

Other Events planned for 2011 so far.

MARCH 16TH Wednesday at 7.30pm.

A Brief History of the Shire Country Park. A talk by Bob Blackham for Kings Heath Historical Society at Kings Heath Community Centre, Heathfield Rd, Kings Heath. Non-members £1.00

MAY 21st and 22nd

Middle-earth Weekend

Saturday and Sunday 11.00-5.00 each day

Sarehole Recreation Ground. Free event for families and fans of J.R.R. Tolkien who lived near to Sarehole Mill as a child.

www.middleearthweekend.org.uk

JUNE 11th

Under Water Wonders

Saturday from 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Dipping in the river and wetland to see what beasts live beneath the surface. Equipment provided, but feel free to bring your own net. Wellies are a good idea. Meet by the ford at Scribes Lane, off Priory Rd, Billesley.

June 15th

Wildflower Walk

Wednesday 10.30am-1.00pm

A stroll through the Shire Country Park from the Dingles and Chinn Brook Meadows and Nature Reserve. Learn about the management of the meadows and identify wildflower species. Meet at the Coleside Avenue entrance to The Dingles (off Brook Lane).

July 3rd Discovery Day at Burbury Brickworks Nature Reserve

Sunday 12.00-4.00pm.

Find out more about this little known nature reserve tucked away in the heart of the City. Local information, guided walk, nature trail, bug hunt, den building, pond dipping and more. Suitable clothing needed.

September 11th

Bat and Moth Night

Sunday 7.30pm-9.30pm

Learn more about these fascinating creatures of the night. Meet at the Scribes Lane entrance to Trittiford Pool (off Priory Rd). Suitable clothing needed and a torch if you have one.

October 26th

Go Wild in the Woods

Wednesday 11.00am-2.0pm

Join the Rangers for fun and frolics in the woods. Games, den building, nature crafts, bug hunting and more. An adult must accompany children. Wear suitable outdoors clothing and footwear. Bring a packed lunch. Meet at Yardley Rd entrance to the site.

NB: No toilet on site.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

The Shire Country Park Friends newsletter is produced on behalf of the Friends
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The Shire Country Park Friends Newsletter

No.11

JANUARY-MARCH 2011

Duncan Purslow has for some time now been editing this newsletter with the assistance of Penny Marriott. Duncan has now stepped down from this role. Friends wish to thank Duncan for all the effort he has put into keeping the newsletter going as well as for the continuing support he has given to the many groups making up The Shire Country Park Friends and we look forward to seeing him at some of the activities.



**The Annual General Meeting of
The Shire Country Park Friends is on
Sunday 27th March from 2.30 to 4.00
At
Kings Heath Park House.**

Content for this newsletter is necessary and welcome. email:
vwi8327963@aol.com
or Penny Marriott at: kingsheathhub@birmingham.gov.uk

The Group will have its own website in February accessible via:
www.shirecountryparkfriends.org.uk

We hope to keep the website updated with news, events,
workdays and progress reports.

**The Rangers would like to remind all Friends or visitors
who wish to join the activities or conservation days
detailed in this newsletter that outdoor clothing
suitable for all weathers should be worn, together with
appropriate footwear.**

**Packed lunches & drinks are necessary on the longer
workdays.**

Notes of Interest

Signage for the **Shire Country Park** has been completed at Trittiford, Chinn Brook Meadows and Chinn Brook Nature reserve. The format is intended to be used in the rest of the Park, including compatibility within **Moseley Bog**, now under the care of The Wildlife Trust where contractors are currently laying paths and new boardwalks. The work is due to finish by the end of February. The area then has spring to regenerate undergrowth and give peace to nesting creatures.

The **John Morris Jones Walkway** Group is now in action.

It is hoped that the bridge over the ford **near Greet Mill Meadows** will be painted soon. Funding has been found for equipment for volunteers to use on training days. Workdays will be shown in future newsletters.

Burbury Brickworks workdays continue. Lookout for workdays and events at this location and support them if you can. Section 106 money is imminent for site improvement to paths and entrances.

Blackberry Way has obtained some 106 money for funding entrance and path improvements. Work continues on thinning the plantations.

Priory Fields does not have a Friend's Group and unfortunately there was no response to an open day. This is a great pity since this a uniquely diverse site with the only heath land habitat in the area. Should any members of Shire Country Friends know of contacts that might be interested let the Rangers know.

River Cole

The metal from the sluice gates has been stolen (again). Scrap iron has increased a lot in value recently so keep watch.

Work along the walkway is about to start. The gate from the BMX site (now known as Chinn Brook Nature Reserve) is to be relocated to Scribes Lane. The old Slade Lane scrap yard is still to be purchased the strip of land at the rear down to the river has been bought. This last is a result of the 1980's strategy to have no private land on the corridor.

Because of the re-arrangement of the Rangers, now based at Kings Heath Park it is more important than ever for Friends and Conservation Groups to monitor the areas and send in comments and reports about conservation problems. 0121 464 8728

A follow-up meeting about concerns is being planned with Councillors.

Volunteer Conservation Work Days

Wednesdays – 11.00am-3.00pm - Conservation Training Days

Join the Rangers in a range of practical tasks on a variety of sites in the Hall Green & Selly Oak Constituency. You will be fully trained in practical conservation skills as well as the theory behind them, meet new people and get some exercise whilst helping improve wildlife habitats. Bring a lunch if you intend staying all day and please Contact the Rangers to find out more as tasks and locations may change. **Telephone: 464 8728 or email: kingsheathhub@birmingham.gov.uk**

Saturday 12th February – 10.30am-2.00pm

Blackberry Way Workday

This is the section of the river walk between Stratford Rd and Formans Rd, Sparkhill.

Sunday 13th February – 10.30-2.00pm

The John Morris Jones Walkway. Meet at Sarehole Mill.

Sat 19th February – 10.30 -2.30

Moseley Bog Workday. Meet at the Yardley Wood Road entrance

Saturday 26th February –

Scribes Lane S.L.I.N.C. Meet at the Scribes Lane entrance to the site by the allotments.

Saturday 12th March –13.00am-1.00pm

River Cole Clean up. Greet Mill Meadows. Meet by Green Rd Ford.

Sat 19th March – 10.30 -2.30

Moseley Bog workday – meeting place to be decided. Email or call for details.

Sunday 27th March – 10.30am-2.00

The Dingles cleanup. Meet at the Coleside Avenue entrance.

Saturday 2nd July – 10.30am-1.00pm

Greet Mill Meadows Workday. Himalayan Balsam control. Meet at the Stratford Rd end.