

# Friends News

Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park (FORCP)

Issue 16

Spring 2002

## WOODN'T IT BE NICE



A new community based project is being planned by the Rangers in partnership with the FORCP, which should take place at the end of the year. The idea is to provide access to an area of woodland near the village of Ruddington and to involve as many people as possible in the planning process. The project is split into 4 stages:

### Stage one

This is already under way, and is to decide whether or not to actually open up this woodland. Forms have been handed out at several events over the past few months, asking the question should we proceed with the project.

More forms have been handed out to volunteers and special interest groups for which the deadline for returning is 15th April.

### Stage two

If it is decided that the project shall proceed, people will be consulted about what facilities to include in the area.

### Stage three

Funding will be researched and acquired.

### Stage four

Ground work and landscaping, practical projects and grand opening.

Response from members of the public has been very good. Although there has been a few NO votes, so far the majority of people who have returned forms and/or made comments have been in favour of the project.

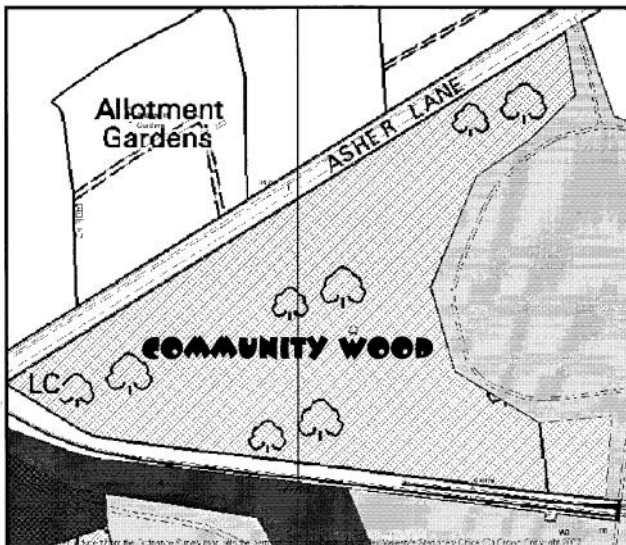
From the comments made so far, one issue that is at the top of most

people's agenda is that of wildlife protection. The Rangers are pleased that so many people are concerned about the ever increasing diversity of wildlife on the park and say that it will always be a priority to them, however they are sure that allowing access to this area will in the long term benefit nature conservation, through understanding and education; and enable them to create sanctuary areas elsewhere in the park.

### What's next?

Members of FORCP have already helped with a brainstorming session at the last AGM and the Rangers will be getting ideas from the many different user groups and trying their very best to incorporate them.

All comments about this project or how the Country Park is managed are welcomed by the Rangers. Please phone 0115 921 5865.



## SNOW HEDGING

Many people will not have heard of this new sport but the first trials took place on the Country Park on Saturday 23rd February 2002 and by all accounts were very successful.

In the Activity Days of the Friends News it was just listed as another ordinary hedging day, but the weather was not on the side of the workers. There were several blizzards during the day and watching the snow blow sideways was fascinating. Because of the way the hedge was being laid, the snow landed on the side of the trees that were being laid, so making it even harder for the volunteers, as one had to cut through the snow before getting to the actual wood.

Ten people, including two new volunteers, were not put off by the weather and managed to get quite a large section of hedge laid. The snow stopped as we prepared for lunch and sitting in the sun eating sandwiches was a big bonus for the day.



## Less Haste, More Speed



On Sunday 17th March Rushcliffe Athletic Club held the Annual 10k Run at Rushcliffe Country Park. After the disappointment of having to cancel the run last year, due to the foot and mouth epidemic, there was a high turnout to welcome the event's return.

The 10k run attracts runners of all abilities, who enjoy the challenge of running 2 laps round the perimeter of the park. There was also a 2k Fun Run around the lake, and a Tot's Run for children up to the age of 5; so everyone could join in the spirit of the day.

Next year there will be more advertising, to promote the event ahead of time and to forewarn the park's regular visitors, who were not expecting the speedy patter of hundreds of tiny and not so tiny feet!

## THE EDEN PROJECT

During a recent visit to the West Country a visit was made to the Eden Project, near St Austell in Cornwall.

This is a fantastic global garden in a dramatic setting covering 35 acres and telling the story of man and plants.

As it is a living garden it is continually changing and incorporates plants from all over the world.

It is located in an old china clay pit, which is 60m deep and the area of 35 football pitches.

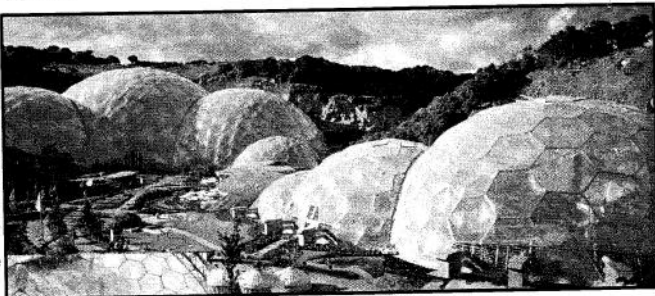
One of the main features are the great biomes which house 100,000 plants from all over the world. There is a tropical biome which houses the tropical plants and the cooler biome which contains plants such as coffee, cocoa, rubber and rice.

As well as plants there are

mosaics, carvings, driftwood sculptures, stone sculptures and many other fascinating articles spread around the site.

