

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve



www.fknnr.org.uk

Newsletter 12 – Springwatch 2007



*The River Rea – The 'stepping stones' - Wychall Lane
Too much water to cross in safety? – 7 January 2007*

In this issue:

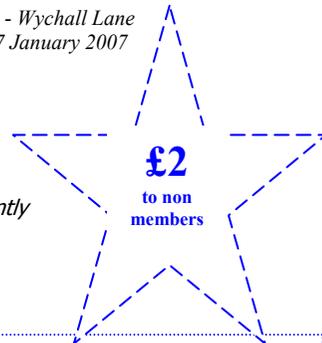
Chairman's notes

Working parties & other activities

Wildlife Focus 1 – *sightings reported recently*

Wildlife Focus 2 – *The House Martin*

Dates, Notices & AGM deliberations.



Subscriptions to the 'Friends' are now due.

At the AGM a proposal to increase all subs by £2 per category from 1st June was approved. If you wish to continue to support our work please send your annual subscription, including a donation if you so wish, to the Treasurer at the address shown on the back page.

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Chairman's Notes

Site development

The past year has seen the general state of the Local Nature Reserve improve considerably, mainly due to the voluntary efforts of the Friends, especially the Tuesday Green Gym regulars, plus of course the big Sunday clean-up days. We have cleared scrub and brambles, we have picked litter, we have built dead hedges and we have planted more than a thousand native trees over the winter, and the whole LNR looks better for it.

The Green Gym has been joined on a regular basis by members of the Birmingham & Solihull Midweek Conservation Volunteers and by clients of the West Heath-based Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust. The untimely death of Dave Hackett, the leader of the B&SMCV group will be a blow to conservation activities across the region and the FKNNR were well represented at his funeral service.

The LNR is still suffering from generous helpings of graffiti, littering and vandalism. Dead hedges have been set alight (the culprits being from a local school) and we experienced a good deal of disturbance to the horses over the Easter holidays. Luckily we are developing an excellent relationship with the local police, who are patrolling now as regularly as they can and also exercising their dogs occasionally around the LNR.



*The BW Meadow
on the 4 May
2007. Blue sky
and the trees now
in full leaf.*

*A Kestrel hovers.
On the lookout
for voles?*

Correspondence by email preferred: Kingsnortonnr@aol.com
Newsletter 12

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

You too can help, to protect the LNR by walking regularly around the area – the more people that are seen around, the less vandalism should take place. Our education programme urgently needs to be enhanced so that we can, eventually, encourage young people to help rather than hinder us in our work.

A major development during the year has been the signing of a lease from British Waterways [BW] for the meadow at the foot of Meadow Hill Road. While not formally part of the LNR this 364-days lease (costing us £10 a year!) now allows us to manage the meadows for the benefit of wildlife. Thanks are due particularly to David Hampson for the restoration of the original fencing to make the area stockproof - perhaps we can arrange for stock to return in the future.

A long-term strategy document, setting out our aspirations for the further enhancement and development of the LNR and, we hope, further areas of the Rea corridor both up and down-stream, will be submitted to the City's Management Committee for approval at its June meeting. A copy of this document has now been placed on our web site and we would welcome your comments.

In addition to support from our local police and community police patrols, we are enormously grateful for help on our big Clean Up Days from many organisations and individuals but particularly from our indefatigable Community Wardens, Adrian and Paul whose support of the LNR goes well above and beyond the call of their regular duties. I made a presentation to them at our AGM (minutes reproduced later in this newsletter) and I hope they will continue to make a positive contribution to the LNR. Particular thanks are also due to Alan Bakewell for organising the Clean-up Days, especially the first one of the year on the 30 March, which was promoted as a joint exercise with other Northfield groups right across the Constituency (photos page 6).

If you can help us to recruit more supporters and would like a supply of leaflets, please let me know. We are open to all. Bring your friends and neighbours to a working party to let them find out for themselves how satisfying it is to join together with others to look after our neighbourhood. Walk around the paths, with your dog if you have one, to reduce incidences of vandalism and please come along to one of our local events. Support the open day planned for

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

the 15 September or better still come and help us. And do give us your email address if you have one!

