



BARFORD ROAD POCKET PARK NEWSLETTER



June Already!

Who'd have thought it? Past the halfway point in 2012 already. The weather recently certainly would make you think otherwise. The park has benefited greatly from the heavy rainfall we have had in the past few months. The rain, mixed with the short bursts of warm (not necessarily sunny) weather have made for fantastic growing conditions.

Just a few weeks ago, the park was awash with a sea of yellow from the buttercups that come out in late May. Then, at the start of June, everything changed and there was suddenly thousands upon thousands of white flowers coming up everywhere, mainly inside the conservation lake fence. I might be mistaken, but I think this is the first year I can remember when there have been so many of these plants flowering.



Another part of the park that has been looking great this year is the backwater at Blacktrap Weir. This is my favorite part of the park during the summer. It is a great place to watch Chub swimming upstream towards the weir. If you are very careful you can see some quite large fish, sometimes 3LB or more in weight. Another fish species that seems to thrive in this part of the stream is Bullheads (also commonly known as Millers Thumbs). These strange looking fish live under rocks on the stream bed and are very well camouflaged in order to protect them from predators such as Pike or Perch.



Compared to a stony stream, this fish is really well camouflaged. They manage to wriggle their way under the heaviest of rocks to hide from predators.



In other news.....

Its been a busy couple of months for me personally. I was away for a couple of weeks in May so the grass has got on top of me slightly so I have spent much of the last couple of weeks tidying up the park. I am just about back in control now so I am starting to look at future jobs in the park.

The big job that is coming up over the summer is the construction of a fence around the play area. I had a lot of feedback after my request for peoples opinions on this idea, and I am pleased to say that everyone has agreed that it is a suitable idea for the park.

I now have all the materials for this project in our yard and the next work parties job will be starting to install it. I expect this to take quite a while as it is nearly 300 metres of fencing. I do however expect to have this project well under way by the start of the summer holidays. I have planned the fence so that it will include as much of the grassy areas as possible around the play area. This will enable us in the future to expand the play facilities at Barford Road Pocket Park.

If you do still have an opinion about this project and would like to discuss it with me, please feel free to do so on the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

REMEMBER that I am always open to new ideas as to how you would like to see the park improved. If you think you have an idea for a project, please let me know.

Other wildlife sightings....



Left: The Red Kite has been seen at Barford Road over the last few weeks. This impressive bird of prey has a forked tail to make it easy to tell apart from other predators such as Buzzards.

Right: Cettis Warblers may not be easy to identify compared to other song birds, but their impressively loud and sudden bursts of song make them easy to spot. Listen out for this bird near the graffiti bridge and around the conservation lake.



Left: There is a Cuckoo being spotted regularly in the park. It sits on top of the fence posts around the conservation lake. You may see it in amongst another flock of birds. This maybe because adult Cuckoos lay their eggs in The nest of other species and leave another bird to bring up their young.

Right: Now is the time to spot Lizards around the park. Keep an eye out on bare patches of ground and on the specially made hibernation mounds.



Next work party....

Sunday 8th July
Sunday 12th August
Sunday 9th September

All work parties start at 10am and we always meet at the entrance to the park nearest the school. Just turn up, no need to book at all.

Wellington boots or sturdy walking boots are advised for all work parties.

We are always looking for new volunteers on our ever more popular work parties. If you would like to come out and help please feel free, your help will be more than welcome.

I normally bring hot tea and coffee for willing volunteers and if I remember, some biscuits too!



We always work hard.... Promise.

Contact Details.....

For details about work parties, upcoming events, or want to know about the park or have any queries or comments at all, below are my contact details.

Mobile: 07747 456 150

Landline: 01480 406 795

E-mail: paxtonpits@btconnect.com

The Friends of Barford Road Pocket Park website always has news of latest happenings. You can find this at www.barford-pocket-park.btck.co.uk

You can also find the park on Facebook. Search "Barford Road Pocket Park" in the Facebook search bar and Like us.



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