

FWR

The Friends of Wychall Reservoir
2, Wychall Park Grove ~ Kings Norton ~ Birmingham ~ B38 8AQ

A message from Alan Bakewell:

The 'Friends' have now been in existence since October 2001. Since then we have operated as an informal pressure group to lobby for environmental improvements in and about the reservoir and to act as a focal point for local consultations on future developments by the City. Whilst the initial thrust of the activities were directed at site clearance via a LILA supported scheme it now appears that future improvements might be possible when the reservoir and adjacent areas become a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Let us remember that the achievements that the 'Friends' can be associated with include: -

- a) The re-establishment of an area of open water via a de-silting exercise;
- b) Publicity via the Ed Doolan radio programme, Metronews and Evening Mail;
- c) Community involvement through litter picking events;
- d) A site-planting scheme;
- e) Clearance of the former road to Burmans; and
- f) Comments on the draft 'Management Plan' for the LNR.

In order to achieve many of the items contained within the draft 'Management Plan' for the site (and possibly those associated with Merecroft Pool) the group will now need to deal proactively with the City Council and the urban Wildlife Trust. There is now a need for the FWR to move forward on a more formal basis. When the LNR status is eventually confirmed it is intended that we become the 'Friends of Kings Norton Nature Reserve'.

A new Committee was therefore formed at the recent EGM to represent the local community and support the proposed local nature reserve. The following have been elected:

<i>Honorary officers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Chair	Alan Bakewell	
Vice Chair	David Barraclough	
Treasurer	David Human	
Secretary	Phil Evans	
Membership Secretary	Jil Bromley	
<i>Committee Members</i>		
Meredith Andrea	Nicola Human	
David Hampson	Sue Humby	
Jon Anson	Jenny Bodycote	
John R Smith		

The Wildlife corner:

May observations - Several noteworthy events throughout the month culminating with a good sighting of a Muntjac deer walking up Popes Lane on Sunday the 30th. A fox was also seen stalking around the reservoir.

The local bird population had mixed fortunes; the nests of Coot, Canada Geese and little grebe were all destroyed when the reservoir was flooded on X May. Better results at Merecroft where the geese and the Great Crested Grebe bred successfully. Mallard ducklings were present at both sites. Tufted Duck are occasional visitors and up to 3 Grey Herons have been reported at one time at Wychall and in the River Rea. The summer visitors are also here in numbers with many Blackcap, Whitethroat and Chiffchaff.



Grey Heron- a regular at Wychall Reservoir.

Please send details of your wildlife sightings at Wychall Res, the River Rea or Merecroft Pool to a Committee member.

Correspondence by email is preferred: KingsNortonLNR@aol.com

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The reservoir on the 16 February 2004.

The meeting on the 17 May resolved that a small annual charge should be levied for membership of the 'Friends'. This will meet the admin costs of telephone, printing and postage etc in order to keep the membership informed of LNR developments and other events. Thus the membership subscription to the FWR is now £5 per household per year except where one or more of the householders are of pensionable age when the annual subscription shall be £3. The subs should be paid to Alan, David or Phil before the 10 July.

Latest News:

The proposal to designate the Wychall Reservoir and Merecroft pool areas as a local nature reserve (LNR) appears to be proceeding to plan. Information was contained in a paper presented to and approved by the Kings Norton Ward Committee on the 20 April. This information has now been sent by the City to all properties in the locality. The final report to the Ward Committee is planned for July with Cabinet Member approval in September. Those are the procedures the City Council needs to adopt as part of the formal process. The Management Plan should be finalised in August with the final English Nature approvals in October.

The designation as an LNR by English Nature will then protect the area and permit its development for nature conservation.

Wanted:

Any stories, reminiscences or photographs of the site in times gone by. We would like to publish such articles from members of the 'Friends'. Photographs would be copied and returned to their owners.

Wanted:

A letters page.

Your letters, your questions or your comments.

We shall answer all such correspondence (preferably by email) and selected snippets will be published in forthcoming newsletters.

Other Useful Numbers:

Birmingham City Council Leisure & Culture:
Birmingham City Council Drainage: 0121 303 7235
Cleaner City Hotline: 0121 303 1112
Kings Norton Police: 0121 458 1133
The Ranger Service:

Environment Agency Hotline (Pollution/Damage or danger to the natural environment): 0800 807060
The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country:
0121 454 1199
RSPB: 01285 253330

Also suggested & wanted: Some sponsorship and/or advertising revenue. The more we can attract the more we can develop the newsletter. Comments please.

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