

# Friends News

Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park (FORCP)

Issue 30 Winter 2005

## *“Come follow the band”*

On Saturday 29th October 2005 a musical procession made its way from the new visitors' centre to Gibbies Wood.

The procession was led by the Boys Brigade Band and included the Mayor of Rushcliffe, and members of Rushcliffe Borough Council as well as the Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Friends together with members of the general public.



The occasion, the planting of a commemorative tree, was the opening ceremony of the National Heritage Project to restore Gibbies Wood

to its former glory with the installation of a copse, a pond and a small swamp.

The restoration, which will last for two years, should increase the variety of habitats and wildlife.



## Happy Christmas

*The Rangers would like to thank everybody for their support and hard work throughout a difficult year and we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas & New Year.*



Why not burn off any Christmas excess with a **Guided Winter Walk at Rushcliffe Country Park in Ruddington on Thursday 29 December**. Two walks are planned - which are led by Park Rangers - at 11am and 1.30pm. Walks will take about one and a half hours and will include a talk about the history of the Park and some of the interesting sights.

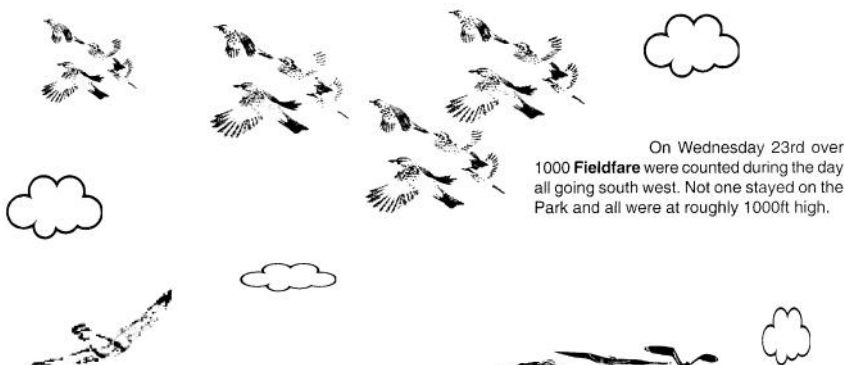
Walkers should meet at the Rangers' Office.



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# WILDLIFE UPDATE

Since the last newsletter 8 new species of moths, 2 fungi and 1 species of bird, a Goshawk, have been recorded.



On Wednesday 23rd over 1000 **Fieldfare** were counted during the day all going south west. Not one stayed on the Park and all were at roughly 1000ft high.

The **Goshawk** was seen heading north-east on Wednesday 9th November.



**Lapwing** were also moving between 10th and 12th, with the two largest flocks counted being 27 and 38.

**Cormorants** are now putting in a daily appearance on the lake and also loafing on the duck island. Numbers are increasing from 4 on the 19th October to 13 on the 3rd December. These birds are almost certainly from the roost at Attenborough Nature Reserve.



**Butterfly** records are not common during November but during a Wildlife Watch day held on Saturday 12th a tortoiseshell was seen near to the plantation holding the tree identification trail and on Tuesday 15th a Peacock butterfly was seen near the tree nursery and another in Ruddington village feeding on Ivy flowers. Both days were quite warm and it is thought that the higher temperatures awakened them from hibernation.

## GIBBIES WOOD

Progress in Gibbies Wood has been somewhat stop start over the last few months but we have made a reasonable start to the regeneration project, and had many a compliment from the public appreciating the efforts being made around the Park.

The cold snap delayed the tree planting but since then we have managed to plant all the coppice and understorey trees. The remaining areas for Year 1 will be planted between now and March with the trees from the tree nursery for mixed tree areas and willow coppice banks with willow gathered free from outside sources.

Ongoing will be adding the woodchip to the internal paths and soil to the glades and wildflower edges. The marsh pond has decided it can hold water without a liner at this point in time. We will monitor the levels over the winter, spring and summer before making final decisions, however a liner is more than likely going to be needed to create the desired habitat required.

The additions of new willow sculptures and live willow birdhide will complete the planting required for Year 1. Monies raised and donated trees between now and next winter will go to cover required tree, willow, plant and bulbs for Year 2.

# CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS



BUDDING photographers can capture all the best bits of Rushcliffe Country Park in Ruddington by joining a new free photography course starting in January.

The first session takes place on Wednesday January 18 from 10am to 2pm and is being run by wildlife photographer and barn owl expert Clive James. The course is being run as part of the Natural Heritage Project for people who want to improve their photography skills. A maximum of 16 people can be accommodated at each session.