Wildlife Watch: observations reported on or about the LNR over the past three months.

The recent emphasis both here and Nationwide has been 'Springwatch' and whilst the BBC and others have been concentrating on the wider picture we have, here in Kings Norton, done our little bit of watching for local record purposes. Spring arrived with the first song of a Chiffchaff on the 13 March and there appeared to be plenty of wildlife activity whilst the weather was fine – frogspawn being observed in several locations on the 19 March. However, several very wet spells appear to have slowed things down except for the Mallards on Wychall Reservoir who already seem to have had another successful breeding season. Unfortunately both Coot nests were washed away in one deluge.

Summer migrants continued to arrive on site during the spring [Blackcap 1st April; Willow Warbler 30th April; Whitethroat 3rd June] and both House Martins and Swifts were observed along the Rea Valley on the 4th May. Other interesting bird reports have come from the Popes Lane area with early April records of Willow Tit and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. This last sighting meant that all three British species were present on the LNR at the same time. Other regular reports continue to include many of Grey Wagtail, Grey Heron and Kingfisher at both Merecroft Pool and Wychall Reservoir. Some working party activity has been devoted to more reed planting at Wychall to encourage other species and plans are ready to experiment with additional floating platforms and possible Kingfisher holes.

The dawn chorus walk on the 30 April was rather cold early in the morning but 27 species [listed later in this Newsletter] were seen or heard about the LNR by those bold soles who wrapped up warm and who later enjoyed breakfast at "Molly's café" on the Green.

The occasional warm spells resulted in the appearance of many butterflies. The regular Peacock and Speckled Woods being supplemented by early Holly Blue, Brimstone, Orange Tip and Red Admiral. This spring we have planted several more wildflower areas so we can now hope for increased numbers of insects including

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

butterflies. It is evident that the meadow leased from BW contains numerous grasshoppers and crickets – but which is which? Some survey work will be required.

On the Mammal front there have been regular reported sightings of Fox and Muntjac Deer. Working party activities in March also revealed a pair of Short-tailed Voles in the BW meadow and Long-tailed Field Mice in Pinehurst. We would like to believe that our conservation activities are now benefiting the small mammal population as well. This may explain the more frequent sightings of a Kestrel hovering over the grassland. However, some corrective measures may be required at Wychall Reservoir with the regular appearance of Mink – two being present on the 27 April – and two may lead to even more!

Reedbed develop

Two years of progress-

The photo on the right shows the newly excavated and flooded area on 29 April 2005.

Below: *A Grey Heron finds a use for the perch that was installed with further reeds on the 15 May 2007.*



Please renew your subscription to the FKNNR and help us to progress major proposals for improvements to the Wychall Reservoir site.

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Working Party Activities

The following photographs give a brief glimpse of some of the varied tasks undertaken by volunteers over the winter period. Please come and join us. We welcome all.



The West Hill Road entrance gets a make-over in January 2007 and one of the welcome signs is planted.



The River Rea clean-up in March: Just one third of the rubbish dragged out of the River by the Community Warden Team led by Paul Kennedy.



One form of dead hedge creation near Popes Lane on the 13 March 2007



A traditional Midland Hedge Lay along "Eric's fence" – finished 20 March 2007.

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Working Party Activities

Secretary and Working Party Report: Year 2006/07.

Activities.

In the past year there has been significant input by the volunteers who continue to tackle the backlog of maintenance work in the LNR and who now manage the area in accordance with the approved 'Management Plan'.

In 2006/07 some 2,030 hours (2005/06: 900 hours) of volunteer time was spent on activities ranging from scrub clearance/dead hedge creation/rubbish removal and tree & flower planting. Work was undertaken in most areas within the LNR. The top 4 locations for these activities were:

- The River Rea, Wychall – continuing clean-up activities with litter picks and significant amounts of rubbish removal.
- Pinehurst Meadow – Several planting schemes, including a new hedge line, substantial clearance of bramble & nettle in the west corner near to the old horse shelter and the development of several trial plots for native wildflowers. Dead hedge repairs due to arson attacks.
- The old orchard, Beaks Hill Rd, clearance of encroaching laurel, dead hedge creation and the planting of shrubs and native wildflowers.
- Wychall Lane, British Waterways (BW) meadow, where we have cleared large areas of scrub and bramble and planted a new hedge line. In accordance with the lease conditions the boundary metal fence line has been renovated.

