



Oct 2015
to
Dec 2015



Our website:
www.friends-of-rcp.co.uk
Ranger's Office
0115 921 5865

Issue 69

Friends Newsletter



From this...



1145 Volunteer Hours created this:

Coppers Dog Activity Trail

Who would have thought looking back, that a simple request for an area specifically for dogs on the park could mushroom into a major project and a phenomenal success? Six months of hard work and dedication by the Project Team, Friends and Volunteers, brought to fruition the first dog activity trail in Nottinghamshire. The first testing of the trail was broadcast on Radio Nottingham and the official opening filmed by ITV - on 24th July 2015 - the world was introduced to the trail!

The original concept designed by the Kennel Club & Forestry Commission was built up in Teesside. Their designs, construction information & surveys helped enormously with a place to start. Colin Offland (one of our Rushcliffe Dog Wardens) with his wealth of knowledge and experience gave us invaluable guidance in deciding location, which features to build and the layout. A survey of our own park users said they would welcome and support such a trail. In the end we decided to have all the features in one area, instead of laid out on a trail and that the area would be enclosed with a fence and a hedgerow planted alongside it.

Sue Wilding, Suzanne Underwood, Chris Prokaza, Chris Crome, Sue Burton & Jenny Deakin all undertook the task of fundraising & approaching businesses for donations or discounts for the materials we would need. A fundraising teas and tombola raised an astounding £1200. A great achievement and well done to all. Our target was £3000 and with the sale of dog nameplates, key rings & generous donations from park users and visitors, the target was soon met. The hedgerow was planted before the end of winter with free plants from the Woodland Trust. Fencing posts and gates installed by local contractor James Muston & Phil Parnham.

Then the task of building the features - Roger Byrne with his amazing ability to create - designed and was instrumental in the construction of every feature. James & Phil again helped to install all the posts for the features and the soil over the tunnels, proving their worth with their expertise, being up for a new challenge and a good eye for a level!!









The Project Team



Hattie & Arthur



Colin & Bertie



Tilly



Indi



Stan



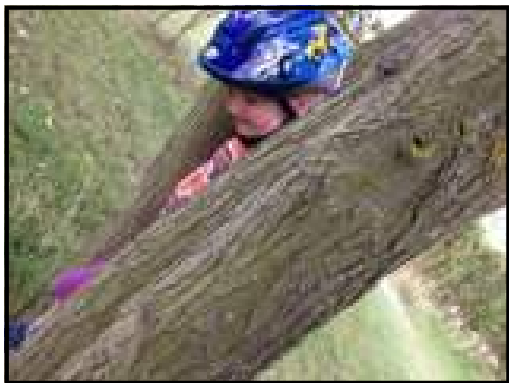
Meg & Bella



In Memory of Copper
"The Wee fella"

Thank you to all those that braved the weather turning out to support the official opening. Since then, somewhat overwhelmingly! - every conceivable shape, size and breed of dog has come with their owners, from far and wide to use the trail - often alongside it finding our wonderful park for the first time. A massive thank you to everyone for all your hard work, dedication and support to produce such an outstanding addition to the park. We could not have done it without you. Zoe

Just William's Summer adventures at the Park





Where Next Grandma????

Wytham September 2015

Sunday

Once again the Wytham gang have come together to have fun in the woods. Two new faces have joined us ..Karen and Tracey

Karen was able to share in the fun on the first evening, a family emergency called her away, she was missed.

When all the camp was set up we had a great camp fire and a round of pancakes. Maple syrup was available, tastes good but when you pour it on your pancake in the dark care is needed. Helen found this skill lacking and ended up with sticky jeans, much to everyone's amusement.



Monday

The first day started with ripping out barbed wire, netting and posts and we then set about building the new fence. I popped over to inspect the Japanese kiln, one of the two kilns

built had been fired successfully and in a nearby tent I spotted some interesting pots.

That evening, another fire and more pancakes. We were joined by Tristan, Nigel's son who is coming to Nottingham University. It will be great to see him at the park, maybe for him a welcome change from Uni life.



Tuesday

The day started with crown lifting several trees and bushes in the field we were enclosing. Peter did a splendid impression of a lion, his beard affording excellent camouflage. Next came installing the wire netting and tensioning the wire. The posts had been put in by the post driver on the tractor.



Back at the camp we were startled to see a hot air balloon passing low.. As it had a HAPPY BIRTHDAY design Helen immediately emailed it to her friend whose birthday it was. That evening we all retired to the Talbot where we enjoyed splendid food and company.

Wednesday

The work started with the fence completed and we then switched to the second project. Trees were to be planted by the Oxford Sustainability Trust and our task was to construct triangular fence guards to stop damage from deer and sheep.