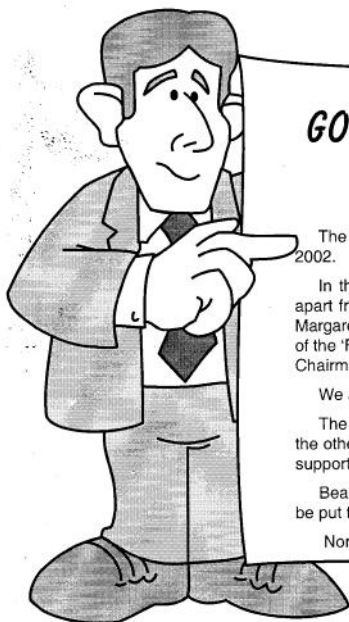
A very interesting and informative exhibition of man and plants and their co-existence which leaves the visitor with much to think about.

*Jay Murray*



# MAKING A BEELINE FOR THE ORCHIDS

Bee orchids are one of the rarer species of flowers we have growing in the Country Park. There is also a healthy colony of bee orchids growing in the business park next door; but unfortunately this colony is threatened by the imminent expansion of new businesses. However, thanks to Wilson Bowden Developers, the business park bee orchids will be saved, by translocating them to a suitable area of the Country Park. The rangers, for ecologists, employees from Wilson Bowden, and members of FORCP, will be helping to move the plants; so hopefully we can establish a new colony of bee orchids at the Country Park.



## GOODBYE FROM HER AND HELLO FROM HIM !

The Annual General Meeting of 'The Friends' took place on 5th March 2002.

In the election of officers there was little change to the committee apart from a reversal of roles of that of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Margaret Lawson has done sterling work, as Chairman, since the inception of the 'Friends' and has now decided to take a lesser role of that as Vice Chairman.

We all wish to thank her for her guidance and leadership.

The success of the 'Friends' could not have been achieved without the other members of the committee who have all offered their unfailing support and have intimated a wish to continue to do so.

Bearing in mind the many shoulders to lean on, I allowed my name to be put forward as Chairman and was duly elected. So it is Hello! From

Norman Ecob, Chairman

## TOADDYING UP TO YOU

Every year at about this time, hundreds of common toads descend on the country park to spawn. Until now there has been an annual event for Rangers called 'toading', this involved fishing half starved toads from the car park drains and setting them on their way to the lake. This year 'toading' will have to stop because the Rangers have installed toad proof mesh to stop them falling through. That means there is one less hazard for them to negotiate; however they still have to cross the footpaths. So if you are walking on the park in April or in June when the toadlets are emerging, please watch your step.



## WEBWISE

If you have the odd half hour to spare when you are surfing the net, don't forget the website for FORCP is at

<http://geocities.com/forcruk>

Just type it into your search engine and you are off on an exciting trail in the park. See the pictures of how the park look before the volunteers started work and even read the latest edition of the Friends News.

Any articles for the next edition of the Friends News can be left at the Rangers Office.

# Rushcliffe Country Park


## ACTIVITY DAYS

Unless otherwise stated, all volunteer events are **free** and open to members of FORCP and non-members.




### APRIL

Sat 6th	<b>Wetland Management</b>	<i>Free Training course.</i> Please book a place by ringing the Rangers.	
Sun 7th	<b>Wetland Management</b>	<i>Free Training course.</i> Please book a place by ringing the Rangers.	
Wed 10th	<b>Tree Nursery</b>	Get things ready for the grand opening.	
Sat 20th	<b>Bird Evening</b>	A walk around the park, looking at our feathered friends. Approx 2 hours. Bring binoculars. Numbers limited, so please book in advance.	5.15 pm
Tues 23rd	<b>Opening of the New Tree Nursery</b>	Come along and celebrate the completion of the project. Picnic lunch provided 12.30 pm.	12.15 pm

### MAY

Thurs 2nd	<b>FORCP Meeting</b>	St Peter's Rooms, Ruddington.	7.30 pm
Sat 4th	<b>Tree Identification</b>	<i>Free Training course.</i> Please book a place as numbers are limited.	
Wed 8th	 <b>Community Garden/Tree Nursery</b>	The Community Garden is maturing nicely but it needs your help to stay looking good. Afternoon tea provided in the tree nursery.	
Sat 18th	<b>Visit</b>	Foremark Reservoir in Leicestershire. FORCP members only. Please ring to book a place.	

### JUNE

Sat 1st	 <b>Wildflower Survey</b>	Help us gain valuable data about the health of the meadows. No experience necessary.	
Wed 5th	 <b>Community Garden/Tree Nursery</b>	Gloves and trowels at the ready - a good chance to catch up on news from RCP.	
Sat 15th	<b>Visitor Count</b>	It is important to know how many people use the site - if you can help for part of the day, please let us know. The more the merrier.	
Wed 19th	 <b>Wildflower Survey</b>	Relax in the summer sun. Watch the birds and butterflies.....then study the flowers, how can you resist?	



*This symbol denotes the activity is working towards the Notts Biodiversity Action Plan.*



*These courses have been provided free thanks to support from Powergen and Rushcliffe Agenda 21.*

Meet at the Rangers Office at 10.15 am.

Unless stated all events run from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm.

**Don't forget some lunch, sturdy boots and waterproofs.**

For more information contact the Ranger's Office **0115 921 5865.**