

The Friends of King's Norton Nature Reserve



www.fknr.org.uk

Newsletter 16 – the second for 2008



A Green Gym working party including students from Herefordshire College of Technology who helped us with tree planting. Note the swollen river Rea.

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- Working parties & other activities
- Wildlife Focus – sightings reported recently
- Dates, Notices & other information
- AGM Minutes



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Chairman's Notes

This is a shorter introduction than usual from me, since my Annual Report as presented at the AGM is printed later in this Newsletter, and contains much of what I might otherwise have said. But may I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has been involved in any way with the development of the LNR over the past few months. I should like to thank Peter Cage, who has done the layout for this edition since Phil Evans has had his time very much taken up with survey work for the British Trust for Ornithology over the past couple of months.

Vandalism Sadly, as I reported in the Annual Report, we suffered some very unfortunate thefts and vandalism of recently-planted young trees and, most unfortunately, primroses planted by pupils of the Nursery School keen to play their part in making the local environment more attractive. This fact got some useful publicity in the Evening Mail, resulting in much sympathetic feedback and generous offers of help in replacing the lost plants later in the year. I am most grateful to Veolia Environmental, the Street Champions and Kings Norton Police for offers of future support for our planting endeavours.

Dawn Chorus Walk

On Tuesday 6 May a party of 12 Friends were led on a Dawn Chorus walk around the Reserve by Peter Bromley and Phil Evans, again ending up with breakfast at Molly's on the Green (warm thanks to Darren and Michelle for making the party so welcome in the middle of their building works). The morning was absolutely beautiful: clear bright and warm, and xx different species of bird were heard or spotted.



Extending the Local Nature Reserve A number of the Friends attended the Family Fun Day on 18 May that marked the opening of the new Children and Family Centre at Wychall Primary School. In addition to our usual display and sales goods, we went out in the crowd armed with a questionnaire to start to make contact with people living in the B31 (Northfield) area who live around the proposed extension to the LNR to tell them about our hopes for developing the wetland and meadows, managing them for people and for wildlife and, together with the Reservoir downstream, developing a Wychall Wetland site of major educational and environmental significance while also, we suggest,

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enhancing the area's ability to absorb and control flood water on and around the Rea. The response to the questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive, with all 44 B31 respondents, including 3 young people, supporting the proposal to extend the LNR designation. All said they would use the site if it were made safe for community use, and 21 said they would like to get involved as a volunteer or supporter. Clearly this is very early days, and our approaches at present are quite informal. There will be many formal hoops to jump through, and a formal public consultation will have to be undertaken with considerably more flesh on our proposals, but this first approach is enormously encouraging. Phil and I have met, too, with a number of relevant people whose formal support will be essential: again we have met with some informal encouragement that our aspirations are "not off the hook" (that's from someone at the Environment Agency). Now we have to develop our plan, get surveys done and start talking formally. As a next step we plan a seminar in September to discuss practicalities with all interested parties.

Welcome to Matt And I would like to welcome Matthew Osland-Barker, who has just started work as the Northfield Assistant Ranger. We know him well, of course, as he has been helping the LNR with its education programme in his spare time from being an Environmental Warden on the Three Estates. After the best part of a year without any dedicated Ranger support it is wonderful to have someone in post at last, and we already have a shopping list of things for him to help us with. A first job will be to prepare a Management Plan for 2009 – 2012, and of course we look forward to a properly developed education scheme to support our work in the community. Of course Matt has other responsibilities across Northfield in addition to serving the LNR, so we will continue to press for increased professional support.

And finally, what a thrill it is to see and hear house sparrows around our garden; I'd never seen them here before, though they are all over the place further up the road. But we have young here too, so great hopes for the future.

Amanda Cadman
Chairman

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Open Day, Saturday 13 September 2008

Please put this date in your diary now! After the hugely successful Open Day held last September on Wychall Meadows, we are starting to plan seriously for this year's event. Heart of England Raptors have already agreed to be with us again, so watch out for the heart-stopping flying displays which proved the high spot of last year's Open Day. With guided walks, (plastic) duck races, country craft displays, pony rides etc., this is a day for all the family to enjoy.

