

Autumn 2008

Friends of
Rushcliffe Country Park

Issue 41

The Dragonfly Lands

Yes, the dragonfly has finally been installed at the entrance to the woodland trail! The ten-foot body came from one of the sycamore trees felled near Loughborough Road. (We thank Zoe for her chainsaw work!)

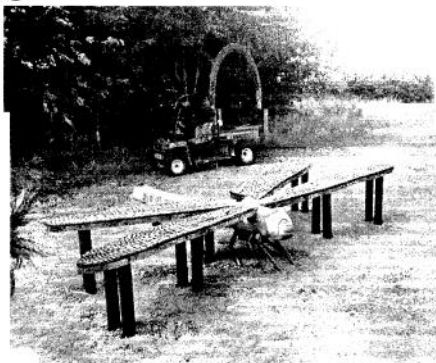
The timber for the wings was bought from Nixon and Knowles. The shape of each wing and the vein pattern was projected on to the timber and drawn on with felt-tip pen. This pattern was then routed and finished off with hand-tools.

Next, the pieces for each wing were bolted together with threaded steel rods.

John made a splendid job of carving the head, to which I attached the dragonfly's compound eyes. Jean donated the posts for the dragonfly's legs from her garden. All the timber was then taken back to Nixon and Knowles to be tanalised in order to protect it from the weather. Finally the vein pattern was picked out in black sadolin.

We arranged for John and Bill, two local farmers, to install the 19 posts that the sculpture sits on. These posts were recycled from the playground upgrade. The installation also involved a considerable number of heavy steel straps to secure the components.

Thank you to all the Friends and Rangers who worked hard on this project - everyone seems delighted with the result and we are sure that it will be well used for many years to come.



Roger Byrne

New Gazebo stuns the crowds

The Friends are also very proud of our brand new Gazebo.

We thank Keith for organising this valuable purchase, paid for by Rushcliffe Borough Council. We are presently looking into prices for printing our logo onto vinyl to be attached to the gazebo.

Aren't we just the bees knees!



A TRIBUTE TO EDDIE BARBER

Eddie passed away in April. Along with his wife Ivy, Eddie was one of the first 'Friends' of the Park.

He was involved in various aspects of the work on the mosaics, the Community Garden and the Newt! He also enjoyed the many outings.

Eddie was a quiet, gentle person with a good sense of humour.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and his memory will linger on through the planting of a tree, by the family, in the Park he loved so much.

EDITOR: MANY APOLOGIES TO IVY FOR NOT PUTTING THIS IN THE SUMMER EDITION.

AN 'AMAZING' EVENING

A beautiful warm June evening in Gibbies Wood, the excited chattering, no not birds, of the 5th East Leake Brownie Pack filled the sultry air. The group were busy putting bark around the log maze, a never ending occupation. Energetically filling buckets and scattering the bark where needed.



A wonderful well mannered Pack, when asked would they like to do some conservation work another time, the response was a whole hearted YES PLEASE!

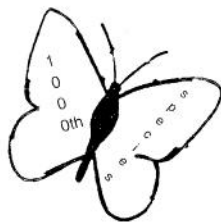
Thanks to Janine - pack leader and her team.

Jill Spafford

WILDLIFE UPDATE

Since the last newsletter we have reached a milestone - **the 1000th species recorded on the park!**

It was a nondescript little plume moth with no common English name but it qualified us as a Ten Ton site.



But, although 1000 species have been recorded, some have become extinct over the years, Corn Cockerle, Chicory and Green Hairstreak for example. New species will, however, continue to be found if we keep looking.

If the global warming scaremongers are correct, we should see more southerly species (especially of insects and birds) quite soon.

Recently we have identified a species of harvestman native to Morocco and first found in England at Bournemouth in 1957. This animal (also with no common English name) has, in 51 years, spread over all of the mainland to northern Scotland.

PS. Just for Norman it's Latin name is *Dicranopalpus ramosus*.

Mike

RCP'S NEW FRIENDS

Our love affair with Rushcliffe Country Park began about fifteen years ago when, to be honest, the place was looking pretty bleak and barren, having gone from bomb factory to more like bomb site! However, its potential for blossoming into a green oasis was obvious and we have seen it do exactly that. Living in Loughborough but maintaining links with our home town of Nottingham meant passing the Park on a regular basis, so there were plenty of opportunities to visit, if only briefly.

Fast forward to 2008 and, having already done some work with the Charmwood Conservation Volunteer we were smitten with a desire to leave our mark on Rushcliffe. And so it came to pass that we became involved with a bunch of green shirted fanatics known as the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park. The genuine enthusiasm of this motley crew soon became apparent and, after seeing what they had already achieved, we were soon fired with the same creative zeal.