The Committee have also been active in the following areas:

- Attendance at Police Tasking Meetings in order that anti-social behaviour on the LNR can be addressed.
- Participation in 'Birmingham Open Spaces Forum' (BOSF) activities & events.
- Involvement with the 'Street Champions' Scheme and other related environmental improvements.
- Comments on the City's SMURF consultation programme – [Sustainable Management of Urban Rivers and Floodplains].
- Input into the Northfield 'Integrated Urban Drainage Pilot' [Defra] study.
- Promotional events at the local Farmers Market & City's Green Funding Day, Millennium Green, Rea Day, Kings Norton Church and the 3-Estates Festivals.
- A display in Kings Norton Library.

In addition to the expenditure incurred directly by the 'Friends', as shown in our accounts, we are also grateful for the following additional support:

- Assistance for the Community Planting Day from the 'Community Safety Champions' Scheme thanks to West Midlands Police, who provided trees and tools to an approximate value of £800.
- Reeds supplied by the Environment Agency, via the City's Ecologist, at an approximate value of £200.
- Six oak 'Welcome' signs provided by the City's Ranger Service based at the Lickey Hills.
- Various litter picking and consumables provided by the Community Wardens and the Street Champions Scheme.
- Safety clothing and miscellaneous items provided via the Kings Norton Ward support officer at an approximate value of £400.
- Donations of surplus gardening tools from several FKNNR members.

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 16 May 2007 at 19.30 hrs at the clubhouse of Kings Norton Tennis Club, Grange Hill Rd, Kings Norton.

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

A Bakewell, D Barraclough, P Evans, G Evans, G Layton, D Hampson, J Jelfs, J Anson, B Kemp, J McCoy, S Bakewell, D Baller, J Baller, D Kelly, G Ray, R Goodchild, J Bromley, A Cadman, E Chattaway, B Hewitt, J Layton, P Cage, D Human, N Human, A Smith, P Kennedy.

1. Welcome & apologies.

The Chairman, Amanda Cadman, welcomed those present to the AGM.

Apologies: S Ashley, E Gamboa, G Goodchild, S Cage, P Marsh, K & I Teisen, B Hulme, K & H Fradley, J & J Bodycote, J R Smith.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on the 28 June 2006.

The minutes of the last AGM were approved unanimously.

3. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman circulated a written report and commented upon some of the salient features particularly the continuing development of the LNR and the considerable amount of work that had been achieved by the regular working parties. Improvements to the image of the LNR were now obvious and this had been achieved not only through several community action days but also a regular 'Green Gym' every Tuesday. The change in the City's Ranger resource was of concern but the Friends had received continuing support from them and the "Birmingham & Solihull Midweek Conservation Volunteers". A major development during the year had been the taking out of a lease from British Waterways for the meadow at the foot of Meadow Hill Road. We were now active with the local police in order to attempt to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour on the LNR. The formal City Management Committee had met four times and work was being concluded on a long-term development plan. Thanks went to all Committee Members and volunteers for making a success of the past twelve months and particularly M Andrea and J R Smith who had stood down from the FKNNR Committee.

The Chairman presented tankards to Paul Kennedy and Adrian Smith (Community Wardens) in appreciation of their extra efforts in assisting the FKNNR to improve the quality of the LNR.