The photos show how they were made. Hard work but great fun. Our last working day was to continue building tree guards. We worked really well two teams and eventually finished all 16 guards. A satisfying achievement.

That evening ended up with a meal in the Jacob's Inn. We were joined by a lady called Emma who after the meal, showed us her collection of silk moths, explaining all about their lives. She was at Wytham to study insect life in trees.

Thursday

The weather had been very kind to us over the week and the 15th Wytham was over. Once again many thanks to, Nigel, Kevin, Nick and Neil for making us so welcome.



Building the tree guards



A few days later Nigel brings some more volunteers from the Oxford Sustainability Trust to carry out the planting within our tree guards.



Linger Cafe

The Linger Cafe has continued to develop under Anne's enthusiastic leadership and it has generated about £800 profit since its opening.

These funds have been used to support a variety of park projects. They include...the purchase of hedge plants, a contribution to the purchase of a new chainsaw, a donation to the dog activity trail project and the bird feeding station shown below.

Many thanks Anne your efforts are really appreciated



The station contains several feeders.. mixed seeds, peanuts, sunflower seeds, niger seeds and two fat ball feeders. On the bird table there is a water bowl and space for any suitable food that becomes available.



It is hoped that the Friends who support Linger will replenish the feeders with the stock kept in the garage, bought with Linger funds. Birds have so far been a little shy of this new structure, it is hoped that they will be better accustomed to it over the winter. Thanks to Paul, Martin and Janine .

Roger

John's Jottings



Summer is the season when birds seem to be at their quietest, and for many species breeding has already finished for the year. Many undergo moult, and of course our summer visitors are preparing for migration. Finch flocks are raiding my garden feeders, and I am sure there must be plenty around the park, although only Goldfinch are noisy enough to be noticed.

Black-headed Gulls returned a few weeks ago, and there is the occasional Lesser Black-backed Gull on the lake. At the time of writing a Common juvenile Shelduck has arrived, a rare visitor to the Park. Most adults of the species will be away on their moulting grounds at this time of year, where they remain flightless for a few weeks.

Our eight cygnets are still doing well and starting to flap their wings, but the adults, now starting to fly again, have sometimes come down in the wrong place and have had to be returned to the lake by the rangers. Coots and Moorhens seem to have had a good breeding season (including a tiny Moorhen chick spotted as late as September), but there have not been many Mallard ducklings.



Summer holiday meadow mini beast hunts have turned up lots of stilt bugs, shield bugs, crab spiders and a cute new weevil for the species list - *Tanymecus palliatus*. Pond dipping ponds have also been filling up with dragonfly larvae, and the myriad of newts seem undisturbed. Also there have been plenty of toads lurking in the mini beast woodland.



There has been a fair show of dragonflies and damselflies through the summer, including lots of black tailed skimmers and various species of hawker, along with the usual demoiselles. On decent days there have been plenty of butterflies, particularly over some of the wild flower meadows.



At the beginning of September Bill reported finding Weasel's Snout / Lesser Snapdragon *Misopates orontium* on the tree trail, another new species for the park.



Work Days

The Friends' work days will be held every Wednesday
Meet at the Rangers' Office at 9.30 am.
New volunteers always welcome

Registered Charity No 1079665

RUSHCLIFFE CALENDAR 2016

Would you like to support the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park?
Then why not buy the Rushcliffe Calendar for 2016. This has been produced by
Rushcliffe Photographic Society and has quality photographs of familiar scenes
throughout the Borough of Rushcliffe. It costs £6 with an envelope and all proceeds
are being donated to the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park.
Available at the Rangers office.

Dorothy



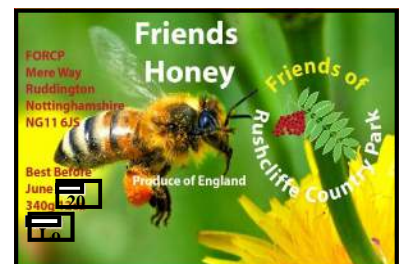
Bee Report

After quite a late start to the season we have managed to produce 42 jars of
honey compared to 56 jars this time last year.

The sales have been good and we have received a lot of compliments on the
quality of our honey. We don't expect to produce anymore this year and have
now put the bees to bed for the winter.

We are looking forward to a good season next year.

Sara and Helen



Dates for your Diary

Linger Teas Wednesday 7th & 21st October.
Wednesday 4th & 18th November.
Wednesday 9th & 23rd December.

FoRCP Meeting - Wednesday 2nd December - 1.30-3.30pm RCP

Wytham 2016 Monday 6th - Friday 10th June
Monday 5th - Friday 9th September