If you would like to help us in any way with the planning and/or on the day, or if you have ideas for activities on the day, do please contact Amanda at 55wychall@blueyonder.co.uk. It's hard work but huge fun, and we would welcome your input.

Visit of Fire Officer to the LNR (Jil Bromley)

On Tuesday 6 May Paul Hatton from the Fire Station in Cotteridge visited the reserve to advise on the risk of fires. In particular we wanted to know whether the fire brigade felt that we were increasing the risk of arson due to the activities of the working parties. Mr Hatton was taken on a tour of the reserve and saw dead hedges, piles of dead wood etc. in various areas. He was supportive of the work undertaken by the Friends and did not feel that we needed to alter any of the work already undertaken. He suggested that we give some thought to reducing the size of the piles of debris in the future and said that we should bear in mind that they should not be sited too close to buildings.

Bats are about! (Brian Hewitt)

After last September's FKNNR Batwalk I constructed an electronic bat-detector similar to ones we had borrowed, using parts from 'Maplin' – the most expensive item being the case! (see last September's FKNNR Newsletter). Fig 1:



Before I could give the detector a real test, the bats had mostly gone into hibernation, and I had no real opportunity to test it properly till a few weeks ago, when there was a warm evening, and I ventured down the garden at 9.30pm with my Aldi joggers' headphones, (not that I can jog!) trying to appear inconspicuous.

The detector works on a PP3 battery and mixes the bats' otherwise inaudible squeaks (some as high as 60kHz) and converts them to audible tones.

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It was soon possible to hear the characteristic fluttering noises in the headphones, and one bat flew around quite close for several minutes.

The next night I went down to Merecroft pool and was amazed at the bat activity around dusk. They seemed to be Pipistrelles, as they were transmitting on about 45kHz, and a kind of feeding frenzy was in progress. Insects over the lake were being devoured in quantity, judging by the racket in the headphones, which almost sounded like machine-gun fire.

On the website you can find an audio-clip of some of the actual bat sounds heard. You may need 'Quicktime' or similar installed on your computer.

The recording was made using an ordinary portable cassette recorder plugged into the bat detector headphone socket.

Fig 2 shows the sound waves of the bat noises – larger spikes clearly show the loud pulses as they echolocate, and the group of small blips to the right is the signature 'raspberry' sound, emitted as an insect was located! Note the little spikes get closer together, so a rise in pitch is heard until contact is made!

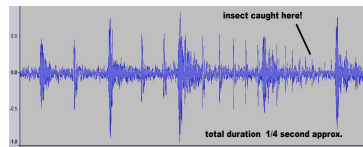


Fig 3 Several flash pictures were attempted at random and this one by luck included two bats it also features on the FKNNR website under the 'Wildlife' category!



If anyone wishes for a fuller description of the bats likely to be found in Britain and the methods of detecting their sounds, more information can be found at

<http://bertrik.sikken.nl/bat/index.html>

http://www.njas.org/projects/bat_detector/popule1_ch.html

more on bats: <http://www.londonbats.org.uk/batdets.htm>

The writer is willing to advise on kit construction - contact via email - brlan.maz@virgin.net

Stop Press! Seventeen minutes (eight tracks!) of my bat recordings are now available on CD for a nominal charge in aid of FKNNR funds – again via the email address for more information.

There are still one or two copies of last year's Kings Norton birdsong CD available – It makes a change from whale noises....

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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.

Wildlife Corner

Wildlife Watch: observations reported on or about the LNR over the past three months. Please send to LocalNature@aol.com

The following observations have been reported on or about Kings Norton LNR over the past three months

Spring arrived in Kings Norton at the end of February with early breeding attempts from birds and amphibians – frog activity being noted on the 29th. Then it snowed on the 5th April. The first Chiffchaff was recorded on the 30 March, and other arriving migrants such as Willow Warbler and Blackcap quickly followed until the 8th May when both House Martins and Swift were seen.