4. Treasurer's Report

David Human presented the accounts for the period to the 31 March 2007 and highlighted the main sources of finance, the level of subscriptions and donations received and the relevant expenditure across restricted and unrestricted funds. It was noted that printing costs had increased and that this was due not only to the production of the Newsletter but also additional brochures and publicity financed by a BOSF (RTCC) grant. Postage costs had increased and the Secretary requested members to supply up to date email addresses so that those who required an electronic version of the Newsletter could do so. The accounts had been audited and agreed by John Bodycote who was also willing to perform this task next year.

i) **The Accounts for the period to the 31 March 2007 were approved unanimously.**

ii) **A resolution to appoint John Bodycote as auditor of the funds of FKNNR for the forthcoming year was approved unanimously.**

5. Membership Secretary's Report

Jil Bromley reported that the membership numbers at the end of March stood at 176 (2006: 155) households; although some members' subscriptions were now well in arrears. Most of the members continued to be local residents although there was now a substantial number who lived outside of Kings Norton. The committee were considering measures to increase membership. **The report was noted.**

6. Education Liaison Officers' report.

The Chairman commented upon difficulties being experienced in this area without adequate support. Further progress would be limited due to lack of resources. It had still not been possible to engage with Thomas Aquinas secondary school. **The report was noted.**

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

7. Membership Fees 2007/08:

It was proposed that:

- i. The annual subscription rates for membership of the FKNNR would be increased by £2 so that the membership rate would be £7 per household per year except where one or more of the householders are of pensionable age when the annual subscription shall be £5.
- ii. That the due date for annual subscriptions would be the 1st June each year.

The motions were duly proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

8. Election of Committee Members.

- a. *Election of Committee Members for one year:* In accordance with the constitution one third of the Committee retired annually by seniority of election. Retiring members of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for re-election (max. 4). Currently, there is also one vacancy on the Committee.

The following retiring members had been nominated for re-election:
Nicola Human; Jon Anson; Jenny Bodycote.

The following member had expressed a willingness to serve on the Committee:
Graham Layton.
There were no other nominations.

All were duly proposed, seconded and unanimously elected by the meeting.

- b. *Election of honorary officers for a term of two years:* The following Committee members have been nominated to serve as honorary officers of the FKNNR:

Chairman	Amanda Cadman
Vice- Chairman	David Human
Secretary	David Barraclough
Treasurer	Phil Evans
Membership Secretary	Jil Bromley

There were no other nominations.

All were duly proposed, seconded and unanimously elected by the meeting.

9. Any other business.

The following topics were raised in questions from the membership and they were briefly responded by the honorary officers. The Chairman undertook to take them, where appropriate, for further consideration by the Committee at future meetings.

- i) The issue of Charitable Status was raised. It was noted that an application was now being submitted.
- ii) J McCoy drew attention to a photographic display on the River Rea. A visit by the Rea Valley Conservation Group to the Berkswell recycling centre (5 September) was also open to FKNNR members.
- iii) The Secretary commented on Working Party activities in the year. The detail of all work undertaken was shown in a tabled report. Some 2,030 hours (2006: 900 hours) of volunteer time had been analysed over the site's Management Plan compartments. He commented upon other donations in kind to FKNNR activities, which could be valued at approximately £2,000 for tools, safety clothing, materials and tress/shrubs.
- iv) The Community Wardens outlined new initiatives to involve the local schools in environmental activities. Activities by Bromford young wardens were also being progressed. Links with the FKNNR would be welcomed. This was agreed.
- v) A Bakewell commented on the Police Tasking Meetings for Beat 16, which included the LNR. All were welcome to attend (Next one: May 30). The Chairman commented upon the agreement with the Police whereby Police dogs would be exercised on the LNR adjacent to Merecroft Pool and horse fields.
- vi) **The Secretary commented on the low level of accurate email addresses currently available and requested that all members should email him so that an accurate address list could be compiled.**

The Chairman thanked the Tennis Club for their hospitality.

The meeting closed at 20.30 hrs.

It was followed by a quiz night for the membership – thanks to G & D Barraclough.

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Which Way Forward? Consultation - Your Committee welcomes your comments.

The Chairman in her notes outlined recent discussions on the development of a longer-term strategic plan for the LNR. We wish to see a greater area protected and developed for local people and wildlife. But how do we go about it and what should be our future goal? There will obviously be a need to consult widely and gain the Political support within the Northfield Constituency but what does the membership wish to see happen? This is your chance. Please ring, write or email us with your observations.

In order to start the process rolling the following has been drafted. It is an initial stab at a 'Vision' for the River Rea corridor. This and various appendices covering the existing management plan and our detailed experiences over the past two years will go to the next meeting of the City led 'Management Committee'. Progress is vital.

