Park Events 2014

The following events have been organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park in consultation with the Park Ranger.

The remaining events in 2014 are all free and start at the Wick Country Park Pavilion with booking not required. Refreshments are available at all events.

Wick Weeders - Usually the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, starting at 1.30pm (see website & posters). Come and help us to keep the Pavilion Garden looking spick and span. All are welcome, no special skills required.

Kite Festival - Sunday 21st September, 11am to 4pm. This event is primarily a family day and is held in conjunction with the Essex Kite Group.

Yuletide Ramble & AGM - Sunday 14th December, Starting at 2pm. Finish the year with a sociable walk round the park led by the Park Ranger, and then enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is then invited to the AGM.

For any more information on these events please contact Nikki Gibson on 01268 734293, email nikkigibson621@btinternet.com or Christine Lee on 01268 571302, email clee@btinternet.com

Latest information on events throughout the year can be found on our website:
www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk

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 nikkigibson621@btinternet.com

The Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:

Nikki Gibson - Acting Chair/Membership Secretary, Dorothy Cundy - Treasurer, Christine Lee - Secretary
Committee Members: Hilary Sim, Marie Singleton, Peter Bates (Archivist) Paul Clarke, Alaric Cundy, Richard Rowsell

Basildon District Council Countryside Services:

Mark Williams - Countryside Ranger, Telephone: 01268 562921

Steve Prewer - Manager of Countryside Operations and Development, Telephone 01268 465380

Neighbourhood Policing Team: Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503