People need to bring their own camera (preferably digital) and will be taking photos of the park throughout the seasons, as well as landscapes, leisure and wildlife. There will also be the opportunity to learn how to use a video camera. The project then hopes to produce a book containing the best images, a calendar and video footage that will be screened at the Experian Environmental Education Centre in the park.

Sessions are running throughout the spring, but more sessions are planned if demand is high. Sessions also take place on 1st and 15th February, 1st, 15th, and 29th March from 10am to 2pm.

To enrol on the course call the Park Rangers on 0115 921 5865.

## HEDGELAYING

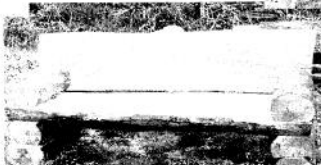
Hedgelaying season is here again and at the time of writing 112m at Hedgerow 18 has already been completed as expertly as ever by our volunteers some learning the new skill of laying left-handed! The second section at Hedgerow 9 is half completed with 100m to go. This section is quite sparse and the hedge appears to have been planted on rubble, leaving some areas with very little growth. Gapping up will be done on completion of hedgelaying.

## Willow Weaving Workshops

Following requests from newer members for a willow weaving instructor - Carole Beavis will be running 2 workshops to help us develop new sculptures & a live willow birchide in Gibbies Wood as part of the Natural Heritage Project.

## WOODCARVING 2005

Pictures show some of the Friends hard at work on this year's carvings which consist of bench backs in the form of a Spider's Web, Oak leaves, a random selection of leaves, flowers and grasses and Dog roses (we left the bark on!).





Photos (and pun!)  
by Norman Ecob

# Rushcliffe Country Park

## ACTIVITY DAYS

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

### JANUARY

|                                                                                            |                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 11th                                                                                   | FORCP New Year Walk to Bunny. Meet 10-30am. Lunch at Rancliffe Arms                     |
| Thurs 12th                                                                                 | FORCP Meeting 7pm RCP Classroom. New Members Welcome                                    |
| Wed 18th                                                                                   | Photographic Workshop - 10am-2pm - Run by Clive James. Please phone RCP to book a place |
| Sat 21st  | Weggie Walk - Hedgeplanting Workshop. Help to plant a brand new hedgerow                |
| Wed 25th  | Weggie Walk - Hedgeplanting                                                             |
| Sat 28th  | Weggie Walk - Hedgeplanting                                                             |

### FEBRUARY

|                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 1st                                                                                    | Photographic Workshop 10am-2pm - Run by Clive James                                                                             |
| Sat 4th                                                                                    | Willow Weaving Workshop - Run by Carole Beavis<br>Come and learn to willow weave and help create new sculptures in Gibbies Wood |
| Wed 8th                                                                                    | Woodcarving Workshop - RCP Classroom                                                                                            |
| Wed 15th                                                                                   | Photographic Workshop 10am-2pm - Run by Clive James                                                                             |
| Sat 18th  | Coppicing / Thinning. Willow banks by the Lake / Woodlands                                                                      |
| Wed 22nd                                                                                   | Woodcarving Workshop - RCP Classroom                                                                                            |

### MARCH

|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 1st                                                                                      | Photographic Workshop - 10am-2pm - Run by Clive James                                                                            |
| Sat 4th                                                                                      | Willow Weaving Workshop - Run by Carole Beavis.<br>Help build a new live willow birdhide in Gibbies Wood                         |
| Wed 8th                                                                                      | Willow Weaving . Help maintain existing willow sculptures by the lake & replenish willow / iris & reeds on the banks of the lake |
| Thurs 9th                                                                                    | FORCP AGM Meeting - 7pm RCP Classroom                                                                                            |
| Wed 15th                                                                                     | Photographic Workshop - 10am-2pm - Run by Clive James                                                                            |
| Sat 18th                                                                                     | Gibbies Wood. Help check log Maze / woodchip paths & carry out any maintenance required                                          |
| Wed 22nd                                                                                     | Help to check & carry out any maintenance required on activity trails                                                            |
| Sat 25th  | Early Wildflower Walk                                                                                                            |
| Wed 29th                                                                                     | Photographic Workshop 10am-2pm - Run by Clive James                                                                              |



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

Meet at the Rangers' Office at 9.30 am.

Unless stated all events run from 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.

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

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

Produced by the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park  
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