"KINGS NORTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE STRATEGIC PLAN 2007"

THE TEN YEAR VISION

At the heart of the Kings Norton Local Nature Reserve lies Wychall Reservoir, at present used by the City principally to hold back floodwater briefly when the Rea is in spate. The inclusion of the Kings Norton Ward into Northfield Constituency provides a means to look at the upper Rea valley in its entirety. It offers a unique opportunity to develop the area's rich potential in order to create a wetland area to rival other award-winning Wetland Centres as a leisure and educational asset for local residents and visitors to Birmingham alike, and as a haven for a diverse range of wildlife.

In our vision the former flood plain and associated allotments to the west of Popes Lane, currently derelict and with the river canalised to one side of the site, would be developed to allow the river to move naturally over the site, dissipating its force when in flood through a series of pools, reedbeds and flood meadows, allowing silt to settle and flotsam to be filtered out using technically advanced filters before the water crossed over to Wychall Wetlands at a number of points. Appropriate wetland planting would make this area attractive to humans and wildlife alike.

At Wychall, rather than the current occasional and violent rush of silt and rubbish-laden water, water would be introduced at a number of points on to the wetland site by a series of sluices, allowing the area to be developed to attract a diversity of wildlife while, we believe, the floodwater absorption capacity of the area would be increased. Sensitive introduction of pools, scrapes and hides, together with an attractive building (as far as possible built using renewable materials and sustainable technologies – possible site on Wychall Road, Northfield) to offer visitor interpretation, refreshment and education facilities, would make this an enormously valuable facility for the whole city.

Further upstream we would like to see the Rea valley enhanced by "re-naturalising" the flow of water to the benefit of wildlife and the local community, linking through Longbridge with the Friends of Daffodil Park and the Friends of Balaams Wood. Downstream, riparian areas of Kings Norton Park and Kings Norton Playing Fields would

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

also benefit from environmentally sensitive management. The ultimate aim is to create a Green Corridor along the Rea from its source to the canal at Kings Norton.

Other areas of the LNR would be developed in quiet and sympathetic ways that reflect their location and sensitivity. Wildflower meadows will be developed along the banks of the River Rea and at Pinehurst meadow, which backs onto residential properties. 10 fields currently grazed by horses will be maintained. The tranquillity of Merecroft and the associated woodland will be sustained in a way that protects the native bluebells and aquatic life. The industrial heritage of the area will be protected and recorded and the full potential of the area developed for educational purposes for the benefit of the wider community.

In order to achieve the vision it will be essential that a structure is put in place that not only allows for Community involvement in the maintenance and development of the site but also provides full-time employed staff to guide and manage the volunteer resource and to provide wider links to education, health and housing sectors and to private sector employers.

Our vision for an enlarged LNR is therefore aimed at meeting the following citywide objectives:

Sustainable drainage

- Better use of drainage absorption capacity of whole river corridor
- Improved management of the river corridor in terms of 'day to day' maintenance
- Increased capacity at Wychall reservoir, plus slower release of water downstream
- Improved environment

Wildlife Haven

- Improved water quality
- Meeting the City Council's biodiversity objectives
- Develop ponds and scrapes at different water levels to encourage a wider range of water fowl and mammals (protected species inc – Water Vole)
- Enhance wetland flora
- Build wetland centre and hides with comprehensive visitor information
- Build on success of existing LNR and help develop the creation of others upstream
- Employ dedicated Ranger staff (at least 2 fte in the first instance) – and offer training opportunities for future Rangers

Leisure, Health and Quality of Life

- Enhanced access for local community
- Attractive open space for local recreation and relaxation
- Fitness track on Kings Norton Park/Playing Fields
- Promote strategic cycle route
- Meet the City's strategic policy objectives on open spaces and nature conservation
- Events involving the local community
- Community involvement

Education & Job creation

- Interpretation Centre at wetland
- Tourism

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

- Develop environmental science/education centre in co-operation with local schools
- Outdoor classroom – 'Forest Schools' initiative
- Training opportunities for ranger service
- Other training facilities and job opportunities for the local community

