

FRIENDS OF SOUTHWICK COUNTRY PARK

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

FRIENDS WORKING PARTY



Thinning out Ash saplings

The Friends of Southwick Country Park have a group of volunteers who work tirelessly at the many jobs that need to be done to manage the Park. Throughout the year, come rain or shine, they are to be seen twice a month; opening up copses, cutting and pruning trees, clearing pathways, planting trees, tackling erosion points along the stream and working alongside young students who join the group as part of a personal development programme.

New volunteers are welcome with open arms. Come along and join the group. They meet on the second Wednesday and the last Tuesday of each month at 9.30, in the car park. Refreshments are provided!

Just turn up, call us on 01225 718647 or email us at: FriendsOfSouthwickCountryPark@outlook.com



Members of the public finding grounded or injured bats, or having general bat queries, should contact the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Bat helpline on 0845 1300 228 or email

enquiries@bats.org.uk

The Wiltshire Bat Group has a network of Bat Carers.

If you want to be involved, the WBG Bat Care Coordinator can be contacted on wbgbat-care@gmail.com

THE MAGICAL BAT WALK

Late afternoon into twilight is a magical time in the Park and this was the case for our annual Bat Walk on 28th August led by Ali Rasey, Countryside Officer with Wiltshire Council. About 40 adults and a small number of children attended. The children were very excited by the prospect of being out in the dark looking for bats. We set out armed with torches and bat detectors and were very lucky to hear a lot of bat activity and even to spot some if you were quick enough. We definitely spotted some Pipistrelle bats which are the most common in Britain. As we approached the end of the walk we were also treated to a large number of moths caught in the bright lights provided by moth experts Hugo and Roger. A very successful bat walk and hopefully another event will be held next year.

Sarah, Friend and Volunteer

LOOK OUT FOR THESE EVENTS IN 2015

**Into the wild
Beginners Spoon Carving
Bugs and Butterflies Event
Volunteer Day**

TREE PLANTING WEEK

As part of Tree Planting Week, seven oaks were planted in The Country Park. These are specimen trees and as such have been placed in the open at various points in the Park to grow into spectacular features, standing proudly for all to enjoy.

On Saturday 1st November 2014 Tree Planters assembled. These included Friends, Rangers, Wilts Council Staff (volunteering their time), a Councillor and passing members of the public!

It was especially pleasing to be joined by a family enjoying a Saturday walk. A special thank-you to little Michael who was invited to take part in planting one of the trees by Councillor Horace Prickett. This tree is now known as Michael's Tree.



Michael's Mum helping him plant his tree. Michael is there, tucked away behind his Mum!

2nd WESTBURY GUIDES

There were two very successful visits by the 2nd Westbury Guides, with their leader Karen Dwyer, in September and October of 2014.

The girls worked very hard at clearing overgrown footpaths around the site to help open up access once again for other park users. The conservation task was then followed by an evening discussion on bat ecology, habitat and diet. The girls then went out armed with bat detectors into the park looking and listening for bats and Common Pipistrelles were recorded. They also had great fun learning how to check the hedgehog nests.

A big thank you to The Friends who came along to assist these events.



Community spirit being practised by The Westbury Girl Guides

SQUIRREL TEAROOMS

Meals and Snacks

This is a separate charity not directly connected to The Park, but we co-operate for the good of us all.

PARKRUN

Every Saturday morning from 9am to 10am

ATTENTION

SOUTHWICK COUNTRY PARK ON BBC RADIO!

Still available on iplayer.

Open Country R4 broadcast January 10 and located at the Country Park.

Features Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Well Being Programme