

Barford Road Pocket Park Quarterly Newsletter

January 2011

Happy New Year!!!!

First of all, I would like to start by saying that I hope all visitors to the park enjoyed a happy Christmas and a have had a brilliant new year so far.

Let's Make Friends.....

In what will be a very interesting year from a local government point of view, I aim to make the park more enjoyable and user friendly this year more than any yet. One of the ways in which I would like to achieve this is by forming a "Friends of" group for the park.

Currently, every site that HDC's Countryside service looks after has a friends group, apart from Barford Road Pocket Park. Friends groups on other sites support the work of the other rangers by helping to plan and run events, help out managing the park on work parties, even raising money by applying for grants for specific projects. If you feel you have something to give to the park, whether its just an hour or two on a work party or helping to plan an exciting event, please feel free to contact me on the details below. I already have a long list of people who are interested in helping out, so why not join them?!

Phone me on: 01480 406 795

Or email me on : paxtonpits@btconnect.com

Your help and support can really make a difference in the future of the park.

Special points of interest:

- Have a look at the work being carried out by the Rangers and maybe let me know what you think!?
- Most of all, enjoy the park and respect the surroundings!



Get involved with the volunteers!!!

Winter Wildlife Wonderland.....

December 2010 brought with it one of the harshest months this country has seen for years. This will have proved to be a difficult year for all birds and other animals in the park. Luckily, because of the warm, wet summer, it has been a fantastic year for the Hawthorn, Blackthorn and other shrubs in the park. Species like Guelder Rose and Haw-

thorn have produced such a huge amount of fruit this year that they are keeping the parks feathered population fed really well.

There seems to be a large number of Goldfinches this year flocking around the park feeding on Teasel heads and Knapweed. There also seems to be a good

number of Long-Tailed Tits hanging around in the bushes too.

In previous years, there has also been a small number of Stonechats flying around, but AS YET, I haven't seen any at all!

Before the marina froze, there was also several sightings of Otters swimming around so keep an eye out for them!



Guelder rose (right) and Hawthorn berries are great winter food for birds.



You may also see Fieldfares (left) and Redwings (below left) foraging for food on the meadows.

Forthcoming events...

WORK PARTY

Saturday 12th February 2011

10.30am Meet at the Tesco's entrance to the park (Chapman Way)

Join me for a good winters work party by helping to carry out some tree planting in the park. This will be the first event for the Friends of Barford Road Pocket Park, a new group set up to support the park with events and work parties.

Bring warm clothes and good footwear! All tools and refreshments provided.

For more information of forthcoming events or just more information about the park, please contact:
Phone: 01480 406 795
Email: paxtonpits@btconnect.com
Many thanks and see you around!
Matt Hall
Ranger, Barford Road Pocket Park