The observations of over-wintering Blackcap in the area reported on this time last year set the pattern for the 2007/08 winter and it was interesting to note that the last recording coincided with the return of the Blackcap summer migrants. There were also two reports of Pheasants in the Pinehurst Meadow area and again we must conclude that they have now moved on or perhaps provided a meal for foxes since a family with young cubs was videoed in this meadow. A hedgehog was also seen here and this is the first one to be recorded since the designation of the Local Nature Reserve.

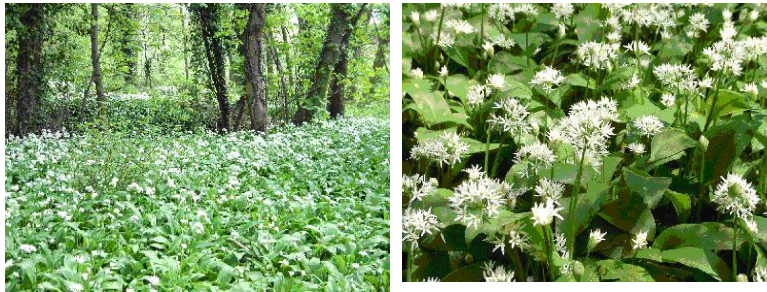
There have been many reports of other mammals this year including Grey Squirrels, Field Mice, Mink (unfortunately) and several of Muntjac Deer in the area of Popes Lane. Another Badger was the victim of a motorcar on Wychall Lane on 20 May. The occasional warm weather also brought out the butterflies and seven different species were noted on a recent walk in the company of a local fire prevention officer (more of these in a later issue of the newsletter).

Wildfowl observations include the usual observations of Mallards and Canada Geese together with Tufted Duck, Coot and Moorhen. The Great Crested Grebes built a nest on Merecroft Pool but it was destroyed during one school holiday but by what or by whom we do not know. Kingfishers, Grey Herons and Grey Wagtails continue to be seen at both sites. The 'Friends' walk through the reserve on 6 May as part of 'International Dawn Chorus Day' identified 23 different bird species.

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Blackbird	Great Tit	Mallard
Blackcap	Greenfinch	Moorhen
Blue Tit	Grey Heron	Song Thrush
Canada Goose	Gt Crested Grebe	Starling
Chiffchaff	Jay	Willow Warbler
Coot	Kingfisher	Wood Pigeon
Crow	Lsr Black Backed Gull	Wren
Duncock	Magpie	

(Those who had breakfast at Molly's on the Green could add: Collared Dove, House Sparrow and Jackdaw to the above list).



Wildflower Corner: Spring was here and we had a marvellous display (and smell) this year of Ramsons (Wild Garlic, *Allium ursinum*) all along the banks of the River Rea in Kings Norton.

How you can help

Membership of the Friends' group remains steady, with around 180 households currently on our books, and we ask for your help in recruiting more Friends to help us develop our Local Nature Reserve for people and for wildlife. Do give your neighbours a leaflet and encourage them to come to a working party to let them find out for themselves how satisfying it is to join together with neighbours old and young to look after our neighbourhood. Walk around the paths, with your dog if you have one, to reduce incidences of vandalism. And do give us your email address if you have one!

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AGM minutes and Annual Report:

Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2008 at 7.30 pm in the upstairs room of The Camp, Camp Lane, Kings Norton

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Jon Anson, Suzanne Ashley, Alan Bakewell, Shirley Bakewell, Jil Bromley, Amanda Cadman (Chairman), Peter Cage, Sarah Cage, Elizabeth Chattaway, Mike Dent, Gwen Evans, Phil Evans, Elena Gamboa, Brian Hewitt, David Human, Nicola Human, Peter Marsh, June McCoy, Jean Perring, Geoff Ray, Dave Sharpe, Claire Simpson, Inge Teisen, Liz Walking, Susan Watson

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman, Amanda Cadman, welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cyril Ashmore, David Barraclough, John and Jenny Bodycote, Anne Dent, Sylvia Fox, David Hampson, John Jelfs, Graham Layton and Jean Morgan.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 16 May 2007

These were approved unanimously, and signed as an accurate record.

