

Barford Road Pocket Park Newsletter

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011



Another winter is coming.....

Sunday the 16th of October saw the first winter work party this year. It was a fantastic morning when I got to work to collect tools and equipment for the task and the weather managed to hold out beautifully throughout the day.

The task this time was to expand on last year's work we carried out to clear and eradicate the non-native invasive reed that grows inside the conservation area around the lake. This spiky leaved plant has spread like wild fire in the last few years so I felt it was time to do something about it. We cut a small patch last year as a trial and the results were resounding. Virtually none of it grew back, but instead, it was out-grown by lots of better vegetation including "deer grass" and "bulrushes."

Four volunteers and myself turned up to work and set about clearing a much larger area this year in order to extend the success of last year. We raked everything up into piles which will rot down nicely and might even provide a good habitat for a multitude of mice, voles and even the common lizards. You can see the results of the mornings work in front of the bird screen, inside the fence.

The next Sunday work party will be on Sunday the 13th of November at 10am. Meet at the entrance to the park nearest the school. PLEASE feel free to come along to these events. They are vital to the well-being of the community and the future of the park

These work parties are a real help to me and are great way to get out and enjoy the fresh winter's air on a Sunday morning.



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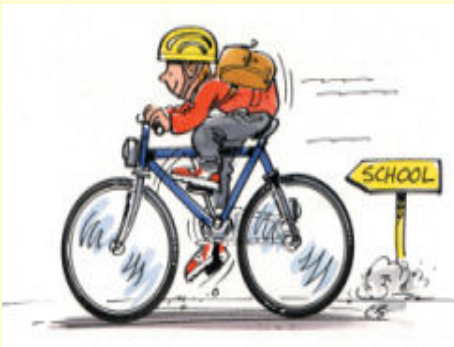
**Don't forget to look us up on
Facebook!!**

Willow Bridge Opens!!!!

Finally! Some might say, the willow bridge has been completed and all the paths leading up to it are now finished and open for business.

The bridge has been a talking point among residents and locals over the past few months receiving mixed reviews, but mostly good ones. There has been some interesting statistics that have come to light since the opening of the bridge in September ready for the new school term.

40% of the Ernulf academies catchment is from the Eaton Socon side of the river so for them, it has meant a lot shorter walk to school than before, leading to less school traffic through the park in the mornings. There has also been evidence to suggest that maybe up to 50 students are walking to school instead of getting a lift because of the bridge, not only does this mean that the students are getting a good mornings exercise, but that's up to 50 less cars driving through the town per day., which can only be a good thing!!



Poo Patrol Update....



Many regulars will have noticed that for the last month or so, a regular volunteer to the park, and myself, have been walking around with brightly colored spray paint, spraying dog mess. This problem seems to have increased dramatically and the purpose of this exercise is to make people aware of the problem and encourage them to pick up after their pet. This method has worked well on other sites and the amount of dog fowling has dropped because of it. I hope this is the same situation for Barford Road Pocket Park. Please be aware of what your dog is doing and pick up after it. After all, no-one likes treading in dog muck!!

If you want a bit of a lighthearted look at what some people will do to bring the subject of dog mess to people attention visit

www.doctorpoo.net

Don't forget that you can always contact me if you have any queries or comments about the park.

As I keep saying, there is FACEBOOK. So many people are on this social network site that its a great way to keep up to date with all the latest news, events and everything to do with the park.



E-mail - paxtonpits@btconnect.com

Phone - 01480 406 795

OR

Visit the friends of Barford Road Pocket Park website at - www.barford-pocket-park.btck.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Here are reminders of upcoming work parties.

Sunday 13th November 2011

Sunday 11th December 2011

Saturday 21st AND Sunday 22nd January 2012 (special weekend work party, see separate poster).

Sunday 12th February 2012.

All these work parties start at 10am. Meet at the entrance to the park nearest the Willow Bridge.

Wear suitable clothing and footwear, and I'll supply the tea and coffee!

