



# FRIENDS OF KINGSBURY WATER PARK

[www.FriendsOfKingsburyWaterPark.org.uk](http://www.FriendsOfKingsburyWaterPark.org.uk)

Volume 2, Issue 1

## History of Kingsbury Water Park

### A brief introduction

The setting up of the Water Park, from when planning permission was agreed in 1973 up to the day of opening, May 24<sup>th</sup> 1975. Money for the project came from the County Council and from a grant provided by the Countryside Commission. The gravel pits had been identified as a suitable area to develop following the 1968 Countryside Act which gave councils the power to establish country parks.

It was decided that Kingsbury was a suitable area to develop lakes which would 'slow down' the flow of water that was brought, via the Tame, from Birmingham's conurbation into the River Trent to the north. Up until that point the River Trent had the reputation for being the most polluted river in the country and, as a major supplier to the city of Nottingham, the water authorities were anxious to promote any scheme which would help to reduce the debris flowing down.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1975 Kingsbury Water Park welcomed its very first visitor. Since

then millions of people have grown up with the park, coming at first with their parents, then returning again and again with their own children

In 1979/80, with the advent of the M42, the Water Park acquired land north of the motorway where the Nature Reserve was established. The caravan used in the Nature Reserve by the West Midlands Bird Club was eventually abandoned due to flooding and vandalism.

The park has also 'grown up'; from just 2 lakes in 123 acres to 15 lakes in 620 acres; from 50,000 visitors in the first year to nearly 370,000 in 2012.

The transformation from worked-out gravel sandpits to the beautiful landscaped park of today is amazing. Stroll along the flat surfaced paths, explore hidden corners, spot birds and wildlife, hire a bike, join an organised event or host your own event. Whatever your idea of a countryside visit is, you will find it at Kingsbury.

**Next Edition 'Echills Wood Railway'.**

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## Recent Events

### Bug Hotel Construction

On a very warm Sunday morning the Friends gathered to construct a Bug Hotel (Bee & Bee); and plant native wild flowers to encourage the little pollinators. The aforementioned little creatures thanked some of us by taking a few little nips ..... there's gratitude for you!!

Photos inside on Page 2.

### Forthcoming Events

- Our new website is now up & running. Check it out at :- [www.friendsofkingburywaterpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkingburywaterpark.org.uk)
- Big Day Out April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Friends are organizing a 5km ramble. Meet at the Visitor Centre 1pm.

## Bug Hotel (Bee & Bee)



Before & After...



Time for lunch



Finito!!



## Flood Defences Update

Work is still continuing on the erection of flood barriers on the Bodymoor Heath side of the Water Park, probably for a few more months. The work is still ongoing due to the wet weather conditions. For those whose access to the Bird Hides have been restricted, hopefully all the work should be finished by mid 2014. Thereby allowing access to the Canal and the RSPB site at Middleton.

## Warwickshire Big Day Out

Big Day Out is returning on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, following the huge success of the first Big Day Out in September last year.

The Big Day out aims to get everyone to realise the benefits of the outdoors and with it the health benefits that come with getting out and about more often.

Did you know that the recommended amount of exercise for adults is **150 minutes a week**?! One way to do this is to do 30 minutes on 5 days a week.

All welcome to join the Friends for a 5km. ramble in Kingsbury Water Park. Meeting at the Visitor Centre from 1pm to set off at 1:30 pm; walk expected to last about 1½ hours. Unfortunately not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs. Sensible shoes required (may be muddy!)

## Further Possible Projects & Events

**Orchard:** installing an orchard in the Water Park was suggested by Paula. The possibility of funding from the Local Communities Project Fund was raised. Two areas of the Water Park were identified by Rangers as suitable for orchard, the first along by the river (behind Mitchell's Pool) and the other on the site of the very old play area. The second site is very overgrown, so would require more effort to clear. Fruit from the orchard could be taken by any passers by, but the Friends could, on occasions, pick some and sell it in the shop to raise funds. Need to investigate other local fruit tree growers.

Tim Haselden to update us about progress with Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership at next meeting. (Maybe they would give us some funding towards an orchard).

**Bee events.** Fiona will arrange some more bee events with Bee-Keeper Bob. Rachel suggested running some bee-related craft activities in the Education Centre at the same time if the room is free. Dates to be decided. It was suggested that we could perhaps sell some bee-friendly garden plants too.

## Contact

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For a chance to win an annual car pass, please complete a park survey at  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VBZVPZR>

Next Friends Meeting at The Water Park  
Education Centre on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
2014 at 7 pm.

Everybody Welcome

### The group's aims are –

1. To be the voice of park users. Promoting, lobbying, fundraising, liaising, and negotiating on behalf of park users.
2. To help manage, protect, and improve the park for the benefit of the flora, fauna, visitors, and park users.
3. To promote, assist, and even instigate, activities within the park for the benefit of park users.

## Amenities at the Park

- Old Barn Coffee Shop/café
- Information Centre and Gift shop
- Disabled facilities
- Three mobility scooters for hire
- 5.7 km (3½ miles) of permissive bridleway for horse riding. Permit needed.
- Many water activities (e.g. pedalos, sailing, model boating jet biking, power boating and fishing)
- Dogs allowed under control
- 2 children's play areas
- Nature reserve with 4 bird hides
- Echills Wood Railway, 7¼" gauge miniature railway
- Guided walks and events programme
- Ranger led Children's Birthday Parties
- Camp Site managed by The Camping & Caravanning Club (tel. 01827 874101)
- Broomey Croft Children's Farm (tel. 01827 873844)