3. Reports

i. Chairman's Report

The Chairman circulated a report on the year under review, highlighting the fact that the Friends' group had recently become a Registered Charity. She thanked David Barraclough for his work with the Charity Commission, and for his service as Secretary during the past year. She thanked all who had been involved in development work on site during the year, both at the regular Green Gym meetings and on special clean-up days; in particular she drew attention to help that had been received from outside organisations during the year, particularly in the light of there being no Assistant Ranger in post to lead our work during the year. A particular feature of the year had been our first public Open Day, and she thanked all involved in its organisation, particularly Graham Layton. The day had been a major success.

The Chairman drew attention to the work that was now being undertaken towards, it was hoped, extending the LNR status upstream into Northfield ward and developing an enlarged Wychall wetland site for people and for wildlife, a proposal set out in the Vision statement agreed by the Management Committee at its June 2007 meeting.

Nicola Human pointed out that the fact the Friends were able to work on site unsupervised by the City's Rangers was a tribute to their knowledge, training and ability to undertake this work.

Jon Anson proposed that the Chairman's Report be accepted. This was seconded by Elizabeth Chattaway and agreed unanimously.

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ii. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008

The Treasurer circulated a report on the Friends' financial activities for the year under review, presented in a format that would allow on-line submission of accounts to the Charity Commission. The accounts had been audited by John Bodycote, who deemed them to be a true and fair statement of the Friends' financial affairs. The Treasurer gave an analysis of incoming funds, both unrestricted and restricted, including grants for specific activities, and expenditure against this income on conservation activities (including £3,690 on trees and plants and £6,756 principally on necessary survey work at Wychall Reservoir) and administration (the largest item here being the printing of the quarterly Members' Newsletter).

Total income for the year had been £16,162, with a total expenditure of £18,115. Though the current financial year showed a deficit of £1,953, he reassured members that this situation would not be expected to recur. The balance of funds carried forward was £8,561.

Part of the expenditure in the year had been supported by grant income received in a previous year. The amount outstanding to creditors at the year end related in the main to sums due to the consultants for the Wychall reservoir survey work.

The Treasurer drew specific attention to the sources of grant income received in the year which had supported charitable activities and thanked those organisations for supporting the Friends.

Nicola Human proposed that the Treasurer's Report and Accounts be accepted. This was seconded by June McCoy and agreed unanimously.

iii Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reported that membership of the Friends currently stood at 182 households, as compared with 176 in 2007 and 155 in 2006. This was a welcome situation, but it remained imperative for existing members to make every effort to increase membership. Answering a question, the Membership Secretary said that the Open Day had not had an obvious effect on membership numbers, though certain of the recent applications might have resulted from that experience. She also agreed that it would be helpful once again to advertise corporate membership of the Friends to local companies.

Peter Marsh proposed that the Membership Secretary's Report be accepted. This was seconded by Claire Simpson and agreed unanimously.

iv Education Liaison Officer's Report

The Chairman pointed out that Matthew Osland-Barker, who had been co-opted to the Committee to undertake this role, had in fact had little opportunity to carry out the task. A schools' open day had been hosted at the Fairway J & I School, which had resulted in many enthusiastic words from Kings Norton Boys' School but no action. Access to St Thomas Aquinas remained impenetrable. A planting session with Kings Norton Nursery School had been

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very successful until vandals removed all the plants. The Nursery remained keen to be involved, and Brownies were also keen to help.

The Chairman expressed the hope that the Friends would finally be able to develop an effective education programme in the coming year. Her report was noted.

4. *Membership Subscriptions 2008-09*

It was not proposed to increase the level of subscriptions this year. The new single renewal date of 1 June was now coming into effect, and a number of renewals by standing order had already been received.

5. *Elections to the Committee*

i. Election of Honorary Secretary 2008-09

In the light of the resignation of David Barraclough from the office of Secretary, it was proposed by the Chairman, Amanda Cadman, that Graham Layton be elected as Secretary for the remaining period 2008-09. He had expressed a willingness to serve. This was seconded by Phil Evans and agreed by all present.

ii. Election of Committee members 2008-2011

In accordance with the Constitution one third of the Committee shall retire annually. Retiring members Peter Cage and Suzanne Ashley had expressed their willingness to serve for a further term. It was proposed by Nicolca Human that they be elected for a further term. This was seconded by Brian Hewitt and agreed by all present.

