

# Friends News

Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park (FORCP)

Issue 31 Spring 2006

## *Natural Heritage Project Gibbies Wood*

### *Project Description*

Some significant general elements are -

**The** project will "review and collate data from recent research, investigations and surveys into the natural heritage of the Park, to locate gaps, then with local volunteers carry out investigations to fill them".

**A** series of workshops and training sessions will be arranged to "ensure that new volunteers and community groups have the skills necessary to carry out the project".

**There** will be put on a website a summary of the research and investigations and survey data, and an up to date species list will be sent to the Biological Records Centre.

### *Community Development*

**An** important feature of the grant is that other volunteers in addition to the Friends are to be brought in to give their input to the project. Para 3.c of the application asks for an estimate of how many people will be directly involved, getting the response - 20 FORCP members, 11 new adult volunteers, 10 adults from community groups, 250 young children and their leaders, including special needs. Total of about 300 people.

**Part 3** has further information about the potential involvement of the local school, 3 youth clubs, business park employees and students from the special needs course, among others.

### *Project Timetable*

**October 2005 - September 2007** in four sections of 6 months, each of which will have 3 walks, and a workshop/training session.

i) Oct 2005 - March 2006: Review research, investigations, surveys and photograph collection. Locate gaps and plan sessions to fill them. Puddle the pond and scrape. Collect and grow tree seeds in pots, following training session. Autumn walk, winter walk. Photographic workshop.

ii) April 2006 - September 2006: Undertake research and survey. Plant willow and osier slips around scrape. Collect seeds of wild flowers and grow in plugs - following training session. Plant and mark out trail route. Park after Dark workshop. Bat walk and moth trapping sessions. Collect and grow seeds of summer flowers.

iii) October 2006 - March 2007: Design information boards and leaflets. Upgrade gravel path and level and lay down woodchip path. Woodland craft workshop. Fungi foray, nuts and berries walk. Plant out trees in copse and wild flowers grown in plugs. 'Mammals of the Park' presentation. Collect and grow more seeds.

iv) April 2007 - September 2007: Draft research report and plan website. Put together audio/visual display. Construct board walk. Create habitat stacks and pipes. Collect and grow more wild flower seeds. Erect map, interpretation boards and way markers. Publish leaflets. Summer Walk. 'Birds of the Park' presentation and walk. Inaugurate addition to website. Add photographs to collection. Opening of trail and celebration.

**Whose boots were made for walking? See inside.**



# WILLOW WEAVING

Blue skies greeted a group of about twenty volunteers, members of the Friends and non members, in Gibbies Wood on Saturday March 4th for the second of two workshops under the expert and enthusiastic guidance of Carole Beavis.

Volunteers began work on structures already started in the previous workshop, a large crinoline lady and two bowers. An enthusiastic team began working on a design for a bird hide to be placed near the new pond and marshy area. The framework was soon erected and the interesting part of weaving began.



Carole showed us how to do paring and slewing, new skills for us, and the structure soon gained height. Unfortunately there wasn't time to finish all the structures. It was a most enjoyable day and anyone interested in coming along and helping on future dates will be most welcome.



## SORRY!.....FULL UP!

Taking a walk on 1st of January 2006 Audrey and myself came across this Swan that had landed on the Field of Hope. ( Hoping it was water? ) Did not have a ring and was attracting a lot of unwelcome attention from children and dogs. Did not appear to be injured but the rumour was spread to let it have breathing space.



Although it was New Year's day and Mick's day off he was contacted and immediately downed tools ( in this case Knife and Fork as he was just about to start his dinner) and went to the Park with wife Maureen with the intention of transferring the bird to Holme Pierrepont. When he got there the bird had flown!

Two weeks later it is believed the same Swan went through the whole routine again only this time Mick was able to apprehend and affect the transfer. *Norman Ecob*

## RARE WINTER MIGRANT RETURNS TO PARK

After an absence of 3 years a rare winter migrant reappeared on the Park on Tuesday 21st February--- Rob Carrier. He wishes to be remembered to all and reminds us that his main distribution is the Scilly Isles.



## MOTH TRAPPING

We have some dates for a series of moth trapping sessions at the Park during May and June.

They are just samplers to see how we get on, but in the next newsletter we will announce a workshop date (or dates) for July onwards.

The dates are as follows:-

**Nights of Wed. 3rd and 24th May and Tues 6th and Wed 21st June.**

The sessions will be from just before dark until dawn the following morning, followed by up to an hour of identification.

Anyone wishing to participate is more than welcome to spend a sleepless night under the heading of

'The Park After Dark'.

P.S. Bad weather and it's off!

# WILDLIFE UPDATE

The New Year started well with 2 new species found on the Park during January.

On Saturday 14th a Mediterranean Gull was seen on the lake. This bird put in a second appearance on Tuesday 17th and was also seen by a member of the Notts Birdwatchers.