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Wildlife Focus - The House Martin *Delichon urbica*

The late Sheila Hughes once asked me "Where have all the House Martins gone". Apparently, they used to nest under the eaves on her house and others on Meadow Hill Road. The birds are small spring and summer migrants to the UK distinguishable from Swifts and Swallows not only by their size but also by the conspicuous white rump. The nest of a House Martin is a distinctive structure being constructed as a half-cup attached to a vertical wall immediately below an overhang with a narrow slit as an entrance at the top of the cup (below right). Although cliffs and quarry faces are still used the vast majority of nests are now on buildings in groups or loose colonies. The usual clutch size is 4 or 5 eggs and a second brood may occur.

As is the case with most bird species their decline has been quite recent and the reasons for such a decline are complex and not fully understood. The species is now 'amber' listed by the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK since there has been a moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years¹.



*The last bastion for the local House Martins?
Below.
The corner of Middlemore Road.*

It is estimated that some 375,000 pairs of House Martin breed in the UK out of a European population of between 5.7 and 13 million². The range of the species extends

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve



from Europe across central and eastern Asia to Kashmir and western Siberia⁶. However, the decline and the reduction in the number of birds in the UK has been related to the loss of livestock from local farms, increased use of pesticides and the loss of muddy puddles³. The latter may be important as the birds have to collect sticky liquid mud pellets (up to 1,500) within 200 metres of the nest site or the mud will become too dry in flight. However, factors throughout the bird's whole life cycle may contribute to the decline particularly conditions in the wintering feeding grounds or on migration.

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Whilst the EU estimate may seem to be very broad it does indicate that establishing accurate records are difficult and this is compounded by one of the most intriguing puzzles in European ornithology. Where do they migrate to at the end of the breeding season since they all leave Europe in the autumn and move on a broad front that heads towards Africa? Although over a million House Martins have been ringed only 20 have been recovered in sub-Saharan Africa, from widely scattered locations⁴. Some observers have recorded the birds flying very high possibly catching insects at a great height and since there are virtually no records of roosts, it is possible that they sleep on the wing, as Swifts do - but this remains speculation⁵. Occasionally, bad weather has dramatic results and there are records of instances when thousands of birds have come to ground in cold or wet conditions in Zambia and Zimbabwe⁵. This does, however, indicate that similar migration patterns to those of the Swallow may exist.

Locally House Martins can be seen regularly over flying the LNR and the River Rea generally as they take small flies and aphids on the wing at tree-top height. There are limited data on all south Birmingham nest sites so if you are lucky enough to experience the bird at close hand then please let us know. And, by the way, they are not as messy or noisy as Bill Oddie would let us believe on the BBC Springwatch programme, I know, I grew up with a row of nests outside my bedroom window!

Phil Evans.

1. Source BTO website June 2007, <http://www.bto.org/psob/redlist.htm>
2. BirdLife International (2004) *Birds in the European Union: a status assessment*. Wageningen, The Netherlands: Bird Life International
3. C Mead. 2000. The state of the Nation's Birds. Whittet Books
4. Collins Birds: A complete Guide to all British and European species. 2005. HarperCollins Publishers.
5. Wernham C, Toms M, Marchant J, Clark J, Siriwardena GM & Ballie S. 2002. The Migration Atlas: movements of the birds of Britain and Ireland. T & AD Poyser
6. Cramp S. 1988. Handbook of the Birds of Europe the Middle East and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic. Vol. V. OUP.

Help the 'Friends' to stay in touch with you: *Have you emailed us yet? Please send us one 'hello' message, so that we can maintain up to date address lists & email data. Recent mail outs have been returned to us from several email addresses – obviously our records need updating but only you, the members, can help us.*

We now have a live web site at www.fknr.org.uk. Do visit it and let us know what you think!

Join our 'green gym' working parties:

Every Tuesday, as much time as you can spare between 10.30 and 13.30. Please let us know in advance on KingsNortonlnr@aol.com or by ringing a committee member..

Next dates: Every Tuesday in June, July & August.

