




# Skylarks

Winter is fast approaching but we are already planning next year's events to keep you entertained in the Wick Country Park. 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.

## A Message from the Chair



Every year our events get bigger and better and this year was no exception. This would not have been possible without the support of our many helpers to whom we send a very big **Thank You!**

Everyone who is a member of the Friends of the Wick Country Park is helping to maintain this lovely wildlife haven  and wonderful community amenity. I do hope you will all renew your membership and carry on giving us your support.



If you are interested in the role of the committee please contact me and I would be very happy to discuss it with you.

 In this run up to Christmas I hope it is not too soon to wish you happiness over the festive season and a peaceful 2016.



It would be lovely to see you at the Yuletide Ramble and AGM

Nikki, Chairperson

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When you are next in the park to see our 'new container', more details follow.....

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

Sunday 13th December: the Yuletide Ramble at 2pm, followed by the AGM, with mince pies and hot mulled wine!



Finish the year with a sociable walk around 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.



Our last event of 2015 but our list of events for 2016 will be published soon!!

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
  2. Minutes of last AGM – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014
  3. Matters arising
  4. Chairperson's report/membership report
  5. Treasurer's report
  6. Rangers report
  7. Election of Officers
  8. Election of Committee Members
  9. Any other business
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**Membership 2016**



**Time to Renew your Membership!**

It is only a £3 annual fee for all the family, but so easy to forget. So do it now before the rush of Christmas is upon us. Better still encourage friends or relatives to join. A membership form is attached, cash through my letterbox, cheque through the post, in person at the AGM I don't mind how you do it. Our membership numbers is one way we can gauge our success so is very important to us. I trust you will continue to enjoy the Skylarks newsletters and the e-mails which keep you up to date with what is happening in the park.

**Nikki Gibson**  
**Membership Secretary**  
**126 Church End Lane**  
**Runwell**  
**SS11 7DP**

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*Membership 2016*

*Friends of the Wick Country Park*

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Household £3

Membership runs until December 2016

Please send cheques made payable to 'Friends of the Wick Country Park' to  
Nikki Gibson 126 Church End Lane, Runwell, Wickford, Essex SS11 7DP  
[Nikkigibson621@btinternet.com](mailto:Nikkigibson621@btinternet.com) 01268 734293

## 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'

There was a wonderful turn out at the Kite Festival again this year. The event really does appeal to all ages from 4 day old Georgia on her first trip to the park, to spritely 95 year old Colin who is our kite making expert.



We were so lucky with the weather and although rain was forecast it managed to hold off and at times the sun broke through. This meant the beautifully polished and maintained classic vehicles on display remained pristine. The Essex Kite Club would have liked more wind so they could fly their large and magnificent kites. However, the hundred and fifty children who came and made their kites were not worried by the vagaries of the weather. Plastic, sticks, sticky tape, bridles and tails were carefully constructed to produce, not the most beautiful but very effective kites. With a few words of instruction from the experts they soon had their very own kites in the air. For those who like to be creative (and this included adults and children) there were lots of opportunities to cut, glue and colour to make their own art work.



Helping the children make their kites is very labour intensive and I would like to thank Sue, Michelle, Mike, Jane, Maureen, Netty, Pat, Gill, Morris and Colin for helping the committee so every child was able to go home with a kite they had helped build. A special thank you must go to the Essex Kite Club for the kite material and for teaching us how to tie a bowline, and Craig and the South Eastern Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club for a wonderful display of tenderly cared for vehicles.

(Written by Nikki Gibson)



## 'Contain your delight'



For many years, visitors to The Wick Country Park could hardly fail to notice the rusty red steel container in the car park. At best it might be described as utilitarian, at worst an eyesore! All this especially when compared with our lovely Pavilion!

For some time now certain members of our Committee have prayed that it might one day be “prettied” up a bit. Great hopes were held out having seen that a similar container at Wat Tyler Country Park had been converted to public toilets, complete with softwood cladding and.....a *green roof*!

Such things actually have a very old pedigree dating from almost the Stone Age when roofs to dwellings were often of straw thatch or turf, both of which tended to attract growth of mosses and grasses.

A green roof does what it says on the box – on top of the waterproof membrane is a root barrier, topped with compost sown with various plants and grasses.

This has the following advantages:

- It shields the waterproof membrane from the heat of the sun and the cold of a winter's night
- It shield the membrane from the harmful effects of the sun's ultra-violet rays
- It provides a colourful and eco-friendly “hat” over the building, and
- It provides a habitat for birds, insects and small mammals.

Last year our Chairperson got really excited to hear that we might get a grant for the work. After many hopes were raised, and then dashed, we heard this year that Veolia were going to fund the lion's share of the job from their environmental fund, with the rest made up by the Friends!

Visitors since a few weeks ago can now marvel at the change in appearance of our container! Apart from the vertical timber cladding and green roof, one can see, fixed to the sides, a variety of artificial habitats for wasps, bees and other insects.

The work was ably co-ordinated by Basildon Council, and carried out by the local firm of The Grass Roof Company of Horndon-on-the-Hill. On his site visit, owner John Little took the time to explain the “green” construction to our Wick Weeders, how the work would be done and what it would look like when completed. A big thank you to him and his staff for getting on with the job so quickly!



So our ugly frog of a container has at last been transformed in to a handsome “green” prince!

(Written by Richard Rowsell)



## WICK COUNTRY PARK EVENTS 2015



DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
<i>Usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month</i>	<b>Wick Weeders</b>	Starting at <b>1.30 pm</b> (see the website & posters for confirmation of the dates). Help is always needed to maintain these gardens. Equipment is provided.
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Yule Ramble &amp; AGM</b>	Starting at <b>2 pm</b> Finish the year with a sociable and leisurely walk of approx <b>1 – 1.5 hours</b> around the park, led by the Park Ranger, then enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is then invited to the AGM.

The above events have been organised by the Friends of the Wick Country Park in consultation with the Park Ranger. *All events start at the Wick Country Park Pavilion and booking is not required. Refreshments are available at all events.*

For more information on these events please contact Nikki Gibson on 01268 734293 or email [nikkigibson621@btinternet.com](mailto:nikkigibson621@btinternet.com) The latest information on events throughout the year can be found on our website: [www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)

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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](mailto:nikkigibson621@btinternet.com)

### **Friends of the Wick Country Park Committee:**

Nikki Gibson - Chairperson/Membership Secretary, Richard Rowsell - Vice Chair, Dorothy Cundy - Treasurer, Marie Singleton - Secretary, Alaric Cundy - Webmaster  
Committee Members: Peter Bates, Christine Lee

### **Basildon Borough 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