On Wednesday 18th a male Pale Brindled Beauty moth was found hanging in a spider's web from one of the external lights on the new building -unfortunately dead. A second one was found in the same web on Tuesday 14th February, also suffering from spider venom, and died within the hour.

On Saturday 21st January the afternoon was warm and quite sunny. On walking back to the Rangers hut after a Friends activity a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly was seen flying through one of the plantations. From the tatty state of its wings it would appear to be a migrant individual that had been displaced by the rise in temperature.

## THE FRIENDS WINTER WALK TO BUNNY

Wednesday 11th January saw a cold, fresh, but dry day for our walk to the Ranscliffe Arms for lunch. Twenty two people met at Rushcliffe Country Park and we walked to the perimeter road and over the Ruddington and Bunny moors. Some of us were delighted to see a kingfisher on Fairham Brook at Bunny, but unfortunately there was very little wildlife about. Conversation was lively and there were a few experts sharing their knowledge with us. Of particular interest was the explanation of the Bunny decoy and how many years ago hundreds of ducks were killed for food.



*Whose boots belong to who!*

Lunch at the pub was excellent and conversation lively, especially after a drink or two! Without exception everyone enjoyed the carvery and the delicious sweets on offer.

The return journey took in Bradmore Moor which made a good circular walk.

A certain Friend, who is always on the lookout for a "freebie", was able to obtain certain items from a group of workmen for use on his allotment as we neared the park. He says the wood was jolly useful for making compost containers and raised beds, and the people in question were glad to get rid of it.

One of the topics of conversation was about learning to "dry stone wall". Zoe said she had a colleague in the Peak District and could arrange for a working party to visit if enough people were interested. June has been suggested and if anyone is interested let Zoe know. *Dorothy*

### FOYER AREA

It is hoped that the Foyer Area can be open to the public on a regular basis, certainly at weekends. We would like to get volunteers to come and sit in the foyer allowing the Rangers to carry on with work around the Park, but to have peace of mind that the building is being looked after. Ideally we would like these volunteers to have an interest in the Park both with its history and its present use, promote the use of the classroom area and be available to make tea/coffee for our visitors.

If you are interested please ring the Rangers' Office.

### WINTER FEEDING STATION

Since October 2005 a feeding station has been maintained in plantation P23 adjacent to the tree nursery and almost 600 birds have been caught and ringed.

One of the species is a bird of conservation concern due to a massive reduction in the population level - the Yellowhammer.

On Sunday 5th March, 17 individuals were caught, 9 new birds and 8 already wearing rings - one of which was originally caught in the same place in 2004.

It would seem that the feeding station is helping the local population to maintain healthy numbers.



WE NEED REINFORCEMENT!  
HAVE YOU SEEN THE SIZE  
OF THESE FISH?



*Volunteers, and those of you thinking of offering your help, please don't be put off by Norman Ecob's cartoon.*

*The sharks aren't really that big! Honest!!*

**Subscriptions for the year 2006 - 2007 are now due** - minimum £1.00. If you wish to continue receiving your quarterly newsletter please fill in the form below and return it to the **Rangers' Office, Rushcliffe Country Park, Mere Way, Ruddington, Nottingham NG11 6JS**

\*Delete as applicable

\*I/We wish to renew \*my/our Subscription to the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park

Name.....

Address.....

Phone Number.....

# Rushcliffe Country Park




## ACTIVITY DAYS

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

### APRIL

Wed 5th	Barley Straw Sausages
Wed 12th	Willow Weaving / Maintenance of willow structures
Sat 15th	EASTER
Wed 26th	FORCP Visit to Treswell Wood Meet 9am RCP - Minibus - Please phone to book a place
Sat 29th 	Wildflower Identification Walk

### MAY

Wed 3rd	Task to be confirmed on the day
	Dark to Dawn - Moth Trapping
Thurs 4th	FORCP Meeting 7pm RCP Classroom. New Members Welcome
Sat 6th 	Spring Walk (Natural Heritage Project - Open to All)
Wed 10th	Teak Oil Woodcarvings
Wed 17th	Photographic Workshop - 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm - Run by Clive James Conservation Task also available on the day
Fri 19th 	Park After Dark - Bat Walk (Natural Heritage Project - Open to All) - Run by Lyn Victor Notts Wildlife Trust : Meet 8pm for short talk then a Walk at Dusk
Wed 24th 	Wildlife Identification Walk
	Dark to Dawn - Moth Trapping
Wed 31st	Task to be arranged on the day

### JUNE

Tues 6th 	Dark to Dawn - Moth Trapping
Wed 7th	Ponds & Floating Islands
Wed 14th <i>PHOTO WORKSHOP //</i>	Task to be arranged on the day
Wed 21st	Photographic Workshop - 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm - Run by Clive James. Outdoors-please come prepared Conservation Task also available on the day
	Dark to Dawn - Moth Trapping
Sat 24th <i>NO 22TH</i> 	Wildlife Identification Workshop (Natural Heritage Project - Open to All)

*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.**

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