

September 2015



FRIENDS OF KINGSBURY WATER PARK

www.FriendsOfKingsburyWaterPark.org.uk

Volume 3, Issue 3



Broomey Croft Children's Farm

The perfect day out for all the family...

With a combination of great activities, animals and both indoor and outdoor play areas Broomey Croft Farm is the perfect all-weather day out for all the family. For the perfect day out in the countryside Broomey Croft Farm has plenty of things to do including a range of friendly and docile animals perfect for petting and feeding by hand as well as a range of activities including various play areas, a gift shop, The Granary Tea Room as well as an undercover picnic area (just in case it rains).

At Broomey Croft Farm with a range of excellent activities it is a great destination for a family day out in the countryside, you can play, pet the animals, relax, eat delicious food, have a ride on the tractor and breathe in the fresh air. They also are a great host for birthday parties, school trips and other events.

For a great day out come to Broomey Croft Farm and visit the pigs, sheep, goats, llamas and rabbits amongst a range of other adorable and friendly animals. Situated in

the heart of the Kingsbury Water Park, 600 acres of glorious countryside that can provide an excellent day out in the beautiful countryside for the whole family.

Opening Hours

10 am. to 4 pm. during the Winter

10 am. to 5 pm. during the Summer.

School and group visits are welcome throughout the year at any time, provided they have been pre-booked.

PLEASE NOTE:

Closed after Autumn half term until February half term, when we open weekends and school holidays.

Open to the public at weekends & school holidays ONLY

Admission

Adult: £4.90

Child: £4.40

OAP: £4.40

Under two's: free

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Forthcoming Events

TameFest 2016—28th May 2016

Bee Event—7th August 2016

Recent Events

Our 2016 Calendar is now ready and available at the Information Centre; price £7.50. More details on FaceBook and a picture of the back page incorporating all the photos.

More recent events can be seen on Page 2—TameFest & Kingsbury Water Park 40th Anniversary; hire of Mobile Changing Place Toilet & 'Wheels for All' Taster Day; Annual Bee Event.

Dan has been awarded £3,500 to put 'refuges' in to protect the small fish from the cormorants. Friends donated £100 to this project. He will let us know when he has all the equipment for the refuges and will suggest a Saturday when the Friends can come & help out if able.

TameFest 2015 & the Water Park 40th Anniversary



The 40th Anniversary event raised £145 for the Friends group, from a Tombola, badge making & the sale of chainsaw carved toadstools (thanks to James & the Water Park).



The Friends attended 'TameFest' on Saturday, May 23rd, celebrating the heritage of the Tame Valley Wetlands!

The first ever TameFest took place at The Croft in Coleshill, North Warwickshire between 11am and 4pm.

From the Program --

Friends of Kingsbury Water Park

Wildlife colouring in and information about the group and the water park. All day

Mobile Changing Places Toilet

The friends of Kingsbury Water Park hired a temporary **Changing Places Toilet** in the park from **13th July to 26th July 2015**. It was located in the car park next to the Visitor Centre, accessed from the main entrance, Bodymoor Heath Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 0DY. Available during normal park opening hours. Radar Key operated.

We are very grateful that **Coventry Building Society** has provided the funding for the hire of a temporary **Changing Places Toilet** this July while the **Friends** continue to work with various partners to seek to establish a permanent **Changing Places Toilet** in KWP. You can support us by downloading and completing the petition on our website or signing a copy at the Visitor Centre the next time you visit. See [Downloads Page](#).

The installation of a permanent **Changing Places Toilet** is an important aspiration to create more access for those disabled people and their carers who need this specialist facility. This will enable more people to enjoy full access to the countryside and to country parks such as Kingsbury Water Park. For more information about **Changing Places Toilets** and where you can find one see www.changingplaces.org

'Wheels for All' Taster Day



The Wheels for All initiative is a nationally recognised programme that embraces all children and adults with disabilities and differing needs, to engage in a quality cycling activity. By using specially adapted cycles, the activities are both physically and mentally stimulating and above all fun for everyone involved.

<http://www.cycling.org.uk/wfa/intro>

On Sunday, July 23rd, a wonderful and sunny day was had by all, nearly 70 people turned up; individuals & groups with their carers. The cycling projects team arrived with 12 or so bikes & helmets for people with differing abilities. Everybody was obviously enjoying the occasion, many staying for over an hour, others returning later in the day for another session.

Also, the mobile changing places toilet was well used, receiving thanks from many people.

All our thanks to the 'Wheels for All' team for a great & uplifting fun day.



Annual Bee Event

On Sunday 9th August, visitors to Kingsbury Water Park were surprised and delighted to see a choice of activities and displays with a theme of honey bees and their importance at the annual "**Who Pollinates Our Plants**" event.

Mark Hunt, Ian and Katy Kapsis of the Nuneaton and Atherstone Beekeepers Association came along with a live bee hive which drew the interest of visitors to the Old Barn Café. Mark, Ian and Katy spent the afternoon answering questions about bees and explaining their life cycle and how this brings food to our tables through the pollination of vital crops produced by our farmers.



There were a variety of activities put on by the Friends of Kingsbury Water Park, including a 'Which of these is a Bee?' picture quiz which proved a challenge to the most knowledgeable enthusiasts; Making Homes for Solitary Bees out of plastic drinks bottles and Making (colourful) Bee Badges! Children also went home with a pack of bee puzzles and colourings to remind them of the day.

Tame Valley Wetlands brought along their display to publicise current heritage projects in the Tame Valley and encouraged interested park visitors to try a "bug hunt" with nets and see what they could find. See www.discovertamevalley.co.uk

All in all it was a fun packed, educational day of interest and activities and at least 200 people of all age groups joined in and went away with something to talk about or tell others. For more information about local beekeeping activities see <http://www.warwickshirebeekeepers.org.uk/>



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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](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VBZVPZR)

Next Friends Meeting at The Water Park Education Centre on Wednesday, October 21st, 2015 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.

Visit our website at -

www.FriendsOfKingsburyWaterPark.org.uk

Like our FaceBook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Of-Kingsbury-Water-Park/204482556428537>

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)