6. *Appointment of Auditor*

The Treasurer indicated that John Bodycote, who had acted as auditor for the Friends over the past year-, had expressed his willingness to continue as the independent examiner of the FKNNR's accounts in line with Charity Commission requirements .

The appointment was proposed by Jon Anson and seconded by Geoff Ray and agreed by all present.

Close

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30 hrs , thanking Alan Bakewell for arranging the venue and the proprietor of The Camp for the hospitality offered. She also thanked Nicola Human for devising a quiz that would follow.

The formal meeting was followed by a brief outline of the informal consultation work currently being undertaken in connection with the proposed development of Wychall Wetlands. It was noted that a badger had been found dead at the Wychall Lane crossing point that morning: these deaths were unfortunately likely to continue to occur until such time as drivers observed the 30mph speed limit. Discussion was followed by a quiz arranged and presented by Nicola Human and much enjoyed by all involved.

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The Green Invaders (Lisa Worledge)

Was the first Green Gym of June on the wettest day of the year so far or was it just a light drizzle? Opinions were divided but one thing the enthusiastic, if somewhat damp, volunteers did not debate was the need to clear the expanse of Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) along the River Rea at Wychall Lane. This highly invasive, non-native plant grows in dense stands, out competing native flora. Before the volunteers set to work it was almost impossible to see the native tree saplings that had been planted back in February.

Himalayan balsam is closely related to the Busy Lizzie, and originally comes from the Western Himalayas. It was introduced to Britain in the first half of the 19th century. Although it is an annual its seeds disperse readily. They burst out from 'explosive' seedpods and are transported by water, a particular issue with the River Rea flowing through the Nature Reserve and with many areas prone to flooding.



The approach taken to controlling Himalayan balsam is to pull up the plants before they have the chance to flower and set seed. As the Green Gym volunteers found out, the plants only have shallow roots so they can be lifted relatively easily and made into compost piles. Hopefully, with the continued hard work of Green Gymers, this plant will be less of a problem in future.



Unfortunately, Himalayan balsam is not the only unwelcome pest (of the plant kind!) on the Kings Norton LNR. Along the northern edge of the Reserve we have a large stand of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Another 19th century introduction to Britain, this species is a native of China, Taiwan and Japan. It grows as a virtual monoculture to the detriment of native wildlife. Japanese knotweed is a perennial, which dies back over the winter. During the growing season it is extremely vigorous, able to grow through tarmac and to spread from the smallest of root fragments. This is a much harder problem for the volunteers to work on as every last bit of plant

must be removed and any re-growth treated with herbicide.

Have you got any questions about the wildlife that you have seen on the Kings Norton LNR? Please email kingsnortonlnr@aol.com if there is something you would like to see covered in a future edition of the newsletter?

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Chairman's Report 2007-08

Charitable status

Perhaps the most significant development for the Friends in the past year is the granting to us of charitable status: we are now Registered Charity number 1122293. Charitable status will allow us to seek funds from sources that would otherwise be unavailable to us, but also gives us the responsibility to abide by charitable law and to make annual returns about our activities and financial status to the Charity Commission. Charitable status also means that members can Gift Aid their subscriptions and other donations, significantly increasing the value of their financial support.

I am grateful to David Barraclough for steering this process through to completion. I would like to take this opportunity, too, to thank him for his service with the Friends. Pressure of a highly demanding 'day job' means that he is resigning from the Committee, but he assures us that he will continue to support our activities when he can.