Helping to carve a giant dragonfly sculpture we found hugely enjoyable, as was the willow weaving, and we were impressed by Roger's organizational skills. In fact all the people in the team we found to be very friendly, with their cheerful banter as welcome as the tea and biscuits. It is to be hoped that the efforts of the Friends will serve to



inspire the many visitors to the Park to respect and treasure this wonderful asset and valuable green lung. Long live F.O.R.C.P!

Chris & Chris

WOODCHIP!

A Big THANK YOU

to the 1st Keyworth Brownie Pack for woodchipping part of the tree trail path on Tuesday evening 1st July.

This is the third Brownie Pack to volunteer some of their time to help in the Park.

A very enthusiastic group and the 'Friends' who regularly woodchip will agree 'many hands make light work'.

Thanks to Bernice - pack leader and her team. **Jill Spafford**

WOODCHIP!

ILLUSTRATED TALK

An illustrated talk on
Rushcliffe Country Park
will take place at the
Education Centre Classroom
on **Saturday 13th December**
at **1400 hrs.**

This event is open to FORCP members and their families only.

Teas and coffees
will be available for a small charge.

THE 10 YEAR BENCH

It was decided that a bench should be built to celebrate the 10th Year of the Friends. The timber once again came from our stock-pile of sycamore, felled on the Park. We thank Zoe and Mick for shaping the various components with the chainsaw.

Each piece was then planed and sanded using our power-tools. The shape of the bench describes five sides of an octagon, leaving three sides open to admire the beautiful view of the lake. We have just started the installation and when the bench part of the design is complete we will be adding a large octagonal table with the Friends logo routed into its surface. The floor of the bench area will be covered in donated York stone. We are all looking forward to whiling away the hours, sitting together, drinking tea and coffee and occasionally wine, whilst admiring our Park!

Roger Byrne

SEASONAL POND RESTORATION

Thanks to £1000 from the Rushcliffe Wildlife Ponds and Wetlands Grant, money from The Friends and the Park, we have been able to carry out restoration work on our seasonal pond which was created about 9 years ago complete with a pond dipping platform. It was becoming rich in wildlife but over the last few years it often dried out.

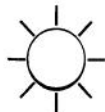


After consultation with the geologist, Craig Winters, from Castle Aggregates near Stoke-on-Trent, 80 tons of puddle clay was delivered to the site a few weeks ago. After discussing the procedure with Craig, Dave and his digger got to work on spreading the clay and puddling it. (Roger was thrilled to be able to 'have a go'

on the digger!!) The West Bridgford Fire Brigade came to pump water from the lake to the pond, for which we were very grateful. Plants were replaced and so far, due to our wet summer, the water level looks good.

Two days after restoration, on a lovely sunny day, it was wonderful to see the swallows and house martins swooping low over the water and goldfinches coming down to the water's edge to drink.

I'm looking forward to carrying out a survey next year to see how well the pond life is doing. **Jean Gray**



Rushcliffe Country Park

WORK DAYS

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

The Friends' Work Days will be held every **Wednesday and Saturday** from
Wednesday 1st October - Wednesday 17th December

New Volunteers and Members always welcome. See tasks below.

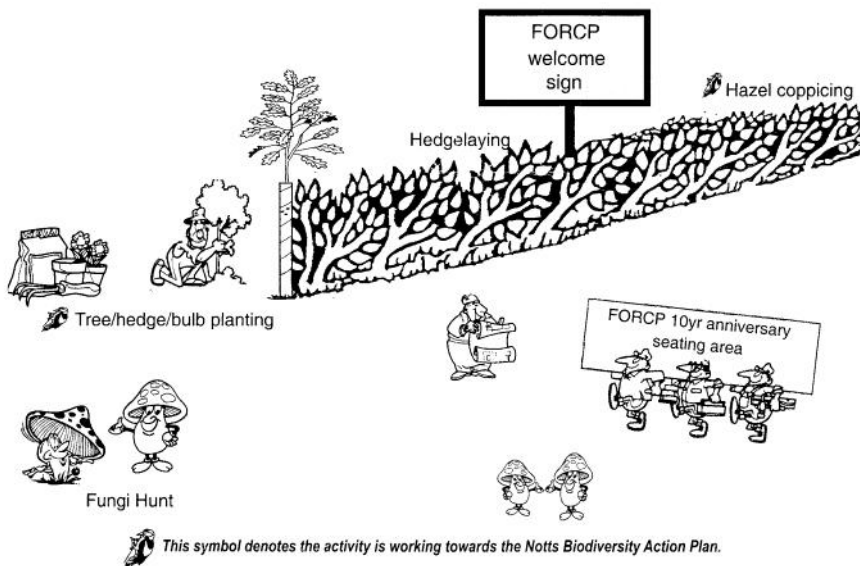
Notable Dates

FORCP Meeting - Wed 12th November 2008 - 1.30pm RCP

Illustrated Talk for FORCP members and families only - Sat 13th Dec - 2.00pm

See page 3 for more details

Tasks



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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