

FRIENDS OF KINGSBURY WATER PARK

www.FriendsOfKingsburyWaterPark.org.uk

Volume 4, Issue 2



Tame Valley Wetlands—Community Wetlands Project

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has been awarded a £50,000 grant from Biffa Award to create a new community wetland at Kingsbury Water Park in North Warwickshire, as part of the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme. This aims to create an exciting outdoor space benefiting both people and wildlife.

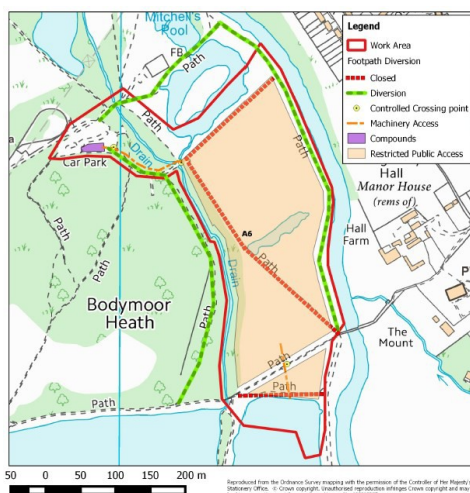
The wetland project will see the creation of reed-bed, ponds and a sand martin bank, as well as the restoration of rare floodplain meadow, making a fantastic new home for wildlife on former water-logged football pitches. It is hoped that priority conservation species will inhabit the site, from amphibians and birds, such as Snipe and Sand Martins, to mammals such as Otters and bats.

A new raised viewing platform with outdoor seating area will also be constructed, providing a vantage point for visitors to watch wildlife and acting as an outdoor classroom for local schools. The addition of a pond dipping platform will provide hours of fun for enquiring minds, investigating invertebrate life around the pond margins.

Tracey Doherty, Wetland Landscape Officer for the Scheme, said “we are delighted to be awarded this substantial funding from Biffa Award, the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Howard Victor Skan Charitable Trust. It is a great example of how funders and organisations can deliver more by working together in partnership”.

The Tame Valley Wetlands is a landscape partnership scheme, led by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and funded by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund. Their vision is to create a wetland landscape, rich in wildlife and accessible to all. Work includes conservation projects to restore heritage and enhance the area for wildlife, access improvements, training and volunteering opportunities, as well as a programme of exciting events and activities aimed at all ages and interests.

For more information <http://www.tamevalleywetlands.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Notification-v2-12-font.pdf>



Inside this issue:

<i>Tame Valley Wetlands: Community Project</i>	1
<i>Recent & Forthcoming Events</i>	1
<i>The Granary Tea Room</i>	2
<i>Friends Day Out at Martin Mere</i>	2
<i>Hedgehog Awareness Day</i>	2
<i>‘Clean for the Queen’</i>	2
<i>Contact & Group Aims</i>	3
<i>Amenities</i>	3

Forthcoming Events

TameFest 2016—28th May 2016
A mobile Changing Places Toilet will be available

‘Ratburger’ Heartbreak production will be showing at the Water Park on Thursday, July 28th at 5pm. Tickets from the Information Office at the Park.

Bee Event—7th August 2016. A live Beehive will be shown & craft activities for children will be available

Recent Events

Ten bird boxes have now been positioned at intervals along the Woodland Walk (box number 9 occupying the prime position next to the Bug Hotel....dinner on tap, so to speak.

The Hedgehog Awareness Day on May Bank Holiday, raised about £50 & was well attended.

Friends & Rangers took part in ‘Clean for the Queen’ and had a day out at Martin Mere Wetland Centre.

The Granary Tea Room: Broomey Croft

The Granary Tea Room at Broomey Croft is now opening more often, news that will be welcomed by park visitors who like to walk but need to stop now and again for a bit of sustenance!

The tea room will be open every day throughout the 3 week Easter holiday and, after that, from Wednesday through to Sunday each week.

Capacity has been increased by adding a very pleasant seating area upstairs.



Friends 'Day Out' at Martin Mere

The 'Friends' took a trip north last week (to see what Martin Mere Wetland Centre (<https://www.facebook.com/wwtmartinmere>) in Lancashire had to offer. It was a brilliant, sunny day & everyone had a lovely time (in spite of the slight altercation with a rather cross pheasant).

Bird sightings included avocets, eiders, shelducks, pochards and buzzards, as well as the more mainstream mallards, Canada Geese, grebes, moorhens & coots. A sparrowhawk managed to create havoc at the small bird feeding station when he called in to pick up his own lunch. It was a very impressive sight but, fortunately for



the small birds themselves, his attempt was unsuccessful on this occasion!

Great place for a day out.....almost as good as KWP!

Hedgehog Day at Kingsbury Water Park

The prospect of rain was no deterrent to outdoor-loving families visiting Kingsbury Water Park on Bank Holiday Monday and for those who ventured out there was an added 'Hedgehog' bonus on offer.

The Friends of Kingsbury Water Park staged a Hedgehog 'fun' day with hedgehog related activities and information for all the family. Hedgehog face painting was particularly popular with the youngsters but there were salt dough hedgehogs & paper plate hedgehogs to make and hedgehog balloons to decorate too.

While the children enjoyed the activities, the 'grown ups' learned how to help support our dwindling hedgehog population from information leaflets provided by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (as part of their Hedgehog Awareness week). <http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>



'Clean For The Queen'

The Friends were participating in the 'Clean for the Queen' event on Saturday, March 4th. We met at the Information Centre for a 10am start, and finished around 2pm.

The sun shone (most of the time) and the day was a great success. We managed to clear lots of rubbish from the hedges, ditches & undergrowth that regular litter picking generally misses and we filled 29 bags in total.



<http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk/eventdetails/2450?id=1900>



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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, May 18th,
2016 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 & Caravaning Club (tel. 01827 874101)
- Broomey Croft Children's Farm (tel. 01827 873844)
- The Granary Tea Room at Broomey Croft (next to the Farm entrance)