Site development

We have continued to develop the Reserve under the terms of our Management Plan, holding regular Tuesday 'Green Gyms' and frequent weekend working party days. We have continued to clear scrub and brambles, to pick up endless litter and clean off graffiti. We have cleared fallen trees and built dead hedges with the spoil, both to delineate paths and to dispose of the brush. We have cleared the old horse shelter in Pinehurst Meadow prior to developing it as a hide, and we have prepared sites to place benches beside the Reservoir. Most obviously, perhaps, we have cleared the brambles along Wychall Lane and cleared a large area of crack willow and brambles down by the river. Here we have planted more than 1500 young trees, mostly hazel whips, and we have planted thousands of daffodils around the site. The Green Gym volunteers are regularly helped by Birmingham and Solihull Midweek Conservation Volunteers and on occasion by clients of the West Heath-based Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust. We have received a further day of corporate help from the Bank of Ireland Group, again donating the plants as well as planting them. A group of students from Herefordshire College of Technology helped us with tree planting, and pupils and staff from Kings Norton Nursery School planted primroses beside the Rea. Sadly, a number of the trees we had planted and all but one of the primrose plants have been carried away by vandals; an article about this in the Evening Mail produced a sympathetic response from large numbers of people, and offers of help to replace the stolen plants later in the year.

We have looked at access issues around the site, and have replaced the stiles on the Meadow Hill – Beaks Hill footpath with kissing gates, made for us by David Hampson to match the fence. The informal path to the rear of Merecroft Pool is now connected at both ends to the statutory footpaths, allowing an informal circular route through the area. Our lease from British Waterways of

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the meadows at the foot of Meadow Hill Road has allowed us to clear the field of (at least some) brambles, and the stockproof fence repairs (also by David Hampson) have made a great improvement to the fields' appearance. We are currently in negotiation with Network Rail seeking if possible to incorporate part of their land off Pope's Lane into the Reserve.

Professional and other support

Beth Ashley, Assistant Ranger for Northfield, left for a new job at Plantsbrook LNR last summer. After much delay the post was advertised, and we understand that a new Assistant Ranger should be in post shortly. The fact remains that we have had almost no professional support during the year, though we have Ranger oversight from Joe Hayden at Lickey Hills. We learn that we are one of only two 'Friends of' groups in Birmingham who are allowed to work without Ranger supervision – the other being the Friends of Sutton Park – and are grateful that we have been able to make progress during the year despite such minimal professional support. One of the first jobs of the new Assistant Ranger will be to develop with us a new Management Plan for the period 2009-2012, including within it a proposed management plan for the Pope's Lane to Wychall Road area (see 'Management' below).

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 Paul Spinks and Dave Connolly of Veolia Environmental Services. Donna Carter from Groundwork Birmingham has been a great support in conjuring up skips for us. Sadly Groundwork has gone into administration, and so we thank Donna and team for past help, and hope that something will soon rise from the Groundwork ashes. Sadly, too, in March we bade farewell to our wonderful Community Wardens Adrian Smith and Paul Kennedy whose support of the LNR has always gone well above and beyond the call of their regular duties. Paul has gone to a new job within the City, while Adrian's post seems to have a six-month stay of execution. The Community Wardens have been hugely helpful to us, and we can only hope that, in the new post-Neighbourhood Renewal Fund regime, similar local warden posts will be instituted.

Our affiliation with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum continues to give us access to a wealth of experience and advice, and has helped us to access funding towards additional publicity aimed at broadening our membership.

I am enormously grateful to Alan Bakewell for organising our weekend Clean Up Days. Great thanks are due, too, to Peter Cage for developing and maintaining our web site, to Brian Hewitt for designing display material, and above all to Phil Evans for not only running our finances so efficiently and his great skill in seeking sources of money to support our projects, but also for leading our on-site work programme against the Management Plan, and for his work editing and laying-out the Newsletter. Warm thanks are due to all who have worked on site (2,232 volunteer person-hours in 2007), manned promotional stalls or helped to run events during the year.

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Management

The Friends' committee has met four times during the year to move forward the development of the LNR, and I am most grateful to all members of the Committee for their help and support.

David Barraclough and I, representing the Friends, have also served on the LNR Management Committee, led and serviced by the City Council, which met four times during the year. The Management Committee brings together representatives of local voluntary organisations (including ourselves), statutory authorities and other relevant bodies and individuals as appropriate, meeting quarterly to review progress and value for money against the Management Plan. A number of other members of the Friends also serve on this Committee wearing different hats. During the past year I was elected to chair the Management Committee, and am delighted to report that a long-term strategy document, setting out our aspirations for the further enhancement and development of the LNR was approved by the Management Committee at its June meeting. A key feature of this is to seek to enhance the Wychall Reservoir and upstream area as a wetland site to benefit wildlife and enhance the environment for the local community as well, we believe, as making better use of the area's potential for flood alleviation. Seeking LNR status for the Popes Lane to Wychall Road stretch of the Rea corridor will undoubtedly be a long-drawn-out process, needing to pass through many formal hoops, but we are starting to engage with individuals and organisations living in the B31 postcode area with a view to achieving that formal designation.

