



# Skylarks



Winter is here but we are already planning next year's events to keep you entertained in the Wick Country Park. Read all the latest news from the Friends of the Wick Country Park to keep you up-to-date with all that is happening in the park. See you in 2020!

## A Message from the Committee



Seasons Greetings to you all! Another year has passed in the Wick Country Park and although we did not have as many events as in previous years they have all been successful with plenty of visitors and enjoyment, so continuing thanks to everyone who has contributed and attended.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the dedicated team of Wick Weeders who have spent many hours to make the pavilion garden always looking good.

To keep the success going we are appealing for more volunteers, also to join the committee to help us arrange and give new ideas for next year's events. The list of these is currently being discussed and will be published early in the new year. Another piece of good news is that membership will be free for 2020!

It's that time of year to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I hope you will join us in the new year on the Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January for the January Jaunt and AGM with mulled wine and mince pies.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our events in 2020, until then we wish you .....



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

The first event of the year is 'The January Jaunt & AGM' on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 starting at 2pm, followed by the AGM.

Start 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.



***The winter ramble will be led by the  
Countryside Ranger  
(1-1½ hours)***

***Meet at the Pavilion, Wick Country Park***  
(If using sat nav, please use post code SS12 9GP)

**Everyone is welcome to all or part of this free event - see you on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm!**

*For further details go to the website  
[www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)*

**The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:**

1. Apologies for absence
  2. Minutes of last AGM – 20th January 2019
  3. Matters arising
  4. Chairperson's report/membership report
  5. Treasurer's report
  6. Ranger's report
  7. Election of Officers
  8. Election of Committee Members
  9. Any other business
- .....

**Free Membership for 2020**



Yes it's free again, please tell your family and friends to come and join us as members of the Friends of the Wick Country Park!



**Appeal for Volunteers at the Events in 2020**

An Events Programme will be published in the New Year. Our events are always very much enjoyed by attendees, and it gives us great pleasure to see all the happy faces. However, in order to be able to continue these events and indeed to improve them yet further, we badly need more volunteers to help to plan and also run them on the day. If you would like to take up this opportunity to help to support the local community - even if you can only spare a few hours - then please email [contact\\_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk](mailto:contact_us@friendsofthewickcountrypark.co.uk)



**Wick Weeders**

As the weather is not conducive to gardening no Wick Weeders will take place for the rest of this year. An email will be sent out to all members once Wick Weeders commences in 2020.

The gardens in Winter



looking forward to Spring



## 'Kites, Cars & Other Things'

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September lots of activity and fun was taking part in the Wick Country Park with happy Kite fliers and the display of vintage cars being admired. Inside the pavilion just as much was happening with the craft tables of kite and car related activities for the very creative children. It was a different format to previous year's but was still another great afternoon with lots of happy families being entertained both inside and outside of the pavilion. The weather was kind, blue skies but only a light wind this year, just the opposite to last year! Many of the local residents brought their own kites to add to the display and activity, the ever popular ice cream van was busy and refreshments were as always provided by the Friends inside the pavilion.

The Essex Kite Group were flying their splendid kites high in the sky and visitors to the event had also brought their kites to the park to create an amazing display.



Members from the South Eastern Vintage & Classic Car Club displayed gleaming cars dating back to 1949. It was the Club's 6<sup>th</sup> visit to the event and as always it was a good turnout of their magnificent cars and also sharing their experience and knowledge of the vehicles.



Lots of creativity in the pavilion with the children enjoying the tables of activities including the colouring in of face masks, car and kite stencils, assembly of jigsaws and the making of little windmills and planes.



Many thanks to the Essex Kite Group, South Eastern Vintage & Classic Car Club, our volunteers for all their much appreciated help and of course the visitors to the event to make it a memorable afternoon!



## 'The Skylark Regeneration Project'

Back in the early days of the Wick Country Park, Skylarks were common flying here in the sky but now they have sadly gone. Our next project is the regeneration of an area in the park to encourage the Skylarks back into the park. Mark, the Countryside Ranger has suggested the use of Teasel seed for this purpose so we have purchased enough Teasel seed to cover a substantial area in the park.

The teasel is a tall plant and is identified by a cone-like flower head with flowers that are tiny and purple and then the seed heads turn brown in winter. Teasels are visited by bees when in flower and birds when seeding.



The Skylark plot will be prepared, a suitable time for sowing to be decided and then we will start the process. We will keep you informed of progress!



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

Christine Lee - Acting Chairperson, Hazel Broomfield - Treasurer, Marie Singleton - Secretary,  
Hannah Cooper - Membership Secretary, Alaric Cundy - Webmaster  
Peter Bates – Skylarks 3K Race Events

### **Basildon Borough Council Countryside Services:**

Mark Williams - Countryside Ranger. To resolve an issue go to [www.basildon.gov.uk/street](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/street) or customer service on 01268 533333 (option 5). Any site enquiries to 01268 206665

**Neighbourhood Policing Team:** Telephone 0300 333 4444 or 07875 003503

