

Barford Road Pocket Park Quarterly Newsletter

May 2011

Spring is most definitely here!!

After what has been a reasonably mild winter, with the exception of Decembers chilly temperatures, I think its safe to assume spring is well and truly here to stay!

Everything in the park has started to grow and we are starting to see a lot of our summer migrants appearing around the site, including:

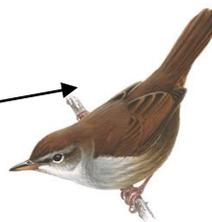
Chiffchaffs,



Reed Warblers



and if your lucky..... a **Cettis Warbler!**



The Ecology company that carried out surveys for Lizards last autumn are now back in the park moving yet MORE Lizards and Grass snakes onto the park from the development site behind Tesco's. They are also seeing how many of the Lizards that were moved last year have survived the winter in their new Hibernacula's around the park. If you see people around with clipboards and roofing felt, you'll know who they are! We've also had quite a large 'dose' of Tadpoles this year in the wet scrapes around the park. Hopefully, a large proportion of these will help increase Frog populations!

Special points of interest:

- Have a look at the work being carried out by the Rangers and maybe let me know what you think!?
- Most of all, enjoy the park and respect the surroundings!



Volunteers Galore.....

The winter has seen quite a few volunteer work parties in the park undergoing various activities to improve the site.

Mid-February saw the first of our “Friends of Barford Road Pocket Park” work parties. About 10 volunteers turned up to help plant a number of small trees in the Tesco's end of the park, and 4 very large Field Maple trees. A couple of weeks after this, another work party planted about 200 hedging plants at the school end of the park. So far (touch wood), these trees are all growing successfully and will hopefully form a nice hedge, which in about 10 years, can be laid. This is a traditional method of managing hedges. It involves cutting through the base of the each tree, leaving it attached with about 1/3 of the trunk, and laying it over. If done correctly, the hedge will sprout from the base again, causing the hedge to thicken up and become a good nesting habitat for birds. Years ago, farmers used hedging to keep livestock in fields instead of fencing!!



Eynesbury Manor Residents Association.

A few months ago, I received an email informing me of the “folding” of the Eynesbury Manor Residents Association (EMRA). The chairman was moving away and because of lack of interest in someone volunteering to become the new one, the decision was taken to fold the group. This was a bit of a blow to me as EMRA was a main link between me/the park and the residents of the estate. The good news out of this is that EMRA had some money left over in their kitty which they kindly decided to give to me to install a new bench in the park. This bench has now been installed and you can see it near the play area!

Many thanks to EMRA for this kind donation and I hope to keep in contact with many of you at future events.

This is the type of bench paid for by EMRA.



The Park Goes Online!!!

With the creation of the friends group, I felt it time that the park got a push into the 21st century. So with a lot of help from volunteer Jason Redford, have created a webpage for the Friends Group and anyone that is interested in the park. The website contains some great pictures of the reserve and is kept up-to-date with news of all events and work happening in the park!

Find the website at www.barford-pocket-park.btck.co.uk

While I was in the mood for a technical revolution, I have also decided to plunge Barford Road Pocket Park into the world of social networking with its very own Facebook page. After a bit of research, it appears that many country parks and sites similar to the park have their own Facebook or Twitter page so I thought I'd give it a go!



Search "Barford Road Pocket Park" on your Facebook search box and "Like" us for the latest news and events. Also please feel free to leave your comments and questions on the wall, but please remember that Facebook is a public place and you should always protect private information when online.

My Favourite Event of the Year.....

Because of local government budget cuts and savings, this year we aren't running as many events as usual. However, one event I am definitely running is the annual "Evening Stroll". This has become my favourite event over the years due to the complete beauty of the park on a warm summers evening. The previous couple of years has seen a good turn out for the event too so it seems a shame to cancel the event completely. I hope you will join me on **Thursday the 7th of July** for a nice relaxed stroll around the park to look at wildlife and just enjoy the surroundings! If you are interested in coming along, meet me at the entrance to the park nearest the school at **7pm**.