Events

Having undertaken all the work we have across the site, we wanted to share our successes with a wider audience. To this end we held our first public Open Day on Wychall Meadows in September 2007. I am enormously grateful to all who were involved in the planning of the day, especially Graham Layton, whose efficient rostering ensured that all potential risks were addressed in advance, and that everything ran very smoothly on the day. Thanks are due, too, to Kings Norton Ward Community Chest and to Community Network South West for funding support/partnership. Guided walks, a number of countryside-related attractions such as falconry displays, pony rides, animal petting and a (plastic) duck race on the Rea proved very popular, and we were delighted that Richard Burden MP was able to draw the raffle for us. The Bromford Junior Wardens from Wychall Farm did a wonderful job at keeping the site clean and tidy for us. Watch out for the 2008 Open Day, which will take place on Saturday 13 September

Social events during the year included a Dawn Chorus walk in May, led by Phil Evans and Peter Bromley and followed by breakfast at Molly's on the Green, and a Bat Walk led by Beth Ashley with Dr Rossa Donovan of Brumbats. We also held a Green Gym barbecue, with mulled wine, in Sheila's Meadow on New Year's Day!

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FKNNR Diary Dates

Date	Location	Details
17 June	Wychall Reservoir. Burman's Drive River Rea/Wychall Lane	Install bench. Tidy up entrance. Balsam bashing.
24 June	Pinehurst Garage	Laurel removal. Internal repointing. Additional security.
1 July	River Rea/Wychall Lane	Balsam bashing.
8 July	Sheila's Meadow	Attend to dead hedges. Remove nettle & bramble. Cut grass to assist wildflowers.
15 July	Pinehurst Garage	Clear roof, external repointing. Storage/shelving construction.
22 July	Pinehurst Meadow	Grass & bramble scythe. Clear footpath. Additional wildflower patch.
29 July	Pinehurst Garage	Storage/shelving construction. Paint.
5 August	BW Meadow	Grass & bramble scythe. Balsam bashing. Ragwort removal.
12 August	Old Orchard Beaks Hill Road	Clear Laurel. Dead Hedge continuation. Remove bramble in bluebell area.
19 August	LNR entrance Popes Lane. Cycle path along reservoir.	Grass & bramble scythe. Balsam bashing.
25 August BH Monday	LNR Clean up. Paths & River.	Clear overhanging foliage. Dead hedge. Litter Pick.
26 August	Wychall Dam	Scythe/scarify areas for wildflowers
2 September	Wychall Dam	Scythe/scarify areas for wildflowers
9 September	Wychall meadows	Prepare area for Open Day
13 September	Wychall meadows	Open Day
16 September	River Rea – North Bank	Clearance for longer-term project including a path and planting.
23 September	River Rea – North Bank	Clearance for longer-term project including a path and planting.
30 September	River Rea – North Bank	Project including a path and planting.

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. Tuesday Working Parties (The 'Green Gym') – 10.30 to 13.30 hrs

All dates – weather permitting. Instruction provided.

Please check the web site (www.fknnr.org.uk) the day before for any last minute changes.

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

Please support our sponsored weekend working parties.

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Ducks roosting on a roof near Wychall Lane.
Observed on the way to the 'International Dawn Chorus Day' walk.

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

Please visit our web site at www.fknnr.org.uk for details of our programme.
Do visit it and let us know what you think!

Chairman	Amanda Cadman
Secretary	Graham Layton
Vice Chairman	David Human
Treasurer	Phil Evans
Membership Secretary	Jil Bromley
Education	Matthew Osland-Barker
Newsletter Editors	Amanda Cadman & Phil Evans
Northfield District Ranger	Matthew Osland-Barker

Committee Members

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

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