Tools wanted: *If you have any unwanted garden or workshop tools then please let one of the Committee know.*

Correspondence by email preferred: Kingsnortonlnr@aol.com
Newsletter 12

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Diary Dates

Date	Location	Details
26 June (Green Gym)	Cycle path – River Rea	Remove Himalayan Balsam.
3 July (Green Gym)	Cycle path – River Rea	Remove Himalayan Balsam.
7 July	Cotteridge Park Music, Art & Dance	Cocomad 2007. <i>Support the 'Friends of Cotteridge Park'.</i>
10 July (Green Gym)	BW Meadow	Fence Line – continue work. Restore iron railings. Log & brush piles.
14 July	The Green & Church	Kings Norton Festival
17 July	Pinehurst meadow	Bramble control
24 July	Merecroft Pool	Hedge repairs & Clean-up
28 July	Cadbury College field	Kings Norton 3-Estates Festival
11 August	The Green	Farmers' Market
5 September	Berkswell	Composting site at 10 a.m.
6 September	Wychall/Merecroft	Bat walk at dusk
15 September	Wychall Meadows	Open day on the LNR
30 September	Wychall Reservoir	Big clean-up day
2 October	Wychall	Start of 2007/08 winter Green Gym season.
10 November	The Green & Church	Farmers' Market & Christmas fayre.

For working party days - please meet on site and wear stout footwear and old clothes. The appropriate equipment & materials will be provided.

Please spare one or more hours of your time to assist us in progressing the Management Plan. Help is also required to staff our information stand at all the local promotional events please contact the Chairman if you can assist us with one or two hours of your time and enjoy talking to people.

Tuesday Working Parties (The 'Green Gym') – 10.30 to 13.30 hrs
All dates – weather permitting.

Please note the change of date for the bat night walk in September and also support us and the Rea Valley Conservation Group on their trip the previous day to the Veolia Environmental Services composting site to see what happens to all the green waste collected from our door steps. These are 'free' events!

Support the LNR Open Day on Saturday the 15 September

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Newsletter 12

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

Dawn Chorus 2007

Monday morning 05.30
hrs 30 April.
Yes, a clear but cold
morning for all those
keen enough to walk
through the whole of the
LNR. The result was a
total of 27 species.
These are listed below in
the approximate order
they were seen or heard:

Chaffinch
House Sparrow
Wood Pigeon
Great Tit
Magpie
Lssr Black-backed Gull
Moorhen
Mallard
Coot
Crow
Chiffchaff
Robin
Song Thrush
Blackbird
Willow Warbler
Grey Wagtail
Gt Spotted Woodpecker
Canada Goose
Blackcap
Wren
Blue Tit
Jackdaw
Green Finch
Gt Crested Grebe
Tufted Duck
Dunnock
Stock Dove



Do you take bird song seriously? One member has become hooked – nice one Brian. Can anyone supply a suitable caption?



Young Mallards on the slope down to Wychall Reservoir.

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Newsletter 12

The Friends of King Norton Nature Reserve

The FKNNR, 55 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton, B38 8TB Honorary Officers, Committee Members and Advisors

Chairman	Amanda Cadman
Secretary	David Barraclough
Vice Chairman	David Human
Treasurer	Phil Evans
Membership Secretary	Jil Bromley
Education	Vacant
Newsletter Editors	Amanda Cadman & Phil Evans

Beth Ashley, Northfield District Ranger 0121 447 7106

Committee Members
Jon Anson, Suzanne Ashley, Alan Bakewell,
Brian Hewitt, Graham Layton, Peter Cage, David Hampson,
Jenny Bodycote, Nicola Human.

<i>Environmental Agency Hotline</i>	<i>0800 807060</i>
<i>West Midlands Police</i>	<i>0845 113 5000 ext. 7826 6363</i>
<i>Community Police</i>	<i>07769 882113</i>
<i>Anti-social behaviour Hotline</i>	<i>0121 303 1111</i>
<i>Street Champions</i>	<i>0800 0730528</i>



Wychall Reservoir: 6 August 2006 – a tranquil summer scene to look forward to.

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Newsletter 12